Thursday 17th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

With our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition getting closer, we wanted to provide you with some final information and reminders.

We have met with students yesterday and today to go through the expedition, our expectations and the training day taking place on Tuesday. Students will be off timetable for the day and will spend time ensuring they are fully prepared. This will include:

- Becoming familiar with their route and map reading
- Practising navigation skills
- Safely using a stove to cook their meals
- Putting up and taking down tents
- Reviewing expectations around teamwork, communication and safety

Kit and clothing

We have spoken to all students about what they need to pack. A kit list was included with our previous letter, and I have reattached this for reference.

The weather is currently looking reasonable; however, temperatures can drop considerably overnight, so please ensure students have plenty of warm layers and appropriate waterproof clothing.

Mobile phones and safety

Mobile phones must not be used during the expedition. However, for safety reasons, students may bring their phone with them. These will be sealed and placed at the bottom of their bags for emergency use only.

Each group will also have a GPS tracker so that staff can monitor their location. It is therefore essential that students remain with their chosen group at all times. We have explained to students that teamwork and communication are a key part of the expedition and its assessment.

Food

Students need to be self-sufficient and carry enough food for:

Lunch and evening meal on Day 1
Breakfast and lunch on Day 2
Snacks and energy foods for both days

Part of the assessment involves students cooking for themselves. We have suggested simple meals such as pasta, noodles or suitable packet meals that can be cooked safely on a camping stove. Plenty of snacks and energy bars are also recommended.

Cost

There is a cost associated with the use of the Whitehall facilities, tents and other expedition equipment. As numbers have changed slightly, we are just confirming the final amount, but this will be approximately £30 per student. Once confirmed, payment will be available through ParentPay.

If you have not yet paid the DofE registration fee, please can you also ensure this is paid as soon as possible.

Students have worked incredibly hard over the last few months completing the different elements of their DofE Award, and we are really excited to see all this work culminate in their expedition.

Thank you, as always, for your support. If you have any questions or concerns before the expedition, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Neves
Assistant Headteacher.
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Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Kit List

- Comfortable walking shoes/boots or well-worn trainers – **no new footwear**
- Walking socks and spare socks
- Comfortable walking trousers/leggings – **no jeans**
- T-shirts/base layers
- 2–3 lightweight warm layers/fleece
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers if heavy rain is forecast
- Underwear and clothes for the following day
- Warm hat if cold weather is forecast
- Sleeping bag
- Torch/head torch
- Toothbrush and basic toiletries
- Any personal medication, clearly labelled

- Refillable water bottle(s) – sufficient water for the walk (we will have refill stations for water at the check points along the way)
- Food for the expedition: lunch/snacks, evening meal and breakfast
- Mug/bowl and cutlery
- Small rubbish bag
- A comfortable rucksack – please keep it as small and light as practical
- Bin bag/dry bags inside the rucksack to keep clothing and sleeping equipment dry
- A gas stove and saucepans (these can be shared with other members of the group)

Students do NOT need to bring**:** a tent or camping mat, as these will be available at Whitehall. Whitehall also have available some gas stoves and saucepans so please do not feel you need to buy these items. Some equipment can be shared within expedition groups, so students do not need one of everything each.

Please ensure belongings are clearly labelled and encourage your child to pack their own rucksack so that they know where everything is during the expedition, as recommended in our original kit guidance.

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