

25th September 2018

Duke of Edinburgh 2018/19

GOLD – Year 12

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are delighted to launch the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Lymm High School for 2018/19. This year we will continue to offer the Gold Award alongside the Bronze and Silver Awards, and this will be available to Year 12 students. We are able to offer all 3 awards and with more places on each one thanks to additional collaboration with *Get Outside The Classroom*, the Expedition Provider we have worked with for the last 3 years.

We will be offering the following awards this year:

- **Bronze** Duke of Edinburgh to Year 9
- **Silver** Duke of Edinburgh to Year 10
- **Gold** Duke of Edinburgh to Year 12

We do not offer the Duke of Edinburgh Award in Years 11 and 13 due to our students' external examinations, but students in these years are welcome to pursue Duke of Edinburgh outside of school if they so wish.

The **Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award** is available to **Year 12** this year, the Bronze Award for Year 9 and the Silver Award to Year 10 students. Students are welcome to register for Silver or Gold Awards either as 'Previous Level Participants' (i.e. if applying for Gold, this means they have completed Silver) or 'Direct Participants' if they have not. Participation works in the same way but timescales for commitments are longer for Direct Participants. Further information (including the launch presentation from assembly and FAQ), is available on the school's website under Enrichment/Duke of Edinburgh; there is also a wealth of information on www.dofe.org. We would thoroughly recommend taking some time to access this information before committing to any payments.

A DofE Award is an enormously valuable achievement and is recognised worldwide. Universities and employers are looking for more than just strong academic achievement and participation in extra-curricular activities, so emphasising involvement in DofE on a UCAS or job application can tell an institution/employer that a student is ambitious, has demonstrated leadership skills and commitment, and has spent time helping other people in their community.

The cost of the Gold award this year is **£415**, which covers the training day, 2 expeditions (1 x 3-day, 1 x 4-day), insurance and the DofE registration pack. It is important to make you aware that the school operates Duke of Edinburgh on a 'not-for-profit' basis. The school directly funds the cost of additional support from Get Outside The Classroom, and this does not affect the cost to students in any way. Equipment such as tents, stoves, fuel bottles, waterproofs, roll mats and rucksacks can all be borrowed from GOTC free of charge and any monies remaining in budgets at the end of the year are reinvested to ensure future participation.

Headteacher: Mr Gwyn Williams

Lymm High School, Oughtrington Lane, Lymm, WA13 0RB
01925 755458 www.lymmhigh.org.uk



The school will open an enrolment window from Tuesday 25th September until **Monday 8th October** for participants to secure a place. During this period an initial payment of £100 will need to be made using Parent Pay. Your child will also need to return the reply slip and medical form, confirming they are able to commit to the various aspects of the DofE Award in question, in particular the dates of the compulsory training day and 2 expeditions.

The **final balance for Gold and Silver should be paid by Tues 2nd Apr 2019**. A place on the expeditions will not be allocated without full payment being made by these dates. If you would prefer to pay in instalments by this deadline, please contact Mrs S Hill in the School Shop to arrange on 01925 755458 ext. 113.

Please be aware that in the unlikely event of a conflict in dates occurring, injury/illness or family emergency preventing a student's participation in any expedition or training day, unfortunately it will not be possible to refund monies paid, due to costs already incurred by the school. You may wish to explore personal travel insurance options where your provider allows. Circumstances for a need to withdraw are by their nature very individual and we would ask you to contact James Hellmers via email (james@getoutsidetheclassroom.co.uk) as soon as possible should any issues arise. We would also ask you to cross-reference the expedition dates with your family calendar at this point, as the £100 deposit is unfortunately non-refundable.

Training and Expedition dates for 2018-19 are set in the school calendar as follows:

GOLD – Year 12

Event/Expedition	Date	Venue	Transportation
Gold Training Day	Wed 9 th Jan 2019	Lymm HS	n/a
Gold Training Expedition	Wed 5 th – Fri 7 th June 2019	Peak District	Parents
Gold Qualifying Expedition	Thurs 4 th – Sun 7 th July 2019	Snowdonia	Parents

Please note that parents are required to drop off and collect from the start and finish points on both expeditions.

New participants will be given access to an online eDofE account and shown how to add their section aims and evidence. It is important they keep their login safe; students can reset their password if they forget it by clicking 'Forgot Password'. If they have previously participated in Bronze or Silver DofE, the new level will be added to their existing account but it's important to note that participants must have finished the previous award before they can register for the next level.

Once planners have been submitted and approved, all participants simply need to follow their commitments and obtain the important Assessor's Report as soon as they have finished. All participants will be able to back date **one** of their activities to Wednesday 5th September.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a fantastic opportunity and all students are welcome to apply for a place. If your child is in receipt of the Sixth Form Bursary, please consider using it towards the cost of the Award by contacting Mrs M Thomas in Sixth Form Student Services. We would just like to finish by taking this opportunity to thank you in advance for all the support you will undoubtedly be offering in the background to help your child to participate. If you have any queries regarding any aspect of the Award please don't hesitate to get in touch via the email address above for James Hellmers, who supports the award in school. If you would like to find out more information before or after signing up, there will be a **Parent Information Evening on Tuesday 2nd October 6-7pm** in the Main Hall (apologies, this is for parents only due to the capacity of the Hall). We look forward to your child's participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award this year.

Yours faithfully,

M Harnden

Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager

Get Outside The Classroom



Natalie Dixon

Assistant Headteacher



Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2018/19

GOLD – Year 12

NAME:

FORM:

I wish my child to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Gold level this year. I can confirm they are available for participation in the compulsory Training Day on 9th January 2019 and the 2 Expeditions on 5th – 7th June and 4th – 7th July 2019.

PARENT NAME:

DATE:
