



# Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls

May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award

I am writing in regards to the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award for which your daughter has enrolled. The long-lasting effects of the pandemic have made delivering the 'traditional' expedition challenging. The school has made the decision that the expedition will not go ahead this academic year due to the restrictions in being able to run adequate training and prepare students for a 4 day expedition in wild country.

We plan to run the expedition programme in the next academic year with the training running from November to April and the expedition in May 2022. We are unable to make bookings at this time or provide a cost, this will hopefully be communicated in the near future.

As an alternative, we work closely with a DofE Approved Activity Provider, Karos Adventure. Karos have delivered our Bronze and Gold programme in previous years and are very experienced. They are offering an 'open' training and expedition for this year. If numbers permit, they will organise and deliver all the required elements of the Gold Expedition between June and August 2021. Please note that Karos will require potential numbers, before we can obtain information regarding the cost of this.

Due to COVID-19 there have been some temporary flexibilities allowed for the residential section. Residentials can now be split over two weekends if needed but must be completed within a year. Residentials can be completed through the NCS programme: [Summer | National Citizen Service \(wearencs.com\)](#) or by using the DofE opportunity finder: [Opportunity Finder - participants - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award \(dofe.org\)](#). Please contact me before booking any residential trips for them to be authorised first.

The Certificate of Achievement is a formal recognition by the DofE of participant's dedication to their programme. This is awarded once the volunteering, physical and skills sections have been completed and will recognise their resilience in coping with ongoing uncertainty. The Certificate of Achievement is available until December 2022. Many students are well on their way to achieving this already.

Would you please click on the following link and complete the online form to state whether you would like your daughter to continue with the school programme in 2022 or would like more information about the open expedition run by Karos adventure this Summer:

<https://bit.ly/3aLYsEY>

The Gold award remains live until participants reach their 25<sup>th</sup> birthday. As a DofE centre, the school will continue to oversee the approval of any sections even when students have left the school.

If you have any further questions then please email [ktu@suttcold.bham.sch.uk](mailto:ktu@suttcold.bham.sch.uk)

Yours faithfully

Mrs Kate Tunstall (DofE Coordinator)



Headteacher: Dr Barbara Minards

Jockey Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B73 5PT

tel: 0121 354 1479 | fax: 0121 354 9418 | email: [enquiry@suttcold.bham.sch.uk](mailto:enquiry@suttcold.bham.sch.uk) | web: [www.suttcold.bham.sch.uk](http://www.suttcold.bham.sch.uk)

Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls Academy Trust trading as: Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls | Registered in England No. 7543893

