

October 2023

Duke of Edinburgh 2023/24

Gold – Year 12

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are delighted to launch the Duke of Edinburgh's award at Lymm High School for this year and we hope your child might choose to sign up. Last year, we had nearly 250 students sign up and it has been fantastic to see participation remain high for several years now. We 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 7 years. We will be offering the following awards this year:

- Bronze to Year 9
- Silver to Year 10
- 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**, Bronze is available to Year 9 and Silver is available to Year 10. Students do not need to have done a previous DofE award to sign up for Gold but it will make their section lengths shorter if they've done Silver.

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 did a DofE Parent Info Evening on 3rd October and again would urge you to have a look at these before signing up. The slides from the presentation are on our website under *Enrichment/DofE*.

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 **£478**, which covers the training day, 2 expeditions, insurance, loan of various equipment 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, maps, compasses, sleeping 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.

We will open an enrolment window from **5th October to 31st October 2023** for participants to secure a place – after 31st October, 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 the reply slip, 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 compulsory expeditions.

Headteacher: Mr Gwyn Williams

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

The **final balance for all awards needs to be paid by 4th March 2024**. 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 M Hayes 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 before signing up. 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. Contacting us early gives you the best possible chance of a least a partial refund. 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	Mon 29 Jan 2024	Lymm High School	n/a
Gold Practice Expedition	Wed 17 Apr – Fri 19 Apr 2024	Peak District/Llangollen (tbc)	Parents
Gold Qualifying Expedition	Wed 26 Jun – Sat 29 Jun 2024	Llangollen/Peak District (tbc)	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).

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 during the sign-up window). 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 where needed. 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. We now have a fantastic DofE Administrator as replacement for Mrs Hill who retired last year – Mrs Riley is also our school receptionist and can help with all aspects of the DofE awards, especially eDofE queries. Her email is ariley@lymmhigh.org.uk

The Duke of Edinburgh's award is a fantastic opportunity, and all students are welcome to apply for a place. If your child is eligible for Pupil Premium, please consider using your trip voucher towards the cost of the award by informing Mrs M Hayes in the School Shop (mhayes@lymmhigh.org.uk) – there is also additional financial support available for students eligible for Pupil Premium – please contact your child's Head of Year if needed. 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 2023/24

GOLD – Year 12

STUDENT NAME:

FORM:

Please tick boxes:

- ☐ 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, practice and qualifying expeditions as listed in the above letter.

We will send you an electronic link for you to confirm that all medical and contact information is correct before the expeditions take place.

PARENT NAME:

DATE:

PARENT SIGNATURE:

