

6th June 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze Expedition 2022

We are now able to provide information regarding your son / daughter's Bronze DofE expedition training, practice walk and final assessed expedition in June. Training will start on Friday 10th June at 3.00pm with the issuing of kit and going over how to pack a rucksack, ready for Saturday. Your child will be at school until 5.30pm on Friday, as we will be covering other parts of the training as well. We will be based in the 6th Form café. It is **VITAL** that all students attend this training session. We will then have a training weekend on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th June. Your son/daughter will need to be at Budmouth at 9.00am on the Saturday morning, with their packed rucksack ready to learn. They will have sessions based at school in the morning. They will need to bring two packed lunches with them. In the afternoon, teams will be walking out to their overnight campsite. They will put up their tent and then cook their evening meal. Everyone, including staff, will be camping overnight. On Sunday 12th June, after cooking breakfast, students will then walk in their groups, following a planned route, finishing at Budmouth some time in the afternoon. Once completed, they will be ready for the assessed Expedition, which will now be over the weekend of Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd July.

The Assessed expedition Teams will need to be at Budmouth at 9.00am on Saturday 2nd July, so they can be briefed by their assessor before setting off. It is important to be there on time, with the correct equipment, ready for it to be inspected. Assessors will ask to see everyone's waterproof trousers and jacket and their sealed and wrapped up emergency food.

Teams will be following a planned route and will be camping at Tatton campsite, then return to Budmouth on the Sunday afternoon. They will be assessed over the weekend by assessors from the Dorset Assessors Group and also possibly the Dorset Duke of Edinburgh's Award Officer, Patricia Walker.

While on the two weekend expeditions, students need to cook a hot evening meal and a breakfast. On the training Saturday, we will practise cooking various meals. To help with the quick turnaround of these expeditions, we will provide the food that students will cook, these meals are included in the overall cost. Students will be able to collect their meals this Friday for the practice expeditions. Students will however need to bring a selection of snacks and two packed lunches to eat each weekend.

It is very important that your child has the correct equipment for the expeditions. A kit list has been provided on the Google classroom group and attached to this message. If there are any items that they do not have, and are unable to borrow them, please let me know ASAP.

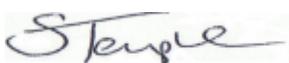
The groups will be completing their route cards over the next couple of weeks. They will then be sent to the assessors for checking. The route cards will also have emergency contact numbers and emergency routes for the weekend.

There will be a number of supervising adults linked to the teams who will be monitoring from a distance. They will all have mobile phones for emergencies. Each team will be allowed to take a sealed mobile phone for use in an emergency only. All teams will also have a tracker so staff will know where they are at all times. The aim of the expedition is to complete a route, working as part of a team, unsupported and in a self-sufficient manner. The emergency staff contact number for the weekend will be 07395 320125. This is only for real emergencies and not for checking how the groups are doing.

A payment of £85.00 is required to cover the costs of the two events. This is for insurance, campsite fees, meals to be cooked, stove fuel, minibus costs, assessor expenses and administration costs. Please complete the Bronze DofE Expedition parental permission form on the Budmouth website - Parents Information/Forms by Thursday 9th June. Payment must be made using the Pay360 App.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the award then please contact me by email: stemple@budmouth-aspirations.org

Yours sincerely



Ms S Temple – Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator