

12th December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Duke of Edinburgh – Bronze award

We are writing to inform you that we will be working with Azarias Training Ltd to provide our Duke of Edinburgh expeditions at Ely College. Azarias Training Ltd are an Approved Activity Provider (AAP) for the Duke of Edinburgh award with over 15 years' experience of delivering expeditions at all levels. DofE is a nationally recognised award which encourages students to develop several essential life skills. The key areas that we aim to develop among those students taking part in the scheme are: teamwork, communication and confidence, which are important soft skills valued by employers and colleges. We also hope to teach them practical skills such as camp craft, map reading and navigation. Please check out the following link: <https://www.dofe.org/do/parents/>

To complete the Duke of Edinburgh award, your child must complete four sections. Three of the sections will be completed in participants own time with support from school staff - these include a physical, skill and volunteering section.

The fourth section, the expedition, will be delivered by Azarias Training Ltd. Please find information below regarding the **Bronze Expedition Programme**.

Training Day - Sunday 27th April 2025 at Ely College

A full day of training (10am - 6pm) led by Azarias Training Ltd staff to ensure that participants are adequately prepared for their qualifying expedition.

Training day will include:

- Expedition food
- Kit & equipment
- First Aid
- Pitching tents
- Cooking on stoves
- Map skills and navigation

Please note that students will be provided with an online training course to complete **before** attending the training day. This should take no longer than 5 hours and is part of the compulsory training requirements of the award.

Qualifying Expedition - Saturday 5th – Sunday 6th July 2025 at Grafham Water

The bronze expedition is a 2 day and 1 night expedition that takes place near Grafham Water in Cambridgeshire. The expedition will require participants to navigate a pre-planned route across the Cambridgeshire countryside to our camping field in Stow Longa.

- Students will require dropping off in Riseley (Bedfordshire) by parents for a 9.30am start
- Collection will be from Grafham Village Hall (Cambridgeshire) on Sunday 6th July at 3.00pm

Expeditions and Equipment

Please be aware that the equipment lists provided to the young people are essential requirements for the expeditions and all students coming on an expedition need to have all the equipment on the list. If you are not able to supply your child with some of the equipment for the expedition, please notify the team in advance of the expedition as we may be able provide items from our small supply of loan equipment. Everything on the list is to ensure that students are safe and comfortable on their expedition, and it is with regret that we would be unable to take students on expedition, who are missing essential kit. We have provided a list of the necessary equipment (detailed below) for safety and comfort on an expedition. This expedition kit list will also be available on Teams.

Equipment for a two day/one night expedition

Personal equipment

Water container

Dish

Cup

Knife, fork, spoon

Whistle

Suntan lotion

Rucksack*

Plastic bag to line Rucksack

Sleeping bag

Roll mat

Clothing (see following list)

Torch

Mobile phones

Students are allowed to carry a mobile phone, but this should be switched off from the moment they arrive until they reach the campsite and again on day 2 from campsite to departure home. A mobile phone would therefore only be switched on in the unlikely event of an emergency. Inappropriate use of a mobile phone during the expedition could result in removal from the scheme.

Basic first aid kit which should include:

- Wound dressing, small
- Bandage, 7.5mm
- Triangular bandage
- Bite/sting cream
- Blister pack, 'Compeed', 'Carnation', 'Melolin' or similar
- Pencil & paper
- Waterproof case
- Instruction leaflet for basic procedures
- Assorted plasters 10, or strip
- Small safety pins, 6
- Scissors blunt ended
- Surgical gloves, pair
- Antiseptic cleansing wipes, 4 (alcohol free)
- Surgical tape, small roll

Toiletries (essentials only) and medication (if taken). Centre must be made aware of Medical Coins for emergency phone (even if you have a mobile).

- Staff emergency contact number
- Emergency rations

Group equipment

- Washing up liquid and scouring pad
- Toilet paper
- Plastic bags
- Food & drinks - including lunch for both days of expedition, main meal for the evening, breakfast and snacks
- Tent(s) *
- Maps and route card (x2) *
- Stove and gas *
- Matches (in a waterproof container)
- Cooking utensils

Clothing Waterproof jacket

Waterproof trousers

Walking boots (or suitable footwear – approved by a DofE leader)

Fleece (or warm coat)

* Please speak to the centre Lead who might be able to provide this kit – maps/stoves will be provided.

There will be further letters outlining expectations, medical information, locations, and routes (with emergency contact numbers) nearer to the expedition dates. There will also be messages passed to parents directly from the students via Teams – this is part of the scheme, and we are trying to encourage organisation on their part. If you feel you have not received information, please do email me and I will be happy to forward on any relevant details.

During the training, and whilst on the Duke of Edinburgh programme, participants will be sorted into groups. Group sizes for expedition are between **4-7**. This is to enable us to give the best possible experience to the participants.

The cost of the Expedition Section is **£140 per student** which includes campsite fees, use of group kit including tents, stoves and fuel, map and compass, along with admin and training costs.

The cost of the Enrolment to Duke of Edinburgh, which includes the edofe registration, Welcome Pack with discount cards for outdoor clothing and equipment costs **£32**.

The total cost of the Bronze DofE package comes to £172.

We do not wish anyone to be put off by the cost of the programme and would ask any parents who may find it difficult to afford the full cost to contact us as there may be help available. If you would like to pay in instalments the payment plan is as follows:

The 1st instalment to be paid in January 2025 - £72

The second instalment to be paid in February 2025 - £50

The final instalment to be paid in March 2025 - £50

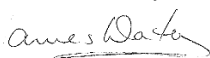
If the school receives additional Pupil Premium funding for your child, we can contribute towards the cost and in addition I am able to apply towards the DofE's Resilience fund: <https://www.dofe.org/the-dofe-resilience-fund/>

Payments should be made via WisePay – under Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme – an enrolment form will be attached to this letter. This will need to be completed for me to purchase the Welcome Packs to enable your child to begin their DofE journey.

If you have any further enquiries about the expedition element, then please do not hesitate to contact Azarias Training Ltd: dofe@azarias.co.uk

For all enquiries on eDofE please contact me: jwaters@elycollege.co.uk

Yours faithfully



Jamie Waters
Senior Tutor and DofE Leader

Enc - enrolment form