



16th June 2020

DofE With A Difference

Dear Parent/Carer

Although we are not able to say when your child will be completing their Duke of Edinburgh Award Expeditions, during lockdown they can still be working to complete the other sections of the Award: Volunteering, Physical and Skills.

I am writing to you to explain how you can help your child to complete all 3 of these sections during lockdown. We appreciate that participants will have to change what they do for some of their sections and the DofE has made sure that the edofe site allows participants to make changes. This does not mean that they lose whatever they had been doing prior to lockdown. Whatever Volunteering, Physical or Skills had already been done will count towards the section. The candidate simply needs to request a change of activity and then include both activities in the log/diary as evidence.

Assessors – The DofE is still very clear that family members such as parents and siblings cannot be assessors, however, friends and neighbours can be assessors, but also students can ask either myself or their DofE Supervisor (Mrs Dickinson, Mrs Dojahn Wood or Mr Wainwright) to be their Assessor. I am very happy to assess any of the three sections for all 3 awards.

Volunteering – It is very likely that your child will have to change their volunteering activity. Now, volunteering can be: Mentoring a younger sibling and helping with home schooling, calling a vulnerable older person like a grandparent once a week, chatting to an elderly neighbor at an appropriate social distance, doing shopping for someone who is shielding, mentoring or helping a younger friend or relative through online communication, helping with babysitting of a much younger sibling or even taking responsibility for some of the household chores. Remember that any previous volunteering activity will still count.

Physical - again it is likely that the type of physical activity your child has chosen will have to change. Running and cycling are good options to swap to, but online exercise such as Joe Wicks sessions can count as well (the requirement is for 1 hour per week, so 2 Joe Wicks sessions per week can count.) As the assessor will have to be someone not in the household, it is important to keep an accurate account of the sessions completed in an activity log or diary. Every candidate was given a copy of an activity log for all three sections when they enrolled in DofE, but if they have lost that, a simple record on a piece of paper will suffice.

Skills – Many students have already chosen cooking or baking for the family as their skill - if you have to change your skill, this is an easy one to do and I'm sure that many parents will appreciate someone else taking a turn at cooking the family dinner. However, there are other options: learning a language online, sewing, knitting, etc. This is another section where the participant will have to ask a friend or neighbour or a member of the D of E staff to be their assessor – I have already seen much evidence of some delicious looking cooking and baking going on!

Other points:

- **Changing a section** – simply go onto edofe and request a change of activity

- **Evidence for any section** – Participants should upload some photos and a picture of their activity log or diary (which must show dates)
- **Participant cannot get onto their account** – simply email me and I will help

Expeditions – Unfortunately, all expeditions are still on hold at this time. We still have no clear idea when we will be able to run expeditions, but rest assured that we are keeping a close eye on the situation and as soon as we are able, we will be planning to ensure that any participant who enrolled in DofE this year will be able to complete their award.

I recently received a certificate from The Duke of Edinburgh organisation thanking the Prince Henry's Participants for donating 2106 hours of voluntary service to the local community in the past year. I'm sure you will agree that this is an impressive total. Just because we are currently in lockdown, it doesn't mean that our participants can't make another huge contribution to the community (in a safe way) in the coming year.

Please can I urge you to do everything you can to encourage your child to complete their Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections as soon as they can so that they will be ready to complete the full Award as soon as we can run expeditions.

If you have any questions or I can help in any way, please feel free to email me at ess@princehenrys.co.uk

Yours faithfully

Sian Ellis

DofE Manager
Prince Henry's Grammar School

