



The Ridgeway, St. Albans, Hertfordshire. AL4 9NX
Telephone: 01727 799560
Email: admin@sandringham.herts.sch.uk
Website: www.sandringham.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Alan Gray, M.Sc., F.R.S.A.
Deputy Headteacher: Caroline Creaby, BA, M.Ed., Ed.D.
Deputy Headteacher: Mark Nicholls, BA (Hons)

Letter No: 162/2023

27th March 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – Practice Expedition Green Half: Friday 19th – Saturday 20th May 2023

Due to the number of students who have chosen to participate in the Award at Bronze level, it is necessary to divide the students into two cohorts for expedition purposes. Please note that the two cohorts will be on expedition on the same days, however, their expedition will be in different locations.

Students have been attending after school expedition training this half term and all training resources and training dates have been shared on the DofE Google classroom.

The practice expedition for the **Green cohort** will take place in the **Hemel Hempstead** area, camping at **Felden Lodge Camp**. This is a common area for Award expeditions and is used by many local schools. Students will be walking a distance of approximately 12km each day over the two days, carrying their full pack and equipment and camping overnight. They will be expected to bring their own food for the two days.

Transport

Participants will be taken by coach to the starting point of their expedition. The coaches will be leaving school between 8.00am and 9.30am but your child will be told their exact departure time nearer the time of the expedition. We would ask that parents/carers collect students from the finish point on the second day. This is because groups will be arriving at staggered times and it is not possible to arrange group transport for them. We would anticipate that most groups should finish between 2.00pm – 3.00pm, but students will be able to ring you with a more exact finishing time. If there is a problem with collecting your child, please let me know via email to dofe@sandringham.herts.sch.uk

The finish point for the expedition is: Bedmond Open Space car park (Toms Lane WD5 0RD).

Kit

Students have received a kit list as part of their training materials and there is a copy on the attached Information PowerPoint. This lists the items students should have with them for the expedition. Some of the items will be available to hire from school to reduce costs. Please use the attached link to hire kit by **Friday 28th April**. Items should be paid for via ParentPay. Students should arrange kit they can share between their groups. Further advice has been given at the training sessions.



Supervision on expedition

An important part of the DofE experience is to be independent and self-reliant. As a DofE unit we have clear procedures in place to support groups through their expedition. Each group is provided with contact numbers for DofE mobile phones which they are permitted to ring should they encounter any difficulties. If this occurs, staff will deal with the situation. Other than ringing staff for support, mobile phones **MUST NOT** be used. Please **DO NOT** expect to be in contact with your child whilst they are on expedition. We will post updates on our Twitter feed and your child will be allowed to ring you once they have finished their expedition.

Should you need to contact staff in an emergency the contact number for this expedition is 07785240216.

Medical & consent information and trip cost

We require contact and medical information for this trip. Please complete the electronic medical consent form which has been sent with this letter **by Friday 28th April 2023.**

Trip Cost

The cost for the expedition section of the Award trip is £65; this includes both expeditions and all training. Please pay via ParentPay in the usual way. I would ask that payment is made in full by **Friday 5th May.**

Expedition Information

You are invited to an Expedition Information Evening at 6.30 in the school hall on Thursday 30th March.

Qualifying Expedition

Please note that the dates for the Qualifying Expedition are as follows:

Friday 9th – Saturday 10th June 2023

Further details of the Qualifying Expedition will follow in the summer term.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Cuneen
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator