



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

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



February 2021

To Year 10 Participants and Parents/Carers

Dear all

A belated Happy New Year to you! And what a challenge 2021 is giving us so far! With all the best made plans, we have to change them daily.

Throughout the Autumn Term I managed to make contact with all year 10 students individually to take them through what they needed to do to get their Award up-to-date. Some of them rose to the challenge and delivered Assessor Reports and good evidence and a good number have been awarded their Certificate of Achievement. Many students, however, have not moved on from when they first enrolled onto the Award back in November 2019 ...and by now have all but forgotten how to sign on and what the Award is all about! So, this is a plea to parents and participants to re-engage with The Award and start anew with getting the sections completed.

There are some changes on how the Award is being run throughout this COVID-19 time:

Certificate of Achievement

This is awarded to those students who have achieved their Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections of the Award, but not the Expedition. It takes into the consideration the difficulties that schools and individuals are having to do their expedition and recognizes the other important elements of the Award. This is still a prestigious Award and is recognized in Colleges and Employers.

Expeditions

As the criteria for School Visits is constantly changing due to COVID-19, we are still unsure as to whether we will be able to provide an expedition for you this academic year. If we do manage to do one, it will be under certain restrictions and will probably not be the full overnight expedition that we have enjoyed in previous years.



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You have a choice in this respect;

- Continue to aim to complete the full Bronze Award, taking on the expedition when we are able to provide it.
- Stop at a Certificate of Achievement, which means you don't need to do the expedition.

If you decide **not** to do the expedition, you will be entitled to a £100 refund. Please can you email me to this effect (indicating if possible your original method of payment) and I will arrange for the refund to be sent to you. I note, however, that there are a number of participants who still owe money from the original payment schedule. Therefore I will be in touch separately if you need to settle the balance.

Volunteering and Skills Sections

Another change to take into consideration the difficulties students are having with accessing activities is a shift to being able to include work done within school PHSE and CARE lessons. Students are able to use all their lessons for either the Volunteering or the Skills sections of their Award. If this is something you'd like to take advantage of, please see the attached information sheet which shows you how to add this activity.

If you have already started your volunteering or skills but are unable to continue, or would like to move to using the PHSE/CARE lessons, please do a change of activity (method shown below).

Changing of Activity

You may not be able to continue to do some of your chosen activity due to it not being available at the moment. With this in mind, participants CAN change their chosen activities in eDofE

- All you need to do is revert a section back to draft -> change your chosen activity > submit your new activity for approval
- Please note that any hours already done within this particular section WILL count towards the completion of time spent on activity.

Finally, please, PLEASE, can you keep sending me your evidence, your assessor reports and submitting your sections. If you have any queries regarding any aspect of your D of E, please do



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not hesitate to contact me either via my email: <u>jparkinson@garstangcommunityacademy.com</u>, or via your edofe user area.

I look forward to seeing you all in the not too distant future, but in the meantime, keep well and keep safe!

Yours sincerely

Julie Parkinson D of E Co-ordinator



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