

Mobile learning on the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award



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About Strathmore College

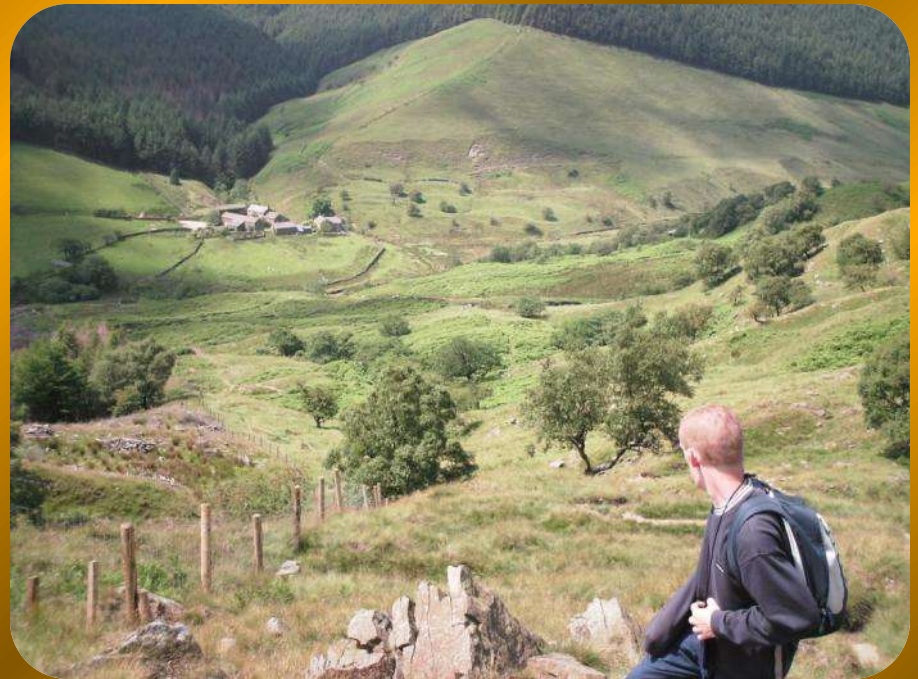
- Independent Specialist College
 - Learners with a learning difficulty/disability 16 -24
 - Residential and day learners on two to three year programme
 - Training centres and community projects across Stoke-on-Trent
 - Offering awards such as NVQ, NPTC, the Essential Skills Award, Young Enterprise, Duke of Edinburgh and others.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award

- Personal and Social development where learners need to achieve up to 5 challenges
 1. **Service** (helping other people in the local community)
 2. **Skills** (hobbies, skills or interests)
 3. **Physical Recreation** (sport, dance and fitness)
 4. **Expeditions** (training for, planning and completing a journey on foot or horseback, by boat or cycle)
 5. **Residential Project** (a purposeful enterprise with people not previously known to the participant)

The Challenge

- A lesson observation brings out a question
- How can we build ILT and Skills for Life into the D of E and other similar outdoor pursuits?



“When you’re half way up a mountain with nothing but the sheep for company, how can you be using ILT”

Weather Willy Weather Stations

- The first idea, the Weather Willy
- Learners could log on to the BBC website to check the forecast
- Compare with Weather Willy and record the data to see which was the most accurate.



Weather Willy

Portable Mini Sony Vaio laptops

- Measure progress while on the move
- Keep records of their progress
- Plan routes and load maps from the Memory Map software
- Statistics



Mio P350 PDA with GPS receiver



- With this equipment the learners were able to:
 - Use the GPS receiver with Memory map software.
 - Locate their exact position on the map
 - Use clear ordinance survey mapping on screen that is easy to use because of its touch sensitivity

How the learners benefited

- They were more motivated as learning was more fun through the use of the equipment
- Easy to operate equipment with touch screen
- Better understanding of maps and the relationship to their location
- They were able to track their own progress and achievements whilst on the move
- Enabled them to achieve the Gold Award

The Drawbacks

- Battery life of the PDA
- Need to recognise that this is just one tool to use from your tool bag.
- The size of the screen on the Mini Vaio
- Issue with gaining training to use the hardware and software

What was achieved?

- The first Specialist College in the region to deliver the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award
- The learners were better equipped for the expedition
- The learners were enabled to travel through really rugged terrain independently
- The experience built up strong team working

Graham Morrell

What I have learned about myself

- I like to help people
- I can solve problems
- When the pressure was on and there was no one else to turn to, then I can make decisions.
- I will look after people who need help.
- One of my team was suffering really badly from midge bites and if she got any worse she would not be able to complete the expedition so I had to help her.



Thanks to the funding from the Innovation 2 project, these learners were able to achieve this goal where previously it had not been possible.



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