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Headteacher: **Alan Gray, M.Sc., F.R.S.A.**  
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Senior Deputy Headteacher: **Mark Nicholls, BA (Hons)**  
Acting Deputy Headteacher: **Mark Allday, BSc (Hons)**  
Acting Deputy Headteacher: **Kate Mouncey, MA, BSc (Hons)**

Letter No: 198/2024

16<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Families,

### **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – Qualifying Expedition Blue Half: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

The qualifying expedition for the **BLUE cohort** will take place in the **Hemel Hempstead** area, camping at **Hudnall Park 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 - 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 [dofe@sandringham.aat.school](mailto:dofe@sandringham.aat.school)

**The finish point for the expedition is: Northchurch Common Car Park, Berkhamstead, HP4 1LS**

#### **Kit**

Students have received a kit list as part of their training materials. This lists the items students should have with them for the expedition. Rucksacks/Stoves/Tents can be hired from school. Kit can be hired via [ParentPay](#) before the deadline of **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May**. Students should arrange kit they can share between their groups.



### **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 07762142159**

### **Medical & consent information and trip cost**

We will transfer over contact and medical information from the practice expedition. If there are changes to the medical or contact information you have provided to the school, please email this information to [dofe@sandringham.aat.school](mailto:dofe@sandringham.aat.school) by **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024**.

### **Trip Cost**

The cost for the expedition section of the Award trip is £70; this includes both expeditions and all training. If you have not already paid this trip cost, please could you do so before the qualifying expedition.

### **Expedition Information**

You will receive via email after half term the final arrangements. Please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at [dofe@sandringham.aat.school](mailto:dofe@sandringham.aat.school)

### **Finishing the Award**

The expedition is only one section of the Award. Please support your child to complete their remaining sections as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Cuneen  
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Co-ordinator

