



5 July 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

Subject: Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE), Bronze Programme 2019-20

We are inviting all current Year 8 students to participate in the 2019-20 Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award programme. This award is renowned by employers, schools and universities alike and has been designed to develop and recognise a wide range of physical, intellectual and social skills.

The 4 sections

The award includes four sections. All require regular commitment over a given period of time:

- **Volunteering:** service to the community – 1 hour + per week during a 3-6* month period.
- **Physical:** improve an area of sport, dance or fitness – 1 hour + per week during 3/6* month period.
- **Skill:** develop an area of interest, e.g. photography, instrument, language – 1 hour + per week during 3/6* month period.
- **Expedition:** develop navigation, campcraft, teamwork and first-aid skills – around 5 training sessions (select Thursdays 3.15pm - 4.30pm) and three weekends.

*One section for 6 months, the other two for 3 months

Participation in the programme need not necessarily take a great deal of additional time out of students' schedules; your son/daughter may already take, for example,

Vyners School
Warren Road, Ickenham,
Middlesex, UB10 8AB
Tel 01895 234342
Fax 01895 237955

office@vynersschool.org.uk
www.vynersschool.org.uk

Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)
Headteacher

music lessons, play in a team or help out in a non-profit organisation regularly. Many activities can simply be continued to count as sections.

Dates

Students are able to choose from two sets of dates for the expedition element of the award. **Missing any of these sessions could prevent students from participating in the expeditions, or affect our ability to sign students off on the award, so please ensure your child will be able to attend all for the chosen option.**

First Aid training is only compulsory for students who do not have a current First Aid certificate.

	Option 1: Autumn	Option 2: Spring
Preparation sessions (Thursday 3.10-4.30pm unless indicated otherwise) <i>Some extra preparation will be required at home in the lead up to expeditions, especially for the Autumn option.</i>	1. 12 September 2. 19 September 3. 26 September 4. 3 October 5. 10 October	1. 5 March 2. 12 March 3. 19 March 4. 26 March 5. 23 April <i>There will also be a short meeting after school on 7 May.</i>
First Aid (4 hours: Wednesday 3-7pm – if required, select one of the two dates for your cohort)	18 September 25 September	11 March 18 March
3 Trips: day practice, overnight practice and overnight qualifying expedition	1. Sat 14 September 2. Fri & Sat 27-28 September 3. Sun & Mon 13-14 October	1. Sat 7 March 2. Fri & Sat 20-21 March 3. Fri & Sat 8-9 May
Returning equipment Not returning equipment in adequate condition on this date could result in forfeiture of deposit.	Wed 30 Oct – 7.40-8.10am	Wed 13 May – 7.40-8.10am

Cost

The **cost of the programme is £185**, covering the DofE registration fee, a certified first aid course, a welcome pack and the award, internal administration costs, resources for training sessions, transport, campsite fees and use of essential equipment (tents, cooking stoves & fuel, maps and compasses). **Please be sure your child is willing to participate and can attend all of the dates, as this fee is non-refundable.**

In addition, we will ask you for a **£50 refundable equipment deposit**. This will be refunded in full if all borrowed equipment is returned on time and in appropriate condition. **This will appear as a single payment of £235 on Squid**. Please make payments as soon as possible, but all payments will be required by **Friday 6**

September. Students will not be able to participate unless their place is paid for by this date.

If you are experiencing financial hardship and this is likely to prevent your child applying, please contact Miss McGovern at cmcgovern@vynersschool.org.uk. The school has some funds available to facilitate student participation in these circumstances.

Equipment

The school has a stock of items which may be borrowed, for example tents, maps, compasses, sleeping bags, rucksacks and bag covers. Hire forms will be distributed on Google Classroom closer to the expedition dates, and it will be essential that students complete these on time to ensure enough equipment is available. Some items, such as walking boots and expedition food, will need to be obtained by the participants themselves.

Health and safety

Vyners School has in place detailed procedures for ensuring that expeditions are well planned and that the health, welfare and safety of students is protected. A careful and written risk assessment has been prepared for this programme and adequate student supervision and insurance arrangements will be put in place.

It is expected that all students will observe the highest standard of politeness, courtesy and conduct at all times. Our students are representing Vyners School and it is expected that they will do everything in a way that reflects positively on themselves and the school. The School's Behaviour Policy continues to be in force throughout expeditions. Should it prove necessary to send a student home for misbehaviour, parents / carers will be expected to meet all extra costs incurred. In the event of a student being refused participation on an expedition before departure because of poor behaviour or lack of preparation, any contributions already paid will also be forfeit.

Enrollment

Please complete the permission form on Squid along with payment to enrol your student. Students unfortunately cannot be a part of the programme unless payment has been made.

If you require more information please do not hesitate to contact me at cmcgovern@vynersschool.org.uk. You may also find out more about the scheme on the DofE website (www.dofe.org).

Yours sincerely



Miss C McGovern
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator