



Bideford College
Part of the Launceston College Multi Academy Trust



Tuesday, 20 October 2020

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2020/ 21

Dear Parent / Carer,

I'm pleased to let you know that Bideford College offers the Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students from year 9 upwards.

The DofE is a great chance for your child to broaden their horizons, discover new interests and talents, have fun with friends, develop essential skills for their future and achieve an internationally renowned Award.

As Bideford College's DofE Manager, I wanted to send you some information about what a DofE programme involves, the benefits for your child and how they can sign up.

About the DofE programme

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. There are three levels of DofE programme which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They'll gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they'll achieve an Award that's recognised by top employers and can help them stand out when applying for university or jobs.

To achieve their Bronze, Silver or Gold Award, participants must complete four (five for Gold) sections: Skills, Volunteering, Physical and their Expedition (this includes a residential at Gold level).

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they can choose what they'd like to do for their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections, and most activities can count. I will provide guidance and support, and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something completely new.

During and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, participants who complete their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections will also receive a DofE Certificate of Achievement – a formal recognition, by the DofE, of their efforts at this extraordinary time.

Activities for each section take a minimum of one hour a week over a set period of time, so they can fit around studying, hobbies and social lives. For more details about programmes, timescales and the award in general please visit the Bideford College website.

Bideford College> Learning> Adventure Learning> The Duke of Edinburgh's Award> Bideford College DofE information pack

The Expedition

The Expedition section involves your child working as part of a small team to plan their expedition's aim, choose a location and do some training to make sure they're fully prepared – before spending a few days and nights in the countryside (duration dependant on level).

Ahead of this, they will take part in some training days covering basic expedition principles and introducing them to expedition equipment.

There will also be a number of training sessions in which your child and their group will plan their route and prepare. Participants will only be able to do their expedition if they attend the organised training. The majority of this training will take place virtually this year.

The DofE and COVID-19

Your child can still have the full DofE experience, safely and in line with Government guidance, during the COVID-19 outbreak. The motivation and focus the DofE gives, and its positive impact on mental and physical health, can play an important role in helping your child navigate our 'new normal', safely expanding their world and giving them skills and experiences to open doors in the future.

As participants can choose and change their activities, they can pick ones that they can do while social distancing or from home. The DofE has provided useful advice and information, including activity and volunteering ideas, at DofE.org/DofEWithADifference.

The DofE has also introduced a number of flexibilities to allow expeditions to take place safely, in line with social distancing restrictions and Government guidance. While your child's expedition may look slightly different to those in previous years, they will be able to do theirs safely and with all the benefits and memories they'd get at any other time.

eDofE and the DofE app

Participants can create their DofE programme and record their progress using eDofE, the DofE's digital system, available online at eDofE.org and through the DofE app – downloadable for free from Google Play and the App Store.

If your child decides to enrol, we will set up their eDofE account and they will receive details of how to sign in and get started.

Signing up

Please see the attached letter for detail on how to sign up to the award. Please note the initial cost only covers enrolment onto the DofE programme and there will be an additional cost later in the year to cover the expedition.

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to helping your child to achieve through their DofE.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at the college.

Yours faithfully



Mrs D Stapleford and Mrs G Huxtable

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