



Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School

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March 2023

Dear Year 11 students,

RE: Duke of Edinburgh Gold 2023-2024

The Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) award scheme is highly valued in UCAS applications and by employers as it shows endurance, initiative, skills and dedication. We are pleased to be able to offer DofE Gold in Year 12 and 13 for interested students. However, you are able to begin DofE Gold from your 16th birthday, so we are offering some students in Year 11 the chance to start this early.

Please note that you should only apply if:

- Your birthday is between September and June (if your birthday is after June 30th you can still start the award on your 16th birthday but we will enrol you in September/October and backdate the start date)
- You are planning to stay at Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School for the sixth form
- You are willing to commit the time to complete the activities, attend regular meetings with me (usually form time or lunchtime) and upload evidence of your activities regularly.

You should be aware that there are several elements to the full Award including a skills/volunteering/physical/ residential section as well as the completion of two expeditions. For full details please see www.dofe.org.

The aims of the Award Sections

- *Volunteering* - undertake service to individuals or the community
- *Physical* - improve in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities
- *Skills* - develop practical and social skills and personal interest
- *Expeditions* - plan, train for and complete an adventurous journey in the UK. We are planning to do these in Wales in wild country. These expeditions can be undertaken in term 6 of Year 12 and term 1 of Year 13. Full details of our expedition offer will be given in September 2023.

N.B. Students may also arrange to join an open expedition of their choice if they wish. This would not be arranged through the school and participants and their parents would be responsible for ensuring that the expedition meets the Gold criteria and is run by a registered adventurous activity provider (AAP).

- *Residential* - stay and work away from home doing a shared activity. This must be planned by the student and signed off by a member of staff at the residential site. This could be a pre-university summer course, a scout / guide jamboree or NCS residential, for example but must be done with people the participant does not already know.

Participants have until they are 25 to finish the award but we hope that most students would complete whilst still in the sixth form.

In order to enrol on the award, there will be a registration cost of **£31.00** which will access the Gold Award and allow you to receive your log-in details and a member's pack. We are also asking you to complete and return an enrolment form and planning booklet to indicate your planned activity for each of the sections before we enrol you as well as a brief explanation of what you hope to achieve by doing the award. This ensures that you have thought about your plans for the activities, and we can check that they are suitable and likely to be approved. Please make sure you submit all three documents at the same time. Missing documents are likely to result in us being unable to register you with this cohort. The deadline for applying for DofE Gold if you wish to join next term is Wednesday 26th April.

On successful application, we will ask for a payment of **£31.00** via Parentpay (non-refundable registration fee which is paid to the DofE) which will be posted on Parentpay for successful applicants.

There are sometimes some bursaries available through the DofE and other charities to help with costs for things like activity sections or clothing for expeditions. Please contact me as soon as possible if you wish to apply for one of these.

Please contact me at school dofegold@langton.kent.sch.uk if you wish to discuss anything regarding the Duke of Edinburgh Award or the enrolment process.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Stavri
Duke of Edinburgh Gold Manager

Checklist: Please send these to dofegold@langton.kent.sch.uk by Wednesday 26th April

- 1) Enrolment form completed and signed by your parents
- 2) Bitesize planner (skills, volunteering and physical sections only need to be completed)
- 3) 150-200 words typed as to why you want to do DofE Gold

For successful applicants, a £31 fee will be put on ParentPay. Enrolment cannot take place until this is paid.