

May 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award

Since your daughter signed up for the Duke of Edinburgh Silver award in September, I am pleased that the groups have been working hard on their various sections, and we are looking forward to a successful expedition season this July.

The dates remain unchanged from September, and are as follows:

Wednesday 20 June

Equipment distribution after school at Holly Walk, finished by 16:30

Thursday 5 – Saturday 7 July

Practice expedition in the New Forrest, Hampshire. Departing from and returning to Holly Walk.

Saturday 14 – Tuesday 17 July

Assessed expedition on the North Yorkshire Moors. Departing from and returning to Holly Walk.

Thursday 19 July

Equipment return after school, Holly Walk

As last year, the students will require food and certain items of personal equipment from home; please find a kit-list attached. In most cases, the equipment that the students used for Bronze will be perfectly suitable for the Silver expeditions, but with the extra day and night in the outdoors it is important that the students have comfortable, supportive boots, and good waterproofs.

As I outlined in September, the cost for the Silver expeditions will be higher than at Bronze: £190 for both expeditions. The money will pay for equipment replacement due to wear-and-tear, camping fees for four nights, accommodation and two meals in a youth hostel, maps, the hire of GPS trackers, and the cost of the Duke of Edinburgh licence. The school will cover the cost of minibus mileage and fuel, and teaching cover for the members of staff involved. Please make your payment on parent pay, and if you wish to this can be made in two instalments.

Please also complete the attached medical form and ask your daughter to return it to Mr Mounsey by 25 May.

For the practice expedition, we will meet at school at 7.00am, aiming to depart by 7:30am. The students will be dropped off at their start points in the New Forest by minibus, and will be supervised remotely through regular check-points. The two groups will camp at the same campsites alongside the supervising members of staff. We will return to school on Saturday evening at approximately 6.00pm.

The Silver assessed expedition must be undertaken in more challenging terrain than the Bronze, and so we will be travelling up to the North Yorkshire Moors. We plan to set off from school on the Saturday Morning, departing at 11.00am. We will stay one night in the Osmotherly YHA. The students will follow their own planned routes from Sunday morning, and the two groups may be camping at separate campsites. Staff will be on hand to deal with any problems, but the students are expected to be entirely independent at the campsites.

I know the students are looking forward to the expeditions, and it promises to be a rewarding experience for them. As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me directly, either by calling the school or by email (see below).

Yours sincerely

Mr S Mounsey
D of E Coordinator
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