



4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I write to you to inform you of some changes regarding the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award in School. The DofE Award is trying to encourage participants to continue with their activities during the pandemic. The website ([www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org)) provides lots of examples of activities that can be done at home for the Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections.

Some of the most relevant changes that have been made to the delivery of the award are listed below:

- Participants are now able to volunteer at home with members of their family, for example coaching a younger sibling
- Normally you are only allowed to change your choice of activity once during the agreed period but you are now able to change the activity several times

Learners have been kept up to date with these changes and given advice on completing their section through the Google Classroom notice boards that were set up prior to lockdown. For further information, frequently asked questions and other aspects of doing the DofE during lockdown are covered on the DofE website ([www.dofe.org](http://www.dofe.org)).

Unfortunately as expeditions are not taking place at the moment, participants will not be able to complete their full award but for those who complete the other three sections, they will receive a DofE Certificate of Achievement to recognise the completion of three sections of their award.

Across all Award levels, thousands of young people have worked hard to complete their Volunteering, Skills and Physical sections but may not be able to achieve their Award because they can't do their expedition. It's become increasingly clear that COVID-19's impact will be long-lasting and some won't get the opportunity to complete their programme this year. So, to recognise the dedication, resilience and accomplishments of these participants in extraordinary circumstances, DofE are launching a new accolade – the '2020 Certificate of Achievement'. This will be awarded to any young person that has completed the Skills, Physical and Volunteering sections of their Award by the end December 2020.

Alongside the introduction of the certificate DofE have introduced two temporary rule changes for learners who wish to progress from Bronze to Silver (please note this won't apply to those moving from Silver to Gold):

- At Bronze level, participants who have completed their Skills, Physical and Volunteering sections – achieving the 2020 DofE Certificate of Achievement – and progress to Silver, will be treated as if they have completed the previous Award level. This means they'll only have to complete six months of activity, not 12.
- Participants who do this will be able to use their Silver practice expedition as their qualifying expedition at Bronze, enabling them to achieve both their Bronze and Silver Awards.
- For further information on these rule changes please visit <https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/achievement-for-all>

These new rule changes highlight the importance of learners continuing to complete their sections in a safe environment during lockdown. I have posted different material to support and guide the learners through their sections on Google Classroom and regularly monitor progress through the D of E website. If any of the learners are struggling to understand how they can complete their award please ask them to message me through google classroom and I will do my best to help them.

Thank you for your continued support of the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Castell Alun.

Kind Regards

Andrew Duffy.