

## Second payment due

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Please can you make the final payment of **£60** for your Gold expedition this year as soon as possible. This can be by ParentPay or cheque to the Finance office.

## Expedition planning day - Early warning!

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This year we have changed the arrangements for gold expedition planning. It will now take place on one Saturday rather than over two evenings. All students are required to attend on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2020 from 10am to 3pm in B3.3 to plan their routes for the July expedition. Attendance is compulsory and if working, students must book time off to attend.

## The Gold Residential

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This extra section for Gold is one that presents many problems for both us and students. It must satisfy a range of criteria and school trips are not appropriate for this part of the Award. Students are encouraged to search online for opportunities and come and see us if they cannot find anything suitable.

It is good to see that several students have planned or carried out their residential. Unfortunately we haven't been able to sign off any of these as complete. Here is a reminder of the process that must be followed:

Find a suitable residential and complete a <b>RESIDENTIAL APPROVAL FORM</b>	Scan this form and <b>upload it to eDofE</b> (no need for DofE staff signatures as we accept it online. Email us as well to say it's there!	Wait for it to be approved <b>BEFORE</b> you book or pay for anything	Once approval is granted, book it, pay and go (taking the assessor report card with you)!	At the end of the residential get the assessor to <b>FULLY</b> fill in the report card (after the event it's too late to find out they didn't sign it or include contact details). If they offer to send you a letter as a report, try to insist they complete the proper report card there and then or it can be done online at <a href="http://edofe.org/assessor">edofe.org/assessor</a> .	Upload the assessor report and tell us (or tell us they have done it online)!
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Information about what makes a suitable residential and the approval form can be found here:

<http://www.arthurterry.bham.sch.uk/dofe/gold-award/>

## The Final Expedition - Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2020

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There will be more details on this after Easter but the dates are shown above for reference - **please consider this before booking any holidays!** This year we will be going to Snowdonia. We would strongly suggest that students get plenty of walking and navigation practice in before the summer! Some students found the practice very challenging and only have one opportunity to pass the assessment.

**Year 13 students will not be permitted to attend the assessed expedition this year unless they have completed at least two activities.**

## Finishing Gold!

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We expect Year 13 students to have completed their award by September 2020 so that we can try to arrange a group trip to the Palace! There is currently at least a 6-month waiting list after awards are completed before a date for the Gold Presentation can be offered.

The final section of a Gold Award cannot be approved until students have completed their 'Gold Award Presentation Request' so please keep a look out for this on eDofE. It should be filled in before you complete your last section.

## The DofE Team