

April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Assessed Expedition 11 – 12 May

Well done to all students for completing their training over the 2 days and I hope these skills learnt or developed will help you as we approach your qualifying expedition for your Bronze award.

The Bronze assessment takes place on Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 May 2024 and all students need to take part in this expedition in order to complete their expedition section. During the 2 days, all students will be remotely supervised in teams whilst out navigating and being self sufficient.

The expedition starts on Saturday morning until Sunday afternoon. We will be camping at **Lakeside Holiday Park, Castle Howard, YO60 7DA** which has toilets and shower facilities. The campsite is about 30 minutes' drive from York and all students will stay on the same site for the night.

Day 1 - Saturday 11 May

Those travelling by minibus (on a first come, first served basis) – please meet in the car park at the front of the school at 8.20am. The minibus will be leaving at 8.30am to head to Sheriff Hutton.

Those travelling with parents – Please can students be dropped off at 9am at **Sheriff Hutton Village Hall, York Road, Sheriff Hutton, York, YO60 6RA**

Please can I ask that students are dropped off swiftly so all parents can park safely and we don't end up blocking the full car park. Students will meet on the grass area in their teams and prepare for departure from here.

[Please complete the Google form here to indicate your transport needs.](#)

If your child needs to borrow a rucksacks or sleeping mats these will be handed out the week before the expedition. Tents and stoves will be given to students on arrival at Sheriff Hutton to add to their rucksacks. The maximum weight allowed is a quarter of the person's body weight. Students are to bring all their equipment with them at this time and be dressed ready for the expedition.

The kit list is provided in the booklet issued on the training day and brought home by students.

Students must also bring all the food they need for the 2 days to be fully sufficient. Please note we are a NUT FREE provision to cover students' allergies so please do not buy foods with nuts in. Water will be supplied to top up students at checkpoints on both days and at the campsite.

Day 2 -Sunday 12th May

Students need to be collected from the same place as they were dropped off and should be between 2.30pm and 4 pm, but this time will vary due to the group's progress. We plan for students to have the opportunity to ring home before arrival time to give parents some notice and to stop the car park from being clogged up with people waiting too long. Once students have had a debrief from their assessor on the weekend, returned any borrowed equipment and completed all necessary hand over to parents then students are free to go home from the car park. Those travelling back by minibus will be returned once all groups are back to the end point.

Vale of York Academy

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On Expedition

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. Although students will be remotely supervised during the weekend, they will be self-reliant and will be carrying all their equipment and food.

Camping

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

Packing

The students have received training to support them during the expedition and a kit list and menu have been given to students prior to this letter for further guidance on what to ensure students bring with them. ***Students should pack for themselves and have awareness of this – not just helpful parents doing it please!***

Mobile phones

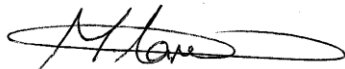
Students should not be using their mobile phones during the expeditions so please do not expect to be able to contact them (mobile phone coverage in the area is patchy too).

You can contact us any time during the expedition on **07725 116109**. If we are in an area with no reception, please text so that we can ring you back once we have reception again.

Photographs may be taken for use in school on our newsletter, twitter and/or website.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in contact. Also please inform us if there are any changes to the medical form which you completed in February

Yours faithfully



Mr M Rampling
Head of Sport and Enrichment