

21<sup>st</sup> March 2023

## Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – Expedition Update

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As I am sure you are aware, pupils have been busy with their DofE Award and we are now planning the expedition section. I am writing to update you on the plans for the summer expedition season for Bronze.

The practice element of the Award will take place on **Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> only**. Pupils will walk a given route to practice their navigation skills and then walk back to school. At school they will then pitch tents and cook a meal to demonstrate their ability to be ready for a qualifying expedition. Given the numbers of pupils, a system of timed starts and finishes will be required to avoid congestion in the walking areas. Transport to the start will be required by parents please and this is planned to be locally (near Brockhampton between 9am and 11am). Once pupils have completed their walk, their meal and camp sections they will be free to go home from school. I imagine that this will be between 4pm and 7pm depending on the time their group starts.

At the practice event each pupil will be assessed for standards expected at Bronze level and once satisfied that each pupil has reached these standards they will have to complete a final qualifying expedition. This will be over a different route and have an expedition aim on the weekend of **June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>** when an independent assessor will judge their qualifying effort. Letters for this will follow in late May but timings will be from 9am on the Saturday with transport required to Seven Springs until approximately 2pm on the Sunday.

The qualifying expedition in June will cover approximately 25km's and include an overnight stay under canvas. Pupils will camp overnight at a designated camping/caravan site on the B4070 Birdlip/Stroud road. In attendance on this site will be myself and other members of staff from Balcarras. Pupils will be supervised at all times whilst on site but will walk on the Saturday in designated groups along prearranged route, with staff along the route. Arrangements have been made for additional wash room facilities to be provided at the campsite due to the large numbers of pupils involved.

I am now asking for a commitment from pupils and a contribution of £30 each to cover the cost of the two expeditions (which is for campsite fees, kit, the toilet block hire and fuel costs for camp). Pupils will be required to bring their own food.

During the weekends I ask that you be respectful of the DofE guidelines that mobile phone use is only for emergencies and therefore please do not contact pupils during their time on expedition. In the event of an urgent message needing to be passed on I will be available on 07983 823744 for the duration of the weekend. Pupils will be able to bring one mobile phone per group, but **this will be sealed and for emergency use only**.

Each pupil has already been provided with a list of personal essentials to take with them and I will supply school kit to those who require it as far as possible. This will be issued on Wednesday 3rd May in an after school training session. Full lists of equipment are on the VLE DofE pages if required and pupils have had in school sessions on kit and equipment too.

If you wish your child to take part on this trip, please give consent and make payment via Scopay **by Friday 21st April at the latest**. Please provide any specific information asked for on Scopay in the comments box before making the payment. If you have any queries regarding the above, please email Mrs Davis, trips co-ordinator [sed@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:sed@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk)

Please could you also inform school of changes to or details of any medical issues so that our records are up to date. I will send all the times and final arrangements for both weekends after Easter, but wanted to keep you informed of the plans at the current time.

Yours sincerely



Mrs V Bull  
D of E Co-ordinator