



17 March 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

**Subject: Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE), Gold Programme 2021-22**

We are inviting all current Year 12 & 13 students to participate in the 2021-22 Duke of Edinburgh's Gold 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 5 Sections**

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

- **Volunteering:** service to the community – 1 hour+ per week during a 12 month period.\*\*
- **Physical:** improve an area of sport, dance or fitness – 1 hour+ per week during 6/12\* month period.\*\*
- **Skill:** develop an area of interest, e.g. photography, instrument, language – 1 hour + per week during 6/12\* month period.\*\*
- **Expedition:** develop navigation, campcraft, teamwork and first-aid skills; practice walks, practice expedition, qualifying expedition (4 days, 3 nights).
- **Residential:** stay away from home for 5 days and 4 nights doing a shared activity with people you don't know.

*\*One section for 12 months, the other for 6 months*

*\*\* If you haven't completed the Silver, you must undertake a further 6 months in either the Volunteering or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections.*

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

office@vynersschool.org.uk  
[www.vynersschool.org.uk](http://www.vynersschool.org.uk)

**Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)**  
Headteacher

Participation in the programme need not necessarily take a great deal of additional time out of students' schedules; your son/daughter may already take (inside or outside of school!), for example, 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.

If students are struggling to find an activity to fit one of the sections, the [DofE Opportunity Finder](#) is a brilliant resource designed to help with that. The Opportunity Finder can also be used to make arrangements with external organisations for the expedition section.

### **Expedition Options**

We are not currently in a position to offer the expedition section through school. There are some fantastic opportunities with external providers that can be accessed through the [DofE Opportunity Finder](#) website.

### **Cost**

The **cost of joining the programme is £30**, covering the DofE registration fee, and a welcome pack. **Please be sure your child is willing to participate, as this fee is non-refundable.** This will appear as a **single payment on Squid**.

Other costs may be incurred as part of the completion of the sections - but these can vary greatly!

Please make payments as soon as possible. The current offer will be available on Squid until Friday 6 May. Missing this deadline will not mean they have missed out entirely on participating, but it will certainly significantly delay their start date. Individuals wanting to sign up after Friday 6 May will have to contact Miss McGovern directly to arrange it.

If you are experiencing financial hardship and this is likely to prevent your child applying, please indicate this on the form. The school has some funds available to facilitate student participation in these circumstances.

#### **Vyners School**

Warren Road, Ickenham,  
Middlesex, UB10 8AB  
Tel **01895 234342**

office@vynersschool.org.uk  
[www.vynersschool.org.uk](http://www.vynersschool.org.uk)

**Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)**  
Headteacher

### **Health and safety**

Given the scope and breadth of options available as a part of specific DofE programmes, participants may choose to undertake activities that are not directly managed or organised by the school (i.e. at their local gym or conservation group). If this is the case, you, as their parent/guardian/carer, are responsible for ensuring that the activity is properly managed and insured, and that the adults are suitably qualified and checked.

The DofE provides limited personal accident insurance which covers payment of a certain benefit(s) in the event of a participant or adult helper sustaining accidental bodily injury whilst taking part in an approved DofE activity - provided they have completed their registration. However, please note that the insurance does not provide cover for any personal belongings or equipment damaged or lost whilst doing a DofE activity. It will also not cover your child for any injury or damage caused to them whilst undertaking an activity arranged by you with an external organisation, you will need to check what cover is provided by the activity provider. For more information regarding insurance, please visit [DofE.org/go/insurance](http://DofE.org/go/insurance).

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

Yours sincerely



Miss C McGovern  
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

#### **Vyners School**

Warren Road, Ickenham,  
Middlesex, UB10 8AB  
Tel **01895 234342**

[office@vynersschool.org.uk](mailto:office@vynersschool.org.uk)  
[www.vynersschool.org.uk](http://www.vynersschool.org.uk)

**Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)**  
Headteacher