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Headteacher: Dr. A Wood, PhD, NPQH, BSc (Hons)

Friday, 22nd May 2026

DofE Practice Expedition: 13th June – 14th June 2026

The Bronze Practice Expedition will take place over two days and one night from Saturday 13th June to Sunday 14th June 2026. There is no additional cost for the expedition, as this was included in the original Award fee and covers camping fees, insurance, fuel, and kit hire.

Saturday 13th June

Students should arrive at Church Stretton School at approximately 8:45am and meet outside reception. They will meet their assessors at 9:00am. We have four fully qualified assessors who will monitor, support, and assess the groups throughout the expedition to ensure students remain safe while navigating their planned routes.

Following kit checks, each group will receive a briefing covering route plans, navigation, and final expedition guidance before departing from school in staggered groups from 10:00am onwards. Students will follow their planned routes and check in at regular checkpoints throughout the day. Assessors will monitor progress and provide support where necessary, including checking navigation skills during the walk.

Groups are required to submit their completed maps and route cards by **Wednesday 10th June** so these can be passed to the expedition assessors.

Students are expected to arrive at the campsite from approximately 4:00pm onwards, where they will set up tents and prepare their evening meal.

Campsite Details :

Brow Farm Campsite,
Ratlinghope,
Shrewsbury,
SY5 0SR

Sunday 14th June

Students will wake at approximately 7:00am to prepare breakfast before dismantling tents and packing equipment.

Groups must not leave the campsite before 8:30am and should depart no later than 9:30am. Students will notify their assessor before setting off and will navigate back to school via the checkpoints identified on their maps and route cards.

Students are expected to return to school at approximately 3:00pm. Updates regarding return times will be shared via the school Twitter account, and students will be able to contact parents/carers with a more accurate collection time once they arrive back at school. Each group will then complete a debrief with their assessor.

Additional Journey Information

- Students must drink plenty of fluids throughout the expedition. Fizzy drinks are not permitted. Staff will replenish water supplies along the route using the minibus.
- Students will burn a significant amount of energy while walking and should snack regularly to maintain energy levels. Kendal mint cake is recommended as a good energy source.
- Weather conditions may change quickly. Students must carry waterproof clothing and should also bring sun cream in case of warm weather.

Food

Please note that meals are **not** provided, and students must pack all food required for the expedition.

Students will need:

- Saturday lunch (packed lunch)
- Saturday evening meal (must include a hot meal)
- Sunday breakfast (must include a hot element)
- Sunday lunch

Suggested meal ideas include:

Breakfast - Porridge, hot chocolate, tea, pre-cooked meats, bread, cereal and milk, bacon or sausages.

Lunch - Sandwiches, sausage rolls, pasties.

Dinner - Pasta and sauce, soup and bread, pre-cooked meats such as chorizo or ham, meatballs, or boil-in-the-bag meals from outdoor or camping shops. Tinned foods are not recommended.

As part of the The Duke of Edinburgh's Award assessment criteria, students are required to cook two substantial meals - one in the evening and one in the morning - both of which should include a hot element. Meals should therefore be filling and high in energy.

High-carbohydrate snacks are strongly recommended. Sweets and chocolate are allowed but should supplement, rather than replace, substantial snacks.

Clothing and kit

Please refer to the recommended DofE expedition kit list and guide. Students are expected to be self-sufficient for 24 hours, and groups should organise between themselves who will carry shared equipment such as tents and stoves.

Students should:

- Wear suitable walking boots
- Bring layered clothing suitable for changing weather conditions
- Pack a warm sleeping bag
- Carry a strong, durable water bottle

All equipment should be packed in a large rucksack with enough space for shared group kit. Holdalls or shoulder bags are not suitable, as students will carry their equipment over long distances.

Medical/Consent

Parental consent is required for all educational visits and can be completed via the online [consent form](#).

Please ensure the school is informed of any medical conditions so we can support your child appropriately and ensure their safety throughout the expedition.

Equipment Hire

The school has a limited supply of equipment available to borrow if required. Requests can also be made through the [consent form](#).

Available items include:

- Tents (two-person or three-person)
- Trangias and fuel
- Waterproofs
- Whistles
- Rucksacks (65L)
- Rucksack covers
- Survival bags

Each group will also be issued with two waterproof maps and two compasses, which must be returned at the end of the expedition.

Please note that students are responsible for any borrowed equipment. Costs for lost or damaged group kit will be shared equally between group members.

Valuables and Mobile Phones

Students are responsible for any valuables they bring on the expedition, including mobile phones. Mobile phones are permitted for emergency use only and will be sealed in a non-transparent bag to reduce temptation. Students should not contact home during the expedition unless in an emergency. Any issues should be reported directly to expedition staff, who will contact parents/carers if necessary.

We appreciate your support in discouraging students from contacting home unnecessarily during the expedition.

Students with smartphones are asked to download the free app "OS Locate," which provides a six-figure grid reference using GPS. This allows staff to locate students quickly should assistance be required.

Behaviour

Students are expected to follow both school rules and the Duke of Edinburgh Award code of conduct throughout the expedition.

If behaviour is considered unacceptable, or if Award requirements are not met, the expedition may be ended early and parents/carers will be asked to collect their child.

Contact Arrangements

In an emergency, Mr Cox can be contacted on the school mobile: 07803 254624.

If there is no answer, please leave your name, contact number, and your child's name, and a call will be returned as soon as possible. Please use this number for emergencies only.

For general queries, Mr Cox can be contacted via the school switchboard on 01694 722209 or by email at mark.cox@csschool.co.uk.

Twitter

Daily expedition updates will be posted via the school Twitter account: @StrettonUpdates.

Bronze Qualifying Expedition

Following successful completion of this practice expedition, students will become eligible for the Bronze Qualifying Expedition taking place from Saturday 11th July to Sunday 12th July 2026.

Completing the Bronze Award

To complete the Bronze Award, students must continue uploading evidence to eDofE for their:

- Volunteering
- Physical
- Skills sections

Students must be actively completing these sections in order to take part in the qualifying expedition. Thank you for your continued support.

We look forward to a successful and enjoyable expedition.

Kind Regards

Mr M Cox