

10 February 2026

Dear Students and Parents/Carers

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Expeditions

As we get closer to the expedition dates, we provide further information about equipment hire and the important upcoming Practice Expedition.

Equipment

Students will need to have all the necessary equipment, as per the Google Classroom task, before the expeditions. Should they need to hire boots or a rucksack, they can do so at a cost of £10 per item, payable via [Wisepay](#). Students will also need tents and two Trangia/stoves to cook on per group. These can be hired at a cost of £20 per item, but they should talk to the other members of their group to decide exactly what they already have and what they would need to hire. All items can be kept until after the completion of the Final Expedition.

Please note, we will only be able to guarantee equipment availability if ordered before the Easter holiday. Any equipment ordered after that will be based on availability only.

Silver Practice Expedition

Monday 29 June to Wednesday 1 July

A compulsory Practice Expedition will take place around Hartington in the Peak District from Monday 29 June to Wednesday 1 July. Students will travel to and from school by coach.

On **Monday 29 June**, students must arrive in school **by 6.00am** with all of their equipment and food packed inside their rucksacks. If any items are attached to the outside of their rucksack, they will need to repack them before commencing their expedition. Students should also have their planned routes and completed route cards. A comprehensive kit list has been shared with students via Google Classroom, and route information will be shared after half term.

Students will be required to bring enough food for 2x breakfasts, 3x lunches and 2x dinners. They should have planned their menu with the rest of their team. Given the early start, they may choose to bring an additional breakfast to eat on the journey up to Monyash. On the last day, a cooked dinner will be provided for them before their return coach journey.

On **Wednesday 1 July**, we hope to arrive back at Parmiter's around **9.00pm**. However, students will be in contact during the coach journey home to provide a more accurate time of arrival.

Staff will be at various points along the routes and at the campsites overnight. Due to the nature of the Award, we operate a remote supervision policy. As such, a mobile phone number is provided for emergencies. Please ensure that your son/daughter writes down the number in case they need it. Students will only be allowed to use mobile phones in emergencies, in accordance with the regulations of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, so **please do not try to contact them during the Expeditions and do not ask them to contact you**. Any students caught using their mobile phone during the Practice or Final Expedition will be deferred and therefore not achieve their award.

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All students need to have the DofE phone number: **07837 417235** and this should be their first point of contact in case of problems. However, as we are in the Peak District, reception can be poor. Students could also ring the school directly (**01923 671424**) and they will call us on a different number if the above number is unobtainable.

It is very important that parents/carers and students realise that students will need to be self-motivated to complete the award successfully; the whole ethos of the Award is that students should take responsibility for themselves and become more independent. To that end, they should organise their expeditions themselves, identifying any items that need to be purchased and who is responsible for bringing the shared kit.

Yours sincerely

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Mr Card
On behalf of The Duke of Edinburgh Team