



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Going for Gold 2020/2021

Thank you for your recent interest in undertaking your Gold Award at The Buckingham School. For the Award you will need to complete:

Gold (age 16+)	Volunteering 12 months	Physical 12 or 6 months	Skills 12 or 6 months	Expedition 4 days 3 nights	Residential 5 days 4 nights
	Physical and Skills sections: one section for 12 months and the other section for 6 months If you didn't do Silver, you must do a further 6 months in either the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections.				

The cost to enrol on the programme is £35; this includes your registration with DofE and a small admin fee.

Further details regarding the opportunities and costings for Residential courses can be found here: <https://www.dofe.org/residential-section/>. I would suggest booking your Residential early during the school holidays as there will be a high number of students across the county wanting to complete them next year as they were not able to complete them during lockdown.

Expedition:

This will be run by a company called School of Outdoors (<https://www.schoolofoutdoors.uk/dofe-gold>) and will cost £475 for all training/practice and qualifying Expeditions. This includes tents, Trangias, maps and compass. This does not include any costs relating to your Residential section, transport to and from your Expedition or for food that you take on your Expedition. Although we hope that Expeditions can take place in wild country, the company have arrangements in place for these expeditions to take place locally if there are still restrictions in place. Your provisional dates are (please let me know asap if these dates are an issue):

Training: 24th February 2021 - covering Campcraft (including cooking), Navigation, First Aid and Countryside code.
Practice Expedition: 29-31 May 2021 - Wales
Expedition: 22-26 July 2021 - Wales

All communication regarding the Expedition and payments for it will be made directly with School of Outdoors. By signing up to take part in the Award you are also agreeing for your contact details to be given to them for communication purposes. Please contact me if this is not the case.

If you wish to take up this opportunity, please pay the enrolment fee of £35 via ParentMail no later than Monday, 14th December. Students will need to join the Google Classroom to make communication regarding the award easier. Code: 3ay5qrx

Students can start completing their sections on eDofE as soon as the enrolment fee is paid. They will be able to back date any of their section from September if they have already started.

Should you have any questions regarding the Award or any of the sections, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mrs V Cowley
Assistant Curriculum Leader for PE
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator
vcowley@buckinghamschool.org