



King's School  
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Friday, 22 May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Expedition – 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

I am writing with a few reminders before next month's Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Expedition.

As you will be aware, the expedition is being run by Blackland Farm Outdoor Centre (formally 4<sup>th</sup> Dimension) who are qualified Duke of Edinburgh assessors (website: [Home - Blackland Farm Outdoor Centre](#)). The address is:

Blackland Farm  
Grinstead Lane  
East Grinstead  
RH19 4HP

Students will need to arrive for **9.00am on 12<sup>th</sup> June** and we would encourage lift sharing over the weekend, however, if there is a problem with getting to Blackland Farm please contact [finance@kingsschoolhove.org.uk](mailto:finance@kingsschoolhove.org.uk).

Students will have completed their walk on the second day and had a debrief by **15.30** and will be ready for pick up from this time. Any changes to this pick-up time will be sent from ParentPay.

### **Camping**

Students will be camping at the activity centre itself and will be completing circular walks from the site on both days. They will complete approximately 6 hours of activity on both days.

All camping equipment will be provided; however, students will need the equipment outlined on the attached 'Personal Equipment' kit list. This includes sleeping bags and roll mats. In the majority of cases students should use clothing and equipment they already have and they are not required to purchase lots of new specialist equipment for the weekend. Please remember that students have access to various discounts with their DofE card which is valid at a number of outdoor retailers - [Discounts - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award \(DofE\) Shopping](#).

### **Packing**

**STUDENTS ARE URGED TO PACK LIGHT.** They will be required to carry tents and stoves as a group and will need space in their rucksacks in addition to their personal equipment.



With regards to clothing, the list provided is comprehensive. Please remember that jeans are not appropriate for a long walk, particularly in potentially wet weather. In addition, long trousers are better than shorts as they help to prevent scratches, stings, and insect bites, in particular bites from ticks which are a known risk in the region.

Students should have a waterproof jacket but are unlikely to require waterproof trousers or warm gloves.

Students will not require more than one change of clothes for the weekend. I would recommend layers rather than large items of clothing. I have suggested to the groups taking thermal layers as they will help keep them warm in the evening and take up minimal space (this is not a necessity but a good idea if they already have a thermal layer).

**We have a small amount of equipment that we can lend students including roll mats, sleeping bags, rucksacks and walking boots (Sizes 6, 7 & 10). If you would like to borrow equipment for your child, please email [finance@kingsschoolhove.org.uk](mailto:finance@kingsschoolhove.org.uk) by Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June stating which item(s) you'd like to borrow. This will be on a first come, first served basis. We will let you know if equipment is available for your child and this can be collected from the Finance Office from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June. Please ensure your child returns this to the Finance Office by Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June in the condition in which they borrowed it.**

### **Food and Drink**

Students will need a refillable water bottle and there will be opportunities for them to refill their water throughout the weekend, particularly in the event of hot weather.

With regards to food, students have practised setting up the camping stoves they will be using.

Students will require a packed lunch for both days in addition to food for breakfast.

Students are required to use the stoves to cook a meal in the evening. I would recommend simple meals that can be heated up quickly and take up minimal space; prepacked camping meals are a good solution as are packets of curry and rice etc. as they are full of flavour, nutritious, and don't take up much space. Some students have mentioned taking Pot Noodles; however, these take up a large volume of space in bags and smaller packets of noodles and sauce that can be eaten using a separate cup would be better.

I would also recommend plenty of high energy snacks such as sweets, cereal bars, and dried fruit. Please remember that King's School has a **no nuts policy** and that there are students on the trip who have severe allergies to nuts.

If your child requires personal medication over the weekend other than an inhaler and you have not mentioned this on the ParentPay item, please contact [admin@kingsschoolhove.org.uk](mailto:admin@kingsschoolhove.org.uk) to discuss.

Please do get in touch with any queries.

I am looking forward to a fantastic weekend where I am sure our Year 9s will make us proud.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Wallace  
*Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator*

## Provisional Weekend Itinerary

Day 1	
<b>0830</b>	Arrival – Blackland Farm Staff and Introductions
<b>0900</b>	Participants Arrive – Meet Instructors
<b>0930 - 1100</b>	<u>Expedition Prep</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Equipment / Food Check</li><li>• Route Planning – North / South Route</li></ul>
<b>1100</b>	Expedition Day 1
<b>1600</b>	<u>Route Planning and Intro to Navigation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tents up, tidy camp, route planning for Day 2</li><li>• Cooking / Dinner</li></ul>
<b>1900 – 1930</b>	<u>Hand over to school staff</u>
<b>2100</b>	Participants in tents

Day 2	
<b>0700</b>	Blackland Farm Staff wake participants
<b>0830</b>	Out and About – Expedition day 2
<b>1500</b>	<u>Participants Return</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Equipment returned / sorted</li><li>• Maps / Compasses / First aid kits / group shelters / tents, pegs, poles / emergency cards / Hi Vis</li></ul>
<b>1530</b>	Debrief
<b>1600</b>	<u>Depart</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Participants leave</li></ul>