

June 2026



Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award: Qualifying Expedition

Following our Bronze students' practice walks, they will be suitably prepared for their Qualifying Expedition, which is taking place during Activities Week. As with the practice walks, the groups will be split over several dates, listed below. All students know which group they are in.

- **Group 1:** Tuesday 7 July to Wednesday 8 July
- **Group 2:** Wednesday 8 July to Thursday 9 July
- **Group 3:** Thursday 9 July to Friday 10 July

The expedition involves navigating a preassigned route around Cheshire Plains and includes an overnight stay at a local Scout camp. Hartford Church of England High School DofE qualified staff will supervise all participants either directly or, whilst students are on the walks, using a check-point system as students move along the pre-planned route. Students will be participating in walking groups of 4-7. These personalised groups are now confirmed. The walking group will also include their sleeping companion(s).

Following the qualifying expedition, students are to be picked up from Leigh Arms, Acton Bridge; we estimate this to be between 1:00pm-3:00pm. Full details of the expedition are at the bottom of this letter.

Thank you for your continued support and please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at school if you have any questions (pmarklove@hartfordhigh.co.uk). Further arrangements regarding the entirety of the programme for Activities Week will be circulated by Ms Philippou next week.

Yours faithfully,

Mr P Marklove
PE & Head of Year 10
Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager

BRONZE Expedition Qualifying Event - Full Details

Group 1 Tuesday 7 July – Wednesday 8 July

Group 2 Wednesday 8 July – Thursday 9 July

Group 3 Thursday 9 July - Friday 10 July

Introduction

The planned route will take place in Cheshire. The expedition will involve 2 days of walking and 1 overnight camp, with staff supervising either directly or through a check-point system when groups are walking unaccompanied.

Skills Programme Content

Navigation, equipment use, camping, cooking, and general hill walking skills will be covered. Full training and supervision will be available at all times.

Start and Finish Point

The start point of the qualifying expedition will be on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday 7, 8 or 9 July and will be from Hartford Church of England High School. The finish and collection point will be The Leigh Arms Acton Bridge**. We anticipate that most participants will finish between 13:00 and 15:00 on the second day of the expedition. All participants will be asked to phone home approximately an hour before they expect to finish to ensure parents are not asked to wait for long unnecessary periods.

**A Map showing the collection point is included at the end of this letter.

Kit

Students must be prepared for walking and camping in the outdoors - possibly in cold and wet weather! Spare footwear i.e. old trainers / flip flops are always useful in case they wish to take off boots at the campsite.

**We will be providing Rucksacks, Camping Mats, group 1st aid kit, stoves and fuel and our 2/3 person tents to all participants.

Personal Kit - This will be discussed at the training session at school, and a full kit list is available on the DofE website, however as a quick reminder; -

- Trousers/shorts/leggings (jeans are not recommended)
- T-shirts, warm jumpers/fleeces
- Thick socks, hat, gloves
- Waterproof jacket and trousers
- Walking boots (or sturdy footwear) / spare footwear
- Extra clothing as relevant to weather
- Sleeping bag
- Toiletries (towel opt), medication, sun cream, plasters, torch and batteries, matches
- Bowl, plate, mug, cutlery
- Spare carrier bags/bin liners to keep things dry
- ***Tent, Trangia Stove, Rucksack & Sleeping mat - Provided.

Food

Participants need to plan their menu ideally in their tent groups for the two days. Fresh water for drinking and cooking is available throughout and at the campsite.

Tips

- Bring plenty of snacks and lots to drink during the day
- Bring enough food for one evening meal, one breakfast, and a packed lunch (look to plan as a group)
- Don't bring any food that might go off or spill in your rucksack
- Remember that all food and litter must be carried each day (bins/recycling - available at the campsite)
- **BRING FOOD YOU LIKE!** – it sounds simple but all too often participants bring food they haven't tried before and if they don't like it they will go hungry, which is never good for moral and well-being!

We recommend that students work in pairs / threes to organise their equipment and food as this saves them carrying more than is necessary and also means they can cook faster together!

Campsite

Forest Activity Centre
Overdale Ln, Sandiway, Northwich CW8 2EA

Finish

The Leigh Arms
Warrington Rd, Northwich CW8 4QT

The car park be found on the A49 between Warrington and Weaverham

