



Friday 21 March

Dear Parent / Carer

## T-Shirt Distribution Thursday 3 April 2025 and Training Weekend 5 – 6 April 2025

In preparation for the upcoming Training Weekend for Bronze DofE, I wanted to update you on timings, purpose and expectations for the students on the day and to inform you that the T-Shirts that were ordered earlier in the year have arrived and will be distributed after school on Thursday 3 April 2025.

Students should head to the theatre at 3.15pm on April 3 to receive their T-shirt. I will also meet with them briefly to discuss the expectations for the Training Weekend, as detailed below. They should be finished by 4.15pm at the latest.

The training weekend, this will begin at 9.00 am on Saturday 5 April and end about 3.00pm on Sunday 6 April.

Please remember, in preparation for our expeditions, your child **must** complete this training and will not be able to undertake the expedition section of the award unless this training is completed in full. During the training, students will be looking at their eDofE profiles and assessing their progression with this so far; planning their routes for their qualifying expedition in The Cotswolds which is taking place on 4 - 5 July 2025 and then undertaking the main part of the training which involves: understanding basic First Aid and what to do in an emergency situation; what to wear on expedition and how to pack their bag; how to use the Trangia burners safely including the use of meths, meths' bottles and lighters; how to set up their tent and then maintain the area in and around their tent; how to successfully use a map and navigate their way around; how to maintain road safety and adhere to the countryside code and how to maintain energy levels by choosing the right foods to eat whilst on expedition.

Students will need to arrive promptly for 9.00 am on 5th April in suitable clothing for both indoor and outdoor activities. These clothes should be not excessively water absorbing as students will be outside at times and, as students may need to kneel or sit on the floor, these clothes need to be suited to being muddy – of course, it would be great if students were to wear their t-shirts on this day. Students should bring their own packed lunch and a drink for the Saturday; a meal that they can cook on a Trangia burner: dried pasta and a sauce would be a good example of this, for their evening meal; a breakfast (porridge pot or equivalent); a packed lunch for the Sunday and snacks to last them throughout both days. There will not be the provision to buy food but there will be water fountains available should they wish to refill a bottle.

Because we understand that expedition kit can be expensive, we provide for students the following kit: 65lt rucksack, tent (shared between 2 or 3), cooking stove & fuel, roll mat, first aid kit, map (1 per walking group), map pocket 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\*

A full list of other kit that is required is below:

Walking boots, waterproofs, sleeping bag, a change of clothes for camp, trainers/flipflops, packed lunch, dinner to be cooked on a Trangia (e.g. dry pasta, boil-in-a-bag meal), breakfast (hot chocolate, porridge pot), water bottle, plastic bag for litter, utensils, medication, sun cream, sun hat, wristwatch, sweets & snacks.

As this is an extra-curricular activity but still affiliated to the school and there will be members of the general public on-site at times, students need to behave in a manner that is befitting of one of our students and a DofE participant. Equally, the cost for any damage to school property and the maintenance of the school in preparation for normal school proceedings on the following Monday, will be incurred by the DofE Department and so the reparations for any additional costs will be felt by future DofE participants. For this reason, anyone who does not behave in an acceptable manner or who causes any damage to school property will be removed from the day, parents will be contacted and, because they will not have completed the training, will not be allowed to partake in the expeditions later in the year.

Please remember that the Qualifying Expedition for Bronze will take place on the weekend of **4 – 5 July 2025**. Further details of this will follow soon.

If there are any queries or concerns regarding Bronze DofE, especially the training weekend, please contact me using the below details.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr James Barrett**

DofE and The King's Trust Coordinator

Tel: 01926 338711 x8614

[jbarrett@northleamington.co.uk](mailto:jbarrett@northleamington.co.uk)