



Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award at Ashton Sixth Form College

What is the DofE?

The DofE's a life-changing adventure you don't want to miss. It's about going the extra mile – learning new skills for work and life, getting fitter, making a difference and broadening your horizons.

What do I need to do?

Gold (age 16+)	Volunteering 12 months	Physical 12 or 6 months	Skills 12 or 6 months	Expedition 4 days 3 nights	Residential 5 days 4 nights
	Physical and Skills sections: one section for 12 months and the other section for 6 months				
	If you didn't do Silver, you must do a further 6 months in either the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections.				

The DofE at ASFC

At Ashton, we offer two pathways to the Gold Award: Fast Track and direct Entry.

- **Fast Track** is a **12 month programme** for students who have already achieved their Silver Award.
- **Direct Entry** allows students who have not yet completed their Bronze or Silver Awards to achieve their Gold Award in **18 months**.

You will be supported by a DofE Manager and a DofE Coordinator on either pathway, both of whom are based in college.

How much does it cost?

Our DofE programme is non-profit, so we aim to keep costs low. The Gold programme fee is **£395**. There's an option to do your expedition by canoe (if numbers allow), with an additional £80 fee & another set of dates that would be confirmed if going ahead. Please note that the residential element is separate, and while some are free, most have additional costs not included in the college fee, and are organised independently.

Practice and Qualifying 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

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.

