



Duke of Edinburgh BRONZE Award 2019 Notice of Qualifying Weekend



5th June 2019

Dear Parent or Carer,

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award qualifying expedition weekend will take place on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th June. Participants will be completing two day walks and an overnight camp, demonstrating their map reading skills, ability to walk long distances with all their equipment, as well as camp craft and cooking on camping stoves. This weekend is led by SOLD (Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development). Participants however will be walking independently with SOLD leaders remotely assessing them. Mr Barrett will be providing pastoral support. Participants have already been divided into groups of 4-7 students and will be provided with an emergency contact mobile telephone number.

On Saturday we will be meeting at Denbies Hillside car park from 9.15am with the intention to start walking at 09.30am. We will be camping at High Ashurst Outdoor Education Centre, Dorking. On Sunday we expect to finish at Denbies Hillside car park at 2.30pm. Times may vary due to the differing walking speeds of the groups. Also, it would be wise to arrange with other parents to share lifts, as the car park may be busy on the Sunday afternoon. This is a National Trust car park and there are parking tariffs for non-members.

To ensure students safety when dropping students off please wait until a member of Thamesmead staff has arrived before leaving them.

Directions to drop off/ pick up site:

Denbies Hillside car park. A nearby postcode is Seale, Farnham GU10 1HR.

- Take the M25 anti-clockwise to junction 9 (the Leatherhead junction).
- At junction 9 take the A243 by-passing Leatherhead and joining the A24 to Dorking.
- As you enter Dorking and approach the traffic lights with Dorking station on your left-hand side, turn right onto Ashcombe Road and continue straight on.
- At the T-junction, turn right onto Ranmore Road. BE CAREFUL there is a municipal refuse centre on this road and sometimes there is a queue.
- Go straight up the hill, continuing along Ranmore Road and the car park is on your left hand-side.

All students will need to bring personal kit as listed by Duke of Edinburgh and agreed group kit as well as all provisions to survive independently for two days. Equipment like the tent and cooking stove can be split between team members for ease of transport while on expedition

All equipment should be returned, complete, on **Thursday 20th June, 2.45pm-3.45pm**. Groups will be putting up tents and demonstrate they are dry and clean (using a wet cloth) and complete (inner/ outer, poles and **20 straight** pegs). Cooking equipment needs to be clean: scourers may be necessary. Any personal equipment borrowed will also need to be returned clean.

Students are advised to check the weather prior to the expedition, taking additional care as necessary, for example wearing a hat and sun cream. It is important to remember that prevention is always better than having to seek treatment. Additional water will be provided along the route.

Students without the proper equipment will not be allowed to continue for their own health and safety and that of their group.

Rucksacks deemed too heavy will be re-packed.



Further to the information evening, each group must have **two fully charged mobiles on different networks** that can be switched off to conserve battery. These will be placed in a tamper proof bag for emergency use only. Participants must not be in possession of any other mobile. Participants with a mobile – even if it is on the campsite – will be failed as we cannot guarantee that they have navigated independently, one of DofE's 20 conditions. Moreover, if a group drops below four members, the group will not be able to continue.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me via the main school office on 01932 219400 or via email – s.barrett@thamesmead.surrey.sch.uk

Yours faithfully,

Mr S Barrett
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme Manager

Equipment list

Backpack liner (e.g. rubble bag)

Sleeping bag (at most 3 season)

Walking boots

Socks x2 pairs

Trousers (e.g. tracksuit bottoms, walking trousers)

Long-sleeved top (e.g. thermal top, preferably not cotton)

Fleece or thick sweatshirt

Hat and gloves – **if necessary**

Waterproof jacket

Waterproof trousers (**not vital but very useful**)

Lunch (e.g. cereal bars, cake bars, crisps – easy food!)

Washing up kit (washing up liquid, scourer, tea towel) – **COULD BE SHARED**

Breakfast and dinner (substantial and suitable to be carried in the rucksack and cooked on a camping stove)

Torch (with new batteries) – we have some head torches available, please ask if required

Whistle *

Small personal first aid kit (e.g. plasters and any personal medication)

Emergency food rations

Complete change of clothing (in a plastic bag)

Notebook and pencil*

Water bottle (at least 1 litre and unbreakable)

Wash kit (soap, small towel, toothbrush, toothpaste, toilet roll)

Mug (plastic)

Bowl (plastic)*

Knife, fork and spoon (or just a spoon for the minimalist)

*=optional

