

Dear Parent / Carer of

As part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award your son/daughter will be attending the Qualifying expedition detailed on the front sheet. **Please carefully note the information for; times, drop-off and pick-up locations and directions** for your child's expedition group. Whilst we have made every effort to supply you with the most accurate postcode we could find, systems can vary and the remote nature of some locations may mean that your satnav may not take you directly to 'the doorstep'. Please help to keep start and finish points as safe as possible by: arriving at the allocated time, sharing lifts where possible, signing in on arrival and being prepared to 'drop and go'.

As per the Practice Expedition, your child's group is:

In the same way as the Practice Expedition, we are using two different starts & finishes and have two waves of arrival times to limit our impact on routes and venues. **Again, the same as the Practice Expedition, parents are required to drop their child off at the start venue on the Friday and pick them up from the finish venue on Saturday**, sometime during the afternoon. Every expedition is unique making it difficult to be precise with an exact finish time and this will also depend on the speed that groups walk, how early they are ready to leave the campsite and how closely they manage to follow their intended route. **All participants are asked to phone home to say they are about an hour away from needing to be picked up by a parent and we will tell students the approximate point along their route that they should do this. Please bear in mind that this will include about half an hour of walking and another half an hour at the finish point to give them time to allow their tent to dry, repack it and return any borrowed equipment.** Please be aware that this is a compulsory part of the student's expedition and must be completed in their Qualifying expedition if they are to successfully complete the DofE Award.

There will be a **'pre-expedition' meeting on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June (3:15 – 4pm) in the Main Hall** for all Bronze participants. At this meeting, students will be able to request loan of equipment (waterproofs, rucksacks, roll/sleeping mats). Students need to make a fresh request for equipment for this expedition, regardless of whether they loaned items during the Practice Expedition or not. This meeting will also cover the 20 conditions of the Qualifying Expedition, which must be successfully completed as part of the expedition weekend in order for the External Assessors (additional DofE Assessors not affiliated to LHS or GOTC) to 'pass' each student's Expedition section of their DofE Award – these can be seen beforehand on the DofE website.

Unless other specific arrangements have been made, you can expect any equipment being borrowed to be available on arrival at the start point (but this must have been booked beforehand by the student at the meeting).

During qualifying expeditions **GOTC staff will supervise groups using a check-pointing system.** Telephone numbers will be shared with participants should they require to get hold of us in an

emergency and two assessors will be present to ensure the process of assessment can be observed in accordance with the 20 conditions laid out by the DofE.

**The GOTC Expedition Handbook is an essential read before the Qualifying Expedition** and can be found on the school's website under Enrichment/Duke of Edinburgh's Award under 'Documents'. The hope is for all participants to make decisions for themselves to complete the route whilst drawing upon their training and previous experiences to complete the journey.

Please **refer to the Kit List on the Lymm High School website** rather than the DofE's website which contains additional items such as a trowel, some of which are only needed on Gold expeditions. Experience suggests that the outcomes for the participants are vastly improved if they pack their own rucksack, taking responsibility for their choices bearing in mind their own research and advice they received during their training day. At the end of the Practice Expedition, students were asked to consider how they would change the items they packed during their first expedition. Were there any items they did not need? Were there items that would have made their expedition easier or more comfortable? It is however important to take into account the weather forecast, which may be different to that of the Practice Expedition.

If there is an emergency and you need to contact your son/daughter during the expedition, please use the phone number listed at the top of this letter. This will automatically divert to a member of the team in the field. Thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Kind regards,



Mark Harnden

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