

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this finds you well following the summer break. I would like to provide further information regarding the **Bronze DofE Award Training/Practice Expedition**. Students will complete their training over the weekend of **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023**. This is the only date that we can offer and proceedings will be as follows:

- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September: Arrival at Vandyke Upper School for **08.00**. It is really important that students are **dropped off at school promptly and that parents do not gather please**.
- Students will need **full kit**; please refer to the list attached. Essential items include: Rucksack (approx. 65 litres), walking boots (with ankle support), waterproof jacket, waterproof trousers, roll mat, sleeping bag, sufficient food and water (minimum 1.5 litres). Please ensure that your son/daughter also brings a personal **anti-bacterial hand gel** to use throughout the weekend.
- **Day 1: - Saturday:** Teams will be based inside the grounds of Vandyke School where they will complete a carousel of practical expedition training sessions e.g. Putting up tents, using the Trangia stoves, first aid, route planning, road safety etc.
- **Your son/daughter will require an individual packed lunch (both days), snacks and breakfast items (that don't need cooking).** Teams will cook an evening meal on stoves. **Food for the evening meal will be provided.**
- Students will camp on the school field. Males and females will sleep in separate tents spaced out. Tents will be provided but it is vital that your son/daughter brings a roll mat and sleeping bag to use.
- **Day 2: - Sunday:** Teams will complete a circuit walk in the local area with a member of staff throughout which basic navigation and map skills will be introduced and practised.
- Teams will return to school between 3.30-4.30pm for a debrief. A staff member will phone you to notify you of your son/daughter's arrival back at Vandyke.
- Team equipment for the weekend is provided by the school: tents, stoves & fuel, maps, map cases, first aid kits and survival bags.
- **PLEASE NOTE THAT STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT, SPECIFICALLY THEIR MOBILE PHONE OR IPOD, ON THE EXPEDITION WEEKEND.**
- Should you need to contact your son/daughter during their Training/Practice Expedition please go through me; Fiona Green on 07594997464 or Helen Gibbs on 07594997301.
- **Emergency contact and medical form** – please fill out via your son/daughter's Google Classroom Bronze DofE class account. The form is attached as an assignment to be completed by **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September**.

Yours sincerely,

F.J. Green

Mrs F. Green  
Duke of Edinburgh Manager