



June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Assessed Expedition : 11 - 13 July 2024

We are looking forward to the forthcoming DofE Silver assessed expedition on 11, 12 and 13 July 2024. The expedition will provide students with the opportunity to build on the experience they had on the practice expedition earlier this month.

School Kit Collection and Returns (Tents/Trangias etc)

Groups will be collecting this **after school on Monday 8 July from the D of E store building**. Groups must be responsible for the kit and its safe return after the weekend. Kit must be fairly distributed among the group. Fuel for the trangias will be given out at camp for the evening meal and will not be carried by students. Students are asked to respect the group kit, look after it well and ensure they keep all parts together. We will be asking group members to take tents home post expedition to dry/air before returning them on **Tuesday 16 July**.

Timings and Drop Off Expedition

The Silver expedition involves three days of walking and two nights camping. For the assessed expedition we will be completing the expedition in the Peak District, travelling by coach. Students will need to be dropped at **Ashlyns at 7.15am on Thursday 11 July**.

On **Saturday 13 July** we plan to arrive back **at Ashlyns** by **approx 7.00pm**. This will be dependent upon the walking pace of the groups and the traffic on the return journey. We will update you on our progress via our Twitter account: **@AshlynsDofE**. Students will also be able to make contact using their phones once their expedition is complete. We have found that Whatsapp groups between group member parents/carers have worked well.

Expedition Details

For the expedition, students will be training and walking on Thursday, camping overnight, walking on Friday, camping on Friday night and walking on Saturday, before heading back to Ashlyns. Please see below for details of locations from Zest from Adventure.

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| Thursday Start Point Address | Monsal Head Car Park, 11:00 Ashford Lane, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1NL |
| Thursday Night Campsite Address | Pomeroy Caravan and Camping Park Street House Farm, Pomeroy, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 9QG |
| Friday Night Campsite Address | Beresford Lane Farm Beresford Dale, Hulme End, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 0HQ |
| Saturday Finish Point Address | Ilam Hall, 16:00 Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 2AZ |

Kit List

This is a link to the DofE [kit list](#). Students are walking for three days and camping for two nights and they should have learnt from the practice expedition about the appropriate amount of clothing they require; please do remind students that it is acceptable to rewear clothing over the weekend in order to make their bags lighter (eg they do not need a fleece or a different pair of trousers for each day). If purchasing more items, please do not forget to claim the [10% discount](#) at selected retailers. Assessors will carry out a kit check during the weekend. Students must wear sturdy walking boots to complete the expedition (please ensure students have broken boots in). All kit should be waterproofed and any kit on the outside of the bag should be wrapped in bin liners and covered by a waterproof cover. Please ensure your child has a combination of layers, eg base layer, t-shirt, fleece and waterproof. This will be more beneficial than one large hoodie. Students may also want to pack some lightweight trainers/shoes to wear around the campsite after walking.

Group kit will be shared amongst the group; it is the group's responsibility to decide who will bring each item of the shared group kit, eg washing-up liquid, tea towel, bin bags (one for each day).

DofE advice is that bags should not weigh more than 25% of the participant's body weight (including group kit). Please do check this before arriving at the expedition.

As with the practice expedition, students are encouraged to bring a 'bus bag' which includes food, drink and entertainment for the journey. These bags will then be placed in the van until our return journey. Phones/consoles etc are all bought at students' own risk.

Food and Drink

We would like to emphasise the importance of students eating well and planning food carefully to cater for a high intensity weekend. Students must complete and bring with them their menu planner (on Google Classroom). Students can cook individually or as a whole group. They will need to ensure they have three lunches and two hot evening meals they can cook (packet pasta in sauce, quick cook tortellini with hotdog sausages, boil in a bag meal, boil in a bag rice, tinned food etc). They will also need two hot breakfasts (eg porridge pot). Students should also ensure they bring snacks they can easily access during their expedition. Here are some [other suggestions of meal and snack ideas](#). Emergency rations are also compulsory. **Please avoid any nuts in your planning of meals and snacks due to the risk of severe allergic reaction.**

Students must also carry 2 litres of water; there will be opportunities to refill along their route.

Mobile Phones

Students will need to decide who will be bringing the emergency phone for their group. This phone will be wrapped in a plastic bag and should remain switched off for the whole trip, unless there is an emergency. This phone will be brought at their own risk so we recommend bringing an old phone if possible. We do not expect to see mobile phones at any other time unless contacting parents at the end of the assessment and only when instructed to by staff.

Emergency Procedures Contact Numbers

Please be reassured that each group will have a mobile phone in case of emergency and an emergency card with staff telephone numbers. Each group will also have a GPS tracker and be accompanied by staff during the expedition.

DofE Contact – please only use this number in case of emergency, not to enquire about progress or collection times: 07376 426330.

Expectations

Students have signed a behaviour contract which we expect them to uphold. Students are representing Ashlyns at all times and must ensure they pick up litter and follow staff requests. The expedition is being supported and run by volunteers; without them it would not be possible.

It is also the school's expectation that all students attend school following the expedition. Absences due to the Duke of Edinburgh award will be unauthorised, unless there are exceptional circumstances, in which case medical evidence is to be provided.

eDofE

Please remind students to be working on their physical/volunteering and skill sections. Once students have completed their 3 or 6 or 12 month timeframe, they are responsible for asking their assessor to complete a report on eDofE; students must share their Duke of Edinburgh number with their assessor. Without these reports being completed, students will not achieve their Silver Award. More details have been posted on Google Classroom for students.

If you have any questions, please do check out the [Duke of Edinburgh website](#) or email dofe@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

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