



community school
and sixth form

May 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition Saturday/Sunday 8th/9th June 2019
Supervisor: Ms Esther Mead

We have arranged the practice weekend expedition to take place on the South Downs.

The students are all **starting at different times**, so **your son/daughter** will be able to tell you what time **they need to be at the start**. Students make their way directly to the start of the expedition and meet the supervisor there, arriving at least 20 minutes before their start time.

This expedition will be undertaken with remote supervision, with the students navigating as a group across the South Downs, with regular check points along the way, where they will have contact with staff.

The itinerary for the weekend is in the chart below. The 6 figure grid references are for the OS Explorer Map 121 1:25000. Supervisor: Ms Esther Mead

Date and time	Location description	Activity
<u>Saturday 8th June 2019</u>	Arrive at Start: Coombe Rise Car Park Coombe Rise Worthing West Sussex BN14 0ED TQ133066	Met by Staff : Ms E Mead and others
8.30am- 4pm	South Downs	Expedition across South Downs to Washington Campsite, (123133)
4pm onwards	Arrive Washington Campsite London Road Washington West Sussex RH20 4AJ TQ123133	Pitch tents and cook evening meals Evening Activities: discussion of the day, and games activities
<u>Sunday 9th June</u> 8.00am onwards	South Downs	Groups depart for second morning expedition
12pm onwards	Arrive Findon Valley Car park Storrington Rise Worthing West Sussex BN14 0HT TQ129077	Meet staff: debrief Meet parents and return home

Equipment

Please note, in keeping with the expectations of the D of E organisation, **denim jeans or wellington boots** are not appropriate for the walk as they are unsuitable for wet weather and wellington boots do not support the ankles.

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 June can be changeable, and therefore candidates must cater for sun, rain, warm and cold conditions. We strongly suggest that a few days before the trip your son/daughter monitors the weather forecast. 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 on Trangia stoves, which are available from the school, experience with which they have practised in the training sessions.

All equipment including roll mats, if possible, 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 the rucksack and pack everything inside individual carrier bags inside the liner.

Full copies of the kit list are available on the school website under the **School Information/Enrichment Activities/D of E Award/Bronze 2018-2019**. It is each individual student's responsibility to make sure he/she has all these items on the expedition.

Transport

Candidates are expected to make their own way to the start point. We have advised them to carpool where they can. However, there will be a minibus available for any emergency throughout the weekend.

Health and Safety

We will have all the students' medical information with us and copies will be on hand with Mr Brixey, the school emergency contact. 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.



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Behaviour in school prior to the trip is also now of critical importance. If your son/daughter does not meet our behaviour expectations in school in the weeks ahead of the trips, you will be informed via an email and he/she will be put on notice to improve their behaviour or forfeit the right to finish the Award with us as a school.

We would encourage you to read all trip terms and conditions, including cancellation policies, medical, refunds and student expectations on our website under School Information, Enrichment Activities, After School & Offsite Enrichment Activities or by using the following link <http://bit.ly/2s4PgDq>

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 not have their phones with them, although there will be one activated so that the group can be contacted. However, this will be sealed. **No student will be allowed to contact home over the weekend without permission of the supervisor. Use of phones can lead to the group failing the expedition.** We will be able to contact individual pupils and other relevant members of staff reasonably quickly to relay any messages based upon their location as shown on their route cards prepared by your son/daughter.

My contact number, for use in an emergency only, is **07512 528690**.

The emergency home contact for the school is Mr Brixey. He can be contacted on **07518 607376**. 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
D of E Co-ordinator