

Update to **GOLD AWARD CELEBRATION EVENTS**

In May 2022 we were delighted to restart Gold Award celebration events following a two-year hiatus caused by the pandemic. We reimagined the format, placing the celebration of young people's achievements at the heart of the events and enabling young people and their guests to create an experience that was meaningful for them, introducing light refreshments for attendees and providing options of activities for guests to engage with – including a variety of inspirational speakers.

The feedback from the events in 2022 was incredibly positive; going forward, we will continue holding celebration events outdoors, and will no longer be holding events at St James's Palace. This will enable us to take a consistent approach to the format of Gold Award celebration events across the various event locations.

You'll notice we've also updated the title of these events to reflect the new format – **instead of Gold Award Presentations, these events are now known as Gold Award celebration events.**

When and where will the 2023 Gold Award celebration events be held?



MAY

Two Gold Award celebration events in the gardens of Buckingham Palace



JUNE

One Gold Award celebration event at Hillsborough Castle



JULY

One Gold Award celebration event at the Palace of Holyroodhouse



**YOUTH
WITHOUT
LIMITS**

Update to

GOLD AWARD CELEBRATION EVENT processes

As part of the new format, we have made some changes to the processes around Gold Award celebration events, including:

➔ Changes to the invitation process

- Dispatching Gold Award Certificates and badges/brooches
- Updated email address

The invitation process

As we return to a regular pattern of events, we want all Gold Award holders to receive an invitation to a celebration event within 12 months of achieving their Award.

To enable as many young people to attend a Gold Award celebration event as possible, should they wish to, we are making a change to our policy and process around invitations.

Previously, young people got two countable opportunities to attend a Gold Award event, and if they were unable to attend on the dates that they were offered, they were removed from the invitation list.



New approach

- Young people can **remain on the list for up to five years** after they achieve their Gold Award.
- If they decline their invitation to an event, they will be **returned to the invitation list and invited to the next available event** in their preferred location.
- If they are unable to attend within five years of achieving their Award, they will be removed from the invitation list and instead receive a certificate presentation folder through the post.
- For those who achieved **prior to the end of 2020, they can remain on the waiting list until 2026**, as they missed two years of events.

If we don't hear from a young person or they don't reply to an invitation we will assume that they no longer wish to attend an event. They will be removed from the invitation list and will be sent a certificate presentation folder. It therefore remains imperative that a young person responds to all invitations that they receive, even if they can't attend. To help ensure that young people receive their invitations and can respond, please do encourage them to make sure that their contact details remain up to date on the "Gold Award celebration event" page of eDofE.

We hope that this is a positive change and will support young people to attend when it is convenient for them.

Young people who don't wish to attend a celebration event can continue to choose to receive a certificate presentation folder. This bespoke folder is only available to those young people who don't attend a celebration event and is not available to purchase.



- Changes to the invitation process

➔ **Dispatching Gold Award Certificates and badges/brooches**

- Updated email address

Dispatching Gold Award Certificates and Gold Award badges / brooches

Since 2021 Gold Award badges / brooches have been posted directly to young people's home addresses the month after they achieve their Award.

As the format of Gold Award events has evolved, there is no longer an opportunity for young people to be individually presented with their certificate at their celebration event. In 2022, young people were sent their Gold Award certificate with their official invitations to the Gold Award celebration, approximately three weeks ahead of the event. We will be continuing with the same approach this year.

All young people who achieve their Award from 1 April 2023 will receive their Gold Award Certificate with their Gold Award badge / brooch to their home address in the month after their achievement. This will enable them to celebrate their achievements with family and friends ahead of attending an event, as well as being able to use their certificate for employment or education applications and interviews.

By posting out the certificates at the time of completion, it also means that Licensed Organisations who wish to do a local celebration event can ask the young people to bring their certificates in to be presented to them.

Gold Award holders who don't wish to attend a Gold Award celebration event can request to receive their Gold Award Certificate in a bespoke certificate presentation folder. The folder includes a photograph of our founder HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and our Trustee HRH The Earl of Wessex together at Windsor Castle, as well as a statement of congratulations from HRH The Earl of Wessex. This unique folder is only available to those who choose not to attend a celebration event and isn't available to purchase. Young people can choose to receive a folder at the time of achieving their Gold Award, or can request to come off the invitation list and receive the folder at any time.





- Changes to the invitation process
- Dispatching Gold Award Certificates and badges/brooches

➔ Updated email address

Updated email address

To reflect our change of identity from Gold Award Presentations to Gold Award celebration events, we will be phasing out the following email addresses:

GAP@DofE.org

NIGAP@DofE.org

GAPScotland@DofE.org

Our main correspondence email address will be

GoldAwardCelebrations@DofE.org

In addition to this, each event venue will have their own email address to help manage enquiries; young people will be contacted from these venue-specific email addresses when they receive their invitations.



We hope that these changes will allow all young people who achieve their Gold Award to celebrate this huge accomplishment in the way they want to.