



WEST HILL SCHOOL

Aiming High since 1927

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September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to invite you and your son to attend an information evening about the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award, held in the **school hall on Wednesday 2nd October between 7pm – 7.30pm**. School staff who run the award will be there to explain more about the programme and answer any questions you may have.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a well-regarded programme that allows young people to participate in a range of activities and events over three different levels. The award provides opportunities to develop new skills, volunteer in the community and improve physical fitness, as well as undertake overnight expeditions. This video gives an overview of what the award entails and the different sections that are needed:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqHrGnY_Ktg&t=579s

It will take students at least **6 months** for Silver if they've already achieved their Bronze, or **12 months** if they start at the Silver award.

- **Volunteering** section: 6 months
- **Physical** and **Skills** sections: One section for 6 months and the other section for 3 months
- **Expedition** section: One-day training, three-day practice, three-day qualifying

If a student didn't do Bronze, they must also undertake a **further 6 months** in either the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections.

The cost of the Silver programme is **£150**, which includes registration fees for the award and group equipment (tents, maps and cases, campsite fees, first aid kit, pan set, gas and stove). Students will be required to obtain many items of their own personal kit, which will be explained at the information evening.

In order to process your son's place on the award, we require the following:

- Completed online application and health form
(<https://forms.office.com/e/ydH8bDku9J> or scan QR code)
- £30 cash deposit



The deposit needs to be handed into the **Reception Office** by **3.15pm on Friday 25th October**. The online application also needs to be completed by this date too.

The remaining £120 will then need to be paid via the SchoolGateway app by **Friday 4th April 2025**. Details about paying via the app will be sent once your son is signed up.

Unfortunately, due to the nature of our school environment there will be no parking available on the school site. Please be respectful of our neighbours and adhere to road markings when parking in the area. There is a Tameside Council car park on Darnton Road. The evening charge, 6pm-midnight, is £1.

I look forward to seeing you on the evening. If you have any questions beforehand, please contact me via email at lawton@westhillschool.co.uk

Yours Sincerely

Mr J Lawton

D of E Manager