



8 June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Bronze Evening Walks

As you are aware your son/daughter is currently signed up to complete their Duke of Edinburgh award at the Vale of York Academy. Students have been working hard on their volunteering, skills and physical sections of the award however following the guidance before half term we are now able to offer the expedition section this half term.

As part of the award students will have to learn how to be self-sufficient when being on an expedition. Students need to be able to confidently read a map and navigate along a chosen route in order to safely arrive at their destination. The weekly sessions after school have been preparing students towards this goal and now it's time to put these skills into practice during after school walks with staff. I appreciate this is a quick turn around and this is due to waiting for the approval of DOFE, government guidance, LA and then school level.

In order to practice skills learnt in a classroom students need to have hands on experience and gain confidence in the outdoors. To enable students to gain this confidence I would therefore like them to participate in the following 2 evening activities:-

1) Evening walk - Bylands Abbey, Byland, Coxwold, North Yorkshire, YO61 4BD

Leave School at: 3.30pm - Return: 8.30pm approx.

Our school minibus will transport the groups at the end of the academy day and will return to site at approx. 8.30pm. Parent/Carers must collect students upon return or arrange for them to get home safely.

Activity	Group	Date	Staff
Evening Walk	1 Imogen, Rachel, Eve, Charlotte, Jazlyn, Emily, Elvina, Layla, Joe, Matthew, Jack, Kiera	Monday 14 June 2021	Mr Rampling & Mr Vine
Evening Walk	2 Becca, Molly, Ellie, Kelly, Sophie, Lara, Erin, Lily	Thursday 17 June 2021	Mr Rampling & Mr Belyeu

Students only need to attend **one of the above!! If you miss an evening, need to change the night or want to go out again, if space is available on the next evening then this can also be arranged.*

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2) Evening walk - Osmotherly, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 3AA

Leave School at: 3.30pm - Return: 8.30pm approx.

Our school *minibus* will transport the groups at the end of the academy day and will return to site at approx. 8.30pm. Parent/Carers must collect students upon return or arrange for them to get home safely.

Activity	Group	Date	Staff
Evening Walk	1 Imogen, Rachel, Eve, Charlotte, Joe, Matthew, Jack, Kiera	Monday 21 June 2021	Mr Rampling & Mrs Zulkarnain
Evening Walk	2 Jazlyn, Emily, Elvina, Layla, Becca, Molly, Ellie, Kelly, Sophie, Lara, Erin, Lily	Wednesday 23 June 2021	Mr Rampling & Mr Belyeu

Students only need to attend **one of the above!! If you miss an evening, need to change the night or want to go out again, if space is available on the next evening then this can also be arranged.*

Walks

Students will have 20-25 minutes to get changed in the PE changing rooms after the end of the academy day. Therefore they will need to bring the following items to school:-

Hiking boots where possible - if not trainers, waterproof coat, torch, change of clothes that are suitable for walking, snacks (sandwich, crisps, sweets, etc) and a bottle of water. These can be stored in my PE office during the academy day if needed. We plan to pop by McDonalds on the way home if students want to bring some money with them for any food or drink, as long as time permits. In the event of severe weather conditions we may consider rescheduling.

Equipment

Students already have an equipment list for expeditions. Students **DO NOT** need to bring all their equipment in, just the items listed above. However, please can you endeavour to purchase any equipment needed as the expedition is not far away. If you do need to borrow equipment, please let me know if you have not done so already, so I can make arrangements.

Covid-19 safety considerations for evening walks

Please can we ask that pupils continue to complete the self-testing twice a week. Please could pupils where possible try to test themselves the morning of their evening walk before coming to school and notify us of any concerns. If pupils need to complete this at school please do let us know.

The group will continue to be within their normal school bubble and will be in small groups each evening, allowing for social distancing. Windows will be open on travel to and from the walking location and at this point masks can be worn by pupils if they would like. Staff will be wearing a mask during the journey phase.

The walk will be taking place in open countryside and not in a location which is used by lots of members of the public allowing for us not to come in contact with others. Pupils do not need to wear a mask, but if they feel they would like to then of course they can.

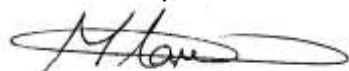
Staff and students are to continue to follow government guidelines around sanitising of hands, social distancing and hands, face, space so everyone feels safe at all times. If pupils can bring a little bottle of sanitiser with them then this would be ideal for the evenings.

Finally....

Please can you complete the reply slip attached to this letter and return it to me by **Monday 14 June 2021 for us to take this with us on the walks**. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me on 01904 560000 or email m.rampling@voy.hlt.academy

A further letter will follow regarding the planned expedition weekend and will give full clarity about the weekend and costings around this.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Mark Rampling
Head of Sport and Enrichment



Duke of Edinburgh Evening Walks Bronze Award (2021)

Student's Name: _____ Form: _____

I give permission for my son/daughter to attend the following D of E practice evenings:

Byland Abbey, Byland, Coxwold, North Yorkshire, YO61 4BD.

Activity	Evening	Please Tick
Evening Walk	Monday 14 June 2021	
Evening Walk	Thursday 17 June 2021	

Osmotherly, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 3AA

Activity	Evening	Please Tick
Evening Walk	Monday 21 June 2021	
Evening Walk	Wednesday 23 June 2021	

I give permission for my son/daughter to travel by minibus to and from Byland Abbey and Osmotherly with Mr Rampling and another member of staff from the academy.

I give permission for my son/daughter to make their own way home from school when we arrive back about 8.30pm.

Emergencies

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

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 the Academy.

Signed: _____ Printed: _____

Dated: _____