



DofE Assessed Expedition weekend 2025/2026

What a difference a day makes (well 4 weeks!). On Saturday, 60 of our Year 10s undertook their final expedition for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. Laden with rucksacks, tents, sleeping bags and camping stoves, ten groups hiked @14km from the starting point in Dorking to the campsite at Sayers Croft, Cranleigh through beautiful Surrey countryside in glorious sunshine - a complete contrast to their very wet Training Expedition four weeks ago!

The groups arrived at the campsite late afternoon, having walked between 5 & 6.5 hours and met with their BXM Expedition Instructors at a couple of checkpoints en route. All of the children were in high spirits with a healthy glow and an appetite. Tents were pitched in no time and dinner prepared and cooked by each group quickly after.

With a large open field to enjoy and the sun still high in the sky, they played frisbee, baseball, volleyball, cards and chatted. There was lots of laughter with not a phone in sight - children just having fun and enjoying each other's company on a warm summer's evening. Perfect!

All were up by 6.30am on Sunday morning with a mixture of "a great night's sleep" and "not so good" as it was surprisingly nippy overnight. With breakfast eaten and tents and rucksacks all packed up, each group had a run through of their route with their Instructor before setting off for their second day of hiking and map reading. The ten groups had set out by an impressive 8.20am and, after an equally great day of walking, all reached the finish point at Albury Heath before 3pm.

The children all worked as a team in their groups, were respectful to the adults on the expedition and each other, and had resilience and a positive attitude throughout in spite of some falls, blisters and sore legs & feet. They returned home tired but having made some great, long-lasting memories. Each and every child did themselves and Reigate School proud and fully deserve their Bronze Award.

