



Friday 22 May 2026

Dear Parent / Carer,

I am delighted to outline the final arrangements for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Qualifying Expedition. As confirmed previously, the expedition will take place from **Wednesday 17 June 2026 to Sunday 21 June 2026** when we will be heading to the Snowdonia in Wales.

Expedition Training

Expedition training is a compulsory requirement of all participants, and has provided the essential camping, navigation, and first aid skills necessary for expeditions – these have been completed during specific training days and Wednesday afternoon enrichment sessions. However, the last session before the qualifying expedition is where students will collect their kit. This will take place on **Wednesday 10 June** and all Gold Participants must attend on this date.

Qualifying Expedition Details

As a requirement of the Gold Award, our students will compete a 3 night and 4 day qualifying expedition. However, as previously explained, we will leave on Wednesday 17 to ensure a prompt and swift start on the morning of 18 June, their first day of expedition.

Students should arrive at school on the Wednesday morning in suitable clothing, with their rucksacks packed, ready to walk on the next day.

The Students will stay at Brynkir Coach House, Golan, Garndolbenmaen, Gwynedd, LL51 9AQ on the Wednesday evening and then at Cae Du Campsite, Beddgelert, Gwynedd, North Wales, LL55 4NE for the night of 18 June; Talymignedd Campsite, Talymignedd Isaf, Nantille, North Wales, LL54 6BT for the 19 and Tyn-Yr-Onnen Farm & Campsite, Waunfawr, Caernarfon, LL55 4AX for the last night before walking to Llanberis on Sunday 21 from which we will transport them home. They should return to school at about 8.00pm, however, **the time of return is largely dependent on the progress the students make on the last day and any issues we may encounter driving back from North Wales – this time may therefore change. I will email you during the day on Sunday and provide a clear time for arrival and likely time that students can be taken home.**

All kit borrowed will need to be returned and signed back in but this will be done on the following Wednesday during enrichment.

A brief kit list is provided below and students will be given a more extensive kit list. Students will need to consider carefully their food options as they will need to have breakfast and lunch on the Thursday, cook dinner on the Thursday evening, have breakfast, lunch and dinner on Friday, breakfast, lunch and dinner on the Saturday and breakfast and lunch on the Sunday.

School will provide the following kit for the expedition:-

65lt rucksack, rucksack cover, tent (shared between 2/3), cooking stove and cover & fuel, roll mat, first aid kit, map (1 per group), map case and compass. 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 4 days walking in the British summertime (remembering that this does not guarantee sunshine or warmth): with all kit and food they will need for 4 days, including two x 1 litre re-fillable water bottles. Students are reminded that they must be wearing walking boots, and have a waterproof top and bottoms accessible in their rucksack.

Walking boots, waterproofs, sleeping bag, a change of clothes for camp, trainers/flipflops, packed lunch x4, dinner x 3 to be cooked on a Trangia (e.g. dry pasta, boil-in-a-bag meal), breakfast x 4 (hot chocolate, porridge pot), water bottles, 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 whom 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 Mobile phone usage on the assessed expedition is prohibited. Each student may take their phone, which will be wrapped and sealed and placed in their rucksack and at least two mobiles per team should remain switched on with the volume up in case staff need to make quick contact with a group. Anyone is concerned about their phones being lost or broken should leave them at home.

Emergencies I will be the main point of contact for parents and carers whilst out on expedition. My emergency contact number will be **07386 685678** and there will also be another carried by another member of staff **07918 335230**. If you have any concerns over the course of the weekend, please contact me using one of these two numbers. All students are asked to store these numbers 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 this email 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.

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 Tel: 01926 338711 x8614.

Yours faithfully,



Mr James Barrett
DofE Manager