

March 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Practice Expedition from Friday 17th to Sunday 19th May 2019

The practice expedition for the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award will take place over the weekend of 17th-19th May 2019 in Ashdown Forest.

The itinerary for the 3 days is as follows; the 6 figure grid references are for the OS Explorer Map OL22; 1:25000.

Date and time	Location description	Activity
Friday 17th May 3:15pm	Meet at rear of school by minibuses. Travel to start point: GR: 392217 Car park at Warrs Hill Lane Chailey	Met by Miss Mead and Ms Elston Travel to start point.
4:30pm - 6:30pm	Ashdown Forest	Expedition across small section of Ashdown Forest.
6:30pm onwards	Arrive at Heaven Farm Campsite GR: 407263 Heaven Farm Furners Green Uckfield East Sussex TN22 3RG Tel 01825 790226	Pitch tents and cook evening meals, camp skills and evening activities.
Saturday 18th May 8.30am onwards	Ashdown Forest	Groups depart for second day expedition.
4pm onwards	Arrive at Broadstone Warren Scout Site and Activity Centre, GR: 421329 Lewes Road, Forest Row, East Sussex. RH18 5JS Tel: 01342 822573	Activities as previous day.
Sunday 19th May 8.00am onwards	Ashdown Forest	Groups depart for final day expedition and project.

3pm onwards	Arrive at Foresters Arms, GR: 468265 Fairwarp, Uckfield, Sussex, TN22 3BP Tel: 01825 712808	Students arrive and are debriefed by the supervisor.
6pm onwards	Arrive back at school.	Students return to Billingshurst via Minibus (or parents can pick up at the Foresters Arms)

Equipment

Please note, in keeping with the expectations of the D of E organisation, neither denim jeans nor wellington boots can be worn on the walk because wet jeans are difficult to dry and they can chafe, while wellies do not provide adequate ankle support. It should be noted that footwear **must** cover the ankle.

A **full set of waterproofs** are required which must include a waterproof jacket with taped seams and waterproof trousers. The weather can be very unpredictable. Without the correct footwear and waterproofs your son/daughter will not be allowed to take part in the venture due to health and safety requirements.

The weather in **May** can be changeable, and therefore, candidates would be well advised to cater for sun, rain, warm and cool conditions. We strongly suggest that a few days before the trip your son/daughter monitors the weather forecasts. Layering is the key to keeping warm and dry and the candidates will have been instructed on the process in the training sessions leading up to the walk.

Candidates will be expected to provide all the food they need. Water will be available at checkpoints but please note that candidates should bring 2 litres of water with them. Cooking will be done on Trangia stoves which students have practiced on in training sessions. These are provided by the school.

All equipment excluding roll mats must be packed inside rucksacks, if you are providing your own it must have a capacity of between 65 and 75 litres to accommodate everything on your kit list.

It is strongly advisable to line your rucksack and pack everything inside individual carrier bags inside the liner.

Full copies of the kit list are available on the Student share under the DofE folder accessible from the school computers; it is your responsibility to make sure you have all these items on the expedition.

Transport

Candidates will be taken to the start point by school minibus on Friday evening and return on Sunday from the finish point to the front of the school. Any alternative arrangements organised by candidates must be relayed to Ms Mead.

Health and Safety

We will have all the students' medical information with us and copies will be with the senior member of staff acting as emergency contact, Tom Brixey. All students taking part have to be made aware of any special medical issues which may affect the group dynamic and we would ask parents to confirm their agreement that they are happy for their son/daughter to be involved with a group that may have members with specific health issues/needs or requirements. All students must make the other members of their groups aware of any medical conditions they have or any medication they are taking, for example Asthma pumps and the location of such medication in their rucksacks.

Behaviour expectations

As you know, we have the highest expectations of our students for their behaviour and conduct around school. and they rarely let us down. However, please be aware that your child's place on any school trip is dependent on their ability to cooperate fully with staff and other students, to be a responsible member of our community and to comply with school rules. In the unlikely event that a member of staff feels this is not the case, they reserve the right to withdraw a child from a trip for safeguarding purposes. Please note that payments are non-refundable and you may be liable to pay any outstanding balance in full, which we have already committed to the operators or venues.

Contact Details

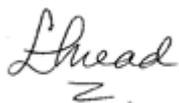
If you need to contact your son/daughter in an emergency whilst they are on their expedition then contact me first, use the school contact as a last resort. The students will have their phones switched off, (although there will be one activated so that the group can be contacted) and sealed so will not be contactable directly throughout the expedition. We will be able to contact individual pupils and other relevant members of staff to relay any messages using our knowledge of their location using their route cards prepared by your son/daughter.

My contact number, for use in an emergency only, is: **07789 112457**.

The emergency school contact for the school is Tom Brixey. He can be contacted on **07841 308602**. Again please direct all enquiries to me in the first instance, and only contact Mr Brixey as a last resort.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me by calling the school or e-mail emead@theweald.org.uk.

Yours faithfully,



Esther Mead
Silver D of E Co-ordinator