



Whitburn Church of England Academy

An Academy with Specialist Status in Maths and Computing

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'Excellence for All'

30th March 2020

DofE Update Due to School Closure

Dear Parent/Carer and DofE Participant

I am aware that you will have questions about the award that you are currently completing and the implications of the current government guidance. The Academy intends to re-arrange all expeditions, in conjunction with Simonside Outdoor Adventure, to take place as soon as possible after schools have been re-opened and the current restrictions have been lifted.

With this in mind, please can I encourage you to take the opportunity to 'audit' where you currently are with regards to your physical, skill and volunteering sections? More specific details are offered below, but it is imperative that you know how many weeks you have completed in each section to avoid completing more weeks than necessary. If you have completed the section in full, please contact your assessor and ask them to complete their assessors report online (*further details about this are at the end of this letter*).

DofE are advocating flexibility at this current time and are supportive of participants who wish to continue to complete these sections whilst still in isolation. Here are my suggestions:

Physical section: Many of you will have been using facilities that are now closed. Why not combine your completed weeks with your daily exercise routine? Are you completing Joe Wicks' daily PE lesson? Walking each day as a family unit (as long as this is following government guidelines – please make sure you're following the most up to date advice)? Using home gym equipment or making your own circuits in your house? DofE suggest using apps such as Army Fit or the 100 press up challenge.

Assessment: Keep a weekly log of the date, activity and duration. Download an app if you're walking/running to record the route and take one photo per week. Ask your current assessors to add the following onto the end of their assessors report or ask myself or Iain Arthur to assess your combined physical activity: "In addition, due to COVID-19, *John* completed the remaining 5 weeks of physical activity whilst following the government stay at home guidance. *John* provided me with a log of the activities *he* completed each week. I am satisfied that *John* has now completed the 13 weeks of physical activity required for this section of the award."

Volunteering section: This maybe the section that you need to leave until restrictions are lifted. Count how many weeks you have completed so you know how many weeks still need to be done. However, DofE have centrally said the following: "consider something that can be based from home – keeping in touch with members of the community via social platforms, raising awareness for causes close to them or other ways to give their time to others without direct contact. We have

Document available in large font, alternative language or audio format on request



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also found a volunteering programme that can be completed at home. It needs a little tweaking but is a good starting point.” <https://www.leonardcheshire.org/get-involved/volunteer-us/social-action>

Skill section: Many of you will be able to continue cooking at home. Keep a log of what you have cooked and take a photo. Once you have done enough dishes, you can either keep the photographic evidence safe until you return to school or share all of your evidence on eDofE and ask Iain or myself to assess your cooking. Some of you may want to change your activity through eDofE: simply revert a section back to draft - change your chosen activity - submit your new activity for approval. There are some excellent skill opportunities on the internet that can be completed remotely, DofE have suggested the following: “St Johns Ambulance has a great self-directed skill plan (<https://www.sja.org.uk/globalassets/documents/dofe/dofeselfteachworkbook.pdf>). Additionally, iDEA is a free award and platform centred around developing digital, enterprise and employability skills – This is a great skill section. (<https://idea.org.uk/faqs/organisers/learner-management/173%7Cidea-and-the-duke-of-edinburghs-award>)”

I hope this information has been useful. Please keep going with the Award and use this time to get up to date with the administration side of it. If all sections are completed, the Award can be sent for verification after the expedition is completed.

Looking ahead, the Academy will be offering both the Silver and Gold Awards over the next academic year. You can start working towards the next level the week after you have completed the Bronze or Silver Award. The one exception is that you must be 16 to start working towards your Gold Award. If you have finished a section, why not investigate an activity you can start now to get a head start of the next award?

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at dofe@whitburncofeacademy.org or via Microsoft Teams.

Yours faithfully

P Sheard
DofE Coordinator

Writing an Assessors Report

Each section requires an assessors report to be uploaded to www.edofe.org. This is a statement written in either the white DofE ‘Participants’ handbook’ (which was issued by post to each household in Autumn 2019) or on a piece of paper stating:

- The section been assessed
- The activity undertaken
- The start and end date of the section (at least the time scale of the section, either 3 months or 6th months). Please do not write **ongoing** as the end date – a specific date is required by DofE.
- A short paragraph about completing the section e.g. John has attended at least 13 football training sessions for over one hour each week. His fitness, team work and match play has improved throughout the season and he has been a vital part of the team. I wish him success for the future.
Please note - the assessors report for **skill** should address the skills that the participant has undertaken. This is the same for volunteering and physical.
- The name of the assessor (this must match the name on eDofE)
- A signature and the date

You should then scan or photograph this page and upload it to the participant’s profile. Remember, 3 months is equivalent to 13 weeks of activity, of at least 1 hour **per week**.

Alternatively, you can ask your assessor to complete the above statement using <https://edofe.org/Assessor>. Your assessor will require your daughter/son eDofE number, which is displayed in the top left hand corner of the eDofE homepage, underneath their name.

By logging into eDofE using their **Username and Password**, your daughter/son should be able to see which sections are incomplete. Passwords can be reset using the “forgotten your password” link (below the log in section) and Mr Sheard can remind students of their usernames by emailing dofe@whitburncofeacademy.org