

TON/hcl

November 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Gold D of E Assessed Expedition 2022

I would like to take this opportunity to write to you regarding this summer's Gold Assessed Duke of Edinburgh Expedition before preparations for the final examinations start in earnest. The participants have been working on their planning which should soon be complete, leaving only the experience of the expedition between them and the completion of this section of the Award.

Expedition information

This year's expedition will take place in the Lake District, Cumbria, travelling through some of the most beautiful and dramatic locations in the National Park. The expedition will take place on **14th to 19th July 2022**.

The cost of the expedition will be **£250**. This includes transport, equipment hire, maps, campsite fees and overnight accommodation at a Youth Hostel before and after the expedition. As with previous expeditions the charge **does not include** food for the expedition; this will need to be supplied by the participants.

Unfortunately, in previous years we have had several participants drop out of the expedition in the build-up. This put added pressure on the participants and leaders alike, as this can lead to the expedition not being financially viable. Therefore, this year, we must ask that 50% of the expedition cost be a non-refundable payment which needs to be paid by **31st March 2022**. If there is a genuine and valid reason why a student cannot participate, they must contact myself at the school. The final payment is due by **10th July 2022**. Please make payments via ParentPay.

Expedition Payment Plan

30th November £40

31st January £40

31st March £45

31st May £62.50

10th July £62.50

Medical Form

As it will have been some time since the last expedition, I have included with this letter a Residential Consent / Information Form for completion. Please return this to **me** by **Friday 26th November 2021**.

Equipment

Your son / daughter should now be well versed in what equipment they need to take on expedition. A kit list was issued during expedition training. Should another copy be required it can be found on the D of E website.

This expedition is the longest the participants will have undertaken, therefore, they will need to work on the packing of the expedition rucksack - "Light is Right" will be a very useful mantra. Students must work on their own clothing and equipment as well as that of the team. Communication with others in the team will be essential – this is a vital skill that some of the groups found difficult during the practice expeditions.

The most important part of carrying any equipment is that it is watertight. With the weather in July being increasingly unpredictable, I would highly recommend the use of a specifically designed waterproof rucksack liner. There's nothing worse than a wet sleeping bag so maybe a Christmas or Birthday idea!

Pre-expedition check

Before the expedition it is normal for the participants' kit to be checked by the Expedition Assessor. To give your child enough time to correct any potential issues with their equipment, pre-expedition checks will take place on **Friday 8th July 2022 4:00pm at the school**. Whilst it is imperative all participants attend, should there be an issue with attendance, I would appreciate it if you could inform me prior to the above date. Students will also be asked to bring along all paperwork including route cards, map tracings and menu plans. The **external assessor** may wish to scrutinise these as not all food may have been purchased at the time of the check.

Pre-expedition expectations

If your child participates in sporting activities, they should cope well with the demands of an expedition in wild country, the challenges of steep terrain and the carrying of a well packed rucksack. If, however, they do not participate in much sport or physical activity, then it would be advisable that they start to improve their fitness now, even if it is just walking at weekends. If new boots (not walking trainers) or rucksacks are to be used on expedition, they should be thoroughly broken in and well fitting. Although the students have been fully advised, they may need you to encourage them that this will make the expedition a much more comfortable and, ultimately, more enjoyable experience!

Arrangements

for Travel

A letter with all the travel arrangements will come out closer to the time of the expedition before your son / daughter leaves for their A level examinations.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours faithfully



Mrs T O'Neill
Duke of Edinburgh Manager

Please return reply slip to Mrs T O'Neill by Friday 26th November 2021, together with the completed Residential Consent/Information Form.

I/We* have received the letter regarding the July Gold Expedition and wish my son/daughter* to take part. Having read the information sheet, I agree to him/her* taking part in the activities described. I understand that 50% of this cost is a non-refundable deposit paid by **31st March 2022** and the final payment is due by **10th July 2022**.

Name of student:.....Form:.....

Name of Parent/Guardian (please print):.....

Signature of Parent/Guardian:.....Date:.....

*(*Delete as necessary)*