



March 2020

Dear Parents/Carer,

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – Practice Expedition
Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May 2020

Your Son/Daughter has recently been working towards the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. In order to consolidate their recent learning and to further prepare them for their qualifying expedition, there will be a **practice expedition taking place on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May 2020**. This two-day expedition will be around the Howardian Hills and will be a dress rehearsal for the qualifier expedition. This letter details the preparation for the practice expedition which includes an overnight camp.

The group's assessment will take place on **Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th June 2020** and the final information for this will be sent out in another letter. There will be several teachers, including myself going on the expedition.

The expedition starts on Saturday morning until Sunday afternoon and the format is walking by day along a given route then camping and cooking by night. We will be **camping at York Meadows Caravan Park, York Rd, Sheriff Hutton, York YO60 6QP**. The Campsite is about 35 minutes' drive from the Vale of York Academy.

We are asking parents to drop students off and collect students from **Husthwaite Playground (next to the church/school), Husthwaite, York YO61 4PW1JX at 9.30am on Saturday 9th May** and to collect your Son/Daughter around 3.30pm **on Sunday 10th May**. Please can I raise that there is no definitive time that students finish, due to them potentially getting lost, resting more than expected or making extra detours. I would like say students will arrive between the times of 3pm – 5pm at the finish point. *Car parking wise – please park along the road and walk to collect students from the play park. Minibuses and staff will be located in the playground car park.*

There will be a 15 seater minibus leaving the Vale of York Academy at 8.30am on Saturday 9th but this is on a **first come first served basis by completing the reply slip**. Students can add their names to the minibus list by ticking the box on the reply slip attached. Once the bus is full, students will need to travel with Parents/Carers.

Students will be walking from Husthwaite to Stillington on Saturday (they will be transported by mini bus to the Campsite in Sheriff Hutton for the night). They will be returning on a different route from Stillington to Husthwaite on the Sunday. Although students will be remotely supervised during the weekend, they will be self-reliant and will be carrying all their equipment and food. The students have received training to support them during the expedition and a kit list and menu idea list is attached to this letter for further guidance on what students should bring with them.

Vale of York Academy
Rawcliffe Drive, Clifton (Without), York YO30 6ZS
Tel: 01904 560000 Fax: 01904 560067
Email: contact@valeofyorkacademy.org
www.valeofyorkacademy.org

Students will be provided with tents, safety equipment and cooking equipment but need to make sure that they have obtained the necessary personal gear for them to be safe and comfortable (please see attached kit list for guidance). I have a range of rucksacks, sleeping bags and roll mats that can be borrowed. If students need to borrow these then they need to inform me as soon as possible.

Other important dates relating to the expedition: -

Wednesday 6th May – 3.00pm – 4.00pm in the Gym (All students to attend please)
Kit issued from school to students / go over plans for the weekend / Routes / Q&A

Friday 8th May – 3.00pm – 4.30pm in the Gym

Students have the option of bringing in all their equipment to school, packed and ready in their rucksack. It's ok if some food and little bits aren't packed. This would be so I can see what has been packed and to check that students are ready for the weekend. **The bags will be checked and weighed as they need to be less than 25% of body weight, for safety reasons. This is not compulsory as I know students are on work experience but if students can make it, it would be great.**

Monday 11th May 2020

All kit borrowed from students need to be returned to Mr Rampling ready for another group going out.

Wednesday 13th May – 3.00pm – 3.40pm in G41

Students will have a recap of the weekend and we will discuss the steps forward for the following expedition, sort out menu's, route cards etc.

Payment

The total cost for the Bronze Award is £100.00. £40 was the signing up which went to the Local Authority, £30.00 for the practice weekend and £30.00 for the qualifying expedition.

The £30.00 charge for the practice weekend covers camping, fuel, maps and equipment hire. This should be paid via Parent Pay please. Please return all payments for this expedition to **Mr Rampling by Monday 4th May 2020.**

In the event of an emergency during the weekend and if you need to relay an urgent message, I can be contacted on **07725 116109**. Students will have their mobile phones turned off during the weekend.

If you have any further queries, or just wish to know more about the award, please do not hesitate contact me at school by email m.rampling@valeofyorkacademy.org or school phone (01904 560000).

Yours sincerely



Mr M Rampling
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

Please return with the attached Health and Data form to: Mr Rampling in PE/Science by **Monday 4th May 2020**

Duke of Edinburgh Year 10 Bronze Award - Practice Expedition
Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May 2020

Student Name: _____ **Form:** _____

I have read the letter giving details about the Year 10 practice expedition and give permission for my son/daughter* to take part.

Transport: - (Please select one of the options below)

Transport Option	Please Tick
Making own arrangements to drop off and pick up from Stillington	
Minibus place (1 st come first served)	

If travelling by minibus, students must be at Vale of York Academy for 8.15am to leave at 8.30am. This is a first come first served basis up to 15 seats.

Payment: - I have made the payment of £30.00 for the charge of the expedition.

Parent Pay

Any issues with payments, please see Mr Rampling as early as possible so this can be addressed.

Emergencies

In the event of an emergency, my contact phone number during the weekend will be:

_____ (Relationship to Student)

Parents/Carers will be made aware of any emergencies relating to their child.

In the event of an accident, I am happy for first aid to be carried out by fully trained member of staff

Please note any Medical Information/Medication being taken below (full detail required)

I give permission for photographs to be taken while on DofE to be displayed in and around School

Signed: _____

Printed: _____

Dated: _____