



Jim Underhill
Gold Award Leader
jim.underhill@ellesmere.com

June 2018

Dear Parent,

GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD 2018/19

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 2018/19. We offer two options for the expedition element of the award (canoeing or walking) but expect all who show interest to be happy to join either group. Numbers ultimately dictate group sizes (both of which have limits based on pupil to instructor ratios) so we finalise in September and endeavour to accommodate preferences then.

Canoeing options:

Based on last year's costs (and dependent on the group reaching its capacity of 26) the UK based canoe option is estimated to cost £420. Payment for this option is taken by a £100 deposit and then subsequent payments of £160 on the Lent and Summer bills plus the usual termly activities billing. If the group size changes then costs may increase slightly but will include canoe hire, instruction, travel and camp-site fees. Essentially, the option breaks down into the following sections:

- Three days intensive 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** Friday 10th May to Sunday 12th May, 2019) 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 2019 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 14) currently estimating at about £340 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** Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th May, 2019)
- 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 stating a preferred 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).

We confirm numbers, final costs and places by the end of September 2018 and expect all candidates to want to complete the award and not be too concerned about whether they canoe or walk so that we can more easily make up the groups in September 2018.

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 (not with College friends) and therefore we encourage students to organise this section as early as possible. 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. However, if your child is currently 16 or over they can complete a Residential from mid-July in advance of signing up for the award. More details at 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 2018/19.

Yours faithfully,



GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD 2018/19 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 2018.

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

Name:

Preference for Canoeing Option:

Preference for Walking Option:

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

Signed (Parent/Guardian)..... Date:

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

A Woodard School

Registered Charity number 1103049

Ellesmere College Ltd. Is a company, registered in England, no: 5066406