**For immediate release**

**Young person from [insert town/city name] celebrates Gold Duke of Edinburgh’s Award achievement at Buckingham Palace**

[Today’s date]: [Full name of young person] from [town/city] has celebrated achieving [his/her/their] Gold Duke of Edinburgh’s (DofE) Award in Buckingham Palace Garden, hosted by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh as Patron of the DofE charity.

[Insert first name], [insert age], joined thousands of young people and their loved ones from across the UK for a festival-style celebration on [insert date].

The celebration was one of four taking place over two days at the Palace, recognising over 8,000 young people who have shown extraordinary perseverance, creativity and resilience to complete their Gold DofE in schools, community organisations, youth groups and workplaces, all over the UK.

Buckingham Palace Garden had been transformed into a festival-style celebration for young people and their loved ones, with giant deckchairs, bunting and garden games and activities. Attendees had the chance to hear from famous DofE Award holders and other inspiring speakers, such as broadcasters Vick Hope and Clive Myrie – both DofE Award holders themselves – astronaut Tim Peake and TV chef Matt Tebbutt. Attendees also had the chance to pick up career advice from actors, presenters, authors and campaigners, at stages throughout the garden.

[Add some information about yourself and your personal DofE experience. Are you studying or working? Where did you do your Gold DofE? What did you choose for your activities? Where did you go for your Residential? Were there any challenges you were particularly proud to overcome?]

[First name] **said:**

[Add a few lines here in the first person about your DofE experience. E.g. Why did you decide to do your Gold DofE? What skills or passions did you gain from it? What do you hope to do next in life, and has your DofE supported or inspired you with this? What are you most looking forward to or what did you most enjoy about the Gold Award celebrations?]

**Ruth Marvel, CEO of The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, said:** "The young people here today have achieved something exceptional, and it is wonderful to see them celebrating together, sharing their experiences and hearing their aspirations for the future. DofE is all about proving to yourself just what you are capable of, and the young people here today have showed the world that their potential is limitless. I can’t wait to see what they go on to do next.

“As a charity, we’re working hard to give as many young people as possible the chance to have a DofE experience and we're delighted to announce that last year 330,948 young people started a DofE Award - another record-breaking year. This growth in participation shows just how much appetite there is amongst young people for enrichment and development opportunities beyond formal education and, together with our partners, we are determined to keep extending our reach until every young person has access to these types of life-changing experiences."

**About The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award**

A Gold DofE programme is a non-competitive personal challenge, open to all young people, which takes a minimum of 12 months to complete. Young people build their own programmes with activities in five sections – Physical, Skills, Volunteering, a five-day Residential and a four-day Expedition.

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award is focusing on breaking down barriers to give as many young people as possible the chance to do their DofE – working with more schools in deprived areas, further education colleges, community organisations, prisons and young offender institutions, and centres supporting young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

The charity recently announced [record-breaking annual statistics](https://www.dofe.org/statistics/), with 545,910 young people actively taking part in 2023/24, over 330,984 young people starting their Award – and participants contributing an astonishing 4.7 million hours of Volunteering, equivalent to over £24 million in paid working hours.

As young people navigate the after-effects of the pandemic, access to opportunities for personal development beyond the classroom, like the DofE, are vital to help them have fun, discover new talents and passions, build their resilience and self-belief and give them skills employers value – like teamwork, problem-solving and leadership.

**ENDS**

**[Include your contact details here, or those of a parent or carer if you are under 18].**

**For further information about the DofE please contact the DofE press office on 01753 727420** **or email** [**media@DofE.org**](mailto:media@DofE.org)

**About the DofE**

Every year, the DofE inspires hundreds of thousands of young people – from all walks of life – to develop skills, resilience and self-belief. We help them take on their own challenges, follow their passions, make a difference to their communities and discover talents they never knew they had.

DofE is open to any young person aged 14-24. Each young person builds their own DofE programme – picking their own activities and choosing which cause to volunteer for – in order to achieve a Bronze, Silver or Gold DofE Award. The DofE is run in schools, youth clubs, hospitals, fostering agencies, prisons, sports clubs and more, all over the UK. Find out more at DofE.org.