

Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

A group of five Hill House students prepared for their expedition throughout the spring and summer terms, taking part in map reading around the school, erecting tents in the lower field. They also really enjoyed getting to learn how to use the Trangia, firstly using it to make hot chocolate and then as they became more confident cooking sausages and baked beans as well as porridge and pot noodles!

Students also took part in pre-expedition practice hikes to our local Parish church, a circular walk amounting to approximately 6km using visual maps to guide them. They also took part in two practice expedition walks one from Beaulieu to Bucklers Hard and another from the school to Tile Barn Activity centre.

On Day 1 of the expedition, everyone cooked their breakfast using the Trangia, making themselves sausage and beans and porridge. They then packed their lunches and essentials and hiked all the way from Beaulieu to Bucklers Hard roughly 18000 steps! All the students thoroughly enjoyed the hike and kept up the pace for the walk all the way there. They were all particularly keen on exploring the bird hide en route! Once at Bucklers, friendships had been cemented and they all had a brilliant time exploring the exhibits and grounds and especially delighting in their roly poly's down the hill!

Day 2 of the expedition involved a 7km walk from Hill House School to the Tile Barn Activity Centre. Before departure students packed the snacks required for the day, plus lunch, along with suitable outdoor clothing and a change of clothes. They were able to complete this hike using visual cues to support. When at Tile Barn, students were able to show off their sharp shooting with Archery, they also relished the challenge of the low ropes' obstacle course. The expedition culminated with fire making and cooking their pizzas on an open fire. During these activities the students were able to demonstrate different approaches and skills and all showed tremendous resilience and perseverance. Each young person worked collaboratively with the team to enable each other to succeed and it was a remarkable achievement for all of them to have completed the two full days of the expedition.



