



Altrincham Grammar School for Boys

Marlborough Road, Bowdon, Altrincham,

Cheshire, WA14 2RS

Telephone: 0161 928 0858

agsbadmin@agsb.co.uk

www.agsb.co.uk

Head Master: Mr G A Wright M.A. (Hons) FRSA

July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Silver DofE

As you have hopefully seen, our students enjoy the expeditions and have been working in the community completing volunteering, learning new skills and engaging in a physical activity. Hopefully they are eager to continue their journey and the next step is Silver DofE.

What is DofE – [What is the DofE? - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#)

Like Bronze DofE, there are [four sections](#) to complete at Silver level. They involve helping the community/environment (Volunteering), becoming fitter (Physical), developing new skills (Skills), planning, training for and completing an expedition. DofE participants can choose to do new activities or continue with the same activities from Bronze, but they must demonstrate development and increased commitment in these section areas.

Unlike the Bronze hybrid, the Silver DofE expedition is fully paddling on a canoe. An expedition is a 3 day / 2 night trip, of activity of at least 6 hours per day, where the students paddle in a small group and navigate their route to a finish point. Students will be carrying their equipment such as food and personal clothing on the boat.

Due to the nature of the level of distance covered and training there is a training expedition of three days and the qualifying expedition of three days. So, students will be completing 2 weekend sessions, a training and assessment weekend, which will mean missing a school day each weekend. We are aware that students will be in Year 10 and therefore we will plan weekends around examinations.

Any young person can do their DofE – regardless of ability, gender, background or location. Achieving an Award isn't a competition or about being first. It's all about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. Through a DofE programme young people have fun, make friends, improve their self-esteem and build confidence. They gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication and drive, enhancing CVs and university and job applications.

Parents and Carers should understand that it is their responsibility to support the student in the Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections. Safeguarding is important and as a parent and carer you should be aware of your responsibility with your child taking part in community-based activities. Please see the following advice - [Keeping Children Safe: Parental Guidance](#)

The time scales for DofE for Silver are as follows:

- Volunteering section: 6 months/26 weeks
- Physical and Skills sections: One section for 6 months and the other section for 3 months
- Expedition section: 3 days/2 nights

These time scales are for those students who have completed their Bronze DofE. So, to qualify for Silver DofE at AGSB you will need to have completed **Bronze DofE at AGSB by 1st September 2026**.

Cost

We are working with the same external provider, Grip Adventure, as Bronze. The cost is **£470** and this includes the use of the canoes for 6 days, including safety equipment, tents and cooking equipment. Please be aware, that the trip has a minimum number to run. If insufficient interest in the trip is made, we will be unable to proceed with the trip. As always full details about Pupil Premium and/or Bursary support for trips can be found on our website here: [Pupil Premium/Bursary](#)

DofE Expectations

Once a place has been awarded, students will be registered with DofE. Students will attend sessions at school to help them plan their 3 sections of Volunteering, Physical and Skills. Students will work on their two areas for 6 months each, with one area being 3 months. The expedition will take place in June / July next year. The following expectations for completing the award are:

- To re-engage with the online system known as eDofE.
- Student attends lunchtime sessions between September 2026 and the expedition in July 2027.
- By end of the first half term, October 2026, students will have a plan for all 3 sections, with an assessor in place and approved on eDofE. As soon as approved on eDofE the student can begin the 3 / 6 month time scale.
- In second half term, November 2026, all students start at least 2 of the 3 sections.
- By Easter holidays 2027 have 2 sections completed, assessors report completed and approved on eDofE.
- Attendance on the Training Expedition date TBC April / May
- Attendance on the Assessed Expedition date TBC June / July

Application process

Please discuss this with your child and if you wish them to take part in this trip, please can you complete an [Expression of Interest Form](#) by clicking on the link.

Please speak to your child and ask to see their eDofE progress. They should have already had the Bronze award completed or are well on the way to having the award completed ready for September. Only those students who have had completed their Bronze award will be registered for the Silver DofE.

Once numbers are confirmed, we will email to request you to complete the Trip Consent Form and to pay any deposit/full payment via ParentPay.

Deadline to complete your Expression of Interest Form is by 9am on 13th July 2025.

Additional information

Please read our new terms and conditions sheet attached which contains **important information** regarding medical, passports, EHIC/GHIC requirements and Covid compliance etc.

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours faithfully

William Carr
DofE Manager