

08 March 2017

Dear Parent /Carer,



Duke of Edinburgh's Award  
Bronze 2016-2017

The training session will be taking place at school on Saturday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of March. A practice expedition will take place to the east and south-east of Stow-on-the-Wold on the 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> of April. The objectives of both these sessions are to reinforce the knowledge and skills introduced in the training session, to try out equipment, to develop camp craft skills and to gain experience of backpacking and walking distances.

In the first session, participants, in their chosen groups will be taught all the necessary skills needed, such as Basic First Aid, practical map skills, route planning and navigation with and without the use of compasses, health & safety and risk assessment and what to do in an emergency. They will also be taught about the equipment they will use and advised on their care and purchase. The participants will be using loaned equipment and setting up and taking down tents in school. They will also be expected to cook something for their own consumption using the provided camping stoves and pots.

For the training weekend, we will meet at the restaurant at school at 09:30 on Saturday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of March and pick up time will be about 17:00 at the front of school.

The expedition on the 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> of April will be at the Stow Rugby Club, a private site where there are basic washing and toilet facilities. All the groups and staff will camp at the club and we will transport all the participants via the school minibuses. Please ensure your son/daughter is at school for 09:00 on Saturday, the 29<sup>th</sup> of April. The anticipated return time will be from 16:00 onwards depending on their own progress on Sunday. However, if there is an earlier return time, your son/daughter will be able to contact you to arrange for an earlier pick up.

Your son/daughter will have attended a pre-training meeting in school where advice on suitable clothing and accessories will have been given. A kit list is provided in the training manual for additional information. Tents, rucksacks, sleeping mats, cooking stoves/pans, maps, compasses may be borrowed from the school. Mobile phones are permitted but only on the strict understanding that they will not be used during the expedition. Any other forms of electronic entertainments are forbidden. The purpose of the expedition is to learn independence and survival skills with the aim of being self-sufficient.

There will be a charge of £25 per participant, principally to cover the expedition fees for the practice expedition. There will be a further charge of £25 per participant for the assessment weekend which will take place in the summer, dates to be confirmed. The fees cover the cost of the overnight stays at the campsites, use of the minibuses, the fuel for the cooking stoves and the insurance for each trip.

Please complete the attached medical/ consent form and provide payment for £25 for the practice expedition to confirm your son's/daughter's participation in these sessions.

**Completed form must go back to FINANCE by Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of March**

We would like to process all payments via our online payment provider **ParentPay**. If you do not currently use this facility and would like us to arrange this for you or you require alternative payment arrangements, please contact the school finance office.

Yours sincerely,

I Tylee  
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Manager  
Wood Green School