



Jim Underhill
Gold Expedition Coordinator
jim.underhill@ellesmere.com

August 2016

Dear Parent,

GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD 2016/17

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 2016/17. 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 24) the UK based canoe option should cost £400. Payment for this option is usually taken by a £100 deposit and then subsequent payments of £150 on the Lent and Summer bills. If the group size fails to reach the maximum of twenty, 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 either at the end of the Easter break (**provisionally** 28th to 30th April 2017) along the River Severn from Welshpool to Atcham, nr. 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 2017 for competence on Grade 2 level water.
- The final four day/three night Qualifying Expedition either on the River Wye or along the Caledonian Canal in Scotland. 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, again, the College is looking to outside providers for this with costs (dependent upon the group reaching its capacity of 14) currently estimating at about £350. The costs above include accommodation and campsite fees, but not food or kit for the following:

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Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB
Tel: 01691 622321 Fax: 01691 623286
www.ellesmere.com

A Woodard School

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- 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* 28th to 30th April 2017)
- 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 can I ask you to reply by email (to jim.underhill@ellesmere.com) or complete and return the reply slip below to register for either option **and** a cheque for £100 for either option as a deposit.

All training and expedition dates are provisional and to be confirmed by the end of September 2016. Cheques will be cashed once the groups are finalised.

Yours sincerely,

James Underhill

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GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD 2016/17

I give permission for my son/daughter to take part in the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Name of pupil: _____ **Form:** _____

Canoeing Option:

Walking Option:

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

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____
(Parent/Guardian)

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.

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