

February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

In order to complete the expedition section of the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award that your child has signed up for they must complete a practice **and** qualifying expedition. These will take place at the following times and locations:

Practice Expedition: Friday 15th March – Sunday 17th March 2024 (Marlborough Downs)

Qualifying Expedition: Friday 19th April (morning departure) - Sunday 21st May (Quantocks)

Students will complete their training day on March 3rd for these expeditions, at school.

Practice Expedition

Friday 15th March: **Drop off:** Postern Hill Campsite, Salisbury Hill, Marlborough, SN8 4ND, please drop students off at the car park next to the campsite between 5:30 and 5:45pm.

Sunday 17th March: **Pick up:** between 3pm and 4pm. We will ask students to contact you at the last checkpoint to give a clearer idea of time. Location: Overton Hill Car Park, (A4) West Kennet Marlborough, SN8 1QG.

They will be pitching tents and cooking an evening meal on the Friday evening and a full day's walk on the Saturday and Sunday. Pupils will be carrying all their equipment with them for the day walks and have been provided with kit lists for the weekend. They are also expected to cook substantial meals each evening and have food for breakfast and lunch on the Saturday and Sunday.

Supervision over the practice & qualifying expeditions will be remote, with groups walking by themselves and staff checking in with them at various checkpoints, or keeping an eye on them from afar to ensure students meet the self-sufficiency requirement.

In order for students to meet the criteria of being self-sufficient there will be a no mobile phone policy over the weekend. Pupils may bring phones with them for use to make contact with you on the last check point, but these will be secured in a dry bag over the expedition, to access in an emergency. Should you want to contact me over the weekend I will be carrying a school mobile phone contactable on 07879121180.

The cost of the practice expedition is £21.05. Payment should be made online via ParentPay by Friday 8th March, where you will also be asked to complete your emergency contact details. Please contact the Finance Office for alternative methods of payment.

Campsites:

Night 1 – Postern Hill Campsite, Marlborough

Night 2 – The Gold Swan, Wilcot

Kind Regards

Emma Langdon

Duke of Edinburgh Award Leader