



# CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

January 2024

Dear Parent or Carer

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The students involved in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award have been exceptional so far this year, and I am really looking forward to their Expedition later this year. A few key dates for your diary are below:

Event	Date	Time
Parent Engagement 2	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	6:00pm – 6:45pm
Training Choice Deadline	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	3:30pm
Practice Expedition	Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 (TBC)	12:00pm – 3:00pm
Qualifying Expedition	Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	9:00am (Saturday) – 3:00pm (Sunday) approx. (TBC)

## Parent Engagement

As per the last meeting, attendance is highly recommended. I will be discussing the Expedition and its requirements, equipment needed and expedition groupings, as well as touching on eDofE and the progress students are making towards their Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections of the Award. If you plan to attend, can you please complete the Google Form (QR Code at the end of the letter) by Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February.

## Practice Expedition

As above, I expect that this will take place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May (to be confirmed). This will consist of students spending one to two hours out walking on a pre-planned route in the local area, followed by erecting their tents and practicing using the stoves back at school. In the training sessions after February half-term, students will have the opportunity to study this route and become familiar with it on maps, before setting off in person. If the student already has plans that are not possible to rearrange, then it is possible for them to still get the Award without attending a Practice Expedition, however, it is an extremely valuable few hours that give them an insight into what to expect on the actual Expedition. More on this, and exact timings, to follow over the next few months.

## Qualifying Expedition

After February half-term, I will be putting the students into their Expedition walking groups. They will have the opportunity to select their chosen training day again (deadline Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February as above), as well as select one other student (that is attending the same training day) to be in a walking group with.

As mentioned at the last meeting, the groups will be allocated by staff to ensure a diverse range of

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skills and abilities in each group, and to provide them with the best chance of success on the walk. Can you please contact me with as much notice as possible, but definitely before February half-term, if there are any significant issues, meaning a student should not be placed into a group with another student. As you can imagine, it will be a significant logistical undertaking, and changes once groups are allocated can be extremely difficult to facilitate.

### **Mobile Phones**

Just a quick reminder that students will not be allowed to use their mobile phones whilst on the Practice or Qualifying Expedition. However, please ensure that students DO bring them in to school on the day so that they are able to contact you when they get back. Phones will be turned off (to save battery) and collected by staff before they set off. **One person in each walking group will keep their phone with them, turned off and in a sealed bag, to be used only in the case of an emergency. If the phone has been used, and there was no emergency, the student risks the whole group failing the Expedition section.** They will have the school safeguarding number saved in their phone prior to setting off. The reason for this is that it is a requirement from the Duke of Edinburgh that a policy is in place. Students will be asked to sign a Mobile Phone Contract before going on the Expedition.

### **Training Sessions**

The timetable for this half-terms training sessions is also attached to the end of this letter. The eDofE Sessions are optional and open to all, as is the Friday Q+A. Students are required to attend all other sessions. Most of these should finish by 4:00pm, but may occasionally run over slightly.

As always, thank you for all of the support you are giving to help our students achieve this Award, and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me by email ([t.briggs@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:t.briggs@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk)) at any time, and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Kind Regards,



Mr T Briggs  
DofE Lead / Geography Teacher  
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### **Google Form QR Code:**



**2.1 DofE Training Timetable (8<sup>th</sup> January – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024)**

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8 <sup>th</sup> January	INSET Day	No Sessions	eDofE	Legal 2	eDofE (Lunch)
15 <sup>th</sup> January	Legal 2	No Sessions	Legal 2	Map Skills 1	Lunchtime Q+A Drop-in
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Map Skills 1	No Sessions	Map Skills 1	No Sessions – Y9 Parent’s Evening	Lunchtime Q+A Drop-in
29 <sup>th</sup> January	Map Skills 2	No Sessions	Map Skills 2	Map Skills 2	Lunchtime Q+A Drop-in
5 <sup>th</sup> February	Equipment	No Sessions	Equipment	No Sessions – Y11 Parent’s Evening	Lunchtime Q+A Drop-in
12 <sup>th</sup> February	No Sessions	No Sessions Parent Meeting	No Sessions	Equipment	Lunchtime Q+A Drop-in