

Education Department

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Our Ref: KW/TM

Date: 9 December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

The Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award

Your child should now have completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects their hard work and commitment. They now have the opportunity to continue on to the Gold Award. The Gold Award requires the participants to continue with activities or take up new activities in three sections: Skill, Volunteering and Physical. They must undertake at least 1 hour a week for each of these sections. At Gold Level there is also a **Residential Section**, details are outlined below. Participants will also complete a 3 day Practice Expedition and a 4 day Qualifying Expedition.

Skill Section An existing hobby/club that your child participates in may be suitable to meet the requirements for this section. Alternatively, they may choose a new activity e.g. learning to drive. Other suitable examples include playing an instrument, learning a language, cooking, collecting, poetry, book reviews, photography, caring for animals, learning to knit, darts or snooker. Sporting activities do not qualify as a skill. Parents will need to be supportive and responsible for pupils, as the bulk of activities will take place outside of school hours. The www.theaward.org website has many examples. You will also find information on the **school website in the pupil section**.

Volunteering Section Volunteering must be for a non-profit making organisation. For example; helping in a council run nursery, after school/lunch clubs, with a Brownie or Scout group, riding for the disabled, in a charity shop, home for the elderly (not helping with care but chatting, playing games), council run sport clubs or an environmental group, **S6 community involvement** counts. Volunteering at a commercial organisation does **not** qualify, for example private vet practice, private sports club (Whitecraigs tennis is excepted), private kennels, equestrian centre, a private dance school or restaurants are **not** eligible.

Physical Section An existing sports activity that your child participates in may be suitable to meet the requirements for this section. Alternatively, they may choose a new activity. Suitable examples include swimming, running (you must log runs or take part in ParkRuns), cycling, golf, skiing, dancing or they may attend a gym to create and follow a workout programme.

Residential Section Pupils must undertake a shared activity or specific course for **5 days and 4 nights**, in a residential setting away from home and in an unfamiliar environment. Evenings are often as much a part of the experience as daytime activities. This section offers a high degree of flexibility but it must be done with an organised group, registered charity or **Approved Activity Provider**. Examples include: Cookery courses, language courses, multi faith courses, sport/adventure courses, NT working holiday, environmental courses, study weeks, taster university courses, Brownies or Scout county camp and respite care centres. This must be completed individually (one other friend is allowed) and not with an existing group of friends or as part of a school or youth group trip. (DofE.org/residential and DofE.org/finder).

The sections have requirements for the time commitments required to qualify.

Volunteering Section: Pupils must undertake the volunteering section for **12 months**.

Physical and Skills Section: Pupils undertake one of these sections for **12 months** and the other section for **6 months**. It is their choice which section to use for the 12 months and which to use for the 6 months.

Pupils must fully complete **two** of the above sections before they can continue to the Expedition.

Expedition Section A company called Adventure Expeditions runs the Expeditions using qualified instructors (www.adventure-expeditions.net/) to supervise pupils. .

Training Day- in school/local area **date TBC**

Practice/Training Expedition-Wednesday 26 August – Friday 28 August 2020

Location-Skiddaw/Keswick Area Lake District. 35-40 miles Expedition, 2 nights camping.

Qualifying Expedition- Monday 21 September – Thursday 26 September 2020 .

Location - Arran. 50 miles 3 nights camping (one camp is a wildcamp)

More details will be provided nearer to the time of the Expeditions.

The Expeditions do involve remote navigation and climbing. Pupils must build up their **fitness levels to prepare** for the challenge of carrying their rucksacks up steep slopes. I would not advise anyone moving onto Gold if they struggled or had to pull out of the Silver Expedition.

eDofE Account Pupils will be registered and receive a record pack and an online account which is used to record their skill, physical, volunteering and residential activities. It is important that pupils update their online accounts regularly with evidence to show what they are doing. In order to achieve the Award they must have at least **twelve photographs** and a **detailed weekly activity word log** describing what they did each week (12 months = 52 detailed sentences, 6 months = 24 detailed sentences). The residential section must include a written diary of the 5 days. When pupils complete a section they must add an **Assessor's Report** that can be scanned in or completed directly online using their ID number. It is important that the assessor is not a family member or friend. At Gold level the awards have to be approved by the Scotland Duke Edinburgh Head Office so it is very important all evidence is accurate because checks are made. You can select to have the Award presented at Holyrood Palace or Buckingham Palace.

Cost

The total cost to complete the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award is approximately **£425**. This cost includes:

- Administration/Registration fee for the eDofE account, logbook, training sessions, compass, route cards and a training booklet £30
- A fully supervised 3-day Practice Expeditions by the Adventure Expedition Leaders. (£45 per pupil per day, £45x8= £360). This includes Assessor fees, campsite costs and provision of group equipment, tents, maps, cooking pans, stoves and gas, group shelters and first aid kits.
- Transport costs – coach to and from the Practice Expedition route approximately £25
- Ferry to Arran £10. Pupils make their own transport arrangements to and from the Adrossan ferry terminal.

In order to guarantee a place on the Gold Award please make the registration payment of £30 no later than **Friday 20 December 2019**. It is essential pupils understand the time, responsibility and commitment that the Award will take. It is very important that they meet deadlines and attend all meetings.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Yours faithfully

K Ward (Duke of Edinburgh Leader)

Payment Schedule: £425

£30 for registration/log book should be paid no later than end December 2019

£50 should be paid no later than end January 2020

£50 should be paid no later than end February 2020

£70 should be paid no later than end March 2020

£70 should be paid no later than end April 2020.

£55 should be paid no later than end May 2020.

£50 should be paid no later than end June 2020.

£50 should be paid no later than end July 2020.

Adventure Expeditions require full payment prior to the Practice/Training Expedition.

Please note that **refunds cannot be given.**

If a pupil is unwell or injured they will be transferred to the next Expedition.

Alternatively you can take out insurance.