

# Formby High School

'Determined to Achieve'



DRI/DMM

Headteacher:  
Mr D A Mackenzie  
BA (Hons) NPQH

11 October 2018

Freshfield Road  
Formby  
Liverpool  
L37 3HW

Dear Parents and Students

01704 873100

## Re: The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award

enquiries@  
formbyhighschool.com

The Gold Award is open to all students over 16 years old, who successfully completed their Bronze and Silver Awards. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an exciting and challenging programme of non-competitive, voluntary activities leading to a nationally recognised qualification. Participants are encouraged to develop those personal qualities of self-reliance, leadership, responsibility, confidence and perseverance that will help them throughout their lives and are so highly valued by universities and employers.

www.  
formbyhighschool.com

@FormbyHigh

### The Elements of the Gold Award

Students will need to complete **four sections** to complete their Gold Award. Two sections must be done for 12 months and one section for 6 months:

- **Physical Recreation** – Taking part regularly in a physical activity.
- **Skills** – Development of a skill or skills that improve your ability to do something
- **Volunteering (must be 12 months)** - Provide a regular and reliable commitment to an organisation in the local community



Students will also need to undertake a shared activity in a **residential** setting for five days and four nights in mostly unfamiliar company (e.g. National Trust conservation project, Tall Ships voyage, assisting with a group holiday for children/disabled people). This residential must be coordinated by the students themselves. Students should ensure that they choose activities they are interested in and receive training from an appropriate adult. They must fully comply with the requirements of the Award, which are set out clearly on the DofE website [www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org). Students will receive their pack in November, but should start their activities as soon as their application is submitted.



Students will also complete an expedition with The Youth & Community Partnership ([www.the-ycp.com.uk](http://www.the-ycp.com.uk)) where they will need to train, prepare for and complete a physically demanding journey in a small group over four days, with three nights camping. A detailed report/video/presentation has to be made of the venture. The venture must be unaccompanied to encourage a spirit of adventure and self-reliance. Students are also required to plan their own routes and experiences. Students need to be aware that the expedition requires more preparation and is more demanding than Silver and it will require a high level of fitness, stamina, time commitment and personal organisation. Students will be accompanied by YCP staff members, who are fully qualified and experience outdoor instructors, and all of whom are first aid trained. Formby High School staff members will accompany each expedition and to provide additional support over the three days.





Please be aware of the key dates for the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award this year. **Please note in line with our educational visits policy, students will only be allowed to participate in the expedition if they demonstrate good conduct and behave responsibly whilst at Formby High School.**

- **Training Day** – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019
- **Practice Expedition** – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019
- **Qualifying Expedition** – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> – Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019

The cost to join the Gold programme is **£445.00** this includes:

- Administration
- Training
- Gold Welcome Pack
- e-DofE access
- Support and supervision from fully qualified instructors
- Campsite fees
- Use of group kit (tent, Trangia stove, pans, fuel, maps, first aid kits)
- Transportation
- Certificate and badge
- Celebrations Evening and Presentation Ceremony in school
- Gold Award Presentation at St James' Palace

Students will need to provide their own **walking boots with ankle support** and **50L rucksack**. A comprehensive kit list for expedition (including ideas for food) will be provided to students closer to the dates of expedition.

Once accepted onto the programme, students will be issued with a Welcome Pack, record card and their e-DofE will be updated to show the Gold Award; this account must be updated regularly and show evidence of commitment to their activities. As each section is completed, students will need to ask the person who has agreed to supervise them eg badminton coach, charity shop manager, youth club leader, to sign their Keeping Track Booklet and then scan it into their e-DofE account as evidence of completion. Computer rooms and training will be available to all students after school so that e-DofE can be updated online.

Interested students should complete and return the attached Application Form to Mr Rigby. A **£100.00 non-refundable** deposit should be paid via **ParentPay** no later than **9 November 2018**, with a second non-refundable deposit of **£150.00** due **Friday 25 January 2019** and the balance of **£195.00** being paid by **Friday 22 March 2019**.

Our method of payment is by ParentPay. This is very simple to set up and very easy to use and we would encourage all parents/carers to use this method of payment.

- Log on to ParentPay ([www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com)) using your username and password (if you have not used ParentPay before please phone 01704 835644 for your login details).
- Click on the item description entitled '**Gold DofE**' and add it to your basket, then proceed to the checkout.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Rigby  
Computing & ICT / Duke of Edinburgh's Coordinator