

September 2022

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Silver Expedition 2022

Dear Parent / Carer / Student

Your son/daughter has expressed an interest in completing their Silver DofE expedition this year, this letter is to provide you with the relevant information. For the Practice expedition, we will be leaving Budmouth at 16.00 on Thursday 15th September and returning on Saturday 17st September. The expedition will take place in the Purbecks, around Swanage and Studland areas. For the Assessed expedition we will leave Budmouth at 16.00 on Friday 30th September and drive to the New Forest, the expedition will start on Saturday 1st October and finish on Monday 3rd October.

It is very important that your son/daughter has the correct equipment for the expeditions; a kit list is attached. If there are any items that they do not have and you are not able to borrow them, then please let Adj. Gillespie, the CCF SSI, know ASAP and we will do our best to source them for you from our supplies. There will be a group kit issue on Tuesday 13th September at 3.00pm at the CCF store, all team members will need to be there.

On the assessed expedition the teams will be briefed by their assessor before they set off so they must have the correct equipment, ready for it to be inspected. The assessors will ask to see everyone's waterproof trousers and jacket and also their sealed, wrapped up and labelled emergency food. The teams will be following a route they have planned, then camp at various pre booked campsites. They will be assessed over the weekend by Dorset DofE accredited assessors.

While on the two expeditions, students need to cook a hot evening meal and breakfast each day, this means they will need in total 5 x breakfast's and 4 x evening meals, the cost of these meals is included in the overall expedition cost.. Your son / daughter will need to order these when at the kit issue meeting. They will also need to bring a selection of snacks and lunches to eat during each expedition

The groups will be completing their route cards over the next couple of weeks, they will then be sent to the assessors for checking. Also on the route cards will be the emergency contact telephone numbers and the emergency routes for the weekend.

There will be a number of supervising adults linked to the teams, who will be monitoring from a distance. All these adults will have mobile phones for emergencies and each team will have two mobile phones sealed in bags to use in an emergency. The aim of the expedition is to complete a route, working as part of a team, unsupported and in a self-sufficient manner. No other mobile phones will be allowed, as if they are able to use mobile phones all weekend, this will not meet the conditions of the award. The staff emergency contact number for the duration of the expeditions will be 07395 320125. On the evening before the practice and assessed expedition's start we will be stopping at a Fish and Chip shop in Swanage/ New Forest, this saves time and the cost of another wayfarer meal. We will be including the cost of this meal in the expedition cost.

We are asking for a payment of £160 to cover the costs of these two events, this is for insurance, camp site fees, stove fuel, minibus hire and fuel costs, assessor expenses and administration costs. Pupil Premium students can pay 50%, so this will be a payment of £80. Please can the Silver DofE Parental Permission Form on the Budmouth Academy website be completed ASAP and before we leave on Thursday 15th September. If you have any questions you wish to ask about these expeditions, then you can e-mail me at stemple@budmouth-aspirations.org.

Yours sincerely