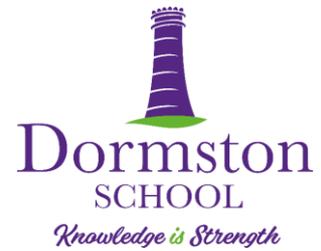


Our Ref: DF

March 2021



Parents/Carers Year 10 & 11

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Duke of Edinburgh Award

I hope you and your families are all well.

I wanted to further update you regarding the Duke of Edinburgh Award and how we are planning on proceeding as Covid-19 measures are lifted.

Expedition

The most pressing issue is the Expedition. We would like to complete the expedition for Years 10 and 11 and have provisionally booked the following date for an expedition to Long Mynd, Shropshire:

Sat 3rd – Sun 4th July 2021 – Long Mynd and camping at Brow Farm

This date has been chosen as it will be after any internal exams/assessments sat by Year 10 and 11.

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.

Skills/Volunteering/Physical

In order to complete the D of E award pupils must also have completed the Skills/Volunteering/Physical sections – and have uploaded the relevant evidence and assessors report on to eDofE. Many pupils have experienced problems completing their Skills/Volunteering/Physical sections due to restrictions and clubs/activities closing, although some pupils have been able to continue to complete them at home. In some cases, it may be that activities have to be completed over the summer and uploaded at a later date. If your child is in Year 11 and needs to continue with these activities over the summer I will keep in touch with them so they are able to complete the award and I can post the certificate upon completion.

This year, DofE have also 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 with further information 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.

The D of E Certificate of Achievement

For this 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

D. Fox

Mr D. Fox
Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager
dfox@dormston.dudley.sch.uk



Message from The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

We are greatly saddened to hear of the loss of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award's Patron and Founder, His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh, and our thoughts are with his family.

The Duke had a lifelong commitment to inspiring, empowering and developing young people, and in setting up The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, he has helped transform the lives of millions of young people worldwide.

In the UK alone, 6.7 million young people have benefitted from taking on the personal challenge of a DofE Award, setting themselves up with the skills, confidence, and resilience to make the most out of life and make a difference to the world around them.

In the 65 years since His Royal Highness founded the charity, the need for the DofE has never been greater, with young people facing unprecedented challenges and an uncertain future due to COVID-19.

The DofE will continue the remarkable legacy of His Royal Highness, working to make sure that all young people – and especially those from marginalised groups – can benefit from the better educational outcomes, employment prospects, community ties and stronger mental health the DofE can help support.

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