

Get Outside the Classroom

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Dear Parent / Guardian

Your child is working towards achieving their Duke of Edinburgh's Award and as such has been invited by their school to attend a training day on the school site from 9:30am –3:00pm on Tuesday 3rd Jan 2017.

The Pre-Expedition Training Day is designed to help inform and prepare the participants for their first practice expedition. It is part of the expectations of the award itself and is evidenced within the participants eDofE profile. Any young person wishing to attend future expeditions must attend this training.

Get Outside the Classroom staff will work on a carousel with small groups of Bronze Participants, rotating around the workshops. During the course of the day they will take part in workshops on; *First Aid, Packing a Rucksack creating a kit list, Pitching Tents, Food, Stove Use, Basic Navigation*. Silver Participants will review the same topics (and prior learning from Bronze where appropriate) before spending a little longer on Navigation.

We have provided a *Participants Handbook* which we understand will be made available on the schools website, as soon as the DofE page is constructed. We would recommend both parents and participants read the document before each expedition event to ensure they are familiar with their content and expectations.

Participants should come dressed to be outside on the field all day. Please check the weather forecast and dress appropriately. It might also be a good idea to bring a spare set of trainers for indoor use (muddy footwear will be left outside) just in-case we are able to facilitate a mixture of in and outdoor activity.

Bring with you; a drink, note pad and pen, bowl, spoon/fork and lunch, all in a small rucksack. Lunch will be cooked by the participants themselves on a Trangia stoves. Please refer to the *handbook* and plan meals in 3's or bring solo boil in bags.

We would hope that all attendees will leave the day feeling able to make sound informed decisions about what to bring (and maybe purchase), be familiar with some of the equipment they will use and more confident about the challenge ahead.

You should arrive at Student Services at 9:15am and sign in with a member of school staff who will direct you to the meeting point. It is essential that all participants arrive on time so the start of training is not delayed. GOTC staff will also be on hand should you wish to discuss any aspect of the expedition process.

The number listed at the top of this letter will divert to an appropriate mobile on the day should you need to contact your child in an emergency and please don't hesitate to get in touch via email if you have any questions before attending. Parents can also ring Main School Reception on 01925 755458 in case of an emergency, which will be manned most of the day.

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to meeting the group in the New Year.

Kind regards,

Mark Harnden

Director

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