



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

Headteacher: Mr A Wood BA (Oxon), PGCE, MBA, NPQH

Woods Avenue, Hatfield, Herts AL10 8NL T: 01707 275331

Email: admin@bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk Website: www.bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk

BHGS is a company limited by guarantee Company number: 07831507 Charity number: EW01517



September 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are delighted to be able to offer the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme to girls who are in Year 9.

This is an excellent nationally recognised scheme run in schools and youth groups and offers participants the opportunity to develop their skills and interests whilst working towards an award recognised by universities and employers. I would recommend that you read more about the scheme at www.DofE.org

Girls working towards the Bronze Award must complete 4 sections:

- **volunteering** in your local community (eg, helping with a brownie or cub pack, volunteering in a school club for younger girls, assisting with a club or activity where other people are helped or benefit. This can include neighbours and family members, such as helping younger siblings with school work. It cannot be paid work.)
- **skills** – following a hobby or interest and developing the skill over time (not a sport based skill)
- **physical activity** – participation in a sporting activity
- one local **expedition** – which will take place hopefully on the 14th and 15th May 2021. Due to Covid restrictions the girls will not camp and this will be a walking expedition.

The first three must be undertaken for at least 3 months, and one of them must be completed for 6 months. The girls need to be able to commit to a variety of clubs and activities, which can be both inside and outside school. Many of the enrichment clubs offered at Bishop's can help your daughter qualify for the award.

The Award Scheme requires the participant to register on an electronic online system, and various details such as age, birthdate and address are stored by the DofE on this system. By signing up to the Award you are giving permission for this registration process to take place. The data is not used for any other purpose, other than to contact you with information and updates from the DofE itself.

The Award itself costs £80 to participate in. The main costs come from fees, training sessions and the expedition (training requirements, electronic trackers, first aid equipment etc). There will be other equipment that must be provided individually and may have a cost, such as walking boots, waterproofs etc). If your daughter is in receipt of free school meals some of your costs may be met by the school. The amount of financial support will be confirmed by the Finance Manager. For families not in receipt of free school meals but experiencing financial difficulties, please contact the Headteachers as some assistance may be given on a case by case basis.

The non-refundable payment of £80 is required on registration.

"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016



Your daughter will be fully supported by a team of staff at school, but successful participation in the Award also rests on the support of parents. You would need to support your daughter in arranging her volunteering in the community, and helping her to choose activities that will fulfil the other sections, either from within or outside school, and then supporting her whilst she works on these. We run the expedition section as a school. Training for the expedition section will begin after October half term, and there will be compulsory registration sessions before this on some Mondays after school during October. Your daughter must be able to attend these to take part in the Award.

I believe that the Duke of Edinburgh's Award offers a great opportunity for determined students, who are prepared to fully commit to the requirements. If we are oversubscribed with applications we will draw names from a hat in accordance with the school policy. If your daughter is allocated a place we will contact you with the necessary registration documentation and a request for the payment, but this may take a few weeks, so please be patient. I am happy to answer any questions you may have by email as we cannot currently hold a parent meeting.

If your daughter would like to participate in the award and you are happy to fully support her, please email me to express an interest, clearly stating your daughter's name and form. You should do this using the address: poakman@bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk

The closing date for the receipt of expression of interest emails is Thursday 8th October. Please do not pay any money at this stage.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Oakman and Mr Lowrie

DofE coordinators