

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Green Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1EP

Tel: 01335 343 685 Email: enquiries@qegs.email Twitter: @qegs_ashbourne

Web: www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Garrity Chair of Governors: Mr C Smith



14th June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Year 9 & 10 Bronze Award Assessed Expedition 21st - 22nd June 2021

Year 10 - Silver Assessed Opportunity 23rd - 25th October 2021

Trip/Award Leader: Miss Wilband

I am writing to remind you of the Assessed Bronze Expedition (Year 9 and 10) that will take place on the 21st and 22nd of June. These will start on each day from the Sports Field nearest the Sixth Form Centre. It is important that students stay in their year group bubbles and where possible their Team. They will be directed by staff to their Team area, and it is important that students sign in and out on each day.

Students need to arrive for 8.00am on ALL dates. Students will be met here by a member of staff and will be supervised remotely following their route that they have planned using the eLearning modules. Due to the current covid restrictions students **will not** be camping overnight, however campcraft will be assessed as part of the Expedition requirements. Students can however, within covid rules camp overnight, where possible at each other's houses and use the school tents. These must be signed out and cared for and any damage paid for should they be returned in a less than satisfactory state. However, students should not use the stoves (Trangia's) at home.

Students should be picked up at 4pm from the drop off point on each day.

As well as the Bronze Expedition there is an Opportunity for Year 10 to enrol on to Silver Award and to complete their Silver Expedition as well this year! With the Covid exceptions set up this year – students who are in Year 10 and doing Bronze can use their Assessed Bronze Expedition as the Practice Expedition for the Silver so only need to pay for and complete an Assessed Silver Expedition to achieve the Expedition Section of their Silver Award. Those who have enrolled for Silver (and there is still time to do so) will be emailed another letter outlining the details of this opportunity nearer the dates of that Expedition (which is now the 23rd - 25th October). If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Miss Wilband via email.

It has also been unfortunate that this year the Bronze Assessed Expedition falls into the Year 10 assessment weeks at school. This has been approved, and adjustments will be made, as understandably it has been a challenge to squeeze Expeditions into this final term. Subject teachers have been made aware and will make alternative arrangements regarding the in-school assessments.

It is imperative that students wear suitable walking boots (not shoes), clothing is suitable for walking in (no jeans or denim) and that waterproof coat and trousers are packed, in case of inclement weather. Many outdoor retail places will do a discount for DofE students – the pack that students receive in the post should have a discount card and the Mountain Warehouse Outlet in Ashbourne will further discount for QEGS students – they will need to prove this with their school lanyard. Students have also been issued with a 'if possible' list from Rich Adventure too as they are encouraged to emulate as much of as possible, what would be 'carried' by the Team in a normal/non-covid Expedition.

Students should use a medium to large rucksack as a tent, a stove and a first aid kit (provided by school) per group will be carried. Students also need to bring their own lunch and plenty of liquid refreshment (2 litres).

Students will have to complete an online training element of the Expedition section before being allowed to do the Assessed Expedition, this includes the route planning element of the Assessed Expedition. If they are unsure of anything in this module or have issues with the technology, students need to email Claire Rich via email on the front page of the eLearning site (which students have access to on Microsoft Teams).

The training day and follow-on Assessed Expedition are an essential part of achieving the Bronze Award. Although, during this year students can achieve a Certificate of Achievement for completing all the other Sections of the Award if they do not wish (or cannot) take part in the Expedition Section.

If for some reason your child cannot attend this course, please let me know the reasons why via letter/email. Further opportunities to undertake the Expedition Section of the Award may be available to students next year.

There is no extra cost for this Assessed Expedition as all costs are included in the fees already paid.

During the time we are away, I will have the school mobile (07890319033); please only use this in an emergency. Students will need to have their phones with them, and these should be packed away and ONLY used in an emergency - this is an important part of passing the Assessed Expedition, students will be reminded of this at the start of the Expedition Days.

If you have any further questions or queries regarding the Expedition or the Award itself, please do not hesitate to contact me by email wilband@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk or by phone. Alternatively, you can explore the Award on the official Duke of Edinburgh's Award website <http://www.dofe.org>

Yours faithfully

Miss G M Wilband

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Manager

Twitter: http://twitter.com/QEGS_DofE