



June 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

## D OF E ASSESSMENT: CHILTERN, 27-28 JUNE 2025

Your son/daughter has been participating in the D of E Bronze Award scheme and is ready to undergo the assessment part of the expedition section on the above dates. **We will leave school on Friday afternoon at approximately 12 noon and plan to be back at Waddesdon by about 4.30pm on Saturday.** Your son/daughter should wear their uniform to school on Friday and have the appropriate equipment for their P1 and P2 lessons. They will change into their hiking gear at lunchtime.

We will travel by minibus to the start point of each group's planned walk. The assessment expedition will begin with a walk lasting 6 hours to the campsite, moving south from Wigginton, near Tring, and east of the A413. On Saturday the groups will continue their planned routes for a further 6 hours to the north of the site, walking on a different route towards Wendover Woods. The groups organise their own food and cooking but will be supervised whilst at the site and will be tracked during their expedition. The students will camp away from the staff and will be 'remotely supervised' during the whole expedition in accordance with the ethos of the Award Scheme. **It is expected that students comply with the School Behaviour Policy at all times.**

Staff members involved in this weekend are: Miss Caswell (DofE Manager), Mr Ewart, Mr Carr, Miss Clarke, Mr Taberer and Mr de la Guardia Garcia. Mrs Horwood (volunteer) will also be in attendance.

The campsite address is: Corner Farm,  
Kings Ash,  
Great Missenden,  
Buckinghamshire HP16 9NP.  
Phone: 01442 842356 / 07494523185

The campsite address is: Corner Farm,  
Kings Ash,  
Great Missenden,  
Buckinghamshire HP16 9NP.  
Phone: 01442 842 356 / 07494 523 185

Miss Caswell: 07935 333 346	Emergency School Contact 1: 07598 781 384
Mr Ewart: 07749 392 411	Emergency School Contact 2: 07519 329 307

A suggested equipment list is attached. Please do not allow your son/daughter to bring along items such as headphones, speakers or knives. **Mobile phones are permitted but, in order to comply with DofE regulations, can only be used for emergencies during the expedition and not for social calls and texts to friends and family.** If you do need to contact your child while on expedition, please use the numbers for Miss Caswell and Mr Ewart, provided above. Obviously, alcohol, cigarettes, vapes and other contraband must not be brought along.

**We have a small stock of equipment for hire at no charge.** If you need to purchase equipment, The Outdoor Shop in Stony Stratford and Cotswold Outdoor in Bicester Avenue offer a good service, as well as discounts to D of E participants. I would also recommend the purchase of an OS map of the area (Explorer 181, 1:25000 scale, £7.50). This gives participants the advantage of having an individual map from which they can improve their navigation skills, instead of having to share.

In addition to the suggested equipment, **your son/daughter will also need to bring a packed lunch and high-energy snacks with them on each day, as well as food to be cooked on the Trangia** (e.g. pasta, sauce) on Friday night.

Ahead of the expedition, **your son/daughter is expected to attend at least two of three route planning sessions that are running after school on: Wednesday 11 June, Thursday 12 June and Wednesday 18 June. This is part of the assessment. There will also be a compulsory kit check on Tuesday 24 June**, for which your son / daughter will need to bring in their packed rucksack.

Rest assured that everything on this expedition will comply with current Department for Education and Duke of Edinburgh guidance.

**Please return the attached Parental Consent Form to the finance office as soon as possible, but by Wednesday 11 June at the latest.**

Yours faithfully

**Sarah Caswell**  
D of E Manager

## **D OF E ASSESSMENT: CHILTERNS, 27-28 JUNE 2025**

### **FRIDAY**

Approximate times:

12:00 Depart Waddesdon

13:00 Arrive at group's start point to begin practice/assessment walk. Staff members are assigned a group and will track them by vehicle/ by foot and meet at prearranged checkpoints. The walk will be unaccompanied and last for 5-6 hours, approximately 10-11 km in length

18.30 Aim to be back at campsite. Groups pitch tents and organise themselves. Cook and eat meal. Wash up and tidy camp area.

21:00 Staff trackers to debrief groups re: projects, problems encountered, reinforce expectations etc. Students spend time writing up and collating acquired information.

22:00 Groups prepare for the following day / supervised relaxation. In own tents by 10:00pm and settled for the night.

NB: Staff will be camping overnight on the site slightly away from the groups. Groups will therefore be under constant but remote supervision.

### **SATURDAY**

7.00 Get up. Breakfast.

8.00 Prepare for walks. Pack rucksacks.

9.00 Continue with planned route. The walk will be unaccompanied and last for 6 hours, approximately 12-14km in length

15:00 Aim to finish expedition. All groups and leaders rendezvous at a convenient point, e.g. Wendover Woods. Pack buses and start back to Waddesdon.

16.00 Arrive back at school. Equipment cleaned and returned. Clean minibuses and equipment. Leave tents and Trangias to dry.

16:30 Depart for own homes.

## D of E SUGGESTED EQUIPMENT CHECK LIST

Food					
Walking trousers (NOT JEANS)					
Walking socks (2 pairs)					
Walking boots (spare laces?)					
Shirts / vests / base layers / mid layers					
Warm outer layer					
Waterproofs / leggings / gaiters					
Hat and gloves / sunhat					
Underwear					
Sleeping mat					
Baby wipes					
Toothbrush / toothpaste					
Torch (spare bulb/batteries)					
Matches (in waterproof container)					
Simple first aid kit					
Knife / fork / spoon / mug / plate / bowl					
Tin opener (if needed)					
Sleeping bag					
Washing up utensils e.g. Brillo, Fairy					
Rubbish bags, small and large					
Toilet paper					
Water container					
Extras? e.g. Camera, Pencil & Paper					