

4 June 2026

Dear Students and Parents/Carers

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Expeditions

As we get closer to the expedition dates, we provide further information about the upcoming Practice Expedition which will take place around Castleton in the Peak District from **Sunday 28 June to Wednesday 1 July 2026**.

Students will travel by minibus and must arrive at school by **6.00am** on **Sunday 28 June**, with all of their equipment and food packed inside their rucksacks, and meet in the Sports Centre car park. If any items are attached to the outside of their rucksacks, they will need to repack them before commencing their expedition. Students should also have their planned routes and completed route cards with them. Information about the required equipment, food and routes was shared with students by PAU Expeditions during the training weekend held in March, but if they are unsure of any of the requirements they should speak to me in school.

Given the early start on the day of departure, students may choose to bring an additional breakfast to eat on the journey up to Castleton. On the last day, a cooked dinner will be provided for them before we embark on the return journey to school and we hope to arrive back at Parmiter's around 9.00pm. However, students will be in contact to provide a more accurate arrival time, when we are on the journey home.

The Gold Expeditions are supervised by our expedition provider, PAU Expeditions, and due to the nature of the Award, they operate a remote supervision policy. In the event of an emergency, students should make contact with their supervising assessor from PAU expeditions who will provide their contact details on arrival in Castleton.

In case students are unable to reach their assessor from PAU Expeditions, all students should also make a note of the Parmiter's emergency phone number: **07837 417235** and this should be their next point of contact. However, as we are in the Peak District, reception can be poor. Students can also ring the school directly (01923 671424) and they will call us on a different number if the above number is unobtainable. Parents and carers can also use the school numbers provided, but **only in case of emergency**.

In accordance with the regulations of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, students will only be allowed to use mobile phones in emergencies, **so please do not try to contact them directly during the Expeditions and do not ask them to contact you**. Any student caught using their mobile phone during the Practice or Final expedition will be deferred and may not achieve their Gold Award before they leave Parmiter's.

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



Mr B Cummings
Gold DofE Award Organiser