



WEST HILL SCHOOL

Aiming High Since 1927

Headteacher: **Ms C Cronin (MA)**

Address : Thompson Cross
Stamford Street
Stalybridge
Cheshire
SK15 1LX
Tel : 0161 338 2193
Sports Hall : 0161 338 9292

E-mail : admin@westhillschool.co.uk
Website : www.westhillschool.co.uk
Twitter : [@westhillschool](https://twitter.com/westhillschool)

2nd October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I'm delighted to let you know that we are about to launch our recruitment for the **Silver** Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE).

Why do DofE?

Doing DofE is a brilliant way for your young person to discover just how much they are capable of. It gives young people the chance to make new friends, follow their passions, learn new skills and make a difference in our community. Gaining a DofE Award is a great way to impress employers too. It's also non-competitive and a powerful way for every young person to build belief in themselves, whatever their background, interests and abilities.

How it works

At West Hill, we offer two levels of DofE Award – Bronze and Silver. As with the Bronze, to achieve the Silver award, your child will need to complete four sections – at least six months Volunteering and a minimum of six months on either Physical or Skills and three months on the other. Students can choose what they would like to do for the first three sections, and we will provide all the guidance and support they need. The Silver expedition involves spending **three days and two nights** in the countryside, and again we'll make sure that our young people are fully prepared for it.

As the demand of the Silver award is increased, we have planned a combination of class room-based sessions, one practice expedition in the local area and one qualifying expedition in a less familiar location (peak district tbc)

Next steps

We hope many of our students will take this opportunity to get involved with DofE. The cost is **£130** per person. [If your child is interested in taking part but the cost is prohibitive, please do speak to me as we may be able to arrange financial support.]

We have planned a Silver information event for parents and students Wednesday 4th October at 7-7.30pm, in the school hall. (this will follow the Bronze DofE launch)

If you can't make the meeting, or have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact me. carty@westhillschool.co.uk You can also look on the DofE website – www.dofe.org - has a lot of useful information too.

Mr Carty
Silver DofE coordinator