

Dear parents,

I am writing to inform you on the changes we are making to the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition to ensure we are following current government guidelines and safety with regard to COVID-19.

The practice expedition has been relocated to a more local area and will **consist of two walking days with no overnight stay**. The expedition will run on two of the original proposed dates- **Friday 16th October- Saturday 17th October 2020**.

There are several strategies that will be put in place to ensure the expedition can meet all the requirements whilst maintaining a safe environment:

- The expedition will consist of 2 walking days. As it is local- pupils will not be required to stay overnight- **they would be picked up in the evening and returned the next morning**. They will, therefore, always be outside during their expedition. *Please see attached document on more specific details including timings and location of the expedition.*
- Pupils will remain in year group 'bubbles' and be asked to social distance the best they can with members of the public & staff.
- Pupils will still be required to arrive at the campsite at the end of the first day and put up and tent (*even though they won't be sleeping in them*) & cook their dinner using camping equipment as this is a requirement of the expedition.
- When cooking- pupils will be advised to purchase 'boil in the bag' meals, this means they can eat straight out of the pouch with their own utensil. *Additional Trangias will be provided if necessary, to reduce any sharing of cooking implements.*
- At the campsite students will be directed to hand washing stations and sanitiser.

As the expedition does not include an overnight stay and one less day, this does mean a reduction in the overall price for the Silver Award. **The total cost of the award will now be £215.**

You should have paid £150 to date, therefore, **please pay the remaining £65 by Monday 12th October**. If you have previously paid more than £150, you will receive the appropriate refund by the end of the month via parentpay. If you have not yet paid the £150, please make up your outstanding payment to final amount of £215 by Monday 12th October 2020.

Please find a kit list attached- the expedition will be going ahead whether it is rain or shine, so please do ensure your child is prepared. Each participant should bring their own small bottle of sanitiser.

Mobile phone policy

As your child will need to contact you to be picked up, we are allowing mobile phones on the expedition. However, during the walking day they must be switched off and sealed in a plastic bag and only used for emergencies. The participants will then be instructed when they can remove them from the sealed bag to contact home to be picked up. **Each group will be asked to show their mobile phone sealed at the start of the expedition.**

Qualifying Expedition

As it stands, we hope that we will be able to run the qualifying expedition as normal on Wednesday 14th- Friday 16th April 2021. However, we will continue to follow government guidance and make appropriate changes if necessary. I will update you closer to this date on any changes that will be made.

If you have any further questions on the measures that are being put in place, please email me and I can give you more information.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss E Coote

Duke of Edinburgh Awards Manager

Silver DofE Practice Expedition Overview – The Farmors School

Drop off Friday 16th October 2020

All teams please arrive for 10am at Barbury Castle Country Park. The park lies about three miles south-west of Chiseldon. From the M4 Junction 15 follow the A346 towards Marlborough until you see signs for Chiseldon. Then follow signs for Barbury Castle. Grid Reference SU 157 761. Post Code: SN4 0QH. **SAT NAVS can take you off the road onto a muddy track, so please beware** *(The park lies about three miles south-west of Chiseldon. From the M4 Junction 15 follow the A346 towards Marlborough until you see signs for Chiseldon. Then follow signs for Barbury Castle.)*

Collection Friday 16th October 2020

We will ask the pupils to contact you when they are ready for collection. Pending their pace and efficiency trekking and cooking, they will be ready for collection between 5 and 8pm at The Lake, H5 Adventure, Thornhill, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire, SN4 7RZ. If you search Google Maps for 'H5 Adventure', then the red pointer is exactly on our entrance.

Drop off Saturday 17th October 2020

All teams please arrive for 09:00am at The Lake, H5 Adventure, Thornhill, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire, SN4 7RZ, as above.

Collection Saturday 17th October 2020

We will ask the pupils to contact you when they are ready for collection. Pending their pace and efficiency trekking, between 2 to 4pm at Barbury Castle Country Park, as above, location of drop off on 17th October.

If you do not bring all equipment, i.e. Waterproofs, drinking water, etc, then we may not allow you to complete your Expedition due to safety issues.

All pupils should bring all equipment as if they would be camping. Even though The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has allowed Expeditions without camping they still expect them to carry everything and cooking an evening meal. However, use common sense, for example, if there are items you do not have for camping, then do not purchase them, ie a sleeping bag, just pack a few other clothes instead.



Silver Duke of Edinburgh Kit List

Remember you receive a discount when you use your DofE participant card in some outdoor stores.

You are expected to pack for the expedition as if you are staying over night to keep it as 'normal' to the requirements as possible.

ESSENTIALS

Packed it	Items
	Expedition Rucksack
	1 pair walking boots (broken in)
	2 pairs walking socks
	1 t-shirt
	1 fleece tops or similar
	1 pair of walking trousers (warm, NOT jeans, not cotton jogging bottoms)
	Underwear
	Sun Cream
	Waterproof over-trousers
	Jacket/coat (waterproof & windproof)
	<u>FOOD</u> - 1x lunch per day & 1x dinner ('boil in the bag' meals advised e.g. brands such as; wayfayrer or trekmates) & any additional snacks.
	2 litres of water
	Sleeping bag
	1 torch
	Any Essential Personal Medication
	Cutlery: knife, fork, spoon
	Plate/bowl/mug (not essential to have all; think about what food you are bringing and what is necessary).
	Matches, in a zip lock bag- you will only need one box per group!

RECOMMENDED

Packed it	Items
	1 thermal t-shirt (optional but extra layers are required if cold)
	Pair of shorts (if appropriate)
	Warm hat &/or Sun Hat (if appropriate)
	Watch
	Hand Sanitiser
	Personal hygiene products e.g. baby wipes, deodorant, toothpaste (organise with your group to share for less weight)
	Toilet paper (sealed in a ziplock bag- organise with your group to share).
	Dishwashing products (organise with your group to share for less weight).
	1 roll of bin bags (organise 1 roll per group to share weight)

OPTIONAL

Packed it	Items
	Notebook & pen/pencil
	Personal first aid & Blisters
	Camera
	Insect Repellent (Advisable in nice weather and near water)
	Sunglasses

Remember to leave some room to distribute the following group kit amongst your team on the first day (this is all provided by H5):

Although you are not staying overnight this kit will still be distributed between your group to carry throughout the day as you would if the expedition is running normally. This is a compulsory requirement of the qualifying expedition.

Items
Tent (s)
Trangia (s)
Camping stove fuel in an appropriate & safe container
Cooking pans
Maps (1:50 000/1:25 000)
Compass(es)
Map cases
Emergency contact card
Whistle
Reflective vests

Penknives are not necessary for Silver level; please can these be left at home.

Mobile phones are permitted but with limited use- Information on the use of mobile phones can be found in the letter.