



09 September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

DUKE OF EDINBURGH GOLD AWARD – ADMISSIONS

We are delighted to announce the opportunity for your child to take the next step in their personal development journey by signing up for the **Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award**. Whether they have successfully completed their Silver Award or are joining as a direct entrant, they are now ready to embark on the highest and most prestigious level of the DofE programme.

Completion of the Gold Award is a significant achievement that is highly regarded by universities and employers alike, recognising a young person's commitment, perseverance, leadership, and dedication. Participants who successfully complete their Gold Award are also invited to attend a Gold Award Presentation at a Royal Palace, currently hosted at Buckingham Palace, where they join thousands of other award holders in celebrating their achievement. This memorable event serves as a fitting recognition of the hard work, resilience, and determination demonstrated throughout their Gold DofE journey, marking the culmination of one of the UK's most respected youth development programmes.

At Gold level, participants will further develop the skills and experiences gained through previous DofE participation or, for those joining as direct entrants, begin an exciting journey of personal challenge and achievement. Through the Volunteering, Physical, and Skills sections, participants will commit to a longer and more demanding programme that encourages greater independence, resilience, and self-confidence, while providing opportunities for personal growth and the development of valuable life skills.

They will also undertake challenging expeditions and complete a Residential section, which offers the opportunity to meet new people, develop confidence and independence, and take part in a shared activity away from home. These experiences combine to make the Gold Award a truly rewarding and life-changing achievement.

We have now opened registration for our **Gold DofE Award programme**, and participants can begin working towards their award as soon as the enrolment process has been completed.

To secure your child's place, please complete this sign-up form:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/8WrnUWMMGi> by **Thursday 01 October 2026**. If you have any questions or would like to find out more about what the Gold DofE Award involves, please do not hesitate to contact me.

The enrolment fee for the programme is **£350**, which is to be paid in four instalments via our Parent Pay system. The first instalment of **£40.00** is payable by **Thursday 01 October 2026** and covers the enrolment fee for the eDofE place, as well as a contribution towards the expeditions and the running costs of the award. The second instalment of **£110.00** is payable by **Monday 01 February 2027**. The third instalment of **£100.00** is payable by **Monday 03 May 2027** and the final instalment of **£100.00** due by **Thursday 01 July 2027**.

DIARY DATES

A Gold DofE Introduction Meeting for your child will take place on **Monday 05 October 2026 at 1:00 pm in A27**. Your child is welcome to bring lunch with them to eat during the meeting.

A training day has been scheduled for **Saturday 27 February 2027, from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm**. Attendance at this session is mandatory if your child wishes to take part in the expeditions, as it is required for health and safety reasons.

Navigation training: Saturday 16 January 2027, Dartmoor National Park.

Practice Expedition: Thursday 22 - Saturday 24 April 2027, Dartmoor National Park.

Assessed Expedition: Wednesday 14 - Sunday 18 July 2027, Wales.

****Please do not enrol your child onto the award without first checking the dates mentioned in this letter to ensure they are available to take part.***

I look forward to working with your child as they complete their award.

If you have any queries regarding the Award at Helston Community College, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warm Regards,



Mr D Semmons

HCC DofE Award Manager

DofE mobile - 07719 086127

Direct telephone no - 01326 575037

(Mon – Thurs 8.30 am – 4.30 pm)