



February 2025

Dear Parent / Carer

Further to my previous communication, can I ask you to remind your child that they must now have logged the activities that they are going to be or are already completing for the Volunteering, Skills and Physical sections of the Gold DofE Award, including details of the assessor who will be completing their reports. They do this on [Duke of Edinburgh Website](#). Once they have completed a section, they need to either ask their assessor to complete the report in their DofE books and then upload a picture to edofe or use the link [Assessor Report](#) so that assessors can upload the report directly onto the site.

Specific to the Gold Award, they must also have completed the Residential section by March 2026 if they want to receive their award in May 2026, as planned. As holidays get filled very quickly and this may not be something that they would want to do during their Year 13, can I ask that you encourage them to give it some serious thought over the next few months. More information about the residential can be found here [Doing your Residential section - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#).

Many participants have let us know that their welcome packs have not been received. I have logged this with the organisation and they send their apologies and have advised that, if any parent/carer or participant does want a welcome pack, a digital version can be downloaded for the applicable award at [Welcome Packs - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#).

In preparation for our expeditions, your child has been completing the training during their enrichment slot on a Wednesday afternoon. To enhance this learning, we are undertaking a Training Day to White Peak in The Peak District on **Thursday 6 March 2025**.

We will be travelling to The Peak District by the school minibuses and because we want to make the most of our day, will need students to meet us at **6.00am on Thursday 6 March** at school. As this is an early start, we will be making a breakfast stop at about 8.00am so students and staff have the energy they need for the day's walking we will be undertaking. If students wish to purchase breakfast at this point, they will need to bring some additional money for this. Equally, if students wish to pack a breakfast, they are welcome to do so, please just ensure that this is transportable. Students **will need to bring a packed lunch with them**, and we will be stopping about 1.00pm for a half an hour lunch break at a designated point. We are aiming to **return to school by 6.30pm** but this is dependent upon traffic – I have added a school mobile number for the day on this letter and will be contactable via that. I will, as always, endeavour to update you as to the exact return time to school and will ask students to contact you also and make you aware. As this is a relatively late return, we will also be stopping for food at a service station so students who wish to buy something at this point will need some additional money for this also.

Students, on the training day will be allowed to take their phones with them if they wish. This is so, whilst travelling to and from the destination, they can utilise them. However, as on expeditions, when we arrive at the destination, any phones on students' person will be bagged and taped so that they cannot be used unless in emergencies however, if they wish, they can leave them on the minibus during the day, but this will be left unattended for the day. **Any phones that are brought with them**

on the day are the responsibility of the students themselves and staff will not be responsible for them.

Students will need to ensure that they dress appropriately wearing walking boots (not trainers), walking trousers (not anything that will become heavy when wet) and warm upper body clothing. As we are only just into March at this point, I would also advise bringing gloves and a hat. Students also need to bring waterproof trousers and jacket. Boot gaiters and walking poles etc. are optional. I would advise an additional warm layer be also placed in their backpacks as this is an essential in case of extreme drops in temperature.

My contact number, whilst on this day is **07557 566 050** and there will be a second member of staff with a school number **07918 335 230**. Could I ask that both of these numbers are stored in students' phones before coming on 6 March 2025 and that the app what3words is also downloaded:

<https://app.what3words.com/3W1yMkiB5tb> for android and

<https://app.what3words.com/YTRDRhbB5tb> for apple users.

Over the next week, could I ask that you check the medical information that you supplied on ParentPay and, if there are any changes, could you update that as soon as possible.

A reminder the Practice Expedition will take place on **27 – 29 March 2025** and the Qualifying Expedition for Gold will take place on the weekend of the **15 – 18 May 2025**.

If there are any queries or concerns regarding Gold DofE, please contact me using the below details.

Yours faithfully,



Mr James Barrett

DofE and The King's Trust Coordinator

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