



Friday 13 September

Dear Parent / Carer,

## **Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Programme 2024-2025**

Further to meeting with your child this week, I am delighted to announce that we are running the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award for Year 12 Students, as part of our extracurricular programme this academic year.

The Duke of Edinburgh's award is a challenging, but ultimately rewarding experience for all participants. Students will learn lifelong skills, helping to make our young people more well-rounded individuals. Duke of Edinburgh certificates are viewed favourably by college and university admissions, as well as prospective employers.

Students wishing to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Gold award are required to be registered of which there is a non-refundable registration fee of £100.00. This fee includes the cost of registering the pupil with the DofE, purchasing their Gold DofE Participant handbook, Gold DofE Hoodie and associated school license fee. There will be additional costs involved whilst completing the award, all of which are outlined below.

This award is an extra-curricular activity; students on the award must be willing to give up a large proportion of their own time to attend training sessions and complete all components listed below. The award will take a minimum of 12 months to complete (18 months if they have not completed Silver award) and will challenge the mental, physical, and social capability of each individual.

The course consists of five blocks of activity, completed for a minimum of one hour per week, over consecutive weeks. All four blocks must be completed successfully and evidenced before the award is accredited. The sections, methods, and approximate costs involved are listed below.

### **1. Physical**

An activity that involves a sport or physically exerting activity, for example, hockey, dance, rock climbing, football, swimming, yoga. This could be an activity students already participate in outside of school, or they can try something new.

### **2. Skill**

The skill component can incorporate a variety of activities. These can include leadership, creative arts, and performing arts, care of animals, cookery, music, life skills, media, science and the natural world.

### **3. Volunteering**

Students have two options available to them regarding this section. Students can independently organise to attend a local organisation, club, group, or charity in the community and offer their services as a volunteer. Students may also volunteer to support extra-curricular clubs run within school.

### **4. Expeditions (Practice & Qualifying)**

The expedition process for the Gold award is much more intense than at Bronze or Silver. Students will be required to undertake two expeditions, one practice (three days and two nights) from 27 - 29

March 2025 and one qualifying (four days and three nights) on 15 - 18 May 2025. The qualifying expeditions are assessed by a qualified DofE Assessor. There will be a cost involved with this section of a further £400.00pp. There will be an additional training day that is necessary for the expedition section and the proposed day for this is 6 March 2025. Additional equipment, clothing, walking boots, and food costs should also be taken into account.

## 5. Residential

The residential element is an addition for the Gold award alone and emphasises just how exceptional this award is from the Bronze and Silver. Going on a residential gives you the chance to learn how to work with people from different backgrounds and build confidence living in new environments. The residential activity should normally take place over at least five consecutive days with a minimum of four nights spent away. This is something that participants must research and plan themselves. There is lots of advice and guidance on the DofE website for this element of the Gold Award.

For those Students who have attracted Pupil Premium funding in the past, there is potentially some limited funding on a discretionary, individual needs basis. Please contact me (Mr Barrett) in the first instance should you so wish. Please be aware that any equipment supplied on this discretionary basis would remain the property of NLS for future students to access.

If you would like your child to participate in The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award, you will need to complete all details on ParentPay no later than Wednesday 23 October 2024 with a £100 initial payment ([www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)). Students cannot be registered and begin logging their award without prior payment of the registration fee but, if they are keen, they can begin the volunteering, physical and skills' sections of their award immediately and can back date their efforts once registered and online.

The total cost will be £500. After the initial £100 registration fee by October 23, further instalments are:

£200 by January 31 2025

£200 by March 31, 2025

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me using the below details.

Yours faithfully,

Mr James Barrett  
DofE Coordinator  
[jbarrett@northleamington.co.uk](mailto:jbarrett@northleamington.co.uk)