

Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE)

A Parent's View

DofE GOLD



DofE Silver



DofE Bronze



My son Khalim is 19 and has high functioning autism dyslexia and dyspraxia. Khalim had no real friendships and always found social interactions difficult before starting the DofE approximately 5 years ago and had no interests outside of school. I can remember his first week at DofE and being told they were going on a walk locally at Wigg Island - I was mortified. Khalim has no sense of direction, he finds it difficult to look at his surroundings and I was terrified he would wander off or get lost. Now he's completed his Bronze, Silver and Gold DofE Awards, he's been on many walks and camped out. He's enjoyed it all and it would not have been possible without the help and support from group leader Barry Selby, DofE team and Halton Young Addaction.

When he had difficulties fulfilling tasks to complete DofE they were very understanding and found ways to help him succeed. A good example of this was in completing his Gold Award. Khalim had to undertake voluntary work but as he is sociably awkward it was proving difficult to find something he would be comfortable with and the solution was for Khalim to help out at the local youth club under Barry's supervision. Barry also helped to get Khalim on a NCIS course which he really enjoyed and helped him complete his residential task for his Gold. Last year we travelled with Barry and others from the team to London where Khalim was awarded his Gold by Prince Phillip at St James's Palace. It was a wonderful experience and I was extremely proud. Khalim has since helped as a volunteer for the Mayor's Award.

DofE GOLD



DofE Silver



DofE Bronze



My 13 year old daughter has achieved her Bronze and Silver and like Khalim has had some fabulous experiences she would never have had if it had not been for the Mayor's Award and she is hoping to go on to do DofE.

Khalim recently took part in the joint sponsorship walk for the diamond award he was very proud of his 3 laps of the lake which took 6 hours for him to complete. Barry has also supported Khalim outside of the DofE too, Khalim confided to Barry that he was not very happy on the Foundation College course he was studying. With my permission Barry visited Khalim's tutors at College and resolved the issue. I'm very grateful for his help, Khalim would not of achieved his DofE without this support. People are amazed that Khalim has been able to complete the DofE because of his disabilities and I too never thought it possible. We are truly grateful - thanks , Bronya Wagner

DofE GOLD



DofE Silver



DofE Bronze



DofE GOLD



DofE Silver



DofE Bronze

