

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition • Service • Kindness

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Silver DofE Expedition 2024 (Year 10) 3 days and 2 nights (minimum 7 hours per day)

I hope you will find the following information useful. Students should be meeting with me now once a week as part of their expedition training. Attendance is essential to make sure that each member of the team is able to work effectively to navigate, problem solve and contribute to the team's aim.

Fitness is also essential, being able to walk approximately 15 km a day, carrying all of their equipment, is something that needs to be worked towards, starting now! Weather conditions have made this tricky, so please do be careful due to current flooding of fields and some roads.

1. Practice Expedition - from lunchtime on Friday 22nd March until Sunday 24th March

This involves students preparing their own route cards and section maps for the parts of the route that they will be leading. Each student will lead a part of the route, which they will be planning over the next few weeks. For obvious reasons, the pace of group and navigational skills, speed of setting up the tent, cooking, eating and washing up, it is impossible to predict what time collection will be, but they should be finished and ready for pick-up between 12 and 2pm on the Sunday.

Only students who have started all three sections and are close to completing them should be taking part in order to avoid unnecessary expense and disappointment, as the **deadline for assessor's reports is 28th March**.

2. Kit List

A kit list is attached (and can also be found on the DofE website). It is important that the kit list is checked carefully, as without the right kit students will not be properly prepared for the expedition expectations, and in some cases will not be able to take part. There will be a kit check prior to leaving on both practice and assessment expeditions.

School will provide the following group kit: stove (with pans), gas, map and map cases (if needed). Tents need to be double skinned, not beach tents or pop-ups. Students should carry nothing except a map (in a case) in their hands. All other equipment should be in, or attached securely (not hanging off), the rucksac.

3. Assessment - from breaktime Friday 26th April to Sunday 28th April

The same system as the practice will apply. Students must have had an opportunity to speak to the Assessor before leaving on the Sunday, so please don't take your children home without checking!

4. Meals

It is expected that students will cook and eat one substantial meal. There are many options available, so to be brief, the meal should include protein, carbs and vegetables, as well as be hot. Tins of spag bol, with pre-cooked pasta, macaroni cheese and beans, curry and pre-cooked rice are all great ideas. Pot noodle, plain pasta or cooking from raw (any boiling for more than a few minutes) are not acceptable. Students will have training on this.

5. Mobile phones are NOT permitted on the Expedition

Staff will look after phones for students. Each team will have an emergency phone which will be wrapped, waterproofed and sealed. Students should make sure their phones are fully charged before they give them to staff.

6. Teamwork and Fitness

This expedition will be successful if students co-operate, communicate, are reliable and prepared to do their bit. As staff, we cannot insist that certain students are put with others, so it is very much down to the

students themselves to create a team of effective collaborators. We may, however, be limited by the number of staff available, so will be encouraging larger teams of 6 or 7.

All students must be fit enough, which is a personal responsibility, in order to be able to physically meet the requirements of a three day walk (minimum of 7 hours per day), carrying all of their own equipment. If this is a concern for any student then there is still time, and perhaps they could ask their PE teacher for some fitness training during PE lessons, as well as get out walking (hill work) at weekends and evenings.

7. Finally, as part of the Expedition section, students are expected to give a presentation. We normally do this in a less formal part of the School's Open Evening on 26th June between 5-6pm. Once this is complete the students will have then completed their Silver DofE, a fantastic achievement!

If there are any further questions, please email me at rrandall@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk

Kind regards

R Randall
DofE Leader