



25 June 2021

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Expedition

I write to give you further information on the Qualifying Bronze Expedition for your child. As you will be aware, this is on Saturday 10 July for an overnight camping stay, finishing on Sunday 11 July.

Prior to this walk, students will be out of school on Friday 9 July to walk in the area of their qualifying expedition, which is a short drive away in Hurley. School will transport your child to and from the location on this day. This will be very similar to their previous walk at Barossa Nature Reserve. The idea of this walk is to ensure all students feel confident in their map reading skills prior to the remotely supervised walk that weekend.

Information for qualifying expedition (10 – 11 July)

Parents/ carers are expected to drop their child off on the Saturday morning, and collect them on the Sunday afternoon at the locations detailed below. If you struggle with transport we may be able to support you with the school mini bus, but places will be limited due to needing to carry kit for students throughout the weekend. Please contact me via school reception should this be a worry to you.

Saturday 10 July

Groups 1 & 2 Drop off location: **88 Bath Rd, Knowl Hill, Reading RG10 9UU**

Drop off time: **9.00am**

Students will complete their planned walk from the drop off point to the campsite on the Saturday. The campsite is Hurley Riverside Park, Hurley, SL6 5NE

Sunday 11 July

Students will complete their planned walk from the campsite to the pickup point on the Sunday

Pick up point: **St Mary The Virgin Church, Holloway Lane, Turville RG9 6QX**

Pick Up time: **4.30pm**

There will be certain key items of kit that school will provide for your child. These are detailed below

Kit provided by school:

- Tents to sleep in (students will share with max capacity of 3 in a tent)
- Stove
- Pans (Trangia set)

A full kit list is provided with this letter. Please note that gas for the cooker is not provided. Details of gas needed can be found on the kit list. They will need two cannisters between their group, so they should organise this before the weekend.

Please can I ask that this kit list is adhered to as much as possible, as many students arrived on their practice walks at Barossa with incorrect clothing and footwear, which as a result left

many students incredibly wet due to the weather, alongside some very sore feet! This was without their expedition bag, which for the qualifying weekend will weigh in the region of 12kg – 15kg.

Following on from the poor weather, students were given some advice on packing bags and ensuring kit is kept as dry as possible. I would advise student on getting a [dry bag](#), or at the very least wrapping clothing and sleeping bags in plastic bags/ bin bags, Sellotaped tightly – having wet clothes or a wet sleeping bag will not make for a pleasant experience!

Finally, there will be a kit check drop in on Wednesday 7 July, pre-qualifier, to ensure bags are not too heavy, and all kit is packed that is needed. Your child will need to attend school to see their leader at **5pm on Wednesday 7 July**, with their expedition bag. This should take no longer than 30 minutes.

Should purchasing essential items of kit be of concern financially to you, please contact me via reception.

Further Information:

- Your child is not able to bring their phone with them. They will be provided with a school mobile phone for their group in case of an emergency. Any child who does have their phone, may put their award in jeopardy.
- Your child is unable to buy food from shops during this expedition, as the idea is to survive and fend for themselves for the 36 hours.
- Staff will be remotely supervising your child and meeting them at allocated checkpoints, in addition to camping with them on the Saturday night, at a distance.
- Whilst I do not wish to mention this, it is important to note that students are expected to behave in line with school policy during this expedition, to adhere to the Countryside Code, and at all times be an excellent representative of Maiden Erlegh School in Reading. Should concerns arise with regard to this, you will be contacted to collect your child from the expedition should this be needed.
- Please note that this expedition does not award your child with the Duke of Edinburgh Award. To gain the Bronze Award your child needs to complete their three other sections, Physical, Skill and Volunteering and ensure this is all clearly logged in the eDofE platform (accessed via mobile phone or computer). This is their responsibility, and will not be pursued by teachers.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me via school reception.

We look forward to taking your child on this expedition, and hope that they too are looking forward to the challenge.

Yours sincerely,



Miss C Burns
DofE Manager