

10 April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

DofE Silver Practice Expedition 2024 Friday 3 May to Sunday 5 May

Last year your son/daughter completed their assessed Bronze expedition and as you know they are currently working on their Silver award.

For this award students need to complete a practice and a 3 day assessment expedition and this letter gives important information about the expedition.

Practice Expedition Friday 3 May. Pybus Scout Centre, Kirkby in Cleveland TS9 7HJ

Please meet at Reception at 4.15pm

Rucksacks, sleeping mats, tents and stoves will be loaned out to those that want them before the weekend so that we can check their packed weight. The maximum allowed is a quarter of body weight. We will return to school on Sunday 5 May, hopefully between 4pm and 5pm, but this time will vary, so students will have the opportunity to ring home about an hour before arrival time.

Monday 6 May is a bank holiday so therefore there is no school for students.

Packing

Most participants have some experience of packing from their Bronze expeditions. We have distributed a kit list to participants and will also send a kit list electronically to help with this.

The Participants should pack for themselves and not rely on parents.

On Expedition

On arrival at Pybus campsite on 3 May, students will put up their tents, have time to cook their evening meal (students must bring all food needed for the 3 days) and will spend time completing route cards and any other necessary training.

To be clear, students will need an evening meal for the Friday and the Saturday plus 2 breakfasts and 2 lunches for the Saturday and Sunday. **Please remember to buy NUT FREE products to reduce chances for our at risk pupils.**

On 4 May, the first full day of the practice expedition, each group has an adult with them to recap and support them with their navigation skills. On 5 May the group will walk unaccompanied to practise these skills and make decisions for themselves without a supervisor intervening. The staff will meet up with the team at checkpoints and will camp at the same campsite to check on welfare and safety.

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). We will be using GPS trackers on the expeditions so we can track progress of each group even if staff are not with them.

You can contact us any time during the expedition on **07725 116109**. This will come through to myself or Mid York's Expeditions who are in charge of the expeditions. If we are in an area with no reception, please text so that we can ring you back once we have reception again.

Vale of York Academy

Rawcliffe Drive, Clifton (Without), York YO30 6ZS

Tel: 01904 560000

Email: hello@voy.hslt.academy

Website: voy.hslt.academy

Photographs may be taken for use by the school and Mid Yorkshire Expeditions and if you would be happy we can tweet photos of pupils' progress throughout the expedition. If you do not authorise your child to be on any photos can you please email me.

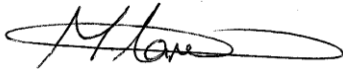
Could you please also inform me if there are any changes to the medical form that was completed in January/February.

Hopefully students have been able to start working on their 3 other sections; Volunteering, Skill and Physical following completing them at Bronze level. However these may well continue after the expedition until the 3-6 month period of each section has been completed. Pupils have time to complete this and can be signed off as soon as they are ready this academic year, however I would urge pupils and parents to push for this to be completed as quickly as possible to ease pressure later in the academic year.

The qualifying expedition will take place on Wednesday 29 May to Friday 31 May, a letter will follow with further details.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Rampling', written over a horizontal line.

Mr M Rampling
DofE Coordinator