



## Gold Practice Expedition Brecon Beacons/Black Mountains, Wales



A place to flourish

November 2024

### Information Evening – 11<sup>th</sup> December

We have organised an online information evening for Gold participants and parents to go through the details of the award, including expeditions. There will be some information, but plenty of chance to ask questions. The participants will have already met with us and we will also provide details of our new Minisite where we will have kit advice and a central place for all communication. This has been developed based on parent feedback. Details of the call are below:

DofE Gold Participant and Parent Evening  
Wednesday, 11 December · 7:00 – 8:00pm  
Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/wgr-yshf-gbf>

### Night Walk – March 7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>

A reminder we will be going on a night walk as part of the expedition training. A separate letter will be provided with full information including a kit list for the evening. Once we have groups we can confirm which date is applicable.

### Practice Expedition – 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2025

The teams will be trained in walking in 'Wild Country' with all the skills needed to progress to the standard required for navigation and safety in this environment. There will be more information on this at the meeting.

### Kit

We will discuss this on the evening and launch our kit minisite. All must be bought in advance and shown to Mr Desborough at the night walk or before the practice expedition.

The key for kit is that participants need to have a pair of walking boots, waterproof jacket and trousers, sleeping mat, sleeping bag and other clothing. We will provide tents, cooking stoves, gas, first aid kits, compass, map cases and may have other miscellaneous items. We can also provide rucksacks.

Some kit such as sleeping bags and waterproofs can often be borrowed from friends and family to keep the cost of the expeditions from becoming too high.

## Travel

We will travel in the school minibus to the area. The journey will be approx. 4 hours on the road with a rest stop. The practice expedition will involve two nights in a building, building practical skills in the daytime and classroom sessions in the evenings. The next two days will be a short expedition to show the skills learnt. We will discuss this in detail in a session with the participants. Travel back will include a dinner stop.

## Timings

We will be leaving on the morning, with time to be confirmed. This will allow us to arrive in Wales in the early afternoon for the team to prepare for the following day.

We will return when the last group reach the finish point and have received a debrief. This means we will be back late in the evening. We will ensure participants can call home to confirm an approximate arrival time once we leave. They will also be asked to update parents as we make progress on the journey.

## Payment

**The cost for the nightwalk in March and the practice expedition is £250 per participant and this should be paid via Parentpay. Please pay a deposit of £50 by Friday 13th December, an interim instalment of £100 by 1st February and the final £100 by 1st April. Please also submit your permission on Operoo no later than 13th December.**

If payment is a problem for you, please contact Miss Manton in the finance office ([c.manton@roundwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:c.manton@roundwoodpark.co.uk)) who can set up a payment plan if required. We do not want cost to be a barrier. We work closely with the James Marshall Foundation who can provide funding for students with a low family income, living in Harpenden, Wheathampstead, Kimpton, Redbourn, Flamstead and Markyate. You can apply online for a funding grant by clicking [HERE](#).

The total price includes:

- Bunkhouse costs
- Camping Fees
- Minibus travel
- Van for Kit
- Support costs
- Maps
- Insurance
- GPS trackers
- Meals on the first two nights, breakfast on the first two mornings (It does not include any lunches or breakfasts and dinner on the expedition days. There will be provision for them to prepare these in the kitchen before they set off.
- Kit loan
- Gas

## **General**

Please speak to your child about progress with their Volunteering, Skills and Physical activities within their eDofE accounts.

Please note that if your son/daughter secures a place but then decides to withdraw from the trip, you must notify us immediately in writing as you will be liable for any cancellation costs up to the full cost of the visit.

Best regards,

**M Desborough**  
Expedition Supervisor

**LA Wallis**  
DofE Coordinator

**C Manton**  
Visits Coordinator