



# Balcarras

From strength to strength

**Balcarras School**  
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20<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**Duke of Edinburgh Award Final Expedition – June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2019**  
**(groups 1, 7, 9,10,11,13,14,15,16,17,18)**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Following a successful practice weekend last weekend for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, I am writing to inform you that your son/daughter will be involved in a final qualifying expedition on the dates above. They will again walk a distance of approximately 25 km over the weekend with an overnight camp. They will be assessed by an external assessor and pupils will need to study a designated purpose during the weekend.

The pupils have planned their routes starting in Compton Abdale and are walking to Sapperton. They will again camp on the B4070 Birdlip/Stroud Road at Buckshead Farm – we will transport them there from their finishing point. They will start on **Saturday at 10am** and I would be grateful if pupils could arrange their own transport to the village of **Compton Abdale**. If this is not possible, transport from school at 9.30am can be arranged in advance if pupils 'book' a seat on the minibus. I estimate that they will finish at about **2pm** on the Sunday – but this time is determined by their own planned routes and estimated times. They will finish in the village of **Sapperton, near Cirencester** (at the church) and again I would be grateful of any help with transporting pupils home.

Can I ask that parents support the ethos of the DofE which includes no use of technology (mobile phones, ipods etc) during the weekend except in an emergency and ask **that no pupil brings such equipment with them on the expedition**. Each group should allocate **one** member to bring a mobile phone which should be for emergency use only and will be sealed whilst walking. Parents should not attempt to contact pupils during the weekend but in the case of emergency can contact me on 07983823744 and I will pass any messages on. Failure to comply with this rule and attempting any use of social media will result in pupils failing the expedition section of the DofE and they will be instantly returned home during the weekend if such an event takes place.

If there have been any changes to emergency contact numbers or medical information since the practice weekend I would be grateful if you could let me know as soon as possible. Please contact me at school on (01242) 515881 ext132 if you have any queries or email me [vb@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:vb@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk).

Yours sincerely

Mrs V Bull  
DofE Coordinator

I give permission for my son/daughter.....Tutor gp.....

to attend the final expedition for the Duke of Edinburgh Award June 2019 and understand that failure to comply with the mobile phone policy will result in instant expedition failure.

Changes to emergency contact numbers and medical information is attached

Signature .....



**Headteacher**  
Dominic Burke BA MA