



AMcN/LB

16th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers



Newlands Girls' School

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Acting Co-Headteachers:

Miss J. Capon and Mr M. Henshaw



The DofE - Silver Award Registration

We have received an overwhelming number of students interested in doing the Silver DofE this year. As a result we have been able to reduce the cost to you significantly. The next step is to complete the attached form, so that we can register your daughter in the DofE system. You will also need to pay the initial deposit by the due date below so that your daughter can begin the award.

Expedition Dates:

Training Days: Every Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, starting from 1st February 2022. As we have so many students participating this year we are running multiple sessions, students will only need to attend one each week and they will be expected to attend on the same day (e.g. if they sign up for Tuesday training they can only attend on Tuesdays). Many of these sessions will need to be done in the groups that students will go on the expedition with, so it is important that students wanting to be in a group together will need to make sure they are free on the same training day. We will put up sign-up sheets in January for training.

Practice Expedition: Chiltern Hills. Saturday 9th July – Monday 11th July 2022. You will need to organise your own transport to and from this expedition. The exact drop off/pick up points and times will be confirmed closer to the day.

Assessed Expedition: South Downs. Thursday 1st September – Saturday 3rd September 2022. Transport to/from this expedition will be by coach, organised by the school. Students will be required to be at school by the designated time which will be confirmed closer to the day.

Expedition Kit: Your daughter will need a good pair of walking boots (not shoes/trainers as they must support the ankle), waterproof trousers and jacket, sleeping bag, mat, and rucksack. A full list of requirements is attached. When your daughter is registered with the DofE she will receive a welcome pack, which includes the best places to buy this gear from, as well as discount codes to help purchase these items. There are also options to hire some of these items from the expedition provider.

Total Cost: £275

If you would like your daughter to take part, please make the **first (£50) payment, using the sQuid system (cash or cheques will not be accepted)**. To make a payment go to portal.squidcard.com and log on to your daughter's sQuid account. Select the 'School Trips and Offers purse'. Select the 'Silver DofE' option and follow the instructions. There are some mandatory tick boxes that must be ticked before you can make the payment using your debit/credit card. **If you encounter any problems in using the e-payment system or have any questions regarding making the payment, please contact the School Finance Office on 01628 625068.** Please check your sQuid account is operating correctly before the deadline for the first payment. If your daughter is eligible for Free School Meals and you would like her to participate, please contact me directly on the email address at the bottom of the letter.

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Please note that all payments are non-refundable and will only be returned if there are insufficient contributions to run the trip or if it is cancelled by the school.

11th January -	£50 - Registration and administration fee
11th February -	£125 – expedition deposit
22nd April –	£100 – expedition balance

Once this form and the initial deposit has been paid, your daughter will be assigned to a group leader. They will get her started and approve each of the 3 activities she has selected to do. They will monitor her progress, ensuring that she regularly updates her Activity Log on her DofE account. We do expect that each student to already had a good idea of what they want to do for each section when they start. It is especially important that she organises the volunteering activity herself. It will not be organised by the school. Please note that activities can be backdated up to six weeks from date of enrolment, so students who are already participating in activity can start to make a note this information now and upload it onto the system later.

The attached registration form will need to be completed by your daughter and yourself, please email or hand in to Mrs McNally by **Tuesday 11th January**. You will also need to have made the **first (£50) sQuid** payment by that time as well.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A. McNally
DofE Manager
arlettemcnally@newlandsgirls.co.uk