



## INTERNATIONAL AWARD

### *Bronze, Silver and Gold*

2 September 2020

Dear Students and Parents,

It is a pleasure in welcoming your interest in the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award! This is their first step in a programme in which they could be involved for several years to come. The members of the International Award team include staff who have been involved in the Award at The English College for many years and others who have had experience with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the UK and other countries.

The International Award is a truly rewarding experience which aims to bring new opportunities and help develop young people. Designed by a prestigious team of international educationalists, the award is recognised throughout the world by leading institutions, such as universities and by many businesses when considering job applicants. Focusing on individual challenge it will offer your son/daughter the opportunity to set a personal goal and achieve it within a supportive, non-competitive environment. The Award has three levels; Bronze, Silver and Gold. This year Bronze and Silver Award can be carried out by the year groups mentioned below and the Gold Award can be carried out by 6<sup>th</sup> form. The running of the Silver and Gold Award will depend on numbers and commitment of students.

The awards consist of a programme of cultural, practical and adventurous activities; specifically a community service, learning a new skill, physical recreation and an adventurous journey. The requirements for each section are as follows:

	Bronze – Year 10	Silver – Year 11, 12 and 13
Activities 1. Skill 2. Physical 3. Community service	<b>3 months of each activity.</b> 1 hour a week commitment for each activity. <b>1 activity to be completed for an additional 3 months.</b>	<b>6 months of each activity.</b> 1 hour a week commitment for each activity. <i>If the participant has not completed bronze, 1 activity to be extended by 6 months.</i>
Adventurous journey (practice & qualifying)	1 night, 2 days – minimum 6 hours of purposeful activity per day	2 nights, 3 days – minimum 7 hours of purposeful activity per day
Practice & qualifying dates	TBC	TBC



**Our Values are: Collaboration - Aspiration - Respect - Excellence - Responsibility**

Due to COVID-19, there are significant changes that affect the delivery of the Award. The International Award have developed a Virtual Bronze Exploration (VBE) to allow students across many different countries to challenge themselves in various skills such teamwork, problem solving, cooperation, and planning skills. This can also be undertaken by Silver and Gold participants to count as their preparation for an adventurous journey. Please read through the welcome letter to get an idea of what is involved in the VBE.

When we are allowed to run expeditions the qualifying expedition, and/or a practice expedition that will happen beforehand, will take place over a weekend and the students will be supervised by the International Award leaders and an external provider (Absolute Adventure). These expeditions will take place within UAE/Oman. **The students must have valid passports and medical insurance to carry out their expeditions and spaces will be limited to ensure quality training and the upmost safety during expeditions.**

As we are not allowed to have ECAs taking place in school due to COVID-19, students participating in the International Award are expected to attend **compulsory weekly online training sessions with no exceptions**. Some of the sessions can be attended at a later time however some live sessions will take place. These will take place on Mondays after school between 16.00 and 18.00 (depending on how far students live away from school) starting on 21<sup>st</sup> September. These sessions will cover guidance on how to complete their Award, along with most of the essential skills that they will need in order to participate successfully and safely in the expeditions, including map and compass skills, safety skills and emergency procedures. These sessions will also provide us with opportunities to monitor the students' progress in the other aspects of the award. Communication to the students will take place through normal school channels.

The total cost for each award per student will be determined depending on the number of participants and their option of doing the VBE (for Bronze participants only). Please note the prices below are approximations and may increase or decrease depending on various factors including COVID-19:

Bronze: VBE only ~ 400Dhs

Bronze: VBE expedition hybrid ~ 1100Dhs (subject to COVID-19 rules)

Bronze: practice and qualifying expedition ~ 1700Dhs (subject to COVID-19 rules)

Silver: practice and qualifying expedition ~ 2200Dhs

Gold: ~ 4000-17000Dhs depending on country and participants' views.

These costs cover the International Award administration fees, certificates, badges, some equipment costs and transport costs for the expeditions. The College makes no profit from the award. **An initial payment of 350Dhs will be required to register the students with the International Award. Payments for expeditions will only be taken when we confirm which option(s) are possible regarding COVID-19 rules at a later date. The initial training sessions will focus on the other aspects of the International Award.**

If you would like to find out more general information about the International Award programme you can access our website on <https://www.englishcollege.ac.ae/dofe/>.

To register interest in participating in either level, students will need to submit a letter of application, minimum 750 words, detailing why they are suitable for a position on the D of E International Award programme emailed to Mr Talsania by 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020. There are a limited number of spaces we are offering for the Bronze Award, Silver and Gold and we are looking for students who are clearly committed, hence the selection process. Their letter should state the following:

- What Award Level they want to apply for (that is applicable for their year group, eg Silver)
- Their knowledge of the International Award and what is involved in the whole process
- Commitment to achieving all aspects of the Award

Thank you very much for your cooperation. Please do not hesitate to contact me ([ktalsania@englishcollege.ac.ae](mailto:ktalsania@englishcollege.ac.ae)) if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



**Mr Krishan Talsania**  
**International Award Coordinator**