

October 2020

Dear parent / carer,

I'm pleased to let you know that Ilford County High School offers the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to students in Year 12.

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

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

About the Dof

The DofE is non-competitive and open to all young people – it's about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. There are three levels of DofE programme which, when successfully completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

Through their DofE, students will make friends and memories and build traits like confidence, resilience and self-esteem, which can benefit mental health. They'll gain skills and attributes for work and life, like problem-solving, team-working and self-motivation – and they'll achieve an Award that's recognised by top employers and can help them stand out when applying for uni or jobs.

To achieve their Gold Award, participants must complete five sections: Skills, Volunteering, Physical, their Expedition and Residential.

Every young person's DofE programme is personal to them – they can choose what they'd like to do 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 do or discover something completely new.

During and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, participants who complete their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections will also receive a DofE Certificate of Achievement – a formal recognition, by the DofE, of their efforts at this extraordinary time.

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 www.DofE.org/do

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

For each award, we use an external provider (Mud and Maps) who carry out the training for the practice and assessment expeditions. Please note, due to their being an external provider, there is an additional cost each time a student participates in the practice and assessment expeditions. There will be NO member of staff from Ilford County High School present on the practice or assessment expeditions.

The DofE and COVID-19

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 ones that they can do while social distancing or from home. The DofE has provided useful advice and information, including activity and volunteering ideas, at [DofE.org/DofEWithADifference](https://www.dofe.org/DofEWithADifference).

The DofE has also introduced a number of flexibilities to allow expeditions to take place safely, in line with social distancing restrictions and Government guidance. While your child's expedition may look slightly different to those in previous years, they will be able to do theirs safely and with all the benefits and memories they'd get at any other time.

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](https://www.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.

Signing up

The cost of taking part in the DofE is £29.33 per participant. This covers your child's participation place and Welcome Pack, which will be made available to students once registration form and payment has been completed and includes their personalised DofE Discount Card.

A separate payment made payable to Mud and Maps directly will be needed at the time of the practice and qualifying expeditions.

If your child would like to take part, please complete and return the enrolment form via Microsoft Forms, together with the sum of £29.33 via ParentPay by December 31st 2020.

If applicable: If the cost of taking part is prohibitive, please speak to Mr Bassan as there may be financial support available to you.

We will hold an information event for students during form time and also using the presentation linked to this page. If you would like any further information in the meantime, please feel free to contact Mr Bassan.

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to helping your child to achieve through their DofE.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Bassan

DofE Manager

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