

3rd November 2024

Dear parent/carer,

We are pleased to note that your son has registered his interest in the 2024/25 Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, run by the school. With this in mind please find the link below to the D of E enrolment form.

The Gold Award is offered to Year 11 and 12 boys and is similar to that of the Bronze Award. Each boy has to complete 12 months volunteering (1 hour a week outside school hours), 6 months developing a skill (new or existing), 6 months improving their fitness (again a new sport or developing an existing one) and an assessed expedition.

The assessed expedition should be 4 days and 3 nights without external assistance in teams of between 4 and 7. They will need to complete both additional training and a practice walk of 3 days and 2 nights to show competency before being allowed to complete the assessed expedition. In the past the expedition had to be completed in remote countryside but this has recently changed, and the school has offered 3 choices.

1. Find a group of 3 other boys and look for a licensed Expedition provider Off Island. This is likely to be during the summer holidays or at an Easter. The cost could be around £2,000, including flights.
2. Join with an existing island DofE provider such as JCG. Again, costs will be similar to option 1, as will the training and the expedition. I do not have any information from JCG at the present time.
3. Plan an island-hopping expedition to be assessed in the Activities week. Last year the boys completed a practice walk, training, and the assessed walk all during school time. We would hope to do the same this year, as the cost is significantly lower. As the boys plan the finances, they have more control over where they travel to and at what cost.

In addition to the expedition, Gold requires the boys to have taken part in a 4-night residential. This must be with people they do not necessarily know.

As with all these sections, the school will offer support in deciding and planning what they could choose to do, so that it meets the criteria to achieve the Award before their A level exams in year 13.

Employers, colleges, and universities value the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards and know what it says about someone who is an award holder. Recently, universities have said that the DofE award is the extra-curricular activity that really stands out on applications. This is especially true for Gold Award, which can be personalised to build evidence for further education and can be a good focus point for how they have developed facing new challenges.

Our World of Opportunity

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To off-set expenses, each boy is required to pay a contribution of £60 for enrolment to DofE. Much of the expedition equipment is available to borrow from our D of E stores, if required.

If your son would like to take up his opportunity, but financially is not able; finance can be applied for from DofE to support pupils. This would be completed by an application and supported by the school.

Please complete the enrolment form via this link <https://forms.office.com/e/rbfVGtFFBQ> . Parent will be due via ParentPay.

Any questions please do not hesitate to email (m.blackmore@vcj.sch.je) .

With kind regards,

Mrs M Blackmore

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Co-ordinator