



Winner of the  
Manchester Evening News  
"School in the Community Award"

8<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Dear Students, Parents & Carers,

## DofE Bronze Qualifying Expedition B - Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2026

This is the Bronze Qualifying Expedition B, which will be in the Rivington area on the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> June. Completion of this expedition is essential for students intending to achieve their DofE Bronze Award.

At Bronze, the qualifying expedition involves two days of walking, with one night of camping in between.

On the expedition, students will be walking in teams of about six, carrying their own camping equipment, navigating their own route and supporting each other. Students will be cooking a hot meal on the Saturday evening using their camping stoves and they will be pitching and sleeping in their three person tents together with their team mates.

In accordance with DofE requirements, student walking teams will be supervised remotely rather than directly. This means that supervising staff will be in the vicinity, will meet students at pre-arranged checkpoints and will be able to step in to help students if required. Students will have a staff contact phone number to call if needed, but student walking teams will have primary responsibility for their own navigation and team decisions. However, staff will be camping in the same camp site and will be directly supervising students' cooking with the camping stoves.

**The expedition kit list**, together with other guidance on food, packing rucksacks, etc. is on the DofE section of the school website at <https://www.sharplesschool.co.uk/duke-of-edinburgh/>. Students will need to ensure that they are fully equipped. We will be checking kit at the start of the expedition. All students are borrowing tents, stoves, maps and compasses from us and some students are borrowing some other items. These will be given out at school in the week before the expedition so that students can pack their rucksacks at home, ready for the expedition.

Since students carry everything for two days in their rucksacks, including their food, we must really think about our equipment, including sleeping bags, roll mats and overnight clothes. Efficient planning and packing is the key, so it all fits into our rucksack and we can carry it. There is advice on rucksack packing on our website.

Since this expedition is quite local, we are asking parents and carers to be responsible for dropping off and picking up students at the start and end of the expedition. We will meet at the **Knowle House public carpark on Rivington Lane**, on the left, just after Rivington & Blackrod High School from 9am on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June. Please use the name of the carpark in Google Maps rather than using a postcode, otherwise Google Maps or a satnav will take you to the wrong place. Students arrive dressed for their expedition with walking boots on and rucksacks fully packed. Exact meeting times for students are staggered as follows:-

- Teams B7 & B8 – 9am
- Teams B5 & B6 – 9.15am
- Teams B3 & B4 – 9.30am
- Teams B1 & B2 – 9.45am

**Headteacher Ms C. Molyneux:** headteacher@sharplesschool.co.uk

**Admin Office:** office@sharplesschool.co.uk

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**Pick up at the end of the expedition** will be the same place at 3.30pm on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June. If that carpark is full then there is lots of street parking, further back on Rivington Lane and Lever Park Avenue. Please share lifts if possible, to reduce traffic volume.

It is a condition of coming on this expedition that students will be in school on time on Monday morning after the expedition. Students will be tired after the weekend, but we will not be back late.

A paper copy of this letter will be given out in school. Please return the completed tear off slip to me as soon as possible.

To prepare for the expedition students must attend the following **after-school training sessions:-**

- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May – Campstove training for teams B1-B4 and Tent training for teams B5-B8 (a separate email was sent on 10<sup>th</sup> May with details of things to bring for campstove training). Tent training will finish by 4.15pm and campstove training by 4.30pm.
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June – Campstove training for teams B5-B8 and Tent training for teams B1-B4.
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June – classroom planning session for the expedition, finishing at 4.15pm.

Lastly, to ensure that their Bronze Award is completed, students must complete their other three activities (Volunteering, Physical & Skill), logging their evidence on edofe and getting their assessors' reports from their assessors. Advice and details are on the DofE section of the school website. Bronze Awards should be completed by the end of term in July, if possible, so that students do not need to continue and complete over the summer or in Year 10. However, depending on the progress of individual students' activities, a few of these may need to be completed in the Autumn of Year 10.

If you have any questions or concerns then please email me at [i.davies@sharplesschool.co.uk](mailto:i.davies@sharplesschool.co.uk) or phone the school. If you would like a conversation then I can phone you back.

Yours faithfully,

*Ivor Davies*

Ivor Davies  
DofE Co-ordinator  
Sharples School

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