



June 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Practice Expedition: New Forest Monday 13 July to Wednesday 15 July

I am writing to provide final details and arrangements for the practice Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition. Please read the details below carefully.

Dates and Transport: The practice expedition will take place in the New Forest from **Monday 13 to Wednesday 15 July** and involves two and a half days walking and a two night overnight camp. We will be travelling by coach and minibus. Please drop your son/daughter off at school on Monday 13 July at **7.15 am** for a prompt 7.30 am departure. We should return to school on Wednesday 17 July by around 5pm (depending on traffic).

Supervision:

Students will be trained and supervised by Wild Country Consultant instructors who are all qualified to Mountain Leader level. The students will also be accompanied on the expedition by Miss Morris, Mr Bonney, Mr Rumming and Mr Bakhash.

Please could I ask that you read through the Code of Conduct with your son/daughter and sign to confirm that expectations have been understood.

[Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions - Code of Conduct 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Equipment and food: It is important that your son/daughter is suitably equipped for the expedition. Group kit such as tents, maps, stoves and fuel will be provided by Wild Country Consultants.

All other kit items must be personally provided including, a **compass** (2 per group), personal first aid kit and food for the expedition (3x lunches, 2x evening meal, 3x breakfast and any snacks). The group will need to liaise to decide on their menu and agree on who is contributing what. An individual packed lunch will be required on each of the three days. Please avoid foods that could go off. Students should each be carrying a 2L bottle of water which will be topped up at checkpoints. I would also recommend that students have a small bottle of hand sanitiser.

Ticks

Wild Country Consultants insist that students wear long trousers throughout the expedition due to the prevalence of ticks and possible risk of Lyme Disease.

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Mobile phones and contact details: The team should have TWO mobile phones (ideally on different networks). These must be fully charged, switched off and stored safely in their packs for emergency use only. Please note the school cannot take responsibility for any lost or damaged personal items whilst out on the expedition. Staff will have phones and contact details provided by you on the enrolment form. It is important that you are available during the duration of the expedition at any time, in case there were a need for you to pick up your son/daughter.

Please complete the medical form below so that we have the most up to date information about your child (even if there are no issues). If your child has a medical issue that will require some accommodations, please could you provide medical evidence confirming that taking part in the expedition would not cause further injury/would be safe as I know that Wild Country Consultants will ask for this.

<https://forms.office.com/e/KeX1PKSEMu>

We look forward to a successful practice expedition. Any questions about these arrangements, please contact me at lgriffiths1@backwellschool.net

Yours sincerely

L Griffiths
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator