

Dear Pupils,

Hope you are all well and had a lovely Easter. Due to the current circumstances our expeditions have been put on hold but that does not mean you cannot continue with your other sections. During this difficult time the DofE can have a hugely positive impact on your mental and physical wellbeing. The structure, focus and motivation from the programme can be a benefit at this time – and, now more than ever, our communities need young people volunteering through their DofE to support our most vulnerable neighbours and friends.

We're here to help

The whole DofE team is committed to helping young people navigate these challenging times. The DofE has created <https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/>, where you can find everything you need to keep working towards your DofE award – including a list of home-based activities that you can change to and start doing right now (see <https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/activities>). The DofE will be adding to this regularly in the coming weeks. There are lots of ideas on this page for volunteering, physical and skill sections. Volunteering is the biggest challenge at the moment but this page has plenty of ideas that you can do from home. The following are some ideas:

- Participate in research of all kinds, from classifying galaxies to counting penguins with Zooniverse
- St John Ambulance – 12 week fundraising plan
- Try some ideas from Leonard Cheshire's guide to 12-week volunteering from home
- Create a fundraising plan for the British Heart Foundation
- Become an Energy Envoy with the National Energy Foundation
- Virtual volunteering
- Missing maps project
- If you are a Young Carer, your caring responsibilities can count for your volunteering.
- Skype talk / face time / WhatsApp call to the elderly neighbour to keep them from being isolated
- Maintain Facebook or Instagram page / websites for a local group or charity

Finding an Assessor

There are many questions that you may have especially relating to finding an appropriate assessor. Please read the information below to find out what information is applicable to you:

If you're able to continue your usual activities at home, you should continue to use your appointed Assessor. As you're unlikely to be doing your activity in the usual way, make sure you get in touch to let them know how you're continuing. You should also contact them about how you would like to stay in touch, and how they can assess your activity remotely.

Some ideas might be:

- Using [activity logs](#) to record what you're doing and send it to your Assessor.
- Taking photos or recording a video of your activity that you can send to your Assessor as evidence.
- Use phone and email to stay in touch to let them know how you're getting on.

What if I am changing activity or starting a new section, and need to find an Assessor?

An Assessor can be anyone who is interested in helping you to complete your section and achieve your Award, has

some knowledge about it (although they don't need to be an expert!) and is available over the time you're doing your activity.

They cannot be a family member (to maintain the integrity and value of your Award), but they could be:

- A family friend
- Your DofE Leader
- Another DofE volunteer or helper who helps with your group (your DofE Leader can help put you in touch)
- A teacher from your school
- Another youth leader, if you belong to a youth club, Scouts, Cadets etc.
- A member of DofE staff

If you are struggling to find an Assessor and would like to ask a member of DofE staff, please contact myself via email or the DofE website.

If you decide to change your activity

Yes, if you decide to change activity (and have had approval from myself) then you just need to complete the new activity for the remaining time e.g. if your Volunteering section is 6 months, and you had already been volunteering for 4 months, you will just need to do the new activity for 2 months.

Remember you will need to get the assessor from your previous activity to write a report to confirm what you did and how long you did it for. You can either add this as evidence in your eDofE account, or ask them to submit this report through the online assessor portal.

Other questions

If you have any other questions please have a look at the following website to see if you can find the answer:

<https://www.dofe.org/coronavirus/faqs-participants>

If you have any questions that have not been answered please contact via (JNoble@orchard-tmet.uk) and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Remember to update your online profile with the different activities.

Kind Regards,

Jess Noble

Duke of Edinburgh Manager

Teacher of Physical Education



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