



29th March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Year 10 Silver Award Practise Expedition 12th – 14th May 2022.

Trip/Award Leader: Ms Watson Jones

Thank you for signing up to complete the Silver Award Expedition Section. The Silver Practice Expedition will run from Thursday 12th of May to Saturday 14th May. With some students not having camped before due to the covid restrictions in place during their Bronze Expedition, we have taken the decision to slowly ease students into the full expedition experience. Please note, therefore, that students will only be camping overnight on Friday 13th May.

Students must complete an online training element of the Expedition section before being allowed to do the Practise Expedition and this will be available to students via the Silver 2022 TEAMS page. This must be completed by the end of the Easter holidays.

On Thursday 12th May 2022, students should arrive at Oakamoor Car Park, Mill road, Oakamoor, ST10 3AG at 8.30am. They will be met by myself and walk for the duration of the day (with full kit packed in their back pack) accompanied by an experienced instructor. They should then be picked up at 4.30pm from Waterhouses Car Park, off Earlsway, ST10 3EG and return home for the evening.

On Friday 13th May 2022, students should arrive back at Waterhouses Car Park, off Earlsway, ST10 3EG at 8.30am. Students will be met here by myself or another member of staff and will be following their designated route under close supervision.

It is imperative that students wear suitable walking boots (not shoes), that clothing is suitable for walking in (no jeans or denim) and that a waterproof coat **and** trousers are packed even if the weather forecast is good, in case of inclement weather. Students need to pack kit according to the kit list available online on the DofE website <http://www.dofe.org>; this has also been handed out to students as well as on the Silver DofE TEAMS page. It is strongly advised that spare clothes are packed in a waterproof/plastic bag.

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 also need to bring plenty of liquid refreshment (water can be replenished at the campsite for Day 3), as well as food for the three-day expedition (suggestions can be found here - <https://www.dofe.org/thelatest/healthy-on-expedition/>). Students should ensure that they have an 'emergency rations' pack that is sealed separately to their planned food and include snacks (such as energy bars) and a drink. It is important that the evening meal is cooked as a group meal and students will be briefed on what is suitable. They will also need to supply their own small camping gas canisters for this (2 needed per group).

Students will be lent, during the weeks prior to the Expedition; a group Storm Shelter, Tranga (cooking set), a group first aid kit, a compass, related maps and route cards and tents. It is expected that groups return the kit in July after the Assessed Expedition in a fit for purpose and clean condition.

It is envisioned that students will return on Saturday 14th May at approximately 4.00pm at the pick-up location – Ilam Hall, DE6 2AZ.

During the time we are away, I will make any required updates via groupcall and the QEGS DofE Twitter account. I will also 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 Practise and Assessed Expedition, students will be reminded of this beforehand.

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

Yours faithfully

Ms K Watson Jones

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Manager

Twitter: http://twitter.com/QEGS_DofE

**by clicking the "consent" button on ParentPay to confirm the payment detailed above, you are also confirming that the emergency contact and medical details we have on our system are correct for your child. Please inform me as a matter of urgency should there be any changes to the details we hold.*