

September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Duke of Edinburgh's Achievement Award – Year 9 Bronze 2024/25

I am delighted to inform you that Kings Academy has a dedicated Coordinator especially 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 Achievement Award, Bronze this term. This Award has four elements Volunteering, Physical, Skills and the Expedition.

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 Introduction to the Award Evening has been held and the presentation will be on the website under the DofE section for those who could not make it.

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 what to record 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 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)

After enrolment, participants will receive their username and password via email directly from the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme to their parent/guardian address provided to the coordinator on the enrolment form. Participants will receive their Welcome Pack straight to their home address after they have logged on and completed their on-line profile for the first time.

Participants complete the volunteering, skills and physical elements in their own time and choose an appropriate assessor for each section. The assessor must not be a relative. They will upload their evidence and assessor reports 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. Blank assessor reports are contained within the Welcome Pack. Assessors need to complete these and then students upload these to their online profile, or assessors can log onto the website www.dofe.org/assessor and complete an online report.

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 1 January 2025 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 will be guaranteed.

The Expedition training, practice and assessed sections will be run by an AALA external provider. Please note that there is a behaviour, phone use and expected Expedition clothing policy that will be shared in due course with anyone who is offered a place

on the Expedition. All 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 alongside the two-day practice and assessment expedition. The training and Expedition days are for The Kings Academy 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 26 and Sunday 27 April 2025, in school

Practice Expedition – Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 May 2025 on the Mendips/Quantocks TBC

Assessment Expedition – Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 June 2025, Quantocks/Exmoor TBC

The total cost of the Bronze Award will be **£270**

This includes:

- Registration on the Award Scheme and creation of online DofE profile
- Bronze participant pack and booklet – received through the post
- Expedition training and assessment
- 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 manages a 'loan' scheme for most personal items. Please email the coordinator if kit loans are required.

If you would like your child to participate in the Award, we ask that a first payment of £40 be paid, which is the sign up placement fee. This is non-refundable. A non-refundable deposit of £115 towards the Expedition will be required by 31 January 2025. The final expedition payment of £115 is due by 23 March 2025. 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 must be made by the end of October 2024.

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's Award Coordinator.

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.

Yours sincerely

Esther Bryans

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Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator

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