



October 2026

RE: Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Willink School, Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme - Gold level, is now open for registration. Young people who are over the age of 16 may start, or progress to, their **Gold Award**.

If already enrolled or have completed at least one section of a previous award it is possible to add the Gold level to their eDofE account. This allows reduced time for some sections. Completing Bronze or Silver is not required to start Gold. All necessary information is available on the school website under the 'Curriculum' tab [\[here\]](#) and under the Gold Award tab [\[here\]](#). The webpages include guidance on the programme, the parent's role, online introduction sessions as well as expedition dates.

The Gold Award includes the same sections as other Awards: **Volunteering, Physical, Skills, and Expedition**, with a commitment of one hour per week for the sections and there are still minimum timeframes for taking part; the young people will choose their longest section when they first access their Gold account.

I would suggest spending time reviewing potential activities for the different sections via the URL <https://www.dofe.org/opportunity-finder/>

The Expedition is 4 days and 3 nights with 8 hours of planned activity each day, at least 4 hours must be spent travelling; there will be a practice expedition and the assessed expedition. Training will be more rigorous than on previous levels as the locations that the students will navigate and camp in are far more challenging.

How the gold expedition will run will be dependent upon final numbers, and student wishes, but will likely involve students signing up in groups to one of **BXMs open expeditions**, for which the locations of their planned expeditions, and dates, are detailed below.

The costs associated with both the practice expedition and the qualifying are £245 & £245. Expedition **payments for the gold level will be made directly to BXM**.

Below are the expedition date options:

- 05-07th April - Peaks
- 26-28th July - South Wales
- 23-25th August - North Wales
- 25-27th October - South Wales



The residential element involves working, learning and staying away from home for 5 days 4 nights and is a great opportunity to build new relationships with people not met before, whilst working as part of a team to achieve shared goals, staying in shared accommodation.

To register for Gold, please complete the enrolment form, return it to the main office, and make payment of £45 (this includes a registration pack from DoE and a participating place fee which covers the cost of the licence to the school as well as a small administration cost). Please make payment using our online payment system Scopay (ref. D of E Gold 2026/27). If you have not already set up an account, please contact the Finance office to obtain your link code. Please return the enrolment form and make the payment online

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will respond as soon as I am able.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Burgess
Teacher i/c of Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
Head of Geography