



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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20 April 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Duke of Edinburgh Update - April 2020

I am writing to give you an update as to where we are with the Duke of Edinburgh Award given the current circumstances. I fully understand this is a difficult and worrying time and that you may have concerns about how the Coronavirus outbreak and subsequent School closure will affect your child's progress. Please can I ask that you also share this information with your child.

Below is some useful information on how your child can still continue to complete their Award whilst being at home. I will also continue to update each of the Google Classrooms with ideas and suggestions that I think that they can complete whilst at home and I will also be able to answer any individual questions they may wish to post there. The codes they will need to join the relevant Classroom are as follows:

Bronze Year 9 - classroom code: 7ydtk2u

Silver Year 10 - classroom code: 6jj7isp

Gold Year 12 - classroom code: xp2h57u

More information from Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme can also be found at <https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference>.

The health and safety of everybody involved with the DofE is the most important thing to us. There will inevitably be disruption to planned activities in the coming weeks and months but we're determined that young people shouldn't miss out on the opportunity to achieve their Awards.

Physical Section:

If your child's regular activity isn't on at the moment, there are lots of ways they can continue maintaining their strength and fitness. Whilst mass gatherings must be avoided, they could consider walking or running in your local area – or even doing a workout (or practising your sport) in your garden. Apps like Strava or Google Fit can help monitor activities and provide evidence for their Assessor. There are also lots of fitness sessions and classes that can be followed online (on YouTube for example) and done within your home; from pilates to learning dance routines, PE sessions with Joe Wicks every morning, bootcamps to HIIT workouts. Your child can keep a record of their activities and hours using the Physical section [activity log](#).

Skills Section:

There are lots of activities for the Skills section that can be done from home, from cooking or playing an instrument, to learning a new language or drawing/painting, learning sign language online, First Aid online course with S Johns Ambulance. Plenty more ideas can be found on the DofE website.

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.



Volunteering:

Some students may be able to continue with this area but the majority will not. We have to adhere to Government guidelines and stay at home. Therefore, this section may have to be completed at a later date. Again, the DofE website gives some volunteering suggestions and ideas that can be done online.

What to do next?

If your child wishes to change any of their sections, they will need to submit a Change Of Activity request via the DofE app. They will not have to start again with the timescale, they just need to continue from when their last activity stopped. They will probably need to get a new Assessor for the new activity - their tutor could be a great Assessor as they are keeping weekly contact with them. Please ensure your child speaks to them first to check they are happy to do this. Your child will then need to let their Assessor know what they have been doing and provide evidence. At the end of each section, the Assessor will need to write a short Assessor's report. An Assessor's report will also be required for the old activity up until the date they stopped. These can be done by your Assessor online. More information will be on the Google Classroom as to how this can be done.

Expeditions:

- Bronze Students:

The expeditions that were planned for the summer term 2020 have been postponed. When we get back to School, we will look at the best options to run these. Don't worry, they will still happen!

- Silver and Gold Students:

The expeditions are booked through School of Outdoors. At present, the expeditions that were due to happen before May half term are postponed. The dates that we have for the qualifying expeditions in July (Silver: 3/4/5th July and Gold: 16th-20th July) are still booked in. We will just have to wait to see how the current situation unfolds. If these are unable to go ahead, we will let you know as soon as possible and then look at new dates. We are still waiting to hear if Duke of Edinburgh will put any special considerations in place for expeditions, as they have done previously, to make it easier for students to achieve this section this year.

I do hope this has helped ease some concerns, however, if you have any further questions relating to your child's DofE Award, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mrs V Cowley

Assistant Curriculum Leader for PE

Duke of Edinburgh Centre Manager

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