



Our Ref: DF

November 2020

**Parents/Carers Year 10 & 11**

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Duke of Edinburgh Award**

I hope you and your families are all well.

Further to my previous letter in July, I wanted to update you regarding the Duke of Edinburgh Award and how it is currently being affected by the measures put in place with regard to the Covid-19 outbreak.

**Skills/Volunteering/Physical**

Many students have experienced problems completing their Skills/Volunteering/Physical sections due to restrictions and clubs/activities closing. Some students have been able to continue to complete them at home. With this in mind DofE have launched a new initiative **#DofEWithADifference** and have come up with ways that participants can change or adapt their activities in order to allow them to be completed at home. For more information please visit:

<https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference>

DofE have also uploaded a number of videos to their YouTube channel to assist in completing the Skills/Volunteering/Physical of the award:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/theDofEUK>

Participants are now allowed to complete more activities at home, however parents/carers/family members are not allowed to sign their Assessors Report – this needs to be completed by an independent assessor. If their weekly Activity Log has been completed I am happy to act as assessor for these activities – please bring the Assessors Report to me and I will sign it off ready to upload to eDofE.

**Expedition**

With regard to the Expedition, we were sadly unable to complete this in September as I would have liked. With cold weather and dark nights drawing in it would be unwise to plan an expedition in the next few months. We are not required to camp out as part of the expedition rules for this year so participants will only need to complete a day walk, demonstrate they can put up and pack away a tent, and cook a meal on Trangias. It is my hope that we can complete the expedition in March/April - I have provisionally booked the following dates an expedition to Long Mynd, Shropshire:

Year 11 - 13<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Year 10 - 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Please be aware however that the expedition will be subject to any current school, local authority, and government health and safety guidelines at the time. I will update you further on this date as the situation changes.**

### **The D of E Certificate of Achievement**

For the next academic year, young people are able to receive formal recognition of their achievements in their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections.

DofE want young people to be recognised for their amazing efforts and achievements even if social distancing, personal circumstances or other challenges mean it's not possible for them to do an expedition and/or residential at Gold, and therefore achieve their Award, over the next year. To this end, they have extended our accolade that recognises the fantastic accomplishments of these young people – the 'Certificate of Achievement'.

For the next academic year, certificates will be available to all participants who have completed their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections at Bronze, Silver or Gold level, but haven't been able to do their expedition and/or residential because of the pandemic. Any young person who enrolls before 31 July 2021 will be eligible for a Certificate of Achievement.

The Certificate will be a formal recognition, by the DofE, of their dedication to their programmes and everything they've achieved through these three sections, as well as their resilience in coping with ongoing uncertainty. **This certificate can be achieved in addition to their Bronze Award.**

For more information please visit:

<https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/certificate-qas>

Many thanks for your support during this period of uncertainty. I will contact you again when I am able to provide further information. If you require any further information or assistance to help your child complete their award then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



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