

16 December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I am writing to provide an update on the Vyners Duke of Edinburgh Award Programme.

Unfortunately, due to the current situation, we have decided it would be in the best interests of students to not run the expedition section of the DofE awards this year at school. If your child was unable to complete their expedition due to cancellations, please fill out [this Google Form](#) so that a refund of expedition fees can be processed. This will affect a large number of students, so if the form could be completed by Friday 15 January, money should be back with you by the end of January.

As circumstances change, more expedition opportunities will become available through external providers, so this should not be considered the end of anyone's DofE journey! The DofE has launched an [Opportunity Finder](#) for participants which is an invaluable resource to employ when searching for section ideas - including options for the expedition section.

As mentioned previously, the remainder of the award is still very much running at Vyners. Due to the unavoidable interruption of the expedition seasons, the DofE has introduced an additional accredited qualification - the Certificate of Achievement - for participants who have completed their Skills, Physical, and Volunteering sections. The [Opportunity Finder](#) can also be used for further inspiration for those still nailing down the final details of any remaining sections.

We have had a large number of students able to use the extra time at home to finish sections they had previously not been able to complete. There was an increase in students completing their Volunteering sections by helping elderly neighbours, and assisting with younger relatives' school work. One year 10 student has even taken on gardening responsibilities in his household to fulfil the requirements for his Skills section! I've very much enjoyed receiving emails from students with creative ideas for how to complete as much of their award as possible, and it has been so wonderful to see so many participants create positive experiences for themselves and their families in what has been an incredibly difficult year.

Students will continue to be updated on their DofE Google Classroom with support on completing their Awards and Certificates of Achievement, but please do have them contact me with any further questions.

Kind regards



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Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

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