



**Our Ref:** APO | NMO | 004

19<sup>th</sup> July 2021



Dear Parents / Carers

### **The Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award**

I'm pleased to let you know that Rednock School will be offering the **Silver** Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students starting Year 11 in September 2021.

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 the school'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 Award**

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. Due to Covid, your child has missed out on the opportunity of doing Bronze, but with a positive approach, they can achieve their Silver without doing their Bronze!

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

To achieve their Silver Award, participants must complete four sections for 6 months each: Skills, Volunteering, Physical and their Expedition. These will also need to be assessed. In addition, one must be done for 12 months.

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. We will provide guidance and support, and students can either choose to continue an activity they already do or discover something completely new.

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 and timescales visit <https://www.dofe.org/do>.

#### **About 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 three days and two nights in the countryside.

Ahead of this, they will take part in training sessions in school and on the water or on land, covering basic expedition principles and introducing them to expedition equipment, in which your child and their group will plan their route.

Head Teacher - David Alexander BA (Hons); MSc

Participants will only be able to do their expedition if they attend the organised training.

Proposed dates are currently after exams in May/June 2022 for a Training Day followed by an evening meeting for parents / carers and then the Expedition.

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 <https://www.dofe.org/DofEWithADifference>.

### **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. We will also hold an eDofE launch session.

### **Signing up**

The cost will cover your child's participation place and Welcome Pack, which will be sent to their home address and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card, the training, expedition costs and use of school equipment. If your child would like to take part, please complete the programme planner so they can get started.

We will hold an information event for parents / carers and students on early in the September. If you would like any further information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me.

Your child will then be expected to take responsibility for their programme on the DofE website, sign up to Google Classroom for DofE which will be one of the main forms of communication.

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

Yours faithfully

Andrea Porter

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