



CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

March 2026

Dear Parent or Carer

Firstly, I want to say how impressed we are with the DofE students this year. We have not seen the amount of evidence and completed sections at this stage before, so a huge thank you to yourselves for supporting the students, and to them for their commitment and dedication to the Award. A few key dates for your diary are below:

Event	Date	Time
Parent Engagement 2	Thursday 30 th April 2026	17:30 – 18:30
Practice Expedition	Saturday 2 nd May 2026	10:00 – 13:00
Qualifying Expedition	Friday 10 th July – Saturday 11 th July 2026	To be confirmed

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 **Monday 20th April** at 12:00.

Practice Expedition

As above, this will be taking place on **Saturday 2nd 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 March and April, they will have the opportunity to study this route and become familiar with it, 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. Please contact me by email if your child is not able to attend.

Qualifying Expedition

After Easter, students will be put into their Expedition groups. 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. They will be given the opportunity to select one or two other students that they definitely want to be in a group with, and we will be able to accommodate those requests. Could you please contact me with as much notice as possible 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. 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

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before going on the Expedition. All groups will have a tracker with them, and their locations will be closely monitored throughout the Expedition in order for us to safeguard them remotely.

Training Sessions

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). 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 two QR codes for you to scan and fill in. One is to complete if you require any equipment (borrow, or financial assistance for Pupil Premium students), and the second is to confirm attendance at the Parent Engagement Meeting. These requests must be completed by **Friday 22nd May** so give us time to order and distribute the equipment required. Any requests after this date will not be guaranteed.

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

Kind Regards,



Mr T Briggs
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Equipment Borrowing	Parent Engagement Meeting
	
https://forms.gle/iJg3yYoeDxBye1MGA	https://forms.gle/5wXqWs6uwKS62ghN9