

World Class Schools Quality Mark (WCSQM)

Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) volunteering programme

As a registered charity with a mission to provide character-development opportunities for the benefit of students in non-selective state school education, we welcome applications from students wishing to work with us to complete the volunteering section of their DofE programme.

Volunteering for WCSQM is largely undertaken remotely, so you can complete your volunteering activities from home, although there are opportunities for you to attend and support WCSQM events in your volunteer capacity (expenses covered).

DofE volunteering criteria

In order to pass the volunteering section, the DofE requires that you spend a minimum of one hour a week volunteering for a charity (or not for profit organisation) for a minimum of:

Bronze - 3 months

Silver - 6 months

Gold - 12 months

[Find out more about the DofE volunteering criteria and timescales](#)

WCSQM volunteering roles

As a small charity we offer volunteering opportunities to a limited number of World Class students that would like to support the development of World Class characteristics and opportunities for their peers in schools around the UK. We have a number of volunteering roles available, and/or we can also work with you to create a role that enables you to work to your strengths, while supporting our charity's mission.

WCSQM Assessor

WCSQM assessors are responsible for assessing work submitted by students applying for WCSQM accreditation on behalf of their school. There are three different types of assessments you could be assessing:

- app assessments - an assessment of 6 completed portfolios from 3-6 different students in which the students explain and evidence their World Class characteristics.
- self-audit video - an assessment of a video created by a group of students entitled, 'A Week in the Life of...' in which students demonstrate why their school is World Class.
- assessment centre - an in-person assessment of students' work completed during a one-day work experience project, and their preparation work in the lead-up to the assessment day

Part of your volunteering time will be spent completing the virtual assessor training programme in order to be able to complete your assessments.

[Find out more about the assessor training programme and assessment dates.](#)

WCSQM Alumni Association Committee member

The WCSQM Alumni Association is made up of over 500 student members all of whom have previously worked with WCSQM, either through participation in their school's accreditation process, because they've won or been nominated for a WCSQM achievement award, or through volunteering with us in some capacity. The Alumni Association committee is made up of a dedicated group of alumni students who work together and independently to identify and deliver engagement opportunities for alumni students. Examples of committee initiatives include:

- recruitment and member communication - welcoming new members, keeping members informed of opportunities and initiatives and actively recruiting new members through emails / social media
- social media - researching and liaising with the committee and WCSQM to come up with regular content for updating the WCSQM Alumni Association social media platforms (Instagram / Facebook / LinkedIn) with information, tips and guidance for alumni members.
- Year 10 student and Alumni Association committee member Gracie Fitzsimons has launched the [World Class Futures](#) initiative to support students in learning more about their career and education options. Committee and Alumni Association members are invited to support the initiative by researching different sectors and getting interviews with organisations / individuals to share on the WCSQM website.

Find out more about the [Alumni Association](#) and the [Alumni Association committee](#).

Your WCSQM volunteering role

WCSQM offers a number of other volunteering roles including event project manager and WCSQM mentor for other World Class students.

[Download a full list of WCSQM volunteer job descriptions](#)

If you have a specific skill or area of interest, we would be happy to work with you to create a volunteering programme that allows you to work to your strengths while giving you the opportunity to improve them in a work environment while also learning new skills. For example:

- If you have an interest in art / design you could support us by designing materials and logos branding our events and initiatives.
- If you're interested in website design / management / analysis you could support our App Manager to improve the design and user experience of our app / website
- If you're interested in Media / PR you could write press releases and devise other promotional materials to promote WCSQM and World Class school initiatives to local, regional and industry press.
- If you enjoy researching and/or fundraising you could research events, awards, donors and grants and we can support you to write bids, applications and fundraising plans.

Whatever your interest, if it's something you feel passionate about, we will do our best to help you develop your skills in a supportive, professional environment.

About You

This is the perfect volunteering opportunity for you if you

- are a student at a World Class accredited school
- are looking for a flexible role you can take on around your studies and other commitments
- are enthusiastic and passionate about developing your World Class characteristics

- are interested in helping to improve opportunities for students like you
- are interested in meeting, working with and learning from other World Class students
- have excellent communication and time management skills
- are self-sufficient and able to work remotely and independently to meet your agreed project goals

What WCSQM can provide for DofE volunteers

- If your application is successful we will arrange a video interview with you (this may be a solo interview or with other volunteer candidates) to discuss the role and understand from you what would be useful for you to get from the experience and how you can best work with WCSQM.
- Following the interview, if we are able to offer a suitable volunteer role for you we will work with you to define the details of your role, including timescales and objectives.
- We will provide relevant training, and you will be allocated a volunteer coordinator who will be available to support and guide you throughout your time volunteering with us.
- At the end of your required DofE volunteering period your volunteer coordinator will complete your DofE assessment report. Where relevant, and depending on your role, we can also provide references and LinkedIn endorsements and testimonials.

How to apply for a DofE volunteering opportunity at WCSQM

If you are interested in volunteering for WCSQM as part of your DofE programme, please email info@worldclass-schools.org with the following information:

- ☐ Your name
- ☐ School
- ☐ Year group
- ☐ Your DofE programme (bronze / silver / gold)
- ☐ A brief description of why you would like to volunteer with WCSQM
- ☐ Details of any skills / characteristics you would like to develop during your volunteering experience
- ☐ If you have a specific volunteer role you're interested in please let us know

If you have any queries about volunteering with WCSQM you would like to check before applying please feel free to contact us on info@worldclass-schools.org.