

2 July 2025

Dear Parents, Carers & Participants

BRONZE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an integral part of the RGS journey for many students, beginning with their enrolment in the Bronze Award at the start of Year 9. As a school, we strongly believe that learning outside the classroom provides an educational environment for students that allows them to express individual talent and explore new approaches to challenges. This is particularly true for the development of character, a cornerstone of the RGS experience. Through the DofE, students are consistently challenged to step beyond their comfort zones, fostering resilience, self-reliance, and problem-solving skills – all vital components of a well-rounded character

My personal belief is that memorable experiences lead to memorable learning and that education in its broadest sense is not just about delivering a curriculum. It is about giving our students the chance to extend their life skills; it is about the enjoyment and excitement of venturing out into the real world, with all its capacity for uncertainty, surprise, stimulation and delight.

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 existing talents or trying something new.

Expedition – planning/training/completing an adventurous journey (this section is 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 2025/26 enrolment & cost

- 125 places for Bronze – Expected enrolment cost £145 - to be confirmed in September

Explanation of costs:

- DofE [Welcome Pack](#), eDofE account, certificate and badge (on successful completion)
- Cost of the staff running and administering the DofE award at RGS
- 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

The following are not included:

- Cost of the expedition section
- Personal 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 me 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 7-8 March for the training expedition, and 24-25 March 2026 for the assessed expedition. Should there be any changes, we will of course 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) - £170-£185 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 and the [Bronze Welcome Pack](#) for further details.

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