

DofE participants

I hope that you, your family and friends are all safe and well.

Congratulations to everyone who has been uploading reports, evidence and photographs to their eDofE account. It is amazing to see how you have adapted your activities while you are in lockdown. I am determined that you shouldn't miss out on your DofE programme and all the benefits it brings.

I appreciate that this is a challenging time for you but continuing with your DofE programme can have a hugely positive effect on your mental and physical wellbeing and in these unsettling times the structure, positive focus and sense of purpose a DofE programme provides is more important than ever. Because the DofE programmes are flexible and personalised, you can keep working towards your Award at home and, through adapting the volunteering section, can also provide much needed support to your family, friends, peers and vulnerable members of the community during this crisis

DofE recognise the challenges you are facing and have now introduced a number of temporary changes to support you on your DofE journey.

Unfortunately, I cannot give you any further updates regarding the expedition section at the moment. Once we have further Government guidance planning will commence. This may include staying closer to home to cut down on travel, move towards expeditions in November/December, using indoor accommodation. For the Bronze participants, if we are unable to arrange a training and assessed expedition you will be able to use the Silver practice as your Bronze assessed so you can complete your award.

For participants who have enrolled on any level of the DofE award since Summer 2019, once you have completed the skill, physical and volunteering section and have had them signed off on your eDofE account, you will receive a Certificate of Achievement, sent directly to your home address from DofE Head Office. Please check that your personal details on your account are correct. All evidence and assessors reports must be uploaded prior to 31st December 2020 to be eligible for the certificate.

Further information on these changes can be found here: [#DofEwithaDifference](#)

As with all DofE activities, to maintain the value and integrity of the Award, may I remind you that your Assessor cannot be a family member. An Assessor can be anyone who is interested in helping you to complete a section and achieve your Award. Your assessor should have some knowledge about your activity although they don't need to be an expert. If you are struggling to find an assessor please contact me and I will make arrangements with your Head of House who have now agreed to help with assessing.

As you're unlikely to be doing your activity in the usual way, make sure you get in touch with your assessor and let them know how you're continuing. You should also contact them about how you would like to stay in touch, and how they can assess your activity remotely.

Some ideas might be:

Use an activity log to record what you're doing and send it to your Assessor.

Take photos or record a video of your activity that you can send to your Assessor as evidence.

Use phone and email to stay in touch to let them know how you're getting on.

There is lots of useful information available on the DofE website with ideas on how to continue with your award or if you have any questions please email me.

Please keep up the good work and stay safe.

Regards
Mrs H Rigby
DofE Manager