



# Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School & Sixth Form Centre

*'True Teaching'*

Headmaster: Dr Simon Uttley FRSA KHS

Fawley Road, Reading, Berkshire RG30 3EP

Email:

Telephone: 0118 957 4730

Website: [www.hughfaringdon.org](http://www.hughfaringdon.org)

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*Serving the community in Reading since 1958*

January 2026

Dear Parents, Careers, and Students

## Duke of Edinburgh Award 2025-2026 – Bronze and Silver Expedition Section

Thank you for continuing your journey to complete the Duke of Edinburgh Award this academic year. Please find enclosed the information on completing the Expedition Section of the Award.

Students have two options for completing their Expedition Section:

### Option One: External Provider

Students may choose to complete their Expedition Section independently through an approved external provider. A list of suitable providers and links is attached below for your reference. Please note that if students choose this route, responsibility for organisation, booking, and communication rests with the family and the external company.

Please, also, note that students complete their Expedition Section through an external provider will pay costs directly to that provider, and the school expedition charges will not apply.

### Option Two: School-Run Expeditions

Alternatively, students may complete their Expedition Section through the school-run expeditions. The training and expedition dates for these are outlined in the expedition calendar attached below.

For Silver students who are **Direct Entrants** (i.e. students who have not previously completed their Bronze Award) and completing their Expedition Section through school, please note that they are required to complete the first day of Bronze Training in addition to the Silver Training Days. This requirement is reflected in the school expedition calendar.

For School-Run Expeditions, please note the following:

### Payments

Payments are made in two instalments. Payment 1 covers the training days and the first practice expedition. Payment 2 covers the remaining practice expedition and the qualifying expedition.

A full break down of the prices are detailed below, including payment deadlines. Payment is made through ParentPay. Please ensure that payment is made by the stated date to ensure that your students place on the expedition is secured.

Pupil premium students qualify for a discount please email me directly to discuss this.



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## Permission

Students are required to return permission forms for expeditions as well as pay to secure their place. This is to confirm that they are aware of the rules and safety requirements as well as to ensure that we have the most up-to-date emergency contact information for each student.

## Groups and Organisation

Students complete their Expedition Section in groups of no more than seven students at the same level as them. To ensure that this works, students will be able to choose their tent groups on the Training Days. Walking groups will be organised by staff based on these tent groups, taking into account safety and supervision requirements.

## Equipment and Kit

Students are expected to provide their own equipment in line with the kit list attached below. The school does have a limited amount of equipment available to borrow. If a student wishes to borrow any items, they must notify us in advance, as availability is limited and cannot be guaranteed without prior arrangement.

## Mobile Phones and Communication

Students will not have access to their personal mobile phones during Training Days, or once the Expedition has set off. For safety and communication purposes, emergency phones are provided by the school, enabling students to contact staff if needed.

Further details, including kit lists, the Expedition Calendar, payment details, and provider links, are attached below. Please ensure you read this carefully.

If you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards

Eloise Wright  
Duke of Edinburgh Award Co-Ordinator



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## Expedition Calendar for the 2025-2026 Academic Year

Activity	Date	Notes
Bronze Training One	7 Feb	8.35am to 4pm Meet at Carpark entrance to school <i>*Students doing Direct Silver required</i>
Silver Training	27-28 Feb	8.35am to 4pm each day Meet at Carpark entrance to school <i>*Students doing Direct Gold required</i>
Bronze Training Two	7 March	8.35am to 4pm Meet at Carpark entrance to school
Bronze Practice One	20-21 March	Planned expedition to Rushall Farm
Silver Practice One	20-21 March	Planned expedition to Rushall Farm
Bronze Practice Two	17-18 April	Planned expedition to Christmas Common
Gold Training	25 April	8.35am to 4pm each day Meet at Carpark entrance to school
Silver Practice Two	1-3 May	Planned expedition to Forrest of Dean
Gold Practice One	1-3 May	Planned expedition to Forrest of Dean with teambuilding activities
Gold Practice Two	5-7 June	Planned expedition to chosen location
Bronze Qualifying	19-20 June	Planned expedition to Pangbourne
Silver Qualifying	2-4 July	Planned expedition to Dorset Coast
Gold Qualifying	15-19 July	Planned expedition to chosen location



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## Expedition Kit

On Expeditions students are required to provide some of their own kit. An example of the kit list is below.

- **Clothing** to be worn - tracksuit/shorts/leggings, t-shirt (***no thin straps as students will be carrying a large rucksack***), lightweight jumper, waterproofs, sunhat. Bring a spare set of clothes.
- **Footwear** - trainers that are suitable for walking in or walking boots.
- **Utensils** - spork (or knife, spoon, fork set), bowl, water bottle.
- **Other** - Head Torch, Mini First Aid Kit (Plasters, Suncream), Toiletries, Watch, Whistle, Torch
- **Sleeping** - sleeping bag, roll mat (sleeping mat), pillow (some use rolled up clothes as a pillow).
- **Carrying** – Rucksack, and waterproof rucksack liner (A large bin-bag works well).
- **Medication** - Please bring any medication as required.
- **Food** as discussed in group.

Students will be provided with some equipment, maps, compasses, tents and a gas stove. Please note, personal mobile phones are only allowed to be used on the journey to and from the expedition. Groups will be provided with an emergency phone, and tracker as needed to ensure safety.

## Costs

Included in the cost of completing the Award is Expedition costs (transport, camping fees, training) as well as enrolment in the Award programme.

	Bronze	Silver	Direct Silver
Instalment 1 Due by 3 March	£80	£50	£80
Instalment 2 Due by 14 April	£55	£55	£55
Total	£135	£105	£135

## Approved External Providers

[Opportunity Finder - participants - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#)