



# THE WAY



## FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL - SENIOR SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

It's wonderful to hear that students can take a break from tests and exams, and that teachers can engage in activities that may be unconventional but enriching for learning. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program, with its hikes and city experiences, provide valuable opportunities for students to develop skills, resilience, and teamwork.



While such experiences can be highly beneficial, they do come with their own set of challenges. Here are some common difficulties that may arise on a Dukes hike, along with the potential benefit in for the form of a learning experience for the students.

## **Physical Challenges**

Issue: Some students may struggle with the physical demands of the program.

Benefit: We prioritise safety, provide training, and encourage a supportive environment where students challenge themselves at their own pace.

## **Logistics Challenges:**

Issue: Organisation of your pack along with essential equipment etc is just one of the many skills that are developed

Benefit: Students learn to plan, communicate effectively and work together to overcome any areas they have not considered



## **Weather Conditions:**

Issue: Weather is always a factor and may impact the program on any given day.

Benefit: Students work together to check forecasts, carry appropriate gear and consider alternative plans

## **Team Dynamics:**

Issue: Group dynamics can be challenging in terms of navigating difficulties and teamwork

Benefit: The group of students get to work and resolve problems together in a positive team environment

## **Safety:**

Issue: Every situation has a degree of risk

Benefit: Students learn to consider the risks and are educated in the safety protocols building confidence and resilience along the way

## **Inclusivity:**

Issue: No one need miss out on participating, however, there are adjustments to be considered.

Benefit: Students learn to accommodate different abilities and work with the group to ensure everyone is taken care of.

**Communication:**

Issue: Effective communication is critical and miscommunication leads to confusion and frustration.

Benefit: Students learn to communicate clearly and agree to develop a culture where questions are welcome and listening is valued.

Our students have had some rich learning experiences in class but some of the best lessons our students have had include these wonderful Dukes treks. Let's thank the teachers and staff who have had the heart to support these programs so generously.

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