Newton Road
Urmston
Manchester
M41 5UG

Email: office@urmstongrammar.org.uk
Website: www.urmstongrammar.org.uk
Headteacher: Mr T Kennedy-Fowler

Urmston Grammar School

September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award at UGS

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about this year's Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award scheme at Urmston Grammar. The award is open to all students in **year 10** and lasts 6 months. There are four sections to the award scheme and students need to be totally committed to participating in all four sections before they join the scheme. Three of the sections, Service, Skill, and Physical Activity (sport), are organized and completed independently by students outside of school. In order to complete these sections of the award, students must volunteer in the community, participate in a sport (usually through a club) and practice a skill for three months. They must select one of these three sections to follow for a further three months. Their participation in each section must be independently verified (eg by a member of staff at a gym) and that verification must be uploaded to each participants eD of E account.

Examples of some of the activities that students have undertaken in the past include:

Service: working in a charity shop, volunteer lifeguarding, volunteer refereeing, volunteering as an assistant at a sport, dance, scouting, or other group, helping in a care home, planting trees and community garden care;
Skill: learning a musical instrument, dancing, martial arts, photography, cooking, learn another language;
Sport: football, volleyball, basketball, swimming, horse riding, tennis, hockey, climbing- basically any sport of their choosing, as a long as it involves a regular, ideally weekly, commitment.

Students may wish to continue with an activity that they already participate in to complete a particular section, and this is allowed. However, in the spirit of the award, I would encourage them to use their enrolment in the award as an opportunity to pick up at least one new activity.
Further information about the various sections of the award, including ideas for each section can be found at:
https://www.dofe.org/do/ideas/

The fourth, and final part of the award, is the expedition and this will be organised by UGS. The provisional date for the qualifying expedition is Friday - Saturday June 11th -12th 2027. The expedition will take place in the area around Sedburgh and Dent in southern Cumbria. Students will travel to the expedition area by coach but must be picked up from the village of Dent on the Saturday afternoon. In addition, students must attend a training weekend on May 15th – 16th 2027 (Saturday-Sunday). The training weekend will take place in the Peak District and students will be based at Mandale campsite. Travel to the campsite on the Saturday morning will be by coach but parents will need to collect students from Monsal Head car park on the Sunday afternoon. Full details of the expeditions will be given at a parents meeting held in January/February. The expeditions are undertaken in groups of 6-7 students. It is vital that students are able to attend both of these dates if they sign up for the award. Students also need a **good** level of fitness to take part in the award as the expedition involves them carrying all of their equipment and food over a distance of around 25km and camping out overnight (clement weather not guaranteed!). It can be tough. The Duke of Edinburgh Award is not for everyone so please do discuss participation with your son/daughter at length before you make the initial payment and sign them up.

For the bronze award, I use an external provider; Adventure Expeditions of Hathersage. Their staff will run the training and the expeditions, although UGS staff will be present throughout. The cost of the expedition section of the award for 2027 has not yet been finalized and will depend on numbers and coach costs but it will be around £300-315. I may be able to secure some Pupil Premium bursaries from Adventure Expeditions but cannot confirm the value of the bursary at this point. There are additional costs associated with the expedition section because students will be expected to have walking boots, a sleeping bag and waterproofs. At this stage, if your child would like to participate, a payment of £42 is required to secure a place on the award scheme at Urmston Grammar. This covers the enrolment cost and a contribution

Newton Road
Urmston
Manchester
M41 5UG

Email: office@urmstongrammar.org.uk
Website: www.urmstongrammar.org.uk
Headteacher: Mr T Kennedy-Fowler

Urmston Grammar School

to our D of E operating license and is **in addition** to the costs of the expedition. The remaining payments should then by made according to the following schedule:

- Payment 2 of £60 by 1/11/26
- Payment 3 of £60 by 1/12/26
- Payment 4 of £60 by 1/1/27
- Payment 5 of £60 by 1/2/27
- Remaining balance by 1/4/27

By making payment you are agreeing to Urmston Grammar School's Trip Payment Agreement.

If you would like your son/daughter to take part in the award, please make a payment of £42 on parent pay. Payments should be made by 3pm on Monday September 14th. There are a limited number of places on the award. The award will go live on parent pay at the end of the school day on Wednesday September 9th. The bronze cohort will be filled on a first come first served basis. **However, students who have serious incidences of poor behaviour on their record may not be allowed to participate in the award.**

In order to qualify for the expedition section of the award students must have completed two of the other sections and had these signed off by me. Students who have not met the requirements for participation on the expedition by the end of February 2027 will be removed from the expedition list. At that point all costs associated with the expedition will be refunded but the cost of enrollment (£42) cannot be. There will be NO flexibility on this deadline. If you do not get a place on the D of E here at Urmston Grammar there are other centres in Trafford through which you can complete the award. I will also maintain a waiting list once all places have been filled. To join the waiting list please e mail me directly on mmcpartland@urmstongrammar.org.uk after all the places on the award have been filled.

As soon as payment has been made on parent pay students can begin researching ideas for the skill, sport and service part of the award. They can start any of these sections right away and the start date of their award will be back dated to August 1st once they receive the eD of E log in details in early October.

If you have any further questions regarding the award please do not hesitate to contact me via email.

Many thanks for your support.

Yours faithfully,

Dr M McPartland