

## Duke of Edinburgh 2018 Gold QUALIFYING EXPEDITION

Dear Parent / Carer

As part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award your son/daughter will be attending the expedition detailed overleaf. **Please carefully note the information for; times, pick-up locations and directions.** 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 keep meeting 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'.

**Students will travel by coach from school on Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Sept to the start point, leaving school at 8:15am – please ensure your child is ready in the Main School Car Park at this time. Parents are required to collect from Snowdonia on Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Sept (see info sheet for postcodes and times).**

Every expedition is unique making it difficult to be precise with an exact finish time. All participants are asked to phone home (where/when reception allows) during their last morning to inform you of their anticipated finishing time. However, if you do not hear from them, please aim for the mid-point of the expected 'window' shown overleaf.

There will be a '**pre-expedition**' meeting for students on **Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 3:10 – 3:45pm** in the Main Hall. At this meeting, students will be able to request loan of equipment (waterproofs, rucksacks, roll/sleeping mats), and will go through routes, kit and complete meal planning. Students need to request items for this expedition, even if they requested them for the practice expedition. 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.

Students can expect any equipment being borrowed to be available on arrival (but this must have been booked beforehand by the student at the meeting). Students should bring their equipment in a holdall if borrowing a rucksack. Please ensure your child has read through the Expedition Handbook carefully beforehand, in particular the part about packing, kit and meals required for the expedition. The handbook is also the best point of reference if you have any queries as parents. If there is an additional query that the handbook and school and DofE websites cannot answer, please contact us on the above email.

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.

As part of their preparations for this expedition participants have been given training and printed information on kit, food, clothing, etc. We recommend that, at least one week prior to the expedition, parents and participants revisit this information which can be found from a variety of sources, including the school's website (Enrichment/Duke of Edinburgh's Award). **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'. 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 (which will divert to a member of the team in the field) or the emergency school mobile number which will be **07712 553365**. Please bear in the mind however that students and staff will be in the middle of Snowdonia where mobile phone signal can sometimes be limited.

Thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Kind regards,



Mark Harnden

Get Outside The Classroom