

9 September 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

## BRONZE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Firstly, I would like to say farewell to Mr Greenhough and thank him for his commitment and service to the inspiration and development of students over the years. Secondly, I would like to introduce myself; I am Mr Clatworthy and have taken over the role of Director of Co-Curricular Activities. Our goal at RGS is to ensure that all boys who choose to challenge themselves and step outside their comfort zone are given the opportunity to develop skills and build new perspectives whilst being supported in a structured framework which allows them to set up for success and achievement. I am incredibly excited to be able to offer your son the inspiring opportunity to enrol for his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award and very much look forward to supporting him over the next year.

This letter covers the following points:

- 1) **What is The Duke of Edinburgh's Award?**
- 2) **Why should your son undertake the Award?**
- 3) **What are the sections or activities that he has to do?**
- 4) **How long does it take and how old does he need to be?**
- 5) **How many places are available and how are they allocated?**
- 6) **How much does it cost?**
- 7) **When do the training and expeditions take place?**
- 8) **What kit does my son need?**
- 9) **How does my son apply?**
- 10) **Volunteering opportunity**

### 1. **What is The Duke of Edinburgh's Award?**

It 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.

There are three levels of programme you can do which, when successfully completed, lead to a **Bronze, Silver** or **Gold** Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The main differences between them are the minimum length of time it takes to complete the respective Award, how challenging it is and the minimum age you can start.

### 2. **Why should your son undertake the Award?**

It will inspire your son to make a difference to the local community, learn new skills, become fitter through sport and expeditions and increase his confidence. In this competitive world, it helps your son stand out from the crowd and shows that he is dedicated, organised, motivated and a team player, characteristics which universities and employers alike are looking for at their institutions.

The School fully supports the Award and recognises its unique value for developing skills and attributes in RGS pupils. It is a great way for RGS pupils to be recognised for their achievement in all the things they probably already do both in and out of school.

Incidentally, many of the things your son currently does will already count for the Award. Being in a sports team, learning a musical instrument or another language, the Queen's Hall Team, CCF, Stage Lighting and Sound Team, mentoring etc. are all relevant.

### 3. What are the sections or activities that he has to do?

He can achieve an Award 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).

### 4. How long does it take and how old does he need to be? ([DofE Timescales](#))

It takes a minimum of **6 months** to complete Bronze. Your son must be in Year 9 and do a minimum of 3 months activity for each of the Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections and plan and undertake two 2-day (1 night) Expeditions. He will also need to do an extra 3 months in one of the Volunteering, Physical or Skills sections. It's a good idea to decide all this at the beginning of the programme, so he can manage his time effectively.

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

### 5. How many places are available and how are they allocated?

There is no limit to the number of places available.

### 6. How much does it cost?

Bronze Enrolment	£117
Bronze Training, Practice & Qualifying Expeditions	£145-165

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

#### Explanation of costs:

- DofE Welcome Pack, eDofE account, certificate and badge (on successful completion) - £22
- Cost of the staff running and administering the DofE award at RGS
- Licence fee to DofE South East Regional Office
- Training, Practice and Qualifying expeditions
- Maps and navigational equipment
- Access to trekking kit and camping equipment
- Updating and replacing of equipment and clothing that is loaned to pupils and staff
- Campsite fees
- Training, Supervision and assessment by Wilderness Expertise – our Approved Activity Provider
- eDofE account
- School insurance
- Certificate and badge upon successful completion

#### The following are not included:

- Food during the expedition weekends (this will be discussed, agreed and sourced by teams in advance)
- Personal camping/trekking equipment (RGS has a small supply of this kit to assist those in financial difficulty)
- Additional costs relating to completion of other sections of the Award.

I will write to you next term to finalise the training and expedition times and dates and to ask for those fees, as well as give you and your son more information about the training and expeditions themselves.

Incidentally, once your son has completed the training or completed an award, he does not need to do any more training to proceed to the next level as he will receive further training on the practice expedition.

**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.**

## 7. When do the training and expeditions take place?

Provisional Expedition Dates (to be confirmed by the end of term):

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> – Sun 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Training/Practice

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2020 Qualifying

NB: Participants **must** successfully complete both the practice and qualifying expeditions to complete the section and achieve their Award.

## 8. What kit does my son need?

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

## 9. How does your son apply?

We believe that the Award can benefit your son in many ways, but there is also a level of commitment required. Places will only be allocated once the following have been complied with:

1. We strongly recommend attending our DofE Parents & Pupils Information Evening on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 7pm in the Queen's Hall**. There will be a short presentation followed by a Q&A session. Please click [here](#) and complete the online booking form to confirm your attendance.
2. Log into Parent Pay **before Friday 27 September**, look up “**DofE Bronze 2019**” and pay the Bronze Enrolment of £117. **NB: If you are unable to pay online, please contact the Finance Office to pay by an alternative method.**
3. Read the [DofE Parent and Pupil Annual Agreement](#) and complete the [Bronze DofE Consent Form](#).
4. Complete the [Combined Programme Planner](#) on this link and email it to [sportsadmin@rgshw.com](mailto:sportsadmin@rgshw.com) as a photo/scanned image or post/hand in a hard copy to the Resources Centre, marked for the attention of Mrs Henry by Friday 27 September.
5. Once the enrolment fee and both forms are received, we will process your son's application and he will receive his Welcome pack, registration details and a login to record his progress and adventures electronically via eDofE.
6. Your son can start any of his activities immediately or retrospectively from the 1 September 2019. 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 son are unsure about an activity he has selected, please contact Mrs Henry [sportsadmin@rgshw.com](mailto:sportsadmin@rgshw.com) as soon as possible for clarification.

I wish your son every success with the Award, but in the meantime if you or your son require any more information, please do not hesitate to contact me on [dec@rgshw.com](mailto:dec@rgshw.com) or 01494 551404 or Mrs Henry on [sportsadmin@rgshw.com](mailto:sportsadmin@rgshw.com).

Yours sincerely

**D Clatworthy**

**Director of Co-Curricular Activities**