

6 July 2026

Dear Parents, Carers & Participants

BRONZE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a key milestone for RGS students, starting with Bronze in Year 9. We believe learning outside the classroom allows students to express talent and tackle new challenges. Character development is at the heart of the RGS experience; through DofE, students step beyond their comfort zones to build resilience, self-reliance, and problem-solving skills.

I believe that memorable experiences lead to meaningful learning. Education is more than a curriculum; it is about giving students life skills and the excitement of venturing into the real world, with all its surprise and stimulation.

We will be running an information evening for parents and students in late September and I will update you further upon our return in the new school year.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

DofE is the world's leading achievement award for young people, and is highly regarded by universities, colleges and employers. It encourages young people to develop independence, commitment, leadership and teamwork through being involved in a personalised programme of activities.

It can inspire students to make a difference in their local community, learn new skills, become fitter through sport and expeditions and increase their confidence. The School fully supports the Award, recognising its unique value for developing skills and attributes in RGS pupils.

Completing the Award

The award is achieved by completing a personal programme of activities in four sections. These sections are:

- **Volunteering** - helping someone, your community, or the environment.
- **Physical** - becoming fitter through sport, dance, or fitness activities.
- **Skills** - developing talents or trying something new.
- **Expedition** - planning and completing an adventurous journey (organised by the School).

You can find information here on how long it takes to complete the programme and the amount of time that needs to be given to any one specific section ([DofE Timescales](#)). On average it takes a minimum of **3 months** to complete each section at Bronze level.

NB. The length of time taken for all the Awards is stated in months. Please note that students must show **regular** activity and commitment during this time of **at least an hour a week**. They cannot achieve an Award in a short burst of enthusiasm over one weekend!

Places available for 2026/27 enrolment & cost

- 125 places for Bronze – Expected enrolment cost **£149** (to be confirmed in September).

Explanation of costs:

- DofE [Welcome Pack](#), eDofE account
- Licence fee to DofE South East Regional Office
- In school training sessions
- Dedicated in school support for the duration of your programme
- Maps and navigational equipment
- Access to group kit and camping equipment (tents, stoves, etc)
- School insurance
- Certificate and badge upon successful completion
- DofE discount card (save at least 15 % on expedition kit)

The following are not included:

- Cost of the expedition section
- Individual camping/trekking equipment (RGS has a supply of loan kit if required)
- Additional costs relating to completion of other sections of the Award.

We would not want any RGS parent to not consider this opportunity due to cost. If you would find this financially difficult, please contact Grant Sheehan (gds@rgshw.com) in strictest confidence, as there may be funding available to assist you. Any students in receipt of Pupil Premium will be fully funded by the school, should they wish to sign up.

Training & Expedition

DofE is not just about the expedition, but we know it is an important part of the programme and one that students look forward to and enjoy.

Our provisional dates for the Bronze expedition are 13–14 March for training and 15–16 April for the assessed expedition. Should there be any changes, we will let you know as soon as possible.

Expedition Fees

Based on running a traditional style expedition section:

- **Bronze Training & Practice (2 days) Expedition Assessment (2 days) - £190-£220 dependent on number of students enrolled.**

*Please note the final cost will be decided at the end of the Autumn term once we know exactly how many students are signed up for each level. However, the above figures should give you a rough indication.

How to apply

We will be opening enrolment for the Bronze Award at the start of the school year in September, and will be in touch with further details on how to sign up then. If you are interested, do have a look at the [DofE Website](#).

If you require any more information in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us at dofe@rgshw.com.

Yours sincerely

D Clatworthy
Director of Co-Curricular Education