



Dear Parent/Guardian,

I'm delighted to let you know that we have launched our recruitment for the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) for the next academic year. The Gold Award is open to all Year 12 as of 01 September 2023.

Why do DofE?

Doing DofE is a brilliant way for your young person to discover just how much they are capable of. It gives young people the chance to make new friends, follow their passions, learn new skills and make a difference in our community. Gaining a DofE Award is a great way to impress employers too.

How it works

Our students can enter the Gold Award as a direct entrant without having undertaken a Silver Award. This also applies to those of our students still currently completing their Silver Award.

Current participants can register for Gold and once their Silver is approved the edofe system will automatically update to the new reduced timescales. Also once one of their sections on the Silver Award is complete for example volunteering, they can proceed straight away with that section on their Gold Award. So both awards can be open simultaneously making it more achievable for those who have struggled with certain sections coming out of the covid pandemic.

Expedition

Here at Pate's, we are now running our expeditions based on the open expedition model. Inclusivity is an essential part of the school and DofE ethos and we have implemented this change so that each student can choose the dates that suits them without the stress of finding a group. We hope that this will also encourage them to make new friends and build confidence in working with new people.

It is important to note that it is not mandatory for our students to complete their expedition with us. So if they cannot make any of our advertised dates then they can use an outside activity provider, details can be found on the dofe website. www.dofe.org

Please note whilst attending training there will be no exceptions made for you to attend sports/other commitments at the same time so, please check your diaries and with the PE staff to ensure there is no conflict between events.

[Expedition dates are on page 2](#)

Next steps

We hope many of our students will take this opportunity to get involved with DofE. The cost for registration is £75 per person, and applications will close on 31 October 2023.

Registration is via our website www.patesgsdofe.org/getting-started

Full information including guides for parents/carers on the Gold Award can be found at www.patesgsdofe.org/gold



Once you have paid it may take up to 14 days for you to receive your log on details for edofe, however we will not be able to register accounts onto DofE until the start of the new academic year.

Expedition Dates

All students must complete 1 each of the following:

If you are a direct entrant and/or are wanting to undertake a canoeing expedition but didn't complete a canoeing expedition at Silver, you must attend the Direct Entrant Gold Core Skills Training Weekend:

Direct Entrant Gold Core Skills Training 07-08 Oct 2023 £80

Practice Expedition:

Mode of Travel	Location	Dates	Cost
Canoeing	River Wye	26-29 Oct 2023	£280
Walking	Brecon	24-27 Nov 2023	£240

Planning Session (3.5 hours): **Cost £25**

Canoeing	Walking
02 Mar 2024 AM or PM	03 Mar 2024 AM or PM

UK Assessment Expeditions:

Mode of Travel	Location	Dates	Cost
Canoeing	The Spey, Scotland	17-22 Aug 2024	£500
Walking	Lake District	23-27 Mar 2024	£350

Overseas Expeditions:

Mode of Travel	Location	Dates	Cost
Canoeing	Canada	27 Jul – 14 Aug 2024	£2,850
Maximum of 24 - All Training and Practice Dates are included in the price. There is also an additional training dates on 06-07 Jul 2024			

Mode of Travel	Location	Dates	Cost
Walking	Bavaria	23-29 Aug 2024	£1,400
Maximum of 16 - All Training and Practice Dates are included in the price. There is also an additional training dates on 30 May – 02 Jun 2024			

There will be a maximum number of 24 students for canoeing and 28 students for walking per event, please book early to avoid disappointment.

All bookings are to be made via the website: www.patesgs.org

Yours sincerely,

*Outdoor Education Department
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