



16th January 2024

Dear Parent / Carer

Before Christmas I discussed the opportunity for students in Year 12 to join the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold Programme and your child has expressed an interest in signing up to the programme. We would like to sign the students up over the next few weeks so that they can begin their award formally in the new year.

The gold award is a significant commitment and involves a programme of between 12 and 18 months taking part in volunteering, physical activity, skill development, a residential programme and two expeditions. The cost of completing the award is £450 and this can be paid off in instalments over the year.

Instalments would be as follows:

- £150 end of February
- £100 end of March
- £100 end of April
- £100 end of May

Payments cover the following:

- Initial registration
- Welcome pack
- Assessors fees
- Leaders fees/training
- Bus hire
- Replenishment of stock including tents/rucksacks/trangias/roll mats/gas/maps/compasses/first aid/emergency shelters
- Camp site fees

Payment can be made by logging on to your ParentPay account and selecting 'D of E Gold Award 2024'.

If the cost of the programme seems like it may be a barrier to taking part, please do get in touch with us to see how we may be able to help out.

I will be meeting regularly with students to help them log and sign off their different sections, offering advice and guidance on how they can complete these in a timely fashion. The gold award is a fantastic achievement which is recognised with a visit to Buckingham Palace on completion, and the award can be a useful discussion point on UCAS applications too!





For Gold, participants need to complete the programme for at least 12 months if they have achieved their Silver Award, or 18 months if they have started at Gold level without doing their Silver – even if they have done Bronze. The big difference at Gold is that participants also do a Residential section – staying away from home for five days and four nights doing a shared activity with people they don't know.



- Volunteering section: 12 months
- Physical and Skills sections: One section for 12 months and the other section for 6 months
- Expedition section: 4 days/3 nights
- Residential section: Undertake a shared activity in a residential setting away from home for 5 days and 4 nights.

If a student did not do Silver, they must undertake a further 6 months in either the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections so that one section totals 18 months.

It is important that students, parents, and carers understand this commitment from the outset. Each year we have several students who begin the award and do not finish it as they cannot commit the time to the sections that need to be completed outside of school.

There was a strong expression of interest from students so I wanted to set the programme out to you in a letter so you can decide if you would like to support your child's involvement.

The expedition dates for your diary are:

Practice Expedition and Training Dates

Thursday 2nd - Monday 6th May 2024: Yorkshire Dales.

Assessed Expedition

Thursday 11th - Sunday 14th July 2024: Lake District.

Expeditions will be run by our team of mountain leaders with Mrs Pearce taking the lead on the Gold Award Expeditions.

Additional training sessions will be held depending on student availability during the school day and after school, but students will receive advanced notice.





**Stokesley School
& Sixth Form College**

Being the best we can be

Headteacher: Mr M Fenwick

My intention is to have regular keeping in touch sessions with the students. If you have any further questions about the award please contact me at school on headteacher@stk.areté.uk

Yours faithfully

Mr M Fenwick
Headteacher

AMBITIOUS. RESPECTFUL. READY.

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