4 May 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

The Duke of Edinburgh Award – Qualifying Expedition on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 May

We are fast approaching our Qualifying Expedition on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 May. Students will be expected to arrive at school with full kit ready to leave at 8am. I would ask that students have their Emergency Rations and if they are taking a camping pen knife to have these items out ready for inspection so that we can ensure a smooth get away. – We are aiming for an early start so that the actual walk should start from 9am in Wendover.

We will meet at school at the Sports Hall. Students will be transported in 3 minibuses to the start points in Wendover. School will be providing the Fuel for the cooking stoves in appropriate containers and this will be handed out at school on the morning of the Expedition. **Students should not be decanting this into any other container during the Expedition.**

**MOBILE PHONES**

Due to advice from the Duke of Edinburgh Award we have decided that students will not be permitted to bring mobile phones or electrical items of any sort. Students will be issued with a basic mobile per team that they can use in the event of an emergency that is in keeping with the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. **Any student who does not adhere to this and chooses to bring their own mobile will run the risk of it being confiscated and them removed from the course.** This may then have an impact on their ability to complete the Award. As the expedition is a team event this may also have an impact on the rest of the team. One of the 20 conditions set out by the Duke of Edinburgh Award is that students walk in groups of 4-7 students so if these numbers are compromised there may be a direct impact on other students’ awards.

The rules around mobile phones is part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Students are expected to undertake the weekend without the aid of a digital device and without communicating on the internet. The weekend is expected to put students in a situation where they have to work as a team and work things out thinking on their feet. It is also to enhance their communication skills and take them back to basics.

If students wish to take photos as part of their final project they may do so on a traditional camera. They will need to bring this into school before Wednesday 16 May to ensure that it is suitable.

Students must be prepared for all weather conditions please ensure they have a sunhat and sun cream as well as waterproofs; they must also carry their personal first aid kit. With the weather getting warmer it is important that students carry enough water please ensure that students carry 2lts of water. At checkpoints the staff will have access to water so they can refill their bottles where required.
Students have to do a minimum of 6 hours’ activity during each day. When students finish the walk and have been debriefed at the final checkpoint they will be brought back to School we aim to be finishing between 4pm and 5pm on the Sunday.

Kit Return Date
Please can all students return borrowed equipment on Tuesday 5 June – I will be available before and after School (8-8.30am and 3.20-3.50pm)

**Tents** - Should be returned clean and dry packed in the bag they were issued. (Complete with Inner, outer, poles and Pegs)

**Rucksacks** - should also be clean and dry and empty. Please do up all clips prior to returning

**Stoves** – Need to be cleaned and dried and all together ready for storage.
All other equipment should be returned in the condition it was prior to the loan.

Please can I remind you that this is an extra-curricular activity and whilst we understand that this is a physical activity, students are expected to attend school on the following Monday.

Miss J Baron
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator