



## GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave · Garstang · Lancashire · PR3 1YE · Tel: 01995 603226 · Email: info@garstangcommunityacademy.com



To Parents/Carers of students in year 9

February 2021

### Launch of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Dear Parents/Carers

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is recognized in all areas of work and education as something which proves a student's determination to succeed. It's not easy to get, but the benefits of achieving this Award gives a student an edge when applying for college, university and employment. In addition, many young people gain self-esteem and confidence in challenging themselves whilst completing the different sections.

In today's climate under COVID-19 restrictions, it is even more essential for a young person's mental health to embark on something that can take them beyond navigating through daily difficulties into activities that are healthy and enjoyable.

This term, we are launching the D of E to all year 9 students. Please click onto the link below and watch it with your child to give you a brief understanding of what the D of E is about.

<https://www.dofe.org/wp-content/uploads/videos/1.-DofE-Bronze-Recruiting-young-people-Start-your-DofE.mp4>

For COVID-19 reasons, we are restricted in our ability to offer the expedition section of the Award, and it is with this in mind, we are introducing two levels of participation:

- **DofE Certificate of Achievement**  
This starts students off on their D of E journey and involves completing 3 of the 4 sections (Skills, Volunteering and Physical) of the Award. It is still considered and recognized amongst the college and employment community as a Certificate of esteem.
- **Bronze DofE Award**  
Once we are able to offer the Expeditions again, this can be added onto your portfolio and will get you the full Award. We have a policy, however, that students will have to complete at least two of the other sections of the Award before they are allowed to go onto their expedition. This will hopefully encourage full completion of the whole Award.



**FYLDE COAST ACADEMY TRUST**

Company Limited by Guarantee Number 08364709

Registered in England & Wales – Registered Office: Armfield Academy, 488 Lytham Road, Blackpool, FY4 1TL



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### Enrolment

If your child would like to join the community of D of E students, they will need to complete the attached enrolment form and bring it into school once we re-open week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March. Please hand this to your Form Tutor during registration time.

Deadline: **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021**  
**There is no guarantee that your child will be considered onto the scheme after this deadline**

### Cost

To enroll onto the D of E at Garstang, the initial cost is £100. This covers setting the student up, training and supporting them through the 3 sections of the Certificate, **but does NOT include the expedition section. This will be charged separately at a later date, when we are clearer as to when we can offer the expedition.** Our preferred method of payment is via PMX, but if this is not possible, we can accept cheques made payable to Garstang Community Academy which can be attached to the Enrolment Form.

If you feel that your child would benefit from doing the Award but are struggling to meet this payment, please let us know – we may be able to help you out with a contribution.

### Keeping you informed

The DofE has its own page on the GCA website. This can be found under the ‘Learning’ drop down menu under ‘Extra-curricular’. Any important information will be posted onto this area as well as Parentmail and text notifications.

Finally, I hope you have found this information useful in your consideration as to whether you wish your child to be included in the Scheme. If you require any more information or need to discuss anything with me before you commit, please contact me on [jparkinson@garstangcommunityacademy.com](mailto:jparkinson@garstangcommunityacademy.com).

Yours sincerely

*J Parkinson*

### **Mrs Parkinson**

Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Co-ordinator  
Garstang Community Academy



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