



10 June 2021

Dear Parents/Carer,

**Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award – Bronze Expedition - 26 and 27 June 2021 (Friday 25 June – Silver Award Add-on)**

Your son/daughter has been working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award this past year and we are getting close to them completing all their sections. Following the evening walks taking place the next couple of weeks this will prepare students for their expedition weekend, which is slightly adapted due to the pandemic and the DOFE award responding to the needs of the pupils.

The Duke of Edinburgh award has created a number of adaptations that schools and groups can make to allow pupils complete their awards. One of these is that students do not need to complete a practice weekend ahead of the assessed expedition and this is why we are only doing the one weekend to allow us to finish the award this academic year. This follows the latest 17 May update from the government and guidance from DOFE. To confirm, this will be the only weekend pupils need to complete to be able to achieve their Bronze expedition section of the award.

However, another adaptation made is that pupils can also complete their Silver practice weekend at the same time as completing their Bronze assessed. This opens up a great opportunity for those who are looking to do their Silver Award in Year 11 to sign up this coming week and use this weekend at the end of June for both purposes. This is only optional and students can just complete their Bronze Award weekend as planned. However, if students do wish to take up the opportunity of starting their Silver award they would need to take part in an extra session at Vale of York Academy on Friday 25 June 4pm - 8.30pm, this extra session would then qualify as their Silver practice. Our long-term plan is to offer the assessed expedition for Silver in September/October so that this is also completed early in Year 11.

Enclosed in this pack is another letter explaining the sign up process for the Silver Award. This form would need to be completed and returned to myself, Mr Rampling with the relevant fee paid via Parent Pay to get your student signed up before the expedition weekend.

This letter details the preparation for the Bronze expedition which is taking place over two days and includes an overnight camp. It also will talk about the Silver element that has been offered as an option.

The extra Silver part of the expedition takes place on Friday 25 June from 4pm-8.30pm at the Vale of York Academy and the Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 June 2021 will be the Bronze DoFE weekend. There will be numerous teachers including myself who will be with the students during the weekend. Throughout the day they will be remotely supervised in teams whilst out navigating.

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[www.valeofyorkacademy.org](http://www.valeofyorkacademy.org)

### **Friday 25 June (Silver Award ONLY)**

**3pm – 4pm** – Students to leave school at 3pm to get changed and collect their rucksack and equipment for the weekend. **Students to complete a lateral flow test where possible at home and return to school if presented with a negative test.** If a positive test result occurs please book an appointment at the local PCR testing centre. Then please liaise with school ahead of the weekend.

**4pm – 4.30pm** – Students to arrive back at Vale of York Academy at 4pm to have their bags checked/bags weighed and discussions around packing for best use next day.

**4.30pm – 5pm** – Students will put up their tent on the school field in preparation for the following day. This will be taken down later in the evening.

**5pm – 6pm** – Students will cook an evening meal of their choice on their Trangia. Please can pupils bring their ingredients as they will for the weekend. This however can be fresh foods as it won't have had to be kept cold all day and brought from home. Menus created in school can go home with pupils to buy those foods needed.

**6.30pm** – Evening walk from the school, potential of also completing the orienteering course at Rawcliffe Bar for practice with compass and maps. Transport will be provided by school.

**8.00pm** – Take down tents, ensure all is prepared for the following day and brief the route for the Saturday with the teams.

**By 8.30pm** – Students allowed to go home with bag and equipment ready for the following day.

### **Saturday 26 June (ALL Students –Bronze expedition and Silver weekend)**

We will be camping at **Slingsby village sports field, The Lawns, YO62 4AW**. The facility is about 35 minutes' drive from the Vale of York Academy.

We have the Vale of York minibus and a hired minibus that is able to take all the pupils from the academy to the start point and return them back to the academy on the Sunday. However if you would like to take or collect your son/daughter then the meeting point will be at **The Highwayman Pub, The Square, Sheriff Hutton, York YO60 6QZ**. **Please indicate this on the reply slip.** **Those being dropped off must arrive for 9.30am on Saturday 26 June** and if you are also collecting on Sunday, again this will be from the Highwayman Pub at around **3.30 pm on Sunday 27 June**. Please give or take an hour or so either side of this time as pupils walking speed may vary. *(Directions: drive through the village of Sheriff Hutton, go past the village hall on your right and continue around the corner, the pub is on the left hand side. You can park in the car park.)*

Those students travelling by minibus from **Vale of York Academy will need to meet at 8.30am for departure at 8.40am Saturday**. On Sunday we will hope to be back at school for 5pm.

The students will be walking from Sheriff Hutton to Coneysthorpe (Castle Howard) on Saturday and returning on a different route to Sheriff Hutton on the Sunday. There will be a short drive to and from the camping facility. Although students will be remotely supervised during the weekend, they will be self-reliant and will be carrying all their own equipment and food. The students have

received training to support them during the expedition and a kit list is attached to this letter for further guidance on what to ensure students have with them. Menus pupils have planned as a group are to be bought in advance of the weekend.

Students will be provided with tents, safety and cooking equipment, but will need to make sure that they have obtained the necessary personal equipment for them to be safe and comfortable (please refer to the kit list for guidance). If any students have difficulties in obtaining any of the items they need to inform myself as soon as possible so that alternative arrangements can be made.

**Other important dates for completion of this award: -**

**Monday 14 June / Thursday 17 June / Monday 21 June / Wednesday 23 June** – Evening walks take place on the students specific nights (please use letter for all information).

**Friday 18 June – 3.00pm – 3.30pm Meet in F33 – All Students to attend.**

Kit issued to students – taking home of rucksacks, roll mats etc.

**Thursday 24 June – 3.00pm – 3.20pm in the F33**

Go over final details for the weekend; drop in session for any questions before the following day.

**Monday 28 June**

All kit borrowed from students must be returned to Mr Rampling.

**Thursday 1 and 8 July – 3.00pm – 4.00pm in F32**

Students will sign off their sections of the award with me on EDOFE. Please bring your DOFE books with you for these sessions.

I will be running assemblies on the Silver award during September 2021 to the rest of the year group, however if you have signed up now you will be ready for the expedition in September.

**Covid-19 safety considerations for the expedition weekend**

Please can we ask that students continue to complete the self-testing twice a week. Please could students test themselves during the week of the expedition weekend and then in the gap at home between 3pm – 4pm on Friday 25 June (Silver Award). Once completed, please notify us of any concerns.

The group will continue to be within their normal school bubble and will be in small groups during the weekend, 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 walking will be in open countryside and not in a location that is used by lots of members of the public allowing us to follow government guidelines on social distancing. Students do not need to wear a mask, but if they feel they would like to then of course they can.

On the Saturday night students have the option of camping on their own or with 1 or 2 other friends in a tent. Students that share tents will have increased contact with others for prolonged periods and this has been taken in to consideration. As long as parents are happy with this arrangement then students can share with their friend(s). We have a number of tents to lend

students depending on the needs of the group; please can I ask you complete this section on the reply slip to aid in planning.

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. Students when cooking are to use their own utensils and to prepare and cook food hygienically. If pupils can bring a little bottle of sanitiser with them then this would be ideal for the evenings.

On return home on the Sunday, please can we ask that students either test themselves that evening or Monday morning just to ensure all is clear before returning to school. Kits are available at school to take home, please ask at the school reception if you require one.

### **Payment**

The total cost for the weekend is £30.00.

The £30.00 charge for the expedition weekend covers camping fees, fuel, maps and equipment hire. Payment is to be made via Parent Pay. Please make payment for this expedition **by Monday 21 June 2021 where possible please.**

In the event of an emergency during the weekend or 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 but with them in case of an emergency.

If you have any further queries, or just wish to know more about the award, please do not hesitate contact myself by email at [m.rampling@voy.hlt.academy](mailto:m.rampling@voy.hlt.academy) or by telephone on 01904 560000.

Yours sincerely



**Mr M Rampling**  
**Head of PE and Enrichment**  
**Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator**



**Please return to: Mr Rampling in PE by Monday 21 June 2021**

**Duke of Edinburgh Year 10 Bronze Award – Bronze Expedition  
Friday 25 June (Silver only) Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 June 2021**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Form:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

<b>Transport Option</b>	<b>Please Tick</b>
Making own arrangements to drop off and pick up from Sheriff Hutton	
Travelling by Minibus	

If travelling by minibus, students must be at Vale of York Academy for 8.30am to leave at 8.40am. Those meeting at Sherriff Hutton must be there for 9.30am.

**Safety controls**

I am happy with the systems in place organised by the school for my son/daughters safety

I am happy for my son/daughter to share a tent with their friend on this DOFE expedition.

**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 whilst on DofE to be displayed in and around School

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_