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September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Silver DofE Canoeing Qualifying Expedition – Friday 11th – Sunday 13th September 2026

The qualifier trip is taking place this weekend along the River Thames and the canoeing will begin in Abingdon Marina on Friday 11th September. The students will paddle along the River Thames for 3 days, camping at the same campsite each night before finishing at Shiplake Lock, Mill Lane, Shiplake, Henley-on-Thames on Sunday afternoon. They will be supervised remotely by Action for Youth for the canoeing and cooking sections, and the Edgbarrow staff team at the campsite.

- Students should come to school on Friday 11th dressed for the expedition with both their large and small dry bags.
- Please arrive at school for 8.00am so that we can do a kit check before we leave.
- We will depart at 8.15am and students will be transported to Abingdon by school minibus.
- Please read and check the expedition guide [here](#).
- Make sure they have enough food for all days. They need to cook a hot meal every day (except Sunday) so please make sure they have planned accordingly. Please discourage pot noodles as they are too low in calorie and they will be hungry.
- Please remind students that when packing there is additional group kit to be packed on arrival, such as tents and stoves, so leave some space for those. (These are split between the group).
- The weather is currently looking warm and sunny, with some potential rain so please remember sun cream and hats and waterproofs, along with gloves to protect their hands.
- Please collect your child from Edgbarrow at 5.00pm on Sunday 13th. Please keep an eye on social media – any time change will be posted here.
- I will shortly be sending out the 'Evolve' Consent form for you to complete. Please ensure this is completed by Thursday morning.

I will be leading the weekend with the support of Mr Whiddett and instructors from Action for Youth, our provider.

In case of emergency, I can be contacted on 07729745021. Mr Andrews, the offsite trip co-ordinator, can also be contacted via the school mobile on 07936 541903 if you are unable to reach me.

We advise and encourage that valuables are left at home as school and the expedition provider cannot accept responsibility for any valuables that are taken. Please note the following rules regarding the use of mobile phones on expeditions, given by the DofE organisation.

“Mobile Phones: One of the requirements of the Duke of Edinburgh’s award is that mobile phones are not permitted on expeditions, in the DofE 20 Conditions it states that *“Your expedition must be unaccompanied and self-sufficient”*. Therefore we state that you **DO NOT bring mobile phones** or electronic devices to either of the expeditions. If they are brought along and seen to be in use this may lead to your instructor or assessor concluding that you have not met the 20 conditions and **could therefore lead to a deferral**. Other than the emergency mobile phone provided by Action for Youth or the school there should be no mobile phone carried by any member of the team. Each group will receive specific instruction on the use of the emergency phone, and it will not replace the need for instructors or assessors to meet with the groups. If parents need to get in contact with a participant for any reason this is to be done through the school or expedition staff.

If you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact me via vicky.rice@edgbarrowschool.co.uk or call the school on 01344 772658.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'VR' with a stylized flourish.

Vicky Rice
DofE Coordinator (Silver & Gold)