

10th March 2023

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze Expedition 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope your child is enjoying the expedition training they have recently started and are preparing for their expeditions in May and June. The practice expedition will be held on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th May and the final assessed expedition on Friday 9th and Saturday 10th June.

Practise Expedition Friday/Sat 19th/20th May - students will need to meet at Budmouth Academy at 8.00am. They will follow a route they have planned out around the Hardy's Monument and Abbotsbury area. We will camp at Bagwell Farm and then walk back to Budmouth on Saturday afternoon. Arrival time back at Budmouth is planned to be at 4.00pm but is dependent on the speed the group walk and whether they follow the correct route!

Assessed Expedition Friday/Sat 9th/10th June - teams will need to be at Budmouth at 8.00am so we can drive to the Purbecks. Teams will be briefed by their assessor before they set off so we must be there on time and with the correct equipment, ready for it to be inspected. The assessors will ask to see everyone's waterproof trousers, jackets, sealed/ wrapped emergency food, as well as all the safety equipment. The teams will be following a route they have planned, camp at the Woodyhyde Campsite and return to the Corfe Castle visitor centre car park on Saturday afternoon. They will be assessed over the weekend by assessors from another local school and 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. After Easter, we will practise cooking various meals. Students will be offered the chance to buy Wayfarer food for £4.50 rather than the usual £5.50 they cost in shops. Your child will need to choose and order these meals and pay for them using PAY360. They will need a total of 5 meals, 3 evening meals and 2 breakfasts, one main meal being kept as Emergency food. They will also need to bring a selection of snacks and two lunches to eat each weekend. Students do not have to order Wayfarer food, however, it is quick to cook and there is no washing up! More information will be provided after the Easter break.

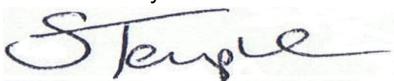
It is very important that your child has the correct equipment for the expeditions. They have been given a kit list, another one is attached. If there are any items that they do not have and are not able to borrow, please contact me ASAP. We will do our best to source them for you. The groups will be completing their route cards over the next few weeks and then be sent to the assessors for checking. **Emergency contact telephone numbers and the emergency routes for the expeditions will be noted on the route cards.**

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 mobile which has to be sealed and only used in an emergency (the use of a mobile phone all weekend would not meet the requirements of the award). 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 is: 07395 320125. This is for real emergencies only and not for checking how the groups are doing.

The cost of these two events is £75.00. This is to cover campsite fees, stove fuel, minibus costs, assessor expenses and administration costs. If you would like your child to take part in these expeditions please make payment using the Pay360 website. We will use all contact and medical information directly from SIMS, so please ensure that your child's information is up to date via the parent app.

If you have any questions you wish to ask about these expeditions, please email me at stemple@budmouth-aspirations.org or call 01305 830545

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Temple – The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator at Budmouth Academy