



10 October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2025-26

We are pleased to offer Sixth Form students the opportunity to undertake their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award through the school. The Gold award consists of the following sections: -

Section	Details	
Volunteering	12 months.	If the Silver award has not been completed, one of the 12-month sections must be extended by a further 6 months.
Physical	One for 12 months and one for 6 months.	
Skills		
Expedition	Please see details below.	
Residential	5-day, 4-night residential experience of participant’s own choice, organised by the participant themselves – guidance on this will be given by us. The principle behind this section is that the participant lives and “works” with people they have never met before.	

All timescales involve a minimum commitment of 1 hour a week (excluding holidays).

The school will make the necessary arrangements for students to undertake the Expedition section of the award. Students will be expected to organise and fund the non-expedition sections themselves. We will give advice and support to students on how to complete these sections during a training support session.

It is the responsibility of parents and carers to satisfy themselves of the health and safety procedures of the organisations facilitating the Physical, Skill, Volunteering and Residential sections of the award, including insurance provision and child protection measures. Newstead Wood School takes no responsibility for this.

Expedition

The expedition is a physically and mentally demanding challenge, requiring participants to work together as a team to plan for and carry out a four-day expedition in wild country, preceded by a three-day training expedition. This requires students to show a high level of independence, as contact with staff on the

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expedition will be minimal to comply with the DofE's remote supervision requirements. All staff accompanying our expedition will have been DBS checked.

There will be two trips as part of the expedition section. Firstly, the practice/training expedition will take place from **Wednesday 25 March until Friday 27 March 2026** in the Ashdown Forest area. The qualifying expedition will run from **Monday 13 July to Monday 20 July 2026**. The activities for the qualifying expedition will take place at largely at [Ennerdale Water Scout campsite in Cumbria](#) and will be provided by [The Education People](#) (TEP), our activity provider. Students will be largely camping for the duration of all expeditions. Monday 13 July will be travel by train/minibus to the site and a preparation day. Tuesday 14 July and Wednesday 15 July will be a further mini training expedition and preparation for the main qualifying expedition that will take place from Thursday 16 July until Sunday 19 July. Students will not be allowed to use mobile phones whilst on expedition but can use them at all other times.

Cost of the Award

The cost of enrolling onto the Gold Award and completing the expedition section will be £700.00 per student. The trip will only go ahead if numbers permit and may possibly be cheaper if more students sign up. For this reason, we need to know the number of students committed as soon as possible and therefore are asking for a non-refundable deposit. The deposit will, of course, be refunded if the trip does not go ahead due to insufficient take up. The suggested payment schedule for the award fee is as follows: -

- £250 non-refundable deposit by Friday 14 November 2025
- £250 instalment by Friday 12 December 2025
- £200 final instalment by Friday 13 February 2026

Payments need to be made via WisePay. If a student drops out at any stage, all payments made up to that point can only be refunded where trip funds permit or if a replacement can be found from the waiting list.

WisePay also offers the option for payment for the whole fee to be made up-front or in any increments resulting in paying sooner than shown above. Some assistance is available via the DofE for pupil premium students. Please contact me if you require any further information at jdavis@newsteadwood.co.uk.

The above costs include activities, camping costs, training costs, specialist kit hire (see below) and travel between London Euston Station to Ennerdale Water. All food costs on the expedition and travelling there and back will be an additional expense and thus sufficient spending money is needed for purchasing meals to cook in the campsites and enough funds to eat out cheaply on one or two nights when not on the expeditions.

Training

Training will take place at times to be confirmed but likely to be on a number of Fridays after-school for up to 1.5 hours.

Kit

The above training sessions will include guidance on kit expectations and food selection and purchase.

All necessary specialist equipment for the expedition will be provided by the school and our activity provider. A basic personal kit list will be provided; the required cost of this will be kept to the minimum necessary and

most things may be borrowed from the school if necessary. Participants will also be able to purchase kit at a discounted rate from certain retailers.

Finally

A behaviour contract will need to be signed by applicants and breaches of the code of conduct will result in withdrawal from the award at full cost to the participant.

The deadline for all applications to be received is **Friday 14 November 2025**.

Places on this expedition are limited and in the event of more applications being received than there are places available, applications will be accepted on a first come first served basis and a waiting list will be formed. It is also possible to register for Gold DofE without doing this expedition. Your daughter/son will be able to receive a completion certificate for all sections apart from the expedition. Anyone on the waiting list will also be able to do this. It is also possible for those people to complete their expedition outside of the school with any approved activity provider and the school can supply details of these (though these will cost substantially more).

If you have any questions or would like any further information about the DofE at Newstead Wood School, please do not hesitate to contact me at jdavis@newsteadwood.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Davis".

Mr J Davis

Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator