

April 28th 2023

Year 10 DofE Bronze Award May 13th

Dear Parent/Guardian

Many thanks for the permission and payments for expedition from the previous letter dated 21st March, if you still need to complete this on Scopay please can I ask that this is done before Friday May 5th for safeguarding and risk assessment purposes. I am now writing to finalise the arrangements for the practise expedition on May 13th.

The aim of May 13th is to ensure pupils are 'expedition ready' as required by the DofE in order for the assessed qualifying weekend in June to take place. For pupils this means carrying a full and packed rucksack with all the equipment required for a full overnight camp; walking and navigating a route and pitching tents together with demonstrating ability to cook suitable food in the field. If they show they can do all of this they can then take part in the assessed weekend that will be longer routes planned by pupils with an overnight camp. This will be on June 10th to June 11th.

The plan therefore on May 13th is that all pupils will walk with their team and practise their navigation and group skills together with preparing for carrying their rucksack. Pupils will all walk a pre-planned route that have been shared with pupils. They will walk approx.. 12km. They will walk from the car park on cleve common (Wardens Woods) near Brockhampton to school. Once at school they will pitch their tents and cook a meal to demonstrate the appropriate campcraft skills required on the school site before returning home. **I intend to let pupils walk home from school once they have completed activities unless I receive information from parents advising that this is not authorised.**

I estimate that for most groups the activities planned will take approximately 5-6 hours depending on team dynamics and walking speed. I would therefore like you to plan for your son/daughter to return home about 6 hours after their planned start time.

I am asking for some support to get pupils to the start but please can you ensure you take note of the staggered start times detailed below. This is to ensure safety in the field with over 100 students taking part.

If there have been any changes to medical information it is vital that I am updated. Please ensure you contact me at school to make me aware of any updates. I remind you of my previous letter content regarding mobile phones

*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 expedition. Pupils will be able to bring one mobile phone per group, but **this will be sealed and for emergency use only.***

Yours sincerely

Mrs Bull
 DofE Manager vb@balcarras.gloucs.sch.uk

Saturday May 13th starting times – Warden Woods car park Cleeve Common, nr Brockhampton, GL54 4EU

9.30 am	9.45am	10am	10.15am	10.30am	10.45am	11.00 am
Groups 7,8,9	4,5,6	1,2,3	10, 11,12	19,20,21	16,17,18	13,14,15