26 September 2024

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 £30 to enrol onto the course. The programme costs £300, however, on successful completion of all five components of their Gold Award before they graduate, the £300 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 2025. The current dates for the expeditions are 25/04/25-29/04/25 and Thursday 17/07 Tuesday 22/07/25. 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 2024, by clicking on the following link [https://www.knoleacademy.org/3270/dofe-gold-consent-form-202](https://www.knoleacademy.org/3270/dofe-gold-consent-form-2023)4 and send your child in with a £30 deposit, or the £300 if possible. Cheques should be made out to Knole Academy with your child’s name and Gold DofE on the back. If you would prefer to make a bank transfer, please find the school’s bank details on page 2. Please include your child’s name and DofE on the description

Yours faithfully

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Description automatically generated

Mr Ereaut

**Head of Cocurricular and Extracurricular**

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