



Science

LANGUAGE
COLLEGES

ACADEMIES

Urmston Grammar

A Science and Language
College with Academy
status



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18th Sept 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

RE: Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze and Silver Award 2019-20

I am writing to update you about the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme at Urmston Grammar, which your child is enrolled on. Apologies that we have not been in contact before now but, as I am sure you will appreciate, the coronavirus pandemic presents an ever-changing situation and we have been waiting to determine just what might be possible in terms of the provision of the expedition section of the award. It has now become clear that we are unlikely to return to the sort of 'normal' conditions that would be necessary to run the DofE expeditions with our students in the near future. It is therefore with great sadness that we have decided we have no choice but to cancel the expeditions for our current year 11 and 13 DofE students. This means that we will not be running the expedition training sessions in school or running any of the practice walks, practice expeditions or assessed expeditions for these students.

In view of this, the finance office will shortly be issuing you with a refund for any amount paid that is over £25. We are able to refund all money paid towards the cost of campsites, coaches, fuel, equipment and our DofE Site Operator's License. However, I am afraid that we have had to deduct the cost of your child's registration onto the scheme as this has already been paid and we are unable to obtain a refund.

Your child will remain registered with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and has until they are 25 years old to complete all four sections on their own if they wish. We know that many of our students have completed some, or even all, of the Skills, Service and Sport sections of the award: In light of the exceptional circumstances, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is offering students who have been unable to complete the expedition section due to the pandemic, a Certificate of Achievement if they complete all the other 3 sections. Full details of this are available on the DofE website by following the link: <https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/achievement-for-all>

We recognize that many of the activities the students will have been doing are likely to have been disrupted, but, as clubs and activities gradually resume, we are hoping that lots of them will at least be able to get their Sports, Skills and Service sections signed off and get the Certificate. We will be checking eDofE periodically to see when students have uploaded Assessor's reports and completed sections but it would help if students could email us to let us know when all 3 sections are completed so that we can then sign them off as promptly as possible. If they receive a Certificate of Achievement, they still then have the option of completing their expedition at a later date, with an outside provider, and receiving their full dofE award. Some outdoor education facilities run 'open expeditions' which anyone can join for a fee; the 'Opportunity Finder' feature on the DofE website may help you to locate a nearby provider.

We thank you for your understanding in this matter. Please don't hesitate to email either of us if you have any further questions.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr J Howe and Dr M McPartland
(Duke of Edinburgh's Award co-ordinators)



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A Science and Language College with Academy status

