



King
Ecgbert
School

Celebrating 50 years of King Ecgbert School
1969-2019

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Headteacher: Mr Paul Haigh
Chair of Governors: Mrs Karen Milbourn

Date: 19 May 2020

Our Ref: RMI/HW

Dear Parent/Carer and DofE Participant,

Re : Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. I wanted to write to you all before the half term break to update you on the changes that have been made to the Bronze DofE Award in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The school has been in regular contact with both the DofE organisation and BXM Expeditions who work closely with the school to provide the expedition section of the Award. It has become apparent that the expeditions planned for June and July will not be able to go ahead in their current form and so **both expeditions have been postponed until the autumn term**. By then we hope to be able to run the expeditions safely as this is a hugely valuable part of the award. The expedition season has already been extended to support DofE centres and schools to run any postponed expeditions.

The DofE are introducing many other changes to support young people working to achieve their Awards and I have given a brief outline of the most relevant adjustments below:

- **Change of activity** – where a participant is no longer able to continue a started activity they can now change to a new activity to finish any remaining time in that section. This means time already invested completing suspended activities is still valid. You will need to get a report from your first assessor confirming the hours already invested and upload this to edofe.
- **Volunteering for a family member** – supporting an elderly relative by maintaining their garden or buying and delivering shopping or teaching a younger sibling to play a musical instrument are now accepted volunteering activities. It remains that you cannot have a family member as an assessor.

For a full list of changes, FAQs and other advice and support please visit their website at <https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference>. The website is updated regularly as new information and clarity emerges.



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Participants have also been enrolled onto a Moodle Course (Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award) which signposts where more detailed information can be found and provides guidance for participants around managing their online edofe accounts. If you still have questions please direct them to rminshull@ecgbert.sheffield.sch.uk.

At present it is difficult to say with any certainty when exactly students will be able to undertake their expeditions. It is unclear how long-lasting and the effects of the Coronavirus outbreak will be and it may be the case that it is not possible to run expeditions in 2020. In this instance students will receive **The DofE 2020 Certificate of Achievement**.

Young people will be formally recognised for their dedication, resilience and accomplishments where they have completed their Skill, Physical and Volunteering sections by the end of this calendar year but have been unable to complete their expedition due to the pandemic. Any participants who go on to complete the expedition if/when it is safe to do so can still achieve their full DofE Bronze Award, and we will endeavour to provide every opportunity to allow students to do so.

We understand that these are difficult and uncertain times for everyone, but we hope that if you are able to find some time to focus on your DofE sections it will provide a positive purpose to your time in lockdown as we begin to prepare for the phased return.

Yours faithfully,



Miss R Minshull
DofE Manager