Excel outdoors Parent information letter

Excel outdoors:

Excel Outdoors comes out of 25 years experience on the hill. My Name is Thomas Kelly and I am the CEO of Excel Outdoors, my first memory of the outdoors is being dragged up a gully on Dow Crag and wild camping at Goat's Water. Since then the outdoors has been a huge part of my life. I completed my DofE Awards, began supporting my centre as a Leader and DofE Manager.

For 18 years I have worked for the DofE Charity initially comms and leading outdoor training, then as an Operations Manager for 8 years and during the Covid year of 2020 as Acting Director for the North of England. During my time with DofE I delivered outdoor training qualifications, led DofE expeditions and was responsible for the Cumbria Assessment Network. I have provided consultancy to local authorities for outdoor provision and AALS and provided consultancy to schools delivering DofE expedition

2020 and 2021 were extremely difficult years for all and it gave many of us the opportunity to reflect on our careers and purpose. For me I realised that my passion is for developing and training people and helping them to excel in life and hence Excel Outdoors was born.www.exceloutdoors.co.uk

Information for your child's Bronze DofE Award — Tytherington School:

Training day: Tytherington School, Macclesfield

Monday 4th January 2027

Arrive time: 9am

Finish time: 3pm

The sessions will cover elements of the Bronze Training Framework. Some indoor and outdoor sessions are included, so please wear appropriate clothing. **Please bring a cup or insulated mug as we will be making some Galaxy Hot Chocolate on the Stoves. If they don't like or can't have that feel free to bring a different hot drink.**

Practice Day : Peak District – your child will need a packed lunch for this day

Sunday 18th April 2027

Start location: Castleton Visitor Centre, Buxton Rd, Castleton S33 8WN

Arrive time: 9am

Finish location: Castleton Visitor Centre, Buxton Rd, Castleton S33 8WN

Finish time: 3pm

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Qualifying Expedition :

Saturday 15th – Sunday 16th May 2027

Start location: Fairholmes Car Park, Bamford, Hope Valley S33 0AQ

Arrive time: 10am

Campsite: Greenacres, Nether Booth, Edale S33 7ZH

Finish location: Castleton Visitor Centre, Buxton Rd, Castleton S33 8WN

Finish time: 3pm

In an emergency please contact Tom Kelly 07902585691 from Excel Outdoors.

Medical consent form:

We need to send you a medical consent form for you to complete. We intend to send the form out on Friday 27th November 2026.

Equipment:

Kit list for the qualifying expedition:

This is the equipment you will wear or carry each day. Use the information below as you organise your kit and tick off items, so you know what you have packed and won't miss anything.

The items below are what we we think you will need, there is a more extensive kit list and more information on the DofE Website if you would like to look https://www.dofe.org/shopping/dofe-expedition-kit-list/

Some of the items are provided by Excel outdoors as part of the cost of the expedition (see below) You can also hire a roll mat, rucksack and Sleeping bag if needed, if you wish to hire any of these you can indicate your requirement of this on the medical consent form. The cost is £12+VAT each for Rucksacks and £20+VAT sleeping bags and £6+VAT for a foam roll mat. You will be sent a stripe link for this once we have the form back.

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Clothing	**Tick if packed**	**Other items (continued)**	**Tick if packed**
Walking boots not shoes (ankle Support, vibram sole, stitched tongue)		Wash kit (e.g. baby wipes/soap, deodrant, toothpaste, tooth brush, small towel)	
2* walking socks		Small torch	
3* T-shirt (not cotton)		Personal medication/small first aid kit (**blister plasters!)**	
Jumper/fleece jacket		Sun cream	
2* walking trousers (e.g. tracksuit bottoms **not Jeans!)**		Watch	
Waterproof jacket		Something for your meal, (bowl/plate), cutlery	
Waterproof over trousers		Mobile phone for emergency use only	
Woolen hat/gloves		**Group equipment (split between the group)**	**Tick if packed**
Underwear for 2 days		Compass (provided by Excel Outdoors)	
1*pyjamas		Map (provided by Excel Outdoors)	
Food (more info will be given on the training day about type of foods to bring)	**Tick packed**	Route cards (provided by Excel Outdoors)	
1* Breakfast		Tent (provided by Excel Outdoors)	
2* lunch		Trangia (cooking stove) (provided by Excel Outdoors)	
1* dinner		Firelighter (provided by Excel Outdoors)	
Snacks		Washing up equipment (provided by Excel Outdoors)	
Some emergency rations		Group first aid kit (provided by Excel Outdoors)	
Other items	**Tick if packed**	Rucksack (we recommend a 65 litre rucksack) (can Hire)	
Sleeping bag (can hire)		Rusksack liner (can be polythene bag/rubble sack)	
Carry mat (can hire)		Water bottle	

If you have any queastions don't hestitate to ask, please me email me at tom.kelly@exceloutdoors.co.uk

Kind regards

Tom Kelly

Updated 08/11/22