



Altrincham Grammar School for Boys

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

June 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Silver DofE

Following on from 2 successful years of Bronze DofE we are now looking forward to starting our DofE Silver pilot.

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

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.

There are **four sections** again to complete at Silver. They involve helping the community/environment (Volunteering), becoming fitter (Physical), developing new skills (Skills), planning training for and completing an expedition.

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.

The expedition is three days of activity of at least 6 hours per day, where the students walk in a small group and navigate their route to a finish point. Students will be carrying their equipment such as tents, cooking equipment, food and personal clothing.

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**. As it is a trial we will be limited to **60 students** who have completed with the school.

The expedition for Silver is a 3 day / 2-night trip. Students will be completing 2 weekend sessions, training and assessment weekends, which will mean missing a school day each weekend. We are aware that students will be in Year 10 & Year 11 and therefore we will plan weekends around the external examinations.

Cost

We are working with external provider, Grip Adventure on the trip and therefore we are unaware of the final cost at present.

We wish to make it clear that if the visit takes place, no student will be denied participation on the grounds that no contribution has been made on their behalf. However, please be aware, if insufficient contributions are made, we will be unable to proceed with the trip. Full details about Pupil Premium and/or Bursary support for trips can be found on our website [here](#).

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 2025 and the expedition in July 2026.
- By end of the first half term, October 2025, 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 2025, all students start at least 2 of the 3 sections.
- By Easter holidays 2026 have 2 sections completed, assessors report completed and approved on eDofE.
- Attendance on the Training Expedition date TBC
- Attendance on the Assessed Expedition date TBC

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. There are up to 60 places available.

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 4th 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