

## The Becket School

### Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award Scheme (Canoeing) 2025/26

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are pleased to inform you that The Becket School is offering students currently in **Year 10** the opportunity to participate in the **Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award Scheme** during the academic year **2025/26**.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award was introduced by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh in 1956 to encourage and challenge young people, fostering skills and attributes that contribute to becoming well-rounded, confident adults. These qualities—such as self-confidence, initiative, responsibility, planning, communication, leadership, and teamwork—are also highly valued by colleges, universities, and employers.

There are three levels of the award: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. The school is offering students the opportunity to complete the **Silver Award**, and this year it will take place via a **canoe expedition**.

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#### Award Sections

To achieve the Silver Award, students must complete four key sections:

1. **Expedition** – Planning, training for, and completing an adventurous journey in the UK or abroad.
2. **Volunteering** – Undertaking service to individuals or the community.
3. **Physical** – Improving in a sport, dance, or fitness-related activity.
4. **Skills** – Developing practical and social skills and personal interests.

The DofE team will provide full guidance and support for each section. Please note that this is an **extra-curricular programme**, and activities will take place **outside of normal school hours**.

**Priority will be given** to students who have **completed their Bronze Award with no outstanding balances**, as well as **direct entrants**. All training, practice, and qualifying expeditions are **mandatory**.

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#### Expedition Details

- **Training Day:**  
**Wednesday 22nd April 2026** (on school site)  
This session will include canoeing skills, health & safety, first aid, use of throw lines, team building, and safe use of Trangias.
- **Practice Expedition:**  
**Thursday 4th – Saturday 6th June 2026** (2 days / 2 nights)  
**Location:** River Severn  
**Departure:** 2:30pm on Thursday 4th June

- **Qualifying Expedition:**  
**Sunday 7th – Tuesday 9th June 2026** (3 days / 3 nights)  
**Location:** River Severn
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### **Cost & Payment Plan**

The total cost to participate is **£450.00 per student**.

#### **What's Included:**

- Canoe training, health & safety instruction, qualified instructors and assessors
- Use of all canoeing equipment: canoes, buoyancy aids, paddles, throw lines, water bales
- Camping fees for both expeditions
- Group equipment: tents, Trangias, fuel, compasses, maps, first aid kit, storm shelter
- Transport to and from expedition venues
- DofE registration fee, online eDofE account, administration
- Welcome pack, outdoor discount card, certificate, and badge upon completion

#### **Not Included:**

- Personal kit (e.g. waterproofs, walking boots, personal first aid kit – a kit list will be provided)
- Food for expeditions
- Waterproof dry bag

#### **Payment Schedule:**

<b>Payment</b>	<b>Amount Due Date</b>
Deposit (non-refundable, secures place)	£100.00 Friday 17th October 2025
Second Payment	£100.00 Friday 30th January 2026
Third Payment	£100.00 Friday 27th March 2026
Final Payment	£150.00 Friday 29th May 2026

Students may be able to apply for financial support—please contact Mr. Stevenson for further information.

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### **Registration Process**

If you would like to register your child's interest in the programme:

1. Submit the **DofE participant registration form** - attached to this email and return to student services
2. Complete the **medical form** using this link <https://forms.gle/ShqMHahGbzuMz8uw5>
3. Pay the **£100.00 deposit via Arbor** to secure a place (please note: places are not guaranteed until the deposit is received).
4. complete all 3 steps by **Friday 17 October**

As The Becket School is now cashless, **payments must be made online**. Cheques or cash **will not be accepted**.

A training session will be held for all students who have paid the deposit on **Wednesday 22nd April 2026**.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

**Darren Stevenson**

Duke of Edinburgh Manager

Email: **dofe@becketonline.co.uk**