

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Bronze DofE Expedition 2026 (Year 9) 2 days and 1 night (minimum 6 hours per day)

I hope you find the following information useful regarding the forthcoming training and commitment required to be successful at the final expedition stage of the Award scheme.

Students have been meeting with me now once a fortnight as part of their expedition training. Attendance is essential to make sure that each member of the team is able to work effectively to navigate, problem solve and contribute to the team's aim. Fitness is also essential. Being able to walk approximately 12km a day, carrying all of their equipment, is something that needs to be worked towards, starting now!

Key Dates

First Aid Training	Tuesday 5 th May
Practice weekend (full kit and overnight)	Friday 5 th – Saturday 6 th June
Deadline for all assessors' reports	Friday 26 th June
Assessment weekend and completion of Bronze Award	Friday 26 th – Saturday 27 th June.

Practice Expedition - lunchtime on Friday 5th to Saturday 6th June

This involves students working in their teams to prepare their own route cards and section maps for the parts of the route that they will be leading. Each student will lead a part of the route, which will take them from Beaminster to Drimpton. They will need to be self-sufficient for this, carrying all their equipment in a rucksack. Deadlines will be set for completing the route cards in order that they can be checked by staff and amended if needed.

For obvious reasons, the pace of the group, their navigational skills, speed of setting up the tent, cooking, eating and washing up, it is impossible to predict what time collection will be, but they should be finished and ready for pick-up sometime between 12 and 2pm on the Saturday from the Tunnel Road school car park. Only students who have started and are close to completing all three sections should be taking part to avoid any unnecessary expense by parents on kit etc.

Deadline Friday 26th June

All three assessors' reports (Volunteering, Skill and Physical) need to have been submitted via students' personal DofE accounts. Students can see me on Wednesday lunchtime in Library computer room if they need any help.

Kit List

A kit list is attached (this can also be found on the DofE website). 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: a 2-man tent, stove (with pans), gas, map and map cases (if needed). Other tents need to be double skinned, not beach tents or pop-ups. Students should carry nothing except a map (in a case) in their hands. All other equipment should be in, or attached securely to the rucksack (not hanging off).

First Aid Training Tuesday 5th May

Students will be off timetable all day and need to be in PE kit. This is also the deadline for their route cards.

Assessment - breaktime on Friday 26th to Saturday 27th June

Students must have had an opportunity to speak to the Assessor before leaving on the Saturday, so please don't take your children home without checking!

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 pre-cooked pasta, macaroni cheese and beans, curry and pre-cooked rice are all great ideas. Pot noodles, plain pasta or cooking from raw (or any boiling for more than a few minutes) are not acceptable. Students will have training on this.

Mobile phones are NOT permitted on the expedition

Team captains only for tracking and emergency, 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 charged before they give them to staff.

Teamwork and Fitness

This expedition will be successful if students 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. However, all students need to be fit enough, which is a personal responsibility, in order to be able to physically meet the requirements of a two day walk (minimum of 6 hours per day), carrying all of their own equipment.

If this is a concern for any student then there is still time, and perhaps they could ask their PE teacher for some fitness training during PE lessons, as well as getting out and walking (hill work) at weekends and evenings.

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

Kind regards
J Wagstaff
DofE Leader

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