

Bronze DofE Expedition Dates

13th December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer of DofE Participant,

Thank you for all you have done this term to support your child with beginning their DofE Journey. We had an incredible amount of interest in the award this year, a 55% increase in the number of signups from last year. I am delighted that so many students are wishing to take part, however the number of signups was higher than predicted. When asked at the information evening, I said that I would not be capping the number of participants, it was therefore important to keep my word on this.

This term, I have been planning with our expedition providers BXM Outdoors about how to provide the best possible experience for such a large group. We agree that it is best to move the expeditions to September for the following reasons:

- This will allow us to book a larger campsite where all the students can camp together rather than having to divide the group in half. This will also mean that all students receive the same experience.
- The September period is less busy meaning we will be able to get nicer campsite that we do not have to share with members of the public. There will also be a greater number of senior instructors available at this time.
- Having a shorter gap in between the practise and qualifying expedition will mean students will have less chance to forget what they learned on the practise walk and should make them feel more confident going into the qualifying expedition.
- Several students had expressed concerns about holidays and pre-existing plans during the easter holidays meaning they would be unable to attend the previous practise dates.

The new dates are:

Practise – 14th and 15th of September.

Qualifying- 28th and 29th of September.

I apologise if this is inconvenient for you. I hope that this change is sufficiently far in advance that you can make new arrangements. If you know that your child will not be available on either of these dates, please contact me ASAP. Further information and specific locations will be shared with you in the new year.

Remaining Payments

The remaining cost for the expeditions is £165 per student (forming the total of £195 along with your deposit). I am splitting this into 2 instalments of £82.5, the first due on the **2nd of**

February and the second on the **16th of April**. Both payment will become visible on your parent pay following the return to school in January so you can pay them both at once should you wish to.

Completion of other sections

Students will be required to complete at least 2 of the 3 other sections, including their 6 month activity, prior to the expeditions. If students fail to meet this target they will not be permitted on the expedition.

A reminder of the previous targets of engagement.

1. All students should now have logged into eDofE.
2. Students must submit one programme planner for either their physical, skill or volunteering section by the end of the first week back after Christmas. (Please check that the section has been approved or if it needs any changes)
3. Please upload a head and shoulders photo to your eDofE profile. This will help me learn names and faces of all participants. To do this, log into eDofE and click 'view/edit my profile' in the top left and you will be able to add a photo.
4. Order your DofE card. This is the card you can use to get discounts in a variety of outdoor shops. On eDofE you will find an option for this on the menu on the left-hand side of the page.

If you have any questions about this information please email me or send your child to see me in the science office during a Thursday lunchtime.

Best wishes,

Miss Morgan

DofE Manager

DofE@kings-winchester.hants.sch.uk