

**The Duke of Edinburgh's
International Award Foundation**
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Dear IAC Licence Holder

I am writing to thank you for your ongoing commitment to delivering The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award (the Award) and to ask for your support in ensuring young people can continue to access the Award in your organisation during these extraordinary times. In particular, and perhaps counter-intuitively in these strange times, I am writing to ask you to ensure that your Award leadership team continues to recruit new participants if your local regulations regarding cocurricular activities allow for this.

COVID-19 has challenged us all to think differently about the way in which we support young people to develop and grow in schools and youth organisations around the world. We know that as principals, heads of schools or directors of education that you will be under intense pressure to deliver a well-rounded, holistic education in incredibly tough and ever-changing circumstances. We also believe that given these circumstances, preparing young people for the world beyond the classroom has never been more important. Indeed, developing the attributes of resilience, adaptability and creativity are the very skills required for the future and the 'new normal'.

We regularly communicate with your Award Coordinator and Award teams who are all doing an amazing job ensuring that the young people in your organisation are able to access and complete the Award. In collaboration with and in response to their feedback, we've been working hard to ensure that schools such as yours can continue to offer the Award as a key development tool, regardless of the public health restrictions.

Which is why I am reaching out to you now. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become more important than ever to ensure that young people are well-supported to access good non-formal education. The Award enables young people to learn to lead and be a leading force in their communities, developing characteristics which will not only benefit them now, but also in the years to come.

To help you make the case for the Award and its benefits to the young people who take part, their parents and guardians, the adults who volunteer their time and your community, we wanted to share with you some important information about some recent developments we have implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

➤ **Why deliver the Award during COVID-19?**

Please find here our recent publication aimed at schools and other organisations that describes the benefits the Award can provide to young people and your organisation. We hope this helps to make the case for continuing to offer the Award. You can also read more about our impact, including a new [social value report](#) prepared in partnership with PWC, on our website [here](#).

Founder HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT **Chair of Trustees** HRH The Earl of Wessex KG GCVO **Trustees** Allie Barot, Paul Bell, The Rt Hon The Lord Boateng PC DL, Rock Chen SBS JP, Adebayo Olawale Edun, Muna Issa, Andrew Smith, Garth Weston, Dr Howard Williamson CVO CBE, **Secretary General** John May OBE DL.

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#WORLDREADY

- **Training volunteers virtually**

We provide a comprehensive blended learning programme for licensed Independent Award Centres (IACs). In response to travel restrictions, and feedback from many IACs, we have developed a new virtual version of our Level 2 instructor-led workshops. In recognition of the impact of COVID-19 on our IACs around the world, there is a 15% discount for any workshop booked before 31 December 2020. Further details can be found on our website: <https://intaward.org/deliver/training-events/>.
- **Helping you and your team to raise Awareness of the Award**

As part of the Foundation's response to the impact of COVID-19 we have developed materials to raise awareness of the Award, promoting the benefits in a world impacted by COVID-19 and to celebrate and support the ongoing activities of existing participants and their Award Leaders. These materials include a [digital postcard for engaging parents](#), a [publication to help engage adult volunteers](#) and [this video](#) that you are free to share on your social media channels or use for promoting the Award within your organisation. In addition there is this [special message](#), recorded by HRH The Earl of Wessex (Chairman of the Award Foundation), available for use by IACs, celebrating the achievements of Award participants around the world.
- **Temporary changes ensuring young people can stay active, regardless of the public health restrictions**

Although there are some sections of the Award that can continue as usual during the restrictions associated with COVID-19, there are others that may be difficult even for the most creative of young people. Therefore, we have confirmed some temporary changes that are designed to avoid interruption to Awards during the pandemic, protect each participant's experience and – as far as possible – maintain the educational outcomes intended for each Section of the Award. These are specific and time-bound but are also supported by key guidance around the areas the Award already provides some flexibility that will support your young people to continue in this difficult time.
- **Virtual Award Coordinator Gatherings**

Since March, we have been delivering virtual gatherings for Award Coordinators. These have represented a fantastic opportunity to learn about the issues faced by IACs, enabled us to communicate our ever changing response to the impact of COVID-19 on our operators around the world, as well as to network with colleagues and ask any/all questions about the Award to our dedicated Operations Managers. We have received a positive response to these gatherings and will continue to run them on a monthly basis as well as monthly sessions for your whole Award Team to come and get support with things like our digital tools.

We hope the above, and the other support and services you receive from the Foundation, are helping to ensure that you and your staff are able to continue to offer the Award to your participants.

Kurt Hahn, the German educationalist who co-founded the Award with HRH The Duke of Edinburgh in 1956 famously said: 'There is more in you than you think'. During these unprecedented times, we hope you agree that supporting young people and the adults around them to find more courage, more strength and more compassion has never been more important.

If you would like to discuss any of the above, or require any support from the Foundation, please do not hesitate to get in contact with your Operations Manager.

We look forward to working with you, supporting your organisation and your young people through COVID-19 and beyond.

With kind regards



John May OBE DL
Secretary General