



Year 9 Bronze Award

Notes for parents from meeting on Wed 3rd Apr

Both expeditions are **compulsory** for students to complete their DofE Award. Reminder of the expedition dates:

- **Practice Expedition: Fri 10th – Sat 11th May 2019**
- **Qualifying Expedition: Fri 21st – Sat 22nd June 2019**

Please ensure your child (they will attempt to make you do it, we would recommend making them do so themselves!) has read thoroughly the **DofE Expedition Handbook**, you can access it on our DofE pages of the school website by clicking [here](#).

It contains every possible piece of information a student might need to pack their bag, plan and buy their meals, and decide whether to purchase any additional kit or not. Please ensure your child has read it! It often makes the difference between passing the expedition element and having an enjoyable time, and not!

Tent/Walking Groups

- Students have been organised into a walking group (up to 14 students) and into a tent group (3 students).
Some students have asked to be in 2's in their tent but this does mean carrying slightly more weight between them (having 1 less person). Students chose these groups themselves with a little support from staff if they were having difficulty.
Some small groups have needed to be joined with other small groups to form a larger group because an instructor walks with them on the first day and we have 16 instructors.
Any worries or problems, please email Mrs Hill shill@lymmhigh.org.uk over the Easter Holidays, our DofE Administrator who is located in the school shop (please check opening times on website if planning to pop in).
- During the Qualifying expedition in June, the large walking groups will be split into smaller groups of 4-7 students, but we will organise this nearer the time of the Qualifying expedition.

Next Letter/Paperwork

- Students will receive the pre-expedition letter, map (only for parental reference rather than walking purposes), drop-off and pick-up locations for parents after Easter (w/c 23rd April). We will text parents to let you know when students have received it so you can look for it at the bottom of their bag!



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

- The paperwork will be made available the following day on the DofE pages of our website under *Documents*.
- Due to us having such large numbers doing Bronze (around 160); we will have 2 different start points. Students will walk towards each other however and all camp together at the Forest Scout Camp, Sandiway, Cheshire on the Friday night.
- **Parents are required to drop their child at the start point at the allotted time on the Friday and collect them from the finish point (which is different) on the Saturday.**

Staff will meet students there. Please be aware that different groups have different arrival times to ease congestion, so please bring your child at the given time, rather than earlier or later, wherever possible. Feel free to car share, but please be mindful that your child's friends may have a different start point.

Kit

- The kit list can be found on our DofE page of the school website by clicking [here](#).
- The following items can be borrowed from Get Outside The Classroom: large rucksack, sleeping mat, waterproof jacket, waterproof trousers. **THESE MUST BE 'REQUESTED' IN ADVANCE SO THAT THE ITEMS CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO YOUR CHILD AT THE CORRECT START POINT.** With regret, we are afraid the items cannot be made available beforehand because this would incur more cost to participants for the award, and we are very conscious about trying to keep the price of the award down.
- Tents, cooking stoves and fuel bottles (for the stoves) are provided automatically to all students without the need to request them.
- Often borrowing good quality kit from GOTC is better than buying cheaper, poor quality kit, which shops often market in 'DofE bundles'. If your child is in the outdoors regularly or is likely to participate in Silver or Gold DofE, you may wish to buy some items, in the knowledge they'll get good use out of them, but if unsure we recommend your child borrows the items available to save you money.

We really hope the students have a fantastic first DofE expedition and thoroughly enjoy themselves!

Any queries before the expedition, please contact Mrs Hill in the School Shop
(shill@lymmhigh.org.uk)