

Education Department

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Our Ref: KW/TM

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Dear Parent/Carer

The Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award

In order to achieve the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award, pupils need to complete the Expedition section of the Award. To ensure pupils receive the appropriate training and they are fully supervised by qualified leaders we use a company called **Adventure Expeditions**. Pupils must complete training sessions, a Practice Expedition and a Qualifying Expedition of 30 miles. The proposed dates and details are outlined below:

Practice/Training Expedition - Thursday 11 June – Saturday 13 June 2020

Pupils will meet at School at 08.45 in full Expedition kit. We will travel by coach to Callander. Pupils will meet their Adventure Expedition Leaders. The leaders assign group kit, go over navigation and map reading. In groups consisting of 4-7, pupils will start the 3 day Expedition Route. There will be two routes due to the number of pupils taking part in the award. The Expedition Routes consist of forest tracks, footpaths and short sections along minor roads. Adventure Expedition Leaders meet pupils at set check points. The proposed campsites are in Aberfoyle the exact details are still to be finalised. The pupils will be split over the two campsites, due to the number of pupils taking part. Pupils will be fully supervised at the campsites by Adventure Expedition Leaders and MCHS staff. We aim to return to school by approximately 16.00.

Qualifying Expedition – Wednesday 26 August – Friday 28 August 2020

Meet at School at 07.45 in full Expedition kit. We will travel by coach to Keswick. Pupils will meet their Adventure Expedition Leaders. The leaders assign group kit, go over navigation and map reading. In groups consisting of 4-7, pupils will follow the 3 day Expedition Route. There will be two routes due to the number of pupils taking part in the award. The Expedition Route consists of forest tracks, footpaths and short sections along minor roads. Adventure Expedition Leaders meet pupils at set check points. The proposed campsites are in the Keswick area the exact details are still to be finalised. The pupils will be split over the two campsites, due to the number of pupils taking part. Pupils will be fully supervised at the campsites by Adventure Expedition Leaders and MCHS staff. The Expedition will finish in Keswick. Pupils will be able to purchase something to eat and use facilities before the coach return journey. We aim to return to school by approximately 18.00.

eDofE Account

Pupils have been registered and should have received a record pack and an online account. It is important they keep their login and password safe. The pupils use the eDofE account to record their skill, physical and volunteering activities. Pupils need to update their online accounts regularly with evidence to show what they are doing. In order to achieve the Award they must have at least **eight photographs** and a detailed **weekly activity log** describing what they have done each week. When pupils complete a section they must add an **Assessor's Report** that can be scanned in or completed directly online using their ID number. It is important that the assessor is not a family member or friend. The school website has information on completing awards and the minimum requirements. There will also be lunchtime drop in sessions in the computer room to give assistance using eDofE. **Two sections must be completed** before going out on Expedition.

Cost

The total cost to complete the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award is approximately **£330**. This cost includes:

- Administration/Registration fee for the eDofE account, logbook, training sessions, compass, route cards and a training booklet £28
- Two fully supervised 3-day Expeditions by the Adventure Expedition Leaders. (£45 per pupil per day, £45x6= £270). This includes Assessor fees, campsite costs and provision of group equipment, tents, maps, cooking pans, stoves and gas, group shelters and first aid kits.
- Transport costs – coach to and from the Practice and Qualifying Expedition routes approximately £30. The costs for the transport will be subject to revision when pupil numbers and expedition location are finalised.

Please note that refunds cannot be given. If a pupil is unwell or injured they will be transferred to the next Expedition.

Pupils will be required to provide their own rucksack, waterproofs, **walking boots (with ankle support for insurance purposes)** sleeping bag, midge net and food. It is important that pupils walk in any new shoes prior to going out on expedition. The school does have some rucksacks **available to borrow** but there is not enough for everyone due to the large number of pupils wanting to participate in the Award. Pupils will be issued with a Training Expedition booklet that contains a **kit list**.

Payment should be made online using Parent Pay

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you have any difficulty.

If you should have any questions concerning the Expeditions please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Yours faithfully

K Ward
Duke of Edinburgh Leader

Payment Schedule: £330

£25 Already paid for registration/log book

£70 should be paid no later than end January 2020

£70 should be paid no later than end February 2020

£70 should be paid no later than end March 2020

£70 should be paid no later than end April 2020.

£25 should be paid no later than end May 2020.

Adventure Expeditions require full payment prior to the Practice/Training Expedition.

Please note that **refunds cannot be given.**

If a pupil is unwell or injured they will be transferred to the next Expedition.

Alternatively you can take out insurance.