

*Our reference: MMY/SB**

5th June 2025

Dear Families,

Re: Duke of Edinburgh

I am writing to inform you of the exciting opportunity for your child to become involved in the Duke of Edinburgh programme here at Raynes Park High School. The Duke of Edinburgh award provides excellent opportunities for students to make new friends, undertake exciting new experiences, and to gain many transferable skills that colleges, universities and also future employers would look for.

We will be offering the Bronze award where students will have the opportunity to undertake 3 independent sections (volunteering, skill, and physical.) Two of these sections must be completed for a 3-month period and one for a 6-month period. Students will also have the opportunity to complete a practice expedition, as well as the qualifying expedition. Both of these will involve an overnight camping stay. This section will be led by Ben Bullen Adventures, supported by myself and other staff at the school, and will take place during the summer term of 2026. Further details of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme are available from their website: [DofE - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award](https://www.dofe.org/)

Unfortunately previous funding that the school received for the Bronze Award is no longer available and the school is unable to pay for centre costs or subsidise the award. This means that the cost of each student's enrolment, centre cost and expedition costs will have to be met fully by families. A breakdown of these costs are outlined below:

Enrolment per student - £30.50

School Licence and Validation costs - £ 13,000 (£100 per student)

Expedition Costs for each student - £250 (Including transport to and from Surrey Hills)

Total cost per student: £380.50

In order to secure your child's place on the scheme you need to pay the initial deposit of £130.50, via SCOPay, by 11th July 2025. This will cover your child's enrolment with Merton and the £100 school licensing fee which will secure your child's place on the Bronze award. You will also need to complete the following electronic enrolment form: <https://forms.office.com/e/sVpDFdtwNc>

Payment plan; for the remaining £250.00 expedition costs

1st payment of £62.50 to be paid by 28th October

2nd payment of £62.50 to be paid by 28th November

3rd payment of £62.50 to be paid by 28th January

Final payment of £62.50 to be paid by 28th February

Please note that the deposit is non-refundable. If your child does not attend the expedition, payments may be refundable depending on any outlay the school has already made. We are unable to offer an automatic discount to Free School Meal and Pupil Premium students but please contact finance@raynespark.merton.sch.uk in advance of the deadline if you have any financial difficulties to make the payment or meet the deadline.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on mmccurdy@raynespark.merton.sch.uk

Yours faithfully,

M. McCurdy

Mr M McCurdy
Assistant Headteacher