



31 January 2020

Dear Student, Parent/Carer

Re: The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme at Etonbury Academy

I will now be taking applications from students in Year 8 onto the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme www.dofe.org, for the 2020-2021 Academic year. You are invited to a presentation evening on **Wednesday 5th February 2020 at 18:00**. The purpose of this evening is to outline the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, and to answer any questions or reservations you may have. Please read the below letter before attending the presentation evening.

This letter outlines details of the award, the commitment required and the application process.

In order to complete the award at Bronze level each student has to complete four sections:

- a **physical** section (participants need to show some sort of involvement in a physical activity)
- a **volunteering** section (e.g. giving time to a charity shop, helping at a lower school)
- a **skills** section (e.g. learning to cook, play an instrument etc.)

Participants must do one of their volunteering, physical or skills sections for six months, the other two sections for three months and they must spend 1 hour a week doing each section.

- the **expedition** section; a planned journey and overnight camp lasting two days and one night.

We run a skills training weekend and then participants must carry out a **practice expedition** and finally an **unaccompanied assessment expedition** that will take place in April 2021.

The DofE scheme involves a high level of commitment and unlike an academic subject, participants are expected to manage their own time and keep themselves up to date. Part of the ethos of the programme is a fostering of individual responsibility and while there will be regular meetings to discuss progress; the emphasis is very much on the participant to keep on top of their award.

Only students that have completed the skills, volunteering and physical sections will be able to go forward to the training, practise and final expedition, each of which will take a weekend. As well as a personal and time commitment there is a financial one. The fee for joining the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze programme is currently £80.00; this includes costs for the three expedition weekends away, registration fees, training, group equipment and assessors. Please note that students will be expected to have some essential equipment of their own too. It is essential that applicants are fully committed to the scheme before paying as once enrolled no monies can be refunded. Students are expected to attend all three expeditions.

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Principal: Mr Ian Evason

It is the above outlined demands on time and commitment as well as the discipline and focus on self-reliance that makes the Duke of Edinburgh scheme so valuable in the eyes of universities and potential employers. They are aware of the tremendous effort that you have made to achieve your goals. A Duke of Edinburgh's Award alongside academic qualifications can be enough to set you apart from the rest when it comes to job applications and further education places.

The personal rewards for you can also be significant. The expedition section, planned by you and undertaken with minimal adult interference can be a milestone in your life, offering freedom and responsibility as well as a sense of personal achievement. It gives you the opportunity to visit somewhere and do something you would not normally do.

Application

Applications can take any form; a hand/computer written letter/email of application, a poem or a more formal letter of application.

Tell me why you feel you want to do the award; what qualities and skills do you have that will combine well with the ethos of the award?

Along with the letter of application, applicants must fill in the 'Bitesize Planner' which is at the bottom of this letter – although these choices for sections are not final it shows you have thought about what you want to do and have researched it properly. In order to help you decide what to do for each section, please follow the links below.

Volunteering ideas https://www.dofe.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/programme_ideas_-_volunteering.pdf

Physical ideas https://www.dofe.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/programme_ideas_-_physical.pdf

Skill ideas https://www.dofe.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/programme_ideas_-_skills.pdf

Once the application process has been completed, and if you are successful, a second 'welcome letter' will be sent to participants.

The deadline for applications is **Friday 28th February 2020.**

If you need any more information or have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to meeting you all at the presentation evening.

Yours sincerely



Mr Paul Squires
Duke of Edinburgh Manager

DofE Bronze Award Bitesize planner

This has been designed to help you when setting up your eDofE account.

Your name: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Email address: _____

Your emergency contact's name: _____

Their relationship to you (parent/guardian): _____

Their telephone number: _____

Volunteering section planned start date: ____/____/____ for: **3** or **6** months? (please circle)

Type & details of activity: _____

Where are you going to do it: _____

List personal goals you want to achieve: _____

Your Volunteering section Assessor's name: _____

Their job/position: _____

Assessor's Email or phone number: _____

Physical section planned start date: ____/____/____ for: **3** or **6** months? (please circle)

Type & details of activity: _____

Where are you going to do it: _____

List personal goals you want to achieve: _____

Your Physical section assessor's name: _____

Their job/position: _____

Assessor's Email or phone number: _____

Skills section planned start date: ____/____/____ for: **3** or **6** months? (please circle)

Type & details of activity: _____

Where are you going to do it: _____

List personal goals you want to achieve: _____

Your Skills section Assessor's name: _____

Their job/position: _____

Assessor's Email or phone number: _____