

The 'International Award' at Canterbury School

What is it?

The International Award, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award equivalent, is an exciting self-development programme available to all students in S6 following the British route. It is designed to equip students with life skills to make a difference to themselves, their communities and the world. In addition the concept is one of individual challenge designed to encourage students to develop into responsible, active citizens who will positively contribute towards society. It presents a balanced, non-competitive and enjoyable programme of voluntary and organised activities which encourage personal discovery and growth, self-reliance, perseverance, responsibility and service to the community. The Award challenges attitudes, judgements and values and allows for thought provoking discussion and action centred on commitment, loyalty, empowerment, leadership and learning. It also promotes an ability to plan and work as a group; to fund-raise (or -lose); to learn new languages and customs; and, appreciate the value of physical risk and benefit involved.

. How is it organised?

The Award is currently timetables four lessons per week in the S6C timetable. During these lessons students complete a variety of activities from each of the four component parts of The Award: service; physical recreation; skills and expedition

What is the benefit to students?

British and International universities are increasingly concerned with the non-formal element of a prospective students' achievements. Few universities will accept students based solely on their academic record, hence why institutions are so keen to receive and rigorously analyse personal statements. The Award provides students, especially those headed to UK Universities, with the ability to illustrate their achievements of commitment, loyalty, empowerment, leadership, personal discovery and growth, self-reliance, perseverance and responsibility – all of which are difficult, if not impossible, to describe using academic achievements alone. And, of course, the Award is fun and enjoyable! In essence, The Award is an enhancement of a students' character and as such can add huge value and weight to University applications.

The Canterbury School is committed to enhancing our students' possibilities to enter British universities. This is the reason why from this year our S6 students are participating in the International Award program