



Friday 15 May 2026

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am delighted to outline the final arrangements for the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Practice expedition for Year 10.

As confirmed previously, the expedition will take place on Thursday 4 June to Saturday 6 June in the Derbyshire Dales.

Practice Expedition Details

As a requirement of the Silver Award, our students will compete a two-night and two-day practice expedition and we will be heading to Barn Farm, Birchover, Matlock, DE4 2BL.

The kit distribution for this expedition will take place on **Tuesday 2 June at 3.15pm** and is essential for all silver students to attend.

Thursday 4 June 2026: The expedition will depart after school, leaving as soon after school finishes as we can and travelling up to our campsite in Derbyshire. Students should arrive at school on the Thursday morning and head to the DofE storage container where they will leave their rucksacks for the day. Students may attend school in expedition clothing. There will be no walk on Thursday, the students will camp overnight and complete their first walk on Friday.

Friday 5 June and Saturday 6 June: Students are expected to be up by **6.00am** on each morning. Walks are scheduled to commence by **8.00am** and completed by **3.00pm**. The students will stay at the same campsite on Friday evening, before completing their second walk on the Saturday. The group are expected to arrive back at school and be ready to leave between 6.00 and 7.00pm on Saturday 6 June. The time of return is largely dependent on the progress the participants make on the last day and any issues we may encounter driving back – this time may therefore change. I will email you during the day on Saturday and provide a clear time for arrival and likely time that participants can be taken home.

All kit borrowed will need to be returned and signed back in, but this will be done on the Monday morning after their work experience week (at 8.00 am Monday 15 June). A kit list is provided below and students will need to consider carefully their food options as they will need to cook dinner on the Thursday evening, have breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Friday, as well as breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

The students are assessed as a team, and thus if one person in a walking group fails to meet one of the twenty conditions – the whole team is liable to fail. The students are reminded that whilst out on expedition they are representing North Leamington School and should behave in a wholly responsible manner which is in keeping with the expectations of a student at our school and following the Countryside Code at all times.

To prepare for the Duke of Edinburgh qualifying expedition, on practice, they will need to complete several camp craft-based tasks upon their arrival at camp.

This will include:

- Setting up and setting down of a tent
- Cooking a substantial meal every day on a meth stove

School will provide the following kit for the expedition:

65lt rucksack, tent (shared between 2/3), cooking stove & fuel, roll mat, first aid kit, map and map case and compass (1 each per group)

All other expedition kit, including sleeping bag, utensils, and food will need to be supplied by home.

Students may use their own rucksack provided it is a minimum of 65lt and tent so long as it is 2-3 person

Dress and Equipment

Students should be dressed and bring clothing for two days walking in the summer: with all kit and food they will need for two/three days, including a re-fillable water bottle. Students are reminded that they must be wearing walking boots and have a waterproof top and bottoms accessible in their rucksack.

Essential equipment is listed below:

Walking boots, waterproofs, sleeping bag, a change of clothes for camp, trainers/flipflops, packed lunch x 2, dinner x 2 to be cooked on a Trangia (e.g. dry pasta, boil-in-a-bag meal), breakfast x 2 (hot chocolate, porridge pot), water bottle, plastic bag for litter, utensils, medication, sun cream, sun hat, wristwatch, sweets & snacks

Behaviour: Whilst we want our expeditions to be memorable, this should not come at the expense of disruption of members of the public and potentially other school parties who will be accessing the campsites at the same time. We will be expecting respectful and appropriate behaviour at all times whilst at camp; also ensuring no litter is left behind. No student should be entering any tent which is not theirs at any time, and students will be expected to be in their tents by 9.30pm and lights out by 10.00pm. The expedition is a tiring process, and students will need to be well rested.

Medication: Any student taking medication is responsible for remembering to bring those items. Asthma sufferers especially are reminded to bring their inhalers, and those requiring EpiPens must ensure they are present.

Mobile phones: It is a condition of Duke of Edinburgh expeditions that students do not use their phones we will be 'bagging' the students' phones before we leave on Thursday evening. These phones will remain sealed until we get back on the coach on the Saturday 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 weekend, students will be given the staff school 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.

All participants are asked to store this number in their phones (if they are bringing them) and to download the **what3words app** as well. Please note I will not have this number until the day of departure, so all communications need to come through the email below up until that point. In the unlikely event of extreme weather conditions, a decision will be made by myself to prematurely end the expedition; the students will be returned to school.

Students are reminded that to access the expeditions – they must have completed two out of their three units (SKILL, VOLUNTEERING, PHYSICAL) and have evidence that they are working towards the third.

If at any point you need to speak with myself regarding any aspect of the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact jbarrett@northleamington.co.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Mr James Barrett
DofE and The King's Trust Coordinator
Tel: 01926 338711 x8614