

13 September 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian

### **Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award Year 9 2021-2022**

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an integral part of the RGS journey for many students of the school. For the majority that journey starts with their enrolment in the Bronze Award in Year 9. As a school we strongly believe that learning outside of the classroom provides an educational environment for students that allows them to have the opportunity to express individual talent and explore new approaches to challenges.

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 students at RGS HW 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.

I apologise in advance for the length and detail of this letter. I want to ensure we are as clear and informative as possible to aid in your undertaking of the programme. We will be aiming to run an information evening for parents and students in late September and I will update you further once details are confirmed.

In the meantime the following link should give you a great insight to why it is such a memorable and fun programme - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7kY2w4A7\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7kY2w4A7_s)

#### **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 your son 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, 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 is a minimum of **3 months** to complete at Bronze level.

**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 cannot achieve an Award in a short burst of enthusiasm over one weekend!

### **Places available for 2021/22 enrolment & cost**

125 places for Bronze – Enrolment cost £127

#### **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

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.

- Bronze Training, Practice (2 days, 1 night) & Qualifying Expeditions (2 days, 1 night ) £160-£195\*
- **Provisional Expedition dates: (based in the Chiltern Hills)**  
Sat 12<sup>th</sup> - Sun 13 March 2022      Training/Practice Expedition  
Sat 26<sup>th</sup> - Sun 27<sup>h</sup> March 2022      Qualifying Expedition

**\*Please note the final cost will be decided at the end of the Autumn term once we know exactly how many boys 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 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 Parent Pay **before Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October**, look up either “**DofE Bronze 2021/22**” 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. Complete the Combined Programme Planner on this link and email it to [dofe@rgshw.com](mailto:dofe@rgshw.com) as a photo/scanned image or post/hand in a hard copy to the Resources Centre, marked for the attention of DofE **before Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September**.
3. Your son can start any of his 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 son are unsure about an activity he has 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](#).
5. On receipt of the enrolment fee, we will process your son’s application and he will receive an automated email to his RGSHW email address containing his eDofE login details. (*Please note that no refunds are available after 30<sup>th</sup> September should your son chose to withdraw from the programme*)

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 us.

Yours sincerely,

Dominic Clatworthy *FRGS*  
Director of Co-Curricular Education  
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