



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Headteacher: Mr A McGinnes

03 April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award 2019

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 two days walking and an evening camping.

Practice Expedition

Date: 20th and 21st May 2019

Time: Arrive at school at 8.30am with all equipment

Location: Milton Keynes Area

Campsite details: The Old Dairy Farm, Mill Lane, Stoke Hammond. MK17 9BF

Pick up: The Betsey Wynne Pub, Swanbourne, 21 Mursley Road, Swanbourne, Bucks, MK17 0SH 3.00pm.

Qualifying Expedition

Date: 20st and 21nd June 2019

Times: Please Drop your child off at The Kings Arms Car park, Main St, Farthingstone, Towcester NN12 8EZ

Location: Silverstone Area

Campsite details: Towcester Rugby Club, Greens Norton Road, Towcester NN12 8AW

Pick up: Church St, Silverstone, Towcester NN12 8XA 3.00pm

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 the 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 recommended kit list and videos regarding kit 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 Miss Vaill for a hire form. There is also a Duke of Edinburgh Kit Store at Green Park, Aylesbury, where all kits can be hired. If you are choosing this option, you will need to organise this

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yourself, directly with Green Park (please see attached sheet with contact details, list of equipment and cost of hire).

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 enough fluid for one day's walking (although they will be able to refill at the 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 have also arranged with a supplier for a hoodie and/or polo shirt to be available to order if you wish at an extra cost. Full details will be given to your son/daughter.

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 **£60**. Please can payment be made through www.parentmail.com by **Thursday 25 April**. 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 Miss Vaill **by Thursday 25 April**. This consent form covers both trips, however, if there are any changes to medication and/or emergency contact details from when you handed in the form, please can you inform us immediately.

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

Yours faithfully,

Miss D Vaill
PE Teacher
Duke of Edinburgh Leader
dvail@buckinghamschool.org

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