

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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Dear Year 9 Parents and Carers

Bronze DofE Expedition 2025 Information

I hope you will find this information useful.

1. First Aid Training takes place on **Tuesday 1st April**; students will be off timetable all day and need to be in PE kit. They will also be informed about training for the expedition section on this day and will have planned lessons for further expedition training.

2. **27th June Deadline.** This means all three assessor reports need to have been submitted via students' personal DofE accounts. Please check that students will have started all 3 sections by January in order to complete the 6 month section.

3. The **Practice Expedition** takes place from lunchtime on **Friday 6th June until Saturday 7th June**. Each student will lead a part of the route, which will take them from Beaminster to Drimpton Village Hall, and students must prepare their own route cards and section maps for the parts of the route that they will be leading. This will be done in lessons leading up to the weekend. Start times for teams on Saturday will be staggered and students will let you know about this, as well as pick-up time on Saturday, nearer the time once they have completed the Expedition.

4. The **Assessment Expedition** takes place from breaktime on **Friday 27th June until Saturday 28th June**. This will be a reverse of their practice expedition route. Students must have had an opportunity to speak to the Assessor before leaving on the Saturday, so please don't take your child home without checking!

5. Kit List - Attached

It is important that the kit list is checked carefully, as without the right kit students will not be properly prepared for the expedition expectations, and in some cases will not be able to take part. There will be a kit check prior to leaving on both the practice and assessment expeditions. School will provide the following group kit: stove (with pans), gas, map and map cases (if needed). Tents need consideration as, for example, pop up tents cannot be carried. Students should be carrying nothing except a map (in a case) in their hands. All other equipment should be in, or attached securely to (i.e. not hanging off), the ruck sack.

6. **Meals.** It is expected that students will cook and eat one substantial meal. There are many options available, so to be brief, the meal should include protein, carbs and vegetables, as well as being hot. Tins of spag bol with precooked pasta, macaroni cheese and beans, curry and pre-cooked rice are all great ideas ... pot noodles, plain pasta, cooking from raw (considering hot weather en route), or any boiling for more than a few minutes is not acceptable. Students will have training on this.

7. **Mobile phones.** Not permitted on Expedition so staff will look after phones for students. Each team will have an emergency phone which will be wrapped, waterproofed and sealed. Students should make sure their phones are fully charged before they give them to staff please.

8. **Teamwork and Fitness.** The Expedition will be successful if students can co-operate, communicate, are reliable and prepared to do their bit. As staff, we cannot insist that certain students are put with others, so it is very much down to the students themselves to create a team of effective collaborators. We may, however, be limited by the number of staff available, so we will be encouraging larger teams of 6 or 7. Some tasks will need to be shared, for example, leading and navigating, while others can be offered, e.g. washing up, cooking. However, all students do need to be fit enough to be able to physically meet the requirements of a two-day, minimum of 6 hours per day, walk, carrying all of their own equipment, which is a personal responsibility.

Should you have any further questions, please email me at JWagstaff@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk

Kind regards

Mr J Wagstaff
DofE Leader