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# Urmston Grammar

A Science and Language  
College with Academy  
status



1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

RE: Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award

This letter is to inform you about this year's Duke of Edinburgh 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 and practice a skill for three months. They must select one of these three sections to follow for a further three months.

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;

**Skill:** learning a musical instrument, dancing, martial arts, photography;

**Sport:** football, volleyball, basketball, swimming, horse riding, tennis, hockey, climbing- basically any sport of their choosing, as 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, we would encourage them to use this 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 is organised through Urmston Grammar. The provisional date for the expedition is **Sat 18 - Sun 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022**, which will take place in the area around Sedburgh and Dent in southern Cumbria. There will in addition be a navigation training walk, which will take place in the Macclesfield Forest area on **Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> 2022**. It is important that students are able to attend on all these dates, otherwise they will be unable to complete the expedition section of the award. Travel to the navigation training walk will be by coach from school, but students will need parents to transport them home at the end of the walk. Similarly, for the assessed expedition, students will travel by coach from School to the expedition area, but we will need them to be picked up from the village of Dent on the Sunday afternoon. The assessed expedition area is about one and a half hours drive from Urmston and we can help with arranging lift-sharing if needed. The expeditions are usually undertaken in mixed groups of 6-7 students. All the arrangements for the expedition will be outlined at a parents' evening, which will be held in the Spring Term in the school hall.

At this stage, if your child would like to participate, a payment for the amount of £34 is required to secure a place on the award scheme at Urmston Grammar. This covers the cost of registration with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and access to their online logbook, as well as a contribution towards to the cost of Urmston Grammar's DofE Operating Licence. A further payment of approximately £80 will be required in April next year if your son/daughter is coming on the expedition. This additional fee covers the costs associated with the two expeditions, including campsite fees, coaches



Headteacher: Mrs R S Wall  
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etc and includes a £30 deposit, which will be refunded upon return of all the equipment. The exact amount of the expedition payment will be finalized nearer the time when precise costings can be obtained.

If you would like your son/daughter to take part in the award please fill in the slip at the foot of this letter and make a payment of £34 on Parentpay. Reply slips should be lodged with the finance office and payment should be made by the **15<sup>th</sup> of October**.

This year we are intending to give every year 10 student who would like to, the opportunity to take part in the award. As soon as they have made the decision to take part and have handed in the reply slip, they can immediately begin researching ideas for the skill, sport and service part of the award. Once they have decided what they wish to do for each section they should complete the attached form detailing the intended activity as well as the name and contact details of a suitable person who will be able to assess this part of the award. An assessor should be an adult who has overseen their particular activity in either a supervisory or teaching role, for example a teacher, sports coach, Scout and Guide leader, a charity shop or care home manager. This form should be completed by **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November** and brought to a meeting that will be held at lunchtime on that date. Their activities will be checked for suitability and they will be given their login registration details and shown how to register online with eDofE. They can then complete their online planning document and begin to log details of their skill, sport and service parts of the award. Activities can be 'backdated' in the online logbook, but to no earlier than the 1<sup>st</sup> of October; the launch date of this year's scheme.

In order to ensure that as many students as possible successfully complete the award, this year we are stipulating that they **must** have completed the two 3 month-long sections and be at least half way through their chosen 6 month-long activity before they will be allowed to participate in the assessed expedition. The deadline for completing these 2 sections and uploading the evidence and assessor's reports to eDofE is **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**. Additionally by this deadline they must have uploaded evidence to eDofE to show that they are on course to complete the 6 month section of the award. They should therefore begin all 3 activities as soon as possible and by no later than the middle of December. All students who have met this deadline will then be invited to participate in the expedition and the further payment to cover this, as detailed above, will be requested. Only those students will then be invited to attend the training sessions for the expedition, which will begin after the Easter break.

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

Many thanks for your support.

Yours faithfully,



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

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I would like my son/daughter, \_\_\_\_\_ (student name) in form \_\_\_\_\_  
to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at UGS.

- ☐ They are able to attend the navigation training walk on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2021 and the Assessed expedition on the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> June 2021 (provisional dates).
- ☐ I understand that I will be expected to arrange transport home from the practice walk and from the assessed expedition.
- ☐ I have made a payment of £34 on Parentpay

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Print name \_\_\_\_\_