



Dr Rhys Short MChem, PhD
Coordinator of the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am writing to give you an update on your child's Silver DofE award and what steps they can take to ensure that they are still working towards their award during the current lockdown period.

Most students, if not a direct Silver entrant, need to complete at least six months in two of the disciplines. Therefore, a large majority of the students will have completed only three months of the physical, volunteering and skill activities at this point. They will need to make sure that they continue an hour a week of each of their sections until the School is allowed to re-open to all students again.

A number of students have put knitting, music or cookery down as their skill, which can easily be completed at home and photo evidence uploaded to eDofE via the app. For their physical, I am sure you are encouraging your child to keep active, even if they are practising their chosen sport or activity in the garden - a number of short videos of them doing this activity will help the assessor to sign off their award.

Finally, although most of the volunteering is done through School, during the last lockdown, a large number of students helped their local community by making scrub bags for the NHS or looking out for elderly neighbours. These activities should be evidenced, as it embodies what the DofE award was created for. Even though our students will be unable to complete certain activities usually based at School, there is a lot of flexibility from the DofE to allow them to carry out different activities from their original choice. The key is that they upload as much as evidence as possible to their eDofE account on a weekly basis.

Even if they have completed the three-month section, in regards to hours, I do not want this to be the end of their journey and I would love to see them carrying on with these activities up until their return to School. The awards were created to give young people goals to work towards, for both personal reasons and for the wider community, and now more than ever this is needed. Please encourage your child to carry on engaging with the activities - I cannot wait to see all the evidence uploaded onto eDofE, even it is as simple as kicking a football, cooking a simple meal or learning a new song.

I thank you all for your continued support and I look forward to seeing your child achieve their Silver DofE award in Routh assembly in front of the Senior School when we are all able to meet together again.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Dr Rhys Short

Chairman of Governors: Paul West QPM