



Friday 11 April

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 14 May 2025 to Sunday 18 May 2025** when we will be heading to the Snowdonia in Wales.

### Kit Collection

The last enrichment session before the qualifying expedition is where students will collect their kit. This will take place on **Wednesday 7 May and all Gold Participants must attend on this date.**

### Qualifying Expedition Details

As a requirement of the Gold Award, our pupils will compete a three night and four day qualifying expedition. However, as previously explained, we will leave on Wednesday 14 to ensure a prompt and swift start on the morning of the 15 May, 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 pupils will stay at The Woodlands Centre, Vicarage Road, Betws-y-Coed, Conwy, LL24 0AD on the Wednesday evening and then at Llyn Gwynant Campsite, Nant Gwynant, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 4NW for the remaining nights whilst on expedition. They will begin their walk from Tal y Mignedd campsite, Nantlle, LL54 6BT on the Friday and walk into camp; walk two circular walks back to camp on Friday and Saturday before completing their fourth day of walking on the Sunday walking to the National Trust car park - Nantmor, Nantmor, Turn, Caernarfon LL55 4YG from which we will make our return journey. The group are expected to arrive back at school between 19.00 and 20.00 on Sunday 18 May. **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 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 participants 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 participants will be given a more extensive kit list. Pupils will need to consider carefully their food options as they will need to have 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 four days walking in the spring: with all kit and food they will need for the four days, including two x 1 litre re-fillable water bottles. Pupils 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, dinner x three to be cooked on a Trangia (e.g. dry pasta, boil-in-a-bag meal), breakfast x three (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 they 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 whilst out walking. Each **participant** may take their phone, which will be wrapped and sealed and placed in their rucksack and one mobile 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 **07557 566 050**. 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 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](mailto:jbarrett@northleamington.co.uk) Tel: 01926 338711 x8614.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr James Barrett**  
DofE Manager