

Our Ref JP/EH/RMO

23rd September 2025



Wednesfield Academy
www.wednesfieldacademy.co.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

Duke of Edinburgh – Silver Award 2025-2026

I am delighted to offer your child the opportunity to complete the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award at Wednesfield Academy during this academic year. This is a nationally recognised award that provides pupils with the opportunity to develop their leadership and teamwork skills, as well as their resilience and organisation. This is an impressive accolade to add to their CV, and will be a huge draw for potential employers, University applications and apprenticeship applications. The award requires commitment, and pupils will be expected to attend after-school training sessions before completing the overnight expedition. Attendance to these sessions will be monitored to ensure pupils are fully trained for their expedition in the summer of 2026.

Pupils who took part in the Bronze Award, either in Year 9 or at a previous school, will not have to take part in all the training sessions, as they have already completed and are competent in some of these areas. Pupils will be informed of which sessions they must attend that will be mandatory. However, pupils who did not take part in the Bronze Award, who will be offered a direct route to the Silver Award, must take part in all the training sessions.

Pupils will also have to complete the different sections of the award before the expedition through the online platform DofE, which includes volunteering, skills and physical sections. These will be done in their own time but will be supported through the after-school sessions with the Duke of Edinburgh staff members. For the Silver award, this entails the commitment of 6 months of volunteering, skills and physical for this award. If pupils do not attend these sessions regularly and/or fail to meet deadlines given, they will not be allowed to go on the expedition during the summer term and will risk being removed from the programme.

All Silver award pupils will receive practise expedition training of two days and two nights prior to their assessed expedition, allowing the pupils to walk with a group and further improve their navigational skills prior to their final assessed expedition. The assessed expedition will then take place during the summer term where pupils must complete three days and two nights, with further information to follow from the Duke of Edinburgh staff over the course of the academic year. Pupils will be in small groups exploring a rural part of the Midlands to complete their assessed expedition.

The cost of the award is £120. This includes the registration fee, camp site fees for the expedition in the summer term, two training days, petrol costs and group equipment hire including tents and cooking equipment.

You will need to pay a £60 deposit on WeDuc to secure your child's place on the award. This must be paid by **Friday 10th October 2025**.

This deposit is non-refundable and if your child decides later to discontinue with the award, no part of the deposit will be reimbursed. **The final payment of £60 will be due by Friday 7th November 2025.** As there are a limited number of spaces available, pupils' behaviour and attendance will be considered in being admitted to the programme. If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals, then this award will be funded in full by the school.

There is the additional cost of personal equipment to consider. All pupils will require walking boots, sleeping bag and roll mat, a large 65L rucksack, expedition clothing and food. Pupils will be briefed and taught how to use this equipment safely as well as recommendations of where to purchase the kit. However, if you are unable to purchase an item of appropriate clothing, walking boots, sleeping bag or an appropriately sized rucksack, please inform the Duke of Edinburgh staff as we do have a limited amount of spare kit which can be lent to the pupils under certain circumstances.

Please make payment on WeDuc and complete the form below and return to Mr Dunn in the PE office. Should you have any queries, please contact Ms Hanson (Assistant Headteacher) on 01902 558222 or email postbox@wednesfieldacademy.co.uk

Yours faithfully



Mr Phillips
Headteacher



Ms Hanson
Assistant Headteacher

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Consent Form
Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award

Name of Pupil: Form:

- ☐ I have paid the £60.00 deposit on WeDuc
- ☐ My child is in receipt of Free School Meals

(Please tick as appropriate)

- I understand that if my child has not completed three out of three sections of the award on DofE then they will be unable to attend the expeditions in the summer term.
- I understand that my child must attend the required extra-curricular sessions on a Tuesday to complete the full award.

Parent/Carer Signature: Date:

Please return consent form to Mr Dunn in the PE office.