



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Headteacher: Mr A McGinnes

18 April 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award 2018

As you are aware, your child is well underway with their Duke of Edinburgh Award. A compulsory section of the award is the expedition. During the summer term, students have to complete two compulsory expeditions (Practise and Qualifying) which include three days walking and two evenings camping.

Practice Expedition

Date: 21st, 22nd, 23rd May 2018

Drop off Location and Time: Arrive at school at 8.15am with all equipment

Location: Oxfordshire

Campsite details: Night 1- Hardwick Park, Downs Road, Standlake, Witney, Oxfordshire. OX29 7PZ

Night 2 Cotswold View, Enstone Road, Charlbury, Oxfordshire. OX7 3JH

Pick up: at school at 3.10pm

Qualifying Expedition

Date: 27th, 28th, 29th June 2018

Drop off Location and Time: Arrive at school at 8.15am with all equipment

Location: Oxfordshire

Campsite details:

Night 1- Riverside Park and Pools, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, Oxfordshire. OX10 8EB,

Night 2- The Bridge House Campsite, Clifton Hampden, Abingdon. OX14 3EH

Pick up: at school at 4.45pm

Students MUST have completed all other sections of their Duke of Edinburgh to be allowed to go on the Qualifying expedition. Students were aware of this stipulation at the beginning of the course and were reminded at each of the training sessions. These sections must be signed off by their assessor, evidence uploaded and sent to be signed off on Duke of Edinburgh website. Please encourage your child to ensure that these sections are complete.

For each expedition, students are expected to be fully equipped both with individual items and group items. Students have completed a session on kit so understand the requirements. There is also a list and videos regarding kit on the Google Classroom. The recommended kit list is on their Google Classroom.

Please do not feel that you need to go and purchase all items on the kit list. We have a small number of tents and *trangias* that can be hired from school at a small cost. Students will need to see Mrs Cowley for a hire form. There is also a Duke of Edinburgh Kit Store at Green Park, Aylesbury, where



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all kits can be hired. If you are choosing this option, this must be organised by yourself with Green Park.

For each expedition, students must use their camp craft skills to cook their evening meal and breakfast. All students have been given a guideline sheet on the food they should consume during their expedition. Students will have created their own menu for their expedition for you to see. For lunch on each day, students can come with readymade lunches they have made at home. They must have a water bottle and carry enough fluid for each day's walking (refill at campsite overnight).

Students are placed within expedition groups and must work out how they are going to share the weight of any shared item, for example: tent share (4 man tent max), cooking stove etc., so please don't be alarmed if students only have the poles to carry in their back pack. Students are responsible for carrying **ALL** equipment and remember the heavier the bag the harder the walk!

The expedition will be supervised by staff from The Buckingham School; however, students will be walking unaccompanied most of the time. Staff will be present around the area, meeting your child at pre-agreed checkpoints and will be present at the campsite throughout the night.

For it to be a true Duke of Edinburgh experience, only a couple of students in each team are permitted to carry mobile phones for **emergency use only**. They must be turned off during the whole expedition and kept in a sealed bag. **If used inappropriately, students will fail the expedition section of their award.** Students will not be allowed to use headphones for *ipods* etc., to listen to music during the expedition as this is a health and safety hazard.

We endeavour to keep costs to a minimum, which includes transport for both expeditions, camp fees, trackers and insurance. The full cost of the expeditions is **£80**. Please can payment be made through www.parentmail.com by **Thursday, 3 May**. If you require any assistance to access this site, please email Mrs G Newall on gnewall@buckinghamschool.org or 01280 812206 ext. 258.

Students must return the attached parental consent form to Mrs Cowley **by Thursday, 3 May**. This consent form covers both trips, however, if there are any changes to medication and/or emergency contact details from when you hand in the form please can you inform us immediately.

Thank you for your support and if you require any further information please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs V Cowley
Assistant Curriculum Leader for PE
Duke of Edinburgh Leader
vcowley@buckinghamschool.org

