



Duke of Edinburgh Gold by Foot Assessed Expedition Reminder 2026 and Safety Reminder

[Safety Briefing 2026](#)

[Off Grid Adventure Expedition Guide 2026](#)

[Gold Foot Qualifying Location and Dates 2026](#)

Dear Parents,

Please find attached Off Grid Adventures (our Gold by Foot provider) Expedition Schedule and their information booklet.

Individual and Group equipment is listed in the information booklet.

Group Equipment that is supplied by Off Grid Adventures on the day of the Expedition- Tent, Trangia Stoves, Maps, Compasses, Emergency Contact details.

Dates to remember:

Transportation is by parental drop-off and pick-up. Please note the start time for the qualifying expedition.

Gold by Foot Qualifying Expedition (Brecon Beacons, Wales)-

Qualifying Expedition: **20 - 23 July 2026** in the Brecon Beacons, Wales

Drop-off at **9am**: Llwyn-onn reservoir car park, Merthyr Tydfil **Note- This is slightly different to a couple of months ago.**

What3Words: //smooth.eventful.squares

Camp 1: New Inn, Ystradfellte

Camp 2: Blaenglyn Farm

Camp 3: Parkwood Outdoors Dolygaer www.plasdolygaer.co.uk; *There is no telephone signal or 4G at Plas Dolygaer Scout Campsite

End point: Merthyr Tydfil Train Station at approximately **4pm**. There is parking at the Tesco opposite the station or in the station car park.

Note:

Address information is accurate with Google Maps. Due to the rural location of venues, postcodes alone will rarely be accurate.

Please consider this when using SatNavs and check locations with Google Maps before.

Weather

Given the high temperatures over the past few weeks we are monitoring the temperatures in the Brecon Beacons closely. It appears to be cooler next week although in the high 20s at times which is relatively typical for a Gold assessed expedition.

Due to the heat and humidity levels the ground is particularly dry and prone to wildfires. As such the provider will remind them about sensible campcraft and safety at the campsites when cooking.

STRS Safety Briefing

All students for both Foot and Mixed Mode had a safety briefing yesterday. It covered heat exhaustion, heat stroke,

open water and wildfires. All students who attended received a booklet reminding them of the information to ensure they are safe at all times give the reports this year of teenagers swimming in open water and wildfires in the National Parks.

Presently there are no wildfires in the Brecon Beacons, however, the ground is incredibly dry so if at any point we are notified that this has changed I will email you.

Please find the safety briefing notes attached.

Off Grid Adventure Mitigating Heat Factors

Students

- Students will need to bring the following: Factor 50+sun cream, capacity to carry a minimum of two litres of water in two proper water bottles - not shop bought thin bottles. Sun hat - preferably wide brimmed - which must be worn at all times
- Regular application of sun cream
- NO strappy tops - T-shirts with short sleeves must be worn
- Loose trousers or shorts - no black leggings if possible and no 'short' shorts

Off Grid Adventures mitigating factors depending on the daily heat forecast

- Shorten the route each day as appropriate
- Long lunches in the shade so they don't walk at the hottest part of the day
- Water stops at each roadside checkpoint (Plus any other road crossings not necessarily checkpoints)
- Earlier starts to each day as appropriate
- Shade and water at the campsite
- The students will have their mobile phones, although they are bagged they can still access them in case of emergency
- Each team carries one tent for shelter
- Each team has a tracker on them so that we know where they are all times
- Re routing them so that there is more tree cover and less open heath

Having checked the forecast for the Brecon Beacons next week we do not foresee any heat related issues, however we will continue to monitor it as we always do.

STRS Contact Number for Mrs Rigby-Smith- 07367 443 226

This will be monitored throughout the trip. Please be aware Mrs Rigby-Smith who will not be in the area for the expedition but will be in contact frequently with the provider and can contact the provider for you directly if necessary.

eDofE Sections

At this point your child should have completed at least one section (If you child has not entered information on the eDofE app and submitted it for approve it will not be in progress- please get them to check). In order to get a section marked off as completed their assessor must submit an assessors report. Their assessor will need the following information:

- ID number (this is on the eDofE account)
- Level of Award (Bronze, Silver or Gold)
- Section they are assessing (Volunteering, Physical or Skill)
- Timescale (3 months or 6 months at Bronze and Silver, 12 or potentially 18 months at Gold)

They will need to submit their report via this link: [Assessor's Report - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award \(dofe.org\)](https://dofe.org/assessor-report)

Please remember parents/caregivers/relatives and under 18s cannot be assessors.

Hopefully, this will answer any questions you have but, as always, if you have any queries please email me (cer@strs.org.uk).

Best wishes

Mrs Rigby-Smith

SIR THOMAS RICH'S

Oakleaze Gloucester GL2 0LF

01452 338400

info@strs.org.uk

www.strschool.co.uk

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