

Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition

Over the past 6 months some of our Year 10 students have been working towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. On the 26th/27th May they did their practice expedition from Hertford back to school ahead of their qualifying expedition in July. The students have written a report of their recent adventure:

Up to this point in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, we have been committing to developing ourselves by spending 3 months volunteering, undertaking physical activity and practicing a skill. One of these also has to be completed for 6 months. Josh Cox has been working at Paradise Wildlife Park, Gosling Sports Centre and at a local pet shop. *"I've found it really enjoyable to work at the Zoo because I've been able to feed and look after all sorts of exotic animals."*

Over half term, we went camping in Hertford to fulfil our practice expedition – readying ourselves for the qualifying expedition which will take place in Wales during July. In the evening after school, we had to put up our tents and cook our own meals on a Trangia; certainly a new and different cooking experience! A well intended bombay aloo with rice went a bit wrong, getting burnt to the bottom of the pan, but it didn't matter! It was a hot day, so we all got some ice-cream from the camping reception to finish off our meal!

After a night in the tent, we woke up at 9am and set off walking. We walked a fairly long way – from Hertford camp site back to school. Ben Ambler commented *"the practice expedition gave me real insight into what our real expedition in Wales will be like. Prior to the expedition, I was worried that I might struggle to navigate with only the use of compass and a map but it turned out nowhere near as hard as I imagined and things ran smoothly within our group. I would definitely recommend the DofE Award to anyone who asks"*. Charlotte Stoten commented: *"This trip gave me the opportunity to work with people I wouldn't normally work with, as well as gaining leadership and team building skills"*.



Josh says that *"My back was aching afterwards! It was great fun to camp with friends but I will have to pack a little less next time."* Perhaps the tinned custard and syphon of whipped cream can be a starting point!



Report by Josh Cox, Ben Ambler, Charlotte Stoten in Year 10

Mr R Sutton,
Teacher of Geography