



1<sup>st</sup> October 2020

Dear Students, Parents & Carers,

### **Duke of Edinburgh Award Update October 2020**

Here is a long awaited update on what Fairfield is intending to do to help students complete their awards and get the credit they deserve for all the hard work they have put into their DofE during these hard and unprecedented times.

This letter is an FAQ of sorts that I hope will answer most of the questions that students and parents/carers may have at the moment.

To help support all participants during the Covid pandemic, Duke of Edinburgh Award have developed DofE with a difference which is the DofE Certificate of Achievement.

#### **What is the Duke of Edinburgh Certificate of Achievement?**

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic the DofE have created a new form of recognition so that students are still able to gain an equivalent, internationally recognised, award without completing the expedition, which because of regulations has become increasingly hard to run and organise.

Further information about the Certificate of Achievement can be found on their DofE website (<https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/certificate-qas>)

*'For the next academic year, Certificates will be available to all participants who have completed their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections at Bronze, Silver or Gold level, but haven't been able to do their expedition and/or residential because of the pandemic.*

*The Certificate will be a formal recognition, by the DofE, of their dedication to their programmes and everything they've achieved through these three sections, as well as their resilience in coping with ongoing uncertainty.'*

As a result of this we are going to be encouraging all students to complete their three sections, so that they can gain credit and recognition for their hard work.

### **How can I complete my Award?**

First and foremost, we want as many students to complete their awards as possible. We are aware that with Year 11s being in their critical exam year, it may take more time management for them than the Year 10s, however if students have been keeping up with their sections then they have had more than enough time to complete their three sections (2 x 3 Months & 1 x 6 Months). If it is a matter of uploading evidence to eDofE, then we implore students to please do this straightaway and to use the DofE app to make this process even simpler to upload evidence.

It is also imperative that the students obtain an assessor report from their assessors when they have completed their award. If they are unable to physically do this because of Covid-19 regulations, then they can give their assessor their Participation ID Number found on eDofE and direct their assessor to the following website (<https://www.dofe.org/assessor/>) where they can complete the report digitally. An assessor cannot be a member of the family. If anyone is struggling to find an assessor, please come and talk to me or Mrs Hart as soon as possible.

If a student is having issues around continuing their sections because of their activities not running because of Covid-19 regulations, I would like to direct them to this FAQ on the DofE website:

(<https://www.dofe.org/coronavirus/faqs-participants>) which explains all of the DofE guidance surrounding these issues. This includes help with issues such as changing activities to a new one, whilst still getting credit for the previous activity.

### **Will there be an Expedition this year?**

The current answer to this question is not this term as we previously anticipated. However, we are hopeful that we will be able to run expeditions in the Spring/Summer term. This will be completely reliant on Covid-19 regulations and DofE guidance.

If expeditions do go ahead, we will take every care when organising them to fit them around exams next year, ensuring that students have the opportunity to complete their expedition section should they wish to do so.

As the year goes on we will update students, parents and carers on whether expeditions will be feasible, and how they will be delivered.

### **Will there be after school sessions this year?**

We are not going to be hosting afterschool sessions for at least the Autumn term, although we are well aware that students will still need guidance and help when it comes to their DofE award. As a result, we have created a DofE Google Classroom for each year group where information and links to the DofE website will be posted. We hope that this will help go some way to fill the void that is left by no afterschool sessions. Students will also be able to ask any questions on Google Classroom if they aren't able to see staff in school.

The school website will also be regularly updated and any notifications or updates will be posted on the school social media.

### **So what do I do now?**

I have compiled below a checklist of things students should now be doing in terms of their DofE Award.

**The 3 sections need to be completed before the end of October half term for both year 10 and 11 groups.**

- Log on to DofE and upload all outstanding evidence. The DofE app is very easy to navigate and should make this process even simpler.
- Upload any outstanding Assessors reports/ obtain outstanding Assessors reports.
- Join the DofE Google Classroom for your year group where information and links will be posted to help you with your DofE.
  - Year 10: 5jjouow
  - Year 11: 5wvgwyy
- Ask me or post on the Google Classroom if you have any questions.

I hope that this letter helps answer any questions you may have, and I also want to thank you all for the hard work that you have either shown in taking part in your sections or supporting the students to do this; delivering DofE in a pandemic is something we have never had to do before, so we are taking every precaution to make sure it is fun but remains Covid secure.

Yours faithfully



Mr C Giggle  
DofE Leader