

Duke of Edinburgh training day success



Last weekend, thirty-six pupils took part in a training weekend in preparation for their upcoming Duke of Edinburgh Awards. We are delighted to see participation continue to grow, with twenty-six Bronze and ten Silver/Gold candidates.

The Silver/Gold participants spent the day training in their canoes on Ellerton Lake with Captain Davies and their assessor Mr Adams. Meanwhile, the Bronze group focused on essential expedition skills. During the morning, they practised tent pitching, safe cooking on a Trangia stove, and efficient packing of their expedition rucksacks. They learned how to distribute the weight of their kit effectively and ensure their belongings remain dry in case of rain.

In the afternoon, the Bronze pupils honed their navigation skills using a route card. This required them to read an OS map and use orientation techniques to safely navigate their way back to school. Once back, they set up their tents and prepared their evening meals, despite the added challenge of the wind. Later, they attended a weather session filled with quizzes and games to keep them engaged after a busy day. With the clocks springing forward an hour that night, they had an early bedtime to prepare for the next morning's early start.

High School & Sixth Form

On Sunday, the pupils had breakfast, packed up their kit, and carried their rucksacks on a challenging 10km hike.

This initial training weekend lays the foundation for the Bronze group's expedition and the Silver group's practice expedition by canoe. The pupils were closely supported and monitored by our dedicated team of staff volunteers: Captain Davies, Sergeant Berry, Mr Crosby, Mr Hayes, and Mrs McDermott. Additional support was provided by Miss Titman, along with our external assessors, Dave and Helen Adams, who offered invaluable expertise and feedback throughout the weekend.

Mrs Colette McDermott