



THE KING'S SCHOOL

GRANTHAM

Ref: U:\DoE\Bronze Y9 2020
September 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is an internationally recognised achievement only available to young people which shows their commitment, determination, contribution to society and general all-roundedness. It is favourably looked upon in university and employment applications and it is a chance to develop skills for life and work, fulfill their potential and have a brighter future.

At King's we offer all three levels with enrollment onto the Bronze in term 1 of Year 9, Silver in Year 10 and Gold in Year 12. The Bronze level award involves four sections:

1. Volunteering - the Volunteering section enables students to give their time to help others and change things for the better. This cannot be anything that they get paid for or that someone else could be paid to do.
2. Physical – This section is a chance for students to focus on your health and fitness and have fun along the way.
3. Skill – The Skills section is about student's discovering what they are really good at. This is a great opportunity to develop an existing skill or to take up a new hobby.
4. Expeditions – this involves two weekends, one a compulsory practice expedition which must be passed and the other which is assessed by an external Assessor. They both involve two days of walking and one night of camping in Lincolnshire, currently the camping element is not a requirement due to COVID-19. This involves teamwork, map reading, decision making and a huge amount of fun.

The Award is designed to be accessible to all so no one should feel excluded based on their fitness or any disability they may perceive.

Two of the first three need to be participated in regularly i.e. one hour per week over a three month period, and the third regularly over six months. Do take a look at the DofE website (www.dofe.org) to get a greater idea about what these activities can involve. For each of these sections you need to be able to find someone who can act as an assessor. This is usually the person that runs the club, a coach, a manager or supervisor. It cannot be a family member but could be a teacher in school that runs an extra-curricular activity you are interested in.

The expedition section is run by an external company called BXM Expeditions. They provide all training and instructors for both the practice and assessed expeditions. There will be a training day on a Saturday 13 March 2021 which is compulsory where your son will learn camp craft, cooking and expedition nutrition, first aid, route planning and much more to ensure his competence and safety when on expedition.

Head Master: Simon Pickett BSc

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Please see BXM Expedition's cancellation policy:

"BXM Expeditions must have 4 weeks notice of any cancellation or withdrawal from the award in order to receive a refund. Refunds are not given for events already attended or within 4 weeks of notification. For example if a participant attends a training day and decides to not continue with the expedition section of the award and the Practice and Qualifying expedition are more than 4 weeks away a refund will be given for the Practice and Qualifying expeditions. If the Practice expedition is 3 weeks away from the notification and the Qualifying is 5 weeks away, a refund will be given for the Qualifying expedition but not the Practice."

COVID-19

Under current DfE guidelines, we are able to run the expedition section of the Award with no overnight camp. As the trip is organised through school and is considered to be an organised educational trip, this does not fall within the remit of the new rules recently imposed by the government. Please see BXM Expeditions updated risk assessment with regards to Covid-19 on the policies section of their website. However, we remain hopeful that by summer 2021 that the government guidelines will have changed and that your son will be able to complete the expeditions with the overnight camp in the usual way. We will keep you informed regarding the latest guidance. BXM Expeditions cancelation policy still applies in the event of a student not participating if the expeditions do go ahead.

To apply for a place on the Award, each participant must:

- Complete and sign the enrolment form. Hand this in to reception or directly to Mrs Hamblett or Mr Cawthorn.
- Pay a fee on ParentPay of £60. This fee includes a non-refundable deposit for the D of E booklet and the training day with BXM Expeditions.

The closing date for applications is Friday 23 October 2020.

A further £140 will be arranged on ParentPay once confirmation of participation is made. This fee is to cover the price of the school license fee, training delivered in school and the expeditions with BXM and travel costs associated with the distant supervision of the boys during their expeditions. We do ask that the balance is paid in full no later than 1 March 2021.

Each applicant will receive a welcome pack and access to the D of E platform 'eDofe'. In term 2 participants will receive training on eDofE in an after school session (Date to be confirmed).

Summary of confirmed key dates:

Deadline for applications	Friday 23 October 2020
Deadline for balance of £140	1 March 2021
Training day	Saturday 13 March 2021 (09:30 – 16:30)
Practice Expedition	24 – 25 April 2021
Assessed Expedition	26 – 27 June 2021

Please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail if you have any questions about the D of E itself or the enrolment process: Thomas.Cawthorn@kings.lincs.sch.uk or Kate.Hamblett@kings.lincs.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Thomas Cawthorn and Mrs K Hamblett
Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Leaders