



ST HELEN &
ST KATHARINE

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Headmistress: Mrs Rebecca Dougall BA MA

18 May 2018

Dear Parents

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award assessment expedition

As you are aware the Silver Award assessment expedition will be taking place in the Trinity half-term break and we are now in a position to confirm the arrangements for this expedition.

The expedition will take place in the White Peak area of the Staffordshire Moorlands and Derbyshire. We will depart from school by coach at approximately 2pm on Wednesday 30 May. The students will be staying overnight at The Royal Oak, Hurdlow or at Sheen Bunkhouse near Hurdlow on Wednesday night. There will be a hot two-course meal in the evening for which menu choices have already been arranged with the students and a cooked breakfast will be provided before departing on their expedition the following morning. We hope that this gives the participants the best start to the Silver Award expedition that requires them to complete three, seven-hour days of activity.

Groups will need to bring food, drinks and snacks for all meals from lunch on Thursday through to lunch on Saturday. Groups should not pack any foodstuffs that require refrigeration. Fresh water is available at each campsite.

Group equipment issued for the practice expedition must be brought to the White Peak. Gas bottles will be issued prior to departure of the expeditions at the bunk house. Students should avoid taking unnecessary or valuable items on the trip as there is no secure storage other than the minibus and this will often be parked in remote locations in areas where thefts can occur.

Before returning to school on the final evening the group will have a meal in Ashbourne. The anticipated time for collection from St Helen's is around 9pm on Saturday 2 June, allowing for a short break in the journey and any congestion that may be on the roads. Should there be any significant changes to these timings we will ask your daughter to call you on the return journey.

Students should avoid bringing any items of value with them on expedition including mobile phones. Each group will be provided with a school phone which they can use in an emergency. We must emphasise that this is only for use in an emergency. No communication should be made on a phone other than in an emergency for the duration of the expedition. We ask that parents respect this request and similarly do not attempt to contact their daughters. Should you need to pass on information urgently, please do this using the school mobile which I will have with me 07572 180993.

Following the expedition the groups will have to produce a group project; these can be in any format and should be completed before the end of term, groups may also choose to make their presentation to their assessor at the end of the expedition.

We regularly review the information that we may need once we are out on an expedition. Ultimately we want to make this system as efficient as possible ensuring that, if required, we could make contact with you and your daughter could receive the relevant medical treatment as quickly as possible. To enable this to happen please inform us of any changes in your contact details for the assessment expedition. To do this please email gwilson@shsk.org.uk. If you need to contact me during the expedition please email shskmobile2@gmail.com.

It is really important that we hold the very latest medical, dietary and parental contact information on all our students, especially for any external school visits. So if there are any amendments or additions, do please let us know. Thank you.

If you have any further questions regarding the expedition or Silver Award please contact the DofE office or email me.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Gail Wilson
DofE Coordinator
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