



17 November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

### **The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award 2022/2023**

Your child has expressed an interest in doing their Gold DofE Award. Firstly, can I please apologise for the delay in launching this year's Gold DofE. This has been the result of some unforeseen logistical challenges.

An information evening on the award will be held on Monday 21 November between 7pm and 8pm online for you to log on and speak to myself and the Rock the Boat team with any queries you may have. Please follow this link [meet.google.com/cfm-jobr-rfz](https://meet.google.com/cfm-jobr-rfz) to join online, logging on using your child's school Google account.

Last year, almost 200 students took part in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards at Borlase. The DofE Gold Award is open to anyone over the age of 16. Although we register the students towards the beginning of Year 12, we can backdate their start day to their 16th birthday, allowing any activities started after their 16th birthday to be included. The Award involves completing five sections: the physical; volunteering; skill, expedition sections and a week's residential placement.

**Physical - improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities.**

**Volunteering - undertaking service to individuals or the community.**

**Skill - developing practical and social skills and personal interests.**

Activities do not need to be completed at school. Where students take part in activities outside school and when the activity is appropriate, it can be counted towards the Award. All activities must be done on a voluntary basis and students are encouraged to organise their own activities. Before undertaking any external activity, please confirm with Mr Stevens that it will qualify for the Award.

**Please note; the use of physical recreation activities as skills may not be suitable, as the Award has categorised activities and we are bound by these.** If there is any doubt, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us and at the end of this letter you will find a list of programme ideas for each section. All students taking part in the Award will need to attend meetings throughout the year where they will receive support in completing their Award.

## Residential

Must be a minimum of five days four nights in duration and have an appointed assessor, led by an organised group, charity or approved activity provider. There must be at least 5 people including you in the group, none of whom you know, all of which are undertaking a shared activity where the group share the same aim and experience. You must stay in shared accommodation away from home in an unfamiliar environment, living and eating communally during the evenings. This cannot include work experience, internship or exchange trip

## Expeditions

All expeditions are facilitated by an external company called Rock the Boat Activities. The students are required to undertake 7 hours of 'planned activity' during each of the 4 days of the expedition. All expeditions are not a guarantee pass as students can be deferred if deemed to be under performing.

As part of the cost for the DofE Award, the following kit is included by RTBA (our expedition provider): tents, stoves, Canoes, buoyancy aids and navigation equipment. As part of the Award, students will need to plan and provide their own food and personal equipment.

## Supervision

The Duke of Edinburgh award requires participants to be unaccompanied and self-reliant on expeditions. Hence, provided students have demonstrated the required level of competence and have shown suitable behaviour during training, they will not be directly supervised during the expedition. Appropriately qualified expedition staff will be at a ratio of one per two teams and each DofE group will be met at checkpoints along their planned route and will have been briefed on what to do in case of emergency. Expedition staff will be on site at the campsite overnight.

Whilst on expedition any communication between parents/guardians and students will need to go through expedition staff as it is a requirement of the Duke of Edinburgh award that direct communication is not permitted.

Students undertaking Gold walking expeditions will be provided with ongoing training to bring everyone to the correct standard. As well as the training expedition explained below, there will also be sessions held throughout the year at lunchtimes and after school to make sure participants are keeping on top of all things Duke of Edinburgh.

### 1. **Training day - 13 May 2023**, Location: SWBGS

During this training we look at navigation, route planning, first aid, emergency procedures, camp craft, expedition cooking and nutrition, health and safety and kit requirements.

### 2. **Practice Expedition – 25-29 June 2023**, Location TBC Leaving school at lunchtime on the 25th for travel and camp night before

Four day, three night practice expedition.

This will include a mixture of directly supervised and remotely supervised planned activity where the participants will develop their skills learned in the training weekend and apply them to expedition life.

### 3. **Assessment Expedition – 20-24 July 2022**, Location: TBC Travel 20 July pm.

Four day, three night assessed expedition.

The assessed expedition is the final part of the expedition section where the participants can prove to the assessor what they have learnt and how they have developed as young people.

Specific information such as the timings and location of the expeditions will be sent out nearer the time.

What is included in the cost?

- 1 day training
- 4 day practice
- 4 day assessment
- Core kits hire i.e. tents, stoves and navigation equipment.
- Duke of Edinburgh registration costs and insurance

What is **not** included in the cost?

- Personal equipment
- Food
- Transport
- Personal spending money

#### **Cost for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Walking Award**

The cost of the walking expedition will be between £690 - £720; a price range for the expedition has been given as costs will vary depending on the number of students taking part. We are asking for a **non-refundable deposit** of £200, to be paid by Friday 2 December 2021. This will be followed by the 1st instalment of £300 due by Friday 3 February 2022 and the remaining balance to be paid by 10 March 2023.

Please note cancellations made 12 weeks prior to the start date will forfeit deposits only. Cancellations within 4-12 weeks will forfeit 75% of the total fee and if a cancellation is made within 4 weeks of the start date, all fees will be forfeited. DofE at Borlase does not come under the normal trips financial support. There are other possibilities of accessing funding and I can supply more details, although this is not guaranteed.

If you wish to take part in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme please log onto [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com) using your username and password to pay the **non refundable deposit of £200 by Friday 2 December 2022**. If you need a copy of your activation details please email [parentpay@swbgs.com](mailto:parentpay@swbgs.com).

Yours faithfully

Mr D Stevens  
DofE Coordinator

## **DUKE OF EDINBURGH GOLD Award – Year 12**

It is important that you are aware of the following when paying your deposit:

- 1) It is essential that your son/daughter attends all of the published dates for the training, practice and assessed expeditions according to the published information. We are unable to offer alternatives if your son/daughter is unable to attend.
- 2) Your son/daughter must complete the previous section of the expedition Award to proceed to the next section i.e. in order to complete the practice expedition you must complete the training and in order to complete the assessment you must complete the training and practice expeditions.
- 3) Once paid the initial deposit is non-refundable, along with any subsequent payments. A payment schedule will be published for each programme. Between paying the deposit and the deadline for the final payment you will be required to pay any cost incurred on your child's behalf if you cancel e.g. registration fees. If you cancel within 4 weeks of the start you will be required to pay the full amount. If you decide to cancel you should send an email to [parents@swbgs.com](mailto:parents@swbgs.com) for the attention of Mr Stevens
- 4) Your son/daughter signs up as an individual to the Award scheme. Groups for the expedition will be arranged by the DofE coordinator in order to meet the DofE requirements.