



Sheldon School

BE KIND | BE BRAVE | BE THE BEST YOU

Dear Parents and Carers

In order to complete the expedition section of the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award that your child has signed up for they must complete a practice **and** qualifying expedition. These will take place at the following times and locations:

Practice Expedition: Friday 28th March – Sunday 30th March 2025 (Marlborough Downs)

Practice Expedition

Friday 28th March: **Drop off:** The Crown Inn, Bishops Cannings, SN10 2JZ, please drop students off between 5:30 and 5:45pm.

Sunday 30th March: **Pick up:** between 3pm and 4pm. We will ask students to contact you at the last checkpoint to give a clearer idea of time. Location: Savernake Forest car park, next to Postern Hill Campsite, Marlborough, SN8 4ND.

They will be pitching tents and cooking an evening meal on the Friday evening and a full day's walk on the Saturday and Sunday. Students will be carrying all their equipment with them for the day walks. They are also expected to cook substantial meals each evening and have food for breakfast and lunch on the Saturday and Sunday.

Supervision over the practice and qualifying expeditions will be remote, with groups walking by themselves and staff checking in with them at various checkpoints, or keeping an eye on them from afar to ensure students meet the self-sufficiency requirement.

Kit lists will be provided on the training day but can also be found on the DofE page on the school website. Students will need to provide their own gas; this should be a Coleman C500 butane/propane gas canister or equivalent. We do have some items of personal equipment available to lend out; rucksacks, water proofs, roll mats and sleeping bags. If you wish to borrow any of these items please complete the form [here](#).

In order for students to meet the criteria of being self-sufficient there will be a no mobile phone policy over the weekend. Students may bring phones with them for use to make contact with you on the last check point, but these will be secured in a dry bag over the expedition, to access in an emergency. Should you want to contact me over the weekend I will be carrying a school mobile phone contactable on 07879121180.

The cost of the practice expedition is £23.50. Payment should be made online via ParentPay by Friday 7th March, where you will also be asked to complete your emergency contact details.

Kind Regards

Emma Langdon

Duke of Edinburgh Award Leader