

September 2024

Dear Students and Parents/Carers,

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 look at the DofE website for any further guidance.

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

DofE Gold is a challenge that will take at least 12 months to complete. We 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.

Expedition

The Year 12 Gold practice expedition is planned to take place from **Friday 6th June - Sunday 8th June 2025 in the Purbecks** and will be run and organised by Highcliffe School. Dates are provisional but hopefully will not change.

The assessed expedition is planned for **Saturday 14th June – Wednesday 18th June 2025 in the Dartmoor National Park** and will be run and organised by Highcliffe School and includes an orientation day and night before the 4 days and 3 nights of the expedition. Dates are provisional but hopefully will not change.

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.

Costs

Enrolment NON-REFUNDABLE

Year 12 Gold - £75

This will enrol your child onto the DofE Award Scheme at Highcliffe School and will include online guidance (DofE) for completion of the physical, volunteering, residential and skills part of the Award.

Expedition

3 day, 2 night practice and 4 day, 3 night qualifying expeditions with orientation in Dartmoor.

Total cost is £200

This will include expedition kit such as tent, stove, maps, compass but not personal kit such as clothes, sleeping bag, rucksack, food, water, etc. Exact details will be released nearer the time.

Payment

Payment can be made on Wisepay and will close on **Friday 8th November 2024**. Please ensure that you select the correct trip for your child's year group as there are a number of DofE expeditions.

DofE is open to all Year 12 students and payment can be a **one-off of £275 or three payments totalling £275**.

Payment Option 1

A one-off payment **£275 due by Friday 8th November 2024**.

Payment Option 2

First payment **£75 due by Friday 8th November 2024**

Second payment **£100 due by Friday 7th February 2025**

Third payment **£100 due by Friday 4th April 2025**.

Students will be enrolled as soon as the first payment is received, and therefore the first £75 is non-refundable.

We do have the ability to apply for some hardship funding available from DofE, as well as pupil premium in school. Other options would be The Clingan's Trust and if there are any questions or concerns please contact Mr Evans, Mr Stevens or Mrs Faulkner-Smith in this regard.

If you have any other queries regarding the DofE Award Scheme please contact Mr Evans or Mrs Faulkner-Smith on DofE@highcliffeschool.com

Yours faithfully

The image shows two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is 'P. Evans' and the second is 'A. Faulkner-Smith'. They are written on a white rectangular background.

Mr P Evans & Mrs A Faulkner-Smith
Duke of Edinburgh Organisers