17 April 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

The Duke of Edinburgh Award – Practice Expedition on 28 and 29 April 2018

We are fast approaching our Practice Expedition on April 28 and 29 2018. Students will be expected to arrive at School with full kit ready to walk. Students will need to be at school for 7.30am so that we can leave promptly.

The following groups will be on the coach:
Apsley start point – Badger, Boron, Oxygen
Gadebridge start point – Fox, Kite, Squirrel, Noble, Nitrogen

Minibus 1 – Deer and Hedgehogs
Minibus 2 – Adder and Alkaline
Minibus 3 – Carbon and Halogens

Students have been working in their walking groups and should know which group they are in. Whilst the building work is going on, the coach will be picking up outside of the School grounds. I would ask that Students all register within school and we will walk them to the coach in their groups.

Students should arrive with their bags packed and dressed ready to go. To speed up the process and get off the School site for the expedition to begin I would ask that if students are taking their mobile phone to have these out ready to be sealed. Also, if they choose to take a camping/pen knife, this also needs to be available to be inspected by staff.

May I remind you that the Practice Expedition is a requirement of the Duke of Edinburgh award. Students should look at this expedition as a trial; they need to demonstrate they have the appropriate skills and maturity to attempt the Qualifying Expedition. Failure to attend this expedition will mean that students will not be able to complete the Qualifying Expedition.

You can find a full Duke of Edinburgh kit list in the students DofE handbooks or online here - https://www.dofeshopping.org/dofe-expedition-kit-list/

Fuel for the cooking stoves will be provided by the School in appropriate containers and handed out at School on the morning of the Expedition. Students should not be decanting this into any other container during the Expedition.

Kit Return.
Due to the building work on site and the storage location of the equipment, I will be in contact following the qualifying walk as to when this needs to be returned. Please ensure that all kit is cleaned and dried after each expedition ready for the next use or to be returned. Where kit has been split between students, I would ask that it is put back...
together in the bag provided, prior to returning. With the volume of equipment we have out on loan, if each student only returns part of a tent, this often leads to parts being mislaid.

**Friday 27 April 2017** is the deadline for the outstanding balance to be paid. This can be paid online or to the Bursars – If you are unsure of your outstanding balance or having difficulty making this payment please contact me.

I also require any outstanding code of conduct letters back as a matter of urgency.

Many Students are on target with their sections but they now need to be getting the assessor reports submitted to their eDofE accounts for these to be approved. The deadline for two sections to be compete is **Tuesday 8 May** for year 10 students and **Monday 11 June** for year 9 students. Two sections must be signed off by this date for students to attempt the Qualifying expedition.

Miss J Baron  
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator