

Dear Parents & Guardians,

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold Registration

I write to invite all Dixons Sixth Form students to participate in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a well-respected accomplishment, allowing those who achieve it to demonstrate a high level of initiative, determination, persistence and team work. It is a significant progression from the demands of the Silver Level, in particular with regard to the level of independence, self-reliance and personal initiative required. To succeed, candidates will need to take on the responsibility for the planning and execution of all elements of their chosen programme, in particular the expedition. They will be able to draw on advice, guidance and training from staff, but must take the initiative and should not expect to be chased or reminded regarding deadlines.

In other respects, the award is similar to Bronze and Silver, involving working weekly on a programme of Volunteering, a Skill and a Physical activity or sport, all outside of normal lesson time. All sections of the Award are very much about progression and stretching rather than achievement of a set level. With this in mind staff will be guiding pupils to set appropriate goals and ensuring that they have supervisors or mentors for each section to help them with this. Full details of the requirements can be found on the DofE website, www.dofe.org or via the Parent Information Guide found on SharePoint under the Enrichment tab.

There are numerous benefits to completing the Gold Award. These include an increase in self-confidence, a stronger sense of identity, a sense of responsibility to others and the development of relationships. The Gold Award will make any university application stronger, with the University of London stating "It does make a difference, if one applicant has done something a bit different and can explain it well that will most likely give them the edge over the other."

The Gold award is open to all students regardless of whether they have completed the Silver or Bronze awards during their time in secondary school. To complete the initial registration, a £30 non-refundable deposit should be paid via ParentPay by Friday 22nd January, this will enrol the student onto the award. The Enrolment Form attached should also be completed and returned to Mr Heaton. Based on the students' progress in completing aspects of the award, Mr Heaton will make the decision whether they are eligible to continue onto the expedition aspect of the award during Cycle 3. If chosen, there will be an addition cost (tbc) to cover the purchase and maintenance of equipment and facilities.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email (dheaton@dixons6a.com) or I will be available during parents evening on either the 09th or 15th January during parents evening.

Kind Regards

Mr D Heaton
Educational Visits Co-ordinator & Assistant Head of Faculty

