

St Anne's

Amplify Youth Group



Report 2021-2022

Amplify during Covid and how we supported the young people.

Amplify Youth Group have been working exclusively with the Duke of Edinburgh Award since the start of Covid and have been supporting the participants with their journey through the awards. We couldn't meet as an after school youth group during Covid due to restrictions. We used Zoom and Teams to meet with and keep the young people supported and to stay in touch with them.

To allow the young people to experience all aspects of the Duke of Edinburgh Award we purchased more rucksacks, Trangias and single-person tents. This allowed us to run expeditions in a Covid-safe way. We had to adapt quite a lot of our processes during Covid and we took our lead from the National Youth Agency ([NYA](#)), who offered guidance on how to assist young people during the pandemic. We had to change the way we met with the young people and we purchased two gazebos to allow us to meet with them outside. We mostly met on the bowling green and also had to keep records of the young people who had attended to make sure we complied with the regulations.

During Covid we managed to support 34 young people through their Bronze Award and 28 through their Silver Award. We also helped to support 14 young people through their Gold Award. We helped them with their four sections and volunteering around the parish grounds was very popular as many other volunteering opportunities were unavailable. We helped by picking up litter, leaves, branches and generally keeping the grounds around the church, parish centre and cemetery tidy.

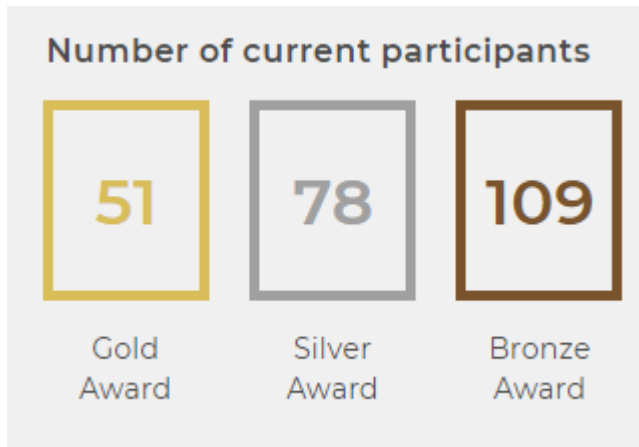
We held an awards evening in November 2021 at St Anne's Parish Centre which was the first we had held in two years. It was an amazing night and we handed out certificates to all the young people who had achieved their awards during Covid. We managed to get the Mayor of West Lancashire to attend and hand out the certificates. It was a successful conclusion to the hard work that the young people had put into their awards.



During 2021 we were able to return to more 'normal' ways of working with the young people and in September 2021 we started to recruit a new cohort of Bronze Award participants. With the support from the volunteers, we worked out that we could take 34 Bronze and still manage to support the Silver and Gold.

We held parents' meetings for the Bronze and Silver groups and explained the system of how the Duke of Edinburgh Award works and how we will support them. We explained the costs and how we try to keep costs to a minimum.

We currently are helping 109 Bronze, 78 Silver and 51 Gold participants. Some of these will have halted or stopped their journey and we constantly reach out to them via email, E-DofE and WhatsApp to try to encourage them to continue and finish the level they are working on.



During 2021-2022 the young people have donated 1391 hours, which is a marvellous achievement.

Thank you

to the
Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants

from
Amplify Youth Group

who spent
1391 hours

volunteering between
1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022.

We are immensely proud of the dedication, effort and achievement of young people making an impact in their community

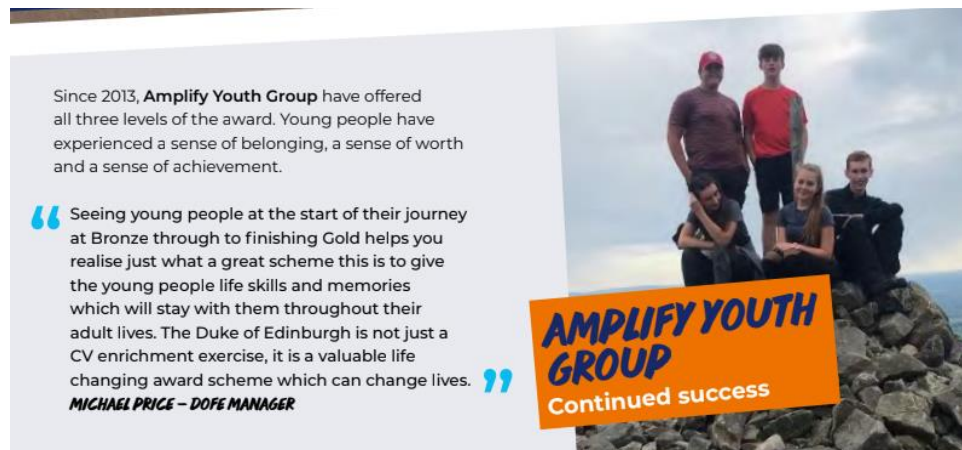
The social value of these hours is
£6426.42

Ruth Marvel
RUTH MARVEL CEO

June 2022

Since we started, we have helped 469 young people achieve either Bronze, Silver or Gold. We have helped 310 achieve Bronze, 104 have gained their Silver Award and 55 have managed to achieve Gold. There are also about 50 young people who have left us to continue their award journeys with other groups or colleges.

We are seen by the local Duke of Edinburgh Office as one of the best run DofE centres in their area and they asked for us to appear in the first edition of their newsletter which went to every organisation in the local area. Below is what appeared in the newsletter. We are also constantly asked to speak with new organisations and help them and to provide case studies.



Since 2013, **Amplify Youth Group** have offered all three levels of the award. Young people have experienced a sense of belonging, a sense of worth and a sense of achievement.

“ Seeing young people at the start of their journey at Bronze through to finishing Gold helps you realise just what a great scheme this is to give the young people life skills and memories which will stay with them throughout their adult lives. The Duke of Edinburgh is not just a CV enrichment exercise, it is a valuable life changing award scheme which can change lives. ”

MICHAEL PRICE – DOFE MANAGER

AMPLIFY YOUTH GROUP
Continued success

The following is from the Awards Evening pamphlet which we had printed:

Thank you for attending our Awards Evening. The past eighteen months have been hard work, both for us as leaders and for those participating in the awards.

There have been many changes to how we had to run the award during the past two years, and this has made it a challenge both in planning and executing the Awards.

During the past eighteen months, these young people have had to suffer lockdowns, missing friends, and schooling. However, seeing them come up with innovative ways to achieve their awards has been refreshing, inspiring and heart-warming to the leaders.

Families have been out together during their daily exercise picking up litter, helping the elderly, learning new skills, such as cooking, learning new languages and much more. They have been keeping fit via YouTube or television and they have managed to test themselves with expeditions.

Achieving your Duke of Edinburgh Award in these past eighteen months should not be seen as easy, far from it, it has been hard work, both mentally and physically. Having to use Zoom to stay in touch, not being able to go on proper practice expeditions and having to undertake challenging qualifying expeditions with little or limited exercise was hard.

But, you have succeeded, you have made a difference, you have something to be proud of.

Well done to all of you, you are inspirational.



Volunteers

All of our volunteers are cleared by the DBS system and we currently have the following people assisting us:

Helping with the weekly sessions are:

Stephen Slater

Mark Jones

Lisa Turpin

Clare Cunliffe

Thomas Bennett

Helping with expeditions are:

Stephen Slater

Mark Jones

Thomas Bennett

Alison Bennett

Eric Grindle

Katrina Grindle-Wilkinson

Asha Price

Lou Warren

Martyn Lawrenson

Carol Williamson

Will Smith

During the past year these volunteers have donated over 400 hours for the weekly sessions and over 1,200 hours for the expeditions. This shows the dedication of our volunteers to help the young people in our care.

We offer the volunteers training to help us keep costs down and this year we have contributed to help Mark Jones gain his Mountain Leader Award and Asha Price become a First Aid Trainer.

Mark becoming a Mountain Leader allows us to potentially take more young people on Gold, as we have to have a Mountain Leader for every 14 young people we take out. Mark joins Eric Grindle, Carol Williamson and Martyn Lawrenson as our team of Mountain Leaders.

Asha is now able to teach the 16-hour outdoor first aid course to our volunteers and has recently held her first weekend. Six of our volunteers have successfully become competent in outdoor first aid, which is a valuable resource for our leaders on expeditions.

Finances

Our finances are managed brilliantly by Steve Back. Any money we get is passed onto Steve to be banked and then if spent, Steve arranges payment. Steve really is an essential part of Amplify Youth Group and we would not be able to run as efficiently without his assistance.

Here is a link to the spreadsheet

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18I9n_6hDJS62VkJUjOLNT0mpO2QTEBwOO/edit?usp=sharing&oid=113423263494294633753&rtpof=true&sd=true

We have to pay to run the Duke of Edinburgh Award and the License for 2021 cost £1,368.00.

We have our own public liability insurance with Unity Insurance which covers us for expeditions and when we meet indoors or out.

We try to work as a not-for-profit organisation therefore we spend any surplus money on training or equipment.

We don't pay our volunteers but we do give them a contribution toward fuel whilst on expeditions.

Here are some pictures from the expeditions and some from the young people whilst taking part in the awards.







