

Ref: 002/20

15<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

**Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award:**

I am delighted that your son has shown interest in the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Silver expeditions at St. Margaret's will be delivered by Award Solutions.

The Silver expedition programme will be delivered in three separate blocks; a training day at school; a 3 day training/practice expedition and finally a 3 day qualifying (assessed) expedition. Your son is required to be registered with the Award and have an 'E-D of E' login prior to joining an expedition. His Silver D of E account will be updated to start as early as is possible – usually 1 August 2019, so any activities that the boys already do, can be evidenced from that date.

**Please note, students must have uploaded all of their evidence for their Bronze Award, before they can start their Silver Award.** Evidence has been checked up to date as I write this and I have sent messages of advice to any student where evidence is part present. Certificates will follow as soon as possible once enrolment is complete.

**Expedition Training Day - St Margaret's Sports Complex – Please note this date – it is short notice! Information will be sent as soon as I know who is enrolled.**

**Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup> 2020 9.15am – 4.00pm OR Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup> 2020 9.15am – 4.00pm**

A one day training with Award Solutions (AS) Staff, delivered at the school. It will include planning of their routes and a recap of group & personal equipment, expedition food and menu planning, use of stoves and tents, first aid and navigation skills, to ensure the students are fully prepared for their expedition.

**Three Day Silver Practice Expedition Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020 inclusive.**

Students will be divided into groups and each will have a qualified member of staff to supervise them over the 3 days.

Your son will walk with other young people in teams of 6 or 7. Staff will work with the students to develop their navigation skills, camp craft, and teamwork skills. Each day they will walk about 12 km (8 miles) with their expedition kit and food so they are self-sufficient. Staff will also debrief the groups at the end to allow students to recognise what they have achieved and learnt over the 3 days and to identify any areas which require improvement, thus preparing them for their qualifying venture.

We anticipate this will take place in the Trough of Bowland - More details of the route and location to follow.**Three Day Silver Qualifying Expedition - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

Students will stay in the same expedition groups, the assessor will be a supervisor from another group. They will be debriefed at the end so they can identify what they have achieved and celebrate their achievement and again rest after a tiring but fun experience, ready for school the next day.

We anticipate the expedition will take place in Silverdale, Cumbria. If so, students will travel to Borwick, walking to Borwick Hall, Borwick, Near Carnforrth to camp on night 1 with toilets and showers and night 2 is usually at Gibraltar Farm, Jenny Brown's Point, Silverdale, Cumbria, with showers and toilets. Both routes will be ones that have been used over several years, which will allow the students to have a challenging, but safe expedition with plenty of opportunity to allow them to be remotely supervised.

The total cost of the whole Silver Award is **£360.00** which includes all training, enrolment to the DofE, the expeditions (excluding food and transport), tents, rucksacks, roll mats, camping stoves, maps and compasses. If there is low takeup, there is a small possibility that this could increase but we are hoping that the opposite will be the case and any excess will be refunded.

In line with our Charging Policy, pupils for whom we receive Pupil Premium funding (e.g. those entitled, or previously entitled, to Free School Meals) will have the first £100 paid for by St Margaret's. Therefore, the cost to Pupil Premium qualifying students will be £260. However, the deposit of £25 is required from all students.

If you wish your son to take part in this Award and to secure his place, please complete the attached reply slip and enclosed registration form and return to Mrs Niblock no later than Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020. Once we receive your reply slip the payment schedule will then be added to your son's ParentMail (+Pay) account.

Please find below a scheduled payment plan, which will be set up via Parentmail (+Pay) on receipt of the reply slip:

|                |        |                    |
|----------------|--------|--------------------|
| Deposit        | £25.00 | 31 January 2020    |
| 1st instalment | £110   | 28th February 2020 |
| 2nd instalment | £110   | 27th March 2020    |
| 3rd instalment | £115   | 1st May 2020       |

**All payments must be made via ParentMail (+Pay).**

Payments can also be made outside the above dates via Parentmail (+pay) should you wish to clear the balance sooner. If parents or carers are experiencing financial difficulties please contact me, in confidence, to discuss the matter. Please contact Miss Smith in the school office should you require assistance with your Parentmail (+pay) account.

Please note, once the deposit is paid there is a commitment to pay the final amount as the school has booked and paid for an External Activity Provider to organise expeditions etc.

There is a Duke of Edinburgh section on the School Web Site under Curriculum where you will find out more about the Award.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact via email: [hniblock@stmargaretsacademy.com](mailto:hniblock@stmargaretsacademy.com)

Yours sincerely

Helen Niblock  
St Margaret's D of E Co-ordinator

Steven Slater  
Vice Principal

**REPLY SLIP TO: Mrs Niblock – Silver Duke of Edinburgh’s Award**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Form: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my son to take part in the Silver Duke of Edinburgh’s Award and understand the £25.00 deposit is non-refundable. I will make payment via Parentmail (+Pay)

Please tick:

Pupil Premium

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (parent/carer)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_