



Faringdon Road, Abingdon, OX14 1BE T: 01235 520173 E: info@shsk.org.uk www.shsk.org.uk
Headmistress: Mrs Rebecca Dougall BA MA

27 April 2018

Dear Parents

Year 9 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award assessment expeditions

We are now able to confirm information for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE) assessment expeditions due to take place during May.

The assessment expeditions will take place in the Milton-under-Wychwood area of the Cotswolds, camping at Stow-on-the-Wold overnight. Each expedition group has planned their route in advance and will walk these during the day only meeting up with the other teams at the campsite in the evening. Each group is allocated a qualified supervisor who will be monitoring the group's progress during the weekend.

The meeting point for the expedition will be at Wychwood Primary School, OX7 6BD.

Due to the number of groups involved we have planned a staggered start with groups departing from Wychwood School, participants should arrange to be dropped off at the time specified below.

Saturday 12 May		Saturday 19 May	
Group 1	9.15am	Group 4	9.15am
Group 2	9.30am	Group 7	9.30am
Group 3	9.45am	Group 9	9.45am
Group 5	10am	Group 10	10am
Group 6	10.15am	Group 11	10.15am
Group 8	10.30am	Group 12	10.30am
		Group 13	10.45am

The expeditions will also finish at Wychwood School. We anticipate that students should be available for pickup from 3.30pm, so long as they stick to their route card and do not get lost. If there is likely to be a significant change in this time, we will make every effort to contact you during the afternoon of the return day. In all cases collection should be possible by 5pm. Parking on the school site is limited. Please be aware that access to the school is via the first gate on the left if you are approaching from Shipton which is not easy to spot, please avoid using the exit to enter the car park.

Participants will need to ensure that they have sufficient food/refreshments for the duration of their trip. We recommend that each participant carries 1.5 litres of water each day. Water is available at the campsite. It is each group's responsibility to ensure they have the tents/stoves they require for the expedition.

Individuals should carry all their equipment and should ensure that they have at least one set of spare clothes in their rucksack. They should refer to the [DofE kit list](#) for guidance. There is no allowance for an extra bag on the assessment expedition as the weather is generally warmer in May.

Individuals should carry a personal first aid kit. The items in this are personal choice, but if you follow these guidelines – if it needs to be rubbed in, swallowed or stuck on – then it should be in the personal kit. Paracetamol/ibuprofen should be carried in minimal quantities. Each expedition group will be provided with a group first aid kit which includes sterile bandages and slings for use in an emergency. Those students requiring prescribed medication should ensure that they bring this with them. In addition, anyone needing medication for anaphylaxis should ensure that they have 2AAI's with them for the trip. If you are identified on our school records as requiring an inhaler for asthma then you must bring this with you. Without the prescribed medications, individuals will not be allowed to participate in this activity.

Each group will be provided with a school mobile phone which they may use in an emergency. This will be sealed in a plastic bag prior to the start of the expedition. Your daughter should avoid bringing any items of value with her on the expedition. No communication should be made by phone for the duration of the expedition unless in an emergency. We ask that parents respect this request and that you do not attempt to contact your daughter directly. Should you need to pass on information urgently, please do this by calling my school trip mobile 07572 180993.

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 we could make contact with you quickly should any medical treatment be required.

- 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.
- We also ask you to confirm that your daughter is in good health for the expedition.
- We need to confirm your contact details for the weekend, particularly if you are planning to be away from home overnight.
- If you wish to share transport arrangements with other families participating in this expedition, we need to know who will be collecting your daughter from the pickup point.

We thank you in advance of this and hope that you understand that we wish only to increase the levels of safety. Please complete the [electronic response form](#) by 9am on the Thursday prior to your daughter's expedition.

If you need to contact me prior to the expedition, please email me as I will check my email at 9pm on the night before and again at 7am before leaving for the meeting point.

Finally, to complete the expedition section of the award, each group is required to submit a project on their chosen aim after the expedition. This is essential and preferably should be done within three weeks of the expedition. Groups will have arranged their project focus during the planning phase and will have time to discuss this with their assessors during the weekend.

If you have any questions please contact me in the DofE office during term time, any messages left will be responded to as soon as we have an answer for you by email.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Gail Wilson
DofE Coordinator
gwilson@shsk.org.uk