



Kingsmead School



A PARTNER ACADEMY IN JOHN TAYLOR MAT
Headteacher: Mrs M Mincher, Bsc, NPQH

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Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to confirm that the dates have been finalised for the qualifying expedition for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. The date of the expedition will be the 27th and 28th September 2024. Students will be completing the expedition over Cannock Chase. They will start at school, walk to the campsite at Beau Desert, then return to school the following day.

Timings for the Expedition

On Friday 27th September, students will need to meet at school at their normal time and will meet in the sports hall. At this point, we will check equipment, provide maps and do final checks before setting them off in their expedition groups. Students **DO NOT** need to arrive in their uniform and should be appropriately dressed for the expedition. Students will be expected to arrive at the campsite in the evening between 4:00 and 5:00pm.

On Saturday 28th September, students will need to have breakfast, put down their tents and pack away their equipment before embarking on the second day of walking. It will be expected that students will arrive back at school between 2:00 and 3:00pm. At which point, we will collect back the equipment given out and perform debriefs. If you plan to collect your child, then we will ask them to let you know what time you will be needed to come and collect them.

Kit Lists

Students have previously had access to kit lists on the Blended Learning Platform, but a further list is included with this letter. Students have been notified which items they either don't need or are optional. Each team will also be provided with tents, stoves and fuel that they will need to distribute amongst the group. It has been suggested that they share out responsibility for carrying these items and their food around the group. All students will need to bring their own plates/cups/cutlery and washing up equipment. Students **will not** need to provide the following items, as these will be provided for them by school:

- tent
- cooking stove or fuel
- compass

We will also provide evening meals and breakfasts for students. These will be in the form of trail rations packs, which are designed to be used in expeditions. A Microsoft Forms document with the options is available [here](#), and we would ask that this is completed as soon as possible and no later



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than 13th September 2024 to enable us to arrange for delivery. If students would prefer to provide their own food for evening meal and breakfast, please identify this on the form. **Students will still need to provide their own lunch on both days.**

We are aware of the current pressures on household budgets, we do have some rucksacks available to borrow so you don't need to purchase them. They are limited and will be on first come, first served basis. Please ask your child to speak to me if they need to borrow one.

Electronic Devices

Students have been told that they are not allowed phones or other electronic devices over the course of the expedition. One student in each group will be allowed to carry a phone for emergency purposes, but other than that there will be no devices allowed during the walking phases. Equally, students are not allowed to carry mp3 players or other music devices during the expedition elements. These are Duke of Edinburgh award scheme stipulations. We will allow students an opportunity to speak briefly with parents in the evening, but other than that, their phones will be turned off and sealed in bags.

I have provided a link to a consent form and medical questionnaire that we need completing and returning to me by 13th September 2024. You can access the form [here](#).

Payment of Outstanding Balance

When your child originally signed up to the award, we notified you that the cost of the whole DofE scheme would be £100. We asked that you made an initial deposit of £30 with the rest to be paid before 28th February. Should any balance still be outstanding, we would ask that this is paid as soon as possible. If you have any further enquiries regarding the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Mr. Taylor
Duke of Edinburgh Manager
a.taylor@kingsmeadschool.net



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