



September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Gold Duke of Edinburgh 2018

We are looking forward to the forthcoming Gold Practice expedition in October half-term. This letter confirms important dates and arrangements for route planning, training and then the expedition itself.

I am also able to confirm the payment plan, as follows:

First instalment of £100 by Monday 5 November 2018
Second instalment of £100 by Monday 4 February 2019
Final payment of £130 by Monday 29 April 2019

Payments are non-refundable.

If you have any queries regarding payment, please contact Mrs Wilson in the Finance Office.

Key Dates:

Monday 24 September and Tuesday 2 October 3.30pm – 5.00pm - Room 86

Route planning for the practice expedition will take place on the above two dates. It is important that students attend these sessions as planning their route is a compulsory part of the expedition section.

Friday 5 October (INSET day)

This will be a training day with Jane Wyndham Smith, our Duke of Edinburgh coordinator, and will be used to train and refresh students on map reading and navigation in preparation for their expedition in the Peak District. In order to do this effectively we want the students to be in an unfamiliar area. Students should be dropped off at 9.30am and collected at 4.00pm from Buckmoorend Farm Shop. The address is:

Buckmoorend Farm Shop
2 Lee Cottages
Butler's Cross
Aylesbury
HP17 0UT

If there are issues dropping off or collecting your son/daughter then please let me know as soon as possible.

Students will need to bring a packed lunch, plenty of water and waterproofs. Please ensure they are wearing layers of warm clothing and walking boots with ankle support.

Monday 22 October 3.30pm – 5.00pm - Room 86

Final check that students have all the necessary paperwork and kit for the Practice Expedition.

1. Maps – each team must have three maps marked up with practice and assessed routes. These should already have been completed in the route planning sessions.
2. Route cards – already completed in detail with help from staff.
3. The Aims of each DofE Expedition completed and handed in.
4. Personal kit and food are ready.
5. Menu planners are completed and handed in.

Practice Expedition Monday 29 October – Friday 2 November

The practice expedition will take place during October half-term. It is important that students are prepared before the end of term. The trip is five days long, travelling up early on the morning on Monday 29 October for a further training day. Students will need to arrive at school by 6.30am for a prompt departure. They will be returning on Friday 2 November at approximately 10.00pm.

Monday 19 November – 3.30pm - Room 86

Route planning for the assessed expedition. We are hoping that students will be able to complete the route planning for the assessed expedition before Christmas, in order to allow them to then focus on their Year 12 exams and A Levels.

Monday 24 June – 3.30pm - Room 86

Final meeting with students to ensure they are fully prepared for the assessed expedition and have handed in all the necessary paperwork. All students are expected to attend, even if they believe they have completed everything.

Friday 28 June – Tuesday 2 July - Assessed Expedition

We will be travelling up to Wales in the morning. Please arrive at school by 6.30am for a prompt departure. Students will be returning at approximately 10.00pm on Tuesday 2 July.

Presentations will again be arranged nearer the time when the whole group are available.

Wednesday 3 July

Please could students come in after school to return any remaining group kit and dry the tents if necessary (weather dependent).

Contact

Your child will be out of contact during the expedition but you can reach us on these numbers. We will contact you if we need to communicate anything, including our arrival time home on Wednesday if your child does not have a phone on them.

DofE 1 contact - 07415631719

DofE 2 contact - 07904656505

Food

A balanced and varied diet for the expedition, planned on menu cards.

Breakfast – must have something hot. It is strongly recommend that porridge is taken, at an absolute minimum a hot drink will be required to comply with the 20 Expedition Conditions for D of E. Do not skip breakfast.

Lunch – can be the hardest to plan for. Wraps are a good idea, with packaged tuna/sardines or sandwich filler or cheese. If you want meat, a dried meat like a chorizo may be a good idea.

Dinner – Light weight – dry freeze meals or boil in the bag recommended for speed and ease and washing up your pans in the dark. See outdoor shops. Make sure the student has tested their choice because they have to eat it!

You may wish to pack one small luxury food treat for night 3 when you hit an emotional low mid-expedition, to perk you up.

Top tip if you are going to bring pasta – spaghetti is the most spatially efficient! - but remember you have to wash the pan.

Snacks – dried fruit/cereal bars/mars bars/sweets/flapjack – avoid chocolate.

Emergency rations – must be kept until the end of the expedition to show your supervisor at the end (unless you have had an emergency).

Kit – Clothing layers are the key. You must have effective waterproofing. You may wish to purchase gaiters to cover your lower legs for added waterproofing and ensure your walking boots are waterproof and provide ankle support.

See DofE kit list attached or talk to Mr Tonge to see what spare equipment is available. Your backpacks are not waterproof and the covers provided do not work effectively enough to keep kit dry. You **MUST** put all items in waterproof and resealable bags. These should be placed inside a larger backpack, waterproof and sealable bag. Look at places like Sports Direct, Argos and Decathlon or use the DofE discount from Cotswold.

eDofE

Students who already have a eDofE account will be able to login and begin to upload their activity planners for their Physical, Skill and Volunteering sections. Students who are new to Duke of Edinburgh will have had their login details emailed to their school email account; if you have not received it then please let me know. Please make sure you make a note of the password you choose as only you will know this. We will spend some time at the route planning sessions looking at eDofE if students are struggling.

Paperwork

Please can you complete and return the attached enrolment form and behaviour contract as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Miss C Tubbritt
D of E School contact