

Participant Update Letter - 2019/20 Cohort

8th June 2020

Dear Parents / DofE Participants,

I am writing to provide you with some clarity around Prince Henry's High School's Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, and to inform you about the changes that are currently being put in place to support our student participants. As the situation is still rapidly changing, it is not possible to answer all questions and make a full plan for the future. However, we have already made a number of decisions to help our School's DofE programme continue.

Changes to the DofE Award.

The DofE have made a number of changes to aid students in completing their award sections. Full details can be found at www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/, but to summarise:

- New activities have been introduced to enable participants to complete all sections at home.
- A new 'opportunity finder' has been created on the DofE website to help participants find new activities for their sections.
- Participants can now volunteer for family members.
- Participants can now change section activities multiple times, and collect the time spent on previous activities as well.
- Introduction of the 2020 DofE Certificate of Achievement (more details below).

Expeditions for the 2019/20 DofE cohort.

Just to reiterate, all expeditions that were planned for June and July 2020 have been cancelled at all 3 levels of the award. Furthermore, as social distancing is currently due to remain in place well into the Autumn term, it is highly unlikely that expeditions will take place prior to December 2020. The DofE national organisation are currently exploring a number of options around the expedition section, but it is too early to tell what these possible changes are, and therefore we are not yet making a final decision on whether to rearrange, or to cancel expeditions for the 2019/20 cohort.

Introduction of the 2020 DofE Certificate of Achievement.

As the DofE Scheme is focussed around the completion of a range of sections (4 for Bronze and Silver, and 5 for Gold), it has been agreed that, for the 2019/20 cohort only, non-completion of the expedition section will not prevent participants achieving an award. Therefore the 2020 DofE Certificate of Achievement has been introduced, which is a qualification that Bronze, Silver, and Gold participants in the 2019/20 cohort can achieve, providing they complete all other sections of the award (Namely their Volunteering, Physical and Skills (with the addition of the residential section at Gold level). This looks to be a great new award, as it enables participants to gain a DofE award, which for Bronze participants also means they can move onto the silver level as a non-direct participant, thereby shortening the timescales at that next award.

Our current focus therefore will be for all 2019/20 DofE participants to work towards completing their DofE Certificate of Achievement prior to December 2020. Once the final decision on the expedition element is made, participants may still have the ability to 'top up' their certificate of achievement to the full award. All 2019/20 participants will be supported over the coming few months by the school's DofE team to ensure they have adapted all their DofE sections, and that they are therefore on track to complete their Certificate of Achievement. Partial refunds may be provided once a firm decision about expeditions has been made

I will be in contact again in the future to provide you with any more updates as they become available.

Yours faithfully,

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