



7th December 2023

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Dear Parents / Carers,

In order to run the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Gold Level, Ridgeway Academy will be recommending that participants join an Open Expedition with an Approved Activity Provider, such as 'BXM Expeditions'. Approved Activity providers oversee participant training and the practice and qualifying expeditions.

Students are required to make an initial non-refundable payment of £39.00 through the school Wisepay to enrol onto the Duke of Edinburgh's award and set up their online logbook. Once this account has been created, students will be a member of the Ridgeway Academy DofE Centre and will receive a Participant ID number.

Following enrolment, students will need to sign up for a Practice and a Qualifying Open Expedition through an Approved Activity Provider, such as BXM. This will typically cost £185 per expedition.

This cost usually covers:

- Instructors and Assessors
- Tents
- Stoves
- Gas
- Maps
- Camp Fees
- Training Resources

The cost does not usually cover:

- Personal kit
- Transport to and from the expedition locations
- Any costs accumulated from the remaining sections of the Gold Award (Residential, Volunteering, Skill, Physical).

Ridgeway Academy has worked with BXM Outdoors in previous years but there are other Approved Activity Providers available. Costs and expedition dates and locations will vary. To compare different providers, you can use the DofE Opportunity Finder: <https://www.dofe.org/opportunity-finder/approved-activity-provider/?paged=1>

To find out more about the Open Expeditions ran by BXM Outdoors, and to book onto the Practice and Qualifying Expeditions, visit the link below:

<https://www.bxmoutdoors.com/open-expeditions/>

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to drop me an email at Richard.Sutton@ridgeway.herts.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

R Sutton

Mr Richard Sutton
DofE Coordinator