

Somerset DofE Partnership with Somerset Freemasons

Many thanks to the Somerset Freemasons for the plaque that was given to Somerset DofE as a sign of recognition of the continued partnership between the two. Over the past 3 years a huge £45000 has been donated to the Somerset DofE Committee - to grant to young people who are disadvantaged to access the award and ensure that every young person across the county has the chance to gain this recognised soft qualification.

The money has been used to help over 400 young people start an award - we are able to support young people who are financially unable to afford the cost of an award, as well as those with SEN, Looked After Children, Asylum Seekers, Physical and Mental health issues etc - so the bursary fund enables individuals and DofE centres find ways to deliver the award to those who wouldn't be able to without the funding.

Funding is available to any young person who lives in Somerset, so we can also support Scouts, Cadets, CCF etc. As well as those within a Schol or College or home educated.

We have also been able to use the funding to help run alternative DofE programmes for young people that are Risk of Neet (not in employment, education, or training) - a day release initiative, that helps these young people learn communication skills, teamwork, life skills, confidence – outside of the school environment, working alongside youth workers. This helps improve behaviour and attendance at school, allowing these young people to thrive in a different environment and gain their DofE bronze award to go alongside any school qualifications, helping with job and college interviews for their future.

Without the continued support of the Somerset Freemasons, we can't continue to offer these programmes, or help individual young people access bursary funding to do the award. Which would in turn cause a drop in numbers of disadvantaged young people starting an award across the county.

As always, my heartfelt thanks go to everyone involved in supporting the work that we do and the continued financial support

CYATH

Carol Authers, DofE Operations Manager, on behalf of the Somerset Bursary Committee





Pictures

- 1) Somerset Freemasons, Ben Batley, presenting the placque to Somerset DofE
- 2) & 3) DofE Participants from Pyrland School tree planting. These young people are supported on an alternative DofE day release programme, through funding given to us by Somerset Freemasons.