

# QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity Chair of Governors: Mr C Smith



31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

**Duke of Edinburgh's Award      Bronze, Silver and Gold**  
**Award Leader:                      Miss Wilband**

I am writing to let you know of the exciting opportunity available to your child to achieve the Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award through the academy. The Award is an adventure from beginning to end, with students enjoying many new experiences, discovering talents that they did not realise they had, challenging their potential, and standing out from the crowd. Employers, businesses, and universities value the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and believe candidates to be more rounded and employable individuals.

The Award normally involves four sections (five in Gold) that students have to complete: Physical, Skill, Service and Expedition.

With the current Covid-19 situation, the Expedition section of the Award has been postponed until it is safe to do so. However, students can achieve the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Certificate of Achievement for completing the other sections of the Award during the pandemic. The Academy will try to set up Expeditions when allowed to do so in the future, and separate communication with an outline of trip costs will be sent out to parents/carers.

It is important to note that the pandemic version of the Award allows participants to complete a level of the Award (i.e. Bronze and Silver) and be then able to partake the shortened version of the next Award (Silver, Gold) if they wish to, without undertaking the Expedition. Also, it is an ideal opportunity for participants to achieve the Duke of Edinburgh's Award who may not feel that the Expedition is for them. Any participant who enrolls between 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021, and completes the Volunteering, Physical and Skills section will receive a Certificate of Achievement.

When students enrol this year, the Award start date will be backdated to September, so that any activities from September can be included in their sections. This is another benefit of undertaking the Award through the Academy during the pandemic. Many of the Activities that students undertake as part of the sections are things that they do already and students are encouraged to include these so that they are not overwhelmed with new projects unless they feel a desire to do so. A full list of Activities for the sections can be viewed on the DofE website.

The Bronze Award is available to Year 9 students, The Silver is open to Year 10 students and the Gold is open to those in the Sixth Form (both Year 12 and 13). Students have until the age of 24 to complete the sections but our aim is for them to be well on the way to completing the Award by the time they leave their respective year groups.

During the pandemic students may do their chosen (and approved) activities at home. These will need to be recorded/evidenced and an Assessor asked to verify this. The Assessor must be a non-family member such as a neighbour or a staff member at school. Further details of what can be done in the sections, the length of time for each section and what should be recorded and who can be an assessor can be found on the DofE website. Please be aware that the safety of students in any activity outside of school is the responsibility of parents and carers and the school/Duke of Edinburgh's Awards Organisation cannot be held liable for any accidents that may occur whilst doing the various sections.

The cost for enrolling on to the Award is **£24 (Bronze/Silver) and £31 for Gold**. Costs include the DofE Enrolment fees and administration costs. To secure a place for your child please can you ensure that this is paid via ParentPay by the end of this Summer 1 term (27<sup>th</sup> May).

Proud to be part of the **QEGSMAT**

Registered Address: The Green Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1EP  
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After the Easter holidays your child will receive an email from school that will inform them how to access the electronic DofE site and links to video clips and sites that will help them with their sections. Mrs Watson and I are always eager to help any student and encourage those partaking or interested in the Award to email either one or both of us with queries.

If you have any queries or questions regarding the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, please do not hesitate to contact me by email, or by telephoning the academy, or you can explore the Award on the official Duke of Edinburgh's Award website <http://www.dofe.org>.

Yours faithfully

Miss G M Wilband

**Duke of Edinburgh's Award Manager**

Email: [Wilband@qegs.email](mailto:Wilband@qegs.email)

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/qegs\\_dofe?lang=en](https://twitter.com/qegs_dofe?lang=en)

*\*by clicking the "consent" button on ParentPay, you are confirming that you wish your child to take part in this award, as well as confirming the payment detailed above, and that the emergency contact and medical details we have on our system are correct for your child. Please inform me as a matter of urgency should there be any changes to the details we hold.*