



# Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls

30<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am pleased to let you know that SCGSG offers the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in Year 12.

The DofE is a great chance for your child to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and talents, have fun with friends, develop essential skills for their future and achieve an internationally renowned Award.

As SCGSG's DofE Coordinator and Assistant Manager, I wanted to send you some information about what a DofE programme involves, the benefits for your child and how they can sign up.

## About the DofE

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries.

Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They'll gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they'll achieve an Award that's recognised by top employers and can help them stand out when applying for university or jobs.

To achieve their Gold Award, participants must complete five sections: Skills, Volunteering, Physical, Residential and their Expedition.

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they can choose what they'd like to do for their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections, and most activities can count. We will provide guidance and support, and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something completely new.

Activities for each section take a minimum of one hour a week over a set period of time, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives. For more details about programmes and timescales visit <https://www.dofe.org/do>.

## About the expedition

The Expedition section involves participants working as part of a small team to plan their expedition's aim, choose a location and do some training to make sure they're fully prepared – before spending four days and three nights in the countryside.

Ahead of this, they will take part in residential training through our approved activity provider Karos Adventure, covering essential expedition principles and introducing them to expedition equipment.

There will also be a number of training sessions in which your child and their group will plan their route and prepare. Participants will only be able to do their expedition if they attend the organised training.

The expedition will take place in 2022 and is usually run between March and May each year. We will confirm the exact dates and times as soon as possible.

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### **About the residential**

In previous years participants have used the NCS to complete their residential section. More information about NCS and how to apply for a programme can be found at: <https://wearencs.com/>. There are also many other opportunities to complete the residential, but they must be DofE approved and agreed with the by school before applying.

### **The DofE and COVID-19**

Your child can still have the full DofE experience, safely and in line with Government guidance, during the COVID-19 outbreak. The motivation and focus the DofE gives, and its positive impact on mental and physical health, can play an important role in helping your child navigate our 'new normal', safely expanding their world and giving them skills and experiences to open doors in the future.

As participants can choose and change their activities, they can pick ones that they can do while social distancing or from home. The DofE has provided useful advice and information, including activity and volunteering ideas, at [www.DofE.org/DofEWithADifference](http://www.DofE.org/DofEWithADifference).

The DofE has also introduced a number of flexibilities to allow expeditions to take place safely, in line with social distancing restrictions and Government guidance. While your child's expedition may look slightly different to those in previous years, they will be able to do theirs safely and with all the benefits and memories they'd get at any other time.

### **eDofE and the DofE app**

Participants can create their DofE programme and record their progress using eDofE, the DofE's digital system, available online at eDofE.org and through the DofE app – downloadable for free from Google Play and the App Store.

If your child decides to enrol, we will set up their eDofE account and they will receive details of how to sign in and get started.

### **Signing up**

The cost of registering to take part in the Gold DofE at Sutton Girls is £35 per participant. This covers your child's participation place and Welcome Pack, which will be sent to their home address and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card. When the residential training and expedition is safe to go ahead, the estimated costs (excluding travel) will be approximately £500.

If your child would like to take part, please complete and return the enclosed enrolment form, together with the sum of £35. This can be paid online or via cheque to the business.

There is a parent's PowerPoint presentation available through the school website giving you a detailed look at what each section involves. If you would like any further information in the meantime, please feel free to email me: [ktu@suttcold.bham.sch.uk](mailto:ktu@suttcold.bham.sch.uk)

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to helping your child to achieve through their DofE.

Yours faithfully,  
Mrs K Tunstall

**DofE Coordinator and Assistant Manager**

Gold DofE Award – registration

I give permission for (Student Name) \_\_\_\_\_ Form \_\_\_\_\_

to participate in the DofE Gold Expedition and

- I have paid £35 online
- I enclose a cheque for £35
- I am applying for the sixth form bursary

Parent/Carer: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for DofE registration 15/10/21