



Alsager Sixth Form College

7th November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Launch 2025/2026

We are delighted to offer the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) to Year 12. Students who have not completed the lower levels of the Duke of Edinburgh award; Bronze and Silver are still able to participate as a direct entrant.

Why do DofE?

The Duke of Edinburgh award is a prestigious award, that requires hard-work, dedication and resilience, especially at Gold level. It is widely recognised by colleges, universities and employers. The award is a non-competitive and powerful way for every student to build belief in themselves, whatever their background, interests and abilities. It gives students the chance to make new friends, learn and develop skills and make a difference to the community. Achieving the award required a huge commitment. It helps young people to see themselves differently and gain a new level of confidence. Once your child has achieved their DofE award, whatever life throws at them, they will be ready to deal with it.

How it works

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has three levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. In Year 12, students have the opportunity to pursue the Gold Award. Upon completion, participants are invited to a celebration at Buckingham Palace, where they receive their certificate and badge. To achieve the **Gold Award**, students must complete five sections: **Volunteering**, **Physical**, **Skills**, the **Expedition** and a **Residential**. Students may choose their own activities, in line with their interests, for the first three sections. Each requires weekly participation, spanning 12 months for Volunteering and 6 for both Physical and Skills.

Students who have not completed Bronze or Silver enter as **Direct Entrants**, meaning the volunteering section must be completed for 18 months.

The Expedition involves spending four days and three nights in the countryside, must navigate independently and be self-sufficient. An external provider delivers comprehensive training and supplies all necessary equipment to ensure participants are fully prepared for their expeditions.

The Residential section is not organised through the school, and students will need to arrange this independently. However, information, support and guidance will be provided to help students identify suitable options. The Residential involves spending five days and five nights away from home, taking part in a shared activity that includes an element of volunteering and learning of new skills.

Expedition Dates

As stated at the information evening the Training Expedition will be on the **Thursday 26th March – Sunday 29th March 2026** and the Assessed Expedition will be on the **Thursday 21st May – Sunday 24th May 2026**.





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Payment Schedule

The cost for the Gold award is **£479 per student** – the payment will be split across 3 deadlines. All payments must be paid via ParentPay on time. A reminder of your child's unique ParentPay activation code can be obtained by emailing finance@alsagerschool.org (please state your child's name and form). Card payments can be made by telephone 01270 871100 extn 214.

Payment	Deadline	Amount	Running Total
1) Training Expedition	14/12/25	£160 non-refundable	£160
2) 2 nd Payment	31/01/26	£160 non-refundable	£320
3) Assessed Expedition	28/02/26	£159 non-refundable	£479

Enrolment & Next Steps

To sign your son / daughter up to the DofE Gold award, **please make the initial payment via ParentPay and complete and sign the attached Participant Enrolment Form and return to Miss Brittain by Sunday 14th December.**

In the event of an emergency on a trip out of school, we will access the details from Talaxy. Please take a moment to check that both your details and the medical information for your child are correct, this can be done via the Parent Portal link on the school website: <https://www.alsagerschool.org/parents/parent-portal/>. If they need updating, you can amend them in Talaxy from the general tab and then personal details. Alternatively, please email admin@alsagerschool.org with any changes.

By ticking the Consent Box on ParentPay, you are agreeing to the following: -

I will make the 3 payments on time by the deadlines as detailed in the payment schedule & understand that these are non-refundable. I confirm that my personal details and child's medical information on Talaxy are correct and up to date. If any details change before the expeditions, it is my responsibility to notify Alsager School & the DofE coordinator beforehand.

Consent:

- I agree to my son / daughter taking part in the above-mentioned visit and having read the information sheet, agree to his / her participation in the activities described.
- I acknowledge the need for responsible behaviour on his/her part.
- I agree to my son / daughter receiving emergency medical treatment, including anaesthetic, as considered necessary by the medical authorities present.
- I understand the school has taken out insurance cover on each child participating on the trip.

Refund and Payment Liability Information

Please understand that your child's place is subject to good behaviour over the forthcoming year, and they will be required to adhere to the school's BfL policy. The school's management reserves the right to withdraw students from activities for disciplinary reasons, where no refund will be given in these circumstances. Should you choose to withdraw your child from the Duke of Edinburgh award, no refund will be given, and you will be liable for all cancellation fees incurred and the school administration fee.





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School must be advised in writing of your decision to withdraw by email to finance@alsagerschool.org and b.brittain@alsagerschool.org. Students must complete and pay for both the Training and Assessed Expeditions to complete their DofE award and receive their DofE certificate and badge.

We hope that you and your child recognise the Duke of Edinburgh's Award as a valuable opportunity, and that you choose to enrol your child onto the award and begin their rewarding journey. If you have any queries or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me,

Yours sincerely,
Miss Brittain (DofE Co-ordinator)



The Cornovii Trust
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