

Hi Ali

See text and attached presentation for SAPOE members.

Many thanks

Pete

It's increasingly clear that the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak is going to be long-lasting and that this is going to affect the ability of DofE centres to run expeditions this summer and autumn.

At the DofE, we remain determined that young people can continue working towards their Awards and have their achievements recognised, but we also acknowledge the barriers that centres will face in organising and delivering the Expedition section for hundreds of thousands of DofE participants over the next six to 12 months.

The guidance below and the attached presentation sets out initiatives and options for DofE Leaders to ensure that young people's achievements are recognised this year and to help them deliver expeditions as soon as it is safe to do so.

Expedition flexibilities

We know that some young people will want to continue with their programme and do their expedition when it is safe and possible to do so. We would absolutely encourage this – the expedition is a hugely valuable experience that develops vital skills and character. All young people who complete their Skills, Physical and Volunteering sections will receive the special 2020 DofE Certificate of Achievement and, if they go on to complete their Expedition section at a later date, they will also achieve their DofE Award.

To support young people to complete their expeditions, we've developed four flexibilities that address different social distancing challenges. We understand the difficulties Leaders will face in supporting young people from this year's cohort who want to do their expedition whilst signing-up a new wave of participants; these flexibilities are intended to help Leaders balance those needs and ensure new participants don't miss out.

1. Expeditions with a difference

For many years, participants who have additional needs and those doing their DofE in the secure estate have done a different type of expedition, which results in the same outcomes and benefits as a 'traditional' expedition.

2. More expeditions, at a different time of year

If social distancing rules are in place until much later this year, we know we may need to support LOs to run expeditions in a much reduced timeframe, to support 2020's new cohort of participants and those young people whose expeditions have been delayed. This is likely to be outside the 'usual' expedition season – although it's worth noting that DofE expeditions can always be run at any point of the year.

3. Helping participants who can't do an expedition this year, but wish to progress to the next level

For those participants who simply won't have the chance to complete an expedition this year and want to progress from Bronze to Silver, we'll introduce two temporary rule changes (please note this won't apply to those moving from Silver to Gold):

4. Something different

We're also investigating the possibility of introducing an alternative experience to the expedition for participants later this year. If a suitable experience is developed, it will deliver the same learning outcomes as the Expedition section, but in a format that enables participants to comply with social distancing rules.

We'll share more details on all of the above in coming weeks – and local Operations Teams will work with LOs to help decide which solutions are right for their participants, depending on their circumstances. These are options for Leaders to choose from, and can be used in varying combinations. Operations Officers are on hand to help LOs in their planning.

DofE are very keen to be working with Local Authorities as pupils return to schools and that the Outdoor Learning opportunities that DofE can provide, be part of the “blended” education offer to young people.

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