



Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all as well as can be expected in these unusual times. I just wanted to get in touch about your son/daughter's Duke of Edinburgh programme and some helpful changes that the DofE have made so that participants can continue with their award during this time away from school.

Firstly, DofE have changed their policy on participants changing their sections activities, for example, if participants wanted to continue with a section but their old volunteering, skill or physical is no longer viable, they could change to something else. This can be done by logging into their *edofe* account, clicking on the section they wish to change and then submitting their new activity to be verified by myself. If participants do decide to change an activity they will need an assessor's report from both of the things they have been doing, for example, if they completed four weeks of football for their physical activity but then wanted to do their final 8 weeks of cycling they would need an assessor's report from someone involved with the football practice and the cycling; these can be submitted via *edofe*. If participants are struggling with ideas of what they could do during this time they can always go to the DofE website to look at their list of activities, lots of these will be perfect during a time when they need to stay inside as much as possible, the link is below...

<https://www.dofe.org/do/ideas/>

In addition, the link below also has some great ideas on how to complete some sections via distance learning...

<https://www.dofe.org/opportunity-finder/opportunity-for-dofe-participant/?page=1>

In line with the above, a second helpful change they have made is that participants can now volunteer for family members. This could be utilised by spending an hour a week helping a younger sibling with their school work, or completing some sort of project with them, however, this must still be assessed by a non-family member – this could be a neighbour or family friend. Participants should still upload photo evidence of them completing their volunteering as well. Other ideas about volunteering during this time could include using their daily exercise to go litter picking, a neighbour might be a really good person to assess this as they might see them come back with the litter they have collected from the local area.

Finally, in regards to the expedition dates, we will obviously not be attending our practice expedition this coming weekend nor our assessed expedition planned for the third week of June. I have, however, been in contact with the assessment provider we are using and we are looking at dates to complete these at some point in the autumn term so that pupils will hopefully still be able to finish their Bronze Award in 2020. If this is still not possible with Government Guidelines, we will complete the assessments during the spring of 2021.

If you have any questions about the Duke of Edinburgh at The Emmbrook School, please do not hesitate to email me on rcairns@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk

Best Wishes

Miss Cairns