

## Silver Duke of Edinburgh takes to the water



The Silver Duke of Edinburgh participants recently embarked on an exciting canoeing expedition, showcasing their skills and teamwork. This opportunity allowed them to explore canoeing, camping, camp cooking, and collaborative work.

The adventure commenced on Friday, May 5th, as the pupils travelled to Herefordshire in the school minibuses. Upon reaching Tresseck campsite, they eagerly set off in their canoes, commencing their journey along the picturesque River Wye, heading towards the charming market town of Ross-on-Wye. Upon arrival, the pupils efficiently pitched their tents, prepared their evening meals, and proceeded to the water to practice vital canoe safety skills, including purposeful capsizing to simulate real emergency scenarios. If only we could add sound effects to this article!

The next day, an early start saw them back in their canoes, with their equipment, tents, and sleeping bags securely stored in waterproof bags. Their destination for the day was Symonds Yat West, presenting them with a more challenging route compounded by rainfall. However, the sun eventually made its appearance in the evening, and the pupils maintained their high spirits throughout the day. As teachers and leaders, we took considerable pride in acknowledging that a member of the public approached us to express gratitude for their respectful, well-behaved demeanour during their stay at this campsite.

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# High School & Sixth Form

On day three, basking in the sunshine, it was time to unpack the sunscreen. With their canoes packed and ready, the pupils embarked on the final leg of their journey along the meandering River Wye, occasionally crossing into Wales. Their goal was Monmouth, though they went slightly beyond the finish point. This experience fostered decision-making skills and spontaneous planning among the participants.

We very much look forward to their real expedition in June.

Mrs Colette McDermott

