

4 September 2026

Dear Students and Parents/Carers

Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award - Qualifying Expedition

As we get closer to the final expedition dates, we provide further information about the upcoming **Qualifying Expedition** which will take place in the Yorkshire Dales from **Tuesday 15 to Saturday 19 September 2026**.

Students should meet in the Sports Centre car park at **10.00am** on **Tuesday 15 September** and we will travel to Kettlewell YHA via minibus. All of their equipment and food should be packed inside their rucksacks and, 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, which took place at the end of the practice expedition held in June, but if they are unsure of any of the requirements they should speak to me in school.

Students will spend the night of 15 September at Kettlewell YHA, where an evening meal and breakfast will be provided for them, before they commence the qualifying expedition on Wednesday morning. On the last day there will be an opportunity for students to buy food at a local pub or fast food van before we embark on the return journey to school, so they may wish to bring some money with them. 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 Kettlewell.

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: **07375 609480** and this should be their next point of contact. However, as we will be in the Peak District with our Silver Expedition, reception can be poor. Students can also ring the school directly (01923 671424), who 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 qualifying 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

Headteacher: Mr A Smith NPQH, MPhil (Cantab), FCCT, FRSA

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