

17th November 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme Gold 2022/23

I am writing to give you details of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. It is essential that you and your son/daughter discuss the requirements of the scheme very carefully before deciding to join. The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award is the most prestigious of its type. It demands a great deal of determination and motivation to succeed but the benefits and personal satisfaction to be gained are enormous. The award is in five sections (details below), all of which must be completely fulfilled.

Volunteering in the Community

Students must undertake a form of volunteering in the community over a one-year period for one hour per week on a weekly basis. This could be hospital work, helping the church, or gaining a professionally recognised qualification, for example lifesaving or first-aid.

Physical Recreation

Students must take part in any team or individual sport over a period of six months to one year – again, on a one hour per week basis. The emphasis is not on absolute achievement but on personal improvement, i.e. it does not depend on the level of expertise at which the participant begins. This section is important for maintaining a good level of fitness needed for the expedition section.

Skill

Students must follow any skill or hobby over a period of six months to one year for a minimum of one hour per week.

For physical recreation and skills, students must spend one year on one and six months on the other - students decide which way around to divide their time. If students are a direct entrant to the Duke of Edinburgh Gold award they will need to do a further six months either volunteering or six months on whichever one of their physical or skills activities they spent more time on.

Residential Course

Students need to attend a five-day course with young people from all over the country with the aim of improving the environment.

Expeditions

Students must undertake two or three expeditions, depending on the group's ability and experience. Each expedition involves a four-day hike of up to 60 km in groups of between four and six students. The venture must be in "wild" country, i.e. Dartmoor, North Wales, etc. The students have to be totally self-sufficient over this time; this means carrying all food, clothes and equipment. Depending on the degree of success of the practice expedition in Year 12, students may be required to complete an additional expedition and more local two-day expedition in Year 13 as final training for their assessment.

Please note that no student will be allowed on the training or any of the expeditions unless they have completed at least half of the other parts of the award scheme (excluding the residential project).

As you can see, the award is extremely demanding and a great deal of consideration is needed before embarking on it. Many students start the award but then find that they lack the determination to finish.

The award scheme will cost approximately **£700**; this amount will be spread over two years. This is dependent on the intake of students attending Gold Duke of Edinburgh this academic year, and this price could fluctuate slightly. We will of course update you on the final cost for this year once we have attendance figures.

The first year of the award costs **£350**. This pays for the logbook, five-day pre-assessed expedition, one day in-house training by qualified mountain leaders, hire of mountain leaders for the expedition, campsite fees, kit hire, spot navigation trackers and transportation. A further amount of £350 is to be paid in the second year for the final assessed expedition. This includes the in-house training day, five-day expedition, campsite fees, qualified mountain leaders, transportation, sweatshirts, hire of assessor, spot navigation trackers and kit hire.

All of the following training dates and the training expedition are compulsory and any student who does not attend will not be allowed to continue with the award.

Students must provide evidence of completing at least three months of each section of the award by June 2023 to attend the training expedition. [Please click here](#)

Tuesday 4th to Saturday 8th July 2022 Training expedition – Brecon Beacons.

If you would like your son/daughter to join the award scheme, please pay a deposit of £70 via ParentPay by Monday 5th December 2022. Further payments are as follows:

£70	31 Jan 23
£70	28 Feb 23
£70	31 Mar 23
£70	29 Apr 23

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Hunter
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator