

Langley Park School for Girls

Enabling everyone to thrive – acting with kindness, determination and respect.



Headteacher: Mr S Whittle, MA (Cantab), PGCE, NPQH

18th December 2025

Dear Families,

We write with an update on our exciting **Gold** DofE Award plans taking shape for this year.

We have offered Gold DofE enrolments and support in previous years but are delighted to have sufficient interest this year to run expeditions as well.

Gold DofE is a considerable step up in commitment from previous levels, but there is no need to have taken part previously in Bronze or Silver Awards. We aim to support participants through the majority of their Gold sections during their time at LPGS, while recognising that they have until they are 25 to complete their full awards.

Please see the attached notes and browse the information on the www.DofE.org website

A summary of commitments is presented below but more detail is available in the accompanying notes section:

- Meet as a Gold DofE group throughout the year, from January 2026 onwards
- Manage the workload of coursework and exam preparation alongside the Gold award
- Take responsibility for their own programme planning and time management
- Complete their expedition section. This could be with us or through a wide range of other opportunities open to them.
- Take part in a joint residential activity with others who they generally do not know yet

Completion of the above are some of the variety of reasons that the award is so valued by employers when students enter the world of work.

In relation to the expedition, the following dates are available for the LPGS bell-boat expeditions, and we will need to book these in early January to secure them. A considerable discount is available for participants booking through school (Cost £535 or £630 if you book directly through the AAP) and we have 16 spaces available. If Sixth Form students are in receipt of a bursary and wish to use this towards the cost of the expeditions, they should submit a bursary request online.

Training Day - Sunday 8th March 2026

Practice – Friday, 10th – Sunday, 12th April 2026

Qualifier – Monday, 13th – Thursday, 16th July (provisional dates).

(Alternative AAP dates are 21st – 24th July)

<https://www.benbulladenadventures.co.uk/d-of-e-expedition/bell-boating/>

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Other opportunities, including hiking, sailing, riding and cycling, can be arranged, through school if there is sufficient interest, or independently through a DofE Approved Activity Provider (AAP), within the UK or further afield. Please check with the AAP if adaptations and adjustments can be made for particular requirements or disabilities. Please see this link for some ideas. <https://www.dofe.org/opportunity-finder/opportunity-for-dofe-participant/?&level=gold>

If your child would like to proceed, as a first step, we are taking applications for the Gold enrolment. Please arrange to pay the DofE Gold enrolment fee of £45, available under Products on MCAS, 'Gold DofE enrolment Yr 12/13 2025/26' as soon as possible, and by 10th January 2026 at the latest. You are not at this stage committing to any expedition or other costs.

Please ask your child to complete the Gold Programme Plan form on Firefly via this [link](#), and also the consent form via the following [link](#), deadline of 10th January 2026.

We look forward to working with our Gold DofE participants and congratulate them on the dedication, perseverance and commitments they are already demonstrating with this enrolment. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss any aspect of the Gold DofE Award programme via email at DOE@lpgs.bromley.sch.uk. Please mark the subject of your email as 'GOLD'.

Finally, I would like to draw to the attention of all LPGS Sixth Formers and their families the following support and inspiration for young people exploring ideas for their futures. <https://www.dofe.org/your-future-path>

Wishing you a peaceful school holiday break.

Yours faithfully,

Jane Laurence
DofE Coordinator

Notes for letter to Gold DofE families December 2025

These notes outline the requirements of the Gold Award, as well as the cost and time your child might need to spend on it. I would be grateful if you would read this carefully, whilst discussing with your child the commitment involved.

Time Scales and Sections

Participants who have completed all four sections of the DofE Silver Award can complete the Gold Award within 12 months. For those who have not, it will take them a minimum of 18 months. (If a student enrolls for Gold and then goes on to finish off their Silver in the meantime, this will reduce the timescales for their ongoing Gold programme.)

Achieving the Gold DofE Award involves completing five sections of activity: Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Residential and Expedition. Participants are expected to complete the first four sections independently, although guidance and support is available. Full details of the timescales and requirements are available here

<https://www.dofe.org/do/timescales/>

Some activities might be undertaken in school, for instance through music lessons or co-curricular activities.

We also have exciting opportunities for the Volunteering section for LPGS participants at LPGS, as DofE Young Leaders and Ambassadors, and would encourage many of our Gold participants to take part in this.

<https://www.dofe.org/young-leaders>

<https://www.dofe.org/thelatest/youth-ambassadors-national-youth-strategy/>

Here are a few Skills section ideas you may not have considered, although many others will occur to you, and there is no need to pay for your section activities.

<https://www.dofe.org/shop/your-dofe/skills-opportunities-2/>

Expedition Dates and Costs

Participants must complete two expeditions, one as a practice and the other to be assessed. Some students opting for Gold DofE will complete both of their expeditions through the school. Some participants may prefer to pursue different modes of travel, such as sailing, cycling, walking, horse-riding or canoeing, or be unable to attend our training, practice and qualifying dates due to other commitments, so will instead arrange their expedition(s) using an Approved Activity Provider (AAP). It is possible to do both expeditions with us, or if the dates offered clash with other commitments, both with an AAP, or one with school and another with an AAP. The same mode of travel is required for both practice and qualifying expeditions.

Costs will vary depending on your child's preferences, please do discuss with us in advance any ideas you/they are considering. Booking directly through an AAP allows you flexibility and a wide choice of dates and locations, with students arranging their own travel. Please satisfy yourselves as to the safety and suitability of the proposals for your students. They may book as a group or individually. Booking through school can have cost savings, and a member of LPGS staff usually will be present.

First Aid

All participants who have not completed first aid training in the last 3 years should follow a first aid course before the expeditions. One example is the online [First Aid for Teenagers course](#), but other reputable ones are available. We would like to run a course in-house at LPGS with experienced trainers whom we know well if there is sufficient interest, and this will include the outdoor elements so relevant to our expeditions. Please indicate on the Consent form.

Kit for expeditions.

Most AAP's will include use of basic and safety expedition kit as part of their booking. Participants may need particular personal kit depending on mode of travel. For example

- Compass
- Expedition waterproofs, jacket and trousers
- Sturdy walking boots with good ankle support for a two 5-day walking expeditions
- 70l rucksack with good shoulder support and chest and hip belts, fitted with advice at point of purchase, for walking expeditions
- Dry bags for paddling or sailing expeditions and water shoes or old trainers which will get wet

- 3/4 season sleeping bag, 'mummy' style with pull cord at face/shoulders
- Sleeping roll mat
- Tents, buoyancy aids, safety harnesses are usually supplied
- Bikes or horses! - check with the AAP

Many bargains are on offer during the sales, and DofE participants also get discounts at the main high street and online outdoor kit suppliers, but some items may need to be measured to fit nearer the time of the expeditions. Full kit lists will be supplied when considering an expedition booking.

Residential

At Gold level, participants have a fifth section challenge - taking part in a joint Residential activity with others whom they generally do not know yet, but will make life-long friendships through shared endeavour and experiences. We will be giving them a flavour of the sort of activities they may like to consider for their Residential section, though most will make their arrangements during school holidays, or after their final U6 exams, or when following future pathways, and saving up the costs themselves.