



QUEEN'S PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Friday 24th April 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Duke of Edinburgh – Gold Qualifier Expedition

Your child is enrolled on the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

As part of the Expedition section, students need to complete an assessed (qualifier) expedition, using skills practiced during their training days back in April. It is planned that your son/daughter will complete their **assessed (qualifier) expedition** on **Saturday 23rd May – Tuesday 26th May 2026 in Harlech/Barmouth (North Wales)**.

The assessed (qualifier) expedition will involve **4 days of walking and 3 night camps**. Staff will supervise either directly or through a checkpoint system when groups are walking unaccompanied. Please encourage students to check the weather prior to the expedition and ensure that they are prepared for both hot and cold weather, as appropriate.

Details of the Training expeditions can be found on the following pages of this letter, including information relating to:

- APST introductory letter
- Drop off and collection meeting times and locations.
- Kit list
- Guidance for food preparation
- Links to the DofE website

If you have any questions, or feel the need to make us aware of any additional personal circumstances that the school may not already be aware of (e.g. dietary or medical issues) then please contact me directly (e.sumner@qphs.co.uk).

Many thanks for your continued support,

Kindest regards,

Miss E. Sumner
QPHS Duke of Edinburgh Manager

“Inspiring Individuals • Empowering Minds • Defining Futures”

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Headteacher: Lyndsay Watterson MA NPQH

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are pleased to support your child's participation in the **Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award**, the advanced level of the programme, which builds on Silver by developing greater independence, resilience, leadership, and decision-making skills.

While the school administers the Award overall, **APST Education and Training** has been subcontracted to deliver the expedition training, practice, and qualifying expeditions. We are a **DofE-recognised Approved Activity Provider (AAP)** and a **Licensed Expedition Provider**, operating under **AALA Licence No. L159326**.

As part of our role, we will:

- Deliver a structured expedition training programme, including navigation, campcraft, safety, teamwork, and route planning;
- Supervise the **practice expedition (3 days, 2 nights)** and the **qualifying expedition (4 days, 3 nights)**;
- Provide experienced and appropriately qualified staff to guide and support participants throughout;
- Complete the required training and assessor reports to allow the expedition section to be signed off.

The Gold expedition is designed to be more demanding than Silver, requiring participants to demonstrate increased self-reliance while still operating within a safe and well-managed environment. It represents a significant step in personal development and confidence building.

A **detailed kit list** is included to support you and your child in preparing fully for the expedition.

If you have any questions about the expedition or the Gold Award process, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Sam Taylor

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Manager

APST Education and Training

Approved Activity Provider (AAP) | AALA Licence Number: L159326



DATES / TIMES / LOCATIONS:

Start:

Students are expected to **make their own way** to Queens Park High School (outside the Sports Hall) on the morning of Saturday 23rd May between **08:30 – 09:00am**.

Queens Park High School,
Queen's Park Road,
Chester,
CH4 7AE

Campsite:

Parc Isaf Touring and Camping site,
Gors y Gedol Drive,
Dyffryn Ardudwy,
LL44 2RJ
Contact number: 01341 247447

Finish:

Students will also **need collecting**, on completion of the training expedition on Tuesday 26th May **from Queens Park High School**.

Students **will be able to call home to arrange collection** when they have completed the training expedition. Finish times are likely to vary depending on the progress of each individual group and traffic conditions. APST are hoping for this to be around **16:00 – 17:00**.

EXPEDITION INFORMATION

This expedition provides the opportunity to put into practice the skills and techniques to build navigation, walking and camping skills.

Programme

Navigation, equipment use, camping, cooking and general hill walking skills will be covered. Full training and supervision will be available at all times.

Venue and Activities

Students will be using the local footpaths and rights of way to navigate their planned route. On the training expedition students will have a combination of supervised walks with a member of staff and if component remote supervision via pre planned check points. On the assessed expedition, students will be supervised via remote supervision, where staff will meet each group at pre-defined checkpoints.

Electrical Devices

Students may bring a mobile phone in case they get lost or need to call 999 in an emergency. Students **will not be allowed to use mobile phones for personal use or contacting friends** during the expedition. If students are caught using a mobile phone during the expeditions for other than emergency use **they will fail the expedition**. This is a clear guideline set by Duke of Edinburgh. The mobile phone will need to be **secured in a seal plastic wallet** for the duration of the expedition.

Kit

Students need to be prepared for walking and camping in the outdoors - possibly in cold and or hot weather. Spare footwear (e.g. old trainers) are always useful for on the campsite. The official DofE kit list can be found via the following link (also attached) [DofE Expedition Kit List - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#). It is important that unnecessary items are not packed in bags, as it will add to the weight of the students rucksacks.

APST will provide tents, Trangia stoves and fuel. We can also provide bags if required, but students will need to independently request and collect these prior to the day of the expedition from Miss Sumner (H4).

Personal Kit

Make sure you pack trousers/shorts (jeans are not recommended)

- T-shirts, warm jumpers/fleeces
- Sun Cream
- Thick socks, hat, gloves
- Waterproof jacket and trousers
- Walking boots (or sturdy footwear)
- Spare footwear
- Extra clothing in case of cold/poor weather
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping mat
- Toiletries (towel is optional)
- Medication, sun cream, plasters, torch and batteries
- Bowl, plate, mug, cutlery
- Spare carrier bags/bin liners

Food

Students need to plan their own menu. Fresh water for drinking and cooking is available at the campsite. Although students will need enough water for their walking day, there will be opportunities to fill their water up from the minibus at various check points during the day.

Tips:

- Bring plenty of snacks and lots to drink during the day.
- Bring enough food for three packed lunches.
- Bring food to eat/cook for three breakfasts and three evening meals.
- Don't bring anything that might go off or spill in your rucksack.
- Remember that all food and litter must be carried (bins/recycling available at the campsite).

We recommend that students work in pairs or trios to organise their equipment and food, as this saves them carrying more than necessary; it also means they can cook together and faster.

Emergency Contacts

Please only contact the students during the expedition in an emergency. Students are supposed to be self-sufficient and it is extremely important to both morale of the group members and ethos of the award that students do not have contact with friends and family, regardless of the good intentions of family and friends.

If you **urgently** need to contact a student, closer to the time I will be sending out a mobile staff number you can use for emergency contact.