

University College School

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Remove Silver Direct Access



The Duke of Edinburgh Direct Access Silver Award will be open to 32 students in the Remove year. This is a highly prestigious scheme. A recent survey of 200 businesses placed a Duke of Edinburgh Award as the most valued extra-curricular item on the CV of a job applicant. It is also highly regarded by universities and other institutions.

The award places an emphasis on key values and benefits for participants.

Self-belief	Contribution by dedicating free time to giving service to the community
Self-confidence	
New talents and abilities	Trust and be trusted
Improve fitness	Understanding personal strengths and weaknesses
The ability to plan and use time effectively	Overcome prejudice and fears through working with others
Skills including problem solving, presentation and communication	Responsibility through personal commitment
The ability to lead and work as part of a team	Set and respond to a challenge

The award is divided into four sections/activities; **Volunteering (previously known as service), skills, physical** and the **expedition**. Students can choose new activities which interest them, although it is often advisable to use some existing activities in order not to overload individual workload. With the exception of the expedition, it is the responsibility of the student to organise their own participation in the activities, with advice from the supervising members of staff.

A complete list of activities is given on the D of E website <http://www.dofe.org/>, although popular activities within each section include:

Volunteering

People in the community - Assisting with/at; day centres, nurseries, learning support, youth work, sports leadership, community care, charity work, working in charity shops, first aid, working with the elderly, conservation projects, animal charities, environmental charities, school clubs including working in the library or helping organise extra-curricular activities, fundraising for charities or rescue services and participation in junior emergency/rescue/safety services.

Skills

Study and develop personal interests and practical and social skills - art and design, astronomy, book binding, chess, choirs, cookery, cycle maintenance, debating and public speaking, gardening, IT - use of standard packages, design of systems, website design, journalism, languages, library and information skills, music appreciation, playing a musical instrument, playing in music ensembles, performing arts, religion.

Physical

To encourage participation and improvement in physical activity - archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, climbing, cricket, cross country running, cycling, dance, fencing, fitness activities, fives, golf, judo, riding, rowing, rugby, running, sailing and windsurfing, skiing, squash, sub aqua, swimming, table tennis, tennis, walking, yoga.

Whether or not the activity is taken at school, it needs to be supervised. Participation, achievement and most importantly commitment will be recorded on the student's Duke of Edinburgh Award 'e-DofE' online account with a final testimony written by the activity assessor.

A Silver DofE programme has 4 sections, Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. You need to do at least 6 months Volunteering and a minimum of 6 months on either Physical or Skills and 3 months on the other. It's up to you which one you do for longer.

The Expedition section involves planning, training for and doing a 3 day (2 night) expedition. Dates for the expedition, training and practice will take place as laid out on the enrolment form.

If you start the Silver Award without having done Bronze first (known as direct access) you have to do extend on of your 6 month activities to 12 months. The volunteering must be done for at least 6 months. You should decide the length of your sections at the beginning although you can change your mind later. Knowing how long you're going to do it for will help you to set your aims for the sections.

This table shows what you need to do:

Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition
6 months	One section for 6 months and the other section for 3 months		Plan, train for and complete a 3 day, 2 night expedition
<i>Direct entrants must undertake a further six months in the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections.</i>			

We will be talking individually to students about choices of activities. Pupils should, however, undertake some personal research (by using the awards website <http://www.dofe.org/> and by googling the award) in order to help them choose and consider appropriate and available activities, and to contemplate the time and commitment necessary to complete the award. Nationally only 50% of those that start awards complete them!