

20 March 2026

Dear Students and Parents/Carers

### **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Expeditions 2025-2026**

As the expedition phase of the Bronze Award is approaching, we write to confirm the details that were originally sent in the initial letter dated 27 June 2025.

Students who have successfully completed their first three sections (Volunteering, Physical and Skills) will be invited to take part in this year's expedition. Students who have only completed two sections, but are well underway to completing their third, will also generally be allowed to participate in the expedition phase. Please note that, **unless there are exceptional circumstances that have already been agreed**, we will not invite students who have not met the minimum requirements to progress to the expedition phase. You may wish to check your child's eligibility by asking them to show you their eDofE app, which clearly shows whether a section is 'not started', 'in progress' or 'completed'. As mentioned in our previous letter, the cut off date for completion of these sections is Thursday 30 April 2026.

Students who are not eligible for the expedition phase this year will be invited to attend next year, if they have **completed** all three sections by then.

For those students who are eligible to attend the expedition this year, the dates are as follows:

- Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 June - Practice Expedition
- Thursday 2 and Friday 3 July - Final Expedition

We have a stock of equipment, such as rucksacks, tents, stoves and boots, that will be available for students to hire for the expeditions. The person hiring the equipment is responsible for the costs of any replacement or repair. The hire form, along with Wisepay details, will be provided to eligible students in due course.

We are aware, from the initial medical forms completed when registering for the award, that some students may require 'reduced weight' to carry on the expedition. However, if your child has developed a condition since then, please provide us with a doctor's note explaining the condition and the specific weight-bearing restrictions. As we are not medical professionals, we are unable to accommodate requests for medical exemptions with little or no notice and without a doctor's note, as we would be unable to determine the level of injury without compromising either safety or the integrity of the award. Participants and their parents/carers must therefore decide whether they are fit to carry out the expedition. Anyone with last minute injuries and no doctor's note (that provides the specific information we require for our individual risk assessments) will not be allowed to take part.

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All equipment (including roll mats), except a reusable water bottle, must be carried **inside** a rucksack on the expedition. Those students who have reduced weight requirements will be provided with a smaller rucksack, into which they can transfer the relevant equipment. When they arrive for the start of the expedition, they will be required to have all their equipment inside their rucksack and it should only contain the items that would normally be carried by them. They will not be permitted to carry all of the heavy equipment to be used by the whole team and we ask that only the items that they would normally have carried be considered as part of their individual 'reduced weight'.

Behaviour on any activity connected with the Award, which is considered to be inappropriate, will result in the student being ejected from the Award without refund. Parents/carers will be expected to immediately pick up the student from the relevant venue.

Yours sincerely

Parmiter's DofE team