



### **Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award & 70th Anniversary Celebration**

It was a privilege to represent Reigate School at the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Gold Award & 70th Anniversary celebration held at Buckingham Palace on Friday 22nd May 2026. Dressed immaculately in suits, dresses and uniforms, over 3000 young adults attended with a proud loved one to celebrate achieving their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, which is no mean feat. 650 DofE leaders from schools & other organisations were also invited to celebrate the scheme's 70th Anniversary.

Introduced in 1956 by Prince Phillip, then Duke of Edinburgh, the scheme was designed to give young people aged between 14 & 25 the chance to prove to themselves what they are capable of in a safe environment of support & challenge. Regardless of ability or background, DofE champions young people & provides them with the opportunity to strive for achievement, overcome obstacles & challenge themselves so that they can recognise and reach their true potential: "Youth without limits".

Since its inception, it is estimated that over 8.5 million young people in the UK have started a Duke of Edinburgh's Award, with an estimated 15.5 million participating worldwide across more than 130 countries and territories.

Held in glorious sunshine in the gardens of the Palace, the event celebrated every young person who had achieved their Gold Award. It also recognised the support & assistance provided by DofE leaders to enable Bronze, Silver & Gold Awards to be undertaken nationwide by young people across our schools, colleges, guiding, scouting & many other organisations.

A number of speakers, including Alex Jones (TV & radio presenter), Hugh Bonneville (actor) & Jake Humphrey (sports broadcaster) attended. Without fail, all of them spoke of the importance of kindness and resilience, recognising that both are key to succeeding in whatever you do. Jake Humphrey, who addressed the 7000 strong attendees alongside Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh, also emphasised that it is the struggles and challenges we face that prepare us for life and that no one should be afraid of looking foolish or getting out of their comfort zone. Following his congratulating all of the attendees, Prince Edward walked out amongst the crowds speaking to individuals about their own DofE experience.

It was a very special & memorable day marking both the achievements of millions of young people & what has been an important & integral part of British life for seven decades.

Participating in the DofE is fun, challenging and an invaluable experience for every individual. We are proud to offer our students the opportunity to undertake the Bronze Level Award during Year 10. If you have a child in Year 9 who would like to do DofE in Year 10, the deadline for applications is Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Salisbury or Mrs Parsons using [duke@reigate-school.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:duke@reigate-school.surrey.sch.uk) or [info@reigate-school.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:info@reigate-school.surrey.sch.uk).



**Mrs Salisbury, Duke of Edinburgh Co-Lead**