

DofE Gold & Silver Expeditions

There were some adventurous Gold D of E expeditions this summer. In July, two groups planned to travel 40 miles from Loch Arkaig to the sea. The expedition was tough both physically and mentally, with the need to keep going through very wild unforgiving country and weather that made no concessions. All involved in the summer trips showed great determination and resilience.

In September we ran our final Gold expedition of the season – this time a 40 mile canoe journey on the River Tay system, which is 16 miles long and proved to be quite an exciting stretch of water as the winds were strong and blew us along. The River Tay gave everyone involved another great adventure.

The Silver assessment took place in late September in Swaledale, with a night in Grinton Lodge Youth Hostel. Eight groups started out on different routes – some from Tan Hill, some from the youth hostel itself and one from Arkengarthdale. Without exception, everyone kept smiling despite the foul weather – all students can be really proud of their achievement in completing the wettest Silver expedition of recent years.

We are grateful to the **Cumbria Community Foundation** for supporting our DofE programme this year, with generous contributions from **Russell Armer, Castle Green Grassroots and Holehird Trust Funds.**



