

October 2020

Dear parent / carer,

As Ridgeway's DofE Manager, I wanted to send you some information about the provisions for students in Year 11 who were unable to complete their award last year due to the national lockdown.

To achieve their Bronze Award, participants must complete four sections: Skills, Volunteering, Physical and their Expedition. You will find a selection of suggested activities on the school website, including schemes which are COVID Safe. Please, see these new resources on our website for guidance and support.

<https://ridgeway.herts.sch.uk/duke-of-edinburgh/>

During and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, participants who complete their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections will also receive a DofE Certificate of Achievement – a formal recognition, by the DofE, of their efforts at this extraordinary time.

Activities for each section take a minimum of one hour a week over a set period of time, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives. For more details about programmes and timescales (see the enclosed leaflet / visit DofE.org/do).

About the Expedition

The Expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan their expedition's aim, choose a location and do some training to make sure they're fully prepared – before spending two days and one nights in the countryside. Currently the Qualifying Expedition is planned to take place on the 29th and 30th of May in the Chiltern Hills.

I will be delivering a Saturday intensive training session on the 27th March to recap and complete the training from last year. This will also involve a practice navigation session and practical tasks such as pitching tents, packing rucksacks and cooking on a Trangia.

The DofE and COVID-19

Your child can still have the full DofE experience, safely and in line with Government guidance, during the COVID-19 outbreak. The motivation and focus the DofE gives, and its positive impact on mental and physical health, can play an important role in helping your child navigate our 'new normal', safely expanding their world and giving them skills and experiences to open doors in the future.

As participants can choose and change their activities, they can pick ones that they can do while social distancing or from home. The DofE has provided useful advice and information, including activity and volunteering ideas, at DofE.org/DofEWithADifference.

The DofE has also introduced a number of flexibilities to allow expeditions to take place safely, in line with social distancing restrictions and Government guidance. While your child's expedition may look slightly different to those in previous years, they will be able to do theirs safely and with all the benefits and memories they'd get at any other time.

eDofE and the DofE app

Participants can create their DofE programme and record their progress using eDofE, the DofE's digital system, available online at eDofE.org and through the DofE app – downloadable for free from Google Play and the App Store. Please, encourage your child to log in and log any evidence they have as they continue to complete their individual sections.

A parent / carer information presentation has been recorded and uploaded to the school website. I will be circulating additional information in March to go over the details for the Saturday Training Session and Qualifying Expedition in more detail.

If you would like any further information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me.

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to helping your child to achieve through their DofE.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Sutton

DofE Manager

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