



11 October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

### Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award

We are pleased to once again present students with the opportunity to participate in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. As an Awarding Body accredited school we are offering to all students who are interested, but do reserve the right to limit the participating numbers.

The Gold Award consists of the following sections:

Section	Details	Notes
Volunteering	12 months	If the silver award has not been completed the 12 month section or the volunteering section must be extended by 6 months
Physical	Either physical or skills for 6 months, the other for 12 months	
Skills		
Expedition	4 day, 3 night expedition in wild country - details below	If the silver has not been done or you are a direct entrant then there will be a further 2 day training required
Residential	5 day, 4 night residential experience of participants own choice taking part in a shared activity	

Please note that students will be expected to organise and fund all sections themselves. We will be happy to advise students on the best way to complete these sections both in training meetings and when required. We would expect all students to have completed their award by the time they go on study leave in the summer of Year 13.

It is the responsibility of parents and carers to satisfy themselves of the health and safety procedures of the organisation facilitating the physical, skill and volunteering sections of the award including insurance provision. This must also take child protection measures into account. St Olave's takes no responsibility for this.

## Expedition

The expedition phase can be very grueling. It is physically and mentally demanding with students covering over 80k in wild country carrying all their supplies over 4 days and 3 nights. The students will work in teams of between 4 & 7 camping both in campsites & wild camping with a high degree of independence; staff will check daily but will not intervene unless it is absolutely necessary.

The expedition program is detailed below. The expedition dates are fixed and students who sign up must commit to these dates if they wish to participate in the award with St Olave's.

The expedition cost also includes the Gold Award registration pack. The total cost will be £535 with payments made in instalments on the following payment schedule:

£235 **non-refundable** deposit by 27<sup>th</sup> October 2019  
£100 2nd installment by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020  
£100 3rd installment by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020  
£100 4th installment by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Payment should be made by our on-line payment system sQuid. Should you experience any problems in connection with the on-line system, please do not hesitate to contact the Finance Department by email [financeoffice@saintolaves.net](mailto:financeoffice@saintolaves.net) and they will assist with your query.

Students who fail to attend the training sessions will be withdrawn from the award at full cost to themselves. A behavior contract will need to be signed by applicants and failure to adhere to this will result in students being withdrawn from the award at full cost to the applicant.

To sign up to the Gold Award, students should complete the participant enrolment form, attach evidence of previous awards (if applicable) and return to the school reception, marked for the attention of Mrs Rogers in the Finance Office.

The cost covers:

- Training, tuition and staff supervision. This includes the hiring of Wild Country Consultants who manage and run part of the classroom training and who run and supervise both the Practice and Qualifying expeditions
- Transportation to and from the expeditions, hire of minibuses
- Campsite fees for all expeditions
- Loan of equipment which includes - Team kit (tents, stoves, maps, compasses, fuel and maps)
- Personal kit (rucksacks - we have a limited supply we loan for £5)
- Full Insurance

## **Training & Expedition Dates**

### Classroom based training

A number of sessions will run throughout the year. These are compulsory so attendance is expected and failing to attend without prior notice may result in removal from the award and loss of deposit.

### School Training

Kit and cooking	-	Mid January (TBC) 2021 15:30 to 17:00 Pavilion
Navigation	-	Mid March (TBC) 2021 15:30 to 17:00 Pavilion
Route card session/ training for practice:		Late Nov 2020 & April/May 2021

### Practice expedition

Easter term Black Mountains 3rd April to 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021

### Qualifying

Activity Week 2 Snowdonia 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> July 2021

## **Students will need to supply/pay for**

- Food for expeditions
- Personal kit (see separate kit list we shall email out once application is accepted)

## **Direct Entrants**

Direct entrants are those who have not done either Bronze or Silver D of E. For those students they are required to do a further training session – dates TBC.

## **Expectations**

It is expected that all students who sign up for the Gold award are willing and able to complete the award by the time they finish their schooling at St Olave's.

To be able to do the practice expedition we expect that at least one component of the award is completed (or proof that it is very near completion) and for the assessed expedition three components are complete (or proof that they are very near completion).

All Gold entrants will be expected to help out students doing their Bronze and Silver either in training or on the expeditions.

By applying and signing up to participate in the Gold D of E you are confirming that you will adhere to the rules and procedures laid out.

Yours faithfully

**Paul Holland**