



**HERMITAGE
ACADEMY**

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Duke of Edinburgh Award (Bronze) – Expedition Update Letter

Firstly, I'd like to thank you for supporting your child in their journey with Duke of Edinburgh. Following our last meeting in October, most students have now updated their Programme Planners on eDofE and are making good progress. The evidence that we have received too, has also been of fantastic quality. As a reminder, we run a DofE drop-in session, every Friday, in HUM5. Please encourage your child to attend should they have any queries or concerns whatsoever, so that we can offer support and guidance and keep them on track, especially if they are yet to start.

Expedition Update

We are delighted to announce that we will be working in partnership with a highly specialised and experienced team from Simonside Outdoor Adventure centre, to offer the best quality experience for this section.

The confirmed dates for the training, practice walk and expedition are (attendance is compulsory to complete the award):

September 14th - 15th (weekend) - Bronze practice walk and training (9am - 5pm each day)
October 28th - 29th (weekend) - Bronze qualifying walk (overnight stay included)

We are also pleased to announce that the cost of the expedition is cheaper than initially quoted and remains at last year's price of £165. As well as the training and qualifying walks, this cost also includes:

- Transport to and from the Hermitage Academy School
- The use of kit if required, including walking boots, waterproofs, rucksacks, tents, sleeping and cooking equipment.
- All campsite fees and charges.
- Insurance

NB: It is the same charge, even if equipment is not borrowed from the provider.

We have arranged for a representative of Simonside Outdoor Adventure centre to attend school. They will provide details of the expeditions and give all parents/carers the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarity on any uncertainties that you may have.

The parents' evening will be held in the school's **main hall** on **Tuesday May 14th between 5:00pm and 5:45pm**. We encourage the Duke of Edinburgh students to attend with their parents/carers.

Payment for the expedition can now be made in 2 instalments via parent pay.

- 1) £82.50 (50%) due by June 28th 2024**
- 2) £82.50 (50%) due by September 1st 2024**

Thank you once again for your support and encouragement as your child embarks on their Duke of Edinburgh journey.

If there are any issues, including with parent pay, please contact the office directly who will be happy to resolve this for you or pass the information to myself to deal with.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Ford-Hutchinson (Character Development Champion/ Duke of Edinburgh Manager)