



24 June 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award

I am writing to outline the arrangements for the qualifying expedition that your son/daughter is partaking in. The expedition will take place from Thursday 11 until Sunday 14 July 2019. The itinerary is as follows:

Thursday 11 July

- 12.30pm Meet in the South Car Park.
- 12.35pm Leave school to travel by minibus to Bankhouse Farm Campsite in Hulme end in the Peak District.
- 4.30pm (approx.) Arrive at campsite and set up camp.
- 5pm Final preparations for the expedition on Friday including meeting with assessor.
- 6pm Eat dinner as a group (provided – please inform Miss Stannard of any dietary requirements).

Friday 12 July – Assessment day 1

- 7am Wake up and eat breakfast as a group (provided).
- 8am Pack up and drive to drop off points. Assessment begins.
Groups to walk independently following their route, met by teachers at checkpoints as often as possible.
- 4pm (approx.) Arrive at Gradbach Scoutcamp in Quarnford and set up camp.
- 6pm Students to cook their own dinner.
Check in with assessor.
- 10pm Lights out.

Saturday 13 July – Assessment day 2

- 7am Wake up and students to make their own breakfast
- 8am Pack up camp. All groups leaving from campsite to walk independently following their route, met by teachers at checkpoints as often as possible.
- 4pm (approx.) Groups finish at Buxton Country Park and drive in the minibus to Cold Springs Farm campsite in Buxton.
- 6pm Students to cook their own dinner.
Check in with assessor.
- 10pm Lights out.

Sunday 14 July – Assessment day 3

6am	Wake up and students make their own breakfast.
6.30am	Students to pack up camp, all tents and Trangias must be checked and ticked off before group leaves, keep school kit accessible to return at the end of the expedition.
7am	All groups leaving from campsite to walk independently following their route, met by teachers at checkpoints as often as possible.
2pm (approx.)	Finish at car park near Glebe Farm in Whaley Bridge. Debrief: reminder about presentation and collection of kit.
3pm	Drive back to St Martin's School.
7pm (approx.)	Arrive back at school. Please keep an eye on Twitter for updates.

Students will need 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 after school meeting on the 2 July 2019 and will need to be split between group members and included in their packing for the expedition.

Dinner on Thursday night and breakfast on Friday morning will be provided. Students are required to organise their own food from lunchtime on Friday to lunchtime on Sunday. They have planned these meals with their groups and will need to bring the relevant ingredients/contents as agreed. Students will also need to bring at least 2 litres of water which can be refilled at campsites each evening; this is a requirement in order for them to pass the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. Students are required to carry everything they bring in their rucksacks so careful consideration must be taken over what they bring on the expedition. 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 or if they have any problems. 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.

In order to achieve their award the group must have an aim for their expedition and must be working on this throughout. After the expedition the students will need to give a presentation about their aim. The award cannot be passed until this presentation has been done. The presentations will take place at 3.30pm on Tuesday 16 July in R003.

During the final meeting, on 2 July, students will collect their kit and make final changes to their route and routecard. If any students cannot attend this session they will need to attend at an earlier date as a group otherwise they will not be able to take part in the expedition.

Please note that we will be updating our Twitter page – St Martin's Duke of Edinburgh Award (@st-edinburgh) – with photos and information about our return time during 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 expedition. Most students should have completed all three of their skill, volunteering and physical sections before 11 July; students who did not partake in the Bronze award need to have completed two of the three sections by this date.

If you have any questions or concerns then please do not hesitate to contact me at istannard@st-martins.essex.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

Miss I Stannard
Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Co-ordinator