

QES



QESstudio

# A Guide for Pupils & Parents



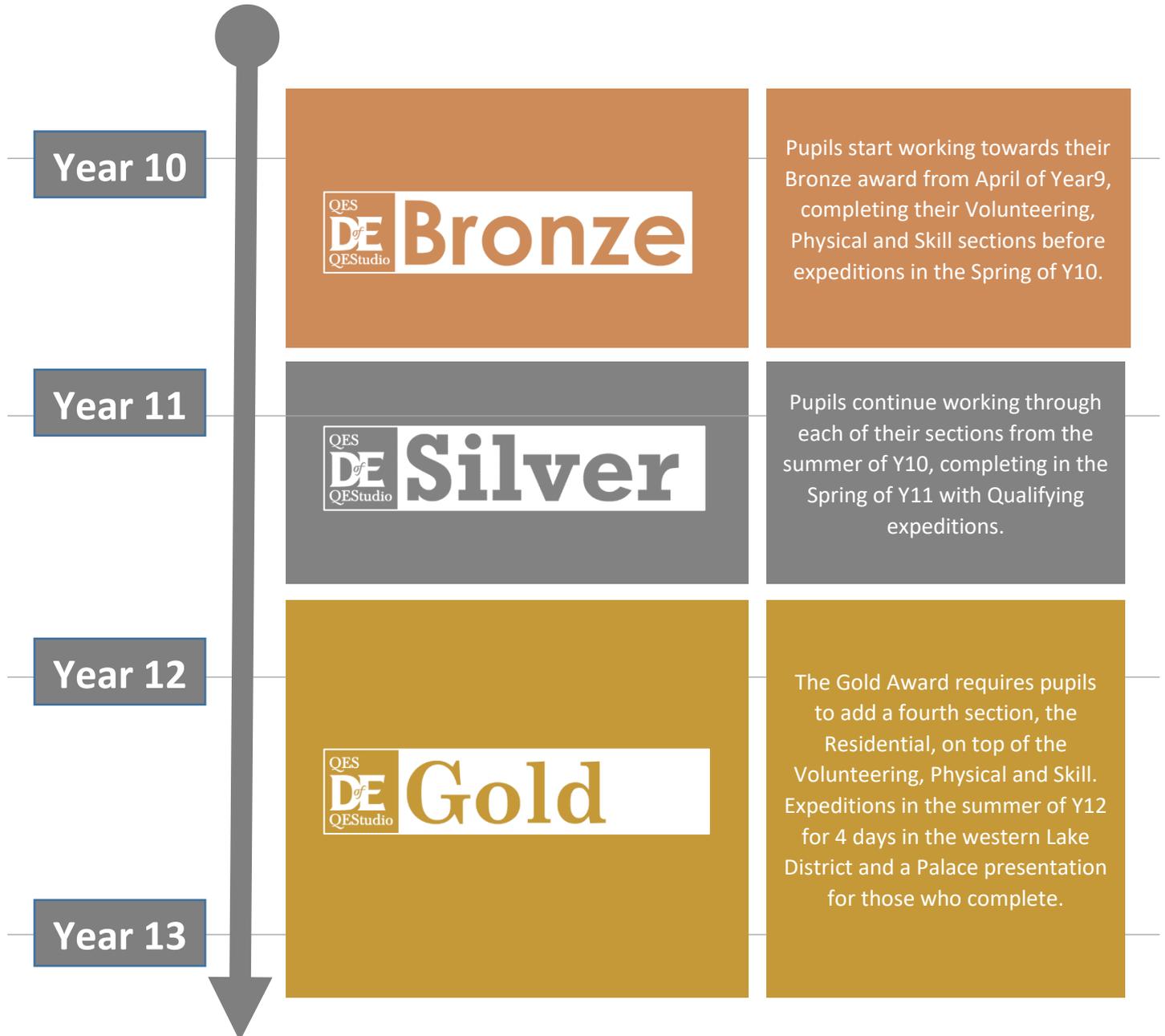
QES **DE** Bronze QESstudio

QES **DE** Silver QESstudio

QES **DE** Gold QESstudio

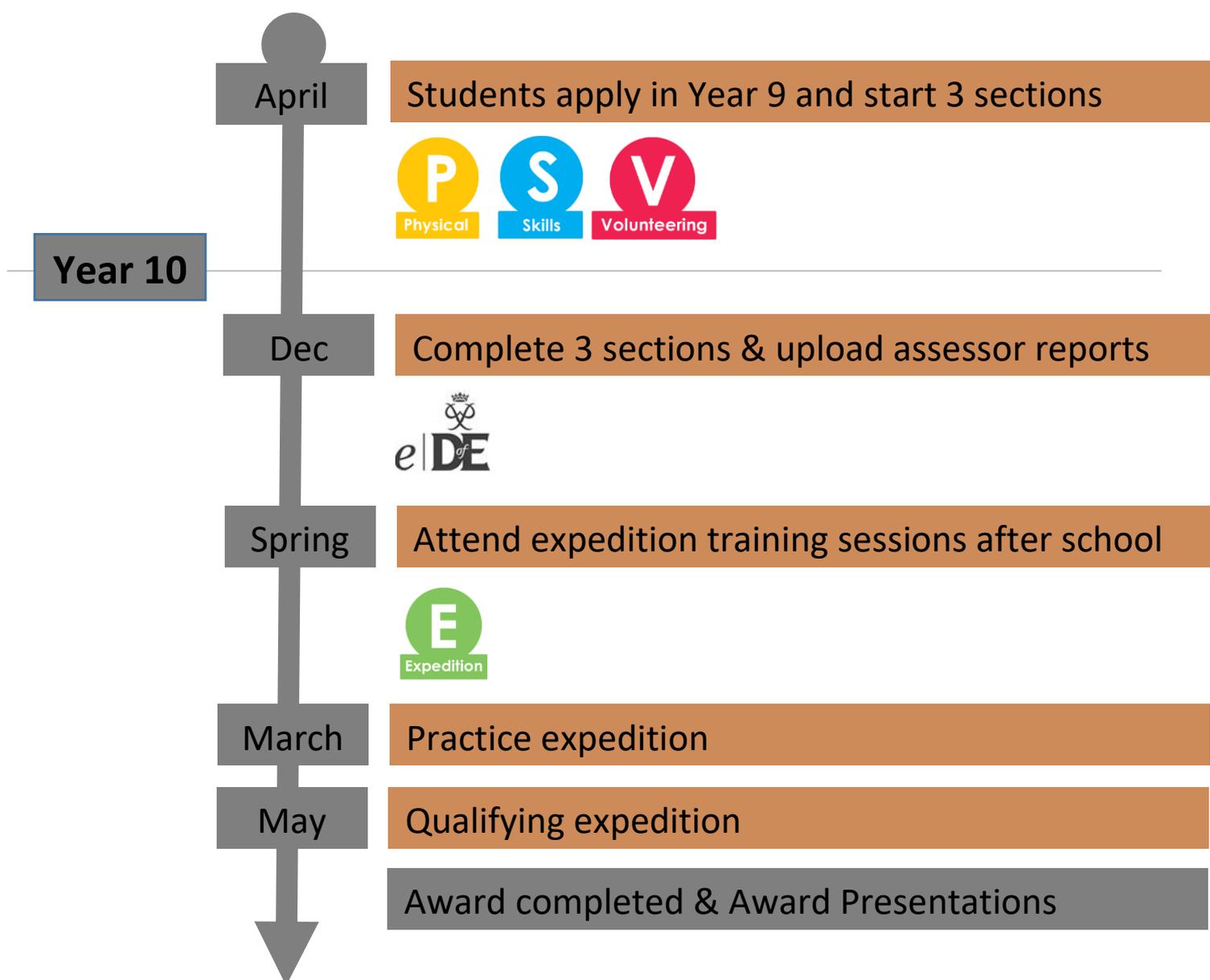
# Your DofE Journey

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is an internationally recognised achievement for young people to demonstrate their skills, abilities, resilience and commitment. The three levels, Bronze, Silver and Gold, increase in length and expectation as they progress. Most pupils complete all three, but direct entry is also possible. At QES the Award is very popular with 150 pupils involved across the awards each year.



# QES **DE** of QESstudio **Bronze**

The Bronze Award is an excellent introduction to the scheme, very popular with our Year 9 and Year 10 pupils. Pupils need to be organised and committed, especially sorting out their sections. Many will already be doing a suitable Skill and/or Physical, but most will need to think carefully about an appropriate Volunteering activity and their Assessors for each section.



# The Sections

Pupils must organise and complete these themselves; often pupils will already be doing at least one if not two of these sections and continue with the same activities throughout the duration of the awards. Activities should be for an hour a week for the designated time.

Section activities can be backdated to the beginning of the enrolment year if necessary. These are the categories suggested by the DofE, check the 'programme ideas' for lots of possibilities. Lots of ideas and possibilities on the DofE website and listed on moodle.



Volunteering

Means helping people, animals, charity or community, such as:

- Coaching, teaching and leadership
- Community action and raising awareness
- Helping a charity or community organisation
- Helping people
- Working with the environment or animals



Physical

Means a sport or activity for health and fitness, such as:

- Dance
- Extreme sports
- Fitness
- Individual sports
- Martial arts
- Racquet sports
- Team sports
- Water sports



Skills

Means developing a skill or interest, such as:

- Care of animals
- Creative arts
- Games and sports
- Learning and collecting
- Life skills
- Media & communication
- Music Natural world
- Performance arts
- Science & technology



# Overview

	 <b>Bronze</b>	 <b>Silver</b>	 <b>Gold</b>
	<b>6</b> months for one plus	<b>6</b> months	<b>12</b> months
	<b>3</b> months for another and	<b>6</b> months for one plus	<b>12</b> months for one plus
	<b>3</b> months for the third	<b>3</b> months for the other	<b>6</b> months for the other
	<b>2 days</b> <b>1 night</b> Practice & Qualifying	<b>3 days</b> <b>2 nights</b> Practice & Qualifying	<b>4 days</b> <b>3 nights</b> Practice & Qualifying
	-	-	<b>5 days</b> <b>4 nights</b> Check the specific requirements carefully
		Direct entrants do an extra 6 months of Volunteering, or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections	Direct entrants do an extra 6 months of Volunteering, or the longer of the Skills or Physical sections



eDofE is the online system the Award uses to administer the different sections of Bronze, Silver and Gold.

When registered pupils get a log on username and password and are expected to input all their programme planners for each section and when completed their assessor reports. Awards can only be gained if these are completed correctly.

Assessor reports can be completed on paper, using the participation booklet and then uploaded as a photo, or directly online, for more details and guidance see the school Moodle website.

**It is essential that pupils realise that school expeditions are only available to those who have completed each of their sections and assessor reports have been approved on eDofE.**



Bronze pupils need to complete 2 out of 3 sections by December of Y10 and all 3 before expeditions in March.



Silver pupils need to complete their programme planners before Practice expedition in September of Y11 and all 3 sections fully before Qualifying expedition in April.



Gold pupils need to complete their programme planners before Practice expedition in October of Y12 and then complete all 4 sections (Residential extra) in autumn of Year13.



# Expeditions



Expeditions are a key part of the Award and this section is organised and led by school staff. Expedition training happens over 10 weeks of the Autumn and Spring term after school for an hour a week so that Year10 pupils can complete their Bronze expeditions safely and responsibly.

It is essential that pupils realise that school expeditions are only available to those who have completed each of their sections and assessor reports have been approved on eDofE. Expeditions take place in our local area to take advantage of the 'wild country', to minimise transport and costs and to allow parents to drop off and collect pupils at the beginning and end of expeditions.

## Bronze

Bronze expeditions take place close to school.

- We have a 'Practice' Expedition from QES to Arnside in March with an overnight camp at Hutton Roof
- Then the 'Qualifying' Expedition in May along the Dales Way from north of Sedbergh to Ribbleshead with a camp in Dent.

## Silver

Expeditions are in the South Lakes, centred around Ambleside.

- Practice is in September of Year 11
- Qualifying happens in April or June

## Gold

- Gold Practice takes place in the Howgills in October of Y12
- Qualifying in the Western Lakes in June.



# Applications

For each of the awards please complete the enclosed application form.

Please do be aware of the level of commitment required to complete the Award. It is an internationally recognised achievement that demonstrates an individual's abilities and skills to work in demanding situations. Please consider carefully the activities for each of the 3 sections and make sure you have checked with an appropriate assessor (no family members please).

Please keep this booklet for future reference. You can also find it online on the school website.

## Cost

The Award is extra curricular and so must cover all of its costs within school. The cost of each Award is £185. Of this £40 covers the Participation Place from the DofE authority, £70 covers the schools costs of staffing and administration of the Award and £75 the cost of running and staffing expeditions and the use of school equipment.

At Bronze level we ask for the first £110 at registration and then the further £75 from those who continue to school expeditions. At Silver and Gold levels we ask for the full payment at registration as Practice expeditions go out in the Autumn term.

If the cost is prohibitive, please do let us know. We can usually include those in receipt of pupil premium or 6<sup>th</sup> form bursaries; or otherwise please contact Mrs L Longley - [l.longley@ges.org.uk](mailto:l.longley@ges.org.uk) concerning the school Access fund.

## Contact

Mr Brooks coordinates all elements of the Award in school.

Contact via email – [m.brooks@ges.org.uk](mailto:m.brooks@ges.org.uk) or QES school phone – 0152427125. Please do get in touch if necessary.

Pupils needing to discuss any issues to do with the Award or their sections are often best speaking directly with Mr Brooks, Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes at the History office, especially over the specifics of each of the personal sections, Volunteering, Physical, Skill and Gold residential, and assessor reports, to ensure that the expectation and spirit of the Awards are maintained.

All extra information and guidance is posted on the school Moodle site-

<https://moodle.queenelizabeth.cumbria.sch.uk/course/view.php?id=4780%2F>