

19<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

The DofE Silver Award was launched in an assembly recently and your son/daughter has expressed an interest. If they took part in the Bronze Award they will already know lots about the award, if not, more information can be found on [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org). The Silver Award is more of a challenge: Volunteering is done for 6 months, with one of the other sections, Physical or Skill also undertaken for 6 months, and the final section for 3 months. These sections are organised by the students themselves and parents are responsible for ensuring these activities are suitable. I can always give help if participants are having difficulty finding a suitable opportunity.

The Expedition section is now offered by OceanRock Adventure. They have been running our Paddling expedition for several years and the walking expedition for the last two years. They are extremely experienced and provide expeditions for many other schools in the area. They can offer a choice of expeditions (venues to be confirmed):

1. **Walking Expedition** – training day, plus 3-day Practice Expedition and 3-day Assessed Expedition. Locations tbc, but last year's Practice was on the Marlborough Downs and the Assessed in the Black Mountains. The cost for this option is £300.00.
2. **Paddling Expedition** – training day for kit, plus a session of paddling training, followed by a 3-day Practice Expedition and 3-day Assessed Expedition. The Practice will be on the River Severn and Assessed expedition on the River Wye. The cost of this option is £345.00.

The expeditions will take place in June of Year 10 and Sept of Year 11. OceanRock will run a kit and route training session for both expeditions, followed by a parents' information meeting for all parents, in January 2024.

At this stage, your son/daughter needs to fill in the Microsoft Form (this can be found by scanning the QR code at the bottom or in [this link](#)) and return this to school, and a payment of £25 fee for their eDofE online account, on or before **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023**.

Following confirmation of places, a £100 deposit will be due to secure places on the Expedition by **the end of November**. The remaining payment for the Expedition will be **available in instalments in 2024**.

Payment can be made via the School Gateway App.

**Download the app:** If you have a smartphone, please download School Gateway from your app store (Android or iPhone).

**OR**

**Visit the website:** [www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com) and click on 'New User'. You will receive a text message with a PIN number. Use this PIN to log in to School Gateway.

If you any queries regarding the payment, please contact the finance office: [finance@thomaskeble.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:finance@thomaskeble.gloucs.sch.uk)  
Queries regarding the expedition itself can be sent to me: [hpaynter@thomaskeble.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:hpaynter@thomaskeble.gloucs.sch.uk)

***Please note, places on off-site activities are privileges and as such, any student who is placed at Stage 3 of the school discipline code or higher, will automatically lose their place on the trip and any monies paid will be non-refundable. This is to ensure the highest standards of behaviour from anyone taking part in such an enrichment activity.***

Yours sincerely,

Harriet Paynter  
Silver D of E Lead

[Link to form: https://forms.office.com/e/G2B1yUcGMW](https://forms.office.com/e/G2B1yUcGMW)

