

Welcome to the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Programme at Ashton Sixth Form College

Thank you for your interest in the Gold Award here at Ashton Sixth Form College. The Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award is available to all our students and we look forward to having you on the programme. The award is valued by employers due to the commitment required to complete it and the fact that you will work both independently and as part of a team developing additional personal skills to what you normally gain in general education. Please read the information below before returning the form. The college would like to see everyone who signs up complete their award so please ensure you fully understand what is involved before you enrol – be aware the enrolment fee is not refundable as Duke of Edinburgh are a charity and don’t issue refunds once we purchase you an account with them.

There is a requirement to do three activities (volunteering, physical and skill) in your own time and this part of the award you will begin immediately. At the Gold level you must organise these yourself and complete them in your own time, giving up 1 hour every week for each of the three sections.

This means you will spend an hour a week volunteering to help others, another hour a week doing a physical activity and an hour a week learning a new skill. You can choose a time frame for each, the shortest section will be for a 6 month duration, then a section will be for 12 months and the final section will be for 18 months – this final section length is reduced to 12 months if you hold a silver award already.

You will also need to complete a residential at some point over the time you are at college. This is five days and four nights away from home undertaking a specific course or shared activity, led by an organised group, registered charity or Approved Activity Provider with a minimum of 5 people who you don’t already know. We can help make suggestions, but this is something you must arrange yourself and may involve additional cost depending on what activity you choose. We ask you to try and arrange yourself a residential soon after you have enrolled, every year we have a number of students who don’t gain their award due to putting off their residential.

Finally, you need to complete an expedition. This is the part of the award most people are familiar with and the college runs bespoke in-house Gold Expeditions. You will usually have training sessions, a practise expedition (3 days) and a qualifying expedition (4 days). We always run walking expeditions and may be able to offer you a canoeing expedition if enough people are interested as we are one of the few organisations with a qualified canoe leader. Please be aware, at Gold level you are expected to complete your expedition in ‘wild’ country – this is different to bronze and silver, it means hills and moors, longer tougher days. It is great fun and something you will enjoy greatly but please take it seriously when you sign up – we expect you to practise beyond the training we provide, before the expedition you should be prepared to get yourself fully fit!

This year we are announcing expedition dates at the time of enrolment.

**Here are the dates for the Practice and Qualifying Expeditions.**

**Cohort 1**

Practice 23 -25 May 2026

Qualifying 16-19 July 2026

**Cohort 2**

Practice 2-4 May 2026

Qualifying 23-26 July 2026

We’ve provided two sets of dates, as the group may need to be split into two cohorts if we receive a high number of applications. If numbers are low, we’ll use the preferred dates chosen by the expedition leaders.

**With this in mind, if you’re planning to complete your Gold DofE with us, please make sure you’re available for both sets of dates**, as we won’t be able to confirm which option we’ll go with until we know final numbers.

I am Megan, I am launching the award this year, and I can be found in MB1.32. Please drop me an email or come and find me if you would like any further information.

**Information Evening**

Finally, we will be having an information evening **at 5:30pm on Wednesday 17th September**. Timothy Crowther who runs our Duke of Edinburgh expeditions will be delivering a presentation and answering any questions you may have. This information evening is open to both parents and students, and you are welcome to come to find out more details about what is involved. Please come to main reception if you would like to attend and complete the form through the QR code below to register your attendance.



If you would like to enrol, please fill in the enrolment form and return it to me in MB1.32 as soon as possible. Also, alongside, please ensure you complete your first payment by the deadline stated below (Initial sign up - £50)

The costs are outlined on the last page.

**Deadline for application form to be returned: Monday 22nd September 2025**

Deadline for Sign up Payment (£50): Monday 22nd September 2025– payment link will be available from the information evening.

Thank you for your interest in taking part in the Gold Award here at Ashton Sixth Form College.

**DEADLINE TO BE RETURNED & SIGN UP PAYMENT TO BE PAID (£50): Monday 22nd September 2025**

Enrolment – Volunteering, Physical and Skill Sections

As part of our enrolment, we are asking you to decide your volunteering, physical and skill activities now. It is important you begin these activities immediately upon signing up and commit to doing one hour on each activity, every week. If you do not complete this part of the award, you will not achieve at the end and it is important to get these activities complete before your busy examination period.

If you miss a week, for example, due to a holiday, you can then do two hours the week after but for the majority of the period it should be one hour every week. You need to choose an assessor for each of these activities – so for example, if volunteering this would be the person you volunteer for, if a physical activity such as football it would be your coach, and if it were a skill such as piano it would be your piano tutor. This assessor should guide you and help you develop over the period and must sign a report at the end to confirm you have completed it. They will also have to return a progress report after the first few months.

We expect you to start all sections immediately on signing up. The only exception would be if you choose an activity you cannot complete immediately – for example, if your skill is learning to drive (as a 6 month period) we will allow you to start this section a little later. If this is the case, please note it on the form. If you use an activity such as football training, and you have already been doing this weekly since September, we can backdate your start date a little. I will confirm with you once you have enrolled your activity qualifies, please drop me an email if you have any questions about these sections, help is also available on the DofE website.

My volunteering activity will be:

My assessors name is:

My assessors phone number or email is:

I plan on doing this for months (12 or 18, volunteering must be a 12 month minimum)

My physical activity will be:

My assessors name is:

My assessors phone number or email is:

I plan on doing this for months (either 6, 12 or 18)

My skill activity will be:

My assessors name is:

My assessors phone number or email is:

I plan on doing this for months (either 6, 12 or 18)

**Please now fill in your personal details. Please use CAPITALS and write clearly.**

**Previous Duke of Edinburgh Experience:**

|  |
| --- |
| Previous DofE Level - Bronze Silver None |
| If YES – please tell us where you completed it: |
| *e*DofE ID number (if known so we can transfer your account) : |
| If YES – please give details of what you did for your expedition and where you did it: |

**Personal details:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| First name: | Last name: |
| Gender: Male Female | Date of Birth: | / / |
| Primary language English | Welsh | Other |  |  |

When you first sign in to *e*DofE you will be asked to record some personal details such as your contact details, ethnicity and personal circumstances along with details of any medical needs you may have. This data is used to enable your Leaders to support you doing your DofE programme and for the DofE’s statistical and reporting purposes. You will always have a ‘prefer not to say’ option.

**Contact details:**

|  |
| --- |
| Email address: |
| Address (line1): |
| Address (line 2): |
| Town/City: |
| County: | Postcode: |
| Telephone: | Mobile number: |

**Emergency contact details:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Emergency Contact name: | Relationship to you: |
| Emergency contact telephone number(s): |

**Continued on next page**

The following information is used to help the DofE meet the needs of all young people. Only complete this section if you wish to assist in this way. I would describe myself as (please tick the relevant box):

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| I consider myself to have a disability as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act as ‘a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person’s ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities’. | Yes | No |
| Do you have any medical needs which you believe may influence you on certain activities (i.e. the Expedition section)? This information is only used to ensure your safety on DofE activities. | Yes | No |
| If yes to either of these questions, please specify: |

Please fill in the following section to allow us to plan meetings and sessions when you are available:

Meetings will take place after college/ during college hours. **Expedition training usually takes place after college 4-5pm in the weeks leading up to your expeditions**. Please give details below if you take part in any regular activities that would prevent you from taking part in DofE immediately after college or on weekends (examples might be sports, clubs or part time jobs):

The practice expedition and final assessment usually take place during college holidays, this may include Easter, May Half Term or the Summer Break. If you have any travel or events booked during any college holidays that would prevent you from taking part, please can you provide the dates below as we will try and plan around them.

**Expedition dates:**

 **Cohort 1**

 Practice 23 -25 May 2026

 Qualifying 16-19 July 2026

 **Cohort 2**

 Practice 2-4 May 2026

 Qualifying 23-26 July 2026

**Please note: It is vital you don’t miss any of your expedition training, practice or assessment so please inform immediately if you arrange any further events or holidays after you have submitted this form. We do our best to ensure we arrange dates to suit everyone but if you arrange a holiday without telling us that ultimately clashes with Duke of Edinburgh we cannot be held responsible.**

**Continued on next page**

Ashton Sixth Form College provides our Gold Duke of Edinburgh Programme at cost, as cheaply as we can. We have an onsite Coordinator to help you throughout the award and our highly experienced expedition leader is also based on site. The price includes all the costs involved in the award\* except your residential which you need to arrange for yourself. Our current price for the Duke of Edinburgh Programme is £395.

**This can be paid in a single payment, or in 3 payments.**

Payment one - £50 immediately – this is used to buy a Gold account from Duke of Edinburgh Deadline: **Monday 22nd September 2025**

Payment two - £175 which must be paid on return of the expedition consent form (before the practise expedition) Payment three - £170 must be paid before the qualifying expedition date

Note: If you choose a canoeing expedition and it is confirmed that it can go ahead, there is an additional charge of £80. This is purely to pay for the hire of the canoes, trailer and safety equipment and should be paid when the expedition consent form is returned

Please ensure your first payment is made immediately so we can order your Gold account. The payment link will be available after the information evening.

**Declaration:**

I agree to enrol as a participant on a DofE programme. I understand that I will be managing my programme using the online *e*DofE system. I acknowledge that this system has a set of terms and conditions that I agree to. These terms and conditions are available at [www.eDofE.org](http://www.edofe.org/)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Print Name | Signature | Date |
|  |  | / / |

**Consent to enrol from parent or guardian (if applicant is under 18 years old).**

I agree to my son / daughter / ward doing a DofE programme. I note that it is my responsibility to check any activity my son / daughter / ward undertakes for their DofE programme is appropriately managed and insured, unless the activity is directly managed or organised by their DofE group, centre or Licensed Organisation.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Print Name | Signature | Date |
|  |  | / / |

**Note:**

Data supplied on this form and in *e*DofE and information about DofE activities recorded in *e*DofE will be used by the DofE Charity, the Licensed Organisation and DofE centre to monitor and manage DofE participation and progress by young people and manage and support Leaders.

The DofE Charity will use personal data to communicate useful and relevant information to either help participants complete a DofE programme, Leaders/LOs to run DofE programmes more effectively or help the DofE Charity to improve the quality and breadth of its programmes. Occasionally the DofE Charity may send you information relating to commercial offers. If you do not wish to receive commercial information from the DofE Charity you can choose not to by amending your contact preferences in your eDofE profile at any time.

Refund policy: **The initial £50 is immediately spent on purchasing a Gold account and is non-refundable** as Duke of Edinburgh do not offer refunds. However, if the student is unable to complete their award here for any reason, the account remains theirs and they have until they are 25 years old to complete their Gold award. The students will then attend meetings, form a group, agree dates and plan their expedition. When the dates and expedition is arranged to suit all the students in the group, a letter will be issued confirming the expedition details and dates and another consent form is issued to parents to sign for the practical activities. Once this form is signed we cannot offer any further refund as the student has agreed and committed to the dates and the programme.