

5th November 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

## SILVER & GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD – UPDATE

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.

In an approach to ensure that the Award remains both a challenge and aspirational we have made some small changes to both the Silver & Gold programmes. Silver groups will be undertaking their expeditions in the Brecon Beacons in order to give them the opportunity to explore and experience some wild and remote places and regain the traditional expedition feel of DofE. Gold groups will also have a revised walking expedition in the Lake District to enable them to take on a challenge that will cause them to step outside their comfort zones and overcome some real obstacles. Alternatively, Gold candidates may choose to complete their expedition via a river journey, kayaking down the River Wye. We hope these changes excite the boys and give them the opportunity to undertake a real adventure.

### The expedition section of your award:

#### Cost

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Silver Enrolment   | £117         |
| 2. Gold Enrolment   | £124         |
| 3. Silver Training, Practice & Qualifying Expeditions         | £385- £415*  |
| 4. Gold Training, Practice & Qualifying Expeditions (Walking) | £575- £595*  |
| Gold Training, Practice & Qualifying Expeditions (Kayak)      | £785 - £815* |

\*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.

#### Expedition Dates & Locations

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 4 – 7 July 2020   | Silver Practice – Wye Valley                   |
| 4 – 8 July 2020   | Gold Practice – Brecon Beacons or River Thames |
| 18 – 22 July 2020 | Silver Qualifying – Brecon Beacons             |
| 18 – 23 July 2020 | Gold Qualifying – Lake District or River Wye   |

**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)

**Kit**

Please refer to the [DofE Essential Kit List](#). Full details of what kit will be supplied by our supporting provider 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 stores.

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 [DofE@rgshw.com](mailto:DofE@rgshw.com).

Yours sincerely

**D Clatworthy**

**Director of Co-Curricular Activities**