



John Devine M.A. (Hons); M.Ed; SQH  
*Headteacher*

**Breadalbane Academy**  
ABERFELDY PH15 2DU  
Tel 01887 822300 • Fax 01887 820464  
Email [breadalbane@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:breadalbane@pkc.gov.uk)  
Website [www.breadalbane.pkc.sch.uk](http://www.breadalbane.pkc.sch.uk)

Dear Gold DofE Participant & Parent/Carer

### **Gold DofE Qualifying Expedition**

I am writing to inform you of the intended upcoming dates for the Gold DofE Qualifying Expedition. The dates for the 'expedition' run from **Friday 17 to Monday 20 September 2021 inclusive**. The 'expedition' will in fact be a series of day walking routes in the Highland Perthshire area. There will be no overnight stays and participants will return home each evening.

The leaders on each day of the expeditions are as follows:

Day 1: Karen Mackay and Sian Hitchins

Day 2: Gus Clarke and Carol Clarke

Day 3: Gus Clarke and Steve Leslie

Day 4: Steve Leslie and Sian Hitchins

Expedition Assessor: Steven Leslie

Routes for each day, including pick up and drop off information:

#### **Day 1**

Griffin Forest car park, near Aberfeldy A826, to Amulree Village Hall, on tracks through forest and over moorland terrain past Meall Dearg.

**Drop off:** Griffin Forest car park, near Aberfeldy on A826 at 9.00am

**Pick up:** Amulree Village Hall approx. 5.00pm.



## Day 2

Dalnaspidal Lodge, off of A9 near Dalwhinnie, to Craiganour Lodge, by Loch Rannoch, on valley and moorland paths and tracks along east side of Loch Garry the over hills of Craiganour Forest

**Drop off:** Dalnaspidal Lodge turn off, off the A9, near Dalwhinnie at 10.00am

Detail: Dalnaspidal Lodge turn off: GR NN 6454 7333. Turn off to left from A9 to access Dalnaspidal Lodge. (About 300m after end of dual carriage way section heading north on A9). Cars will need to turn around on the lodge access road to return south on A9.

**Pick up:** Craiganour Lodge, north side of Loch Rannoch approx. 6.00pm

Detail: Craiganour Lodge: Estate road end GR NN 6103 5901 (just past Craiganour Lodge, at bridge over burn. If cars go too far turning is possible at Aulich Farm, 100-200m past bridge/burn at the Craiganour Lodge road end.

## Day 3

Circular route beginning and ending at Newton Bridge, near Amulree.

**Drop off:** Breadalbane Academy at 09:00am.

**Pick up:** Breadalbane Academy at approx. 6.00pm.

(Participants will be walking a circular route; Gus Clarke to drive participants in the minibus from and to Breadalbane Academy and the start and end of the route.)

## Day 4

Circular route in the Loch Ordie area, beginning and ending at Guay, near Tulliemet.

**Drop off:** Breadalbane Academy at 9.00am.

**Pick up:** Breadalbane Academy at 5.00pm (at latest; will likely be earlier).

(Participants to walk a circular route; participants will be dropped off at the start of the route and picked up by a minibus and driver.)

For Day 2 (Saturday 18 September), we are asking for significant input from parents with drop off and pick up that day at the start point and end point of the day's route, and which is at a more significant distance from the school. This is due to the fact we wish to, as far as possible, allow the participants to undertake the route that they have chosen, but also the fact that the majority of the leaders do not hold the required qualifications to drive the minibuses. The effect of undertaking a series of day walks to enable the Gold 2021 Qualifying Expedition to go ahead has also been increased logistics.

For Day 3 (Sunday 19 September), this is the morning of the Étape Caledonia and there are various road closures that morning in the local area. To the best of my knowledge this will not prevent any of the participants from getting to the school for 9.00am, but please be aware of the road closures in this regard. The expedition route that day and getting to the start point have been altered to avoid any potential issues with road closures.

Although not in as remote or wild country as would be usual for a Gold Qualifying Expedition, it will still involve travelling considerable distances with expedition kit over four consecutive days. For this reason pupils must be aware of what they are undertaking and also be fit and in good health for the expedition. Please can I be made aware of any issues, such as previous injuries or recent illness that may affect a pupil during any of the ventures. Participants will be given a kit list via Teams and, as usual for DofE expeditions, will be able to borrow items from the school's DofE equipment store. Kit issue will be with Karen Mackay on Thursday 16 September at 1.30pm at the equipment store.

I would also like to inform you of the participation on this expedition of a pupil who has recently left school, who is a peer of the other participants and who undertook the Silver Qualifying/Gold Practice expedition with the group in June 2021. The other participants have all agreed to the participation of this individual and this has been included on the risk assessment for the expedition.

Parents/carers: if you are happy for your child to participate in these hikes, please can you complete and return the attached consent form and also the COVID-19 parent declaration form to the school office as soon as you possibly can.

Given the dynamic situation at the moment it may be necessary to provide additional communication before the trips take place, especially if there are any last minute changes.

If you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Mackay  
DofE Co-ordinator, Breadalbane Academy

[karenamackay@gmail.com](mailto:karenamackay@gmail.com)

mobile: 07977221481

landline: 01887 820232