

Outdoor Education and Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition Letter

Dear Parents, Guardians and 4th formers,

This letter is to inform you of the details of the two day Camping and Outdoor Skills Events as well as both the Bronze DofE Practice and Assessment Expeditions which will take place during the Trinity Term.

A two day outdoor event is planned for all members of the 4th form on Sunday 26th April and Monday 27th April as part of our commitment to ensure that our pupils get access to a wholesome and rounded education. Pupils will be given time to enjoy being outdoors in the countryside and will learn about camping, outdoor cooking, map reading and life outdoors. The event will also be used as Bronze DofE training and the Practice Expedition.

Pupils who are doing Bronze DofE will have a specific set of training objectives over the course of the two days and will need to satisfy us that they have the right attitude and competence to go on to the assessment. Pupils who are not doing their Bronze DofE can either join in with a Bronze DofE group and complete the expedition training over the two days or they can engage in a series of less formal outdoor activities designed to encourage an enjoyment of the outdoors.

Timings:

Sunday 26th April

9am meet at school with all kit packed - kit check and depart for Cranham Scout Centre. Carousel of activities based at the Scout Centre including a walk in the local countryside.

Monday 27th April

DofE groups will navigate their way along planned routes back to school.

We will discuss Monday options for non DofE students on the Sunday & arrange suitable activities for them - probably a walk in the countryside. Please note that in common with the DofE students - this walk may be un-accompanied at times to give the students a sense of independence.

Expected arrival back to school 2-4pm.

Kit will need to be cleaned and dried and returned to Mr Lloyd.

Once back at school and kit is cleared up students can be picked up.

Kit List

You will receive a kit list prior to the expedition. PLEASE PAY ATTENTION TO THIS LIST AND MAKE SURE THAT PARTICIPANTS HAVE ALL THAT IS ON THE LIST.

Food

Packed lunches will be provided for SUNDAY.

Participants will need to bring their own food for Sunday evening meal, Monday breakfast, Monday lunch and snacks for the whole time. Please see the kit list for suggested menus.

Please bear in mind that we are a sesame and nut free school, which includes all expeditions, as we have some students with severe nut allergies.

Information for Bronze DofE participants:

On the Sunday, detailed training will be given in the following areas:

- Navigation and route-planning
- Cooking
- Campcraft
- Packing a rucksack and kit care
- How to minimise risk and deal with incidents
- Behaviour and the countryside code.

On the Monday DofE participants will carry all their equipment and navigate their own way back to school.

DofE Qualifying Expedition dates:

The Qualifying Expedition will be during the last week of the Trinity Term - full information will be sent after the Practice Expedition.

Both the Practice and the Qualifying Expeditions need to be attended and completed in order for the Expedition Section to be signed off.

Groups

DofE participants have been asked to get themselves into groups and to let me know the names of their group members. They will need to email me with this information by the 20th March.

Requirements:

- All groups must have 4 to 7 people
- They can be boys, girls or mixed. If they are mixed, there has to be a minimum of 2 boys/girls
(i.e. you could have 5 boys and 2 girls or vice versa, but you CANNOT have 1 boy and 6 girls or vice versa)

DofE 20 conditions

There are 20 conditions specified by the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme that need to be met for the successful completion of the qualifying expedition at Bronze level. These are really important and participants should be familiar with them. They should be used as guidelines for the Practice Expedition in preparation for the qualifying expedition. Please search 'DofE 20 conditions' or follow this link to view the 20 conditions:
<https://www.dofe.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/20-Conditions-of-the-Expedition-section-2019-1.pdf>

Please take note of item 13 on these conditions which describes the requirement for groups to be independent and unaccompanied. Once DofE staff are satisfied that groups have shown competence in the necessary skills to safely walk independently in the countryside then supervision will be changed from 'close' to 'remote'. In practice this means that groups will walk several miles through the countryside, across roads and through town without a member of staff. We track the groups from a distance on foot and by minibus but at times may not know their exact whereabouts and may not see them for a number of hours through the day.

All DofE participants will be continuously assessed over the course of the Practice Expedition and will need to demonstrate they are ready for their qualifying expedition through both their competence and attitude.

Medication, Medical Conditions and Injuries

Participants will need to be in good health and able to undertake two days of physical activity including walking a long distance carrying a heavy rucksack. Please inform us either on the consent form (or nearer to the expedition by email) of any medication currently being taken, medical conditions of which we should be aware or relevant injuries. Participants are responsible for bringing their own medication.

Should you have any questions about the two day event or specific to DofE please do get in touch.

Best wishes

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