

# COLYTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Guardian

A number of students in Year 12 have expressed an interest in enrolling for the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award. The purpose of this letter is to explain what's involved in the scheme, and how we plan to start the enrolment process.

The award requires students to complete independent activities in a number of areas; Volunteering, Physical and a Skill, for a certain length of time, together with a residential activity. They also undertake a self-sufficient expedition (4 days and 3 nights for Gold). Students can begin Gold after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. Students who have completed Bronze, Silver or both awards can apply. Please note that we cannot offer Year 12 students the opportunity to enrol for the Silver Award. It takes between 12 - 18 months to complete the Gold Award, depending if you have completed Silver already.

The award requires considerable personal commitment, both by students and by the small number of parent volunteers who provide the specialist training and supervision required for the expeditions at these levels. We therefore want to ensure that we only accept students who have high personal motivation, and who have thought about the different elements of the Award in advance. As parents, you will also need to be prepared to support (but not lead, persuade or compel!) your son/daughter in undertaking their activities, and by ensuring they are available for expedition training sessions, the practice expeditions and the qualifying expedition itself.

As places are limited, we select students by asking them to fill out a programme planner and participant enrolment form. If selected, we expect students to have undertaken a substantial part of their Volunteering, Physical and Skill before they begin the expedition training next spring, and to have improved their fitness levels in preparation for the expeditions.

There is a lot of useful and detailed information available on the school's website (clubs & activities – DofE Award Scheme), and on the [award website](#) to help them consider whether to enrol. I am also regularly available in school, or the students can leave a message for me, or email me at any time.

All applications and enrolment forms must be sent electronically to:  
[SBirchmore@colytongrammar.devon.sch.uk](mailto:SBirchmore@colytongrammar.devon.sch.uk).

With best wishes,

**Sophie Birchmore**

Silver and Gold DofE Award Leader, Teacher

**John Bodley-Scott**

Gold DofE Expedition Supervisor, Parent Volunteer