

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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



28th November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Year 9 Bronze Award Expeditions 11th – 12th May and 8th – 9th June 2022

Trip/Award Leader: Ms Watson Jones

I am writing to inform you about the plans for the Bronze Expeditions in 2023. The Bronze Practice Expedition will run from Thursday 11th to Friday 12th May 2023. The Assessed Expedition will run from Thursday 8th to Friday 9th June 2023.

ONLINE TRAINING

Next term, students will be required to complete an online training element of the Expedition section in their own time. The online training will guide them through the key elements of the Practice weekend (including what best to bring/how to read maps/how to plan a route/basic camp craft etc). This online training is compulsory and must be completed by the Easter holidays. A link will be made available to students on TEAMS at the start of next term.

IN PERSON TRAINING

There will be 2 separate afternoons of in person training: **Wednesday 22nd March 2023 and Wednesday 3rd May 2023.**

This training will start during period 5 and **finish at 4.30pm**. Students will be required to bring in their waterproof coats and trousers, as well as walking boots for checking on Wednesday 22nd March 2023.

Students will be bringing equipment home on Wednesday 3rd May so a lift home for students where possible may be appreciated.

EXPEDITIONS

The training weekend and Assessed Expedition are both an essential part of achieving the Bronze Award.

On both Thursday 11th May and Thursday 8th June, students will need to arrive at the start location for **8.30am (locations will be given closer to the time but we aim to keep this within an hour's drive of Ashbourne)**. Students will be met in the mornings by myself and Mrs Wright and will be following a designated route with a qualified and experienced instructor who will guide each group through key map skills/survival skills etc. Please note, during the practice weekend students will always have a qualified leader with them until they are competent in their expedition skills. We will be camping at designated camp sites (these usually have basic washing facilities/toilet/drinking water).

For the assessed Expedition students will be supervised remotely; each group will have a GPS tracker and be met at 'check points' by their leader.

Pick up on the Friday's are usually around 3.30pm.

EQUIPMENT

We have a very large cohort of DofE participants this year (which is fantastic!), so if anyone has suitable lightweight tents that may be able to be shared with your child's group, please do get in touch!

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.

Students will be lent, as highlighted on the kit list (attached and on TEAMS), a group Storm Shelter, Trangia (cooking set), a group first aid kit, a compass, related maps and route cards, and tents. The groups are responsible for the upkeep and drying out of kit, which needs to be checked back in the week after the Qualifying Expedition. It is expected that groups return the kit in a fit-for-purpose and clean condition; any damage or loss will have to be paid for in addition to the expedition cost. This equipment will be given out to students during the week prior to the practice Expedition.

Students also need to bring their own food and snacks, as well as fluids and an emergency rations pack, for the full two-day practice expedition. 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 (screw top attachment) canisters for this (2 needed per group).

COSTS

If for some reason your child cannot attend the dates stated above, please let me know as soon as possible via email. Costs for the expeditions are non refundable, however further opportunities to undertake the Expedition Section of the Award may be available to students next year.

The cost for the Bronze Expedition section of the Award is **£215** (this includes both trips, camping and the online training). Costs are kept to a minimum and the academy does not receive any profit from this. Most of the costs are for assessors/supervisors, qualified staff with Mountain Leader qualifications with many hours of experience in their field. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award risk assessment and safety requirements now insist that qualified and approved staff must be used.

Payment for the Expedition must be paid via Parent Pay by February 16th. If you have problems making payment via ParentPay, please contact finance@qegs.email as soon as possible.

eDofE

Please note, all participants should now have accessed their eDofE account using their usernames and passwords provided on TEAMS. If they have not done so, they must come and see me at the drop in sessions in 557 on Thursday lunchtimes.

If you have any further questions or queries regarding the Expedition or the Award itself, 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> or the school website <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/learning/clubs-and-co-curricular/dofe/>. Please also follow us on Twitter for regular updates.

Yours faithfully

Ms Watson Jones

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Manager

Twitter: http://twitter.com/QEGS_DofE

Mrs Wright

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Manager

**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.*