

June 2026



Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award – Qualifying Expedition

As you are aware your child is currently working towards their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award and as such is invited to complete their qualifying expedition.

The Expedition is planned for **Monday 20 July to Wednesday 22 July**. Leaving school at 8:30am on Monday 20 July, students will travel via coach to Mold, North Wales, to start the first walk to camp.

Starting from Loggerheads Country Park, the expedition involves walking around the Clwydian Range and includes a 2-night stay at Fron Farm Country Park Camp Site. Hartford Church of England High School DoE qualified staff will once again supervise all participants either directly or, whilst students are on the walks, using the familiar check-point system as students move along the pre-planned routes.

Final collection of students will be from school, on **Wednesday 22 July at approximately 3:00pm**.

Confirmation of the Next Steps:

1. Parents and carers should complete this consent form by **Friday 5 July 2026**: [Silver DoE Form – Fill in form](#).
2. All Students will need to collect their Rucksack on **Wednesday 15 July**, from the Sports hall.
3. Students must attend the Qualifying Expedition from **Monday 20 July to Wednesday 22 July**. Collection of students will be from Hartford Church of England High school at 3:00pm.
4. During the qualifying expedition walk, students will be participating in smaller walking groups of 4-6. These personalised groups will need to be confirmed by students with support from staff by Friday 5 July. This walking group will also include their sleeping companion(s).

Thank you for your continued support and please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at school at pmarklove@hartfordhigh.co.uk if you have any questions. The Duke of Edinburgh Award website has even more details on the Expedition and all other sections. Please encourage your child to have a look at the website as they continue to plan what they might do.

Yours faithfully

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

Silver Expedition Qualifying Event - Full Details

Introduction

The planned route will take place in Clwydian Mountain Range, North Wales. The expedition will involve 3 days of walking and a 2-night camp, with staff supervising either directly or through a check-point system when groups are walking unaccompanied.

Start and Finish Point

The start point of the qualifying expedition on Monday 20 July will be Hartford Church of England High School with transportation to Loggerheads Country Park. The finish and collection point will be back at school at approximately **3:00pm on Wednesday 22 July**. We anticipate that most participants will finish between 12:00pm-1:00pm on the last day of the expedition prior to transportation back to school. Parents will be contacted approximately an hour before students expect to return to school to ensure parents are not asked to wait for long periods.

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, Maps, compass, stoves and fuel and our 2/3 person tents to all participants.

As in previous expeditions they will need to share a stove and tents between 2 or 3 people. Your DofE School Coordinator, Mr Marklove, will ensure each group return their equipment clean and undamaged along with all other borrowed items on completion. Should any loss or damage occur, students will be asked to cover the cost of replacement.

Personal Kit - This will be discussed at school in the run up to the walk 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

Provided group equipment:

- Tent
- Trangia Stove
- Rucksack
- Sleeping Roll mat
- Maps
- Group 1st Aid Kit
- Compass
- GPS Tracker

Food

Participants need to plan their menu ideally in their tent groups for all 3 days. This will include day 1 lunch, 2 evening dinners and 2 breakfasts, including snacks. As a school we recommend pre-packed nutritious boil in bag pouches to keep weight down and fresh, and for students to work together in their teams to coordinate meal plans. Fresh water for drinking and cooking is available throughout the walks and at the campsite.

Tips

- Bring plenty of snacks and lots to drink during the day
- 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 morale 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:

Fron Farm Country Park Campsite:

Rhesycae Road

Hendre

Mold

CH7 5QW

Expedition Equipment Checklists

Personal Emergency Equipment

Torch
First aid kit
Spare jumper/sweater (NOT hoodies)
Waterproof jacket/coat
Waterproof trousers
Water bottle
Extra warm clothing appropriate for the weather
Emergency food rations/snacks

Clothing

Boots (broken in!!)
Socks
T Shirts
Warmer Top
Walking trousers (NOT jeans)
Underwear
Footwear for camp
Sun hat/sun cream/warm hat/ gloves etc (as appropriate)

Personal Camping Equipment

Strong, large plastic bags (to line your rucksack)
Plastic bags for wet clothing
Sleeping bag
Sleeping mat (provided)
Knife, fork, spoon
Plate/bowl
Mug
Wash kit (soap, small towel, toothbrush & paste, hairbrush etc)
Toilet paper

Walking Group Equipment

Tents (provided)
Stoves & fuel (provided)
Kitchen wash kit (scourer, washing up liquid, t-towels)
Food (personal or share between group)

Provided Equipment

Tent (2/3 man)
65L capacity Rucksack
Roll Mat
Cooking Stove & Gas
Maps
Map cases (provided)