

The Becket School

Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Scheme (Canoeing) 2025/26

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are pleased to inform you that The Becket School is offering students currently in Year 12 the opportunity to participate in the **Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award Scheme** during the academic year **2025/26**.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award was introduced by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh in 1956 to encourage and challenge young people, fostering skills and attributes that contribute to becoming well-rounded, confident adults. These qualities—such as self-confidence, initiative, responsibility, planning, communication, leadership, and teamwork—are also highly valued by colleges, universities, and employers.

There are three levels of the award: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. The school will be offering students the opportunity to complete the **Gold Award**, and this year it will take place **via canoe expedition**.

Award Sections

To achieve the Gold Award, students must complete four key sections:

1. **Expedition** – Planning, training for, and completing an adventurous journey in the UK or abroad.
2. **Volunteering** – Undertaking service to individuals or the community.
3. **Physical** – Improving in a sport, dance, or fitness-related activity.
4. **Skills** – Developing practical and social skills and personal interests.

The DofE team will provide guidance for each section. However, please note this is an **extra-curricular programme** and activities will take place **outside of normal school hours**.

Priority will be given to students who have completed their Bronze or Silver Awards with no outstanding balances, as well as to direct entrants. All training, practice, and qualifying expeditions are **mandatory**.

Expedition Details

- **Training Day:**
Wednesday 22nd April 2026 (on school site)
This will cover canoeing skills, use of throw lines, health & safety, first aid, team building, and safe use of Trangias.
- **Practice Expedition:**
Thursday 4th – Tuesday 9th June 2026 (5 days / 3 nights)
Location: River Severn

- **Qualifying Expedition:**
Friday 21st – Tuesday 25th August 2026 (7 days / 5 nights)
Location: River Wye

Cost & Payment Plan

The total cost to participate is **£850.00 per student**. Students may use their **Sixth Form Bursary** or take part in **school fundraising** (please contact Mr Stevenson or Mrs Rowley, Headteacher's PA, for more information).

What's Included:

- Canoe training, health & safety instruction, qualified instructors and assessors
- Use of all canoeing equipment: canoes, buoyancy aids, paddles, throw lines, water bales
- Camping fees for both expeditions
- Group equipment: tents, Trangias, fuel, compasses, maps, first aid kit, storm shelter
- Transport to and from expedition venues
- DofE registration fee, online eDofE account, administration, award presentation at a Royal Palace
- Welcome pack, outdoor discount card, certificate, and badge upon completion

Not Included:

- Personal kit (e.g. waterproofs, boots, first aid kit – a kit list will be provided)
- Food for expeditions
- Waterproof dry bag

Payment Schedule:

Payment	Amount	Due Date
Deposit (non-refundable, secures place)	£100.00	Friday 17th October 2025
Second Payment	£100.00	Friday 30th January 2026
Third Payment	£200.00	Friday 27th March 2026
Fourth Payment	£200.00	Friday 29th May 2026
Final Payment	£250.00	Friday 3rd July 2026

Registration Process

If you would like to register your child's interest in the programme:

1. Submit the **DofE participant registration form** and **medical form** (attached to this letter). by **Monday 13th October 2025**.
2. Pay the **£100.00 deposit via Arbor** to secure a place (please note: places are not guaranteed until the deposit is received).

The Becket School is now **cashless**, so payments must be made **online**. Cheques or cash **will not be accepted**.

A **training session** will be held for all students who have paid the deposit on **Wednesday 22nd April 2026**.

Kind regards

Darren Stevenson

Duke of Edinburgh Manager

Email: - dofe@becketonline.co.uk