

Duke of Edinburgh Award Update

Silver Assessed Expedition

At long last the Silver qualifying expedition took place and was completed over the long weekend of the 9th to 11th of November. Typically for Dartmoor the weather was changeable with the forecast strong wind and rain on the Friday afternoon and overnight. Saturday was a better day but there were still bouts of strong winds and horizontal rain. Sunday was completely clear. These conditions certainly tested all pupils plus the kit and equipment being used. From a staff point of view each day's departures were better and time keeping overall was good. So much so that we left Princetown 15 minutes early on the Sunday allowing a stop at Taunton Deane Services for a McDonalds on the return journey. I am sure each group will have their own specific memories of this expedition in Wild Country. Now all we need to arrange is the presentation of the project which needs to be complete before the end of term. Well done to all students, this Silver series of expeditions was certainly soggy but you did it!

Gold Practice Expedition

Alongside the Silver groups was an ever increasing band of Gold participants doing their practice walk in Wild Country. From an initial group of five this group grew into two teams of six, one per school, and they certainly seemed to enjoy themselves. There is a Gold practice expedition scheduled for the current Year 12 entries in March 2019 and will be open to Year 13 if they wish.

Expeditions in 2019

Here are the dates for the planned 2019 expeditions:

Bronze award for Year 9 - practice either 29/30 March or 17/18 May and assessed expeditions either 14/15 or 28/29 June.

Silver award for Year 10 – practice 8/9/10 March and assessed 21/22/23 June.

Gold award for Year 12 – practice 15/16/17 March and assessed either 1 to 5 July with current Year 13 Gold Group or leave until July 2020, after A levels.

Expedition Kit

All new candidates registering to the scheme will receive Welcome Packs and a DofE Discount card that can be used across five outdoor retailers. A recommended list of items is at this link and some of these items will make suitable Christmas gifts: <https://www.dofe.org/shopping/dofe-expedition-kit-list/>

Achievers Clothing Range

There is a range of clothing available to students who have successfully completed each level of the award. It is called the Achievers Range and includes Polo shirts in a range of colours all with the DofE cypher and then the award attained plus the candidate's name. The link is <https://www.dofe.org/shopping/dofe-clothing/> All purchases of DofE. Clothing include a donation to the charity so you help fund the future.

Contact with the DofE team.

Starting the 19th November the DofE team will be at Hayesfield School all day and at the OLAs on Monday lunchtimes and Beechen Cliff School, Humanities Pavilion Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtime and all day Friday. Questions about progress within the award or recording on and using DofE can be raised then.

Presentation Evenings

Planning is in hand for Presentation Evenings at each school in February. Further details will be released before Christmas.

P Carroll

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Hayesfield Girls School and Beechen Cliff School

