



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 2022.

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 30 September 2022.

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, please let us know if you have any issues on:

OED Manager: Jane Jowett email: Jane.Jowett@patesgs.org

OED Deputy Manager: Natalie Berry email: Natalie.Berry@patesgs.org

Expedition Dates

All students must complete 1 each of the following:

Direct Entrant Core Skills Training (non-residential):

- 1. 01-02 October 2022 – This is only for those who have not undertaken their Silver Award***

Practice Expedition Day:

Canoeing	Walking
07-09 October 2022	25-27 November 2022
21-23 October 2022	02-04 December 2022

Planning Session (3.5 hours):

- 04 February 2023 PM
- 05 February 2023 PM

Assessment Expedition:

Canoeing	Walking
31 March – 04 April 2023	05-09 April 2023
21-26 August 2023	15-20 August 2023

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.patesgsdofe.org/gold-expedition-books

Yours sincerely,

Outdoor Education Department
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