



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 this academic year. The Gold Award is open to all Year 12 as of 01 September 2024.

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. 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 run 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.

There is the option for students to canoe or walk for their gold expedition. However, we are only able to offer 24 spaces for canoeing due to the restrictions on equipment. An application form will be available on our website from 9am on the 21 September to apply for either a canoeing or walking expedition.

[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 2024.

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



Expedition Dates

All students must complete 1 each of the following: *For those of you who are direct entrants (i.e. you have not undertaken either a bronze or silver expedition) or you want to complete your expedition using a different method of travel from your previous award (i.e. you want to complete a canoeing expedition at Gold, after completing a walking expedition at Silver), then it is a mandatory requirement that you attend the travel specific core skills training.*

Core Skills:

Mode of Travel	Location	Dates	Cost
Walking	OED	05-06 October 2024	£80
Canoeing	OED	12-13 April 2025	£80

Practice Expedition:

Mode of Travel	Location	Dates	Cost
Walking	Brecon	11-13 October 2024	£240
Canoeing	River Severn	11-14 July 2025	£280

UK Assessment Expeditions:

Mode of Travel	Location	Dates	Cost
Walking	Snowdonia	26-30 October 2024	£350
Canoeing	Scotland	27 July – 01 August 2025	£600

Overseas Assessment Expeditions:

Mode of Travel	Location	Dates	Cost
Walking	Bavaria	04-10 August 2025	£1,500

Maximum of 16 - All Training and Practice Dates are included in the price.
There is also an additional training dates on 07-08 June 2025

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

The prices listed above are based on an estimation of the forecasted running costs of the expeditions. While we will endeavor to keep any increases to a minimum, we reserve the right to amend the price listed.

We also reserve the right to cancel trips should we be unable to meet the minimum student attendance required to make the expedition viable.

All bookings can be made on www.patesgsdofe.org/gold-events

For all DofE enquiries please email dofe@patesgs.org