



Friday 18 September

Dear Parent / Carer,

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Programme 2026-2027

As part of our extracurricular programme, I am delighted to announce that we are running the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award for Year 12 students this academic year.

There is a total cost of £500 for students wishing to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Gold award of which there is a non-refundable registration fee of £200.00. 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 but will be, ultimately, a hugely rewarding process.



As shown above, the course consists of five blocks of activity, with the first three completed for a minimum of one hour per week, over consecutive weeks. All five 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 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 14 - 17 April 2027 and one qualifying (four days and three nights) on 30 June – 4 July 2027. There will be a cost involved with this section of a further £300.00pp. There will be an additional training day that is necessary for the expedition section and the proposed dates for this is 17 – 18 March 2027. Additional equipment, clothing, walking boots, and food costs should also be taken into account when proposing to do this.

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 students 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 and means-tested basis. Please contact Ms Short NShort@northleamington.co.uk in the first instance should you so wish.

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 Friday 23 October 2026 with a £200 initial payment also paid by that time via ParentPay - 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.

There is a total cost of £500: £200 registration fee by October 23; £150 by January 31 and £150 by March 31. Please note that once you have committed, all deposits and monies paid will be non-refundable should your child withdraw. Payment can be made via Parentpay (www.parentpay.co.uk)

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

Yours faithfully,

Mr James Barrett
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