



All Hallows Catholic College

A Voluntary Academy

Aspire not to have more but to be more

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Principal - Mr T Beesley

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

Dear Parent / Carer

7th October 2024

We are delighted to be able to offer your Y12 child the opportunity to complete their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award this year. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is so much more than a 'pat on the back' for completing a programme of activities. It is recognition of a young person's successful journey of self-discovery and development, renowned by employers and universities alike for the qualities young people have who've achieved a DofE Award.

It is a balanced programme develops the whole person – mind, body and soul, in an environment of social interaction and team working. There are 4 main sections to the award which all must be completed they are: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and expedition.

For Gold, they'll need to do the programme for at least 12 months if they have achieved the Silver Award, or 18 months if they've started at Gold level without doing Silver or Bronze. The big difference at Gold is they will also do a Residential section – staying away from home for five days and four nights doing a shared activity with people they don't know.

- Volunteering section: 12 months
- Physical and Skills sections: One section for 12 months and the other section for 6 months
- Expedition section: 4 days/3 nights. Students will complete this twice, once as a practice to learn the skills and once as the assessed expedition.

Residential section: Undertake a shared activity in a residential setting away from home for 5 days and 4 nights. (Note, this is not included in the price shown below. Guidance will be provided on free / low-cost residential ideas.)

If they didn't do Silver, they must undertake a further 6 months in either the Volunteering or the longer of the two of Physical or Skills.

Further information can be found by visiting this link <https://www.dofe.org/do/> and also in the FAQ's at the end of this letter.

Gold expedition dates are:

Thursday 6th March – Sunday 9th March 2025

Thursday 3rd July to Sunday 6th July 2025

The cost for the Gold award is £480. This includes the enrolment pack, access to the eDofE portal, discount card, campsite fees, tents, cookers, fuel, certification & badges, training for the expeditions and trained outdoor leadership staff.

To secure a place on the Gold award we require a non-refundable deposit of £120 per student. There will be an option on ParentPay to pay the balance in instalments. **We do not wish financial circumstances to be a barrier to any child attending. Please contact the Finance office if you would like to discuss financial assistance.**

To enrol on to the award please pay the deposit via Parent Pay by 31st October 2024, complete the attached enrolment form (after the FAQs) and ask your child to bring it to Mr Barron in F11.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Scott Barron
s.barron@allhallows.org.uk

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme?

The Duke of Edinburgh award was founded in 1956 by Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, and recognises the achievements of young people completing a specified series of activities that not only benefit the young person but also their community. It was designed by John Hunt, a British army officer who had led the first successful climb of Everest in 1953.

Why would my child benefit from completing the award?

There are a number of benefits to taking part: pushing personal boundaries; experiencing new activities and challenges; acquiring new skills; and enhancing a CV. DofE also makes participants highly attractive applicants to universities and potential employers. The awards are endorsed by a number of corporate supporters including Starbucks, FedEx, British Gas, ITV, Halfords, Google, Marks & Spencer, Unilever, Barclays and Royal Mail. DofE helps participants develop leadership, teamwork, self-motivation, communication, confidence, consideration and the ability to learn.

Which year groups can participate in the DofE award scheme?

There are 3 progressive levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. At All Hallows, we run DofE programmes in the following year groups:

Year 9 – Bronze

Year 10 – Silver

Year 12 – Gold

Participants embarking on the Silver Award do not need to have completed the Bronze award beforehand; similarly, participants about to start the Gold Award do not need to have completed the Bronze or Silver Awards, although they will find completing the award more straightforward and shorter if they have done.

How long does a DofE award take?

The DofE award scheme encourages independence, responsibility, organisation and communication by participants. When students first sign up, they will be registered on eDofE (the online DofE system) where they'll complete their personal details, create log in information and set the timescales for their Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections. After that, it is the student's responsibility to choose an activity for their 3 sections, set their aims (including choosing an Assessor) and then complete the chosen activity for the timescale set.

Whilst students will be supported whenever they need and encouraged, they will not continually be prompted to complete their eDofE logging as the award dictates that participants should show independence and be responsible for these aspects themselves. We encourage parents to use their child's login information regularly to check on their progress.

What sections will my son/daughter need to complete to gain the Duke of Edinburgh award?

There are 4 sections to complete for Bronze and Silver (each for differing periods of time) and 5 sections for Gold: Residential (Gold award only) – a 5-day residential involving staying and working away from home whilst completing a shared activity. The Residential should be completed with people the participant does not know. Guidance will be given but it is the participants responsibility to find a residential placement, any costs incurred are not included in the cost of the Gold scheme run by All Hallows.

Does it matter if my son/daughter cannot commit to one of the expedition dates?

Unfortunately, yes, participants do need to commit to the training day in full, the practice expedition and the qualifying expedition to successfully complete their DofE award.

How long must my son/daughter spend doing the activities?

Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections for approximately 1 hour each week for the duration of the time period. For these 3 sections, participants must be monitored and assessed by someone with knowledge of their chosen activities; this person is termed the 'Assessor'.

What activities can my son/daughter choose for the Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections?

There are a vast array of activities to choose from – participants need to check the official Approved List of possible activities on the official DofE website (www.dofe.org/sections)

Participating in the award seems to cost more than I thought – why is this?

The way DofE is licenced and funded has changed and schools are now classed as a Direct Licenced Centre for DofE, meaning we can offer, directly monitor, and verify our students in accessing DofE. One of the four sections the students need to complete is the Expedition and to meet our licence agreement as well as national standards of good practice we need to engage with an external provider which is an Approved Activity Provider (AAP) as detailed on the main DofE website. If students are eligible for Pupil Premium, we encourage them to contact us to use their £50 trip voucher towards the cost of the award.

What equipment/kit will my child need to take part in DofE?

A full kit list will be provided but essentially your child will need their own walking boots, plate/bowl/mug/cutlery, sleeping bag, torch and batteries, matches and waterproof jacket and waterproof trousers. Other equipment that can be borrowed from our external provider includes tent; rucksack; stove and fuel; roll mat. If you do wish to purchase any items, you may wish to make use of the 15% discount that can be used in many outdoor pursuit outlets.

What is eDofE?

eDofE is the online system where participants record and upload their aims, goals, assessor reports and other evidence of their award; in other words, a kind of 'DofE Record of

Achievement'. Participants can track their progress and submit their evidence to the DofE leader in school (Mr Barron), who in turn will approve participants' aims, activities and ultimately their evidence of completion, including the Assessor Reports. It is essential that participants log on regularly to check for alerts on their account, set their aims/goals and start dates for their sections and upload photos/Assessor Report/other evidence.

What is an Assessor Report and when does my child upload it?

An Assessor Report is evidence that participants must upload to their eDofE account in order to demonstrate that they have met the goals that they set for themselves and should be completed by the Assessor for that section at the end of the activity period (e.g. 3, 6, 12 or 18 months). An Assessor Report can only be in the form of one of the following:

- An uploaded scan of a completed Assessor's Report; or
- Text copied from an email (must include start and end dates of the activity)
- A report inputted directly by the Assessor to the participant's account via www.dofe.org/assessor (Assessors will need the participants eDofE ID number to do this)

Please do not take a photo of a written Assessor Report and upload under the 'Photo' section as these cannot be read clearly so will not be approved – instead please use one of the 3 methods above.

None of my child's friends chose to get involved with DofE and they are a bit worried about who they are going to go in a group with – is there any reassurance I can give them?

Participants will be put in walking groups of 10 for the practice expeditions and no less than 4 for the qualification expeditions. Where students do not form natural groups, we will do this for them, and this will in no way limit their participation in the award. On previous expeditions, participants have shared a tent with a small number of others, and formed part of a slightly larger walking group so that every person is included, even if different friendship groups join. At Gold level we have even combined with two other schools.

DofE is about working with new people (even though it can be scary!) and using the different skills people bring to the group to work effectively as a team to complete the challenge.



Honourable Purpose



Respect



Compassion



Co-operation



Stewardship

Please print clearly in CAPITALS or type your details in. You must complete all of the questions – return this form to Mr Barron in F11.

DofE Centre and group details (if you know them):

DofE Centre: All Hallows Catholic College	DofE group:
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DofE level:

Bronze <input type="checkbox"/> Silver <input type="checkbox"/> Gold <input type="checkbox"/>
Have you registered for any previous levels of the DofE? No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
If YES – please give the name of the DofE Centre you were registered at: eDofE ID number (if known) :

Personal details:

First name:	Last name:
Date of birth: / /	Primary language English <input type="checkbox"/> Welsh <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Email address:	
Date you wish to start your DofE programme if known (enrolment date): / /	

When you first sign in to eDofE you will be asked to record some personal details such as your contact details, ethnicity and personal circumstances along with details of any medical needs you may have. This data is used to enable your Leaders to support you doing your DofE programme and for the DofE's statistical and reporting purposes. You will always have a 'prefer not to say' option.

Declaration:

I agree to enrol as a participant on a DofE programme. I understand that I will be managing my programme using the online eDofE system. I acknowledge that this system has a set of terms and conditions that I agree to. These terms and conditions are available at www.eDofE.org

Student Print Name	Signature	Date
		/ /

Consent to enrol from parent or guardian (if applicant is under 18 years old).

I agree to my son / daughter / ward doing a DofE programme. I note that it is my responsibility to check that any activity my son / daughter / ward undertakes for their DofE programme is appropriately managed and insured, unless the activity is directly managed or organised by their DofE group, centre or Licensed Organisation.

Parent Name	Email Address	Emergency contact phone number

Parent Name	Parent Signature	Date
		/ /

Note:

Data supplied on this form and in eDofE and information about DofE activities recorded in eDofE will be used by the DofE Charity, the Licensed Organisation and DofE centre to monitor and manage DofE participation and progress by young people and manage and support Leaders.

The DofE Charity will use personal data to communicate useful and relevant information to either help participants complete a DofE programme, Leaders/LOs to run DofE programmes more effectively or help the DofE Charity to improve the quality and breadth of its programmes.

We also send emails that contain information about the Charity, DofE negotiated privileged discounts and invites to events and other activities however if you would like to receive these emails you will need to opt in. Once you have opted-in to this you can opt out at any time by visiting www.dofe.org/preferences, or clicking the unsubscribe link that can be found at the bottom of all non-programme related email.

For Licensed Organisation/Centre administration only:

Date registered onto eDofE	/ /
Expected start date	/ /
Participant Fee received	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Username	
User ID number	