

# Duke of Edinburgh, CCF and Community Service Activities

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*(Reviewer: Ellie Calver, Janneke Blokland, April 2024)*

## DofE Service and Skills Afternoon

The following is an outline of options available per year group.

### 1. CCF (Combined Cadet Force)

As one of the largest Cadet Forces in the country Hurstpierpoint CCF boasts a Contingent of approximately 330 Cadets and 15 Officers. All three services are represented (Army, Navy & RAF) which allows all pupils to choose the service which appeals to them the most. The CCF strives to build resilience in the pupils as well as base the cadets' learning around the values and standards of the CCF: Courage, Discipline, Respect, Integrity, Loyalty & Selfless Commitment.

Training for all three sections contains some commonality such as drill, self-reliance, leadership skills and instructional techniques in the later years.

All services also have the opportunity to go on Adventurous Training run by the School or the Cadet Centre for Adventurous Training (CCAT) where they can gain qualifications in activities such as canoeing, rock climbing and ice climbing.

### 2. Army

Training starts in Remove with an emphasis on their basic military skills and the D of E Expedition packages. Pupils will learn Drill, Navigation, Fieldcraft (tactics) and First Aid as well as gain a practical understanding of the British Army and its history.

In the Fifth Form the emphasis is much more towards advanced skills and includes fieldcraft, leadership, orders and map and compass work. Day and night exercises are held during term time both on and off site. The year is ended with an annual camp which brings together many CCF contingents from multiple schools to work together and compete in various disciplines.

### 3. RAF

The RAF programme follows a similar pattern to the Army, however, has more emphasis on flight, its principles and how we achieve it. The syllabus teaches pupils how an aircraft is controlled and propelled in order to prepare them for the multiple opportunities for flying with the RAF that are on offer every year. Pupils can also apply for leadership, aerospace and regional camps which offer further qualifications, flying scholarships and fantastic experiences with the RAF.

### 4. Navy

The Navy syllabus is based around everything the Navy does and offers the best opportunities for Adventurous and Afloat training. Cadets enjoy a varied programme based around communication techniques, first aid, charts (maps) and sailing. There are also many opportunities to go sailing in craft small and large as well as tackling fires and flooding at the Royal Navy's Damage Repair Instructional Unit, a firm favorite amongst cadets.

Common to all sections is an emphasis on leadership and instructional skills for LVI & UVI. LVI pupils spend the Michaelmas term learning Cadet Force Instructional Techniques (CFIT) before being given a Section of Remove cadets whom they will work with and hopefully mold into the next generation of senior cadets through to the UVI.

## **5. Community Service**

Community Service involves both regular weekly commitments as well as larger, one-off, projects. The major local projects are overseen by the Director of Service and Partnerships. The Vth and LVith Form pupil participate in a number of local off-site and on-site projects. These may also contribute to the Silver D of E Award. The pupils acquire a good range of skills and qualities: confidence, empathy, listening; as well as becoming more aware of the needs of others in society. The College's community service work is often linked to projects also involving the HET group of schools. One-off projects involving specific departments in the school are also offered to HET schools, and where possible, include the involvement of Hurst pupils as well as staff to create meaningful experiences for pupils on both sides.

In addition, on the annual Fifth form Service Day and Community Action Day, (Shell, Remove and LVI), all pupils at school that day complete a day of community service at over 30 different locations including beach cleaning, horticultural sites, maintaining church premises, recycling centers and so forth.

## **6. Environmental Conservation – Woodland, Community Action Group & Recycling**

We place a high value on the natural world around us. Pupils can take part in practical conservation projects by joining the Woodland Conservation group. We have carried out management tasks on the South Downs and in the grounds of local churches and schools. Through the Sussex Wildlife Trust, a leading environmental charity, we help to manage local public open spaces. By joining, pupils learn traditional countryside skills and become familiar with their local environment and local conservation and preservation groups.

We also run a waste recycling project on-site, concerned with minimizing Hurst waste. This group liaises with the Eco Hurst committee and the various Departments and Houses around the College. The pupils aim to reduce waste by good management of recyclable products. They do this by organising weekly collections and processing paper, bottles and cans. They also now have a cardboard compactor and this helps reduce the mass of material being collected by the local authorities.

## **7. Hurst Farm**

The College has a vegetable garden and a farm project which are being farmed in a way that is environmentally friendly and sustainable. The aim is to cultivate crops and manage livestock for produce to sell; the monies raised will go to College sponsored charities. The large number of students opting for service on the farm includes many who are looking at careers as vets and in farm management. The farm has a significant livestock range which may at any time include chickens, ducks, goats, bees and pigs. A link with Brighton Permaculture has brought to the group experience and knowledge in the management of orchards and fruit juice, as well as opportunities to support wider local community projects. The farm manager assists with a programme of work for the

students to undertake. The farm manager also assists with a weekly programme and education in livestock management.

## **8. Sports Leaders Award**

L6th pupils at Hurst have the opportunity to complete the Level 2 UK Sports Leaders qualification as a service option. The course is heavily practical with a compulsory electronic logbook completed to evidence work undertaken. The mixed group work through a variety of conditioned tasks and activities to develop their communication, coaching and leadership skills. They then complete modules coaching sport to Hurst Prep pupils, working with the disabled, the elderly and the local community. The course finishes with the group organising, staffing and running a sporting event for the prep school. The aim is that upon completion pupils depart in a better place; with enriching experiences, enhanced skills and UCAS points to contribute towards university offers.

## **9. Young Enterprise**

The Young Enterprise programme provides an opportunity for a team of up to 16 members of the LVI, to set up and run their own business. The programme operates in two parts - the actual function of running a business and then the competition aspect, which can reach as far as the European final.

The business scope is extensive - students are free to:

1. Vote in their own management board
2. Choose their company name as well as design and implement their corporate branding strategy
3. Decide on their company product or service
4. Sell their product or service via market opportunities as well as online - using their own website and social media platforms
5. Any profit they make can be channelled back into the company to generate more income.

The business can only run to the end of the summer term of the Lower Sixth and the programme finishes with an end of year dinner. Each company is supported by a member of Hurst staff. The team will meet at least weekly.

## **10. Crest**

CREST Gold award is a nationally recognised scheme for student-led project work in the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and maths). They must complete a 100hr project that makes an original contribution to a STEM field of study and submit their findings to the British Science Association. They will hone their investigative skills and employ scientific method to conduct their own piece of research. Pupils will be mentored by a scientist working either at a university or in industry. The award is recognised and respected by universities and employers.

## **11. Model United Nations**

Model UN is a popular activity for those interested in learning more about how the UN operates. Hundreds of thousands of students worldwide take part every year at all educational levels. Pupils are assigned a country to represent before embarking on a period of time researching that country, including visits to embassies and high commissions where possible to gain a more detailed insight

into the position of their designated country. Pupils then attend conferences, both in the UK and abroad, where they will attempt to convince other countries to support their proposals.

## 12. Y12 DofE Skills Programmes

Along with the options to volunteer above we also run several skill packages. Some possible options are Lifeguarding via the NPLQ run in-house, Language Skills in Italian and French, Occulus the School magazine, Jewellery making, Milestone productions linked to theatre productions at Hurst and Hurst TV an enterprise producing media packages for both the college and wider community.

## 13. Notes

- All Remove complete a period of three terms compulsory attendance in the CCF.
- All Vth Form options are for 2½ terms compulsory attendance with an option choice of activity.
- LVI will continue options for a further three terms, but with a broader array of options available. In many cases, this involves assisting with the instruction and training of younger pupils.

## 14. Duke of Edinburgh Silver and Gold Award

The Award concept is one of individual challenge. It presents to young people a balanced, non-competitive programme of voluntary activities which encourages personal discovery and growth, self-reliance, perseverance, responsibility to themselves and service to their community.

The criterion for gaining an Award is individual improvement through persistence and achievement, taking into account the participant's initial capabilities and without any element of competition between participants.

All Remove pupils participate in the Silver Award. During the year they can complete the Expedition package and possibly their Skill, they will then go on to participate in the **Volunteering section in the Vth Form**. On completion of their Silver Award pupils may then proceed to their Gold Award which they can complete in their Upper Sixth Year.

## 15. Timescales for the Sections of the Award

### Silver Award (15+):

SERVICE	SKILLS	PHYSICAL RECREATION	EXPEDITIONS
6 or 12 months	One section for 6 months and the other section for 3 months, or 12 months if 6 selected for Volunteering		Plan, prepare and undertake a 3 day, 2 night venture

### Gold Award (16+):

SERVICE	SKILLS	PHYSICAL RECREATION	EXPEDITIONS	RESIDENTIAL
12 months	One section for 12 months and the other section for 6 months.		Plan, prepare and undertake a 4 day, 3 night venture	Undertake a shared activity in a residential setting away from home

			for 5 days and 4 nights.
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Those taking part in the Gold award are expected to meet with the Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator at least once a term to report on progress. Pupils will also be expected to attend training weekends for the Gold Expedition Section of Award.