

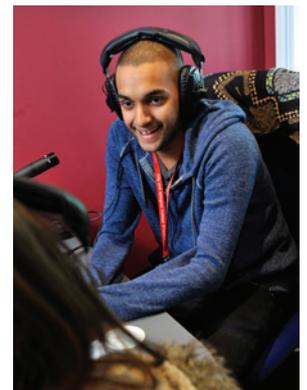
## The DofE and employability benefits

Did you know that running The Duke of Edinburgh's Award at your school entitles you to free access to the LifeZone portal?

The LifeZone is an exclusive and free site for DofE Award holders and participants designed to help them describe the skills they develop through their DofE on their CVs and applications and learn how to talk about them at interviews. Whether it's the leadership, team working or initiative demonstrated as part of their expedition or the commitment, communication or positivity showcased through their volunteering and other activities, these are all skills that employers are looking for.

The Department for Education's 'Careers guidance and inspiration in schools' Statutory guidance, March 2015 states that:

- Ofsted has been giving careers guidance a higher priority in school inspections since September 2013, taking into account how well the school delivers advice and guidance to all pupils in judging its leadership and management.
- Schools should... encourage pupils to use websites which display information about opportunities ('portals'). Schools should support their year 11 pupils in particular to use portals as part of their careers advice and guidance provision. They should recommend good quality portals, whether national or local in scope, that present the full range of opportunities in an objective way that will help pupils make good choices about post-16 options.



Many leading employers have endorsed the work-ready skills that achieving a DofE Award provides:



"Amey has sponsored apprentices to achieve their DofE Awards for six years and in that time we've seen it have a real impact on the young people we work with. Our young people are encouraged to push themselves outside of their comfort zones when doing their DofE and the skills that they develop can be life-changing."  
**Andy Milner**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Amey



"The DofE develops the skills we look for in our employees, like initiative and a determination to learn and progress."  
**Claire Miles**, Managing Director, British Gas HomeCare



"The DofE provides young people with the skills which are held in high stead with RSM."  
**David Gwilliam**, Chief Operating Officer, RSM



"It can be a challenge to develop the skills for work that employers are looking for – such as teamwork and resilience – and so we are proud to endorse the DofE Awards and we really value the impact it has on young people."  
**Dave Lewis**, CEO, Tesco Stores



"I fully support the mission of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award and believe the skills and experience you develop will support you in achieving your career aspirations."  
**Nadine Prior**, Head of HR, Ordnance Survey

The DofE can be mapped against this statutory guidance. The table below demonstrates the link between the DfE guidance and the DofE LifeZone site.

Government requirements	What the DofE LifeZone has..
<p>All children should receive a rich provision of classroom and extra-curricular activities that develop a range of character attributes, such as resilience and grit, which underpin success in education and employment.</p>	<p>Participating in a DofE programme encourages young people to undertake a wide and balanced range of extra-curricular activities, encompassing both sporting pursuits and the development of new skills.</p> <p>The LifeZone offers a unique employment advice specifically targeted to DofE participants and Award holders exclusively from companies that support the DofE and its young people.</p>
<p>Schools should create a learning environment which allows and encourages pupils to tackle real life challenges which require them to manage risk and to develop their decision making, team building and problem-solving skills.</p>	<p>Helps young people to think about how they articulate the skills gained through their DofE programmes (teamwork, self-reliance and persistence) and inspires them to progress through the levels.</p>
<p>Schools should have high expectations of all pupils. Facilitating access to a range of inspirational role models that can instil resilience, goal setting, hard work and social confidence in pupils, encouraging them to overcome barriers to success. This approach can particularly benefit pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds who may get less support from family and social networks.</p>	<p>The LifeZone gives you and your students access to a wide range of employers from a variety of different fields. Case studies are provided so your young people are able to perceive real-life scenarios that can be applied to their own situation.</p> <p><i>“We're passionate about working with the DofE to support young people across the UK in creating a better, brighter future for themselves, their communities and the next generation.”</i> <b>DFS</b></p> <p><i>“We know that DofE participants and Award holders are some of the UK's brightest, most confident young people. We believe in it so much that we even offer our apprentices the chance to do their Gold DofE Award too”.</i> <b>Royal Mail</b></p>
<p>Provide access to a range of activities that inspire young people, including employer talks, careers fairs, motivational speakers, colleges and university visits, coaches and mentors.</p>	<p>The LifeZone combines advice, information and tasks to help you with not only employment but exam stress, studying, volunteering and apprenticeships</p> <p>The stories available within the site showcase the inspirational lives people have led after completing their DofE Award. This can provide access to motivational speakers and employers without having to leave the school premises.</p>

## Further information

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