

12 October 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

Subject: Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) Programme 2023-24

We are inviting all current students in Year 9 to participate in the 2023-24 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 – (at minimum) training, 1 qualifying expedition: 2 days, 1 night.

*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 (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.

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Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)
Headteacher

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.

Cost

The **cost of joining the programme is £26**, covering the DofE registration fee, and a welcome pack. **Please be sure your child is willing to participate, as this fee is non-refundable.**

Joining the programme does not guarantee a position in the school run expeditions, and details about these will come out later in the school year. In order to be invited to sign up for the expeditions, students need to have demonstrated a commitment to the other sections of the award, so it's a good idea to start them as soon as possible to avoid disappointment!

Other costs may be incurred as part of the completion of the sections - but these can vary greatly! Completing the expedition will also come at an additional cost.

Please make payments as soon as possible. The first wave of students will be signed up in November, so having their position paid for on Squid by **Thursday 9 November 2023** will mean they are able to take part straight away. Missing this deadline will not mean they have missed out entirely on participating, but it will certainly delay their start date.

If your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium and this is likely to prevent your child applying, please contact Mr Sankey at tsankey@vynersschool.org.uk. The school may have some funds available to facilitate student participation in these circumstances.

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.

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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.

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 **tsankey@vynersschool.org.uk**. You may also find out more about the scheme on the DofE website (**www.dofe.org**).

Yours sincerely
Mr T Sankey
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

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