

Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Information

Silver & Gold Qualifying Expedition

Thursday 4 June – Tuesday 9 June 2026

Please note: Only participants who have fully paid will be allowed on the expedition.

Thursday 4 June 2026

- On arrival at school, the minibus and trailer will be parked outside the Atrium between **8:00am and 8:45am**.
- Participants may load their kit onto the minibus/trailer during this time. Once loaded, the vehicle will be locked until departure at 2:00pm.
- All Silver and Gold participants must report to the Atrium at **2:00pm**, where a register will be taken.
- All participants will then board the minibus.

We expect to arrive at **Buckley Farm Campsite** at approximately **4:00pm–4:30pm**, depending on traffic conditions. There will be no planned stops unless it is an emergency, so please ensure you use the toilet before departure.

Upon arrival:

- Participants will unload kit and have a short break.
 - Group equipment will then be issued.
 - Participants must bring food for:
 - Thursday evening meal
 - Friday breakfast
 - Friday lunch
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Friday 5 June 2026

Ellesmere Mere

This marks the start of the qualifying expedition.

Activities will include:

- Water sports skills
- Mega SUP
- Canoeing skills
- Menu planning and food shopping

An on-site food planning and cooking session will take place towards the end of the day.

Participants will camp overnight at **Buckley Farm**.

Saturday 6 June 2026

Montgomery Canal

Today will focus on canoe journeying skills. Participants will plan and undertake a canoe journey along the canal.

There will also be a further opportunity to shop for expedition food at the end of the day.

Sunday 7 June 2026

River Severn – Expedition Day 1

- Pack up camp and load kit into barrels.
- Depart on the journey to **The Isle Campsite**.
- Set up camp and cook evening meals.
- Time to relax at the end of the day.

Please note: This is a wild camp.

Monday 8 June 2026

River Severn – Expedition Day 2

Participants will:

- Pack up camp
- Journey through Shrewsbury
- Continue to **Paradise Meadow**, near Atcham Bridge

Please note: This is another wild camp.

Tuesday 9 June 2026

River Severn – Expedition Day 3

Final day of the expedition.

Participants will:

- Finish the canoe journey at a riverside location
- Organise kit return
- Take part in an instructor debrief

- Load equipment onto the minibus for the return journey home

We are hoping to arrive back at **The Becket School** at approximately **4:00pm**, having completed the DofE expedition.

Participants will contact parents/carers once:

- All groups have completed the expedition
 - Equipment has been cleaned and returned
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Locations

- Buckley Farm, Molverley Road, Shrewsbury, SY4 1BU
 - The Mere, Ellesmere, SY12 0HH
 - Queens Head, Oswestry, SY11 4EB to Ellesmere, SY12 0PA
 - The Isle, Isle Lane, Shrewsbury, SY3 8EE
 - Paradise Meadows, Atcham, Shrewsbury, SY5 6QG
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Important Information

Food Requirements

Participants will need enough food to last **24 hours**, including:

- Evening meal
- Breakfast
- Lunch

Please also remember to keep a **£10 emergency fund**.

Essential Requirements

Medical and Consent Forms

Medical and consent forms must already have been handed in to school in order for participants to attend the course.

Appropriate Footwear for Canoeing

Footwear must:

- Be waterproof
- Provide good support
- Have a suitable, non-worn sole

Sliders and Crocs are NOT permitted.

Waterproof Clothing

Participants **must** bring:

- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers

Spare Warm Clothing

Participants must bring a spare warm top.

No cotton hoodies are to be worn or brought as spares.

No Cotton Clothing

Cotton clothing of any kind is not permitted.

Cotton absorbs water and body heat when wet. Fleece or synthetic clothing dries more quickly and provides much better insulation in wet conditions.

Personal Medication

Any personal medication must:

- Be listed on the medical/consent form
- Be brought on the expedition

Important Safety Notice

These requirements must be followed regardless of the weather forecast.

If participants arrive without the required equipment, we may have no option other than to remove them from the expedition and return them to the care of parents/carers.

Suitable preparation and equipment are requirements of:

- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- The Becket School safety management procedures

If there are difficulties obtaining the necessary equipment, please get in touch. We may be able to help provide some items by prior arrangement; however, we do not hold large quantities of personal kit.

The Becket School and Gateway Outdoors have an excellent safety record, supported by the cooperation of participants, staff, and parents in managing challenging weather conditions safely during expeditions.

Attendance Following the Expedition

If participants are due to attend school the day after the expedition, attendance is compulsory unless signed off by a doctor.

Being tired or having sore feet is not considered a valid reason for absence. Failure to attend school may result in the participant not being signed off as having completed this section of the award.

In short:

No show = no pass papers

This information is provided to avoid any misunderstanding, as important verbal reminders have occasionally been missed in the past.

We look forward to working with you on your forthcoming expedition.

Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding the expedition, please contact: dofe@becketonline.co.uk

Questions regarding Skills, Physical, or Volunteering sections should be directed to Miss Johns or Mrs Rowley at The Becket School.

Regards,

The DofE Team

DofE Manager