

## The Duke of Edinburgh Award at Jo Richardson School

The Award Scheme is simply a programme of leisure-time activities. It challenges young people throughout the world aged 14-24, to volunteer and serve others, acquire new skills, be physically active and experience adventure. At Gold level participants have the additional challenge of the Residential section. The Scheme is not competitive, and anyone with the necessary perseverance, enterprise and effort can gain an Award, including students with additional learning needs. Participants are encouraged to choose activities that particularly suit their interests and talents.

All students have the opportunity to join the bronze group at the end of year 9. The silver award is offered to year 11 and sixth form and the gold award is offered at sixth form only.

The award is divided into four areas:

- **Volunteering** – providing some kind of voluntary service to the school and/or the wider community.
- **Skill** – a regular hobby or pastime
- **Physical Recreation** – a sporting activity.
- **Expedition** – a self-reliant journey, made under the students own physical effort, over two, three or four days (depending on the level of the award).

### How long does it take?

The table below shows the amount of time required for each section at each level of the award:

#### Bronze (14+ years old)

Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition
3 months	3 months	3 months	Plan, train for and complete a two day, 1 night expedition.
<i>All participants must undertake a further 3 months in the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section.</i>			

#### Silver (15+ years old)

Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition
6 months	One section for six months the other for 3 months.		Plan, train for and complete a three day, 2 night expedition.
<i>Direct entrants must undertake a <b>further</b> 6 months in the <b>longer</b> of the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section.</i>			

#### Gold (16+ years old)

Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition	Residential
12 months	One section for 12 months and the other for 6 months.		Plan, train for and complete a four day, 3 night expedition.	Undertake a shared activity in a residential setting away from home for 5 days and 4 nights.
<i>Direct entrants must undertake a <b>further</b> 6 months in the <b>longer</b> of the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section.</i>				

## **Assessment**

- Completion of the Award scheme online log for Volunteering, Skill and Physical Recreation.
- Evidence of completion of all training, practice expeditions and final expedition, including a presentation uploaded onto the eDofE system.

## **Cost**

There is a charge of £20 to register for D of E which covers the award administration both locally and nationally, and contributes towards the annual licence fee that the school is required to pay each year to run the award. Additional costs depend on the level of the award and the location and mode of transport of the expedition. For the bronze award, which is on foot weekends away (of which there are three, one in September/October, one in May and one in June/July) cost £20 each. A silver expedition training and qualifying expedition will typically cost around £100 – 150. For a gold expedition the cost would be £150 - £200. This covers camping costs and staff expenses, and helps us to maintain and replace the school's equipment, and is based on expeditions on foot. For expeditions where students choose other modes of transport ie: canoe, or bike, where specialist equipment and training are required then the cost could well be trebled, in which case the students involved would have to undertake a period of fund raising. It is however the school's policy that no students will be excluded from D of E for financial reasons. If families are experiencing financial difficulties help may be available in certain circumstances with these costs.

## **Careers and further study**

All of the awards are highly regarded by higher and further education institutions and employers as a sign of a student's interest in and further commitment to school and the wider community, above and beyond their academic achievements. Research by the United Learning Trust (ULT) has demonstrated that the Duke of Edinburgh Award is the most highly rated non-academic qualification by employers and further and higher education institutions, rating even above work experience.