

July 2019

Dear Parent/ Carer,

**Duke of Edinburgh Training: Important dates for September:**

- 1) Parents and participants meeting: Tuesday 10th September 2019
- 2) Training weekend at Blackland Farm, East Grinstead: Saturday and Sunday 28th/29th September 2019

The training for the Bronze D of E expedition season in the summer of 2020 will begin in September, with a meeting for parents and participants on the evening of the 10th September 2019, and the training weekend on the weekend of the 28th/29th September 2019. We have brought everything forward this year due to the sheer numbers we have enrolled (123 participants) and the logistics of providing them with the opportunities for their training weekend, Practice expedition and Qualifying expedition.

**Parents and participants meeting: Introduction to the Expedition  
Tuesday 10th September 2019**

The meeting will take place in the School Hall and will begin at 6:30pm. We hope to finish the meeting by 7:15pm, but there will also be a presentation providing you with the information you will need to help your son/daughter fully prepare for the expeditions in the summer of 2020. We hope to have a representative from a local outdoor equipment shop to provide advice on clothing, footwear, rucksacks and other equipment required to complete the 2 day expeditions. Dates for the expeditions in 2020 will be provided for you to put on the family calendar, as they cannot be missed if they wish to gain the D of E Award. You will be able to clarify any uncertainties at this meeting.

**Training weekend at Blackland Farm, East Grinstead  
Saturday and Sunday 28th/29th September 2019**

The full weekend of training will take place as stated above and is being provided by a highly recommended company (4<sup>th</sup> Dimension) who work at Blackland Farm, near East Grinstead. This is a two day training weekend with overnight camping at the centre. This training weekend is **crucial to the D of E expedition**, and all students are expected to attend. Full details will be provided at the meeting but we need you to make note of this in advance for you to let us know if there are any problems with the date.

**Some further dates for your family calendar.** Due to the large numbers, we will have two separate groups who will complete their expeditions on the dates listed below. We will be able to inform you which weekend your son/daughter is involved in closer to the time.

**Practice Expedition:** Friday evening to Sunday afternoon: 24th-26th April 2020. Washington area of the South Downs.

All students, but:

Group 1 will be dropped off Friday evening by parents, camp, cook evening meal and walk Saturday, to be collected at the end of the walk.

Group 2 will be dropped off by parents at the campsite on the Saturday evening, camp, cook evening meal and walk Sunday, to be collected Sunday afternoon from the finish point.

**Qualifying expeditions:** Group 1: Sat/Sun 6th/7th June 2020 **OR** Group 2: Sat/Sun 20th/21st June 2020.

This will all be clarified at the meeting in September, when we hope to be able to provide you with the definite dates your son/daughter will be expected to attend for their expedition.

May I remind you that all participants need to have completed all the other 3 sections of the Award before they will be allowed to participate in the expeditions. They should have completed at least one by now. Several participants have not yet put anything on their edofe account, thus I am unable to approve their activity before they start. Please check if your son/daughter is up to date with their sections and are making progress. It would be a shame not to gain the Award due to this.

### **Terms and conditions**

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.

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>

To help keep our records up to date, please inform us of any changes to your child's personal or medical information. This can be updated through the online Parent Portal or Pupil Reception.

I look forward to meeting you in September.

If you have any further inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me at [emead@theweald.org.uk](mailto:emead@theweald.org.uk)

Yours faithfully,



Esther Mead  
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator