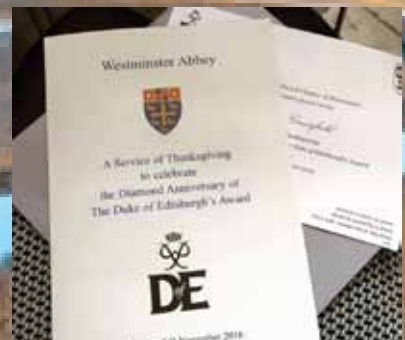


Mrs G's Diamond Challenge

2016 marks the 60th Anniversary of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. To celebrate this year the DofE launched it's Diamond Challenge - an opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to set their own challenge. I asked my dad to cycle a coast to coast with me in October. We started in Morecambe Bay and cycled 190 miles over 4 days to arrive in Bridlington, shattered but feeling very proud. I had only set myself the target of raising £200 because I honestly didn't think people would care that much but I was left completely emotional and overwhelmed at smashing my target to raise a total of £705.00. This money goes directly to The Duke of Edinburgh's charity. Two weeks ago I was invited to Westminster Abbey for a celebratory service in which Queen and Duke of Edinburgh were present.

352%

£705.00



It was an amazing experience and one that I will never forget. I even managed a panic selfie with Philip Schofield - parents will appreciate this more :)



THE PRIORY RUSKIN ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2016

Ellie, Ben, Nina and Ben or Neb as he is known by on their training expedition from School to Woodland Waters in July 2016.



NEWS STORIES

#followus!

<https://www.facebook.com/DofERuskin/> [#pradukeofedinburgh](#) [@pradukeofed](#)

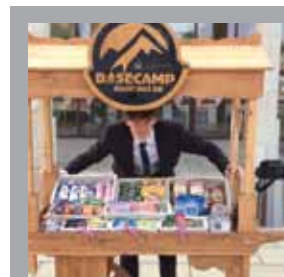
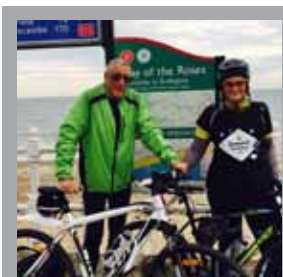
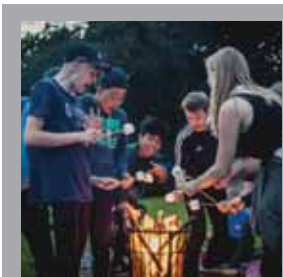


WITH ALL THE TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE TO US TODAY IT WOULD BE SILLY NOT TO USE IT TO OUR ADVANTAGE, THEREFORE WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING AN INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT TO POST OUR STUDENTS ACHIEVEMENTS SO FEEL FREE TO GIVE US A FOLLOW AND TAG YOUR ADVENTURES WITH US.

WE HAVE BEEN ON FACEBOOK FOR ALMOST A YEAR NOW AND WE DO SHARE A LOT OF NEWS FROM THE MAIN DofE ACCOUNT WHICH IS REALLY INTERESTING. PLEASE DO ENGAGE WITH US, IT IS THE BEST WAY TO GET MESSAGES IF YOU DON'T ALWAYS GET THEM IN SCHOOL.

AND REMEMBER, THE DofE AWARD IS ALL ABOUT YOU BEING INDEPENDENT. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FINDING OUT THE INFORMATION YOU MAY NEED. YOU KNOW OUR EMAIL ADDRESSES! USE THEM.

igreenfield@prioryacademies.co.uk // cdale@prioryacademies.co.uk



It has almost been a year since Mr Dale and I took over the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Ruskin and it has been a tough old year. The Duke of Edinburgh Award used to be controlled and run by Lincolnshire County Council, but now, The Priory Federation of Academies have become their own licensed DofE centre. This is excellent news for us as we now have full control over our Award and how we run it. We have done so much in a year, had a rock climbing wall, opened a Healthy Snack Bar, enrolled over 65 new students on Bronze, done an expedition..... exhausted doesn't even begin to cover it, but here we are, December - 11 months after we started and we are so proud of our students and the way they conduct themselves around the Academy. It gives Mr Dale and I so much joy from seeing them grow into independent and successful young adults. The key word being independent. To see them working so hard towards their sections is really promising and makes all our hard work and late nights/ weekends worth it.

So from us both, well done this year, have a lovely Christmas and New Year and we hope to award many of you your Bronze Awards in September 2017.

Mrs Greenfield
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator.



COMPETITION

Submit a photo of you enjoying your DofE Award that represents your love for your skills, physical or volunteering and tag #pradukeofedinburgh or #ruskinlovesdofe and @pradukeofed to be in with a chance of winning this awesome brand new Karrimor PANTHAR 65 LITRE RUCKSACK. Perfect for adventures! Deadline for entries is Friday 10th March.



Climbing High!

Back in April we hired a mobile climbing wall so that DofE students could raise money for our charity. We climbed a mile on Sport Relief Day in the freezing temperature. We allowed students from every year to participate too. It was great to see everybody involved.

Payments

Those students under the new payment plan for DofE Please ensure you are keeping upto date with payments. Payments must be made by the 23rd of each month. If you miss a payment, please double up. If you have any issues then please contact Mrs Greenfield who will have a full record of previous payments.



A sign of skills!

SAM, JACK, MASON, ROSIE, NAOMI AND KATY

These guys have been working really hard to complete their skills section in British Sign Language. Every Wednesday for the last 2 and half months they have been taught by Miss Scott who has given up her time to our students, for which we are incredibly grateful. They have had two assessments already and all passed! They will even be making a guest appearance in our staff Christmas Video! Watch out :) Well done to all - we are very proud of you all.



KEEPING TRACK OF YOUR SECTIONS

WAGOLL WHATA GOOD ONE LOOKS LIKE

<https://www.edofe.org/>

If you forget your login details they are usually your first and second name together with capital letters on the first letter of each name.

EXAMPLE: PrincePhilip

Password is usually your birthday as an 8 digit figure.

EXAMPLE: 10061921



TAKE A LOG SHEET!



Date	What you did	Hours	Initials
5/4/16	Hand spelling lessons, alphabet, name and basic greetings	1	U.S.
11/10/16	In-depth greetings	1	U.S.
19/10/16	ALL about me and family members	2	U.S.
26/10/16	Assessment 20-30 U	2	U.S.
2/11/16	Days of week and basic weather	1	U.S.
9/11/16	In-depth weather, colour and animals	1	U.S.
16/11/16	Room at house and food	1	U.S.
23/11/16	Assessment 10/6 U	1	U.S.
30/11/16	Hobbies and sports	1	U.S.

DATE - make sure these match the dates you have put in eDofE.

ACTIVITY - Details about what you did - not just one word answers.

HOURS - Log the hours that you have done - should always be one.

SIGN - Signature from the assessor or person in charge of the activity.

Even VIP DofE'rs struggle with expedition!



Kate Middleton had to brave the elements to receive The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award while in high school. The Duchess of Cambridge, 34, opened up about preparing a meal, in the rain, before she could take home the honour.

"I can remember trying to cook bacon in the soaking wet," she shared in Philip Schofield's new documentary When Phillip Met Prince Philip: 60 Years of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. "Everything was just sopping and I was trying and trying to cook bacon. I remember saying you know what, 'I think we're just going to have plain sandwiches. Bread, basic bread and butter.'"

It is vitally important that you keep track of your hours in all three sections so that you don't forget any of the hard work you have put in. If you don't know how to track your hours then read on. Collect a log sheet from the Information wall - every time you do a hour in a section write down the date and description of what exactly you did. Then once completed take a photo of the finished sheet and upload it to your evidence on eDofE. See left for logging on instructions if you are struggling. We cannot pass you if you don't upload evidence or your log book. Make sure you keep everything safe!

LET'S TALK ABOUT... EXPEDITION



WITH EXPEDITION SEASON FAST APPROACHING, NOW IS THE TIME TO BE THINKING ABOUT KIT. MAYBE ASK SANTA FOR A FEW OUTDOORSY BITS IN YOUR STOCKING!

EXPEDITION IS YOUR CHANCE TO GO WILD, BE ABANDONED IN THE COUNTRYSIDE FOR TWO DAYS AND A NIGHT, FENDING FOR YOURSELF. A REAL ADVENTURE.

MAKE SURE YOU ARE PREPARED BY CHECKING THE KIT LIST REQUIRED. YOU WILL HAVE BAGS CHECKED BEFORE STARTING YOUR EXPEDITION AND IF YOU ARE MISSING ANY ESSENTIAL ITEMS WE WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SEND YOU HOME.

SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT <http://www.dofeshopping.org/dofe-expedition-kit-list> TO VIEW THE REQUIRED ITEMS.

REMEMBER THE MONEY YOU PAY GOES TOWARDS FUNDING SOME EQUIPMENT LIKE TENTS, RUCKSACKS, SLEEPING BAGS AND MAPS, BUT WE HAVE A LIMITED STOCK, YOU NEED TO RESERVE ITEMS WITH US IN ADVANCE.



GO OUTDOORS now offer a DofE official kit list, so you can talk to any staff member and they will advise you. You also get discount with your DofE member card. <http://www.gooutdoors.co.uk/duke-of-edinburgh>



COTSWOLD OUTDOOR also have kit specialist in store, so go and talk to them about the correct equipment. Use your DofE member card to get 10% off online and instore. <http://www.cotswoldoutdoor.com/clothing-footwear/dofe>



KEY DATES

These dates are compulsory. Failure to attend will result in exclusion from expedition until the next year.*

THURSDAY 12TH JANUARY

EQUIPMENT WITH GO-OUTDOORS
GREAT HALL - 3.20-5PM

THURSDAY 19TH JANUARY

MAP READING AND COMPASS TRAINING
GREAT HALL - 3.20-5PM

THURSDAY 9TH FEBRUARY

COOKING AND NUTRITION
GREAT HALL - 3.20-5PM

THURSDAY 23RD FEBRUARY

FIRST AID TRAINING
GREAT HALL - 3.20-5PM

THURSDAY 2ND MARCH

RUCKSACKS AND EQUIPMENT CARE
GREAT HALL - 3.20-5PM

THURSDAY 9TH MARCH

EXPEDITION AIMS AND 20 CONDITIONS
GREAT HALL - 3.20-5PM

FRIDAY 17TH MARCH-

SATURDAY 18TH MARCH
DOFE TRAINING WEEKEND- PRA - ANCASTER
GREAT HALL - 3.20-5PM

SATURDAY 20TH - 21ST MAY

PRACTISE EXPEDITION - PRA - ANCASTER
GREAT HALL - 3.20-5PM

THURSDAY 25TH MAY

REVIEW OF PRACTISE EXPEDITION
GREAT HALL - 3.20-5PM

SATURDAY 17TH - 18TH JUNE

FINAL QUALIFYING EXPEDITION
GRANTHAM AREA

*In exceptional circumstances (illness) we may be able to run a one-to-one session with individuals if they cannot attend. For health and safety and insurance reasons we simply cannot allow students out on the hills without attending the full training.



Optional activities/ sessions

These dates are OPTIONAL, but they will be useful for you. Attend all of these and you will be more than prepared for your DofE expedition. They are designed to be fun and less demanding than a compulsory session. There are limited places on each so sign up on the DofE info board.

THURSDAY 26TH JANUARY - outside! -Bring warm kit!

NAVIGATION TREASURE HUNT - We have hidden items around school and grid referenced the area. Be the first group to find the items using 6 figure grid references and win a prize.

THURSDAY 2ND FEBRUARY - outside and classroom

LEARN HOW TO READ THE WEATHER

THURSDAY 16TH FEBRUARY - outside! -Bring warm kit!

CAMPFIRE COME DINE WITH ME! - You will be given a potato, egg, onion and some cheese. Cook a meal to feed your group on a Trangia!

THURSDAY 27TH APRIL

ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE - We have people pretending to be injured around the school, use grid references to find them and then suitably treat them using first aid skills.

STAFF SUFFER TOO

Mr Dale and Mrs Greenfield spent a cold weekend in The Peak District in November with other Priory Federation DofE staff refreshing their outdoor navigation skills... the things we do for you!



WEEKDAY WALKING RETURNS

In April next year we will start to run our weekday walks again after school. These are NOT compulsory sessions but are highly recommended for people who may not have walked great distances before. They are also ideal for anybody who wants to develop their map reading skills. If you are interested then keep an eye out on the notice board or listen for notices. We will leave school around 3.45pm and return around 7pm. Bring snackage and lots of water. Wear suitable clothing and walking boots are compulsory.



ACHIEVEMENTS & PROGRESS

Volunteering



CONNOR BUNGAY

Connor is completing his 3 months volunteering section at Belton Woods Golf Club by helping to coach and guide junior players. Well Done, Connor!

Abi takes on Gordon Ramsey!



ABI MOORHOUSE

Abi started her DoFE in September and looking at her eDoFE evidence she is really enjoying it and doing very well! Abi is learning to cook with her Nan and says her aim is to cook for her family when she has finished. These meals look amazing! I wonder if she will feed Mr Dale and I when she has completed the section! #cheeky #yumyum

WILL, MARCEL AND BEN

Will, Marcel and Ben completed their skills section earlier this year in Graphic Design when they designed and published three magazines. They also designed the logo for our Basecamp Bar. Excellent work guys!



Physical

KATY ATTER

Katy has completed her 6 month physical section by showjumping. She is a keen horse rider and is even using horse riding in her GCSE Product Design Coursework. Well done, Katy!



JOSEPH CANT

Joseph is completing his skills section by cooking at home. So far he has made a lasagne and victoria sponge. He is planning on cooking a three course meal at the end of his 3 month section. We look forward to hearing all about it!



ROSIE MILNER

Rosie is completing 6 months of dance, she started in September when she signed up for her bronze DoFE and goes twice a week. One session of which counts towards her section. She says "I love doing dance for my physical because I get to spend time with my friends, exercise and have a laugh"



Skills

BASECAMP STRONGER THAN EVER



VOLUNTEERS

Aaron, Mason and Trinity are the main volunteers on Basecamp and are nearing the end of their volunteering section, although I'm sure they will continue to work when they can. We currently have ten other students on a weekly rota completing their volunteering section. Well done to all!



All the money raised from Basecamp goes into our pot of pennies to spend. We weekly replenish our stocks to ensure we have a full range of tasty healthy snacks. So far we have had enough money to supplement the DoFE hoodies, we have now have £200 in our pot. We are hoping to be able to have a bushcraft day in a forest where we will learn to make fire, build shelters and carve tools with a local forest school company. So watch this space!



NEW ORDER OF HOODIES!

If you haven't ordered your hoodie yet then do! If you are in Group 2 then they only cost £4.00 and Group 1 - £8.00. You are permitted to wear them on Thursdays (Training DoFE days) over the top of or instead of your blazer. Keep warm in winter and get a cosy hoodie. These hoodies should normally cost £12.00 with the print but thanks to the money we raise from Basecamp we have been able to supplement the cost and pass it on to you.



Thankyou!

Running the DoFE in Ruskin doesn't come for free, we rely on countless numbers of staff, parents and Ruskin supporters to give up time for the Award to be the success it is. We would like to thank the following people for giving up their time over the past year so that we are well staffed to be able to run activities. Teachers: Mr Beasley and Miss Hutchinson for supporting training sessions. Mrs Steele, Mr Chalk and Mr Key for buying Crunchy Nut Cornflakes from Basecamp every morning. Mrs Scott, Mrs Phillips, Miss Brooker and Mrs Lewis for leading groups of walkers after school. Vicky Scott for teaching students Sign Language and Mr Greenfield for supporting Expeditions. If you know of anybody who has a qualification or talent and who may be willing to give up an hour a week to give students an opportunity for skills, volunteering or physical then please get in touch. We really cannot thank you enough.