



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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11 February 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope this letter finds you well. It has now been just over six months since your child started their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. I can see that they have logged into their eDofE account and are currently working on completing their sections.

Although Covid has put a stop to a number of activities, there are still many things students can do whilst at home. Please see <https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/activities> to help with ideas of what to do if their activities need to change. If they need to change their activity, then they will need to submit a change of activity request.

They should now be coming to the end, or might have finished, their sections. For each section undertaken, I have noted from their eDofE account that they are missing some or all of their section details. The eDofE account is where they fill out what activities they are doing, who their assessor will be and upload their evidence from their Section and then finally, upload an assessor's report.

I have put a number of messages out to students via Form Tutors, Head of Year and the Google Classroom (class code: [ak4kdgf](#)) to remind students to complete this.

Please could I ask you assist your child in logging into their account and filling out the relevant sections to allow them to complete the Award. If your child is unsure of their username, then please email me and I can send this to them. There is also a eDofE app available to download to a smartphone or tablet which is an excellent way to make all this very quick and easy.

For each section undertaken, an assessor (who is not a member of the family) should have been agreed. This will be a suitably qualified or experienced person who can write a report, verifying your child's attendance, goals and achievements throughout the activity. This report will then need to be uploaded to their eDofE account.

The assessor can either:-

- Complete a written report using the tear out page in the Assessor Guidance Notes. This can then be scanned or a photo taken and uploaded onto the relevant section on their eDofE account. This should be marked as the Assessor's Report, rotated to be upright and legible, and then submitted for approval, or;
- Write an online report by visiting www.DofE.org/assessor. If using this option, the assessor will need the eDofE ID number and the level and the dates of the section as per the programme planner. These reports appear on the group Leader's eDofE account before being forwarded to your child's account (so will not immediately be viewable by your child).

The Buckingham School is concerned that every student should have the opportunity to attend school activities/obtain equipment, regardless of their financial circumstances. As such, it may be possible to subsidise those students who would otherwise be unable to attend trips/purchase items. Please feel free to write in confidence to Mrs K Bones at kbones@buckinghamschool.org, if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.



We are hopeful that the Expedition section will be able to go ahead in the summer term. In order for it to go ahead, some changes have had to be made to ensure the Expedition can happen safely and in line with Government issued guidelines around Covid-19. The main change will be that students will not be camping. They will need to be dropped off and picked up each day. As part of the Expedition, they will still be required to put up and take down a tent and also to demonstrate camp craft skills by cooking their lunch (instead of dinner) on a Trangia.

The provisional dates for the Expedition and training day are:

- Training day: 26th April 2021 - 1 day during the school day
- Practice expedition: 4th/5th May 2021 - 2 days walking and understanding navigation/demonstrating camp craft skills
- Qualifying expedition: 10th/11th May 2021 - 2 days walking/ demonstrating camp craft skills and navigation skills to assessor

A letter regarding more details about the Expedition payment (usually approximately £50) and pick up and drop off points will come out next term.

We are looking to have both the Practice and Qualifying Expeditions in and around the local area of Buckingham and the surrounding villages and out towards the Silverstone area. During the Training Day, students will learn what equipment they will need for the Expedition, how to put up and take down a tent, how to plan and cook a meal on a Trangia, first aid, navigation skills and finally, plan their own routes for the Qualifying Expedition.

Before the Training Day on 26th April 2021, we would like students to complete some basic online training via a specialist Expedition company. The site is: <https://bxmlearning.co.uk/> and they will need to enter the following code to gain access: BXM-BUCKDOFE-9809

They need to scroll down and complete Modules 1-9. I will have access to be able to see which students have completed each of the modules.

We hope this information is helpful and we look forward to seeing your child's eDofE account buzzing with evidence to approve shortly. If you have any further questions about your child's DofE programme then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mrs V Cowley
Assistant Curriculum Leader for PE
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator
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