

February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Year 9 Bronze 2020/21

I am delighted to inform you that The Kings of Wessex Academy has a dedicated Co-ordinator for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. My role is to support students in all sections of their DofE journey. I will be monitoring students' progress throughout their award and will be available to support students in finding suitable evidence for each section of the award.

The Academy is delighted to be able to offer Year 9 students the opportunity to enrol on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Bronze this term. This award currently has three elements to it; Volunteering, Physical and Skills. Participants will be awarded a Certificate of Achievement. At this moment due to COVID-19 restrictions, there is no expedition section to achieving the award. If there is an opportunity to complete an expedition at a later date the award will be upgraded to a full certificate.

Students who decide they would like to take part in the award will develop team skills and gain experience of working with others, developing their practical skills and physical stamina. The qualification may lead onto participation in the Silver award in Year 10 and 11.

An information presentation will be shared to parents via Firefly and will also be available to view on the Academy website.

To support students working towards their Bronze Award, specialist support and guidance will be available through direct emails to the co-ordinator, this will ensure the following:

- Participants are registered to the scheme online and understand how to use their record books and upload their evidence files
- Participants have appropriate placements for the volunteer element
- Participants have identified an appropriate skill element
- Participants have appropriate evidence for the physical element

This year the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme has changed. Participants will receive their Welcome Pack to their home address after they have logged on and completed their on-line profile. Participants will receive their username and password via email directly from the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme to their parent/carer address provided to the co-ordinator on the enrolment form.

Participants complete the volunteering, skills and physical elements in their own time. They will upload their evidence on to an eDofE profile to show completion of each section. Participants will need to identify suitable placements and assessors for each of these sections and complete all sections. This year, to ensure that students are committed to the award; only those students who have started all sections of the award and entered this information on their eDofE account by 1st June 2021 will go forward to be offered the opportunity to complete

an expedition as and when it is safe to do so. All sections of their award will need to be completed before a place on the assessed expedition will be guaranteed.

The expedition training, practice and assessed sections will be run by an AALA external provider. COVID-19 risk assessments will be completed before any expedition can take place. Somerset Adventures will provide all the support and training required for the entire expedition section. Students will be required to attend all the training, the practice expedition walk and the two-day assessment expedition. The training and expedition days will be for The Kings of Wessex students only. I will be present for a day at the training, practice and assessed expeditions.

The total cost of the Bronze Award will be £175.00.

This includes:

- Registration on the Award Scheme and creation of an online eDofE profile
- Bronze participant pack and booklet – received through the post
- Expedition training, practice and assessment
- Use of all group camping equipment, stoves, maps, compasses and all campsite fees
- Weekly drop-in support sessions (when the school is fully reopened) with a qualified DofE trainer and expedition leader

Participants will need to provide their own personal clothing, footwear, rucksack and sleeping bag and tick remover for undertaking a walking expedition in the hills. Detailed kit lists will be issued at the first training session. The county run a loan scheme for most personal items. Details can be found at the following website; www.somersetyouth.co.uk/club/youth_equipment_store/167

If you would like your child to participate in the award, we ask that you return the full amount for the registration fee to the Scheme of £30.00. When it is safe to do so students will be offered the opportunity to participate in the expedition, at this time a deposit towards the expedition of £75.00 will be required. Payment is made online via ParentPay. If you are unable to pay online, you can pay by cash at a store showing the Paypoint Logo. You will need a Paypoint letter which is available from the school office. The letter has a barcode which is unique to this activity. The registration fee of £30.00 must be made by Monday 19 April 2021.

Please email the attached parental consent form and the DofE Enrolment form to the school office for the attention of Esther Bryans, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator.

As with all Academy trips students will be expected to uphold the reputation of the Academy, therefore exceptional behaviour is expected at all times throughout the day and in the lead up to the trip.

Yours sincerely



Esther Bryans
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator
ebryans@kovessex.co.uk

PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

The Kings of Wessex Academy, Cheddar

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award Training and Assessment

As parent/carer of _____ Tutor Group _____

I have read, fully understood and am satisfied with the details supplied regarding the above mentioned activity and agree to my son/daughter taking part in it.

I acknowledge that my son/daughter needs to complete all sections of the DofE award before he/she will be allowed to move forward with undertaking the expedition training.

I give my permission to be contacted by email in connection with Duke of Edinburgh. My email address is

I have read, fully understood and am satisfied with the details supplied about the above-mentioned activity and agree to my son/daughter taking part in it. I know of no medical reason why he/she should not participate. I am aware that

- a) Except for visits abroad, insurance arrangements are the same as those for pupils in the Academy, i.e. only provides cover if negligence is proven or accepted by the Academy and/or its employees.
- b) I should consider making my own insurance arrangements for personal accident cover for my son/daughter for Academy activities in the UK
- c) If a medical condition is diagnosed after final payment parents may choose to withdraw their child. Equally if the Academy feel they cannot accommodate the student within the pre-existing arrangement for the trip, the Academy reserve the right to withdraw the student place.

Signed _____ Date _____

**PLEASE EMAIL THIS FORM TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE FOR THE ATTENTION OF
ESTHER BRYANS, DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD COORDINATOR**

