

19th May 2023

Duke of Edinburgh Award Final Expedition – June 10th and 11th

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 June 10th and 11th as previously noted. Pupils will 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/aim during the weekend that has been chosen by team members.

The pupils have planned their routes starting at Severn Springs. They will camp on the B4070 Birdlip/Stroud Road at Buckshead Farm which they will walk to on the Saturday afternoon. Pupils will need to meet on the Saturday at Seven Springs (in the lorry layby on the A436 towards Andoversford). Each group will be given a time slot between 9 and 10.30am and I would like them to stick to this given the large numbers of pupils involved this year. 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 at the car park on Leckhampton Hill on Hartley Lane (Brownstones Quarry Car park, Hartley Ln, Shurdington, Cheltenham GL53 9QL). Pupils can call home if they finish early and can be collected early if applicable.

Can I ask that parents support the ethos of the DofE which includes having all the correct equipment (a reminder that **walking boots are compulsory for this expedition**), being able to draw upon their training and no use of technology (mobile phones, ipods etc) during the weekend except in an emergency. I ask **that no pupil bring such device 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 07983 823744 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 ext 132 if you have any queries or email me vb@balcarra.gloucs.sch.uk.

Please can all parents log into the school Scopay system to give permission for participation in the expedition.

Yours sincerely



Mrs V Bull
DofE Coordinator