



# MAIDEN ERLEGH SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr P. Gibson  
MSc (Educational Leadership), BA (Economics)



Silverdale Road, Earley,  
Reading, RG6 7HS  
0118 926 2467  
MESoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org  
www.maidenerleghschool.co.uk  
@MaidenErleghSch

13 October 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

## Year 12 – Gold Duke of Edinburgh 2024

We are excited to announce the launch of our Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award for Year 12. The list of skills developed from DofE Gold is endless, including teamwork, confidence, independence and employability skills. Similar to the Bronze and Silver DofE Award, students must complete the volunteering, physical, skills and expedition sections. In addition, there is a residential section in Gold, completing five days and four nights engaging in an activity with people they do not know. This is an exciting way to foster independence and try something new. Students do not need to have finished Bronze or Silver DofE to complete Gold, however, if students have completed all sections of Silver DofE, then the timescales for the volunteering, skills and physical are reduced. Please see [here](#) for section ideas and [here](#) for more information on timescales.

We will run sessions after school on Wednesdays during November to support students choosing sections, setting up the eDofE app and getting started on the award. These will commence on **Wednesday 8 November** and further details will be shared once the expression of interest deadline has passed.

### Expedition Details

We are using an approved activity provider, School of Outdoors, to run the expedition section and they will run three training events and the qualifying expedition. There will be a parent information session in November which will be run by DofE and School of Outdoors which will cover information on each of the sections, eDofE app, expedition and training. Students must attend all training events to be able to complete the qualifying expedition. If a student is unable to make a training date or expedition, School of Outdoors will try to offer another opportunity to complete the event with another school.

Please note that Maiden Erlegh School staff will not be present on the training dates or expeditions below. All School of Outdoors have appropriate qualifications and DBS checks. All queries and concerns should be directed to School of Outdoors.

To set up a student account with School of Outdoors, we will share relevant personal information.

Students must be available for **all** dates below.

- Training Day – Friday 23 February 2024 – in school
- Training Day – Saturday 2 March 2024 – Chiltern Hills, Watlington
- Practice expedition – Monday 1 April - Wednesday 3 April 2024 – Brecon Beacons, Wales
- Qualifying expedition – Thursday 25 July - Monday 29 July 2024 – Elan Valley, Wales

The School of Outdoors parent handbook with further information on the expedition section has been sent along with this letter.



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Please note that dates are subject to change depending on meeting the minimum required amount of students.

**THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD EXPEDITON SECTION IS NOT A HOLIDAY. STUDENTS MUST BE BOTH PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY RESILIENT.**

## Breakdown of Cost

Welcome pack, eDofE registration, admin and licence fees	£55
School of outdoors cost for expedition section including three training events (as detailed above), group equipment, trackers, assessors, qualified staff, campsites, etc	£450
Total	£505

## Personal Kit

Students will be required to take and wear adequate equipment, clothing and footwear. Students must obtain personal kit for the expedition, including a backpack, sleeping bag, roll mat, shoes, clothing, appropriate food and drink. Tents, cooking equipment, fuel, maps, compasses, map cases and group first aid kits will be provided for students by School of Outdoors. DofE recommends the following [kit list](#) as a rough guide to what students are expected to bring. Should you be entitled to Pupil Premium funding, there will be limited kit available to hire should this be needed. Please discuss this with your child's group leader.

## Student Information Afternoon

We will be holding an information session for students from 3:00 – 4:00pm in the Main Hall on **Wednesday 18 October** to discuss the award further and answer any questions.

## Expression of Interest

If your child would like to take part in the Gold DofE award, please complete the following form by **Friday 20 October, 2023**.

[Expression of Interest form](#)

## Payments

The non-refundable deposit payment of £55 which covers the enrolment fee for DofE is due via ParentPay only by **Friday 13 November, 2023**. You will receive a confirmation of place letter after half term if your child is successful in gaining a place (please do not try to make payment until you have received this). Further payments will be made via ParentPay on the following schedule.

**Deposit:** £55 due Friday 13 November

**Instalment 1:** £90 due Friday 10 December

**Instalment 2:** £135 due Friday 19 January

**Instillment 3:** £225 due Friday 10 May



If you have any enquiries about the trip, please do not hesitate to contact me by email [MESDofE@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:MESDofE@maidenerleghtrust.org).

*Payment should only be made if you agree with the conditions set out in the Parent Agreement below*

### Parent Agreement

I have read the information letter regarding the above-named trip and agree to my child participating.

I understand that I am responsible for ensuring:

- That my child arrives for departure on time and for making arrangements for them to get home on our return.
- **Staff have up to date and accurate contact and medical details at the time of departure, and all relevant medication. Please email [mesoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:mesoffice@maidenerleghtrust.org) if your child's medical information has changed. Medical information must also be shared with School of Outdoors**
- My child has appropriate clothing, equipment, food and drink for the trip.
- I understand that if my child is unable to attend the trip due to illness or Covid-19 isolation I may not receive a refund of monies paid.
- That there will be periods when my child is under remote supervision

I also understand that it is my child's responsibility to make up for any missed class or homework and to do so at an appropriate standard. I will support them to do this.

If your child requires any medication e.g. an inhaler this must be brought on the trip or your child will not be allowed on the trip.

**Should your child's medical circumstances change, it is your duty to inform the school and School of Outdoors in writing as soon as possible and before the day of departure.**

During this trip the accompanying staff from School of Outdoors will be available at all times but there will be substantial periods of remote supervision when students will be hiking in groups of between 4 and 7. Remote supervision is when the group is monitored by staff from a distance, but they are not directly with the group. Students will have a GPS tracker which can call for staff in an emergency.

***Please note that representing the school on a trip, fixture or at an event is a privilege and we reserve the right to withdraw that privilege for students who are persistently late to school or lessons, do not follow our uniform or behaviour policies or bring the school into disrepute in any way.***



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Yours sincerely

Miss M Longdon  
DofE Manager