



11 May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Silver Duke of Edinburgh Practice/Final Expedition 2026**

Students need to make sure they are completing the Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections in their own time and logging progress via the award.

Please find below all the details for both the practice and final expeditions for the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award in June/September 2026.

### **General Details – Silver DofE Practice Expedition**

*Dates:* Friday 19 June – Sunday 21 June 2026

*Drop-off:* Maiden Erlegh School at 7:45am. Please meet outside the covered way ready for a prompt coach departure at 8am.

*Pick-up:* Maiden Erlegh School at 3:15pm.

*Accommodation:* Students will be camping at Bentley Copse Activity Centre, Hound House Road, Guildford for both Friday and Saturday nights. Tents and cooking equipment will be provided by the school. Students are responsible for personal equipment such as sleeping bags, food and appropriate clothing. Please see list below.

*Hiking* Students will spend 7 or more ‘active’ hours each day walking, navigating and completing work for their aim. Students will walk with a designated group leader who is a member of staff at school for the first day, and students will be remotely supervised on the second and third day with regular check points. Each group will have a tracker, so staff know the location of the group at all times.

*Fitness and preparations:* Students should take the opportunity to go for walks before the expedition to ensure they are prepared. Students may want to practice hiking prior to the expeditions to increase fitness levels, practice navigation and hiking techniques, make sure their hiking boots are broken in, etc.

*Evening:* Once students arrive at the campsite, students will pitch their tents and cook dinner on Trangia’s (camping stoves) as a group. Students will be required to clean up after cooking. Students



should bring their own (non-electronic) entertainment for the evening such as cards.

**Food:** Each group will have an approved menu for breakfast, lunch and dinner which they should adhere to. They need to make sure between members of the group, they bring the correct food for the menu ready for the full expedition.

## General Details – Silver DofE Final Expedition

**Dates:** Friday 25 September – Sunday 27 September 2026

**Drop-off:** Maiden Erlegh School at 7:45am. Please meet outside the covered way ready for a prompt coach departure at 8am.

**Pick-up:** Maiden Erlegh School at 5:30pm.

**Accommodation:** Students will be camping at Ferny Crofts Scout Activity Centre (Beaulieu Road, Brockenhurst, Hampshire, SO42 7YQ) on Friday night and Wilverley Scout Campsite (Burely, Hampshire, BH24 4HY) on Saturday night, both in the New Forest. Tents and cooking equipment will be provided by the school. Students are responsible for personal equipment such as sleeping bags, food and appropriate clothing. Please see list below.

**Hiking** Students will spend 7 or more ‘active’ hours each day walking, navigating and completing work for their aim. Students will walk with a designated group leader who is a member of staff at school for the first day, and students will be remotely supervised on the second day with regular check points. Each group will have a tracker, so staff know the location of the group at all times

**Fitness and preparations:** Students should take the opportunity to go for walks before the expedition to ensure they are prepared. Students may want to practice hiking prior to the expeditions to increase fitness levels, practice navigation and hiking techniques, make sure their hiking boots are broken in, etc.

**Evening:** Once students arrive at the campsite, students will pitch their tents and cook dinner on Trangia’s (camping stoves) as a group. Students will be required to clean up after cooking. Students should bring their own (non-electronic) entertainment for the evening such as cards.

**Food** Each group will have an approved menu for breakfast, lunch and dinner which they should adhere to. They need to make sure between members of the group, they bring the correct food for the menu ready for the full expedition.



Students will be out of lessons on Friday 19 June and Friday 25 September. They will be expected to catch up on any missing work.

**THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD EXPEDITON SECTION IS NOT A HOLIDAY. STUDENTS MUST BE BOTH PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY RESILIENT.**

**Cost**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Campsite fees including use of washing facilities</li><li>• Use of emergency minibus</li><li>• Coach transport for both expeditions</li><li>• Access to group equipment (tents, cooking equipment and fuel, maps, compasses, map cases, group first aid kit)</li><li>• DofE assessors</li></ul>	£135
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**Personal Kit**

Students will be required to take and wear adequate equipment, clothing and footwear. We will be asking for students to purchase personal kit for the expedition, including a backpack, sleeping bag, roll mat, shoes, clothing, appropriate food and drink. Tents, cooking equipment, fuel, maps, compasses, map cases and group first aid kits will be provided for students. Please find below a comprehensive kit list for which all items are required. **We are able to provide some backpacks, footwear, waterproofs, sleeping bags and mats for students if they ask in advance.**

**Kit List**

**Clothing**

- Pair of walking boots (broken in)
- 2 pairs of walking socks (or thin cotton socks - liners, with a thicker pair over the top)
- Jacket/coat (waterproof and windproof)
- Waterproof over-trousers
- 2 fleece tops or similar
- 2-3 t-shirts, breathable (non-cotton)
- Thermal underlayers (optional)
- 2 pairs of walking trousers or sports leggings (warm, NOT jeans – long trousers offer more protection than shorts against sun, animals and brambles.)
- Underwear
- Nightwear
- Flip flops/sandals (optional for camp site use)
- Warm hat and/or sunhat (as appropriate)
- Gloves (good for evenings)



## Personal Kit

- Hiking rucksack (60 – 80 litres)
- Rucksack liner (or 2 strong plastic bags)
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping mat
- Waterproof bag/ strong plastic bags
- Whistle
- Torch (handheld/head torch and spare batteries or two torches)
- Personal first aid kit – please see below
- Lunch for each day (non-spoiling foods – they should plan this in advance)
- Snacks for hiking
- Emergency rations (high in energy – Mars bars, Kendal mint cake)
- Water bottle (minimum 1 litre)
- Cutlery
- Plate/bowl – plastic/ metal
- Mug
- Box of matches (in small waterproof container)
- Wash kit/personal hygiene items: Wash bag (small), All-purpose soap, Dry wash gel, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste (some items could be shared as a group)
- Sun cream
- Small towel
- Notebook and pen/pencil
- Orange survival bag
- Watch
- Personal medication

## Group Kit

- *Tents – provided by school*
- *Trangias – provided by school*
- *Trangia fuel – provided by school*
- *Maps (1:25 000) Ordnance Survey – provided by school*
- *Compass – Provided by school*
- *Map cases – Provided by school*
- *Emergency shelter – provided by the school*
- *Group first aid kit – provided by the school*
- Share of group evening meals and breakfast
- Scourers
- Washing up liquid
- Tin opener (if required)
- Tea towel
- Plastic bags (for rubbish etc.)
- Toilet paper and trowel
- Camera (optional)



### **You may also wish to consider the following:**

- Insect repellent/insect bite cream
- Anti-Histamines (if hay fever/ allergies is an issue)
- Ball/ pack of cards
- Sunglasses

*\*There are often many sales in Aldi. As well as cheaper kit in Decathlon.*

*Discounts can be found in Go Outdoors, Millets, Blacks and Cotswold Outdoors where the DofE discount card can be used.*

### **Personal First Aid Kit:**

- Blister plasters
- Plasters
- Antiseptic wipes
- Scissors
- Assorted Bandages
- Safety Pins
- Various Dressings
- Disposable Latex Gloves
- Micropore Tape
- Tweezers
- Burn gel sachets
- Paracetamol Tablets

Mobile phones are not allowed on DofE expeditions and will be taken in for the weekend and handed back at the end. Each group will have two phones with contact details of staff in case of emergencies. Students found using a mobile phone for non-emergency reasons will be sent phone and will count as a defer for the DofE Silver Award.

DofE recommends a similar kit list and gives details on brands and retail outlets. Please see the following link for further details.

<https://www.dofe.org/shopping/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/DofE-Expedition-Kit-List-April-21.pdf>

Should you be entitled to Pupil Premium funding, there will be limited kit available to hire should this be needed. Please discuss this with your child's group leader.



## Parent Information Evening

To provide more details on the expedition and required equipment, there will be a Microsoft Teams session for both parents and students to attend to make sure all questions are answered and students have the correct equipment. This will be held via zoom on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 6pm-6.45pm**

### TEAMS CALL:

Join:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/343783988779228?p=xSnhrLUW2o6y2kwVhZ>

Meeting ID: 343 783 988 779 228

Passcode: nW7Wo2Dv

If you have any enquiries about the trip, please do not hesitate to contact me by email [a.caldwell@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:a.caldwell@maidenerleghtrust.org)

*Payment should only be made if you agree with the conditions set out in the Parent Agreement below*

### Parent Agreement

I have read the information letter regarding the above-named trip and agree to my child participating.

I understand that I am responsible for ensuring:

- That my child arrives for departure on time and for making arrangements for them to get home on our return.
- **Staff have up to date and accurate contact and medical details at the time of departure, and all relevant medication. Please email [admin@maidenerleghtrust.org](mailto:admin@maidenerleghtrust.org) if your child's medical information has changed.**
- My child has appropriate clothing, equipment, food and drink for the trip.
- I understand that if my child is unable to attend the trip due to illness or Covid-19 isolation I may not receive a refund of monies paid.
- That there will be periods when my child is under remote supervision

I also understand that it is my child's responsibility to make up for any missed class or homework and to do so at an appropriate standard. I will support them to do this.



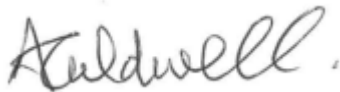
If your child requires any medication e.g. an inhaler this must be brought on the trip or your child will not be allowed on the trip.

**Should your child's medical circumstances change, it is your duty to inform the school in writing as soon as possible and before the day of departure.**

During this trip the accompanying staff will be available at all times but there will be periods of remote supervision when students will be hiking in groups of 7. Remote supervision is when the group is monitored by staff from a distance, but they are not directly with the group. We will issue them with a mobile phone number to contact. Members of staff will regularly check in with each group throughout the expeditions. Each group will have a tracker so that they can be found at any given time if needed.

***Please note that representing the school on a trip, fixture or at an event is a privilege and we reserve the right to withdraw that privilege for students who are persistently late to school or lessons, do not follow our uniform or behaviour policies or bring the school into disrepute in any way.***

Yours sincerely



Mr. Caldwell

DofE Manager

