



27 February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award

I am writing to outline the arrangements for the practice expedition that your son or daughter is partaking in. The practice expedition will depart on Friday 20 March and return on Sunday 22 March 2020. The itinerary is as follows:

Friday 20 March:

8.30am	Congregate in St Martin's School South car park
8.45am	Travel in the minibus to Ashdown Forest, Sussex
10.15am	Approximate time of arrival in Ashdown Forest
10.30am	Map skills training
12.00pm	Lunch – students must bring a packed lunch with them.
1.00pm	Navigation practice in groups
3.00pm	Arrive at campsite and set up camp - Broadstone Warren Campsite, Lewes Road, Forest Row, RH18 5JS
4.00pm	Debrief
5.00pm	Dinner

Saturday 21 March:

8.00am - 4.00pm	Groups will walk following their pre-planned route, remotely supervised by teachers
4.00pm	Arrive at campsite and set up camp - Stoneywish Campsite, Stoneywish Nature Reserve, Spatham Lane, Ditchling, Hassocks, BN6 8XH
5.00pm	Dinner

Sunday 22 March:

7.00am - 12.15pm	Groups will walk following their pre-planned route, remotely supervised by teachers
12.30pm	Travel by minibus back to St Martin's School
2.15pm	Approximate time of arrival back at St Martin's School - exact return time will depend on traffic but we will update the St Martin's School Duke of Edinburgh Twitter page.

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 Wednesday 11 March and will need to be split between group members and included in their packing for the expedition.

Students are required to cook several meals (dinner on Friday and Saturday and breakfast on Saturday and Sunday). They have planned these meals in their groups and will need to bring the relevant ingredients/contents for these meals. Students will also need to bring at least two litres of water; 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 your child you will need to use the assigned school emergency mobile number which will be provided prior the expedition.

Please note, there is a small chance that we will have unseasonably bad weather in March as we did in 2018. If there is a chance of snow, we will need to postpone the expedition as it will no longer be within the remit of the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.

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 practice expedition. Students should be on track to complete their skill, volunteering and physical sections before the assessment expedition in July. The only exception to this is for students who did not partake in the Bronze award who will be completing one section in twelve months rather than six. If you have any further questions or concerns then please do not hesitate to contact me via istannard@st-martins.essex.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

Miss I Stannard
Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Co-ordinator

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