

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

What is the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award?

Adventurous, caring, sporty, creative... however you might describe yourself, the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award is for you. It is achieved by successfully completing five sections of activities, each of which is designed to develop you as an individual:

- Volunteering - undertaking service to individuals or the community
- Physical - improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities
- Skills - developing practical and social skills and personal interests
- Expedition - planning, training for and completion of an adventurous journey in the UK
- Residential - staying and working away from home for five days, doing a shared activity

There are ten guiding principles that drive the Duke of Edinburgh Award and these are that it is:

- Non-competitive
- Achievable by all
- Voluntary
- Personal development focused
- Personalised
- Balanced
- Progressive
- Achievement focused
- Demand commitment
- Enjoyable

By achieving a Duke of Edinburgh Award you are showing persistence, commitment and personal development over a period of time. Every activity has to be successfully completed and assessed. The result is you will obtain the world's leading achievement award for young people, recognised by employers and universities alike. Completing a Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award develops you for life and work. It develops resilience, confidence and a 'can do' attitude as well as the social and communication skills that businesses are calling out for.

How is Duke of Edinburgh run at Dixons Sixth Form Academy?

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award is a full-year enrichment option. Students have one timetabled session per week where you are taught about map-reading, route planning and camp craft. You will be given ideas and information about volunteering opportunities and have opportunities to track your progress in each section which is recorded in your logbooks. In addition you will take part in practise walks and at the end of your first year a practise expedition. You will then complete your final expedition at the end of your second year after A Level examinations have finished.

Is there a cost?

At Dixons Sixth Form Academy we invest significantly in Duke of Edinburgh to ensure students pay as little as possible to access the scheme. We provide all the necessary camping equipment so there is no need to buy equipment. You will need suitable outdoor clothing and each practise trip will have a small charge to cover food and / transport.

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Reasons to complete a Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

Having a Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award on your CV is recognised by Higher Education institutions and employers alike.

A 2007 independent research study into the impact of DoE Gold awards found:

- 90% of young people said doing their DofE has given them opportunities to help others
- 82% noted their DofE has made them want to continue with volunteering / voluntary activities
- 62% feel that doing their DofE has helped them make a positive difference to their local community
- 74% of young people said they developed self-esteem
- 64% feel that as a result of DofE they are better at sport or physical activity
- 74% of young people said it allowed them to try activities they would never have tried before
- 71% of young people identified improved self-belief