

October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you to provide further details regarding the DofE Bronze Award 2023-2024 in which your son/daughter is participating. The first thing I wanted to say is congratulations on your son/daughter enrolling on the Bronze Award.

Students have started to attend lunchtime sessions, where they have been given an online edofe username and password, to allow them to sign in on the system and log what they are doing for each of the three sections; volunteering, physical and skill.

In the meantime, students should be starting their three sections in their own time. Many students will already be completing activities such as participating in a sports club, taking part in music lessons, learning a new language and all of these things will count towards their sections. If the students are unsure of what they can and can't do for each section, this website link is very useful. <https://www.dofe.org/do/ideas/>
In order to begin training students for the expedition section, we have organised a number of activities. I wanted to make you aware of the dates.

- Our **first** training session is a **Day Walk** on Saturday **16th March 2024**. This is a mandatory half day of walking within expedition teams whilst supervised by a member of staff. Students will learn map reading skills and be taught basic compass skills. The session for your son/daughter will run from either **09.30-12.00** or **12.30-15.00** and will be in the local area of Thomas Keble. We will notify you closer to the date of which time your son/daughter will need to attend.
- Our **second** training session is afterschool on **Wednesday 20th March 2024 until 5 p.m.** This is a **kit training** session to allow pupils to understand what equipment, food etc. they require for the practice and final expeditions. It is mandatory for all pupils to attend this session.
- The **Practice Expedition** for your son/daughter will take place at the Lake 32 near South Cerney on either **Saturday 27th April and Sunday 28th April or the weekend of Saturday 11th May and Sunday 12th May**. The weekend will run from 09:30 on Saturday until approximately 14:00 on Sunday. Further details to follow will confirm which weekend your son/daughter will participate in. We just wanted to make you aware of the dates so that you can put them in the diary to avoid a clash. By the end of 2023 I will allocate students to each date and send a letter home confirming this.

All training sessions and the Practice Expedition are essential in order for your child to take part in the Assessed Expedition at the end of the summer term in July. The assessed expedition takes place during school time on a Thursday and Friday.

Yours sincerely

Paul Acton
DofE Training Manager