

October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Duke of Edinburgh Achievement Award – Year 9 Bronze 2021/22

I am delighted to introduce myself as the Kings of Wessex Academy's dedicated D of E Award Co-ordinator. 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 Achievement Bronze Award this term. This Award has three elements; Volunteering, Physical and Skills. At this point there is no expedition section requirement to achieving the Award. If an expedition is completed in due course, then the award is upgraded to a full certificate. An expedition is planned for the Summer Term and students are invited to sign up for it.

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 10/11.

An information evening was recently held at the Academy to introduce the Award. The presentation from the evening can be found on Firefly or the Academy website for those parents who were unable to attend.

To support students working towards their Bronze Award, specialist support and guidance will be available through direct emails to the Co-ordinator, which 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
- Organise if required, for participants to complete expedition training, practice and qualifier expeditions. This element of the Award will be delivered by a DofE Approved Activity Provider (see below)
- Support for Participants to plan their expedition routes once training has taken place

This year the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme has changed to accommodate ongoing Covid restrictions. Welcome packs will be sent directly to participants' home addresses once they have logged on to the DoE website and completed their online profile. Participants will receive their username and password via email to the parent/carer email address provided on the enrolment form. This will be sent directly from the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

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 February 2022 will go forward to be offered the opportunity to undertake the expedition. All sections of their Award will need to be completed before a place on the assessed expedition can be guaranteed.

The expedition training, practice and assessed sections will be run by an AALA external provider. All Covid risk assessments are undertaken before any expedition is undertaken. Somerset Adventures will provide all the support and training required for the entire expedition section. Students will be required to attend all the training outlined below as well as the practice expedition walk and the two-day assessment expedition. The training and expedition days are for The Kings of Wessex students only. I will be present for a day at the training, practice and assessed expeditions.

The expedition dates are as follows:

Training Days – Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd April 2022, in school

Practice Expedition – 7th - 8th May 2022, Quantocks

Assessment Expedition – 11th – 12th June 2022, Exmoor

The total cost of the Bronze Award will be **£209**.

This includes:

- Registration on the Award Scheme and creation of online eDofE profile (£32.00)
- Bronze participant pack and booklet – received through the post
- Expedition training, practice and assessment (£177)
- Use of all group camping equipment, stoves, maps, compasses and all campsite fees
- Weekly drop-in support sessions 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 pay the registration fee of £32.00. If students wish to complete the full Award, a non-refundable deposit towards the Expedition of £100 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 and Expedition non-refundable deposit must be made by the end of the Christmas Holiday.

Please forward the attached parental consent form and the DofE Enrolment form to the school office for the attention of Esther Bryans, Duke of Edinburgh Award Co-ordinator.

As with all Academy trips, students will be expected to uphold the reputation of the Academy and, therefore, exceptional behaviour is expected at all times throughout the day and in the lead-up to the trip. Absence following a school activity (for example: tiredness due to a late return, or sore feet following an extensive day walking) will not be authorised unless medical certification is provided. Without this evidence, students may not be allowed to attend further Academy enrichment activities.

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 Award Training and Assessment

As parent/carer of _____ Tutor Group _____

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 _____

Parent Name _____

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