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

Monday, 6 July 2026

Ref: Bronze Qualifying Expedition – Saturday 11th to Sunday 12th July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are pleased to confirm the arrangements for the upcoming Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award Qualifying Expedition, which will take place from Saturday 11th to Sunday 12th July 2026. This two-day, one-night expedition marks a key part of your child's DofE journey. Students will walk approximately 15km per day, completing 6 hours of planned activity each day.

Key Information:

Day 1 - Saturday 11th July

- Arrival Time: Students should arrive at Church Stretton School by 8:45am and meet outside reception.
- Assessor Briefing: At 9:00am, students will meet with our fully qualified assessors for kit checks and a pre-expedition briefing.
- Assessors may ask about:
 - Their practice expedition
 - The aim of their qualifying expedition
 - Planned routes and campsite details
 - Route cards may be reviewed
- Departure: Groups will set off at staggered times from 10:00am. They will be monitored and supported at regular checkpoints throughout the day.
- Arrival at Campsite: Students are expected to reach the campsite from 4:00pm onwards, where they will set up tents and cook their own evening meal.

Campsite Location:

Brow Farm Campsite
Ratlinghope,
Shrewsbury,
SY5 0SR

Day 2 - Sunday 12th July

- Students will wake around 7:00am to prepare breakfast and pack down camp.

- They must leave the campsite between 8:30am and 9:30am, notifying their assessor upon departure.
- The route back to school includes the same style of checkpoint supervision.

Expected Return to School:

Students should arrive back at Church Stretton School at approximately 3:00 pm. Updates on their arrival time will be posted via the school's Instagram account. Students will also be instructed to contact parents once they have an accurate estimated time of arrival. Those without mobile phones will be able to use the school mobile.

Upon return, students will take part in a debrief with the assessors.

Food Requirements

Students will need to be self-sufficient for meals and must pack the following:

- Saturday: Packed lunch and a hot evening meal
- Sunday: Breakfast and a packed lunch

Please note meals are not provided.

Kit & Equipment

- Please ensure rucksacks weigh no more than 13kg, are lined with waterproof bags, and that sleeping bags are stored inside the rucksack.
- With hot weather forecast, students will need a sun hat, sun cream and should carry around a litre of water
- Waterproof jackets and trousers are essential and may be checked by assessors.
- Students should refer to the DofE expedition kit list and work together as a group to divide shared items like tents and stoves.

Equipment Hire

Students have retained the kit from the first expedition. However, if any additional items are needed, they can be borrowed by speaking to Mr. Cox.

Available items include: tents (2/3 person), Trangia's and fuel, waterproofs, survival bags, and rucksacks (65L)

 **Note:** Students are liable for any loss or damage to hired items. Group kit losses will be charged equally among team members.

Health, Safety & Consent

- If any medical, dietary, or emergency contact details have changed since the practice expedition, please complete the attached [update form](#).
- Students should stay hydrated and are encouraged to snack frequently to maintain energy levels (e.g., Kendal Mint Cake is recommended).
- Staff will circulate with the minibus to replenish water throughout the route.

Weather can vary; please ensure your child has:

- Waterproofs (jacket and trousers)
- Sun cream (if required)

Valuables & Mobile Phones

- Mobile phones are only to be used in emergencies. They must be sealed in a non-transparent bag and should not be used to contact home.
- If a problem arises, students must speak to expedition staff first. In serious cases, staff will notify parents directly.

If your child is bringing a phone, they should:

1. Download the free 'OS Locate' app, which provides a 6-figure grid reference using GPS.
2. Inform Mrs Carr and provide their phone number for emergency contact purposes.

Valuables brought on expedition are at the student's own risk.

Expedition Standards

Students must meet the 20 conditions of the Expedition section, which the assessor will review.

All participants are expected to follow both the school's behaviour policy and the DofE Code of Conduct. Any serious breaches may result in early removal from the expedition, and you will be contacted to collect your child.

Completion of the Bronze Award

Once the qualifying expedition is complete, students will be one step away from achieving their Bronze Award. They must ensure the Volunteering, Physical, and Skill sections are also completed for the award to be submitted for approval.

Staying in Touch

- For emergencies only, Mr Cox can be reached on the school mobile:
 07417 383 820 (Leave a message with your name, number, and your child's name if unanswered)
- For general enquiries before the trip, please contact:
Mr Mark Cox – mark.cox@csschool.co.uk
 School switchboard: 01694 722209
- Follow expedition updates via Instagram:
 @schoolchurchstretton

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to an enjoyable and successful expedition weekend for all students involved.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Cox