

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity Chair of Governors: Mr C Smith



10th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Duke of Edinburgh's Award: Gold

I am writing to let you know of the exciting opportunity available to your child to achieve the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award through the academy. The Award is an adventure from beginning to end, with students enjoying many new experiences, discovering talents that they did not realise they had, challenging their potential, and standing out from the crowd. Many businesses and universities value the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and believe candidates to be more rounded and employable individuals.

The Award involves five sections that students have to complete: Physical, Skill, Service, Residential and Expedition. The Expedition section of the Award is fully organised by the academy, using Approved Activities Providers.

The Gold Award is available to Year 12 and 13 students, and they have until the age of 24 to complete the sections. Our aim is for students to be well on the way to completing the Award by the end of their time at QEGS.

The 'Expedition' section of the Award involves two separate Expeditions (Practice Expedition and an Assessed Expedition) where the students will canoe for four days and camp for three nights, proving that they can be self-sufficient. The Practice will be in the local area and will be reliant on parents and carers dropping students off at the start of the expeditions and picking them up at the end. The Assessed Expedition is organised for the Wye or the Severn rivers - a coach will pick up and drop off from school. Bolted on to the start of both Expeditions will be a Training Day. The expeditions vary depending on groups and campsites available and this information will be given to you and your child nearer the time of the expedition. It is my initial intention that they complete the Practice and the Assessed Expedition by July 2022, there may be an opportunity to do the Expedition Section through the means of walking instead of canoeing and this option will also be explained more in further communications.

To conform to the guidelines set out by the Duke of Edinburgh's Award itself, students must partake in the Practice Expedition to qualify for the Assessed Expedition. If a student fails to attend any of these Expeditions, further options may be available to them.

As this is a co-curricular activity, students will be expected to spend some of their lunchtimes and after school hours undertaking training in camp craft and map navigation, to enable them to undertake the expedition.

Due to the high numbers of students taking part in this Award, it is essential that students are on the way to completing all four sections that make up the Award before they will be permitted to undertake the Expeditions.

Enrolment for the Award is £31.00, this covers the cost for the Enrolment through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and additional paperwork costs through school. This amount does not include the trip fees for the Expedition. This will be set up separately in the new year and will cost in the region of £500.

To secure your child's place on the Silver Award £31.00 will be required by 17th December 2021, via the ParentPay system*.

If you have any queries or questions regarding the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, please do not hesitate to contact me by email/ phone at the academy, or you can explore the Award on the official Duke of Edinburgh's Award website <http://www.dofe.org>.

Yours faithfully

Miss G M Wilband

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Manager

Email: Wilband@qegs.email

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**by clicking the "consent" button on ParentPay, you are confirming that you wish your child to take part in this award, as well as confirming the payment detailed above, and that the emergency contact and medical details we have on our system are correct for your child. Please inform me as a matter of urgency should there be any changes to the details we hold.*