



Friday 1 May 2026

Dear Parent / Carer

T-Shirt Distribution and Final Messages about Training Thursday 7 May 2026

Kit Distribution – Tuesday 12 May 2026

Training Weekend 15 – 16 May 2026

In preparation for the upcoming Training Weekend for Bronze DofE, I wanted to update you on timings, purpose and expectations for the students on the day and to inform you that the T-Shirts that were ordered earlier in the year have arrived and will be distributed after school on Thursday 7 May 2026.

T-Shirt Distribution and Final Messages about Training Thursday 7 May 2026 15.15 – 16.15

Students should head to the Sports Hall at **15.15 on 7 May** and will receive their t-shirt then. I will also meet with them briefly to discuss the expectations and plans for the Training Weekend, as detailed below. They should be finished on 7 May by 16.15 at the latest.

Training Weekend – Napton Village Hall

Please remember, in preparation for the expedition, your child **must** complete this training and will not be able to undertake the expedition section of the award unless this training is completed in full. During the training, students will be planning their routes for their qualifying expedition in The Cotswolds which is taking place on **3 – 4 July 2026** and then undertaking the main part of the training which involves: understanding basic First Aid and what to do in an emergency situation; how to use the Trangia burners safely including the use of meths, meths' bottles and lighters; how to set up their tent and then maintain the area in and around their tent; how to successfully use a map and navigate their way around and how to maintain road safety and adhere to the countryside code.

The Training Weekend will begin at **07.00 on Saturday 15 May** where students will meet at NLS and taken by coach to Napton Village Hall where our training weekend will be held. The training will end about 3.00pm on Sunday 16 by which point we will have returned to NLS and students can be collected. It is appreciated that this is an early start on the Saturday but is also reflective of what will happen on the expedition weekend.

Clothing

Students will need to arrive promptly for 07.00 am on 15 May in suitable clothing for outdoor activities – they **will** be walking on this day – including, as detailed in initial communications, walking boots. These clothes should be not excessively water absorbing as students will be outside and, as students may need to kneel or sit on the floor, these clothes need to be suited to being muddy – of course, it would be great if students were to wear their t-shirts that they will have received on 7 May.

Food

Students should bring their own packed lunch and a drink for the Saturday; an evening meal that they can cook on a Trangia burner: dried pasta and a sauce would be a good example of this, for their evening meal; a breakfast (porridge pot or equivalent); a packed lunch for the Sunday and snacks to

last them throughout both days. There will not be the provision to buy food but there will be water available in order to refill their bottles. I would encourage you to read and share with your child the information on food and menu planning on the school's Digital Learning Hub (DLH).

Expedition Kit

Because we understand that expedition kit can be expensive, we provide students with the following kit: 65lt rucksack, tent (shared between 2 or 3), cooking stove & fuel, roll mat, first aid kit, map (1 per walking group), map pocket and compass. *Pupils may use their own rucksack provided it is a minimum of 65lt and tent so long as it is 2-3 person* However, all other expedition kit, including sleeping bag, utensils, and food will need to be supplied by home. The kit borrowed from the school will be distributed on **Tuesday 12 May 15.15 – 16.15** and students **must attend** this in order to have the necessary kit for their expedition.

A brief kit list has been included below but a full kit list, clothing PPT and assistance for bag packing can be found on the school's Digital Learning Hub.

Walking boots, waterproofs, sleeping bag, a change of clothes for camp, trainers/flipflops, packed lunch, dinner to be cooked on a Trangia (e.g. dry pasta, boil-in-a-bag meal), breakfast (hot chocolate, porridge pot), water bottle, plastic bag for litter, utensils, medication, sun cream, sun hat, wristwatch, sweets & snacks.

Mobile Phones

It is a condition of Duke of Edinburgh expeditions that students do not use their phones and, in order to adhere to this rule, and get the students used to their phones' absence, we will be 'bagging' the students' phones when we first get to Napton Village Hall. These phones will remain sealed until we get back on the coach on the Sunday as they can then have them for the return journey. We do encourage students to have their phones on, especially whilst walking on the Saturday as this means they can be used, should there be an emergency and also means that we can contact them, should the need arise. If students want to bring a battery pack to extend the life of their phones, they are welcome to do so and that can be bagged alongside the phone to ensure the phone remains charged. Equally, if you would rather your child did not have their phone on them, that is perfectly fine – I would only ask that they ensure that amongst their walking group (between 4 and 7 students per group) they have at least two phones on them. During the training weekend, students will be given the staff mobile numbers of **07918 335230** which will be carried by another member of our staff and **07386 685678** which I will have with me. If you have any concerns over the course of the weekend, please contact me using one of these two numbers during that weekend.

Expectations

As this is an extra-curricular activity but still affiliated to the school, and because there will be members of the general public encountered at times, students need to behave in a manner that is befitting of one of our students and a DofE participant. Equally, the cost for any damage to property and the maintenance of the village hall, will be incurred by the DofE Department and so the reparations for any additional costs will be felt by future DofE participants. For this reason, anyone who does not behave in an acceptable manner or who causes any damage to property will be removed from the day, parents will be contacted and, because they will not have completed the training, will not be allowed to partake in the expedition later in the year.

Medical Information

As it has been a while since the medical information was completed when you signed your child up to Bronze DofE, can I ask that before **Tuesday 4 May** you review what was written on ParentPay and amend to include any updated information?

Full Itinerary for Training Weekend

Saturday 15 May 2026

- 07.00 Meet at NLS
- 07.15 Depart for Napton Village Hall
- 07.45 Arrive at Napton Village Hall
- 08.00 Safety briefing and reminder of day's plans
- 08.30 Team's sort, information sharing and phone bagging.
- 08.45 First Aid Training
- 09.30 Break
- 09.45 Navigation Skills
- 10.45 Road Safety and Countryside Code
- 11.30 Lunch
- 12.00 Walk from Napton Hall on pre-planned circular route to explore navigation skills.
- 16.30 Return from walk
- 17.00 – 18.30 Campcraft and tent set-up Training; Cooking on a Trangia Training; Students set up own tents and cook evening meals.
- 18.30 – 21.00 Social time
- 21.00 Students start to get into tents
- 22.00 Lights out

Sunday 16 May 2026

- 06.00 Wake up (this is the routine on expeditions also)
- 06.00 – 08.00 Take down tents; pack away belongings; cook breakfast etc.
- 08.00 Food on DofE Training
- 08.30 – 10.00 Route Planning for Bronze Qualifier
- 10.30 – 11.00 Break
- 11.00 – 13.30 Route Planning for Bronze Qualifier (cont'd)
- 13.30 – 14.00 Tidy up Village Hall
- 14.15 Board Coach
- 14.45 Arrive back at NLS
- 15.00 Parents/carers collect

Please remember that the Qualifying Expedition for Bronze will take place on the weekend of **3 – 4 July 2026**. Further details of this will follow soon.

Please remember all of the dates and information contained in this letter. The letter itself and the additional information, I will also place on the DLH

However, if there are any queries or concerns regarding Bronze DofE, especially the training weekend, please contact me using the below details.

Yours faithfully,



Mr James Barrett

DofE Manager

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