



*Jim Underhill*  
*Gold Expedition Coordinator*  
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8<sup>th</sup> August 2017

Dear Parent,

## **GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD 2017/18**

I write to alert you to the opportunity for your son/daughter to take part in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh award that will run here at Ellesmere College in 2017/18. We offer two options for the expedition element of the award: canoeing or walking.

### Canoeing options:

Based on last year's costs (and dependent on the group reaching its capacity of 22) the UK based canoe option should cost £400. Payment for this option is taken by a £100 deposit and then subsequent payments of £150 on the Lent and Summer bills plus the usual termly activities billing. If the group size fails to reach the maximum number then costs may increase slightly. The costs above include canoe hire, instruction, travel and camp-site fees but pupils would need to provide their own food for the expeditions. Essentially, the option breaks down into the following sections:

- Three days basic training on the River Severn in Shrewsbury during October 'Expos' with 'Drummond Outdoor' who are AALA qualified instructors.
- A three day/two night Practice Expedition, provisionally scheduled for the 20th to 22nd April, 2018, along the River Severn from Welshpool to Atcham, near Shrewsbury. This includes a further day's qualified instruction and expedition de-brief by 'Drummond Outdoor'.
- A further day's training at Jackfield rapids, Ironbridge in early June 2018 for competence on Grade 2 level water.
- The final five day/four night Qualifying Expedition on the River Wye. This takes place in the final week of Summer Term during our College's Expeditions' Week.

### Walking options:

Furthermore, there is also the chance for pupils to opt for a walking expedition and the College is looking to outside providers for this with costs (dependent upon the group reaching its capacity of 16) currently estimating at about £280 plus the usual termly activities billing. The costs above include accommodation and campsite fees but not food or kit for the following:

- Three days in October Expeditions for basic training including extensive map work and expedition skills.
- 10 days training and skill sessions across our Thursday afternoon activity programme.
- Three day Easter practice expedition across the Berwyn or Snowdonia mountain ranges in Wales (**provisionally** 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018)
- Five day qualifying expedition across a mountainous area in Wales. This takes place in the final week of Summer Term during our College's Expeditions' Week.

Please return the attached permission slip to register interest clearly stating which option **and** a cheque deposit of £100 made payable to Ellesmere College. This should be addressed to Mr Jim Underhill, Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire, SY12 9AB ([jim.underhill@ellesmere.com](mailto:jim.underhill@ellesmere.com)). Numbers and places will be confirmed by the end of September 2017.

For the Gold Award, candidates must also complete a five-day Residential course alongside the Skills, Volunteering, Expedition and Physical sections. This can incur an extra cost and is something that each candidate must attend on their own (ie not with College friends) and therefore we encourage students to organise this section. Completion is best suited during Year 12 so that it does not impact Year 13 revision and must be completed outside of College term time. More details at [www.dofe.org/residential-section](http://www.dofe.org/residential-section)

Finally – and most importantly - the Gold challenge requires a good deal of independence, maturity and for us to be able to trust those involved in potentially hazardous situations. Therefore, previous behaviour and success on the award (or, indeed, in other environments) will be taken into account as we make up the groups for 2017/18.

Yours sincerely,



## GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD 2017/18 PERMISSION FORM

I give permission for my son/daughter to take part in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and I understand and accept the risks and responsibilities involved:

- I understand that the expeditions will be remotely supervised by staff in line with Award Policy
- I realise that, where possible, my son/daughter should provide his/her own kit and food – and be self-supporting for the expeditions
- I consent to any emergency medical treatment required by my son/daughter during the course of the expeditions
- I confirm that my son/daughter is in good health and consider him/her fit enough to participate
- I understand that all training and expedition dates are provisional and to be confirmed by the end of September 2017.
- I understand that participants should not be using mobile phones for calls, texting or music other than in emergencies and can fail the expeditions if found to be in conflict with the spirit of the Award in this regard

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Canoeing Option:

Walking Option:

Signed (Parent/Guardian) \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque for £100 **made payable to Ellesmere College.**

Please address all cheques and return slips to Mr J Underhill, Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire, SY12 9AB. Your son or daughter can also bring them to me in College during the first week back.

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB

Tel: 01691 622321 Fax: 01691 623286

[www.ellesmere.com](http://www.ellesmere.com)

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