

THE PIGGOTT SCHOOL

A Church of England Academy

Head Teacher Mr D J Gray MA, NPQH



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10 December 2021

Dear All,

I am excited to tell you that we will be running an Expedition for the DofE Bronze Award this academic year. The Expedition is being provided by BXM Outdoors, an outdoor education company that the school have used before.

The dates are as follows:

Saturday 12th February

Friday 18th – Saturday 19th March

Thursday 28th – Friday 29th April

Training Day (at school)

Practice Expedition (residential - location tbc)

Qualifying Expedition (residential - location tbc)

What does this involve?

Training Day: This will be an opportunity for the participants to learn a variety of skills that will be necessary for their DofE Expedition. This will include map and compass reading, cooking outdoors, what to pack and why, meal planning, the DofE 20 conditions and route planning for their own expedition. The 20 conditions can be found on the document attached.

Practice Expedition: Day 1 will be walking in their group with an instructor putting what they learnt in their training day into practice. They will cook their own evening meal and camp overnight. Day 2 will be more independent, with remote supervision from the instructors.

Qualifying Expedition: Both days are walking in their group with remote supervision. Again, they will cook their own evening meal and camp overnight. The students will be assessed on how well they have achieved the DofE 20 conditions.

To achieve the full Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, participants must successfully complete the Expedition section, including appropriate training and practice. The training day will be held in school. Both the practice and qualifying expeditions include overnight camping and will take place at a relatively local venue. Exact timing and locations will be confirmed in due course. Parents will be responsible for transporting their children to and from the start and finish points.

Payment and Consent

The total cost of the Bronze Expedition is expected to be **£190** per student. Should the numbers fall below the required figure then there will either be an increase in the cost or if there is insufficient interest, the expeditions may not take place.

If you would like your child to participate in this expedition, please complete the consent form and pay the initial deposit of **£30** by the **end of term** to secure a place. You may the full amount straightaway, but if you prefer to spread the cost, please meet the following payment dates as a minimum:

First Deposit	£30	17 th December 2021
Second Deposit	£60	5 th January 2022
Interim	£50	1 st February 2022
Final balance	£50	1 st March 2022



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We appreciate that these are very short deadlines, but we are required to confirm student numbers with BXM in the first week of January and the school becomes liable at that point for the full expedition costs for those students. If the cost of taking part is prohibitive, or if your child is in receipt of free school meals or pupil premium, please speak to me as there may be financial support available or the possibility of agreeing an extended payment plan.

Payments should be made online via SCOpay. If you have not downloaded the SCOpay app, payment can be made by going to The Piggott School website and clicking on the 'Parents' tab. You will then need to choose the 'online payments/purchasing' SCOpay option for Trip Payments. If you have any difficulties with accessing your SCOpay account, please contact Mrs Greatrex (Trips Administrator) on trips@piggottschool.org.

Consent is also required by **the end of term** and should be completed online where possible, click [HERE](#) to complete the Google Form. Alternatively, if you are experiencing difficulties with the online form, or would prefer to complete it offline, a paper version of the form is also available on request from Mrs Greatrex.

Equipment and hoodies

It is essential that students have the correct kit to pass the expedition section. Please visit the DofE website on www.dofe.org to see the general kit guide and details of a 10% discount from recommended retailers. We recognise that not everyone will already have items such as sleeping bags and mats at home so where possible please try and borrow these items from friends and family. Items can also be hired from BXM at a reasonable cost: www.bxmoutdoors.com. BXM will provide Tents, Stoves, Gas and Maps. I have attached the kit list issued by BXM for your reference.

I would also like you to know that DofE provide a clothing range should your child wish to have a personalised hoodie or other clothing to wear whilst completing any of their DofE Activities. The 'everyday range' can be found here: shop.dofe.org/everyday-range

DofE Bronze Certificate of Achievement

If your child cannot or does not wish to take part in this expedition then the DofE offer participants a Certificate of Achievement for successfully completing the other three sections of the Award: Skills, Volunteering and Physical. More information can be found here: [The DofE Certificate of Achievement - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#)

Covid-19

Should our plans be disrupted due to coronavirus restrictions, we would endeavour to reschedule the affected events. If we are unable to secure suitable alternative dates and are forced to cancel, you would receive a full refund. Our insurance also covers students who are unable to attend due to illness, including those self-isolating due to Covid-19. Please note that evidence is required in order to make a successful claim.

We would strongly encourage all students to take a lateral flow device test prior to each expedition. Any students displaying symptoms on the day should stay at home and book a PCR test.

If you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely,

Rhian Cobb - Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator – cobbr@piggottschool.org



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