

# ASHLYNS SCHOOL



March 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award Practice Expedition Weekend - 20 and 21 April**

We are looking forward to the forthcoming DofE Bronze practice expedition on 20 and 21 April. The expedition will provide students with the opportunity to discover the physical challenge of the expedition and implement the skills they have learnt in our after-school training sessions, ahead of the assessed expedition on 18 and 19 May.

### **Timings and Drop Off/Collection Points**

Due to the number of students taking part there are two starting/collection points. Students will walk one route on the first day, camp overnight at Ashlyns and then walk the other route on the second day. Please note the location and time of your child's start point. Students must arrive promptly and we **highly recommend lift shares** where possible due to very limited parking at start points. Parents will need to drop their child off and leave promptly to allow students to meet their group leader and set off on the expedition. Collection times on Sunday will vary depending on each group's progress on their journey. Please follow us on Twitter where we will provide updates on collection times for each group at [@AshlynsDofE](https://twitter.com/AshlynsDofE).

### **Saturday 20 April**

**The following groups start from St Mary Magdalene Church, Whipsnade, LU6 2LL.**

Group	Meet Time
1	08:00
2	08:15
3	08:30
4	08:45

Group	Meet Time
5	09:00
6	09:15
7	09:30
8	09:45

**Notes on St Mary Magdalene Church, Whipsnade:** there is very limited parking at the church. Please arrive at the **meet time** (groups then have 15 minutes to get organised before starting the expedition) Please lift share and drop and leave as we need to make room for the next groups arriving.



The following groups start from Wigginton Village Shop/Recreation Ground Car Park, HP23 6HH.

Group	Meet Time
9	08:00
10	08:15
11	08:30
12	08:45

Group	Meet Time
13	09:00
14	09:15
15	09:30
16	09:45

**Notes on Wigginton drop off location:** please do not park in the Greyhound Pub car park; if you have come from the centre of the village/A41, the recreation ground/village shop car park is further down Chesham Road on the right. If there is a football fixture or other activity in the recreation ground, the car park might be busier than normal. There is usually ample parking on the road to park safely and drop your child off.



### Sunday 21 April

Groups 1-8	Collect from Wigginton Village Shop/Recreation Ground Car Park (HP23 6HH) any time from 4.00pm - 6.00pm (approx)
Groups 9-16	Collect from St Mary Magdalene Church, Whipsnade, (LU6 2LL) any time from 4.00pm - 6.00pm (approx)

Please check Twitter and wait for students to make contact to be collected as they will need a short debrief and parking is limited. Please do try and organise lift shares wherever possible.

### Kit List

This is a link to the DofE [kit list](#). Please do note this is the same kit list given for longer expeditions so do consider that students will only be walking over two days. We have posted on Google Classroom the kit we have available to lend to students. This will be lent on a first come, first

served basis. Please email [dofe@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk](mailto:dofe@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk) if any of our kit can be of use to your child. 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 (bring spares too) and covered by a waterproof cover. Please ensure your child has a combination of layers, eg base layer, t-shirt, fleece and waterproofs as this will be more beneficial than one large hoodie. Shorts and jeans should not be worn either. Students may also want to pack some lightweight trainers/shoes (toes must be covered) to wear around the school site after walking.

Group kit including tents and Trangias 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 towels, sponges, matches.

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 Wednesday 17 April at Ashlyns DofE store** (this is the old Cadet centre behind the GCSE changing rooms/Little Kitchen). 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 school 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. They have had a training session focused on this (slides on Google Classroom). Students must also complete and bring with them their menu planner (on Google Classroom). They will need to ensure they have lunch for day one and a hot evening meal they can cook (boil in a bag meal, packet pasta in sauce etc). They will also need a hot breakfast (eg porridge pot) for day two and a lunch. 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 practice 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](mailto:dofe@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk)**

Yours sincerely

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