



20 June 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a prestigious qualification, highly regarded by employers and universities. Currently there are over 200 students participating in the Award Scheme at various levels throughout College. The great work of our students within the Award Scheme was recognised recently when fifteen of our past students were invited to Buckingham Palace as part of a DofE Gold Award Celebration event. We are pleased to be able to continue to offer students the opportunity to complete the Gold Award. This will now be open to Year 11 students planning to stay at Emmanuel in the sixth form. There are, however, a limited number of places available on the scheme.

The Gold Award involves the completion of five sections of work:

- Volunteering** - an hour a week for at least 12 months should be dedicated to serving others
- Skill** - an hour a week should be dedicated to developing a skill
- Physical** - an hour a week should be dedicated to developing proficiency in a physical activity

The commitment to Volunteering, Skill and Physical may be split in one of four ways:

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Skill	6 months	18 months	12 months	6 months
Physical	18 months	6 months	6 months	12 months
Volunteering	12 months	12 months	18 months	18 months

Note – Those who have completed their Silver Award will only need to complete 12 months for their longest section rather than 18 months.

Commitment to the sections above can be spread over a long period of time, and students are able to take a break during examination periods. Any time missed during a break can be made up by lengthening the time span of the commitment or giving extra hours of commitment over a number of weeks. Any section requiring a commitment of eighteen months should be started in the first month after the participant's sixteenth birthday. The aim is for students to have completed their Award by the end of April in Year 13.

Expedition

This section requires the student to plan and complete a four-day hike in wild country, which usually covers a distance of approximately 50 miles. Students must carry all their kit with them, and this externally assessed expedition will involve camping for at least three nights. Training for the expedition takes place during sixth form physical education lessons from January until July in Year 12. There is a training expedition over three days which usually takes place just before Easter in Year 12, followed by a three-day practice expedition in early July. These expeditions are mandatory and they progress students to the level of the final expedition, which takes place during the first few weeks of Year 13.

After completion of their expedition, students are required to make an assessed presentation about their expedition.

All students partaking in expedition training will be expected to provide the following equipment:

- waterproofs
- walking boots
- walking socks
- sleeping bag

The College holds a stock of rucksacks and roll mats for those who cannot provide their own. College will also provide all tents, stoves, survival shelters, maps and compasses.

Residential

This section requires students to independently carry out meaningful activity in a residential setting for a minimum of five days. It is suggested that students complete this section during the summer holidays at the end of Year 11 or Year 12. Those completing the NCS scheme will fulfil their residential requirements.

For further details regarding the Award it is recommended that you visit the website www.dofe.org.

Students who are accepted for the Award will initially be required to pay a £31, which covers the enrolment fee to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and participants' entrance pack. In December 2022 those students who are making good progress to complete all other sections of the Award will be offered a place in the expedition group and will then be required to pay a further £120 - £150 in order to cover transport costs for the three expeditions, campsite and toilet hire fees for the first expedition and the cost of an assessor for the final expedition. Students will then be liable for the cost of camping on the final two expeditions (£15-£25 depending upon choice of campsites) and the purchase of their own expedition food and cooking fuel. Expedition costs vary depending upon the number of students involved.

Completion of a Gold Award will require exceptional commitment but this will bring many rewards, developing expertise not only in their sectional areas but also improving teamwork whilst building confidence and character.

Although we are now back to operating DofE normally, due to the covid-19 pandemic, the DofE Award scheme has brought in some temporary changes to the rules of the Award to allow students to continue to achieve in a safe manner. These changes are summarised at the DofEwithaDifference website - <https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/> and will remain in place until October 2023.

If [StudentForename] plans to return to Emmanuel in the sixth form, and is interested in taking the Award, they should complete the online enrolment questionnaire [here](#) by **Monday 18 July**.

A request for the initial payment will be made of applicants, via ParentPay, after this date. Once payment is made students will be enrolled onto the scheme when they are 16 years of age.

Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me at College.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Leonard
Award Manager & Head of Outdoor Activities