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September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Silver DofE Walking Expedition - Friday 25th September - Sunday 27th September 2026

After all the preparation and training the Assessed Expedition is Friday 25th - Sunday 27th September. This involves the students being tested on the knowledge they learnt during their training and practice expedition. We will travel to Burley in the New Forest on Friday morning. They will walk for 3 days, camping at 2 campsites (details in link <https://www.edgbarrowschool.co.uk/Duke-of-Edinburgh-Award/>), finishing at East Boldre on Sunday afternoon. They will be supervised remotely by Off Grid Adventures for the walking and cooking sections, and the Edgbarrow staff team at each campsite.

- Students should arrive at school on Friday 25th September at 8.00am and we will depart by minibus at 8.30am.
- Please read and check the expedition guide on our website, under the Silver Award section <https://www.edgbarrowschool.co.uk/Duke-of-Edinburgh-Award/>
- Please 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. There should be an opportunity to get some food on Sunday on the journey home. Please can students bring some money for this.
- 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 stores are split between the group).
- The weather is currently looking warm and sunny so please remember sun cream and hats (and waterproofs!)
- We should arrive back to school at 5.00pm on Sunday. Please keep an eye on social media – any time change will be posted here.

Myself and Mr Whiddett will be leading the weekend with the support of Ms Pilgrim and the instructors from Off Grid adventures, our provider.

In case of emergency, we can be contacted on 07729745021. Mr Andrews, the offsite trip co-ordinator, can also be contacted via the school mobile on 07757 933410 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 Off Grid 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.

I will shortly be sending another email to complete a medical consent form. Please ensure this is completed prior to the trip.

If you have any queries then please do not hesitate to contact me on vicky.rice@edgbarrowschool.co.uk or 01344 467653.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vicky Rice', with a stylized, cursive script.

Vicky Rice
DofE Coordinator (Silver & Gold)