

# GREAT BADDOW HIGH SCHOOL

## SPECIALISING IN SCIENCE AND SPORT



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Company No. 7662023

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Headteacher: Mr P Farmer, BA (Hons)

Dear Parent

### **Duke of Edinburgh 2019/20 Season Postponement**

In light of the current events regarding Covid-19 (Coronavirus) and the advice given by the Government that from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March, all non-essential social interactions should be avoided, we have taken the decision to suspend the Duke of Edinburgh course here at Great Baddow High School for the foreseeable future.

As you are aware, your son/daughter is required to complete three sections under their own direction: Physical, Volunteering and Skills. In most cases, having reviewed the current cohorts' activities, this will become increasingly difficult for them to complete. Examples of how some students will be affected in their completion of the self-led sections are: all scouting has been cancelled until further notice; the local ice-rink is likely to close; sporting fixtures are being cancelled.

Our advice at this stage is that students should not be completing their Duke of Edinburgh self-led sections for Volunteering, Skills Development and Physical Development unless this is something that was being completed at home (photography tasks, cooking skills, craft skills, etc). We ask that Government guidance is followed and that you as parents take the overall decision on whether it is appropriate for them to complete any tasks towards their sections.

The safety and well-being of our students completing Duke of Edinburgh will always be top priority. We would rather there was a pause in efforts to finish the course so that it can be completed when this has all passed and be undertaken with the level of enjoyment it is intended to deliver.

Furthermore, we are postponing our two expeditions planned for May and June and all other dated activities that have been previously communicated to you. Our contingency plan, at present, is to reduce the amount of expeditions required by this cohort to just the one assessed expedition. We will conduct this over a weekend in the next DofE season (post-March 2021), when the Scout sites re-open for our accommodation, and the pandemic has passed. This will allow us to provide the opportunity of participating in the Duke of Edinburgh for our current Year 9 cohort, as well as ensuring we deliver the course in full to your son/daughter, allowing them to finish it.

These measures have not been taken lightly and the matter was discussed amongst all the staff that contribute to the running of the Duke of Edinburgh here at Great Baddow High School.

We will resume the course as soon as possible when we feel we can guarantee the safety of our students in all aspects. Thank you in advance for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours faithfully

N Bentley

*Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator*

