COX GREEN SCHOOL

@CoxGreenSchool CoxGreenSchool

Highfield Lane, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 3AX
Tel: 01628 629415
Email: enquiries@coxgreen.com

3 September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award – Year 12 (2026-27 cohort)

I am pleased to inform you that we are offering The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award as an extra-curricular activity to our Year 12 students. The Award is a nationally recognised qualification for young people, designed to encourage them to develop independence, commitment, leadership and teamwork, through involvement in a personalised programme of activities.

The Five Parts to the Gold Award

The Award requires those taking part to complete five sections in the academic years of September 2026 – July 2028:

Skill	Developing a new skill or continuing to improve an existing skill.
Physical	Participating in physical activity, including sport.
Volunteering	Being involved in an activity that benefits others.
Expedition	Completing a training day, a four-day practice and a four-day assessed expedition/hike, both with overnight camping (plus an acclimatisation day).
Residential	Spend five days and four nights taking part in a shared activity, with people they have not met before. A link for more information about the residential can be found here: Sections - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (dofe.org) .

The Physical, Skills and Volunteering sections must be undertaken once a week, with the Volunteering section being completed over 12 months. For the Physical and Skills sections, your child must spend 12 months on one and 6 months on the other – your child can decide which way round to do it. If your child is going to do the Gold Award without having completed the Silver Award, they will need to spend a further 6 months either Volunteering or on one of the Physical or Skills sections. The Gold Award will therefore last at least 18 months unless your child has completed the Silver Award, where it will last at least 12 months. Although students will be assisted in selecting appropriate activities and monitored throughout the delivery of the Award, completion of these sections will primarily be the responsibility of the students taking part. A suggested activities sheet is attached.

The Expedition section will be run by Cox Green School and requires students to undertake a full day's training session (held at school), as well as one practice and one assessed expedition - each of which is five days and four nights. The plan is to visit the Brecon Beacons for the practice expedition and The Lake District/Snowdonia for the assessed expedition; this will be confirmed nearer the time.

Please see the dates below and attendance on all dates is compulsory.

Compulsory Training Day	Wednesday 3 March 2027
Pre-Expedition Information Meeting	Wednesday 3 March 2027 (at 6pm)
Practice Expedition	Friday 19 March – Tuesday 23 March 2027
Assessed Expedition	Friday 9 - Wednesday 14 July 2027

Commitments and Costs

Students must commit to completing all five parts of the Gold Award, with a view to completing by the end of Year 13 (summer 2028). Students are responsible for arranging and organising their own individual Residential part of the Award. Any costs incurred will be in addition of costs for registration and Expedition. Parents/carers must commit to support this.

The cost of registering for the Gold Award, for undertaking the Expedition and transport is **£300** (based on minimum numbers required). Tents and cooking equipment are provided by the school. Students will require their own personal expedition equipment, for example waterproofs and a sleeping bag. A kit list will be provided nearer the time.

There are a **maximum of 16 places** available and if you would like your child to participate in this, we request a non-refundable deposit of **£150** to be paid using your child's existing iPay account. You will be able to do this from **7pm on Sunday 27 September 2026** (closing; 10pm on Wednesday 30 September 2026). In the unlikely event that this trip oversells on iPay, places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, by time of booking transaction, and a waiting list will be held. Should you wish your child to be added to the waiting list, please email our DofE Manager, Mrs Feetham, to request this (k.feetham@coxgreen.com).

Please ensure you select the '**DofE Gold Award**' from the list of available funds, add the trip to your basket, agree to the Terms & Conditions, and then fully check out. Please ensure you select the correct offer for the year group your child is in.

For your information, the remaining payment dates are listed below. Please note that all payments can be made at any time but each one must be paid by the date stated:

Payment Required	To be paid by
£150 deposit (non-refundable)	at time of booking (but by 30 September 2026)
£150	27 November 2026

An information evening for parents/carers and students who are interested in signing up, or have questions about the DofE Award, will be held on Wednesday 16 September 2026 at 6pm in the school theatre. Please complete the form here, by 10pm on Sunday 13 September, to confirm your attendance at the information evening.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me or Mrs Feetham, by email to k.feetham@coxgreen.com.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Morris
Leader: The Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Please note:

- *Places on the DofE Awards are subject to the school expectations for the Behaviour Policy being met. Any student who receives multiple reflections and/or suspensions, may have their place withdrawn from the DofE and no refund will be made. In addition, if the school assesses that attendance on a DofE Expedition is a Health and Safety risk to the student or to others, that student will be withdrawn*

and there will be no refund made. Also, that student will not be permitted to continue with any further DofE Awards offered by the school.

- *School attendance and lesson punctuality will be taken into consideration for any student wishing to participate in the DofE Awards.*
- *Should your child be unable to attend the Training Day, Practice or Assessed Expedition elements of the DofE due to medical reasons, we will require official medical evidence to apply for special consideration.*
- *If your child is, or has ever been, eligible for 'Targeted' Free School Meals, you may be eligible for assistance with the cost. All requests for assistance should be made to the Finance Office (finance@coxgreen.com) at least five school days before the Award opens on iPay.*
- *Payments are to be made by the dates specified. Late or non-payment may result in your child's place being withdrawn from the DofE. If you choose to withdraw your child from the DofE, any costs attributed to date, must still be made.*
- *Should the school need to contact you in an emergency whilst on Expedition, we will use contact details supplied on your most recent OA4 Form (off-site activity form). If there are any changes to the details on this form, including any medical or dietary requirements, it is the parent/carer responsibility to inform the school.*
- *Attendance on the Training Day, Practice Expedition and Assessed Expedition is a compulsory element of the DofE Awards.*
- *There will be no insurance cover due to disinclination to travel*.

Application to Participate in The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award

Please return completed application forms directly to Mrs Feetham, DofE Manager (Student Services Office) once deposit payment has been made.

Section 1 – to be completed by the student

Student name: _____ Form: _____

What clubs/extracurricular activities do you currently take part in, within and outside of school?
What could you do for your Skills section (1 hour a week for 6-18 months)?
What could you do for your Physical section (1 hour a week for 6-18 months)?
What could you do for your Volunteering section (1 hour a week for 6-18 months)?
Extra information. In this section, explain **why** you want to do the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award and **how you think you will benefit from it**. Complete this section carefully and in detail.

Signature of student: _____ Date: _____

Section 2 – to be completed by parent/carer

Name of parent/carer _____ Tel No: _____

Email address: _____

Your child's personal details: First name:	Surname:
Gender: Male □ Female: □	Date of Birth:
Your child's school email address:	
If your child has registered for the DofE previously, please record the name of the Centre and their eDofE ID number below: Centre:	ID number:

Please indicate if your child has any of the conditions below, and provide further information.

	Problems with sight or hearing		Mental health conditions
	Osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, fibromyalgia or ME		Impairments due to injury to the body or brain
	Any conditions which affect certain organs such as heart disease, asthma and strokes		Has or have had cancer
	Learning disabilities		Multiple Sclerosis
	Learning difficulties such as dyslexia and dyspraxia		Any other condition
	Autistic spectrum disorders		None of these conditions

If you have indicated a medical condition above, please provide further information in the box below.

I wish my child to be considered for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. I confirm that they will:

- Undertake between 12 and 18 months of Skill Development, Physical Activity and Volunteering sections
- Attend the one-day Expedition training session, the four-day Practice Expedition, and the five-day Assessed Expedition
- I understand that if my child does not complete the above activities then they may be asked to leave the programme
- I understand that if my child's attitude and behaviour fall below that which is acceptable, then they may be asked to leave the programme
- I understand once my child has been accepted, any monies paid are non-refundable.

Signed: _____ Parent/Carer Date: _____

Suggested Activities Sheet

When completing each section of your DofE, you should develop a programme, which is specific and relevant to you. This sheet gives you a list of ideas that you could do to help you create a programme of your own.

Volunteering Section

Volunteering gives you the chance to make a difference to people's lives and use your skills and experience to help your local community. You can use this opportunity to become involved in a project or with an organisation that you care about.

Community action & raising awareness

Campaigning
Cyber safety
Council representation
Drug & alcohol education
Home accident prevention
Peer education Personal safety
Promotion & PR Road safety **Working with the environment or animals**
Animal welfare Environment
Rural conservation Preserving waterways
Working at an animal rescue centre
Litter picking Urban conservation
Beach and coastline conservation
Zoo/farm/nature reserve work

Helping a charity or community organisation

Administration
Being a charity intern
Being a volunteer lifeguard
Event management Fundraising
Mountain rescue
Religious education
Serving a faith community Supporting a charity
Working in a charity shop

Helping people Helping children
Helping older people Helping people in need
Helping people with special needs
Youth work

Coaching, teaching and leadership

Dance leadership
DofE Leadership
Group leadership
Leading a voluntary organisation group:
- Girls' Venture Corps
- Sea Cadets
- Air Cadets
- Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade
- St John Ambulance
- Scout Association
- Air Training Corps - Army Cadet Force
- Boys' Brigade
- CCF
- Church Lads' & Girls' Brigade
- Girlguiding UK- Girls' Brigade
- Boys' Brigade
- Sports leadership
- Music tuition

Physical Section

Doing physical activity is fun and improves your health and physical fitness. There's an activity to suit everyone so choose something you are interested in.

Individual sports

Archery
Athletics (any field or track event)
Biathlon/Triathlon/Pentathlon
Bowling Boxing
Croquet
Cross country running
Cycling
Fencing
Golf
Horse riding
Modern pentathlon
Orienteering
Pétanque
Roller blading Running
Static trapeze Wrestling

Water sports

Canoeing
Diving
Dragon Boat Racing
Free-diving
Kneeboarding
Rowing & sculling
Sailing Skurfing
Sub aqua (SCUBA diving & snorkelling)
Surfing/body boarding Swimming
Synchronised swimming Windsurfing

Racquet sports

Badminton Matkot Racketlon
Rapid ball
Real tennis Squash
Table tennis Tennis

Dance

Ballet
Ballroom dancing Belly dancing
Bhangra dancing Ceroc
Contra dance
Country & Western
Flamenco
Folk dancing
Jazz Line dancing Morris dancing
Salsa (or other Latin styles) dancing
Scottish/Welsh/Irish dancing
Street dancing/breakdancing/ hip hop
Swing Tap dancing

Martial arts Aikido
Capoeira
Ju Jitsu Judo Karate Self-defence
Sumo
Tae Kwon Do Tai Chi

Extreme sports Caving & potholing
Climbing
Free running (parkour)
Ice skating
Mountain biking
Mountain unicycling
Parachuting
Skateboarding
Skydiving
Snow sports (skiing, snowboarding)
Snowkiting
Speed skating Street luge

Team sports

American football
Baseball
Basketball Boccia
Camogie
Cricket Curling
Dodge disc
Dodgeball Fives
Football Hockey Hurling
Kabaddi Korfball
Lacrosse Netball
Octopushing Polo
Rogaining Rounders
Rugby
Sledge hockey
Stoolball
Tchoukball
Ultimate flying disc
Underwater rugby
Volleyball Water polo

Fitness

Aerobics / Fitness classes
Cheerleading Gym work
Gymnastics
Medau movement
Physical achievement
Pilates
Running/jogging/walking
Trampolining
Weightlifting
Yoga

Skills Section

Developing a skill helps you get better at something you are really interested in and gives you the confidence and ability to use this skill both now and later in life.

Performance arts
Ballet appreciation
Ceremonial drill Circus skills
Conjuring & magic
Dance appreciation
Majorettes Puppetry
Singing
Speech & drama Theatre appreciation
Ventriloquism
Yoyo extreme

Science & technology
Aerodynamics Anatomy
Astronomy Biology Botany
Chemistry Ecology
Electronics
Engineering
Entomology
IT
Marine biology
Oceanography
Palaeontology Physics
Rocket making
Taxonomy
Weather/meteorology
Website design Zoology

Care of animals
Agriculture (keeping livestock)
Aquarium keeping Beekeeping
Caring for reptiles Dog training & handling
Horse/donkey/llama/alpaca handling & care
Keeping of pets
Looking after birds (i.e. budgies & canaries)
Pigeon breeding & racing

Music
Church bell ringing
Composing
DJing
Evaluating music & musical performances
Improvising melodies
Listening to, analysing & describing music
Music appreciation
Playing a musical instrument
Playing in a band
Reading & notating music
Understanding music in relation to history & culture

Natural world Agriculture
Conservation Forestry
Gardening
Groundsmanship
Growing carniverous plants
Plant growing
Snail farming
Vegetable growing

Games & sports
Cards (i.e. bridge) Chess
Clay target shooting
Cycle maintenance
Darts
Dominoes
Fishing/fly fishing
Flying Gliding
Go-karting
Historical period re-enacting
Kite construction & flying
Mah Jongg
Marksmanship
Model construction & racing
Motor sports
Power boating
Snooker, pool & billiards
Sports appreciation Sports leadership
Sports officiating
Table games War games

Life skills
Alternative therapies Cookery
Democracy in action
Digital lifestyle
Driving: car maintenance/car road skills
Driving: motorcycle maintenance/road skills
Event planning First Aid – St John/St Andrew/BRCS
Hair & beauty
Learning about the emergency services
Learning about the RNLI (Lifeboats)
Library & information skills
Life skills
Massage
Money management
Navigation
Public speaking and debating
Skills for employment
Young Enterprise

Learning & collecting
Aeronautics
Aircraft recognition Anthropology
Archaeology Astronautics Astronomy
Bird watching
Coastal navigation
Coins
Collections, studies & surveys
Comics
Contemporary legends
Costume study Criminology
Dowsing & divining Fashion
Forces insignia
Gemstones Genealogy
Heraldry History of art
Language skills Military history Movie posters
Postcards
Reading
Religious studies Ship recognition
Stamp collecting

Creative arts
Basket making
Boat work Brass rubbing
Building catapults & trebuchets
Cake decoration Camping gear making
Candle-making
Canoe building
Canvas work
Construction
Ceramics
Clay modelling Crocheting Cross stitch
DIY
Dough craft Drawing
Dressmaking
Egg decorating Embroidery Enamelling
Fabric printing Feng Shui
Floral decoration French polishing Furniture restoration
Glass blowing Glass painting
Interior design
Jewellery making
Knitting
Lace making
Leatherwork
Lettering & calligraphy
Macramé
Marquetry
Model construction Mosaic
Painting & design
Patchwork
Photography
Pottery
Quilting
Rope work
Rug making Snack pimping Soft toy making
Tatting
Taxidermy
Textiles
Weaving and spinning
Wine/beer making
Woodwork

Media & communication
Amateur radio
Communicating with people who are visually impaired
Communicating with people who have a hearing impediment
Film & video making
Journalism
Newsletter & magazine production
Signalling
Writing