MAIDEN ERLEGH
SCHOOL
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13 November 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 12 – Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award 2027

We are excited to announce the launch of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award for Year 12 students.

The Gold DofE Award offers a unique opportunity to develop a wide range of valuable skills, including teamwork, confidence, independence, and employability. Like the Bronze and Silver levels, students will complete sections in volunteering, physical activity, skills development, and an expedition. In addition, the Gold Award includes a *residential section*, where students spend five days and four nights participating in an activity with others they haven't met before. This experience is designed to promote personal growth, encourage new challenges, and build lasting memories. It's an excellent way to enhance CVs and strengthen university applications, all while fostering independence and trying something new.

Students do not need to have finished Bronze or Silver DofE to complete Gold, however, if students have completed all sections of Silver DofE, then the timescales for the volunteering, skills and physical are reduced. Please see here for section ideas and here for more information on timescales.

We will run three sessions after school on Wednesdays during December to support students choosing sections, setting up the eDofE app and getting started on the award. These will commence on **Wednesday 9 December** and further details will be shared once the expression of interest deadline has passed.

Expedition Details

We are using an Approved Activity Provider, School of Outdoors, to run the expedition section. They will run three training events and the qualifying expedition. There will be a parent information session on which will be run by DofE and School of Outdoors which will cover information on each of the sections, eDofE app, expedition and training.

Students must attend all training events run by School of Outdoors to be able to complete the qualifying expedition. If a student is unable to make a training date or expedition,

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Aim High
Be Inclusive
Work Together

School of Outdoors will try of offer another opportunity to complete the event with another school.

Travel costs are not included within the cost and students must ensure they plan the journey to and from the training and expeditions in advance.

Please note that Maiden Erlegh School staff will not be present on the training dates or expeditions below and are only acting as the payment agent for the expedition section. All School of Outdoors staff have appropriate qualifications and DBS checks. School of Outdoors are fully responsible for students while on the training and expeditions and will use their own emergency contact system. All queries and concerns should be directed to School of Outdoors.

To set up a student account with School of Outdoors, we will share relevant personal information.

Students must be available for **all** dates below.

Training Day – Thursday 21 January 2027 – in school
Training Day – Saturday 13 March 2027 – Chiltern Hills, near Watlington
Practice expedition – Saturday 22 May – Monday 24 May 2027 – Brecon Beacons, Wales
Qualifying expedition – Thursday 27 August – Monday 31 August 2027 – Elan Valley, Wales

Here is a link to the School of Outdoors parent handbook with further information on the expedition section.

Please note that dates are subject to change depending on meeting the minimum required number of students.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD EXPEDITON SECTION IS NOT A HOLIDAY. STUDENTS MUST BE BOTH PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY RESILIENT.

Breakdown of Cost

Welcome pack, eDofE registration, admin and licence fees	£65
School of outdoors cost for expedition section including three training events (as detailed above), group equipment, trackers, assessors, qualified staff, campsites, etc	£595
Total	£660

(This is subject to change depending on final booking costs.)

Personal Kit

Students will be required to take and wear adequate equipment, clothing and footwear. Students must obtain personal kit for the expedition, including a backpack, sleeping bag, roll mat, shoes, clothing, appropriate food and drink. Tents, cooking equipment, fuel, maps, compasses, map cases and group first aid kits will be provided for students by School of Outdoors. DofE recommends the following kit list as a rough guide to what students are expected to bring. Should you be entitled to Pupil Premium funding, there will be limited kit available to hire should this be needed. Please discuss this with your child's group leader.

Expression of Interest

If your child would like to take part in the Gold DofE award, please complete the following form by **Friday 20 November 2026 3pm.**

Expression of Interest form

Deposit

The non-refundable deposit payment of £120 which covers the enrolment fee for DofE will be due via ParentPay once confirmation of a place is given. Two separate payments will then be made via ParentPay to cover the remainder of the cost, these will likely be in January and May.

If you have any enquiries about the trip, please do not hesitate to contact me by email s.pringle@maidenerleghtrust.org.

Payment should only be made if you agree with the conditions set out in the Parent Agreement below

Parent Agreement

I have read the information letter regarding the above-named trip and agree to my child participating.

I understand that I am responsible for ensuring:

That my child arrives for departure on time and for making arrangements for them to get home on our return.
Staff have up to date and accurate contact and medical details at the time of departure, and all relevant medication. Please email office@maidenerleghschool.co.uk if your child's medical information has changed. Medical information must also be shared with School of Outdoors
My child has appropriate clothing, equipment, food and drink for the trip.

I understand that if my child is unable to attend the trip, I may not receive a refund of monies paid.
That there will be periods when my child is under remote supervision

I also understand that it is my child's responsibility to make up for any missed class or homework and to do so at an appropriate standard. I will support them to do this.

If your child requires any medication e.g. an inhaler this must be brought on the trip or your child will not be allowed on the trip.

Should your child's medical circumstances change, it is your duty to inform the school and School of Outdoors in writing as soon as possible and before the day of departure.

During this trip the accompanying staff from School of Outdoors will be available at all times but there will be substantial periods of remote supervision when students will be hiking in groups of between 4 and 7. Remote supervision is when the group is monitored by staff from a distance, but they are not directly with the group. Students will have a GPS tracker which can call for staff in an emergency.

Please note that representing the school on a trip, fixture or at an event is a privilege and we reserve the right to withdraw that privilege for students who are persistently late to school or lessons, do not follow our uniform or behaviour policies or bring the school into disrepute in any way.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Pringle
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator
KS5 Maths Lead