



Duke of Edinburgh Award at Granta School

Since September 2010, Granta school has been proud to offer its students the opportunity to achieve



the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Bronze, Silver and Gold level -each level increasing in length of service and time. The Award is designed to teach young people aged 14 and above, independence, social skills and determination to achieve and take on challenges, building character, confidence, leadership and resilience. It enables them to connect with others in a meaningful way, to be active and benefit from regular physical exercise and to gain an appreciation of the world around them when out walking and exercising. The award encourages them to keep learning new skills and to develop the ones they already have. Students also learn to give something back by volunteering in school or in the wider community.

To date, Granta has offered this award to 43 students in total. The Bronze award has been awarded to 33 students, the Silver award to 30 students and the Gold award to 17 of our students. This is a truly impressive record, for any school, mainstream or special, independent or maintained and we are very proud of our students' success.

The Duke of Edinburgh teaching team, led by Julie Lloyd & Harry Robbins (centre coordinators and group leader) and assisted by Yvette Vincent and Marta Policht, have helped our current participants select and set aims in each of the following areas:-

Volunteering - Gives students the chance to make a difference to people's lives using their skills and experience to help the local community.

Physical- involves taking part in a pursuit that requires a sustained level of energy and physical activity.

Skills- challenges students to improve a skill they already have or to learn a new one.

Expedition- planning, training for and completing an adventurous journey in the UK or abroad.



For the Bronze group, this is a weekend away which includes 6 hours of planned activity for 2 days. For the Gold group this consists of a week under canvas in the Lake District and 8 hours a day planned activity for 4 days.

Groups have been to centres and campsites throughout the UK including- The Lake District, Surrey, St Ives and Abington Woods. **"I love a good adventure"**

The programme is always designed to be full of activities and projects which excite and challenge the students, improving their confidence and self-esteem. They pick up new experiences, friends and talents which stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Acquiring new skills gives students the confidence and an attitude to life that is sought after by future employers and colleges.

Students get recognition for independent thinking and for organising themselves.

Students learn that they can make a difference to other people's lives and their community. They learn how to improve their own fitness and wellbeing.

From September 2012 we have been able to offer the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Gold level- the highest possible form of achievement and includes a presentation by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh or Prince Edward at St James' Palace. For this award, as well as learning a new physical, skill and fulfilling a

volunteering role, students have to take part in an expedition lasting 3 nights and four days in *wild* country. They also have a residential experience working alongside people they have not worked with before.

"I've learnt to go out into the wilderness and do stuff by myself and with my friends".

