

June 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

**RE: D of E Qualifying Expedition June 22nd/23rd 2019**  
**Supervisor: Miss Frances Elston**

I should like to say how pleased we were with the students on their practice expedition on the South Downs recently. They showed resilience and great fortitude as well as very good teamwork and navigation skills, behaved impeccably, and came well prepared for the weather. It was a pleasure to accompany them.

We have arranged the assessed weekend expedition to take place in the Steyning and Henfield area. *The majority have now finished signing off their other 3 activities, but there are several who have yet to do so. Please encourage those to do so before the expedition, otherwise their participation may not take place.*

As occurred on their practice, the groups will be remotely supervised while walking through the area, but there will be regular checkpoints where they will make contact with members of staff.

The itinerary for the weekend is as follows (The TQ Grid References are for the OS Map Extract OL11:)  
Supervisor: Miss Frances Elston

Date and time	Location description	Activity
<b><i>Saturday 22nd June</i></b> <b><i>9am onwards (times vary for each group: check with your son/daughter)</i></b>	Arrive at the car park on <b>Coombes Road (Cuckoo Corner),</b> <b>Lancing</b> <a href="https://goo.gl/HoOmNO">https://goo.gl/HoOmNO</a>  <b>TQ200071</b>	Met by staff and assessor, final instructions.
9am- 4pm	<i>Steyning and Henfield and the environs</i>	Expedition across the countryside Parkwood Scout Campsite, including project activities.
4pm onwards	Arrive at <b>Parkwood Scout Campsite</b> <b>Poynings Rd,</b> <b>Poynings,</b> <b>Brighton</b> <b>BN45 7BA</b> <b>TQ260138</b>	Pitch tents and cook evening meals Evening activities: project work, discussion of the day, and games activities
<b><i>Sunday 23rd June</i></b> <b>8am onwards</b>	<i>Henfield and the environs</i>	Breakfast, pack up and groups depart for second day expedition plus project.
2pm onwards <b><i>(times will vary: check with your son/daughter)</i></b>	Arrive at the car park in Bramber <b>The Street</b> <b>Bramber</b> <b>BN44 3WE</b> <b>TQ188106</b>	Activities as for day 1 Finish and debrief by assessor Collect and return home

## Transport

Once again, the students will need to make their own way to the start point and be collected at the finish point. **Please note that these are different locations.** It is advisable that they car share to allay transport costs and to ease the burden on the environment! When you come to collect your son/daughter, **please do not approach them until they have been debriefed by their assessor and given permission to leave.**

## 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 June may well be changeable, and therefore candidates would be well advised to cater for sun, rain, warm and cold 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 at least 1 litre of water with them. There will be water available at the campsite. Cooking will be done on Trangia stoves, which are provided by us, experience with which they have practised in the training sessions.

All equipment excluding roll mats (which must be covered) must be packed inside rucksacks; if you are providing your own it will need to have a capacity of between 65 and 75 litres to accommodate everything on your kit list. Please ensure you have a rain cover for your bag too.

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

Students should only be carrying 25% of their body mass, so please can you ensure this is the case. If their rucksack is heavier than this, we can move the heavier items in the minibus, but this must be confirmed at the kit check prior to arrival.

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

## 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.

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**

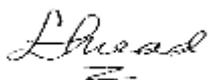
If you need to contact your son/daughter in an emergency whilst they are on their expedition then contact me first, use the home contact as a last resort. The students will have their phones switched off, (although there will be one activated so that the group can be contacted) and sealed so you will not be able to contact them directly throughout 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.

We can be contacted in an emergency on: Miss Elston - **07512 580974** or Ms Mead - **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 or Ms Elston 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 e-mail [emead@theweald.org.uk](mailto:emead@theweald.org.uk)

Yours faithfully,



Esther Mead  
D of E Co-ordinator