

November 2021

Duke of Edinburgh 2021/22

Gold – Year 12

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are delighted to re-launch the Duke of Edinburgh's award at Lymm High School for 2021-22 after a lengthy break due to the pandemic and we hope your child is excited to sign up. When we last ran DofE programmes, we had more than 240 students sign-up and it has been fantastic to see numbers increase year-on-year. We will continue to offer all 3 awards in school and these will be open to all students in the 3 year groups below, thanks to the continued collaboration with *Get Outside The Classroom (GOTC)*, the expedition provider we have worked with for the last 5 years.

We will be offering the following awards this year:

- Bronze to Year 9
- Silver or Bronze to Year 10 (students can only choose 1 award and are not able to do both concurrently)
- Gold to Year 12

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

The **Gold Duke of Edinburgh's award** is available to **Year 12**, the Bronze (this year) or Silver award to Year 10 and the Bronze award to Year 9 students. Students are welcome to register for 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 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 or expedition dates. We have created a couple of parent information presentations about DofE and again would urge you to have a look at these before signing up.

A DofE award is an enormously valuable programme 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 or 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 **£447**, which covers the training day, 3 expeditions, insurance and the DofE registration pack. It is important to make you aware that the school operates the Duke of Edinburgh's award on a 'not-for-profit' basis. The school directly funds the cost of additional support from Get Outside The Classroom (for example the eDofE Support Sessions we run throughout the year), and this does not affect the cost to students in any way. Due to our large numbers, we would not be able to run the DofE programmes in school without the support of GOTC. Equipment such as tents, stoves, fuel bottles, waterproofs, roll mats and rucksacks can all be borrowed from the school free of charge and any monies remaining in budgets at the end of the year are reinvested to ensure future participation.

The school will open an enrolment window from **3rd November to 3rd December 2021** for participants to secure a place – after 3rd December, we will not be accepting further sign-ups onto DofE programmes. During this period an initial non-refundable deposit of £100 will need to be made using Parent Pay. Your child will also need to return

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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 (Bronze) or 3 (Silver & Gold) compulsory expeditions.

The **final balance for all awards needs to be paid by 4th March 2022**. A place on the expeditions will not be allocated without full payment being made by this date. 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 may 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 Mark Harnden via email (mark@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 and ensure you are able to drop-off and pick-up your child on the expedition dates indicated before signing up to ensure your child can commit to the award fully.

Training and expedition dates for this year are set in the school calendar as follows:

GOLD – Year 12

Event/Expedition	Date	Venue	Transportation
Gold Training Day (skills)	Thurs 6 th Jan <u>OR</u> Fri 7 th Jan 2022 (specific day will depend on numbers signing up for Bronze and Silver awards)	Lymm HS	n/a
Gold Training Day (expedition)	Sat 29 th Jan 2022	Moel Famau	Parents
Gold Training Expedition	Sun 24 th – Tues 26 th Apr 2022	Peak District	Parents
Gold Qualifying Expedition	Sun 26 th – Wed 29 th Jun 2022	Llangollen	Parents

Please be aware that in order to keep costs down for participants, parents are required to drop off and collect for all DofE expeditions (you may find it helpful to car share).

New participants will be given access to an online eDofE account and shown how to add their section aims and evidence, after we purchase places (this will be done on a weekly basis for the students who have signed up the week before). DofE now send registration packs direct to students' home addresses but we will continue to get students logged on and set-up on eDofE in a registration session in school. Once students have completed the aims and chosen their activities for their sections, they 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 Monday 6th September.

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. We really look forward to your child's participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's award this year.

Yours faithfully,

M Harnden

Mark Harnden

DofE Award Manager (Get Outside The Classroom)



Natalie Dixon

Assistant Headteacher



Duke of Edinburgh's award 2021/22

GOLD – Year 12

STUDENT 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 on all compulsory training days, training and qualifying expeditions as listed in the above letter. I also enclose the completed medical form and agree to inform the school of any changes to contact details or medical information between now and the final expedition.

PARENT NAME:

DATE:

