



# Northampton School for Boys

*An Independent Academy for the Town and County*



March 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

## **Re: Silver D of E Practice Expedition**

I would like to take this opportunity to write to you regarding the Silver Practice D of E Expedition.

The participants should have been working on their sections, Skills, Physical and Volunteering. However, whilst a number of students have worked very hard with this, others have not even uploaded their sections on the edofe system. Despite a number of meetings, students have been ignoring my request to get organised. Therefore, students have been given the deadline of **28<sup>th</sup> March 2019** to complete this.

## **Expedition information**

The Practice expedition will take place in the Peak District, Derbyshire. The expedition will take place on **29<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019**.

## **Equipment**

Your son should now be well versed in what equipment they need take on expedition. A kit list was issued during training session 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019. 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 so far. 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 Bronze expedition.

The most important part of carrying any equipment is that it is water tight. With the weather in March being increasingly unpredictable, I would highly recommend the use of a specifically designed **waterproof rucksack liner or garden sacks**, they should not bring black bin bags unless they are heavy duty. There's nothing worse than a wet sleeping bag!

**Tents** will be provided by BXM, however participants can bring their own ones if they wish, but they must check with Mrs Rutherford that the type and size is compatible with the requirements of the expedition.

Stoves are also given to groups however participants must remember to bring their own **mess tins**.

Students must have a **waterproof coat and bottoms** for this expedition. Please, if unsure, check with Mrs Rutherford. Some of the student's coats on the Bronze expedition were only showerproof and would not be suitable for a three-day expedition.

Headmaster Mr R Bernard MA

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Mobile phones should not be used on the expedition. They can bring them to use on the minibus and to phone parents after the expedition, but during the expedition they will be sealed in a plastic sandwich bag and only available in an emergency.

### **Pre-expedition expectations**

If your child participates in sporting activities, they should cope well with the demands of an expedition, the challenges of steeper terrain and the carrying of a well packed rucksack. 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.

Food is not included in the price. As with the Bronze expedition students need to provide their own food and be self-sufficient for the duration of the 3-day expedition. Again this was addressed during the training day and ideas given to the groups.

### **Arrangements for Travel**

Participants will need to meet at NSB swimming pool car park at **06:45** the morning of the **29th March 2019**. Participants should travel in the clothes that they will be walking in. Trainers can be worn on the minibus for the journey, but they will change into walking boots as soon as they get there. If they desire they can bring a change of clothing for the journey home, but this must be pack in a small bag and this will be left along with their trainers on the minibus.

Participants should arrive back to NSB at **18:00** on **31st March 2019**, however this is dependent on students walking to their route plan and leaving camp on time! It will also be very much dependant on the traffic. Participants will telephone on approach to Northampton with an up to date ETA.

### **Emergency Contact**

Due to the location of the expedition mobile contact is sometimes difficult. If you require assistance, please contact the school during office hours on 01604 230240. Out of hours contact should be through: Mr M Kneeshaw (Deputy Head) 07968530221 Please **DO NOT**, under any circumstances, use this number for general information or for non emergency communication. The school will then endeavour to contact me.

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

Yours faithfully

Mrs J Rutherford  
Bronze and Silver D of E Leader

**Please return reply slip to Mrs J Rutherford by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

I/We\* have received the letter regarding the March Silver Practice Expedition and wish my son to take part. Having read the information sheet, I agree to him taking part in the activities described.

**Name of Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Parent/Carer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

