



Dear Participant,

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME - GATEWAYS OPEN AWARD CENTRE

Thank you for your interest in joining the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme at our Open Centre. The Award has been running successfully at Gateways School for many years now and the school is licenced to offer the opportunity to participate to the local community. I run the Award Scheme at Gateways - I am a fully qualified and experienced D of E leader with many years' experience. I hold mountaineering and first aid qualifications, as do the other staff involved. All staff have DBS checks in place.

The Award is justifiably popular and is highly regarded within the community for its many positive aspects. The Award gives participants opportunities to try out new skills, keep fit, make new friends and learn to become more independent and self-confident. Completion of an Award is a real achievement and requires true commitment, good organisational skills, initiative and the willingness to take on responsibility. However, you should consider carefully before you decide whether to apply to join the Scheme as it will take up a substantial proportion of your leisure time and will invariably produce conflicts with other commitments, such as coursework, family outings, etc. Participants must be in U4/Y9 to join.

There is keen competition for places and we may be over-subscribed. We therefore operate a fair and thorough selection process. We are able to offer up to 30 places on the Award Scheme, which allows us to run six expedition groups across Bronze, Silver and Gold.

The cost for the Bronze Award this year is £300.00, for Silver it is £345 and Gold £390.

This includes the following:

- Participation Pack / eDofE Licence
- DLC administration fee
- Trust and Award Insurance
- Expedition training and assessment
- Equipment Hire
- Campsite Fees
- Ongoing support for all Sections.

The equipment hire element of the enrolment cost includes stoves, fuel, and maps as well as tents, sleeping mats, rucksacks and waterproofs, all kindly and generously subsidised by The Friends of Gateways. All other kit must be supplied by participants, but the most costly item is usually walking boots. A school equipment deposit fee of £50 will be required on issue of expedition kit, - this is refundable on return of equipment at the end of the Expeditions - the cheque will not be cashed but held as a deposit and returned at the end of the Expeditions.

To apply for a place, please complete and return the application form, with payment. (Cheques made payable to Gateways Educational Trust).

Please do not hesitate to contact me on dofe@gatewaysschool.co.uk should you require any further information. There will be an information evening at Gateways School, Harewood, on 20th September at 1800 hrs.

Yours sincerely,

Tracy Sockett
Award Scheme Co-ordinator