



24 July 2020

Dear Parent,

**Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice Expedition – 26 & 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

Firstly, many thanks for your continued support of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award this year.

It has been a more challenging year than usual and I appreciate your patience with us whilst we have had to cancel and reschedule expeditions and follow adaptations that the DofE have offered, enabling our students to continue to complete their award from home.

During lockdown and time away from school, students have had to use their creativity to adjust their DofE activities and to work with their expedition groups in completing their route cards, in preparation for rescheduled expeditions in September and October 2020.

Please note that, in order to attend these planned expeditions, individual students must have completed all route cards set, the other three DofE sections (Physical, Skill & Volunteering) and have had their eDofE account approved, by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020. Any student who has not met these requirements may not be invited to attend.

This letter is to outline details of the Practice Expedition, now to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020. We have had to change the way we host this event for two main reasons;

1. Students have not yet received any practical outdoor training from us
2. Restrictions have been imposed by the government in relation to the trips and the risk of COVID-19.

In accordance with governmental guideline, we will be applying the following measures to our Practice Expedition in order to meet the relevant health and safety criteria:

**Direct supervision –**

Expedition groups will be directly supervised by at least one member of Redhill Academy DofE staff throughout the weekend. Their supervisor will walk with the group for the full duration and ensure they have all the relevant training towards their Qualifying Expedition in October. This will cover navigation skills, use of compass, map and route card, grid references, basic first aid, stove-cooking, campcraft and group management.

**Minimise the use of shared equipment –**

Students will be given either a compass, route card or map for the day. It will be the student's responsibility to use this equipment exclusively throughout the day.

Students will be asked to provide their own personal equipment such as;

- Walking boots,
- Medication,
- Water/drinks/snacks/packed lunch
- Utensils for group meal (plastic plate/bowl, cup and cutlery)
- Waterproof jacket and trousers,



- Expedition rucksack (50-65l) wherever possible\*

\*Rucksacks can be borrowed from Redhill Academy if necessary.

#### **Additional cleaning of group equipment –**

Group items that must be carried by the group in order to meet DofE expedition criteria are;

- Shelter (tent) (supplied by RHA)
- First aid kit and supplies (supplied by RHA)
- Food for group meal,
- Cooking stoves (supplied by RHA)
- Utensils (tea-towel, sponge, washing up liquid, pans).

These items must be thoroughly cleaned before and after use, contact between group members should be kept to a minimum.

Staff will provide additional hand sanitisers at meal times for the groups' use although students will be expected to carry their own personal supply as well.

Any borrowed items (tents, rucksack, waterproofs, shelters etc) should be taken home at the end of the last day, by the student, cleaned and dried - following the item's washing/cleaning guidelines. **These items will need to be returned to school in a clean, dry state on return to school.**

Smaller items (compasses, maps, route cards) used by the students will be cleaned at the end of day one, by the student, and handed back to staff in preparation for day two.

#### **Non-residential expeditions –**

The DofE expeditions have had to be adjusted to suit the Department for Education's (DfE) guidelines and must be non-residential. This means that students will not be asked to camp overnight at their campsite destination on day one, however some groups will be invited to camp on the school ground instead.

In light of this we are arranging for a bus to collect all students from Kelham Hall at 5pm on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Sept. The bus will return students to The Redhill Academy.

Back at the academy, students will continue to work outdoors, in their expedition groups, in preparing and sharing a group meal. This will be done using Trangia cooking stoves and directly supervised by their allocated member of staff.

For three groups (**Blue, Green and Purple**), this will be the end of their expedition day and they will return home for the night. Parents of these groups should **collect their children at 8pm from the Leisure Centre car park**. Parents are asked to follow any drop-off guidance set at the time.

These students will need to **return to the academy at 8am on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September**, prepared for their second day of expedition.

As we are only able to offer an overnight camping experience on the school grounds, for a maximum of three expedition groups at a time, the other three groups (**Yellow, Red and Orange**) will be invited to stay overnight. These students will use tents provided by the academy (unless they prefer to bring their own) and each student will sleep in a tent by themselves.

This arrangement will alternate for the Qualifying expedition in October, ensuring that all groups are offered the same opportunities.

#### **First Aid training –**

Due to the close proximity of direct first aid application, we will make the following changes to our Practice Expedition:

- Students carry less weight in their rucksack (fuel, sleeping bags, overnight items and full tents are not to be carried by students)
- Direct supervision by member of staff throughout each day

- Students will be briefed by staff, at the start of day one, of likely first aid incidents to occur during expeditions to highlight caution required.
- Staff will information on basic first aid expectations but no 1-1 demonstrations should be given.
- First Aid is to include at least one face shield and at least one pair of protective gloves.
- One student will be assigned to carry all first aid equipment for the group to avoid excessive handling
- Students to provide own personal safety equipment relevant to medical conditions and time of year (i.e sunscreen, insect repellent, hat, gloves, EpiPen, anti-histamine). Parents are to alert staff of any medication required via an up to date EV4 form prior to start of expedition.
- Member of staff will be expected to manage any first aid issues that arise within the group.

#### **Bubble Management -**

- Expedition groups will stay together throughout each day
- Expedition groups will consist of only one academic year group
- Groups are not to socialise or mix with other groups either along route or in communal areas.

#### **Eating and drinking –**

Students are to provide their own supply of food for each day – these items are not to be shared with others in the group;

- Water (2 litres)
- Additional sugary drink/warm drink (optional)
- Snacks
- Packed lunch

Students are also to bring food towards their group's shared meal, however students are not to share bottles, crockery or cutlery.

For the practice expedition, this shared meal will be stove-cooked evening meal, outdoors, on the grounds of The Redhill Academy. This will be managed by the member of staff to ensure students follow fire safety precautions as well as any COVID-19 social distancing requirements.

#### **Safe Practice (Social Distancing) –**

Groups will be directly supervised throughout to ensure that all distancing regulations are being adhered to at all times, whilst ensuring they can able to work independently as a group.

Students will carry their own piece of navigational equipment and have designated roles and responsibilities, for this purpose.

#### **Contact with the general public –**

Students will be expected to carry their own, personal, face mask each day.

Masks should be used around members of the general public where social distancing is difficult to adhere to (e.g narrow footpaths). Students are expected to keep their distance at all times from the general public and are not to directly approach them.

Below, is an outline of the routes for each expedition group. Please confirm which group your son/daughter is a part of as this will determine their drop-off and collection points. Please be aware that we will endeavor to stick to the finish times although this is dependent on the ability and pace of the group throughout the day.

Please arrive at the designated time for your group. Do not plan to be early for collection of your child as this may cause unwarranted mixing with other groups. If you are intending to drop off/collect multiple children please ensure that their destination times and locations can be well managed. We do not have guidance on car-sharing at this time so please follow guidelines current at the time of expedition in respect of this.

Meeting and collection points and times for the different groups are as follows:

**BLUE GROUP: Southwell Garden Centre > Kelham Hall**

Start time for day 1: 10:00am (meet at 9.45am)

**YELLOW GROUP: Southwell Garden Centre > Kelham Hall**

Start time for day 1: 10.30am (meet at 10:15am)

**GREEN GROUP: Church at Bleasby > Kelham Hall**

Start time for day 1: 10:00am. (meet at 9:45am)

**RED GROUP: Church at Bleasby > Kelham Hall**

Start time for day 1: 11:00am (meet at 10:45am)

**PURPLE GROUP: Church at Bleasby > Kelham Hall**

Start time for day 1: 9:30am (meet at 9:15am)

**ORANGE GROUP: Church at Bleasby > Kelham Hall**

Start time for day 1: 10:30am (meet at 10:15am)

Addresses of these meeting and drop-off points are:

**Garden Centre, Southwell**, Fiskerton Road, Southwell, Nottingham NG25 0TH.

**Church of St Mary, Bleasby**, Bleasby, Nottingham NG14 7GB.

**Kelham Hall**, Main Rd, Kelham, Newark NG23 5QX

Parents' itinerary:

Sat 26<sup>th</sup>:

- Drop-off their children at the start point on Day 1 (All groups)
- Collect from The Redhill Academy at 8:30pm (**Blue, Green and Purple groups**),

Sun 27<sup>th</sup>:

- Return to The Redhill Academy at 8:30am on Day 2 (**Blue, Green and Purple groups**)
- Collect from The Redhill Academy at 4:00pm (All groups)

Please note that students will be instructed to bring a maximum of two mobile phones per group which should only be used in cases of emergency, to contact group leaders and/or the emergency services. No other electrical, GPS or sound emitting equipment is permitted.

Any groups wishing to bring cameras, or personal equipment, towards their expedition project are welcome to do so, but do so at their own risk.

The emergency contact and leader of the expedition is **Mrs C Smith** 07780 125571.

Please be aware that mobile signal strength may vary over the weekend.

Many thanks again for your support and we look forward to seeing you at the start!

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Smith  
DofE Manager