

Team Cedar:

Team Cedar's silver qualifying expedition...what a wild three days. Just off the bus and we were already cold and behind on time, but a light jog (Cedar's usual pace) and we were warmed up, all ready to go and tucking into half of Marks and Spencer's confectionary section that my mum had packed for us all! Day one ended with one of the expedition highlights, chicken curry and naan bread cooked by myself as designated head chef that night on the mountainside. Day two was upon us and this one was going to be tough. Our first challenge was Hares Gap, what looked like a vertical climb from a distance, but thankfully ended up being more of a mucky scramble. That afternoon the main challenge was descending into the Annalong Valley, which I must say Kirstin, Matthew and I did in true fashion (aka sliding down the mountain!) Although we did make it down in one piece and therefore we deemed it a success. That evening Kirstin was head chef and cooked us a scrumptious Bolognese, giving us some much-needed energy. An early night was followed by an early start the next morning, first chatters of Tom and Tom quickly followed by the rest of us had us up by 7am, and it was like we had all set alarms! Day three of three and today's motivation came from the idea of a bus home within the next seven hours. The chief navigators for the day, Max and Glenn lead and we all tried to charge towards the finish line slightly hindered by sore feet, blisters and sodden boots. 5pm arrived and we all packed into the coach, where there wasn't one single open eye on the journey home. Team Cedar would like to thank Miss Wilson, Dr Dorrity and John and Stephen from Life Adventure Centre Castlewellan.

Written by Mia Jackson



Team OOF

Overall, our Duke of Edinburgh experience was extremely positive. It was nice to take a break from regular school life and participate in a worthwhile experience. Despite the cold nights and the pain induced by the long hikes, especially up Hares gap, we persevered through all three days with the help and support of one another. The highlight of each day was definitely dinner, for which we had Karen's stir fry and curry followed by Louis' mountain of snacks. Another highlight came at the top of Cove Mountain where the view was incredible and we could see just how far we had come.

Written by Rebecca Higham

