



October 2019

Dear Parents

I am delighted to invite your child to apply to complete the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award at school. The aim of the Award is to challenge and develop young people, as well as providing a well-respected addition to university applications. The Award consists of five sections: Skill, Physical, Volunteering, Residential and Expedition. The students have been briefed on what each of these entail and you can find more details on the Duke Edinburgh's Award website, www.dofe.org.

The cost of the Gold Award, including expedition training and assessment, is **£200**. This covers the cost of registration onto the Award and expedition training; costs for completing non-expedition sections of the Award are additional to this. The payment of £200 will be in two instalments; an initial payment of £40 and a final payment of £160 later this academic year. Applications are welcome from all students regardless of whether they have undertaken the Bronze Award.

The expedition training schedule for Gold is:

Date	Event
TBC	Parent's meeting in School
Thursday 7 th to Saturday 9 th May 2020 (Leaving after Founders' Day)	Lake District training event
Thursday 4 th to Sunday 7 th June 2020	Practice expedition
Wednesday 24 th to Sunday 28 th June 2020	Assessed expedition

In addition there will be a small number of training events after school during Spring and Summer term to prepare for these events. These will be arranged by agreement with the participants.

The expeditions are unaccompanied and therefore, as supervisors, we need to be confident that each participant has had the full training in order to undertake a serious venture in wild terrain. I ask for parents support in ensuring that students are available for these training dates and that all school equipment is returned within a week of each expedition.

It is important that the participants fully understand that taking part in the Gold Award is a big commitment, much more so than at Bronze level. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is voluntary for both pupils and the coordinating staff and the participants are responsible for organising their own Skill,

Headmistress: **Mrs J Anderson BA PGCE Med**

Headmaster: **Mr D Cassidy BSc**

Tel No **0161 696 8600** www.burygrammar.com

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Volunteering, Residential and Physical Sections; however, guidance on the requirements for each will be given.

If your child is interested in completing the Gold Award at school please complete the ParentPay account 'DofE Gold registration' by Thursday 17th October 2019. The £40 fee covers the cost of registration and licence fees. For students who have previously registered with the DofE scheme their current eDofE account will be updated. For new entrants to DofE the school email address will be used as the contact detail. These will be updated during the October half term.

Students who have logged their activities, on eDofE, for at least three of the four non-expedition sections by January 31st 2020 will qualify for the expedition training in school. The final instalment of the remaining £160 will then be due and further information will follow. This will cover the technical group equipment (maps, compasses, emergency equipment, tents, stoves and pans) and expedition fees. Participants will need to provide their own walking boots, sleeping bag and food. I would advise them to have their own rucksack, waterproof jacket and trousers and sleeping mat although there are a small supply of these in school. I must stress that participants require walking boots which have good ankle support, not walking 'shoes'. A kit list and recommendations of shops which sell affordable but good quality equipment is attached.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me by email.

Yours sincerely



Mr A Dennis
DofE Manager
adennis@burygrammar.com

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