

Stanborough



Mathematics & Computing Academy

Headteacher: Mrs M John



13th October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

We would like to offer your son/daughter a chance to complete the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award scheme run through Stanborough School.

At Stanborough School, we run a very successful Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme and many of our students have now completed the Award at Bronze level. It is a voluntary, non-competitive programme of practical, cultural and adventurous activities designed to support the personal and social development of young people aged 14-25, regardless of gender, background or ability. It offers an individual challenge and encourages people to undertake exciting, constructive, challenging and enjoyable activities in their free time. To complete the Award, participants need to be motivated, resilient, a team member, committed - all qualities wanted by a University or a future employer. That is why the Duke of Edinburgh Award looks good on CVs and University Personal Statement.

We would like to relaunch the Gold award regardless of numbers and therefore we have made the decision that we will register students on the Gold award using eDofE.org and we will signpost students to the correct locations to make decisions on where and how they would like to complete their expedition and residential. The best place to see many different opportunities with varying dates is <https://www.dofe.org/opportunity-finder/opportunity-for-dofe-participant/>

We would like to be able to offer the expedition section to be run through the school. However, this would require a commitment from a group of students, enough to fulfil the group expectations with the award authority. If there is not enough students to fulfil this, we will still run the award, but students would need to look to complete their expedition with another operating centre. The cost of the expedition section will cost more than the Bronze expedition as we will need to complete a practice and a qualifying expedition. This expedition will also go to a designated *Wild Country* area. If we are able to run the expedition from school it may work out cheaper than completing this section with another award centre. We will confirm the details of the expectation and costs of the expedition section once we have a confirmed group.

The cost of enrolment for the Gold award is a one-off registration fee £39, due by **Friday 10th November**, this will allow the students to complete the sections in their own time. Please note that this registration fee is non-refundable. Payments should be made via **Arbor Payments** only, we are not able to accept cash or cheque payments. Should you require a copy of your *Arbor* login details, please contact the IT Support via email at itsupport@stanborough.herts.sch.uk. The attached form is required to be completed and returned to Mr Collinson to allow registration to eDofE.

Gold Award: Students are required to complete the all sections for at least 12 months with one being 18 Months. Students will also be required to complete training, practice and a qualifying expeditions for the gold award, which will be 4 days and 3 nights in length. Finally, each student must also complete a residential, which is 5 days and 4 nights. The residential criteria states that it must be completed with people they have never met before, they must work with a team and work together on a shared activity.

- Grow and Succeed -

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If you require more information about the scheme, you can visit our web pages on the Stanborough website. All letters and links to presentations will be on this website. During the expedition, students are required to be independent and self-sufficient so we do not feel that we can accept any students who may misbehave or act in a dangerous manner on this scheme. In relation to this, we want to make it clear that any student who is subject to serious disciplinary action within the school will forfeit their place on the expeditions, and therefore will not be able to complete their award.

Please remember that although we will give all the assistance and guidance towards the opportunities needed to complete the scheme, gaining the Gold Award depends ultimately on the commitment of your son/daughter.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Collinson', written in a cursive style.

Mr R Collinson
Duke of Edinburgh Award Co-ordinator

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