



CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

14th January 2025

Dear parent or carer

Firstly, 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 in June. A few key dates for your diary are below:

Event	Date	Time
Parent Engagement 2	Wednesday 29 th January 2025	5:00pm – 5:45pm
Training Choice Deadline	Friday 23 rd January 2025	3:30pm
Practice Expedition	Saturday 10 th May 2025	12:00pm – 3:00pm
Qualifying Expedition	Saturday 21 st – Sunday 22 nd June 2025	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 22nd January.

Practice Expedition

As above, I expect that this will take place on Saturday 10th May. This will consist of them 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 in February and March, they 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.

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 23rd January as above), as well as select one or two other students (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 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.

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Mobile Phones

Just a quick reminder that students will not be allowed to use their mobile phones whilst on the Practice or Qualifying Expedition. Please, however, ensure that students DO bring them into 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

Training sessions will commence from week beginning 3rd February. Sessions will take place on Monday's, Wednesday's and Thursday's. The same session will be repeated on each day, so students only need to attend on one day each week. They will begin at 3:30pm (giving students a bit of time after school to use the toilet, collect any bikes, and make any calls or send any texts needed). The sessions will last between 30 and 60 minutes (depending on what is being done). This is indicated on the attached plan. If there are any changes to this plan, a text will be sent out to parents. These training sessions are compulsory, and attendance will be monitored at each one. Students need to attend on the same day each week so that they can work with people who they will be in an Expedition walking group with.

Equipment

There is an extensive list of equipment issued by the DofE Award that they recommend participants have. Attached to this letter is a list that we have made in school which is a lot more realistic. We also have a supply of some equipment in school that can be loaned out to students for the Expedition. Below are a series of QR codes for you to scan and fill in. One is for the size that your child will require for a DofE T-Shirt, one is to complete if you require any equipment (borrow, or financial assistance for Pupil Premium students), and the third is to confirm attendance at the Parent Engagement Meeting.

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) at any time, and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Kind Regards,



Mr T Briggs
Head of Geography & Life Studies / DofE Lead

T-Shirt Size	Equipment Borrowing	Parent Engagement Meeting
		
https://forms.gle/83kh49Z6dms3Q12K9	https://forms.gle/NPgHa4PBtxkaovHSA	https://forms.gle/bxxHmQN9d8mGYA3s7

Week beginning	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
27 th January	eDofE	No Sessions	eDofE	eDofE	No Sessions
3 rd February	Hazards (30)	No Sessions	Hazards (30)	Hazards (30)	No Sessions
10 th February	Legal (60)	No Sessions	Legal (60)	Legal (60)	No Sessions
17 th February	Half Term				
24 th February	Kit/Rucksack (60)	No Sessions	Kit/Rucksack (60)	No Sessions	No Sessions
3 rd March	Menu (30)	No Sessions	Menu (30)	Kit/Rucksack (60)	No Sessions
10 th March	First Aid (60)	No Sessions	First Aid (60)	Menu (30)	No Sessions
17 th March	No Sessions	No Sessions	No Sessions	No Sessions	No Sessions
24 th March	Map Skills (60)	No Sessions	Map Skills (60)	First Aid (60)	No Sessions
31 st March	Treasure Hunt (60)	No Sessions	Treasure Hunt (60)	Map Skills (60)	No Sessions
7 th April	Easter				
14 th April					
21 st April		No Sessions	No Sessions	Dropdown Day	No Sessions
28 th April	eDofE (30/60)	No Sessions	eDofE (30/60)	eDofE (30/60)	No Sessions
5 th May	Bank Holiday	No Sessions	No Sessions	No Sessions	No Sessions
12 th May	Team Goal (30)	No Sessions	Team Goal (30)	Team Goal (30)	No Sessions

Expedition Kit List

The DofE produce a very detailed kit list for participants. The list is very extensive and not all of the equipment is required for a Bronze level Expedition. This kit list can be found by searching 'DofE Expedition Kit List' and clicking the top link. We have, however, produced a more realistic kit list for the participants.

If you require any financial support with purchasing equipment, or would like to borrow any of the equipment from our store, please contact me as soon as possible by email to reserve the kit we have: t.briggs@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk

REMEMBER: Register for your DofE Card by logging into your eDofE account and following the links. This will give you 10% off at lots of outdoor shops

Clothing

Item	Details	Got it	Packed it
Walking boots (broken in)	Any brand, must cover ankles for protection and be waterproof <i>Finance available in school for eligible students – Contact ASAP</i>		
Walking/thick socks (2-3 pairs)	Prevents blisters and keep feet warm in case of cold weather		
Waterproof jacket/coat	Weather dependent – strongly recommend brining just in case		
Walking Pants/Leggings	Not Jeans <i>Finance available in school for eligible students – Contact ASAP</i>		
Waterproof over pants	Weather dependent – strongly recommend brining just in case		
2-3 fleeces/ hoodies/ jumpers	Weather dependent, but it can get very cold at night even when it has been hot during the day		
2-3 t-shirts/vests	Weather dependent		
1 pair short	Weather dependent		
Underwear			
Nightwear			
Flip-flops/ sandals	For use at the camp site		
1 pair gloves	Weather dependent		

Personal Equipment

Item	Details	Got it	Packed it
Rucksack	<i>Some available from school to loan – Contact ASAP</i>		
Sleeping Bag	<i>Some available from school to loan – Contact ASAP</i>		
Sleeping Mat	<i>Some available from school to loan – Contact ASAP</i>		
Personal First Aid Kit	Plasters etc.		
Snacks for walk	Cereal bars, Chocolate bars, Sweets (high in sugar/carbohydrates are ideal)		
Water bottles or camelback	Enough for one day of walking (some emergency supplies will be available on the journey and can be refilled at the camp site)		
Personal Hygiene Items	Soap/Shower Gel if using the showers, sanitary products if required etc		
Towel	For use after showers or in the event of rain		
Optional Kit			
Watch			
Sports drinks	Lucozade, Lucozade Sport etc are ideal		
Hat / Scarf	Unlikely to need given the time of year		
Sun cream	Weather dependent		
After sun	Weather dependent		
Insect/Bite spray or cream			

Group Equipment – To be planned and split amongst the group

Item	Details	Got it	Packed it
Tents	Maximum 3 per tent <i>Some available from school to loan – Contact ASAP</i>		
Plastic Bags	For rubbish, dirty boots etc.		
Evening meal food	Non-perishable food, as light weight as possible e.g. Pasta and Packet Sauce, Noodles etc. Outdoor shops such as Go Outdoors sell pre-prepared packaged food that is ideal for camping		
Breakfast food	Cereal Bars, Energy Bars etc.		