



Dear Parents/ Guardians,

We are sorry that we were unable to complete the planned DofE Bronze expeditions last term, and I am writing to you now with details of our upcoming Bronze Expedition training plans.

Last term we managed to fit in a day of Expedition training for a number of students and are now planning to provide the same one day training to the remainder of the Remove DofE students. We then intend to provide another day of training in the Lent Term and a Qualifying Expedition in the Trinity Term with an overnight camp (which is not currently permitted).

Training days this term

We will be organising a training day on Sunday the 4th October and Sunday 11th October.

--If your son/daughter completed the training day last term then they don't need to do one of these training days and the remainder of this letter won't be relevant for you--

We have allocated Sunday the 4th to the Day Pupils and Sunday the 11th October to the Boarders.

Can I ask that you complete the google form here to let me know your son or daughter's availability for our planned training day:

<https://forms.gle/1jeyLLYV9WSZVYLT8>

The split between Day pupil and Boarders is not a Covid measure so if any individuals cannot make their allocated Sunday please let me know on the google form and I will try to fit them onto the other Sunday.

Once we finalise the participants for each date consent forms will be sent to you.

Organisation of the training day

- **Beginning of the day:** We will meet at 10am at the Lineover Woods Car Park which is on the A40 heading out of Cheltenham just after Koloshi Restaurant and just before the Dowdeswell Reservoir - turn right up a farm track to the car park in the woods. Approximate postcode is: GL54 4HG
 - Day pupils will need to be dropped at the start point.
 - Boarders will be transported to the start point.
- **End of the day:** Pick up for day pupils will be from the Dean Close Sports Hall at 6pm.

If you have any problems finding the car park do call us on Mrs Beecham 07957 583902 or Mr Beecham 07880 707736.

CLOTHES:

Clothing needs to be suitable for walking in at this time of year - keep an eye on the weather forecast!

- Trekking trousers / school tracksuit bottoms / running type leggings
- t shirt / school skins / base layer
- Warm top - school midlayer is ideal
- Trekking socks / sport socks
- Comfortable trainers or walking boots

OTHER EQUIPMENT / FOOD:

IF THE WEATHER FORECAST IS WET IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE SURE THAT YOUR BELONGINGS ARE IN A PLASTIC BAG INSIDE YOUR RUCKSACK.

- A small rucksack
- A spare warm top - a jumper or hoodie
- A warm hat
- Gloves
- Waterproof top
- Waterproof bottoms
- 2 water bottles containing at least 2 litres of water
- Any personal medication / inhaler if needed one
- A small first aid kit with things you might need for a day walk eg blister plasters, antihistamine for insect bites.
- Packed lunch
- Snacks for the afternoon

- Food that you think will be suitable to cook for an evening meal on a Trangia once we get back to school (once we know who is going on which training day groups can be organised and food plans can be decided on in groups)
- Knife / fork / spoon
- Plate
- Cup for hot drinks and whatever you need to make hot drinks (tea, coffee / hot chocolate / cup-a-soups) - you may well need this when you get back to school if the weather is cold

Maps and compasses will be provided

THE PLAN:

We will walk in groups navigating our way back to school. We will do some work on how to use a map and compass, how to deal with various situations which may arise, country code, some first aid and group dynamics. If we feel happy with how the groups are getting on they will then be able to walk the remainder of the way back to school independently in their groups.

When we get back to school the students will spend some time pitching a tent and cooking an evening meal on Trangias. **Tents, stoves and fuel will be provided.**

Do get in touch if you have any questions: rbeechem@deanclose.org.uk

Best wishes,

Rachel Beecham
Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager

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