



17 May 2016

Denbigh School's Diamond of an Invitation to Buckingham Palace

To celebrate the Diamond Anniversary of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE), Denbigh School were invited to attend a once in a lifetime celebration at Buckingham Palace, on Monday 16 May.

Over 150 students have been encouraged to get involved in the DofE Awards at Bronze, Silver and Gold level since Denbigh School became a Directly Licensed Centre. They have benefited from learning vital skills for life and work, such as confidence, commitment, resilience and team work.

Members of the Royal Family; HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and TRH The Earl and Countess of Wessex, congratulated those that were in attendance at the presentation for their participation and support of the millions of young people in the UK and across the globe who, since its foundation in 1956, have achieved DofE Awards.

British Perfumer, Jo Malone, presented Headteacher Andy Squires with a plaque to commemorate Denbigh's commitment to DofE, whilst praising the School and the other DofE centres for their resilience, creativity and passion.

Delighted with the award, Mr Squires said:

"It is an honour for the school that we have been recognised in this way and in such beautiful surroundings as the Buckingham Palace Gardens. The students that take part in the DofE awards are encouraged to independently choose activities and challenges that help them develop as individuals and teach them valuable skills for the future."

Currently, there are over 300,000 young people doing a DofE programme across the UK through a variety of centres including both state and independent schools, special schools, businesses, prisons, young offender institutions, housing associations and youth groups.

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To celebrate its 60th year, the Charity has launched the DofE Diamond Challenge. This one-off initiative allows people of all ages to take on a DofE inspired challenge and earn their Diamond Pin. Signing up to The DofE Diamond Challenge, Denbigh School believes that this has an amazing double benefit – whilst challenging students to push their boundaries they are also raising money for the DofE Charity. This means the charity can transform the lives of more young people and offer free places and bursary grants to those most in need.

Visit www.DofE.org for more information about the DofE. To find out how you can support the Charity in its Diamond Anniversary year, go to www.DofEDiamondChallenge.org.

Ends

Notes to Editors (figures correct as of 2014-15 stats)

About The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is the world's leading youth achievement award that develops over 300,000 young people for life and work every year in the UK.

Through achieving their Bronze, Silver and Gold DofE Awards, 14-24 year olds from all backgrounds and circumstances have the unique opportunity to grow as young adults; gaining valuable life experience whilst developing essential employability skills. Setting their own challenges, they learn practical skills, improve their fitness, volunteer in their community, plan and go on an adventurous expedition and, for Gold, they also spend time away from home with people they've never met, completing a shared activity.

The DofE develops tenacity, commitment and determination, admirable attributes that have a lasting impact, broadening each young person's life and work prospects.

The DofE is run all over the UK under licence by over 1,200 partners who offer it in over 13,000 DofE centres – including schools and academies, youth clubs, businesses, voluntary organisations and young offender institutions – which are run and supported by around 50,000 adult volunteers.

For more information please visit www.DofE.org.

More....

About the DofE's Diamond Anniversary

2016 is The Duke of Edinburgh's Award's Diamond Anniversary, celebrating 60 years since the DofE was founded by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh in 1956.

During its Diamond Anniversary year, the DofE will celebrate the achievements of millions of young people across the UK and the world whose lives have been transformed by their DofE experience, thank the hundreds of thousands of volunteers that have made that experience possible and fundraise for the future, so that the DofE Charity can continue to reach out to more young people.

About the DofE Diamond Challenge

The DofE launched the DofE Diamond Challenge in January 2016 to celebrate its Diamond Anniversary and give everyone a flavour of the life-changing benefits of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, all whilst generating funds for the Charity so that it can reach out to even more young people in the future and offer free places and bursary grants to those most in need.

People can register for the DofE Diamond Challenge at www.DofEDiamondChallenge.org and challenges can take place any time before 31 December 2016.

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