

## Duke of Edinburgh Award

Setting personal goals for young adults that require focus and commitment.



## Going for gold



The Award has been running at the School for nearly 20 years and has expanded over that time.

Our Senior 2 pupils are offered an introduction to the principles and philosophy of the Award through our own Junior Outdoor Education programme prior to commencing the Duke of Edinburgh's Award itself at Bronze level in Senior 3. We currently have around 65 pupils from this stage upwards who are at various stages of completing the four sections of the Award. Pupils in Senior 4 and 5 typically move onto the Silver Award and finally have the opportunity to tackle Gold in Senior 6.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is based around a number of core tenets that are developed via the successful completion of the four sections of the Award. These are Volunteering, Skill, Physical Recreation and Expedition. Participants are responsible for making local connections to enable them to undertake three of the four sections. Pupils must usually commit themselves to at least one hour once a week over a number of months.



There are a number of guiding principles that all Award programmes have built into them. They are that it is:

- › non-competitive
- › achievable by all
- › voluntary
- › involves personal development, is personalised, balanced, progressive and achievement-focused
- › demands commitment
- › enjoyable

Whilst they are undertaking the Award, pupils will be under the supervision of a coach, team leader or member of staff who will have met with them. Together they will have set out some targets or personal goals to aim for over the qualifying period.

At Gold Level pupils also undertake a residential week away.

“ The Duke of Edinburgh Award has given me so many skills such as working in a team and map-reading. It's also taught me to appreciate things that others don't have. Overall it's been a great experience. ”

Russell Macpherson  
School Captain 2014-2015