

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

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Ambition · Service · Kindness

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Bronze DofE Expedition 2024 (Year 9) 2 days and 1 night (minimum 6 hours per day)

I hope you find the following information useful regarding the forthcoming training and commitment required to be successful at the final expedition stage of the Award scheme.

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 teams aim. Fitness is also essential. Being able to walk approximately 12 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.

Key Dates

22-23 rd March	Practice weekend (full kit and overnight)
28 th March	Deadline for all assessor's reports
16 th April	First Aid Training
26-27 th April	Assessment weekend and completion of Bronze Award!

1. Deadline 28th March

All three assessors' reports need to have been submitted via students' personal DofE accounts. Sadly, we are unable to take any students with incomplete sections on to the final Expedition phase of the Award.

2. Practice Expedition - from lunchtime on Friday 22nd to Saturday 23rd March

This involves students working in teams to prepare 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 will take them from Beaminster to Drimpton. They will need to be self-sufficient for this, carrying all their equipment in a rucksac. Deadlines will be set for completing the route cards in order that they can be checked by staff and amended if needed.

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 Saturday, from the Tunnel Road school car park.

Only students who have started and are close to completing all three sections should be taking part to avoid any unnecessary expense by parents on kit etc.

3. 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.

4. First Aid Training Tuesday 16th April

Students will be off timetable all day and need to be in PE kit. This is also the deadline for their route cards.

5. Assessment - from breaktime Friday 26th to Saturday 27th April

Students must have had an opportunity to speak to the Assessor before leaving on the Saturday, so please don't take your children home without checking!

6. 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.

7. 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 charged before they give them to staff.

8. 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 7.

However, all students need to be fit enough, which is a personal responsibility, in order to be able to physically meet the requirements of a two day walk (minimum of 6 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.

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

Kind regards

R Randall
DofE Leader