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16<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award Practice and Qualifying Expeditions**

We are pleased to confirm the details of the Bronze DofE Expeditions which will take place as follows:

The practice expedition will take place on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June. Students will start and finish at school walking a pre-planned route, starting at a specific time. This is a staff training day and your child will be told their set start time; likely to be around lunch time due to other expeditions running at the same time. All students will walk to a local campsite (with their expedition bags and equipment), camp on 26<sup>th</sup> night and then return to school the following day. The qualifying expedition will take place during physical activity week from 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> July. This is held in Huntingdon and students will be transported to and from the start and end points via a coach. Students should arrive at school on 9<sup>th</sup> July with their expedition bag and equipment between 08:30-08:45 (as per a normal school day). We hope to return around 5PM on 10<sup>th</sup> but this will be communicated with you closer to the time. Students will be planning their own routes during the training sessions and will require 2x OS explorer 1:250 000 map no. 225 between their group for after Easter to plan their routes.

### **Kit List**

In your child's work booklet is a copy of the kit list for the expeditions. We have provided training and further information on the personal and group equipment they require. If your child is FSM, please speak with your child or contact me to discuss equipment available to them and their group. Items of particular importance for every student are:

- Waterproof walking boots / shoes
- Waterproofs (jacket- essential, trousers – weather dependant)
- Spare warm clothes (for the evening)
- Spare light shoes – crocs, sliders
- Personal first aid kit
- Torch and whistle
- Packed lunch and snacks for the walk
- Water bottle(s) to carry at least 2 litres per day
- Sunscreen/hat

*Some items will be checked prior to leaving on 9<sup>th</sup>.*

### **Food and drink**

Participants will need to bring their own food/group sharing for:

- Friday evening meal (must be cooked / hot)
- Saturday morning breakfast (can be cooked / hot and
- Saturday lunch.

Students will also need to consider snacks for both days and have been given adequate information and examples about expedition food. Students have completed training on suggested menus and meal ideas within school and are required to cook 1 hot meal per day. (*Water will be available at the campsite*).

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### **Pre-training**

By the week ending 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025, all students will have completed all aspects of the expedition training within school. This included the following:

- Navigation and route-planning
- Cooking
- Campcraft
- Equipment, packing a rucksack and kit care
- First Aid and how to minimise risk and deal with incidents
- Behaviour and the countryside code
- Teamwork

**Expedition Requirements:** Students should be familiar with expedition requirements that are at the beginning of the work booklet as they detail information relating to the expedition. I will draw your attention to the 'on expedition' section of the requirements which highlights three key points that all will have been reminded of prior to starting: behaving responsibly and adhering to the countryside code; they will be independently walking in the countryside where supervision will be unaccompanied and self-sufficient but will meet strategically and at their check points at specified times; and they will be debriefed at the end point of their expedition. In practice this means that groups will walk several miles through the countryside, across roads and through towns without a member of staff. We track the groups from a distance on foot and with a Tracki (small device per group) and will arrange to meet them at 'checkpoints' along their route at specified times.

Students should re-read their expedition booklets to ensure they are familiar with all aspects covered as this will enhance their understanding and safety throughout the days. They must bring this booklet with them.

All participants will be continuously assessed over the course of the practice and qualifying expeditions and will need to demonstrate their competence and attitude in all skills learnt and covered.

**Medication, Medical Conditions and Injuries:** Participants will need to be in good health and able to undertake two days of physical activity including walking a long distance carrying a heavy rucksack. Students are encouraged to walk with their backpacks prior to the expeditions to gain fitness and preparedness. Please inform us via the consent form (or nearer to the expedition by email) of any medication currently being taken, medical conditions of which we should be aware of or relevant injuries. Participants are responsible for bringing their own medication in their personal first aid kits. In the unlikely event of an incident on the Expedition, parents will be contacted immediately. If you do urgently need to contact them, please contact myself first on the school trip mobile number which is 07510 382779.

There will be an initial deposit of £20 payable by 1<sup>st</sup> May to cover for costs of transport and campsite fees. There may be a further cost of £10 however this is dependent on us receiving a grant.

Please complete and return the expedition consent and information forms by Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026.

Should you have any questions about the DofE generally or specific to the expedition please do get in touch. My email is [Rachel.Wells@attrust.org.uk](mailto:Rachel.Wells@attrust.org.uk)

Kind regards

*R. Wells*

**Rachel Wells**

**Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager**