



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD LAUNCH- Year 9

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are excited to begin this year's Duke of Edinburgh with our Year's 9 cohort

All Year 9 students take part in the Bronze award, as it is an internationally recognised Award scheme that many employers and universities hold in high esteem. In addition to this the DofE programme allows children to connect with nature and the positive impact being outdoors can have on mental well being, as well as providing a purposeful and visceral learning environment.

In the Autumn term, students begin to engage in the expedition '*How can I find my way in an unknown environment?*'. Their programme of activities include, a Physical, Skills, Voluntary and an Expedition section.

Physical Section

- These may include walking, running.

Skills Section

- **UPDATE - Skills Section – “Skills 4”**

Students will have the opportunity to choose from four practical skill areas delivered by our trained Expedition Supervisors: **Cooking & Food Preparation, Model Making, First Aid, and Digital Skills.** Students will select their preferred skill via a Google Form.

Voluntary Section

- These may include charity work and community stewardship.

Expedition Section

Here is some key information and dates:

- **UPDATE – Expedition Skills Training Day: 23/04/25 (during school hours)**

DofE Bronze Practice: Doncaster Area

XP School	Friday 8th May 26
XPE School	Friday 15th May 26

DofE Bronze Qualifying Expedition:

UPDATE: XPE School ONLY - Date change!

XPE School	Monday 15th June - Tuesday 16th June 2026
XP School	Wednesday 24th June - Thursday 25th June 2026



UPDATE: Expedition Training

As part of Term 3a, students will take part in a dedicated expedition training day, delivered during the school day as a full drop-down experience. This important training forms a key part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award and prepares students for both their practice and qualifying expeditions.

Throughout the day, students will learn a range of valuable skills essential for staying safe and successful during their expedition, including:

- Safety and emergency procedures
- Understanding and following the Country Code
- Campcraft skills – tents, stoves, cooking, hygiene
- Map reading and navigation
- Equipment checks and effective rucksack packing

This training ensures students feel confident, knowledgeable, and ready to take on the challenges of their Bronze expedition.

Practice Expedition Info

The practice expedition will focus on developing the key skills needed for a successful Bronze DofE hike. Taking place within our local area as an extended school day, it will give students the chance to gather evidence for their learning, build confidence, and experience the physical and teamwork challenges of hiking before their qualifying expedition.

UPDATE: We are also currently assessing the needs of students and are exploring the possibility of running a mini expedition with an overnight stay the day before the practice hike. This would help us better understand students' abilities, identify any concerns around sleeping arrangements, and allow us to plan the right support for the qualifying expedition. Further updates and confirmation will follow once plans are finalised.

Prior to: It's essential to check **all** kit prior to any expedition. Students need to bring their expedition kit (excluding personal items) to prepare for the practice hike and the qualifying hike on a specific day before. More details will be provided closer to the time.

Qualifying Expedition Info

Your child's expedition is a **two-day, one-night** adventure. This qualifying expedition is the culmination of all the hard work and dedication students have put in throughout the year. It is designed to incorporate and test the key skills they have learned during their training.

During the expedition, students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their proficiency in navigation, campcraft, teamwork, and problem-solving. They will be responsible for planning their route, setting up camp, organising and preparing meals, and working together to overcome any challenges they may encounter along the way.

Prior to: Students will be required to complete a kit check. This ensures any missing items can be loaned or an opportunity to bring them in the following day.

UPDATE:

XPE Kit Checks: Friday 12th during school hours

XP Kit Checks: Tuesday 23rd June - 3:15 till 4:15

Day of Qualifying Hike: Students should arrive at school by the usual time of 8:00 am and can expect to be picked up around 5:00 pm on their return date. Any changes to this schedule will be communicated as soon as possible.

Food and Pack Lunches

For the DofE practice and qualifying expeditions, a packed lunch is required for the first day of each. Free School Meals will be provided for eligible students. Evening meals will be planned and provided by groups and the school.

Deposit

A £10 cash deposit is required, due by the practice expedition date. This will be refunded when equipment has been returned in the same condition it was borrowed/used. Please ask your child to hand this into Crew Leaders in a sealed envelope with your child's name on, ready for the practice ahead of the qualifying expedition.

Consent Forms and Medication - [XPE please see link](#) / [XP please see link](#)

Consent forms are linked above and cover all parts of DofE, including Physical, Skills, Voluntary, the Practice, and Qualifying Expedition.

It's important that Crew Leaders are made aware as early as possible of any concerns - such as worries about staying overnight, physical challenges, or medical needs. This helps us plan support and make any necessary adjustments.

Please complete the form carefully, including any medical information. If anything changes, you can submit an updated form and inform your child's Crew Leader.

All medication must be in its original packaging, clearly labelled with name and dosage, and handed in on the morning of the expedition in a sealed zip-lock bag. Students must not carry or take medication without staff supervision.

Mobile Phone Policy

To ensure student safety, focus, and full immersion in the expedition experience, mobile phones are not permitted during the expeditions. Phones will be collected by staff at the start of the expedition and returned at the end. Emergency contact procedures are always in place, and staff will have communication devices at all times.

We have a fantastic and dedicated team of DofE Expedition Supervisors. Students will be supported by the Expedition Supervisor along with their Crew Leader during the training, planning and expedition.

We are super excited and looking forward to this year's DofE adventures.

Kind regards
Emma Watson - DofE Manager



Bronze Practice & Expedition Kit List

- Please note that additional items, such as sleeping bags, tents, poles, Trangia and a first aid kit, will need to be carried, these are provided along with rucksacks.

Quantity	Personal kit items:	Check ✓
1-2 litres	Plastic Water bottle filled with water	
	Pack lunch for first day (School pack lunches are available so some students)	
	Bin Liner to line your rucksack. (This will keep your kit dry inside your rucksack as they are not waterproof).	
	Plastic carrier bag (for mucky boots)	
	Waterproof outer jacket (This must be fully waterproof not showerproof).	
	Waterproof trousers (These need to be fully waterproof)	
	Walking Boots (preferably with ankle support, if you are buying new boots, wearing them a few times before the expedition to break them in is recommended)	
	Baselayer top (long or short sleeve, not cotton)	
	Midlayer top (fleece material is good, not cotton)	
	Hiking trousers - (not cotton) shorts are optional, however these are not recommended due to ticks and other insect bites	
	Hiking socks (not cotton)	
	Warm Coat / Fleece - for Campsite in the evening	
	Cutlery and cup/tub - For your main evening meal	
Optional/as required		
	Warm hat / Pair Gloves	
	A watch or something to tell the time (not your phone)	
	Camera - capture the memories	
	Sunglasses/Sun hat / sunscreen/Insect repellent/wipes	
	Footwear for campsite only - flip flops/Crocs	
	Plasters or blister plasters (Compeed) for personal use	
	Torch Optional	
	Personal medication - Please inform your expedition supervisor of any medication you need or will be bringing with you and hand over to them the morning of the expedition.	



Kit List

See below for our guide to purchasing kit and a full kit list. If you have any problems with getting all items on your kit list please speak with your crew leader, as we may be able to lend certain items from school.

- The Kit lists are **MANDATORY** so if you have any queries about it, please speak to your Expedition Supervisor or Crew Leader.
- Please note the following: Denim clothing is not allowed. This is because when cotton gets wet it stays wet for a long time. Man made fabrics such as synthetic, nylon, polyester or natural fabric such as wool are better for outdoor expeditions.
- Please do not send your child with denim or cotton clothing. When cotton material gets wet (from sweat or rain) it stays wet and causes your body to lose heat rapidly. Man made fabrics such as synthetics, nylon, polyester or natural fabric such as wool are better for outdoor expeditions as they dry quickly or retain heat better even when wet compared to cotton.
- Most sports clothing is made from man made materials and are available at reasonable prices from Sports Direct, Trespass, Go outdoors and Mountain Warehouse.
- Students will be expected to do a full kit check, the date has been outlined above. The Kit check is a necessary part of expedition preparations so that students have appropriate kit when on expedition. Rucksack and sleeping bags are provided.
- Students will pack the remainder of the kit in their rucksacks on the morning of the expedition at school when a final kit check will be done.
- Any equipment or kit supplied by the school to groups or individual students must be returned in the same condition it was given out. Groups and / or individuals may be charged for any items lost or damaged whilst in their possession on expedition and lose their deposit.



Choosing Kit & Suppliers

APPROPRIATE KIT	INAPPROPRIATE KIT
Base Layers: • Thin layers that go next to your skin. Made from synthetic, man made material (polyester, nylon etc). This type of material removes sweat away from your skin keeping you cool in hot weather and warm in cold weather. • Natural fabric such as wool is great for warmth. • Thermal layers in cold weather • Base layers can refer to top and bottom clothing. In cold weather base layer leggings or thermal leggings can be worn under trousers. • Can be short or long sleeve • Can wear 2 base layer tops for added warmth • Football tops are ok	No cotton (cotton reduces the body's temperature when it gets wet. Once the material is wet it doesn't dry quickly).
Walking Trousers / leggings: • Hiking trousers or sports leggings • Wide legged trousers are better than tight as they keep the body cooler in summer, allow for an extra layer underneath in colder weather and help reduce the chance of stings/ bites.	No denim No cotton No cotton jogging bottoms
Rucksacks: • Most are not waterproof! It is important to pack your contents into plastic bags or line the rucksack with a bin liner or use purpose made 'dry sacks'. Dry sacks can be bought quite cheap from places like sports direct and other outdoor shops. • A 'day' rucksack needs to be about 20 - 30 litre capacity. It is better to have a waist strap as this reduces tension on the shoulders. • The rucksack needs to have places to store your water bottles on the outside of your bag	
Hiking Boots • Should be waterproof and preferably have ankle support.	Not fashion boots

• When buying walking boots always try them on with the socks that you will be wearing with them. • It is important to wear them before the expedition if they are new.	
Mid Layers • This can be a thin or thicker layer that goes over your base layer. Fleece material and warm • Synthetic material such as a tracksuit top. • Wool jumpers are ok	preferably not cotton
Hiking Socks • Specific hiking socks have cushioned soles, extra padding in areas prone to blisters. They are synthetic allowing sweat to be moved away from your skin. • Socks should be long enough to tuck trousers into when necessary.	No cotton Football socks are not suitable as they have no cushioning
Hats • A hat to keep your head warm. Most of our body's heat is lost from our head. • Warm hats should be taken on overnight expeditions, even during the summer months as it can get very cold at night. • Sun hats are necessary on warmer expeditions to shield your skin and eyes from the sun.	
Gloves • To keep your hands warm both day and night. Summer expeditions can be cold too, gloves are necessary.	
Outer Layers Waterproof Jacket & trousers • Waterproof jackets and trousers need to be totally waterproof!	No fashion coats No shower proof, water resistant coats



List of Local kit suppliers:

Company	Links to discount
Go Outdoors GO Outdoors Doncaster Don Valley Outdoor Centre LTD. Littleworth Lane Old Rossington Doncaster DN11 0HJ	10% discount when you take your XP expedition kit list into store!
Mountain Warehouse Lakeside Village Outlet Uni 39 White Rose Way DN4 5JH	10% discount when you take your XP expedition kit list into store!
Trespass Unit 26 Lakeside Village Doncaster DN4 5PH	
Sports Direct Lakeside Village Doncaster DN4 5PH	
Cotswold Outdoors Use your DofE Reward card at Cotswold Outdoors and other stores. All new DofE members receive a reward card in their welcome pack.	

Duke of Edinburgh Kit information and advice.

<https://www.dofe.org/shopping/everything-you-need-to-know-about-packing-your-expedition-rucksack/>