

Academic year 2020 - 2021

Dear Student, Parent or Carer

RE: The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE), 2020–2021

We are excited to be able to offer The Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award at Yeovil College! The DofE award is a scheme of activities open for all young People up to their 25th birthday, regardless of ability or disability.

What is The DofE Award?

It is recognition of a young person's successful journey of self-discovery and development, acclaimed by employers and universities alike for demonstrating the qualities developed within young people who achieve the award. It is a balanced programme that develops the whole person, - mind, body and soul, in an environment of social interaction and team working. There are three progressive levels of the DofE programmes which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold DofE Award.

Time Frame

The Bronze Award takes approximately 6-12 months to complete. The Silver Award 6-12 months and the Gold award usually takes 12-18 months to complete.

Gaining the award will involve successfully completing four different sections (five at gold) which will show commitment and further developing of skills.

Students can start DofE at Silver Level if they have not previously completed Bronze DofE. They will need to do one section for 12 months instead of 6.

What does it consist of?

The four sections include a physical activity, a skill, volunteering and completing a practice and assessed expedition (gold will also include a residential). It may be that they are already taking part in an activity that falls into one of the sections, in which case they will now be able to gain recognition for this. Equally, we will be encouraging students to undertake new experiences, activities and goals for the sections are individually set to be realistic and achievable by each individual.

Skill, Volunteering and Physical activities require an input of approximately one hour per week spread over 3 or 6 months each. Students need to choose and commit to activities to complete these sections The activities do not all need to be done at the same time, but you should record what and when you intend to complete sections.

Mark Bolton, CEO & Principal

Yeovil College, Mudford Road,
Yeovil, Somerset BA21 4DR

t. 01935 423921 e. info@yeovil.ac.uk

www.yeovil.ac.uk

There will be training sessions throughout the year that will need to be attended. These sessions will be online until further notice, due to Covid-19 to keep everyone safe .

How much does it cost?

Bronze – £100

Silver – £135

Gold – £200

+ A £25 refundable deposit if you wish to borrow expedition team kit from the College. *

These costs include the enrolment pack, training and expedition costs, these prices are based on in-house expeditions and being local (to the Yeovil area – within a radius of approx. 60miles.)

Due to the current pandemic we will ask for the payment in stages, and will not take the payment for expeditions until there are dates of when these will be.

Places are limited and payments that has been made are unfortunately non-refundable. (apart from the Kit deposit)

* The refundable deposit will be collected in the last stage of payment and if all kit that has been borrowed gets returned in the condition that it was received, you will have the deposit refunded.

	Bronze cost	Silver cost	Gold cost
1st payment			
Due by: 23/10/20	£40	£45	£60
2nd payment			
Due by: 12/02/21	£30	£45	£60
3rd payment			
Due by: 01/04/21	£30	£45	£80
Refundable Kit Deposit			
Due by: 01/04/21	£25	£25	£25

Not included in the cost of the award:

- Personal kit – please see below.
- Food for expeditions which will have to be purchased by students before the event.
- Costs for activities – it is down to the student what they choose for their sections, this could be something that is available free or clubs/classes that involve a fee.

Funding (DofE Bursary)

We do not want cost to prevent students being able to do the award. Students who are entitled to free school meals or would be eligible for the Yeovil College bursary may be able to apply for a DofE bursary to pay for this. We will help students to complete their DofE bursary application.

Participants, will have access to their DofE account after college if needed up to the age of 25.

What kit is needed?

In order to keep the cost of the award down as much as possible, we are able to provide students with some of kit needed to complete the expedition section of the award. The table on the next page outlines the kit that is needed, what the students are required to supply themselves and what we can offer.

In order to maintain the kit, we do require a £25 deposit for the kit, which is refundable on the basis that all the kit is returned and not damaged (this does not include general wear and tear).

Expeditions:

You will be required to attend both the Practice Expedition and the Qualifying Expedition in order to complete this section of the award.

Participants will train for and complete both the practice and qualifying expedition, (bronze level – two days) (silver level – 3 days) (gold level – 4 days- wild). This involves walking a pre-planned route using a map and a compass. Groups of 4 to 7 participants work as a team, camp overnight and look after themselves for the duration of the expedition.

These dates will be confirmed once DofE enrolments are complete, and you will be updated of these, they will be in the expedition season that runs from March – October. We will make sure they do not impact on students' education/exams.

Depending on conditions due to covid-19 we may have to use an AAP (approved activity provider) for our expeditions, if this happens you would only pay the first payment to Yeovil College. Using an AAP is likely that this will incur additional costs, estimated to be in the region of £100-£350 depending on the award level. More information will be available if this becomes more likely. If you believe you may be eligible for a bursary please work with us to fill in the DofE bursary form to include use of an AAP.

In order to enrol onto The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, please could you complete and return the enrolment form/reply slip (attached). Wise Pay will be open for payment once we receive the enrolment form.

Deadline for the forms and the first payment is the 23rd October 2020.

Please look at the 'Parents/ Students information presentation' for further information, or contact me at amy.coombes@yeovil.ac.uk

Yours Sincerely,



Amy Coombes
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

Kit that <u>the college</u> can provide	Kit that <u>participants</u> must provide
Tents	Walking boots (broken in)
Group shelters	2 pairs of walking socks
Survival bags	Base layers
Compasses	Gloves
Maps	Hat
	Walking trousers or tracksuit bottoms (not cotton or jeans)
	2-3 T-Shirts (not cotton) or quick dry tops
	Fleece or mid-layer
	Underwear
	Nightwear
	Wash kit
	2 x 1L water bottles
	Sun cream
	Waterproof jacket
	Waterproof trousers
	Head torch(es)
	Dry bags
	Spork, bowl and cup
	Sleeping bag
	Sleeping mats (college have a very limited supply if needed)
	Sleeping bag liners
	Rucksacks (college have a very limited supply if needed)
	Personal mini first aid kit and whistle
Please see detailed kit list for more information.	