

On an extremely hot weekend in July, 42 of our Year 10 students completed a weekend expedition to the Peak District as part of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award is designed for young people aged 14 and above. Completing the Bronze Award typically takes a minimum of six months and requires dedication and commitment. At LVC, we run our own assessment of the Award, providing coaching, leadership and verification of the qualification.

The scheme has been run at LVC by Mr Barton for the past 15 years and hundreds of our students have benefited from taking part. We are proud that nearly a third of our Year 10 cohort are registered for the programme. It offers an important opportunity for personal development and community involvement through four components: volunteering, physical recreation, skills and an expedition.

Volunteering involves participants engaging in community service activities, fostering a sense of responsibility and empathy. This could range from helping at local charities to participating in local conservation projects.

Physical recreation aims to improve health and fitness and the skills element focuses on developing new talents or honing existing ones. This is about exploring interests and passions, whether it is learning a musical instrument, cooking or even coding.

Our trip to the Peak District for the expedition is perhaps the most exciting part of the Bronze Award. Participants plan, train for and undertake this journey in a group. This section is designed to build teamwork, resilience and a sense of adventure. Our students went on two day-long hikes and then spent the nights camping and cooking their own food.

We have recently been awarded a certificate from the scheme praising the 429 voluntary hours that our students have given to the local community this year. Well done to all of you!