



4th September 2019

Dear parents and carers,

We have a mixture of Year 10 and 12 students completing the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award this year. We did this for the first time last year and it worked really well, with great success on the expeditions.

We have changed the timings of the Silver expeditions, so as not to adversely affect Y10 and 12 exams in the Summer term. Additionally, this gives students plenty of time to complete their Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections before they consider the Gold Award. Therefore, all training and expeditions will be completed before October half term.

Students must have completed their Bronze award by Thursday 12th September, in order for us to have enough time to enrol them before the training. We strongly recommend them finding one of us if they haven't yet done this, so that we can ensure their evidence is acceptable and therefore the award will be verified.

The Training (Saturday 14th September)

Training will take place in the Community Room at school. Students should arrive by 9am, and must enter the Community Room by the outdoor entrance on the side of school. The morning will be dedicated to a recap of skills and development for the Silver Award, then students will be planning their practice and final routes in the afternoon. Once their routes are planned to the expected standard, they will be done for the day. We expect that this may take until 3-4pm but will depend on each group's focus and motivation.

The Practice Expedition (Friday 27th September – Sunday 29th September)

We will begin the practice expedition on Friday evening at 7pm, students should arrive at Birchwood Farm (Wirksworth Road, Matlock, DE4 5HS) ready to camp and have a briefing. Students are not expected to cook on this first evening, so we suggest they eat at home before going to the campsite. After camping overnight, students will set off on their first full day of walking, arriving at Barn Farm (Birchover, DE4 2BL) and camping for the night there. They will then set off on Sunday morning and follow their route to finish at the main car park in Baslow (DE45 1SR). We would expect that they should be finished at around 4pm, but it may be a little earlier if they set off earlier in the morning.

The final Qualifying Expedition (Friday 11th October – Sunday 13th October)

We will begin the final expedition at the Monsal Head Car Park (DE45 1NL) and students should arrive by 9.30am for a 10am start. They will walk for their first day and arrive at Mandale Farm (Haddon Grove, Bakewell, DE45 1JF) where we will camp for the night. On Saturday, they will walk to their next destination; Middlehills Farm (Grangemill, Matlock, DE4 4HY) where they will camp

again. On the Sunday morning, they will set off for their final destination of Carsington Water where they should be collected by parents/carers. Their exact finishing point (and the closest car park) will be decided upon when they finish their routes on the training day. Again, their finish time will depend on when they set off but we allow students to contact whoever is collecting them at their last checkpoint, to allow travel time.

Unfortunately, **we are unable to offer transport to and from the expeditions** so we encourage students to organise to share lifts in their groups where possible.

Phones and electronic devices

A reminder to all participants that we shouldn't see phones or other electronic devices throughout the expedition, including at the campsite. It may be necessary to use a camera to add evidence for their aim, but phones should be off and in a waterproof bag somewhere in the rucksack, so they are available for emergency purposes only.

Hiring kit

Students need to ensure they have appropriate kit for the expeditions, including walking boots that have been worn in. We are able to hire out some kit from the school stores on a first come first served basis; please see details in the table. The fee goes towards replacing kit suffering from normal wear and tear. The deposit will be returned providing that the kit has been appropriately cared for and returned in a clean state.

Item	Fee	Deposit
Trangia stove	£5	£10
Tent	£10	£30
Rucksack	£5	£20

The **equipment fee should be paid via squid** and the easiest way to sort the deposit is to give us a cheque for that amount, which we will keep in the safe and return when the kit is handed back.

Cost of the award

The cost of completing the award will be £200; this includes all campsite fees, enrolment fee and a contribution to staffing and training costs and the license fee that we have to pay to be able to run the Award scheme.

All payments need to be made via Squid. If you don't know the squid log in details (same as for food at school) please contact Customer Services through squidcard.com.

The payment deadline will be set as 31st October, you can pay in whatever instalments you choose. A deposit of £30 is needed by Thursday 12th September as this covers the enrolment fee. We will not enrol your child without the deposit being paid.

Please feel free to email us if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

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