



## STRIVE FOR SILVER



### The benefits of progressing from Bronze to Silver

Following the recent change in the DofE's starting age policy, the majority of schools in the South West now offer the Bronze Award to Year 9. The success of this change has been remarkable, with around 4,000 more young people starting a Bronze DofE programme each year. The table below shows the number of young people who started at each level in the South West in 2017-18. The significant difference between Bronze and Silver participation highlights the demand for Silver opportunities.

Bronze	Silver	Gold
17,335	4,701	3,042

Many schools are already taking advantage of this opportunity by either introducing Silver for the first time or developing their existing Silver offer. We would like to help all schools to do the same.

Reasons to develop Silver DofE programmes in your school include:

- Participants who have achieved their Bronze Award already have the experience of DofE participation, requiring less support and guidance from staff.
- Participants who have achieved their Bronze Award often continue with their activities, which they can use towards achieving their Silver Award.
- If a participant has achieved their Bronze Award, their Silver timescales are reduced to six months from 12, increasing the possibility of them being able to achieve their Silver Award before Year 11.
- Achieving a Silver Award reduces the timescales for the Gold Award. Therefore, in schools with a sixth form, this increases the likelihood of participants achieving their Gold Award whilst still at the school.
- Silver Award participants can support your DofE team by mentoring Bronze participants and helping run eDofE and expedition training sessions for their own volunteering section.



## MOUNTS BAY ACADEMY



### Progressing from Bronze to Silver is simple!

Because a large proportion of our participants complete their Bronze Award in Year 9, they know what to expect and are always excited to progress to the next level.

For staff, this makes the process of Silver delivery simple. Most of our staff already have the qualifications for delivering Silver expeditions, as there are no extra training requirements for a school to offer this Award as well as Bronze. We structure our delivery so Silver DofE programmes can be completed by the end of Year 10, which ensures that students can commit their time to this without the added considerations to make for GCSE exams in Year 11. A lot of our participants have also found suitable work experience placements through the activities that they have used for their Silver DofE sections. This has made the work experience week even more meaningful for those who organised it this way.

We don't have a sixth form but, by achieving their Silver Award, our students can start and finish their Gold DofE during their time at the local FE college. This gives them an extra element they can add to their UCAS applications or CV when applying for jobs.

**Phil Lane – DofE Manager**

## The Expedition section

The qualifying expedition at Silver increases to three days, two nights with a requirement for a two-night practice expedition. Many schools run the practice straight from school on a Friday through to Sunday afternoon, with the qualifying expedition tagged onto the first or last weekend of a school holiday or in an activity week in July.

While many schools do have staff with the appropriate qualifications and experience of working in a Silver expedition environment, those who don't often use the services of an Approved Activity Provider or provide staff with the opportunity to gain a National Governing Body qualification as part of their CPD.



In several cases where schools use an AAP, they use them to deliver Bronze expeditions, where numbers are greater and costs are lower, therefore more cost effective. Silver expeditions are then run by in-house staff and volunteers.

The table below shows how Silver DofE programmes can be incorporated into Year 10, in a very similar way to Bronze in Year 9.

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term	
DofE Manager	Promote. Enrol. Provide initial eDofE sessions.	Promote three-month section completions. Provide eDofE sessions for uploading Assessor Reports.	Promote six-month sections completions. Provide eDofE sessions for uploading Assessor Reports.	Approve the final sections on eDofE and submit to your Award Verifier for approval. Issue certificates and badges and celebrate participants' success.
Participants	Select activities for the Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections, get them approved by a Leader on eDofE and start them.	Collect Assessor's Report for the three-month section and upload to eDofE. Begin expedition training and preparation.	Collect Assessor Reports for the six months sections and upload to eDofE. Complete practice and qualifying expeditions and deliver presentation.	Receive Silver DofE Award certificate and badge.

For more information about delivering Silver DofE programmes at your school, please contact;  
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Unit 12A, Church Farm Business Park, CORSTON, BA2 9AP.

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