

April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**DofE Silver Qualifying Expedition - Wednesday 29 - Friday 31 May**

*Well done to all the participants for all of their hard work on the training days over the Bank Holiday weekend. Hopefully you have a good idea of what to expect now. Below are the details of the Expedition, please let me know anything you are unsure or need.*

**Wednesday 29 May**

Students are to meet at the car park at the front of Vale of York Academy on Wednesday 29 May at 8.30am.

We will travel by minibus all together to Low Mill on the North York Moors where students will start their expedition. Mr Martin and myself will drive a minibus each for students to be transported in.

We will return to school on Tuesday **between 3pm and 4pm**, but this time will vary so students will have the opportunity to ring home 30-60 minutes before arrival time.

**Packing**

Please can we ask the students use their kit lists to pack for the expedition. They should check the weather forecast and pack accordingly. They should also use the practice expedition as a guide of what's needed for these 3 days. ***The students should pack for themselves– not helpful parents!***

Students need to bring their food for the weekend. Students have discussed and planned this as a group.

*Food required:*

*Day 1 - Lunch / Snacks and drinks / Evening meal*

*Day 2- Breakfast / Lunch / Snacks and drinks / Evening meal*

*Day 3 - Breakfast / Lunch / Snacks and drinks*

**Please note we are a NUT FREE provision to cover student's allergies so please do not buy foods with nuts in.**

We will issue rucksacks and sleeping mats during the week of the expedition at school. Tents and cooking stoves etc will be given on day 1 of the expedition. Participants will have plenty of time to repack and have their rucksacks checked to make sure that they weigh less than a quarter of body weight (the lighter the better) and yet still contain their essentials.

**Students must bring their own medications including any Asthma Inhalers or Epipens, we cannot leave school without them.**

Vale of York Academy

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Website: [voy.hslt.academy](http://voy.hslt.academy)

### **Qualifying Expedition Location**

This will be in the North York Moors between Low Mill (Day 1) and Newgate Bank, North of Helmsley (Day 3). The groups will be tracked and remotely supervised on all three days (they will walk with their walking group without a member of staff but we will meet them at a couple of checkpoints each day.) A DofE assessor will also oversee their expedition.

Members of staff will sleep at the same campsite, even though students camp at the same campsite they must take down their tents each day.

<b>NIGHT 1 - Campsite 1</b> Cherry Tree Park Nawton YO62 7RZ	<b>NIGHT 2 - Campsite 2</b> Cherry Tree Park Nawton YO62 7RZ
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### **On Expedition**

On all 3 days students will walk a route which they have planned during their practice expedition. Students will work together to navigate themselves via the checkpoints and once at camp each night will be required to cook and camp safely. Both nights are at the same location and have showers and toilets. On the final day, students will walk the desired route and once both teams finish will be transported back to Vale of York Academy.

As a reminder, students must be self sufficient for the 3 days and are not able to purchase items from shops on route. They will however be given water to top up their water bottles regularly.

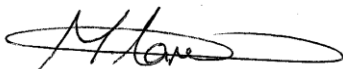
### **Mobile phones**

Students should not be using their mobile phones during the expedition so please do not expect to be able to contact them (mobile phone coverage in the area is patchy too). We will be using GPS trackers on the expeditions so we can track progress of each group even if not with them.

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

If there are any changes since you completed the medical form can you please email me on [m.rampling@voy.hslt.academy](mailto:m.rampling@voy.hslt.academy)

Yours faithfully



**Mr M Rampling**  
Head of Sport and Enrichment