

12 September 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are delighted to be offering Gold Duke of Edinburgh to students in year 12 this year. The Gold DofE program is a once in a lifetime opportunity for students to grow, learn, challenge themselves and set themselves apart. I will be coordinating the award this year and delivering the training.

The students will initially only have to pay £35 to enrol onto the course. The programme costs £350, however, on successful completion of all five components of their Gold Award before they graduate, the £350 will be refunded. If you have any concerns financially, please speak to Miss Stock or Mr Ereaut.

There are 5 components to Gold Duke of Edinburgh. There will be two expeditions to Wild Country (an area remote from habitation) which will be 4 days 3 nights. The students will also have to undertake a shared activity in a residential setting away from home for 5 days and 4 nights. There are numerous external options for the residential activity. The residential trip must be undertaken away from home with people that the student does not know. The cost of this residential trip varies depending on what your child would like to take part in. They will also be required to complete a volunteering activity for 12 months, either a physical or a skill activity for 12 months and either a physical or a skill activity for 6 months (the option they didn't pick for 12 months). If they did not complete their Silver DofE Award they will also need to complete an extra 6 months in one of the two 12 month sections. For example, they might do a physical activity for 18 months, volunteering activity for 12 months and learn a skill for 6 months. Each of these 3 activities will need to be completed for 1 hour each week and students will need to find an assessor for these. The volunteering hours completed for DofE, count for the volunteering hours they need to complete for the International Baccalaureate programme. Students can continue activities they are already taking part in like gym, CCF, learning a musical instrument ect.

We will enrol students before Christmas, with both expeditions taking place in 2026. The students will need to start recording evidence for their volunteering, physical and skills sections as soon as they are registered. For more information, please click on the following link - <https://www.dofe.org/do/basicinformation/>.

Please complete the DofE Gold Consent Form 2025, by clicking on the following link <https://www.knoleacademy.org/our-school/contact/dofe-gold-form/> . Payments can be made on Arbor Parent Portal payments to the Gold DofE trip. They can be paid in installments but I cannot register your child until the first installment has been made. Otherwise cheques should be made out to Knole Academy with your child's name and Gold DofE on the back.

Yours faithfully



Mr Ereaut

Head of Cocurricular and Extracurricular

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Headteacher: Mr David Collins BSc Hons

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www.knoleacademy.org