

**ISTANBUL WELCOMES THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH FROM THE UNITED
KINGDOM**

The Duke of Edinburgh from the United Kingdom Meets with Turkish Youth at Kabataş Boys' High School

The International Youth Award Program-Turkey, a voluntary personal development program aimed at young people aged 14-24 implemented in more than 130 countries worldwide and organized in our country under the coordination of the Turkish Human Resources, Education, and Health Foundation (TIKAV), welcomes the Duke of Edinburgh from the United Kingdom in Istanbul.

On Monday, September 25, 2023, the Duke of Edinburgh visited the historic Kabataş Boys' High School in Istanbul, a participant of the International Youth Award-Turkey. There, he met with students, engaged in sincere conversations, listened to their experiences with the Award Program, and observed their performances in the various sections they undertook.

The International Award Program, known globally as The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award, is rapidly expanding its scope in Turkey. Aiming to contribute to the individual development of young people aged 14-24 worldwide through sections such as Voluntary Service, Physical Recreation, Skills Development, and Adventurous Journey, the International Award Program has been implemented institutionally in Turkey for 20 years. The number of young people participating in the program from Turkey exceeded 20,000 in 2023. The International Award Program, which increases the number of participant volunteer students in more schools each year in Turkey, hosted an important guest.

A DAY FULL OF TURKISH YOUTH IN ISTANBUL

On September 25, 2023, the Duke of Edinburgh visited the historic Kabataş Boys' High School in Istanbul, a participant of the International Youth Award-Turkey. Prince Edward was received there by Dr. Muharrem Bayrak, Principal of Kabataş Boys' High School, alongside Pelin Akın Özalp, a member of the Board of Directors of Akfen Holding and TIKAV, award leaders, and students. Later, the Duke of Edinburgh, visiting Kabataş Boys' High School and celebrating the 20th year of the International Award Program in Turkey, listened to the experiences of young people from different schools about the Award Program, engaged in sincere conversations with them, and observed their performances in the various sections they undertook.

The Duke, who signed the school's guestbook, also closely examined the memorial book about the Kahramanmaraş Earthquakes that occurred on February 6, 2023. The Duke of Edinburgh had previously visited Istanbul in 2015 to review the development of the International Award Program in Turkey, visiting various schools and spending time with the

youth there.

CONTINUING ITS ACTIVITIES IN 34 CITIES OF TURKEY

As of the beginning of 2023, the International Youth Award Program continues its activities in 34 provinces in Turkey with 147 active Award Centers, over 8,000 active participants, and more than a thousand active volunteers. Known as the world's leading youth program and implemented in more than 130 countries worldwide, reaching 13 million students, this voluntary education program targets young people aged 14-24 to encourage their individual development. The organization of this important program, which has reached 20,000 young people in Turkey so far, is carried out by TIKAV, founded by Akfen Holding.

All young people aged 14-24 can participate in the program. Participation is entirely voluntary, and the Award Program aims to support young people in discovering and developing themselves personally, gaining confidence, and self-discipline. To receive the Award, young people are required to engage in activities for one hour a week in the sections of Voluntary Service, Physical Recreation, Skills Development, and to participate in Adventurous Journeys. They then graduate with a gold, silver, or bronze award, depending on the time they have dedicated. It's noteworthy that the program, which has reached 13 million young people worldwide, is considered a primary selection criterion for jobs and university admissions.

About the International Youth Award Program-Turkey:

The International Youth Award Program, initially launched in 1956 as The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in the United Kingdom with the support of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, has reached more than 13 million young people in over 130 countries worldwide, and over 20,000 in Turkey to date. The program started in Turkey in 2003 as the personal development program "International Award Program-Turkey" for young people aged 14-24. In 2013, with a License Agreement signed with the International Award Foundation (IAF) in England, the program began to be implemented under the name "The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award-Turkey" (DoEIA-TR) represented by TIKAV. TIKAV is the only institution authorized to promote, implement, monitor, and certify the International Youth Award Program in Turkey.