



July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Silver Duke of Edinburgh award – Moving forward**

Firstly, I hope this letter finds you and your families well.

I appreciate the past 3 months have been a really uncertain time for everyone and so many questions will have been hot topic in the household regarding examinations, grades and then the other commitments that pupils had. I wanted to write a letter regarding the next steps for Silver DofE for your son/daughter as I have spent much time discussing with regional DofE, the City of York Council and school leaders on the next steps for the award.

### **Certificates of recognition**

It's become increasingly clear that COVID-19's impact will be long-lasting, and will halt our progress planned to complete the silver programme this year. So, to recognise the dedication, resilience, and accomplishments of students in these extraordinary circumstances, DofE have launched a new accolade – the '2020 DofE Certificate of Achievement'. This will be awarded to any student who started their programme from Summer 2019 onwards and who has completed the Skills, Physical and Volunteering sections of their Award. These will need to be approved by me on EDOFE by the end December 2020 for the certificate to be issued to pupils.

This is not the 'full' Silver Award, but recognition from DofE of what has been completed up to this stage. Once students get the opportunity to complete their expedition section following the restrictions of the pandemic being lifted, this will then activate the full award status and normal procedure will follow.

Please can I ask all pupils to now spend time adding their evidence and submit their sections for their volunteering, skills and physical on EDOFE. Once this is added, we will be able to ask for the Certificate of Achievement to be sent to you. Please can I remind you that these sections must not be signed off by parents (trigger is same second names on the electronic system) but by someone who was the assessor, manager or teacher for example. I am happy to sign off any of the 3 sections and if you need me to do this please drop me an email letting me know what needs doing and the information I will need to help me complete the report.

Students will need to log in to their DofE account and complete the activity information of what they did, followed by adding pictures/evidence of them doing so. The final stage, and most importantly is a picture of their DofE assessor page for each section. Attached is a picture of what this will look like once complete. If you have any problems or you don't know how to do this, please just get in touch with me by email and I'll be able to guide you through it.

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**Volunteering** 6 Months Status: Section completed. Approved on 06/06/2019 by Mark Rampling, id 666379

\* Start Date: 08/10/2018 End date: 08/04/2019

\* Type: Coaching teaching and leadership

\* Detail: Netball Coaching

\* Location: I will coach netball at the younger sessions at my netball club.

\* Goals: I want to inspire young girls young girls to participate in a sport I enjoy so much.



## Expeditions

After long deliberation and review of the safety and enjoyment that comes with running the expeditions we have decided that both Bronze and Silver expeditions will not run at Vale of York this season and will be rolled over to next season (2021).

Most of the other school providers in the city and regionally are doing the same and are not planning to run their expeditions until next year. However, there are some external companies and schools over the country that will run these, but very differently. There are many reasons for us taking this very difficult decision with two of the most important being the safety of the pupils and staff and the experience of DofE. The potential of camping in a tent alone, walking 1m/2m apart, hygiene control and not being able to help each other as normal, is something of great concern at this stage.

On making this decision to cancel and not run expeditions this season, I have been discussing with the other providers about the opportunity to complete this with the post 16 providers. York College and most post 16 providers do run the DofE and will be able to accommodate our students so you can culminate your award when they are able to run the next expedition weekend. We will be running the Silver Award for our current Year 10 next year and should you not be able to complete the award with your next provision then please get in touch and we can see what we can do.

## Payments and finances

The overall cost of the Silver DofE was £120, with £40 being a non-returnable deposit which was paid to the City of York for your subscription and online portal. The further £80 was for 2 weekend expeditions. If you have already paid this to school this will be returned to parents during the coming week. Refunds of £40 per weekend will be sent via the parent pay system.

Your online DofE account will be attached to Vale of York Academy until it's transferred to another provision, they will need your EDOFE number and I will then need you to contact me when you have organised with the next provision to move it over.

I appreciate this letter will come as a disappointment for the students and we are sorry we couldn't complete this with the pupils. The staff at the Vale of York Academy and I work really hard to deliver this award and are also saddened not to be taking these expeditions out. We all wish the students all the best on completing their DofE expeditions in the future.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on [m.rampling@voy.hlt.academy](mailto:m.rampling@voy.hlt.academy)

Yours sincerely,

**Mr Mark Rampling**  
**Head of PE and Enrichment**