Gowerton School
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17th November 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am pleased to announce that the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award will be running again this year. Gowerton School is currently offering pupils the opportunity to achieve their Bronze Award in year 10.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award involves four different sections at Bronze level which are:

- **Volunteering** – helping out in the local community.
- **Physical** – improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities.
- **Skill** – developing practical and social skills and personal interests.
- **Expedition** – training for, planning and completing an adventurous journey.

There is a fee of **£33 to register with the DofE** charity, which is non-refundable once the account has been created. This registers your child on the award, enabling access to the DofE website to record their progress and they will receive a welcome pack from the charity.

Pupils will also need to pay a **fee of £150 to complete their expedition**. **£50 will be refunded upon return of kit in its original condition.** This enables the school to fund the running of the award, for expenses such as licence fees and provide the resources required (tents, ruck sacks, cooking equipment etc).

There will be **28 places available** to complete the award for this year 10 cohort. Pupils will need to be in groups of 7 for their expedition and we **cannot guarantee that pupils will be in friendship groups** for this. Names will be drawn out of a hat for places if there are more than 28 pupils interested and a reserve list will be made in case any pupils drop out. There will be walks in the Gower over several weekends to practise navigation and camp craft, as well as an expedition over 2 days, with overnight camping. Pupils will need to attend **all** these dates and will need to arrange their own transport to get to the training walk locations.

Completion of the Volunteering, Skill and Physical sections must be done in your child's own time (1 hour per week) and it is your responsibility as a parent/guardian to **ensure that the activity is properly managed and insured, and that the adults are suitably qualified and checked**. As there are limited spaces, pupils who do not engage with the award and make effort towards completing these sections may be removed from the award, allowing a pupil on the waiting list their opportunity.

More information about the award can be found online on the DofE's website using the following link: (or google 'DofE a guide for parents' and click the first link).

https://www.dofe.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Parents-Info-Booklet-A4.pdf

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Collins

Headteacher – Miss K. S. Lawlor M(Ed.) BA (Hons) - Prifathrawes

What costs are involved?

There is a £33 enrolment fee to the DofE charity to access the award online and receive a welcome pack. There is also a £150 payment to the school to help fund the running of the award (£50 refunded when kit is returned in its original condition).

Your child will also need the correct clothing / equipment to do the expedition too. We can provide some of this equipment but your child is welcome to use their own if preferred.

What we will provide	What you will need
Tent Roll mat (sleeping mat) Trangia (cooking stove) Rucksack Maps Compass	Walking boots (not trainers) Walking socks / thick socks Walking trousers (leggings and polyester joggers are fine but nothing cotton and no jeans) Waterproof coat Waterproof trousers Warm and compact sleeping bag Warm clothing e.g. fleece, gloves, hat Personal first aid kit and a survival bag Head torch **Optional extras but they do help!** Hydration pack Walking poles

Dates of training and expedition (2027)

- Training walk 1 Sunday 31st of January
- Training walk 2 - Sunday 28th of February
- Training walk 3 - Sunday 11nd of April
- Training walk 4 – Sunday the 18th of April
- Expedition – Friday 30th of April & Saturday the 1st of May (bank holiday weekend).