

Tuesday 24th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

The DofE Silver Award was launched in an assembly this morning and your child 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. 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 walking expedition section is now offered by OceanRock Adventure <https://www.oceanrockadventure.co.uk/ora/> They have been running our walking and paddling expeditions for a number of years. They are extremely experienced and provide expeditions for many other schools in the local area.

- 1) **Walking Expedition:** We are able to offer this for £300 plus a non-refundable £25.50 DofE admin fee. This includes a 3-day Practice Expedition and 3-day Assessed Expedition. Locations to be confirmed, however practice expeditions will be Lambourn, Berkshire or the Marlborough Downs. Assessed expeditions, Black Mountains or Quantock Hills;
- 2) Dates for the 3-day and 2-night practice expedition – 27th- 29th June 2025;
- 3) Dates for the 3-day and 2-night assessed expedition – 26th- 28th September 2025;
- 4) Parents information evening run by OceanRock – Wednesday 19th March 2025 at 6pm at Thomas Keble School.

Things to be aware of:

- Thomas Keble School **will not** provide transport to or from the practice or assessed expeditions. **Parents will transport** their child to the start of the expedition and will pick them up at the end of the expedition;
- On the practice and assessed expeditions, **there will be no Thomas Keble Staff present**. The practice and assessed expeditions will be led by very experienced instructors from OceanRock;
- There are two initial payments to secure your child's place on the Silver DofE Award and only once both are paid will the place be confirmed. The total initial cost is £75.50:
 - £25.50 of this initial payment goes straight to the Duke of Edinburgh as an admin fee and is **non-refundable**;
 - The remaining £50 is a deposit to secure your child's place on the Silver Award and will go towards the final expedition fee. (Refundable under specific circumstances).
- The overall total cost of your child's participating in the DofE Silver Award is **£325.50** (expedition fee of £300 plus non-refundable eDofE admin fee of £25.50);
- OceanRock **will not** run in-school expedition training - this would have added to the overall cost per pupil. Trained Thomas Keble staff will run in-school training to prepare pupils for the expeditions;
- OceanRock will provide all the tents, stoves, fuel for the stoves and navigation maps. This is all included in the £300 cost. Pupils will need to provide all their personal kit such as walking boots, waterproof jackets and expedition rucksacks; OceanRock do hire out some of the personal equipment as well, at an additional cost.

Checklist of next steps:

1. **Complete online Microsoft Form application form – QR code on next page. Link is here:** <https://forms.office.com/e/nnJ1xpjxHR> **Closing date: Tuesday 8th October 2024;**
2. **Pay the £75.50 through the school gateway to secure place. Closing date: Tuesday 8th October 2024;**
3. **Please return the attached medical/consent form;**
4. **You will receive confirmation of a place in the next couple of weeks via a letter home with next steps and a payment schedule.**

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 and click on 'New User'. You'll 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 Department: finance@thomaskeble.gloucs.sch.uk
Queries regarding the expedition itself can be sent to me: pacton@thomaskeble.gloucs.sch.uk

Below are examples of possible activities that your child could take part in. They need to be completing at least one hour of each activity once a week.

| Volunteering | Physical | Skill |
|---|-----------------|---|
| Helping older people. E.g. Completing a weekly food shop, walking their dog once a week | Football | Learning a language – can use Duolingo |
| Helping coach a sports team. For example, under 9s football/hockey team | Running | Singing |
| Working at an animal rescue centre | Rugby | Website design |
| Working in a charity shop | Rounders | Dog training |
| Music Tuition | Ju Jitsu | Horse care |
| Tutoring a younger pupil | Badminton | Cookery – Learning to cook a meal once a week |
| Helping people with special needs | Line dancing | Chess |
| Litter picking | Cycling | Fishing |
| Refereeing a youth football, netball, hockey match, etc | Netball | Plant growing |
| Being a volunteer lifeguard | BMX | Knitting |
| Leading a voluntary organisation group, cubs, Brownies, etc | Skiing | Sewing |
| Neighbourhood watch | Karate | Criminology |
| Rural conservation | Cheerleading | Textiles |
| Fundraising for charity | Orienteering | Woodwork |
| Serving a faith community | Trampolining | Ceramics |
| Zoo/farm/nature reserve work | Canoeing | Reading |
| Dance leadership | Swimming | Bloggng |
| Animal welfare | Cricket | Playing a musical instrument |
| Young Carer | Hockey | Stamp collecting |
| Helping children to read | Tennis | Bird watching |

To: School Office

Re: Silver DofE – June 2025 & September 2025

Pupil name:..... Tutor group:.....

I am happy for my child to take part in the above trip

I have made a payment of £75.50 via the School Gateway

Signature:..... Parent/Carer

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| THOMAS KEBLE SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL VISITS MEDICAL INFORMATION FORM |
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In order to comply with Thomas Keble's Health and Safety and Visits policies, please complete the attached medical information form for your son / daughter.

As medical needs often change, we require that all parents return a completed medical form for their child / children regardless of whether the information has been previously supplied. Please note that students who do not return a medical information form will be unable to participate on any proposed excursion.

STUDENT NAME:

TUTOR GROUP:

TRIP TITLE:

| Any Existing Medical Conditions | Medication of Action Required | Staff Support Required. Please Include Dosage / Timing Information |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Example 1: Asthma</i> | <i>Blue Inhaler</i> | <i>Inhaler to be carried by XXX who knows how to use it.</i> |
| | | |
| | | |

I confirm that all medical conditions and medical needs are outlined above. I accept that actions requested in column 3 is a service that the school is not required to undertake.

I also undertake to provide the school with a completed medical care plan or managing medicines form if required. I note these are available from the school.

Signed:..... Date:.....

**PLEASE NOTE:
IF THIS FORM IS NOT RETURNED TO SCHOOL,
YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE TRIP**