

ASHLYNS SCHOOL



May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Practice Expedition : 10 - 12 June 2022

We are looking forward to the forthcoming DofE Silver practice expedition on 10, 11 and 12 June 2022. The expedition will provide students with the opportunity to discover the physical challenge of the expedition and implement the skills they have learnt at Bronze, ahead of the assessed expedition on 15, 16 and 17 July 2022.

Timings and Drop Off

The silver expedition involves three days of walking and two nights camping. For the practice expedition we will be completing the expedition in the Cotswolds. Staff from Ashlyns will be transporting students by minibus with an additional van to transport bags. Students will need to be dropped at **Ashlyns at 7.15am on Friday 10 June**.

On Sunday 12 June we plan to arrive back **at Ashlyns at approx 7.00pm**. This will be dependent on the walking pace of the groups and the traffic on the return journey. We will update our progress via our Twitter **@AshlynsDofE**. Students will also be able to make contact via their emergency phone once their expedition is complete. We have found that Whatsapp groups between group member parents/carers have worked well for our latest Year 9 Bronze cohort.

Expedition Details

The expedition will be led by David Goss from Zest for Adventure, an activity provider of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. David attended the online information evening and will be coming to Ashlyns on **Wednesday 25 May, 3.30pm to 4.30pm**, to meet groups and discuss the expedition further with them. This meeting is compulsory for students to attend.

For the expedition, students will be training and walking on the Friday, camping overnight, walking on Saturday, camping on Saturday night and walking on Sunday, before heading back to Ashlyns. Please see below of locations detailed from Zest from Adventure.

Training and Practice Expedition Summary	
Expedition Area	The Cotswold Hills
Expedition Start Date	Friday 10 June 2022
Expedition Finish Date	Sunday 12 June 2022
Friday Start Point	Milestone Ground Car Park, 10:00 (travel by minibus)
Address	Childswickham Road, Broadway, Worcestershire, WR12 7HB
Friday Night Campsite	Hayles Fruit Farm Campsite
Address	Winchcombe, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL54 5PB
Saturday Night Campsite	Stow Rugby Club
Address	The Clubhouse, Oddington Road, Stow on the Wold, Gloucestershire, GL54 1JJ
Sunday Finish Point	Coach and Car Park, 17:00 (travel by minibus)
Address	7 Station Road, Bourton-on-the-Water, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL54 2AA

Chesham Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire HP4 3AH

T: 01442 863605

E: admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk www.ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

Head Teacher: James Shapland BSc, MSc

Kit List

This is a link to the DofE [kit list](#). Please do be mindful that students are walking for 3 days and camping for two nights. When purchasing kit, please do not forget to claim the [10% discount](#) at selected retailers. Staff will carry out a kit check during the weekend. Students must wear sturdy walking boots to complete the expedition (please ensure students have broken boots in). All kit should be waterproofed and any kit on the outside of the bag should be wrapped in bin liners and covered by a waterproof cover. Please ensure your child has a combination of layers, eg base layer, t-shirt, fleece and waterproof. This will be more beneficial than one large hoodie. Students may also want to pack some lightweight trainers/shoes (toes must be covered) to wear around the school site after walking.

Group kit will be shared amongst the group. It is the group's responsibility to decide who will bring each item of the shared group kit, eg washing up liquid, tea towel.

DofE advice is that bags should not weigh more than 25% of the participant's body weight (including group kit). Please do check this before arriving at the expedition.

School Kit Collection (Tents/Trangias etc)

Groups will be collecting this **after school on Tuesday 7 June in the Main Hall**. Groups must be responsible for the kit and its safe return after the weekend. Kit must be fairly distributed among the group. Fuel for the trangias will be given out at camp for the evening meal and will not be carried by students. Students are asked to respect group kit, look after it well and ensure they keep all parts together. We will be asking group members to take tents home post expedition to dry/air before returning them.

Food and Drink

We would like to emphasise the importance of students eating well and planning food carefully to cater for a high intensity weekend. Students must complete and bring with them their menu planner (on Google Classroom). They will need to ensure they have 3 x lunches and 2 x hot evening meals they can cook (boil in a bag meal, packet pasta in sauce, quick cook tortellini with hotdog sausages etc). They will also need 2 x hot breakfasts (eg porridge pot). Students should also ensure they bring snacks they can easily access during their expedition. Emergency rations are also compulsory. **Please avoid any nuts in your planning of meals and snacks due to the risk of severe allergic reaction.**

Students must also carry 2 litres of water; there will be opportunities to refill along their route.

Mobile Phones

Students will need to decide who will be bringing the emergency phone for their group. This phone will be wrapped in a plastic bag and should remain switched off for the whole trip, unless there is an emergency. This phone will be brought at their own risk so we recommend bringing an old phone if possible. We do not expect to see mobile phones at any other time unless contacting parents at the end of the assessment and only when instructed to by staff.

Emergency Procedures Contact Numbers

Please be reassured that each group will have a mobile phone in case of emergency and an emergency card with staff telephone numbers. Each group will also have a GPS tracker and be accompanied by staff during the expedition.

DofE Contact – please only use this number in case of emergency, not to enquire about progress or collection times: 07376 426330.

Expectations

Students have signed a behaviour contract which we expect them to uphold. Students are representing Ashlyns at all times and must ensure they pick up litter and follow staff requests. The expedition is being supported and run by volunteers; without them it would not be possible.

eDofE

Please remember at least one section must be complete with assessor reports prior to the expedition. Once students have completed their 3 or 6 month timeframe, they are responsible for asking their assessor to complete a report on eDofE. Students must share their Duke of Edinburgh number with their assessor. More details have been posted on Google Classroom for students.

If you have any questions, please do check out the [Duke of Edinburgh website](#) or email dofe@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

Miss C Richardson and Mr S Waymark
DoE Team
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