



## The Gold Residential 2018

Dear D of E Participant,

I work as the Development Officer for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Neath Port Talbot. I am employed by Neath Port Talbot Youth Service to assist schools and youth groups in delivering the D of E and promote and develop new D of E units. As part of my role I deliver an Open Gold Centre for young people that wish to complete the Gold Award, one of the things we deliver is a Gold Residential.

### What is the residential?

The residential section is an extra challenge that features in the Gold Award only (you must be 16 to take part). For the residential section participants are required to spend four nights away from home with a group of people they generally do not know. The week must have some kind of constructive purpose and will give you the opportunity to take on new challenges, have a completely new experience and make new friends.



## What is the Neath Port Talbot Residential?

Every year I run a Gold residential, secondary schools from across Neath Port Talbot are given places on this residential so it's a great chance for you to meet new people from the area, you can then continue with the Neath Port Talbot **Open Gold Centre** for the rest of your Gold Award, further information about the NPT **Open Gold Centre** is on page 4 of this document.

**It is important to note** that you don't have to do this specific residential in order to do your Gold D of E with the **NPT Open Gold Centre**. It may be that you would rather do a different residential (there are literally hundreds of things you can do, go to the DofE website for more info). Or you may not be able to make the dates for this residential. Either way you can still join the Open Gold Centre for the expedition training, just email me if you are in this situation to reserve a place with the centre.

This year the residential will focus on creating and delivering a fun and creative activity day for a group of young carers from Neath Port Talbot aged between 11 and 16. Young carers are young people that have to care for a person that has a serious illness, normally a family member. This obviously restricts their opportunity to do things for themselves and socialise with other young people so the activity day we provide is an opportunity for them to have a great time, and for you to do something really worthwhile.

### The structure of the week:

- During days 1 & 2 of your residential you will undertake some teambuilding and outdoor activities to help you to quickly get to know each other and develop the skills you will need to work as an effective team. You will also begin planning the activity day that you will be delivering for the young carers.
- Day three will comprise of setting up and testing the activities and planning all the details of the activity day.
- Day four will be delivering the activity day itself.



# Are you ready for the challenge?

## Further Information:

### 1– Arrangements for the 2018 Residential

- a) The event will take place between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of August.
- b) Participants will need to arrive at Borfa House in Port Eynon (SA3 1NN) at midday on the 20<sup>th</sup> and we will finish at 3pm on the 24<sup>th</sup>.
- c) Accommodation will be in bunk rooms and we will be self catering so the participants will work in groups and take it in turns to provide meals.
- d) The cost of the residential is £150 per head to cover all food, accommodation and activities. The week is heavily subsidised by Neath Port Talbot Youth Service. Please pay with a cheque made out to NPTCBC.
- e) The week will include adventurous activities such as surfing and the groups take part in team building activities. Being located close the beach participants often go for a swim in the sea in the evening if the weather is good. There are not lifeguards present but this is supervised by a member of staff.

### What to do next:

- 1 Carefully read the next page about the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award and be sure you understand what the Gold D of E requires and that you want to complete the entire Gold award before signing up for the residential.
- 2 There is a **2** page parental consent form in this information pack which needs be completed and returned to me at the address below along with the cheque (£150 made out to NPTCBC)
- 3 After the consent form there is also a participant contact information form which needs to be returned with the cheque and consent form so I have your email address & mobile number to contact you about arrangements
- 4 I will be in touch with further information such as a kit list etc nearer the time, if you have any questions then please don't hesitate to give me a call or email.
- 5 Prepare yourselves for a fantastic experience!!!!

**Neil Hapgood –**

**Duke of Edinburgh's Award  
Development Officer**

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**Web: [www.nptdofe.co.uk](http://www.nptdofe.co.uk)**

**Email: [n.hapgood@npt.gov.uk](mailto:n.hapgood@npt.gov.uk)**

**Post: Llangatwg Comprehensive School,  
Cadoxton, Neath, SA10 8DB**

## The Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Where This Journey Will Take You

It is important to note that the Annual Residential is the beginning of a far longer journey. The residential is often the first section participants will complete of their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. As with the other D of E levels participants will also need to undertake activities for the volunteering, physical recreation and skill sections. You can do the same activities you did for bronze or silver or find new ones, it is worth noting that many Gold participants use learning to drive as the activity for their skill section.

**Participants do not need to have completed their Bronze or Silver Award, they can go on to Gold as a direct entrant.** However if they have completed their Silver award then the Gold Award will take six months less than for direct entrants.

In Neath Port Talbot we have an **Open Gold Centre** which will deliver the expedition section of the Award. The young people meet at the centre in Cadoxton once or twice a month where they go to the Brecon Beacons for expedition training. Each year the final expedition is completed in Dartmoor. The young people have a fantastic eight days where they complete the four day expedition in Dartmoor and then had a further four days relaxing and recovering after the expedition and completing various optional activities in Devon and Cornwall. For more info on the centre then please go to the Open Gold Centre page of [www.nptdofe.co.uk](http://www.nptdofe.co.uk), it is worth having a look at the exped training programme for the 2016/17 group to give you an idea as to the commitment required.

The value of gaining the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award cannot be underestimated, especially as the job market is currently so competitive. In 2012 BBC news ran 4 articles outlining the huge amount of graduates applying for graduate jobs, one company reported 12,000 applications for 50 places with the average application ratio amongst the top 100 graduate employers being 86:1. The head of recruitment for the firm that had the most applications per place stated:

"For us, graduates who stand out from the mix are those that combine academic and non-academic skills and experiences. Leading a local or university sports team, carrying out voluntary or charity work and undertaking activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award that demonstrate going the extra mile to reach individual potential, is favoured over first-class honours."

Clearly the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and all the experiences you will have along the way, will have a fantastic impact on your employability, and you will have an unforgettable time too!

This is the 10<sup>th</sup> annual residential & feedback from the previous residential has always been excellent:

*'The best week ever thank you so much!'*

*'I have had the best experience ever, and made amazing friends and still have the expedition and stuff to come! It has been amazing thank you soooo much for the chance'*

*'I have learnt loads! Met some amazing people, the gorge walking was the BEST thing I have EVER done, I can't wait for the expedition stuff to start.'*

All the participants have always had a really enjoyable and exciting week where they have enjoyed new experiences, learnt new skills and gained friends for life. Please ensure you are familiar with the requirements of the Gold Award and wish to undertake such a commitment before applying for the residential. If you have any questions regarding the Gold Award then please contact Neil Hapgood

## PARENTAL CONSENT FOR A VISIT OR PROJECT

**Group: Neath Port Talbot Open Gold Centre.**

**Young Person:**..... **D.O.B:**.....

1. **Details of visit/project:** 5 day Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold Residential including adventurous outdoor activities such as surfing and team building activities.

**Venue - Borfa House, Port Eynon**

**From:** Date – 20/08/2018 **To:** Date – 24/08/2018

I agree for my son/daughter .....Taking part in this visit/project **and feel I have received sufficient information on the project.** I agree to his/her participation in any or all of the activities described. I acknowledge the need for responsible behaviour on his/her part.

### 2. Publicity:

Photographs of your son/daughter may be taken during the visit/activity/project for publicity purposes, the photographs may appear in the youth club portfolio, Neath Port Talbot Youth Service exhibitions and website. **Personal details of your child will remain confidential.**

I agree / disagree (delete as appropriate) for my son/daughter ..... to be included in relevant publicity material

### 3. Medical information:

- a) Does your son/daughter suffer from any conditions requiring medical treatment, including medication or any phobias?

**YES / NO**

If YES, please give brief details .....

- b) Please outline the type of pain/flu relief medication your child may be given if necessary - ie Paracetamol or Ibuprofen

.....

- c) Is your son/daughter allergic to any medication? **YES / NO**

If YES please specify .....

- d) To the best of your knowledge, has your son/daughter been in contact with any contagious or infectious diseases or suffered from anything in the last four weeks that may be or become contagious or infectious?

**YES / NO**

If YES, please give brief details .....

- e) Please outline any special dietary requirements your child may have.

.....

- f) Has your son/daughter received a tetanus injection **YES / NO**  
in the last five years?

I undertake to inform the Youth Worker/Project Leader as soon as possible of any changes in the medical circumstances between the date on which this form is signed and the completion of the residential.

**4. Declaration:**

I agree to my son/daughter receiving medication as instructed and any emergency dental treatment, medical or surgical treatment, including anaesthetic, as considered necessary by the authorities present. I understand the extent and limitations of the insurance cover provided.

Named Home Contact:.....

Relationship to Young Person.....

Work Tel No: ..... Home Tel No: .....

Home Address: .....  
.....  
.....

**Alternative emergency contact:**

Name: .....

Relationship to Young Person:.....

Telephone Number: .....

Address:.....  
.....  
.....

**Family Doctor contact:**

Doctor Name: .....

Telephone Number: .....

Address:.....  
.....  
.....

Date:..... Signed: .....

Full Name (capitals): .....

**THIS FORM OR A COPY MUST BE TAKEN BY THE GROUP LEADER ON THE VISIT AND ANY RELEVANT INFORMATION GIVEN TO THE YOUTH WORKERS AND SUPERVISORS.**

A COPY SHOULD BE RETAINED AT THE PROJECT BASE

Participant information form (please complete and return with the cheque and consent form):

Name .....

What secondary school did/do you go to.....

What is your mobile number (so I can send you texts if I need to about the residential).....

What is your email address (please write this very carefully and ensure you get the upper/lower case right as this is the main way I will send you information about what you will need for the residential and arrangements).....

**Neil Hapgood –**

**Duke of Edinburgh's Award  
Development Officer**

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**Mob:**

**Web:**

**Email:**

**Post:**

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