



It's clear that the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak has had a long-lasting impact on the affect and ability of DofE centres to run expeditions for several months.

Young people across the UK have worked hard to complete their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections, and continue to do so in these unprecedented times.

We want them to be recognised for their amazing efforts and achievements even if social distancing, personal circumstances or other challenges mean it's not possible for them to do an expedition and therefore achieve their Award, over the next year.

To this end, we've extended our accolade that recognises the fantastic accomplishments of these young people – the 'Certificate of Achievement'.

The Certificate will be a formal recognition, by the DofE, of their dedication to their programmes and everything they've achieved through these three sections, as well as their resilience in coping with ongoing uncertainty.

We know many young people will want to continue their programme and do their expedition when it's safe and possible to do so. We would absolutely encourage this – they're hugely valuable experiences that develop vital skills and character.

If you go on to achieve your Award, that's brilliant. But, if not, your DofE Certificate of Achievement on your CV or in your personal statement will act as a talking point, help you stand out and make sure your achievements are highlighted on applications and in interviews.

What I intend to do at Winchcombe school, is to ask those students who would like to sign up to do their Silver Award to carry on or do different tasks for their sections, as much as they are able to. Once 2 sections have been completed, I will arrange a practise expedition (if safe to do so) which will count as their real Bronze expedition to gain their full award. Then in a few months I will arrange for their Silver expedition to take place.

If your child has the dedication to continue with Duke of Edinburgh that is fantastic and shows real commitment to obtain the award. He/she will need to come and get another application form to enrol onto the Silver programme with a cost of £25 for the entry and admin fee.

If you require any further information, please contact me at crussell@winchcombeschool.co.uk

Kind regards,

Caroline Russell