

Headteacher: Mr J Parr BA Hons

3rd June 2020

Dear parent/carer

DofE is continuing and young people across the country are being supported to carry on with their DofE journey during the coronavirus outbreak. Well done to those students who have been able to continue to collect evidence to support their DofE Award despite these circumstances.

Since we last wrote to you DofE guidance has changed to allow the award to be as accessible as it can be, given the restrictions we face, and therefore we would like to update you accordingly. New guidance is continually being updated as we start to leave lockdown. This guidance can be accessed through the DofE website <https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/> and some frequently asked questions can be answered here <https://www.dofe.org/coronavirus/faqs-participants/> <https://www.dofe.org/coronavirus/faqs-participants/>.

As it currently stands DofE continues to operate and students can continue to work on their physical, skill and volunteering sections. DofE has provided a list of activities <https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/activities> which can be completed at home, or you can alternatively work on your chosen activities provided you are safe to do so, but please ensure you follow the current government guidance.

Furthermore, you can change your original activities in light of the current pandemic and make up the remaining hours required with a new activity. If you choose to do this, could you please update your eDofE account to make us aware of the activity change?

DofE have also, for a limited time, relaxed their assessor restrictions, and will now allow a family member to act as an assessor or alternatively you could use you DofE leaders, either Mrs Davis or Mr Cox, although DofE would always encourage you to assign someone specific to the activities field of interest if you are able to do so.

In summary

Volunteering, Physical and Skill temporary programme changes

- Participants can now volunteer for family members, for example by mentoring or coaching younger siblings.
- Participants can now change section activities more than once. Time spent on previous activities will still count towards completion.
- DofE staff members (e.g. Operations Officers) can act as Volunteering, Physical and Skills section Assessors, if required.

The planned expeditions have now all been cancelled, and we wait for further easing of restrictions before these may take place. DofE has moved to ensure students are recognised for the work they are completing, and the effect coronavirus is having on this year's DofE cohort and as a result they have introduced the DofE '**Certificate of Achievement**'. DofE 'Certificates of Achievement' will be granted to Bronze, Silver and Gold participants who started in Summer 2019 or later, have completed their Physical, Skills and Volunteering sections (but not their Expedition section) and have had them approved by their Leader in eDofE by the end of December 2020. These

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will be sent to the participant directly from DofE. Students can still go on to complete their full Award. For future information please visit <https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/achievement-for-all>

We are working with our AAPs (expedition assessors) to see when expeditions could take place and how we may perform them ensuring all students safety. Currently, DofE have said that Bronze students could either do an expedition at a separate time which we would look at offering when safe to do so or alternatively if students move on to their Silver Award, the Silver practice expedition can be recognised as the Bronze qualifier.

For those of you who have uploaded evidence can we thank you - this is constantly being checked and approved. Please ensure you wait for approval before you start collecting evidence for an activity to confirm that it is appropriate and would be recognised by the DofE award.

Thank you for your efforts to date. Keep up the good work.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Cox and Mrs Davis