



Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School & Sixth Form Centre

'True Teaching'


Headmaster: Dr Simon Uttley FRSA KHS

Fawley Road, Reading, Berkshire RG30 3EP

Email: admin@hughfaringdon.org

Telephone: 0118 957 4730

Website: www.hughfaringdon.org

 @bhfc

Serving the community in Reading since 1958

September 2025

Dear Parents, Careers, and Students

Duke of Edinburgh Award 2025-2026

Thank you for showing an interest in completing the Duke of Edinburgh Award this academic year. Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School has been running the Award for many years, it is always a great success, and we would love for you to join us.

In completing the Award students develop the skills and attitudes they need to become more rounded, confident people. This is good for everyday life and are qualities that colleges, universities and employers are attracted to, investing in their future. Areas of development include:

- Self-belief and self-confidence
- A sense of identity
- Initiative and a sense of responsibility
- A real awareness of their strengths
- New talents and abilities
- The ability to plan and use time effectively.
- Learning from and giving to others in the community
- Forming new friendships
- Problem solving, presentation and communication skills.
- Leadership and teamworking skills

You'll also make a difference to other people's lives and your community, be fitter and healthier, make new friends and have memories to last you a lifetime.

Our participants also tell us that doing their Award gives them character traits like confidence and resilience, that can boost their mental health and wellbeing and help them face and overcome personal challenges.

To achieve an Award young people must show persistence, commitment and personal development. It's not something that can be achieved through a short burst of enthusiasm in one weekend. However, they may fit their Award activities around their school, college or work commitments, carrying them out in their own personal time. They can be done partly as one of a range of options in supported/core time or as part of an after-school or lunchtime programme.



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They may choose to use something they are already doing as an Award activity – or go for something completely new. Each progressive level demands more time and commitment from participants. There is no real time limit when it comes to completing an Award programme. As long as they are under 25 years old when they complete all their activities in their programme, they're free to work at a pace that they're comfortable with to achieve their Award. This chart shows the minimum time participants must do their programmes for. Whilst timescales are given in months, participants need to give a regular commitment averaging at least an hour a week during this time.

Bronze (14+)				
Those who aren't 14 yet but are in the school year in which their peer group turn 14 may be able to start a Bronze DofE programme.				
Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition	
3 months	3 months	3 months	Plan, train for and complete a 2 day, 1 night expedition	
Participants must also undertake a further three months in the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section.				
Silver (15+)				
Those who aren't 15 yet, but are in the school year in which their peer group turn 15 may be able to start a Silver DofE programme.				
Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition	
6 months	One for 6 months / one for 3 months		Plan, train for and complete a 3 day, 2 night expedition	
If participants haven't achieved their Bronze Award they must undertake a further 6 months in Volunteering or the longer of their Physical or Skills section.				
Gold (16+)				
Volunteering	Physical	Skills	Expedition	Residential
12 months	One for 12 months / one for 6 months		Plan, train for and complete a 4 day, 3 night expedition	Undertake a shared activity in a residential setting away from home for 5 days and 4 nights
If participants have not achieved their Silver Award they must undertake a further 6 months in Volunteering or the longer of their Physical or Skills section.				

The Bronze Award is offered at Years 9, 10 and 12. The Silver Award at Years 10 and 12. The Gold Award is only offered to those who have previously completed their Silver Award and are in Year 12.

There are four sections of the Award to complete at Bronze and Silver level and five at Gold. With assistance from DofE Leaders, your child will select and set objectives in each of the following areas:

Volunteering

Giving service to individuals or the community. This cannot be for a business or family member but can be for a charity or for a not-for-profit organisation.

- Raising money for a charity
- Being a football coach
- Helping at an after-school club.



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Physical

Improving in an area of sport, dance or fitness activities.

- Joining a local athletics club
- Improving their martial arts skills
- Taking weekly dance lessons.

Skills

Developing practical and social skills and personal interests.

- Learning how to juggle
- Improving musical skills
- Build a website, blog or video diary.

Expedition

Planning, training for and completing a supervised adventurous journey as one of a team in the UK or abroad. It can be by canoe, kayak or boat; on foot; on horseback; by wheelchair or by bicycle.

BHFCS runs the Expedition Section in-house and dates for the events of this will be available after Expedition Launch on 20th January 2026. They will run between then and the end of the academic year.

Residential

At Gold level, participants must do an additional fifth Residential section, which involves staying and working away from home doing a shared activity.

- Assisting at a kids' summer camp
- Helping deafblind young people and adults to enjoy a holiday in France.
- Joining a conservation camp.

Calendar for the 2025-2026 Academic Year

Activity	Date	Notes
Launch Evening	23 Sept	5.30pm in Main Hall
Login Session	21 Oct	After school in C1 3.15pm to 4.15pm Registration must be completed by 17 Oct to receive login All students must attend to set up their eDofE accounts
Check In Session	9 Dec	After school in C1 3.15pm to 4.15pm All students must attend to show progress on Volunteering, Physical, and Skill Sections



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Expedition Launch	20 Jan	5.30pm in Main Hall Expedition letter and information will be made available to those unable to attend
Expeditions	Various	TBC based on level

Drop-in sessions run on a Monday Week A after school in C1 for anyone who needs help throughout the year.

Costs

The cost to be paid to complete the Award with BHFCS this academic year is

	Bronze	Silver	Direct Silver	Gold
Award Cost Due by 17 Oct	£35	£35	£35	£35

This covers your enrolment into the Award and access to eDofE platform.

If you are choosing to complete your Expeditions through BHFCS there is an additional payment for this. These details will be made available with the Expedition Launch on 20 Jan 2026.

Pupil premium students can use their allowance for to cover this cost please email me directly to discuss this.

If you would like to speak to me to discuss anything about the course, please ring the school or email me with your queries on e.wright@hughfaringdon.org

Kind regards

Eloise Wright
Duke of Edinburgh Award Co-Ordinator



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Duke of Edinburgh Registration Form 2025-2026

Student Name: _____ Tutor Group: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Contact Number : _____

Duke of Edinburgh Award Level registering for: Bronze Silver Direct Silver Gold

Have you registered for any previous levels of the Award? Yes No

If YES, please give the name of the DofE Centre you were registered at: _____

eDofE ID number (if known): _____

When you first sign in to eDofE you will be asked to record some personal details such as your contact details, ethnicity and personal circumstances along with details of any medical needs you may have. This data is used to enable your Leaders to support you doing your DofE programme and for the DofE's statistical and reporting purposes. You will always have a 'prefer not to say' option.

Declaration:

I agree to enrol as a participant on a DofE programme. I understand that I will be managing my programme using the online eDofE system. I acknowledge that this system has a set of terms and conditions that I agree to. These terms and conditions are available at www.eDofE.org

Student Name: _____

Signature: _____

Consent to enrol from parent or guardian:

I agree to my son / daughter / ward doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme at Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School. I note that it is my responsibility to check that any activity my son / daughter / ward undertakes for their DofE programme is appropriately managed and insured, unless the activity is directly managed or organised by the school.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____