



CAG/TUD

12th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Bronze DofE Information

On behalf of the JKHS DofE team, may I take the opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year. As we look forward to an exciting 2026, there are some key dates for the diary to take note of, along with some important housekeeping information.

2026 Bronze Expedition

The Bronze DofE Expedition will take place on Thursday 18th and Friday 19th June 2026. Students will be walking for two days, with an overnight camp on Thursday night. Students will complete approximately 12 km each day and will carry all of their kit, clothing and food to support themselves over the two days.

There will be more details about the expedition later in the year. In preparation for the expedition, we will be running a number of practice walks (see below), and there will also be after-school training sessions running on Tuesday afternoons from 3:30–5:00.

Bronze Practice Walks

In preparation for the Bronze Expedition, we will be running a series of practice walks:

- Chase and Penyard Hill – 24/01/2026, meet 10:00, JKHS (SO 604 252)
- Ganarew to Monmouth – 18/04/2026, meet 10:00, Ganarew car park (SO 534 163)
- Kempley – 09/05/2026, meet 10:00, Queens Wood car park, Kempley (SO 678 284)

To participate in these practice walks, students must have completed a consent form:

[JKHS DofE Student Data Collection Form \(Bronze Practice Walks & Trips '25-26\) – Fill in form](#)

You will only need to complete this form once, as it will cover all the practice walks. However, you will also need to complete the sign-up Microsoft Form for each individual practice walk so that we know which students will be accompanying us. These forms will be available on the JKHS website and on ClassCharts during the week before each practice walk. Students must sign up by the Thursday prior to each practice walk.

These practice walks are a vital component of your son or daughter's preparation for their Bronze Expedition, so I would encourage you to ensure they are able to participate wherever possible.





What will my son or daughter need for the practice walks?

- Walking boots or sturdy footwear (wellies are not appropriate for walking long distances)
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof trousers
- Warm clothing (e.g. fleece)
- Hat and gloves (plus sunhat and suncream if weather conditions require)
- Rucksack (20–25 L)
- Packed lunch, snacks and plenty of water or drinks
- Personal first aid kit, including blister plasters and any personal medication

eDofE and Sectional Activity

Your son or daughter should have access to the eDofE portal and should be recording the activities they are undertaking in each of the three sections: Skills, Physical and Volunteering.

For each section, students should record what they are doing, when they started (and finished), their goals for the section, and who their assessor will be. Assessors must be over 18 years of age and cannot be a relative or a member of the same household. Contact details for the assessor should also be recorded.

Once all these details have been entered, students must submit their sections via eDofE for approval.

To be eligible to participate in the Bronze Expedition in the Summer Term, your son or daughter must have completed at least two of their sections and be able to demonstrate that the third section is underway.

If your son or daughter is unable to access their eDofE account, they should see Mr Calderbank in Room 138 as a matter of priority.

Local Volunteering Opportunities

The volunteering section can often be the most difficult section for young people to arrange. If your son or daughter is struggling for ideas, there are several local organisations currently looking for volunteers:

- Ross Community Litter Group (see Newsletter or speak to Mr Bolt)
- Ross Court Care Home Ross Court Care Home | Barchester Healthcare
- Halo Leisure Halo Volunteer - Volunteer at Halo Leisure
- Pen y Bryn Animal Sanctuary Walford www.penybrynanimals.co.uk





Expedition Assessors – Volunteers needed

The Expedition Assessor plays a vital role in enabling participants to complete their expedition section.

The assessor is responsible for ensuring that participants complete their expedition in accordance with the requirements of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and that it is carried out in a safe and effective manner.

JKHS is looking for members of the local community, including parents, who may be willing to volunteer as assessors. The DofE provides full training to become an assessor; all training is free and completed online.

Once qualified, assessors will accompany participants during their expedition, predominantly in a remote capacity, meeting groups of students at checkpoints as they progress along their routes.

Due to the nature of the role and the requirement to travel the routes that participants are walking, the role of an assessor is most suited to someone who enjoys walking and the outdoors, has a reasonable level of fitness, and possesses some knowledge of camping. Prior experience of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award would be helpful, but is by no means essential, as the DofE provides a comprehensive training package. All volunteer assessors will work alongside JKHS staff and under the direction of the JKHS DofE Expedition Supervisor.

If you are interested in volunteering to support the JKHS DofE programme as an assessor, please contact Mr Calderbank for further information at: DofE@jkhs.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mr Calderbank
JKHS DofE Manager

