



FORMBY HIGH SCHOOL

Determined to Achieve

MDU/AHR

16 November 2023

Dear Parents and Students



Re: The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award

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 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. The Gold Award is open to all Year 12 students, students who have not completed Bronze or Silver can move directly on to the Gold Award but will have to complete additional hours at their activities.

The Elements of the Gold Award

Students will need to complete **four sections** to complete their Gold Award. Those who have achieved their Silver Award will have to complete two activities for 12 months (one of these activities must be for 18 months if Silver has not been completed) and a final section over 6 months.

- **Physical Recreation** – Taking part regularly in a physical activity.
- **Skills** – Development of a skill or range of skills
- **Volunteering (must be minimum of 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. Students will receive a welcome pack once they have paid a deposit, but should start their activities as soon as possible if they are yet to do so.

Students will also complete two **expeditions** with The Youth & Community Partnership (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 or Bronze 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.

Headteacher: Mr A Wood BBA (Hons) NPQH

Freshfield Road, Formby, Liverpool L37 3HW

Tel: 01704 873100 ▪ Email: enquiries@formbyhighschool.com ▪ www.formbyhighschool.com ▪ Twitter: @FormbyHigh

Formby High School is a Limited Company registered in England and Wales under Company No. 7724342



Please be aware of the key dates for the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award this year.

- **Training Day** – Saturday 23 March 2024
- **Practice Expedition** – Thursday 25 April – Sunday 28 April 2024
- **Qualifying Expedition** – Thursday 6 June – Monday 10 June 2024

The above dates are fixed and cannot be changed, alternative dates will not be provided for students, please ensure you can attend these dates before paying the deposit.

The cost to join the Gold Award is **£515.00** this includes:

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

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

Once a deposit has been paid and students have been added to the edofe portal, 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 e.g. 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.

To complete the sign up process and to receive a Welcome Pack a **£100.00 non-refundable** deposit should be paid via **ParentPay** no later than **Friday 8 December 2023**. £32 of this initial deposit is paid directly to The Duke of Edinburgh Award to pay for the registration and Welcome Pack; this will not be reimbursed in the event of a cancellation. Students cannot be registered for the Award until this payment has been made. A second non-refundable deposit of **£200.00** will be due on **Friday 26 January 2024** with the final balance of **£215.00** being paid by **Friday 22 March 2024**. Formby High School recommends that you take out insurance to protect you in case of an unforeseen circumstance that means a student would have to pull out of the expedition.

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) 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 'Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award 2024' and add it to your basket, then proceed to the checkout.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Duckworth
Mathematics / Duke of Edinburgh's Coordinator