



Friday 19 September 2025

Dear Parent / Carer,

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Programme 2025-26

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 only, 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, their 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.



As shown above, 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 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 15th - 18th April 2026 and one qualifying (four days and three nights) on 17th - 21st June 2026. 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 dates for this is 25th - 26th March 2026. 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 24 October 2025 with a £100 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: £100 registration fee by October 24th; £200 by January 31st and £200 by March 31st. Please note that once you have committed, all deposits and monies paid will be non-refundable should your child withdraw. To pay, please go online to www.parentpay.com. If you have any questions about DofE Gold, please feel free to contact me using the below details.

Yours faithfully,

Mr James Barrett

DofE Manager

jbarrett@northleamington.co.uk, Tel: 01926 338711 x8438