



July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 12 students

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Launch 2026

I am delighted to announce the launch of the 2026 Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

West Kirby Grammar School is a Directly Licensed Centre, enabling us to run our own award programmes. We continue to work with our long-standing and trusted partner, Approved Expeditions, to deliver the expedition section of the award.

The Gold Award is the final level of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. To achieve the award, participants must complete five sections: **Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Expedition and Residential**.

The Gold Expedition involves spending **four days and three nights** in the Welsh mountain countryside.

The following dates are compulsory for all participants:

Saturday 19 September 2026 - Training Day (at school), 9.00am to 3.00pm

Friday 25 September – Sunday 27 September 2026 - Gold Practice Expedition (North Wales)

Thursday 25 March – Sunday 28 March 2027 – Gold Qualifying Expedition (Snowdonia)

The total cost of the Gold Award is **£395 per participant**.

To secure a place, a **deposit of £145** must be paid via Scopay by **Friday 11 September 2026**.

The remaining balance should be paid in two instalments:

- **£125 by Friday 27 November 2026**
- **£125 by Friday 29 January 2027**

Please note that refunds will not be possible after this date, as commitments and bookings will have been made with our expedition provider.

If your child would like to take part but the cost presents a difficulty, please do not hesitate to contact me, as financial assistance may be available.

Alongside the Gold Award, there is also an opportunity for interested students to complete their **Young Leader Award**, further developing their leadership, teamwork and mentoring skills.

Should you have any questions, please email dofe@wkgs.net.

Kind regards,

Sheena Harris-Smith
Duke of Edinburgh Manager