



21st September 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

Year 12 & 13 Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, 2023-2024

The Buckingham School would like to offer current Year 12, 13 students the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award scheme. This is an area that the School prides itself on. We deliver an excellent training programme, ensuring that students reach their potential in the areas, which the Gold Award aims to develop. These include:

- Self-confidence and self-reliance
- A sense of achievement and of responsibility
- Leadership skills and abilities
- Communication skills
- New skills, interests and talents
- Community cohesion

The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award has four sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. If your child wishes to take the Gold Award and they have already completed their Silver award, they will undertake a minimum of 12 months activity for all of the Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections. The sections will last for 18 months if the students did not pass their Silver, even if they passed their Bronze. They will also plan, train for and complete a 4-day (3 nights) Expedition for both a practice and qualifying Expedition. A full list of ideas of what students can do for each section is here:

<https://www.dofe.org/do/ideas/>.

Students will also have to complete a residential section which is a shared activity in a residential setting away from home for 5 days and 4 nights.

The practice and assessed Expeditions will take place in the Summer Term in the surrounding counties. More information will come out regarding this nearer the time. The Expedition will be provided by School of Outdoors and there will be staff from The Buckingham School for pastoral support for all groups. Dates are as following:

Training Day: Wednesday 19th February 2024

Practical Training: 17th March 2024

Practice Expedition: 04th -06th May 2024

Qualifying Expedition: 04th-08th July 2024

Students will have to attend regular drop-in after school sessions from January; initially once a month (sessions will take place on a Tuesday) to prepare for the Expedition and then weekly in the weeks leading up to the Expedition. Students will need to have completed their Volunteering for 12 months and Physical and Skills (one of each should be for 12 months and the other for 6 months) and a further 6 months required for the Volunteering or the other longer section if they did not take their Silver, prior the expedition.

Aim of Expedition

The aim is to demonstrate the skills necessary to complete the Gold Award expedition. These skills include teamwork, independence, navigation and camp craft. The group will walk approximately 30km over four days, carrying all their equipment, cooking their own meals and camping overnight.

The Buckingham School is concerned that every student should have the opportunity to attend school activities/obtain equipment, regardless of their financial circumstances. As such, it may be possible to subsidise those students who would otherwise be unable to attend trips/purchase items. Please feel free to write in confidence to finance@buckinghamschool.org, if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.

Staff

The Expedition and training will be supervised by staff from School of Outdoors and The Buckingham School, however, students will be walking unaccompanied for some of the time. Duke of Edinburgh supervision by its very nature is designed to allow your child the freedom to make their own decisions. Staff will be present around the area, meeting your child at pre-agreed checkpoints and they will be present at the campsite throughout the night.

Cost

The total price for the Gold programme is £482.50. This includes a fee of £32.50 to cover the initial Introduction Pack, the administration and the enrolment costs. The remaining cost of £450 is to cover Expedition expenses such as campsite fees, transport between camp locations and insurance for both Expeditions.

Edofe Account

Once enrolled, students will be given a username and will use their date of birth (8 digits) as their first login password. Students are advised to change their password after their first login. There is a DofE app that students should download, as throughout the Award, they will need to upload evidence and assessor reports after each section is completed.

Assessors

Students will need an assessor for each of their sections. This person cannot be a family member and must be over 18. The assessor should keep up to date with the student's progress throughout their section. At the end of the section, they will need to write a short report confirming they have spent the required time completing it. It is expected that students spend about an hour a week on each of their sections.

Virtual Introductory Parents Evening

A virtual Parents Evening will take place on the 4th October 2023, 8:00pm-8:30pm, and I would like to invite all interested students and parents/carers to a Team meeting. The details of the meeting are as following:

Meeting ID: 360 953 995 064

Passcode: oKKTPL

Following this Parents Evening, if you would like your child to take part in the programme, please complete and return the attached registration form to the School, in a sealed envelope, marked for my attention. Students can post their completed registration forms in the "Payments and Permissions" Box which is located outside the Maths Office in the Jubilee Building. (If there is no change in personal details, please write so and leave the section blank, but remember to sign it.) Please return this no later than 15th January 2024.

For those wanting to proceed, the initial payment can be made through ParentMail, before Monday 15th January 2024. Should you have any issues accessing this site, please contact our Finance Team on finance@buckinghamschool.org.

Students who choose to enrol on the Gold Award will also need to join the DofE Google Classroom. Communication about the Award, help and advice will be posted here. Code: fciyhdi

If you would like to find more about the award please read the [Parents info](#).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Ms R Rusu

Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator

rrusu@buckinghamschool.org



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Enrolment Form

Please print clearly in CAPITALS or type your details in. You must complete all of the questions.

DofE level:

Bronze <input type="checkbox"/> Silver <input type="checkbox"/> Gold <input type="checkbox"/>
Have you registered for any previous levels of the DofE? No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
If YES – please give the name of the DofE Centre you were registered at: eDofE ID number (if known) :

Personal details:

First name:	Last name:
Gender: Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>	Date of Birth: / /
Primary language English <input type="checkbox"/> Welsh <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	
Date you wish to start your DofE programme if known (enrolment date): / /	

When you first sign in to eDofE you will be asked to record some personal details such as your contact details, ethnicity and personal circumstances along with details of any medical needs you may have. This data is used to enable your Leaders to support you doing your DofE programme and for the DofE's statistical and reporting purposes. You will always have a 'prefer not to say' option.

Contact details:

Email address:	
Address (line1):	
Address (line 2):	
Town/City:	
County:	Postcode:
Telephone:	Mobile number:

Emergency contact details:

Emergency Contact name:	Relationship to you:
Emergency contact telephone number(s):	

P.T.O.

Declaration:

I agree to enrol as a participant on a DofE programme. I understand that I will be managing my programme using the online eDofE system. I acknowledge that this system has a set of terms and conditions that I agree to. These terms and conditions are available at www.eDofE.org

Print Name	Signature	Date
		/ /

Consent to enrol from parent or guardian (if applicant is under 18 years old).

I agree to my son / daughter / ward doing a DofE programme. I note that it is my responsibility to check that any activity my son / daughter / ward undertakes for their DofE programme is appropriately managed and insured, unless the activity is directly managed or organised by their DofE group, centre or Licensed Organisation. I have paid the participant enrolment fee (via Parentmail) in full. I understand and accept that this fee is non-refundable in the event of me withdrawing from The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, for whatever reason.

Print Name	Signature	Date
		/ /
Email Address		

Please return this completed form to Ms Rusu

Note:

Data supplied on this form and in eDofE and information about DofE activities recorded in eDofE will be used by the DofE Charity, the Licensed Organisation and DofE centre to monitor and manage DofE participation and progress by young people and manage and support Leaders.

The DofE Charity will use personal data to communicate useful and relevant information to either help participants complete a DofE programme, Leaders/LOs to run DofE programmes more effectively or help the DofE Charity to improve the quality and breadth of its programmes.

Occasionally the DofE Charity may send you information relating to commercial offers. If you do not wish to receive commercial information from the DofE Charity you can choose not to by amending your contact preferences in your eDofE profile at any time.