



wildernschool

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S. Mann CEO

02/09/26

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Well done for your child's participation in the DofE Scheme at Wildern last year. Students going into Year 11 are now in a position where they are in the process of finishing their DofE Bronze Awards, with some having already completed all their sections.

We hope to host a celebration evening in *November 2026* for all students who have completed their awards. This will include our former Year 11 students who completed their Silver Award last year. **As a reminder, it is students responsibility to get these Assessors reports uploaded correctly. Sessions will be run on how to do this effectively, but we will not be chasing up students who are not attending these or seeking support.**

I am aware that many students have thoroughly enjoyed their DofE experience in Year 10 and want to continue this going forward, which is absolutely fantastic. Having run a successful programme this year, we are delighted to confirm that we will be running the DofE Silver award again for 2025-26. As this is a progression from the Bronze award, naturally the requirements for certain sections are longer and more demanding. The following information is directly from the DofE Website:

*"It will take you **at least 6 months for Silver if you've already achieved your Bronze**, or 12 months if you've jumped straight into Silver.*

Volunteering section: 6 months

- Physical and Skills sections: One section for 6 months and the other section for 3 months*
- Expedition section: 3 days/2 nights*

If you didn't do Bronze, you must undertake a further 6 months in either the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections."

For this reason, we will **only** be accepting students who have had their **Bronze Award approved by Friday 25th September 2026 (the day before Autumn Half Term)**, as this will allow enough time to start and finish their Silver award sections before leaving Wildern. We will **only** be accepting students who have proven to be proactive with their DofE this year, as we want to ensure that they are in the best position possible to achieve their DofE Silver Award before moving on to College.

Our plan will be for students to complete their Volunteering, Skills and Physical sections before they start their GCSE's. This was effective this year, as students were able to ensure they could dedicate their focus solely on their exams during this period of time.

A practice expedition will be completed in the Spring Term, with the main expedition completed on a Friday-Sunday once students have completed their Exams in Late June/Early July 2025. Dates for this will be finalised ASAP in conjunction with the school calendar, but we will ensure there is no conflict with Exams or Prom.

If your student is interested in completing their Silver DofE through School, please could I ask that they e-mail me directly at r.ryan-heaney@wildern.org by **Friday 25th September 2026**. Students will also need to have **all sections of their DofE completed and signed off by this date**. We will have 2 sessions at the start of this term to support this.

I look forward to hearing from you and your students regarding interest in completing their DofE further. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact me using the e-mail above.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr R Ryan-Heaney
Duke of Edinburgh Lead

