



From: The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Leader, Mathew Dempsey

15 September 2020

Dear Parents,

**Parents of Lower Sixth Year Students  
Duke of Edinburgh Award Gold Level**

**Introduction**

The Duke of Edinburgh's award offers a personal challenge through a balanced programme of activities. Boys are encouraged to serve others, acquire new skills and experience adventure. It is non-competitive, being based on individual improvement and achievement, reflecting personal choice, initiative and perseverance and, in some cases, leadership.

When boys sign up for the award they will be provided with a welcome pack, a login ID and password for the eDofE recording system. The welcome pack contains various leaflets, a 'Keeping Track' booklet for recording progress within the various sections of the award and a discount card for use in various outdoor shops.

Boys joining the award should be aware that it is their award. This means that it is for them to motivate themselves to complete the skill, volunteering and physical sections. The amount of time required for each section is contained on the award [website](#); however it equates to approximately one hour a week over a twelve month period for two of the three sections and over a six month period for the remaining section. At Gold level boys also need to undertake a shared activity in a residential setting away from home for 5 days and 4 nights. In most cases boys can use something they are doing in school to satisfy the criteria as long as it is outside normal lessons. For instance, music lessons can be used, as well as many Other Half clubs and sports, a suggested list can be found [here](#). Suggested socially distanced activities can be found [here](#). Some boys are allocated one of the places only to drop from the scheme during the year because they do not motivate themselves to continue, by which time it is too late to reallocate their place. Please ask your son to consider if he can commit to the time required to complete the award before applying.

The only section that is normally arranged for them is the expedition section. However due to the Covid-19 government restrictions on residential school trips this section may not proceed. Without completing the expedition section, the boys will gain the Duke of Edinburgh's Certificate of Achievement. Alternatively, your son could complete his expedition section with an external provider; these are easily found by searching "DofE open award expedition online". If the government restrictions are lifted in good time we will endeavour to arrange some school expeditions and will also provide training mornings that would likely run in the summer term.

The award's website [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org) is the best source of information and is updated frequently with new ideas and information. Participants new to the award are strongly

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advised to look at the site or to watch this [presentation](#) before applying for a place on the award in school. New entrants to the scheme need to complete an additional 6 months in either of their 12 month sections.

### **Costs**

The major costs associated with the scheme are for the joining materials and travel expenses for the expeditions, although every effort is made to keep these to a minimum. For planning purposes some costs are detailed below based on previous expeditions. There is also the initial enrolment fee.

Enrolment fee £29      This is for the initial registration with eDofE (£29), a welcome pack, certificate and badge (on completion).

Expeditions (if government restrictions are lifted in good time):      Practice expedition £180 approx  
Qualifying expedition £200 approx

These are per boy to cover items such as travel, campsite fees, maps, cooking fuel and maintenance of the school kit but does not include food which is purchased and planned by teams.

### **Joining the Scheme**

To join the scheme boys and parents should complete this google form together. It will only be valid if it comes from a parent's e-mail account. The form should be completed by Wednesday 30 September 2020.

The form: <https://forms.gle/fyz89DeNrAuaV3im8>

Once boys have been allocated a place they will be notified by email. Due to the time it takes to set boys up with an eDofE account there may be a short delay. Boys who are allocated a place will also receive, prior to the induction briefing, an email with their login ID and password to the eDofE system.

Finally, boys need to be aware that, although the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is not time-constrained (up to age 25), they should attempt to complete each element within a specified time, and that this will require a consistent effort and commitment on their part to achieve.

Yours sincerely,

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