

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award >>



Help your CV stand out from the crowd
with the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award

Why do the DofE Award?

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a nationally recognised qualification for young people in the UK. It involves a challenging programme of activities designed to encourage students to learn new skills, help others and experience adventure.

Employers and universities see the award as evidence of a student's positive commitment and qualities. It is therefore no surprise that the College is a large provider of the Scheme, with around 50 students from each year group undertaking the Gold Award each year.

The programme lasts between 12 and 18 months, requires great commitment, but brings a huge sense of personal achievement.



What's involved?

For the Gold Award, students need to complete five different sections: Volunteering, Skills, Physical, Expedition and Residential.

Volunteering: to get involved in a project that helps the environment, individuals, the community or all three.

Skills: to discover and develop personal interests, such as learning a new language, musical instrument or learning to drive.

Physical: to participate and improve in some form of dance, sport or physical fitness.

Expedition: to encourage a spirit of adventure and discovery. Training includes activities such as camp-craft, navigation, route planning and first-aid.

Residential: this section must be completed by students independently. Residentials could, for example, take the form of environmental volunteering, Scout Jamborees, NCS (National Citizen Service) or sailing with the Tall Ships' Youth Trust Programme.

Will it be lots of extra work?

Not necessarily. Many students are already involved in sporting, musical or volunteering activities outside College and simply harness these to the DofE programme, thus getting recognition for them without having to do anything extra! The Expedition section is obviously a bit different and has to be undertaken at College as part of the DofE programme.



How long does it take to complete?

The fastest you can complete the DofE Gold Award is 12 months if you've completed DofE Silver - otherwise it's 18 months. Students have until their 25th birthday but for the best chance of completing the award, students are strongly advised to finish it whilst at College. The Reigate DofE programme focuses on completing the majority of the award in the first year, giving students time to concentrate on their studies in the second year.

Presented below is the Gold Award timetable to give you an idea of the commitment required to complete each section. One month is equivalent to one hour per week for each section.

Volunteering	Skills, Physical Recreation	Expeditions
12 months.	One section for 12 months and the other section for 6 months.	Plan, prepare for and undertake a five day and four night venture in wild country.
Direct entrants must undertake an additional 6 months in either the Volunteering or the longer Skills or Physical section.		
Residential		
Undertake a shared activity in a residential setting away from home for five days and four nights.		

Can anyone do the Gold Award?

Students can do the Gold Award without having done either the Bronze or Silver Awards (the College does not offer either).

The only entry requirement is to be able to demonstrate the necessary level of commitment to be successful. Participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award is entirely voluntary, however once a student registers, a consistent level of commitment is required.

How much will it cost?

The typical cost of participating is £750. This includes the initial registration, travel to and from expeditions, a refundable deposit for borrowing kit, and the guidance of industry experts providing safety and supervision during expeditions.

Students are expected to cover all other costs involved.



What support will I receive?

The Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator manages and administers the programme and is available in an advisory capacity during term time (email dofe@reigate.ac.uk). In addition, there are meetings and workshops designed to help support students through the programme.

The Expedition section is run by a DofE Approved Activity Provider.

Does the College have equipment students can hire?

Yes! The College has a range of expedition equipment.

Who should I contact if I'm interested?

For more information about the award please contact dofe@reigate.ac.uk

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