

1st September 2025

Dear students & parents

We are delighted to offer the opportunity for our students to complete their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award through Ashby Sixth form. The Duke of Edinburgh Award offers young people the chance to strive for achievement, overcome obstacles, and set their minds to a personal challenge and you can read more about it on their website; www.dofe.org

The award comprises a number of sections as listed below. These sections are expected to be found and completed outside of school and so the award does require students to make a significant and independent commitment to these areas. More information about these sections can also be found on the DofE website.

Volunteering	12 months	If you have not completed your silver DofE award, one of your 12 months sections must be extended to 18 months duration.
Physical	You must do one of these for 12 months and one of these sections for 6 months	
Skills		

Alongside these 3 sections, participants must also complete the following activities:

Residential Section

You must stay away from home for 5 days and 4 nights in an unfamiliar location where the majority of the participants are unknown to you. This aspect of the award will need to be independently arranged but there are lots of ideas on the DofE website to help you find an activity.

Expedition element

Students are also required to complete a practice and final expedition element as follows:

- 1 day in school training – November 2025
- 3 hour expedition first aid course
- Training residential – 2 days in the Peak District – March 2026
- Practice expedition – 3.5 days in the Yorkshire Dales – April 2026
- Qualifying expedition – 5 days expedition (plus 1 day travel) in the Lake District – July 2026

To deliver the expeditions, we have partnered with Premier Expeditions who will be supported by school staff on these events. More details about their organisation can be found at www.premierexpeditions.co.uk. School staff will also be present in a pastoral capacity.

Running Duke of Edinburgh is an option for schools and as such is not funded by school. We will serve as the students' DofE authorising body and work with students to register the evidence for these sections. We realise that students may not complete their DofE award by the end of their time with us, however, we will continue to serve as their authorising body until their award is completed or until they are 25 and will be able to continue to sign-off elements of their award for this time.

Whilst final costs depend on numbers of students involved, indicative costs for the Gold award is to not exceed £800 which includes expedition costs and transport for the expeditions as well as all registration requirements for the students and the school. Please note this covers almost 14 days of activity and 9 overnights. It does not include costs for the residential element which must be independently arranged. It does also not include personal expedition kit such as bags or boots, however, tents and other camping equipment is included. There is financial support for students in receipt of a Sixth Form Bursary who wish to engage with the DofE awards. Payment will also be in instalments to help balance the costs & may reduce slightly depending on participant numbers.

If you are interested in this award and would like to find out more, we are running an information session for students and parents on **Thursday 11th September at 6:30pm** in our theatre. This is located on our Nottingham Road site and should be accessed from the main entrance. You do not need to register for this event. Resources from the session will be made available after this event via our website if you are not able to attend. We will also circulate sign-up details after the event via our fortnightly LiFE At Ashby newsletter so please look out for this on Friday 12th September 2025. Please note, there is a minimum participant number of 14 and we may not be able to run the award if this number is not met.

Kind regards

DofE team