

28th August 2026

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; <https://www.dofe.org/>

If you are currently in Year 12 and have completed/finalising the completion of your Silver Award, you are eligible to move straight on to Gold. Students in Year 12 who have not previously completed their Silver Award and/or are completely new to the Duke of Edinburgh, are still eligible and welcome to start their DofE journey by opting for the Direct Gold route (see explanation below).

If you are interested in the Gold award and would like to find out more, please come along to our **Gold Award Information Session** held in conjunction with Premier Expeditions for students and parents on **Wednesday 9th September at 6:30pm** in our Lecture 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 17th September 2026.

Gold Award Details

The Gold award is comprised of 3 sections as listed below. It is expected that these sections are found and completed outside of school meaning that 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.

Section	Gold Award From Silver Route	Direct Gold Route
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		

In addition to these 3 sections, participants must also complete the following:

Expedition section including Expedition dates

Students are required to attend the following expedition elements:

- 1 day in school training – Saturday 14th November 2026
- Training residential – 2 days in the Peak District (Dark Peak) – Saturday 20th-Sunday 21st March 2027

- Practice expedition – 3.5 days in the Yorkshire Dales – Thursday 22nd April (PM) – Sunday 25th April 2027
- Qualifying expedition – 5 days in the Lake District – Wednesday 30th June – Sunday 4th July 2027

These expeditions are delivered in partnership with Premier Expeditions, a licensed Approved Activity Provider, and supported by Ashby School staff. More information about Premier Expeditions can be found at www.premierexpeditions.co.uk.

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 and our current DofE Gold cohort are also able to share the experiences that they have had on their residentials.

Running the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an optional enrichment programme and as such is not funded by the school. Ashby School serves as the students' DofE authorising body, supporting them in registering, managing and evidencing their progress.

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 participant numbers, indicative costs for the Gold award is to not exceed £700 which includes expedition costs as well as all registration requirements for the students and the school. We will share transport costs with parents and implement the following for transport costs:

- In School Training Day – parental responsibility
- Training expedition in March in the Dark Peak - parental responsibility
- Practice expedition in April in the Yorkshire Dales – school to provide transport for students
- Qualifying expedition in June/July in the Lake District – school to provide transport for students

Please note this covers almost 11.5 days of activity and 8 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.

Please note, we can only take full teams of 7 participants and there is a minimum participant number of 14. We may not be able to run the award if this number is not met.

Kind regards

Rebecca Attle, Ashby School DofE Manager