



6th October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award

This week during Personal Development Time a presentation has been given to Year 10 students offering them the opportunity to apply to participate in the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Riddlesdown has been offering the Award for numerous years and currently has students involved at both Bronze and Silver levels. **The presentation, a copy of this letter and the application form will be on the Riddlesdown website by the end of this week.** You will find this under Curriculum – Enrichment - Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a voluntary, non-competitive programme of practical, cultural and adventurous activities, designed to support the personal and social development of young people. It offers an individual challenge and encourages young people to undertake exciting, constructive, challenging and enjoyable things in their free time. The Award is widely recognised by educationalists and employers. Some of the benefits to young people include developing or discovering:

- A sense of achievement and enjoyment
- New skills and interests
- Self-confidence and self-reliance
- Leadership skills and abilities
- Exciting opportunities
- Experience of teamwork and decision making

If your child is interested in applying, please complete this [Google Enrolment Form](#). There is an additional application form attached to be completed by your child and handed in to Mrs Hartigan in Student Services, not to their Tutor.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 12th November.

Please note that any applications received after this date will not be considered. If applications for the Award exceed places, a selection process will take place after the closing date. As this Award is not compulsory for your child to attend, good behaviour and attendance is essential and will be considered, along with a random selection process if necessary. Once applications have been reviewed, you will be notified after half term.

The Award is a national charity and whilst receiving some funding from government and commercial sources, participants support the charity through the purchase of a Welcome Pack. The cost of **the Award is £110**, and this will only be **due if successful in gaining a place on the Award**. It will be set-up via ParentPay and is non-refundable. This fee includes the Enrolment and the Welcome Pack, any training required and the cost of the practice and assessed expeditions. Please note that it is not possible to hire camping/expedition equipment from school.

Key dates for the Silver Award are:

- Notification via email to applicants **week commencing 3rd November**. Successful students will have the Award fee added to ParentPay and enrolment takes place once payment has been received.
- **Tuesday 13th January 2026**: Parents Information Evening for successful students. 6.30-7.30pm in the Main School Hall. Information will be sent to parents and students via email so that your child can start the Award as soon as they are enrolled.
- **Sunday 22nd March 2026**: Training Morning. 9am - midday in School.
- **Friday 5th – Sunday 7th June 2026** - Practice Expedition. Walking and camping overnight in East Grinstead.
- **Friday 2nd – Sunday 4th October 2026** – Assessed Expedition. Walking and camping overnight in the South Downs area.

The above dates are given at this stage for you to check that your child is available. All the events must be attended so please check before your child applies. There will be a Google Classroom set up for successful students, where we will share information, including further compulsory after school sessions for Route Planning, dates to be confirmed but notice will be given.

For more information on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award please visit www.dofe.org.

Administrative support is provided by Mrs Hartigan, based in Student Services, who is usually the first point of contact for parents on matters concerning the Award. She can be contacted by email at Kerry.Hartigan@riddlesdown.org.

Yours sincerely



Miss J P Baker
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Leader