

Tuesday 16th January 2024

Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award – Yr.11 Enrolment

Dear Participant, Parent and/or Carer,

We are pleased to be opening the enrolment for our Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme for the next academic year. This is open to our Yr.11 students to allow them to start some of their sections for their award.

This prestigious award requires commitment and determination but provides an excellent sense of achievement, forms lifelong friendships and memories, and becomes a powerful addition to your CV, university personal statements and within job interviews. The Gold level involves students completing 5 sections: volunteering, physical, skills, an expedition and finally a residential. Students do not need to have completed Bronze or Silver and are able to enter the award as a direct entrant.

Students are able to start their Gold award from when they turn 16. To facilitate this, we are inviting students to enrol on the Gold award now to enable them to start their various sections. We fully appreciate that Year 11 is an incredibly busy year for students, however, we find that lots of students are continuing with the various activities that they have used for Bronze and Silver and we therefore want to provide the students with the opportunity to start to use these activities now.

There is an additional section to the Gold award and this is the residential section. For this, students need to undertake a 5-day, 4-night residential, taking part in an activity that will either broaden the horizons of the students or that will be of benefit to others. After their exams, students have a long summer break before they return to Sixth Form or go on to other study, this has historically proven to be a great time for students to complete their residential section. We have seen students going on programmes such as NCS (National Citizen Service) or other residentials in this time period.

At this time, we will only be asking for the cost of the enrolment of the students. Once students have returned to Tretherras in Sixth Form, we will then send a further letter detailing the expedition process at Tretherras and confirming the dates. If students chose to enrol now but decide not to stay at Tretherras, they will be able to transfer their eDofE account across to whoever they chose to do DofE with. We are only able to offer Gold DofE and the expeditions to those that attend the Tretherras Sixth Form.

In the Sixth Form, we deliver the Gold expedition in the form of a walking based expedition to the Lake District. Below is an example of what is required for the expedition at Gold level. We have provided approximate months that events have historically taken part. We cannot confirm this until our 2024 – 2025 calendar has been approved. The training for Gold is significant and involves:

- Coastal Footpath Day Walk (usually in September)
- 4 Day practice expedition on Dartmoor (usually in October)
- After School route planning sessions
- Moorland Day Walk (usually in February)

- 3 Day training expedition on Dartmoor (usually in March)
- 7 Day (only 4 days on expedition) venture to the Lake District (Usually in April)

If students would like to sign up for Gold DofE then we ask that you complete the below link to the DofE Enrolment form. Once we have received a completed copy of this, we will then assign the payment item on ParentPay. **The current cost of DofE enrolment is £32.50.** This cost is paid to DofE and covers the cost of the students eDofE account. From 1st April this fee is increasing to £35. **We would therefore encourage anyone who would like to participate to pay on ParentPay by Monday 11th March 2024.** This will allow us time to raise the order and buy the accounts.

Link to DofE Enrolment Form: <https://forms.office.com/e/4M57peuNic>

As soon as a participant turns 16, we will create their eDofE account and they can start their Gold activities. For those that are already 16, we will back-date their account to their 16th birthday.

We currently anticipate that the cost of Gold will be a total of £225. This includes the cost of enrolment. Those that enrol this year will have the cost of enrolment deducted from the cost next year. The cost of each level is reviewed at the end of each year to account for any increases in cost that it takes to run the award. The cost will be confirmed at the start of next academic year.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in contact with me at school. You can ring on 01637 872080 or email me on ntol@tretherras.net. Please note that I work out of the office running Outdoor Learning programmes frequently, therefore if I can't get back to you straight away, I will endeavour to do so as soon as I can.

Your faithfully,



Mr J Blum
Head of Outdoor Learning