



Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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13 October 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are delighted to be able to offer the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme to students 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. We would recommend that you read more about the scheme at www.DofE.org

Participants 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 students, 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 on the provisional dates 13th and 14th May 2023.
- The first three must be undertaken for at least 3 months, and one of them must be completed for 6 months. The participants 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 £150 to participate in. The main costs come from the expedition (training requirements, camp site fees, equipment hire, first aid equipment etc). There will be other equipment that must be provided individually, such as walking boots, a rucksack, a sleeping bag and sleeping mat, waterproofs, etc. The school will require a non-refundable payment of £75 on registration, followed by one further payment of £75 in March 2023. 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 Headteacher as some assistance may be given on a case by case basis.

"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016



The non-refundable payment of £75 is required on registration.

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. The expedition section will be run as a school. Training for the expedition section will begin on 7th November, and these will be compulsory sessions on Mondays after school. Your daughter must be able to attend these to take part in the Award.

We 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 the award is 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.

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

The closing date for the receipt of expression of interest emails is **Friday 21st October**. Please do not pay any money at this stage.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Stevens & Ms Hurley

DofE coordinators