

September 2023

Dear Students and Parents/Carers,

Headteacher - Patrick Earnshaw

Deputy Headteacher - Mathew Downs

Assistant Headteacher (Head of Sixth Form) - Lisa Swan

**Duke of Edinburgh Gold in Year 12 at Highcliffe Sixth Form**

This letter gives information and details for students in current Year 12 who are interested in completing their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. DofE Gold is very highly thought of by Employers and Universities alike due to the effort, commitment and challenge in completing the Award.

Students have had opportunities to complete their Bronze and Silver DofE Awards in Years 9 & 10 respectively at Highcliffe School, leading to the Gold Award starting in Year 12.

Before making any commitment please make sure you have read and understood all sections of this letter and the attached guidance.

**Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award**

DofE Gold is a challenge that will take at least 12 months to complete. We, the school will support students as much as we can, but students also need to be proactive to complete it.

For Gold DofE students who have completed their DofE Silver Award they need to complete 12 months volunteering and then 12 months of physical or skill, with the other being 6 months. They will be completing these at the same time as usual.

Students coming straight into Gold DofE, without completing their DofE Silver Award, need to spend 18 months on either the volunteering section OR the longer of the physical or skill, so that one of their sections has a total commitment of 18 months.

Participants also need to complete a practice expedition of 3 days and 2 nights in the Purbecks alongside the DofE Silver students, provisionally this is **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June – Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024**. The Assessed Expedition is provisionally **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024** in Dartmoor National park, which includes an orientation day and night before the 4 days and 3 nights of the expedition. The final section is a 5 day and 4-night residential trip with people they have not met before which they need to organise THEMSELVES. This can range from a Tall Ships experience to locally supporting field trips at Leeson House or a residential with a scout/cadet group other than their own group. The school will guide students with this, but the onus is on them to organise it. There are some listed on the DofE website and university summer schools can be a useful double positive.

**DofE Gold Enrolment**

The school would like to offer all Highcliffe Sixth Form students in Year 12 the option to complete Gold DofE which will be part of the enrichment programme in Sixth Form and will include a timetabled lesson if no clashes occur.

The cost for Gold DofE including enrolment, training, practice and assessed expeditions and transport is £250. Sign up is through WisePay as usual and can be done as a one-off or 3 payments.

**Option 1** - £250 payment on WisePay by 3/11/23

**Option 2** - A first **NON-REFUNDABLE** payment of £90 due by 3/11/23, second payment of £80 due by 2/2/24 and a third payment of £80 due by 5/4/24.

Please be aware that the Headteacher will consider attendance and behaviour before the trip commences. If they are not acceptable prior to the trip parents will be consulted and where time allows, be involved in achieving a positive resolution. Where participation is disallowed this may result in the partial or full loss of trip costs.

If you have any questions, please come and see us or contact me via email.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P Evans and Mrs Faulkner-Smith

