

2 October 2025

Dear Parents / Carers

**Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards  
Years 10-13, 2025-2026**

When you step outside the classroom, whether you're leading a debate, running a business, or facing a tough climb on an expedition you're not just ticking a box - you are building **character**. These experiences are the foundation for the resilience, teamwork, and leadership skills that genuinely make a difference in your CV, university applications, and later life.

Learning outside the classroom serves as a foundation for the development of character. It provides an educational environment for you as students, that allows you to have the opportunity to express individual talent and explore new approaches to challenges. Education in its broadest sense is not just about delivering a curriculum. It is about giving students at RGS the chance to learn about themselves and more importantly enjoy their own adventures.

Any student at RGS is able to enrol at any level of DofE, regardless of any previous awards completed subject to additional time requirements.

The following should give you a great insight to why it is such a memorable and fun programme:

- Silver - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqHrGnY\\_Ktg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqHrGnY_Ktg)
- Gold - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q86Sa6DVwwA>

**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 will inspire students to make a difference to the local community, learn new skills, become fitter through sport and expeditions and increase his confidence. The School fully supports the Award, recognizing its unique value for developing skills and attributes in RGS.

## 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)
- **Residential (GOLD ONLY)** – for those undertaking their GOLD award this is an additional section outside Volunteering, Skills, Physical and Expedition. We advise that you check with the School before booking your Residential section to ensure it meets the DofE criteria. A 'residential' for Gold DofE means a programme that spends 5 days and 4 nights away from home on a shared activity with people that you have never met before. Your residential can have any focus or include any activities that you wish; a guide can be found [here](#).

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 is a minimum of **6 months** to complete Silver and **12 months** for Gold (18 months if you sign up without completing Silver first). Your child must be 15 years old, or in Year 10, to sign up for Silver and must be 16 years old to be eligible for Gold.

**NB.** The length of time taken for all the Awards is stated in months. Please note a student must show **regular** activity and commitment during this time of **an average of at least an hour a week**. He cannot achieve an Award in a short burst of enthusiasm over one weekend! Finally, all DofE activities **must** be completed by their 25th birthday.

### Places available for 2025/26 enrolment and cost

50 places for Silver                      Enrolment cost: **£149**

35 places for Gold                        Enrolment cost: **£159**

### Explanation of costs:

- DofE Welcome Pack, eDofE account, certificate and badge (on successful completion)
- Invitation for you plus 1 guest to attend a formal award ceremony at Buckingham Palace (or other royal palace) **GOLD AWARDS ONLY**
- 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)
- Insurance

### The following are NOT included:

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

NB: 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.

## Expedition Section

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.

- Silver Training, Practice (3 days, 2 nights) and Qualifying Expeditions (3 days, 3 nights): **£375-£400\***  
**Provisional Expedition dates:**  
7 - 9 March 2026      Training/Practice Expedition (**based in the Chiltern Hills**)  
8 - 11 May 20256      Qualifying Expedition (**based in the Brecon Beacons National Park**)
- Gold Training, Practice (4 days, 4 nights) and Qualifying Expeditions (5 days, 4 nights): **£525- £550\***  
**Provisional Expedition dates:**  
8 - 11 May 2026      Training/Practice Expedition (**based in the Brecon Beacons National Park**)  
10 - 14 July 2026      Qualifying Expedition (**based in Snowdonia National Park or Lake District National Park**)

\*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.

## Kit

Please refer to the [DofE Essential Kit List](#). Full details of what group kit will be supplied and what kit you must supply yourselves will be issued by the end of the autumn term. A limited supply of kit will be available on loan, at no cost, from the RGS DofE stores.

## How to apply

1. Log into [ParentPay](#) by Tuesday, 4 November, look up either “DofE Silver Enrolment 2025/26” or “DofE Gold Enrolment 2025/26” and pay the Enrolment fee. **NB: If you are unable to pay online, please contact the Finance Office to pay by an alternative method.**
2. On receipt of the enrolment fee, we will process the application and students will receive an automated email to their RGS email address containing their eDofE login details. (*Please note that no refunds are available after the end of the Autumn term should your child choose to withdraw from the programme*)
3. Students can start any of their activities immediately. **It is essential that all activities are selected from the approved [DofE Programme Ideas List](#).** If an activity is listed under Physical, it cannot be used for Skills and vice versa. If you or your child are unsure about an activity they have selected, please contact [DofE@rgshw.com](mailto:DofE@rgshw.com) as soon as possible for clarification.
4. Welcome packs will be sent to you directly from DofE once you complete your eDofE registration, however, you can access Digital Welcome Packs [here](#).

I wish our students every success with the Award, and in the meantime if you require any more information, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mrs Patten on [dofe@rgshw.com](mailto:dofe@rgshw.com).

Yours faithfully

**D Clatworthy FRGS**

**Director of Co-Curricular Education**