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# **The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award**

# **Parent Information sheet**

**History of The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award**

There are currently over 200 students from Patana participating in The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award at all three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold.

The Award was conceived and designed by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, Dr Kurt Hahn, founder of Outward Bound and the United World Colleges, and Lord Hunt, leader of the first expedition to conquer Everest. The Award is a challenging programme available to all young people aged 14–25. It is a balanced, non-competitive programme of voluntary activities, which encourages personal discovery and growth, self-reliance, perseverance, responsibility for themselves and service to their community.

The Award is now run in over 180 countries and Award holders are recognised worldwide as people who have achieved something above and beyond the usual academic qualifications. Higher education centres and employers alike see it as a valuable addition to a CV. More important, however, is the individual sense of achievement felt by Award holders and the experiences and fun they have along the way.

**The benefits of the Award programme to students**

When your child participates in the Award they will develop the skills and attitudes they need to become more rounded, confident adults. Qualities that colleges, universities and employers are attracted to. They will develop the following attributes:

Self-belief

Self-confidence

A sense of identity

Initiative

A sense of responsibility

A real awareness of their strengths

New talents and abilities

The ability to plan and use time

The ability to learn from and give to others in the community

New friendships

Problem solving, presentation and communication skills

Leadership and teamwork skills

**The three levels: Bronze, Silver & Gold**

The three levels are **Bronze, Silver, and Gold**. Students get the opportunity to start the Bronze Award at the beginning of Term 1 in Year 10 and the minimum time it will take for them to complete is six months but some students take longer.

The Silver Award begins at the beginning of Term 3 in Year 10 and students can choose walking or kayaking for the Adventurous Journey section. As they continue with the Silver Award in Year 11, this will also take a minimum of 6 months to complete if they have already completed the Bronze Award. If students then want to participate in the Gold Award they must express an interest after completing the Silver Award. The Gold will take a minimum of 12 months and Record books do not need to be submitted until the end of Term 2 in Year 13, but can be submitted earlier.

**The four sections**

There are four sections: **Skills, Physical Recreation, Service and Adventurous Journey**. For the Skills, Physical Recreation, Service and Adventurous Journey students must show a commitment of **one hour a week** for each section. The time committed at Bronze level must be 6 months for one of the sections and 3 months for the other two sections. Participants may choose which section they devote more time to. Students must choose a supervisor of each of the other three sections and inform the supervisors’ that they will be monitoring their progress and attendance. This can be a teacher, a coach, leader or mentor but must not be a parent or family member. The supervisor will be responsible for confirming the completion of an activity through the ORB system.

**BRONZE AWRD**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Section | 1.Service | 2.Skills | 3.Physical Recreation | 4.Adventurous Journey |
| Time frame | 3 months | 3 months | 3 months | A practice and an Assessment journey:  2 days/2 nights trekking expedition, camping overnight |
| Important notes | An additional 3 months must be undertaken in a section of choice. Participants must commit to an average of one hour a week per section over the time period. | | | Practice: Residential week  Assessment: Sam Roi Yot, Nr (choice of 5 weekends Jan – March 2016 |

**Skills**

This section is designed to encourage the development of personal interests and practical skills. These can be any hobby or interest, maybe playing a musical instrument, electronics, cooking or learning an Art form. The main emphasis is on regular participation and improvement of individual ability.

**Physical Recreation**

This can be any sport or activity that keeps you fit and healthy. Individual sports such as martial arts or swimming qualify along with team games like football or basketball. Again the emphasis is on participation and individual improvement through commitment over a period of time.

**Service**

The Service section is designed to instil the belief that members of a community have a responsibility to each other and that voluntary help is needed to create a caring and happy community. This service can be any community activity or project, environmental care or the gaining of a first aid or lifesaving qualification. There are many opportunities at Patana and students are encouraged to get involved in one of the community clubs (CAT). Projects include reef clean-up weekends, helping out at a local orphanage, and working with the Year 1 pupils playing educational games at lunchtime. At Gold level students are encouraged to gain experience outside of the Patana community.

**Adventurous Journey**

The aim of this section is to encourage a spirit of adventure and discovery. Participants succeed through self-reliance and co-operation with the rest of their team in planning and completing a journey or exploration through challenging terrain. Participants can choose to go on foot or use some other method of transport e.g. mountain bikes, canoes etc. We frequently use Kao Yai National Park, Ko Sam Roi Yod, Phang Na Bay and Chiang Rai. Participants select an activity in each section and participate in it regularly to achieve each level of The Award. At Bronze level all students must do trekking for this section but at Silver and Gold level there is often a choice between trekking, mountain biking and kayaking.

The students must complete at least one practice journey before they are ready for the assessment. In some cases staff will recommend that a student does another practice journey if they do not fulfil the Award criteria. At Bronze level the practice journey of 2 days and 2 nights is included in the Year 10 Residential. The assessment weekend will take place between January and March with a choice of five. Further details about this will be sent out nearer the time.

**Existing activities**

Many students will fulfil some of these components using their existing extra-curricular activities; however it is a substantial commitment and must not detract from academic study. Please remember that all activities that count towards the Award must be voluntary and the students must participate in their own time.

**Recording the four sections**

Using the Online Record Book (ORB), students have to record and prove what they’ve done for each of their sectional activities. They can upload their pictures and scan and upload pages of their signed activities and pictures of them doing the activities, and anything they can think of to prove their hard work. The Award staff and Supervisors for each activity will be able to log on and sign off when the student has completed a section of the Award. When they complete their Bronze Award, they will have the opportunity to create their Achievement Packcontaining everything they have uploaded, for them to treasure.

**The Award ECA – Wednesday OR Thursday 2.30 – 3.30pm**

There is only one Award ECA and this takes place in Term 1 for the Year 10 students participating in the Bronze Award. During the ECA students will decide what activity they will be doing for each section and receive a Record book so they can get each section signed off by a supervisor. The students will also learn a number of skills relating to the Adventurous Journey section such as navigation, camp craft, menu planning, cooking on a camp stove. One of the ECA sessions will take the students off campus to practise their navigation skills ready for the Adventurous Journey practice on Residential.

**Your Role as a Parent**

To help your son or daughter to learn from the Award programme and experience the many benefits we ask that as a parent you let your child do as much as they can by themselves. We are very keen on empowering students to make their own decisions and organise themselves and as a result become more confident and independent.

Most of our communication goes to the students and if there is a problem then we ask the student to e-mail us or come and talk to us. Obviously if it is an issue which cannot be resolved we are happy to then liaise with the parents. We would like the student, in their group, to plan what food they will take with them to cook on expedition, and go shopping to buy it. We would like the student to be responsible for packing their bags, and making sure they remember to attend meetings.

We will, of course, inform you if there is a problem and keep you up to date with any information you will need. For example: we always send you an e-mail a couple of days before an expedition with information about the emergency contact number and other useful information.

**Award Presentations Evening**

There will be a Gold Award Presentation Evening at the beginning of June and a Bronze and Silver Awards Presentation Evening in the middle of June to celebrate the students’ achievements. This is when the students will get an opportunity to share their experiences with you and be presented with their Award certificate.

**Contacts**

If you have any further questions or need to contact someone about the Award then please do not hesitate to contact us.

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