

RECTOR'S UPDATE: 5 JUNE 2020

- RETURN TO SCHOOL
- END OF TERM
- DoE AWARD UPDATE
- CCF UPDATE

Return to school

As previously reported, we are working hard to establish how best to use the buildings and the space on the campus to accommodate as many pupils as safely as possible on their return in August. This exercise has involved SSG members and heads of department carrying out capacity assessments throughout the school and should conclude next week. Alongside these efforts we have been ensuring that we have a supply chain in place for consumables such as soap and hand sanitiser, whilst also procuring temperature scanning devices and exploring the use of fogging equipment and what role it could play in the daily cleaning routine come August.

Clearly there are many issues to consider in formulating the most appropriate plan for Dollar, but, as you can imagine, our first priority will be to ensure the safety of all pupils, staff and the wider school community throughout our return to school. We intend to recommence after the summer on the published start of term date of Thursday 20 August.

One area of our planning which is occupying a significant amount of our thought is pupils' transport via school buses. Currently, bus companies are indicating significant restrictions in the number of passengers that can be carried. With this in mind, we will be contacting parents in the near future to ask for their assistance in completing a travel audit.

End of term

We are following the published pattern of term dates as closely as possible, and using the time available to deliver a full programme of learning and teaching across the departments. While formal class teaching will finish on Friday 19 June, there will be two following days of whole year group and creative activities, culminating in an online assembly and prizegiving for all on Tuesday 23 June. The morning of Wednesday 24, which would have featured the Prizegiving ceremony and the closing of the school will now be reserved for staff preparation in advance of the new session.

DofE

Award

Update

It has been agreed by the Duke of Edinburgh's Award organisation that the Award can still continue at home for pupils. Advice on this can be found on their website at <https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference>

With the cancellation of all expeditions across the country, DofE have adapted to offer a **Certificate of Achievement** to all participants that have been impacted by this. They say, "We want young people to be recognised for their amazing efforts and achievements even if it's not possible for them to do an expedition, and therefore achieve their Award, this year." Full details can be found at: <https://www.dofe.org/dofewithadifference/achievement-for-all>

This useful [flowchart](#) might be useful for deciding next steps for sectional activities. We have made the decision to delay the launch of the Bronze award for current **Form II** pupils until the Autumn term; those interested in further details can click [here](#) to find out more. Any parent wishing to check the status of a DofE account, or with any other enquiry, is asked to email Mr Johns at dofe@dollaracademy.org.uk

CCF

Update

CCF have been working hard on pupil-led activities over the last month, with RSM Iona Kelly leading the CCF, to win the National Cadet Kahoot Challenges for the month of May. The CCF is also moving its traditional intersection competitions online; including the Burma Cup (Form II) and India Shield (Form III-VI, covering First Aid, DofE, Navigation, CCF General knowledge and logical puzzle solving. These Intersectional activities will continue to run throughout the month of June.

In addition, the CCF will also be running online mental health awareness and instructors' recap courses for next year's Senior Cadets. The CCF First Aid Team has also moved online, under First Aid Team captain Sgt Ellie Trace, who has organised training sessions and assessments in preparation for the National Competition in September.

Senior Cadets have also prepared information videos for the Form I pupils explaining the diverse variety of opportunities the CCF presents for all pupils.

CCF prizegiving this year will go ahead, using an online platform. Media magic is also being used to promote section choices for the Form II, as they progress through their CCF careers into Form III. Senior Cadet interviews and appointments are currently being conducted, and will be finalised by the end of this busy summer term.
