



Bishop Wordsworth's School

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Head Master: Dr S D Smallwood BSc (Hons) PhD NPQH

11 October 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Scheme Qualifying Expedition – Marlborough Downs **Saturday 27–Sunday 28 October 2018**

Plans are now complete for your son's assessed expedition around the Marlborough Downs on Saturday 27 to Sunday 28 October 2018. Can you please ask and check that your son has made a start on inputting his activities onto his D of E account. It is very important that he now adds his group aims and goals for the expedition section and is prepared for a group verbal presentation at the camp site on Saturday evening.

Please ensure no ipods (or similar), and all mobile phones are to be sealed for use in emergencies only; please stress this to your son as this can cause a groups **immediate** failure. In the unlikely event that a group needs to contact the Safety Supervisor of the Expedition we strongly advise participants not to contact anybody personally as this can create unnecessary hysteria and clog up phone lines, and battery life, which may be required for incident management. H5 contact during the assessed expedition is **07870 137177 / 07867 765478**.

There will be no transport provided in either direction, therefore all participants will be expected to make their own way to the lay-by North of Marlborough, on the A346 towards Swindon: one mile after passing Marlborough Golf Club, (Grid Reference 188 707, SN8 1RZ), on the left hand side. Teams 1 to 7 please arrive at 0830 and teams 8 and above arrive for 0930.

There will be a full kit check of equipment before any teams are allowed to start their qualifying expedition. Failure to bring equipment may result in boys not being allowed to participate. Your son will again be expected to be self-sufficient for the two days with suitable snacks, drinks, lunch and something suitable to cook for the Saturday evening on a Trangia. Teams will camp overnight at The Lakeside Campsite (Grid Reference 074 789) Thornhill, Upper Ham Farm, Royal Wootton Bassett, SN4 7RZ. Students are not permitted to leave the campsite overnight. Your son/ward must bring his D of E 'Keeping Track' booklet for completion of the qualifying expedition section by the assessor. Mr Paul Webb of H5 Adventure will be the lead for the weekend, supported by volunteer members of BWS staff, volunteer parents and myself.

On Sunday morning teams will be allowed to proceed when the assessor is satisfied with the state of the campsite and that all team members remain properly equipped. Teams will need to have provisions for Sunday breakfast, snacks, lunch and drinks. Your son will be advised to contact you from the penultimate checkpoint to give an estimated time for collection, but depending on pace and efficiency departing the campsite the groups will be ready for collection at approximately **1400 hrs** at the Barbury Castle Country Park Car Park, (Grid Reference 158 761), postal code SN4 0QH. Please be aware that the entrance to the car park is from the North – some Sat-Navs may indicate a by-way option from the South which is not accessible.

The cost of the expedition is £70.00. The price includes school insurance, (a copy of which is available on the school website), use of equipment, campsite fees, H5 supervision leader and expedition assessor services. The students should have retained any borrowed kit from the practice expedition and, following the qualifier, the tents need to be returned **dry** and complete and the Trangias **clean**.

Your son will be covered by the school's insurance during this trip; a copy of which is available on the school website. Please ensure that we have current emergency contact details and details of any medical conditions and that your son takes all necessary medication with him on this trip. These details can now be checked through the Insight Parent Portal, otherwise please contact Mrs Sarah Hayward sah@bws.wilts.sch.uk to update your son's information.

Deadline for payment of £70.00: Wednesday 24 October 2018.

Please pay online: Via www.scopay.com. If you need a link code please email mxl@bws.wilts.sch.uk

For further information on DofE, please contact Mrs Nute on amn@bws.wilts.sch.uk.

We would then like you to encourage your son to complete all the elements of his Bronze DofE award as some of the boys, and some parents/guardians, have approached me to re-introduce the Silver Award next year. I would be delighted to run the Silver award and have specified a completion date for the Bronze as the Christmas break in December.

Yours sincerely

Mr J M Oldham
DofE Co-Ordinator