



Hello!

I am so pleased that you have chosen to take part in the Torbay and Devon Civic Award in this your last year of primary school. I am certain that taking part in this award will be a really positive thing in your life! It will help you develop as a person and help you to see yourself as a citizen of your different communities and hopefully inspire you to make a difference. You can you know! Good luck!

Taking part in the award requires determination and independence. Other people can help you, but it all needs to be your work and ideas. Here are some points to help you.

Section	Ideas and explanations
My chosen charity and my ideas about ways to support it	This is an important part of the award. You will need to think about a charity or cause which really matters to you and maybe your family too and then find a way to help. Over the years, children have organised sales and events to raise money – but they’ve also raised awareness too through film-making and speeches in assembly.
Active Citizenship in the school community for a period of at least 4 months	This section is about doing things to make your school a better place. Actions could include positions of responsibility in school, helping others through schemes like peer mediation or peer mentoring. Basically, it’s about trust and responsibility and giving up your own time to bring about positive change in your school.
At least one act of Active Citizenship in the local community	This is about making your locality a better place. Over the years, pupils have taken part in environmental cleans, helping at brownies/cubs/sports clubs and looking after people in the community.
A physical hobby which I have taken part in for at least 4 months	A hobby which makes you sweat a bit: football, dance, running, cycling etc etc. You need to stick at it.

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A non - physical hobby which I have taken part in for at least 4 months - ONE OF THESE HOBBIES MUST BE NEW TO YOU	Lots to choose from here: reading, arty hobbies, musical hobbies, cooking, baking, making things.... the list goes on! Don't forget to take up a new hobby: one that really interests you. This might be the one that changes your life!
Adventure Training - including residential experience This can be backdated to Y5	This involves sleeping away from home (and not at your granny's!) Sleeping away from home and family is an important part of becoming independent – and makes you appreciate your home more! This section is also about taking part in activities which scare you - and then give you a great buzz- like abseiling, climbing, kayaking etc. Most schools have opportunities for these – but there are some locally too.
Pledge to the planet	This will be a promise that you make to the planet whilst you are taking part in the award. You will need to research ways to help protect the environment and take action on one thing. These might include making decisions about re-using, recycling or reducing. It might be about planting or growing. Whatever you choose, it will be an action which will contribute to the sustainability of our planet. Hopefully, you'll keep doing it too!

Now, you can use the Initial Plans form to start planning your own Torbay and Devon Civic Award. Your teachers will be able to give you answers to other questions you might have. I know they will want to support you. You're doing a great thing!

The more we put into our lives, the richer our lives become. Your life is about to get a lot richer and much more interesting!

Good luck with it all. Keep going and don't be a quitter!

I can't wait to see you at the Presentation Night next July to say a huge WELL DONE!

With very best wishes,

Karen Thomson

Award Founder and Coordinator

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