

June 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

**Duke of Edinburgh Silver Qualifying Expedition on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

The Qualifying Expedition for the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award will take place over the 3 days from Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019 in the New 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
<b><u>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019</u></b> <b><u>7am</u></b>	Meet at front of school Travel to start point: <b>Bolton's Bench Car Park,</b> <b>B3056,</b> <b>Lyndhurst</b> <b>SO43 7BQ</b> <b>GR: 305082</b>	Met by Miss Mead and Mr Hammond Travel to start point. Meet with Assessors Clem Cobden and Drinda Gillespie
9am - 4pm	New Forest	Expedition across New Forest
4pm onwards	Arrive Harry's Island Campsite <b>Harry's Island</b> <b>Vereley</b> <b>Burley Street</b> <b>BH24 4HH</b> <b>GR: 198050</b>	Pitch tents and cook evening meals, camp skills. Evening activities
<b><u>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019</u></b> 8.30am onwards	New Forest	Groups depart for second day expedition
4pm onwards	Arrive at <b>Acres Down campsite</b> <b>Minstead,</b> <b>Lyndhurst</b> <b>SO43 7GE</b> <b>GR: 269099</b>	Activities as previous day.
<b><u>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019</u></b> 8.00am onwards	New Forest	Groups depart for final day expedition

3pm onwards	Arrive at <b>Ashurst Railway Station</b> <b>Ashurst,</b> <b>Southampton</b> <b>SO40 7AD</b> <b>GR: 334102</b>	Students arrive and are debriefed by their assessor  <i>Parents are welcome to come and collect their son/daughter from this final point.</i>
6pm onwards	Arrive back at school	Students return to Billingshurst via Minibus

### 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 **July** may 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 the kit list.

**It is strongly advisable to line the rucksack and pack everything inside individual carrier bags inside the liner to keep them as dry as possible.**

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

### Transport

Candidates will be taken to the start point by school minibus on Wednesday morning and return on Friday 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, Richard Brimacombe. 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 by us) and sealed so will not be contactable directly throughout the expedition. **No student will be allowed to contact home over the 3 days 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 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: **07518 608886**

The emergency school contact for the school is Richard Brimacombe. He can be contacted on **07706 644511**. Again please direct all enquiries to me in the first instance, and only contact Mr Brimacombe 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](mailto:emead@theweald.org.uk)

Yours faithfully



Esther Mead  
Silver D of E Co-ordinator