



# WALTON HIGH

*Leading Learning*

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Dear Parent

Walton High has an extraordinary record of engagement with the **Duke of Edinburgh's Award** and we are all rightfully proud of the remarkable achievements and contributions made by our students. Taking part is a great adventure and provides a platform for incredible personal development. However, achieving any level of the award will require commitment from your child. Last academic year over 200 students enrolled on the various Award schemes offered at Walton High and, as we are now in the position to offer those students the chance to conclude their Awards, we want to offer your child the same opportunity.

The Awards involve students spending a minimum of one hour each week, for anywhere between three and twelve months, completing a volunteering commitment. Students will also need to work on developing a non-sporting skill and participate in regular physical activity. All of these aspects are extra-curricular and must be organised by the student. In addition, students will be required to attend at least one overnight expedition in which they will camp, cook on a stove and walk a planned route which they will navigate in groups of up to seven. Students will be expected to provide the equipment required for these expeditions including tents, clothing and food. Financial assistance is available for those families in receipt of Pupil Premium funding. Training for the expeditions will take place after school and is a necessary pre-requisite for the expeditions.

Usually students register for the Bronze Award in Year 9, with the option of progressing on to the Silver Award in Year 10. As students have been unable to register for an Award until now, they will be given a choice - between **registering for the Bronze Award or the Silver Award** (note, they will not be given the option of progressing on to the Silver Award after the Bronze next year as we do not want to impact their Year 11 studies, so it is an 'either-or' choice). A brief outline of both awards is below and you will see the key difference is that the Silver Award requires a longer commitment to the activities they choose and the expeditions take place over a longer period, more physically demanding and will require more challenging navigational skills. There will also be a greater cost for the expeditions at Silver level.

Award Level	Activities	Expedition
Bronze	Must complete a separate volunteering, skill and physical activity, for one hour a week, two of which will be for three months and the other for six months (the participant decides which they want to spend less time on)	We are likely to do one expedition, over three days and two nights. The first day will be for training followed by a two day 'qualifying expedition' where participants are assessed against 20 conditions set by the DofE. It will take place local to the school (within 30-minutes' drive)
Silver	Must complete a separate volunteering, skill and physical activity, for one hour a week. One activity for three months, another for six months and the third for twelve months. The volunteering activity must be done over at least six months.	Participants will take part in two expeditions in hilly terrain. The first is a two day / two night practice expedition, likely to be in the Chilterns. This would be followed by a three day / three night qualifying expedition, likely in the Peak District.

Students who choose to register for the Bronze Award can start their activities immediately. Students who choose the Silver Award cannot register until Year 10, so we will generate their account in September and they will be allowed to start their activities during the summer holiday.

In order to enrol on either the Bronze or Silver Award students are required to pay a **non-refundable fee of £40**, which covers the fee paid to the DofE organisation for registration and the leader that they will be allocated to guide them through the Award.

In addition, **the electronic enrolment form must be completed to register for either Award:**

<http://bit.ly/WH-DofE-Enrolment-2021>

We ask that this is completed by **Friday 11 June** so we can process the registration and allocate leaders accordingly. Part of the electronic form asks if students would like to identify the name(s) of friends who they believe will also take part in the Award. We will use this to try and allocate friendship groups to the same leader, where possible. Note, this is not the formation of their expedition groups.

**A further fee will be required to fund the expeditions.** Indicative costs are approximately £45 for the Bronze expedition and £120 for the Silver expeditions. This will be payable before the expeditions which we intend to run in the summer of 2022. A further letter will be sent out detailing the arrangements for this closer to the time.

In previous years we have invited parents and students to attend an information evening to learn more about the Award and understand how to support participants enrolled on the scheme. Unfortunately, this cannot take place this year so I have **recorded a version of this presentation which can be viewed through the following link:**

<https://waltonhigh.fireflycloud.net/duke-of-edinburghs-award/resources>

The documents referred to in the presentation are on the same Firefly page (make sure you scroll down to find them).

If you have any further questions then please contact [dofe@mket.org.uk](mailto:dofe@mket.org.uk)

Best regards



Mr C Cobb  
DofE Award Manager