

September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award – Year 9**

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 recognised qualification that is highly regarded for job applications, college and university admissions.

The award will involve significant levels of commitment out of school from the students as they will need to spend 3-6 months completing volunteer work, developing a skill and completing a physical aspect of the award. The highlight of the award is the expedition; this gives the pupils the opportunity to be with friends for an overnight in the countryside. Students must be organised and not let it interrupt their school year preparations, there will be no exceptions for not doing homework/ coursework or keeping to timescales given by their teachers.

We work very hard to deliver this award and will support pupils throughout, however, students must be motivated and engaged in wanting to achieve this.

Those pupils who have signed up to the award need to cover essential training of navigation, cooking on expedition, camp craft, tent pitching, first aid and lots more. I will see pupils for a 6hour session and cover this training needed at school – date specified below.

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. Please see the table below which gives you some ideas of each section. Further ideas and information will be shared with the students once they have signed up.

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

**Vale of York Academy**

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Website: [voy.hslt.academy](http://voy.hslt.academy)

### Key Expedition section dates

Proposed dates due to numbers of pupils signing up – confirmed dates will be sent once signed up.

### Training day (9am – 3pm)

- Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2025 (Based in G40 & Gym)

### Practice expedition (8.30am – 3pm)

- Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – Day walk

### Assessed Expedition – (Sheriff Hutton - Castle Howard)

- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June – Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025. Pupils will be out all day on both days and will stay overnight at a campsite in tents.

### Cost of the award

£230 to pay for running award costs, which covers the training day, day walk, expedition and camping. This also includes transport, campsite fees and equipment borrowing.

£28 to pay for DofE enrolment - this pays for administration, welcome pack, certificate and DofE system log on.

£12 to pay towards yearly licence of DofE that the school needs to pay

**Total - £270.00 for the award**

If any students struggle with payment for this award, please contact Mr Rampling as we would like to ensure there aren't barriers to anyone wanting to undertake this award. Payments can be paid in instalments as per below or can be altered if needed.

**DofE Deposit** - £70.00 (Due by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024)

**Instalment 1** - £100.00 (Due by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025)

**Instalment 2** - £100.00 (Due by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025)

To reserve your place please pay the **deposit of £70 and return the attached enrolment form to Mr Rampling in school**. However, if you would like to pay the full £270 at once then please pay the £70 enrolment fee, £100 instalment 1 and £100 instalment 2 on the relevant parent pay tabs.

Payment can only be accepted via Parent Pay. Please complete the attached enrolment form to confirm you have paid.

Please return all forms by **Friday 25th October 2024**, to either myself in PE or school Reception.

Please do not 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 faithfully,



**Mr Mark Rampling**  
**Head of Sport and Enrichment**  
**Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator**

DE THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD		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.			