

October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

**Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award – Year 11 (NEW TO SIGN UP)**

I am writing to inform you of your son/daughters interest in taking on the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Scheme at Vale of York Academy. This is an internationally recognized qualification that is highly regarded for job applications, college and university admissions.

The award will involve significant levels of commitment out of school and afterschool from the students as they will need to spend 3-6 months completing volunteer work, developing a skill and a physical aspect of the award. The highlight of the award is the expedition which takes place outside of the exam period, giving students the opportunity to engage with this award and not interrupt study. Students must be organised and not let it interrupt their school year preparations, they will have no exceptions for not doing homework/coursework or keeping to timescales given by their academic teachers.

The staff at the Vale of York Academy and I work really hard to deliver this award and will support pupils throughout, however, students must be motivated and engaged in wanting to achieve this.

After October half term, I will meet with pupils to deliver the essential additional training of navigation, cooking on expedition, camp craft, tent pitching, first aid and lots more. I will see the students in the lead up to expeditions to prepare them fully also.

At present we are keen to relaunch the award for Year 11 and get pupils started on their volunteering, skills and physical sections. Coronavirus has caused much disruption we know to normal running of things, however we are going to closely monitor the situation as we go through the year and then plan further on how best to execute the expedition section in 2021. We plan at present to run the expeditions in June/July of 2021 and we are hopeful things will look better and be easier in our planning for this. For now this does mean that expedition dates are on hold until we have had further guidance from the Department of Education, but we do want to get this award running and pupils working on the other 3 sections.

It is a fantastic award to not only achieve in the end, but to embrace throughout, learning new skills, helping others through volunteering and taking part in physical activity. We strongly urge all students to consider the award and what it will in the future support them with. The volunteering, skills and physical sections can still happen, but just in a slightly new way to support COVID-19 guidance, please see the table overleaf, which gives you some ideas now of what would be safe to do in the current climate. Further ideas and information will be shared with the students once signed up.

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Physical	Volunteering	Skill
Yoga / Boxercise / Pilates	Virtual support for the elderly	Learning to draw
Coach to 5K	St Johns ambulance social media volunteer	Learning musical instruments from watching YouTube
Joe Wicks work outs	Help prepare meal parcels in the community	Learning first aid (online with St Johns)
Fitness challenges – attending school PE clubs afterschool	Prefect / support in school with clubs / student council	Learning to cook at home
Bike riding in the local area	Morocco fundraising	Sign language online

**Key Expedition section dates –**

- **March 2021 - Orienteering at Clifton Ings, afterschool from 4pm – 5.30pm.**
- **March/April - 2 bronze evening walks Year 10 (afterschool) - Dates TBC**
- **Practice Expedition – July 2021 (Hustwaite – Stillington) – Dates to be confirmed**
- **Assessment Expedition – July 2021 (Sheriff Hutton - Castle Howard) Dates TBC**

There is a £40 fee for registering with the award, and this pays for administration, welcome pack and EdofE system log on. Further costs to the award this year will be £60.00 which covers the 2 x 2 day expeditions and camping. This includes transport, campsite fees, equipment borrowing if needed and all the training and activities throughout the year provided by me.

**The full cost of the award is £100.00.**

<b><u>Expenditure (based on 30 people)</u></b>	<b>How much?</b>	<b>Per person</b>	<b>Total</b>
Campsite fees (students) £10 per night for 2 nights	£600.00	£20.00	£600.00
Staff campsite fee's and fuel (based on 5 staff)	£120.00	£4.00	£750.00
Fuel cost for cooking	£30.00	£1.00	£780.00
Minibus hire (6 evenings at £50 a day) (1 MINIBUS)	£300.00	£10.00	£1,080.00
Minibus hire (6 days at £50 a day) (1 MINIBUS)	£300.00	£10.00	£1,380.00
Minibus hire (9 seater for 4 days) - £40 per day.	£150.00	£5.00	£1,530.00
Fuel for minibus for the 2 weekends	£150.00	£5.00	£1,680.00
Fuel for minibus for 6 evening walks	£150.00	£5.00	£1,830.00
Dofe book (bought from CYC)	£1,110.00		
Practice weekend	£30.00		
Assessment weekend	£30.00		
Cost of book and online subscription	£40.00		
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>£100.00</b>		


A full breakdown of costs can be found above which explains where the money is used and to show you we have cut costs as much as we can to make it value for money. If any students struggle with payment for this award, please contact Mr Rampling for a conversation as we would like to ensure there aren't barriers to anyone wanting to undertake this award.

To reserve your place please pay the **deposit of £40.00 and return the attached enrolment form to Mr Rampling in school.** However if you would like to pay the full £100.00 in one lump sum then you're more than welcome.

Payment should be paid on the Schools Parent Pay account. Please pay for this and advise on the attached DofE enrolment form that this has been paid. Please can I have all forms back by **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November (3 weeks)** and these are to be returned to me in PE or school reception.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or issues around this and I look forward to seeing pupils join up to this great award.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr Mark Rampling**  
Head of PE and Enrichment



### Bronze Award (14+)

Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition
3 months	3 months	3 months	Plan, train and complete a 2 day, 1 night expedition. You will do this twice – A Practice and Assessed.
You will also undertake a <b>further</b> 3 months in either the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section.			



Open to all year 10 students – no limits!