



Our Ref: APO|RCL|001

6th October 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Silver Award Programme

I'm pleased to inform you that Rednock School offers the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13.

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

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

About the DofE

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. There are three progressive levels of the DofE programmes which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award. Due to COVID-19, your child has unfortunately missed out on the opportunity of completing the Bronze Award, however, students can achieve their Silver Award without completing their Bronze Award first!

Through the DofE, students will make friends and build traits like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. Students will gain skills and attributes for work and life, such as, problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation. The DofE Award is recognised by colleges, universities and employers.

For students to achieve their Silver Award, participants must complete all four sections of the programme:

- Skills
- Volunteering
- Physical
- Expeditions

The Skills, Volunteering and Physical elements of the programme need to be completed over a 6-month period. These sections will also need to be assessed. In addition, either the Physical or Volunteering section must be completed for a further 6 months as the students have not completed their Bronze Award. Students can start their DofE journey at Rednock School, complete it in a year, or take their programme with them and finish it when it suits them. Their enrolment will be dated to 1st September, so anything they have already started will count towards it.

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – students can choose what they'd like to focus on 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 take part in 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 www.dofe.org

Head Teacher - David Alexander BA (Hons); MSc

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 participate in some training to make sure they're fully prepared – before spending three days and two nights in the countryside.

Ahead of this, students 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. Participants will only be able to take part in their expedition if they attend the organised training.

Proposed dates are currently after the exams in July 2022. There will be one training day, a two-day practice and a three day (two night) camping 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 one whilst social distancing from home. The DofE has provided useful advice and information, including activity and volunteering ideas, at 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 your home address and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card, the training, expedition costs and use of school equipment.

We will hold an information event at Rednock School for parents / carers and students with Ocean Rock Adventure on Wednesday 13th of October at 6.30pm. If you would like any further information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me via email - dofe@rednockschool.org.uk

Your child will then be expected to take responsibility for their own 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

DofE Manager

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