



3 June 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Assessment Expedition, Saturday 15 - Sunday 16 June**

I am writing in respect of the forthcoming assessment expedition for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Please read the below itinerary and expectations for the trip in June.

Please note that the assessor wishes to meet with all of the students on 11 June after school. The other two scheduled meeting dates of 5 and 12 June will still go ahead as route planning sessions. Students should have now made good progress with the necessary paperwork for the other sections required to gain the award; this will be reviewed on the 11 June by the assessor. It does not have to be completed by this date but evidence of dates of completion must be uploaded to the site/recorded in their booklets. There will be a de-brief and equipment return session on 17 June followed by two further meetings on 25 and 26 June for students to complete the sections following their assessment expedition.

**Itinerary**

**Day 1: Saturday 15 June**

Loop walk starting and finishing at Danbury Outdoors. Groups to walk independently meeting staff at specific check points along the way.

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| 10.00am         | Parents to drop off at Essex Danbury Outdoors, Well Lane, Danbury, Essex CM3 4AB.<br>Meet at designated start. Students begin their pre-planned walks. |
| 4.30pm – 5.30pm | Estimated time of return to Danbury Outdoors for overnight stay.<br>Students to set up tents / cook dinner / de-brief.                                 |
| 10.00pm         | Lights out in tents.   |

**Food requirements:**

**Groups to provide lunch, dinner, breakfast, snacks and drinks. Students have their food planners for this and have been advised on selection of food.**

**Day 2: Sunday 16 June**

Walking from Danbury Outdoors along a pre-planned route to the finish. Groups to walk independently meeting staff at specific check points along the way.

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| 6.30am | Students begin to pack their tents and belongings alongside cooking breakfast.  |
| 8.00am | Students begin their independent walks within their groups.   |
| 4.00pm | Parents pick up from the Brewers Arms public house car park, Main Road, Bicknacre, Chelmsford, CM3 4HD. Please note some groups may arrive back earlier and will contact parents if this is the case. |

Students will need the following:

- A large rucksack (55-70 litres) which will need to be packed according to the attached kit list. The school does have a small number of rucksacks to lend if students are struggling to obtain one.
- Tents and Trangias (for cooking) will be distributed to students in the equipment distribution session after school on 12 June. This will need to be split between group members and included in their packing for the expedition.
- Planned meals / 2 litres of water. Students are required to cook two meals (dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday).
- Appropriate footwear (not trainers) that will be effective in poor conditions. Walking boots are best for ankle support, however walking shoes are permitted.

Students are required to carry everything they pack in their rucksacks so careful consideration must be taken over what they decide to bring. During the expedition, students will not be allowed to use their mobile phones and will be provided with school phones for emergencies, and to contact teachers at each checkpoint. Therefore, if you should need to contact them you will need to use the assigned school mobile number which will be provided prior to the expedition.

Students have had all the arrangements outlined to them in the after school sessions and should be clear on the expectations and requirements of the assessment expedition. The 20 conditions set out by the DofE program can be accessed online for further clarification. Students should be on track to complete their skill, volunteering and physical sections before the assessment expedition in June. If you have any further questions or concerns then please do not hesitate to contact me at [rbias@st-martins.essex.sch.uk](mailto:rbias@st-martins.essex.sch.uk).

Yours sincerely

Mr R.Bias  
***Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Co-ordinator***

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