



Alsager Sixth Form College

6th November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Launch 2023

We are delighted to offer the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) to Year 12 pupils. Pupils who have not completed their Bronze or Silver award, are still able to participate, but will have a longer timescale than those pupils who have. As the DofE Co-ordinator for Alsager School, I wanted to write to you to let you know more about what is involved in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh award.

Why do DofE?

The DofE is non-competitive and a 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, follow their passions, learn new skills, and make a difference to the community. Achieving a DofE Award is a great way to impress employers too. It helps young people to see themselves differently and gain a new level of confidence. We always say that after taking on your DofE, you know that whatever life throws at you, you're ready to deal with it.

How it works

There are 3 levels to the Award – Bronze, Silver and Gold. To achieve the **Gold Award**, students will need to complete 5 sections – **Volunteering, Physical, Skills, the Expedition** and a **Residential**. Students can choose what they would like to do for the first 3 sections, and there is a set amount of time (months) that pupils have to participate in and give up an hour a week to. The Expedition involves spending 4 days and 3 nights in the countryside, where pupils are self-sufficient and explore the countryside. We provide comprehensive training beforehand to ensure everyone is fully prepared and has the best possible experience.

The Residential section is not offered through school and pupils will need to arrange this themselves. However, information, support and guidance will be given to pupils to ensure that they can complete the Gold award. The residential is a shared activity in a residential setting that must be away from home for 5 days and 5 nights.

Next steps

We hope lots of our students will take this opportunity to get involved with DofE. The cost is **£448** per student – the payment will be split across instalments from **November 2023 to April 2024**. We run the award with an external provider, who provides all technical equipment for your child to use on the expedition.

There will be a short meeting in PM2 at 12:40 on the **Wednesday 15th November** for students so we can provide further information, enrolment forms, payment details & expedition dates. We will also start to discuss each section of the Gold award in more detail.

Thank you for your support. I hope you'll agree that the Duke of Edinburgh Award is the perfect way for your child to feel ready for anything. If you have any questions, please email b.brittain@alsagerschool.org.

Yours faithfully,
Miss Brittain
DofE Co-ordinator