



8 September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award – Year 12 (2025-26 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 2025 – July 2027:

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.

Training Day	Wednesday 25 February 2026
Pre-Expedition Information Meeting	Wednesday 4 March 2026 (6pm)
Practice Expedition	Friday 20 March – Tuesday 24 March 2026
Assessed Expedition	Friday 10 - Wednesday 15 July 2026

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 2027). 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. 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 28 September 2025 (closing; 10pm on Wednesday 1 October 2025). 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.

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 1 October 2025)
£150	28 November 2025

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 17 September at 6pm in the school theatre. Please complete the form on the following link, by 10pm on Sunday 14 September, to confirm your attendance at the information evening: <https://forms.office.com/e/mT6r16CfiE>.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me, or Mrs Feetham, DofE Manager, by email to enquiries@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 a suspension 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.
- 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, in receipt of free school meals, then 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 trip 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.*
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Application to Participate in The Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award

Please return completed application forms 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.	
<u>Community action & raising awareness</u> 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	<u>Helping a charity or community organisation</u> 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 <u>Helping people</u> Helping children Helping older people Helping people in need Helping people with special needs Youth work	<u>Coaching, teaching and leadership</u> 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.	
<u>Individual sports</u> 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 <u>Water sports</u> Canoeing Diving Dragon Boat Racing Free-diving Kneeboarding Rowing & sculling Sailing Skurfing Sub aqua (SCUBA diving & snorkelling) Surfing/body boarding Swimming Synchronised swimming Windsurfing <u>Racquet sports</u> Badminton Matkot Racketlon Rapid ball Real tennis Squash Table tennis Tennis	<u>Dance</u> 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 <u>Martial arts</u> Aikido Capoeira Ju Jitsu Judo Karate Self-defence Sumo Tae Kwon Do Tai Chi <u>Extreme sports</u> Caving & potholing Climbing Free running (parkour) Ice skating Mountain biking Mountain unicycling Parachuting Skateboarding Skydiving Snow sports (skiing, snowboarding) Snowkiting Speed skating Street luge	<u>Team sports</u> 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 <u>Fitness</u> Aerobics / Fitness classes Cheerleading Gym work Gymnastics Medau movement Physical achievement Pilates Running/jogging/walking Trampoline 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.	

<u>Performance arts</u> Ballet appreciation Ceremonial drill Circus skills Conjuring & magic Dance appreciation Majorettes Puppetry Singing Speech & drama Theatre appreciation Ventriloquism Yoyo extreme <u>Science & technology</u> Aerodynamics Anatomy Astronomy Biology Botany Chemistry Ecology Electronics Engineering Entomology IT Marine biology Oceanography Palaeontology Physics Rocket making Taxonomy Weather/meteorology Website design Zoology <u>Care of animals</u> 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 <u>Music</u> 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 <u>Natural world</u> Agriculture Conservation Forestry Gardening Groundsmanship Growing carnivorous plants Plant growing Snail farming Vegetable growing	<u>Games & sports</u> 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 <u>Life skills</u> 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 <u>Learning & collecting</u> 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	<u>Creative arts</u> 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 pipping Soft toy making Tatting Taxidermy Textiles Weaving and spinning Wine/beer making Woodwork <u>Media & communication</u> 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
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