Dear Parent/Carer

The Duke of Edinburgh assessed expedition is taking place from Friday 13th September – Sunday 15th September. Due to the number of students involved there will be two sessions this weekend, group 1 Friday-Saturday and group 2 Saturday-Sunday; students know what group they are in. A number of students got blisters on the practice expedition; students should try to wear their boots as often as possible to avoid this.

**Group 1 itinerary Friday 13th September – Saturday 14th September**

Students should come to school dressed to take part in the expedition as we will be leaving promptly after registration. On Friday we will leave school and travel to Beacon Fell with Redline Coaches to begin the assessed expedition. Students will camp at Cobble Hey Farm and continue their expedition on Saturday. **Parents are to pick up students at 12.45pm on Saturday 14th June from Cobble Hey Farm (PR3 0QN)** we would encourage students to share lifts.

**Group 2** **itinerary Saturday 14th September - Sunday 15th September**

**Parents to drop students off at Cobble Hey Farm on Saturday 14th September at 12.30 (PR3 0QN)** we would encourage students to share lifts. Students will begin their assessed expedition on the Saturday and camp at Cobble Hey farm Saturday night. They will continue their assessment on the Sunday. Students will be brought back to school via Redline coaches for 3.45pm on Sunday.

All students must attend the meeting on Thursday 12th September 3.30-4.30 to have their kit checked and Monday 16th September 3.30-5pm to sort out and clean the group kit. Failure to attend will void their expedition.

This year we are camping at a diversified farm please feel free to support this local business by visiting their café or petting farm when you drop off or collect your child.

Pupils have been informed that mobile phones and personal music players are not allowed on the expedition. If they are found on pupils they will fail this element of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award. Pupils will be allowed to take one emergency mobile phone per group which will be sealed in an envelope only to be used in the case of an emergency. This is **an assessment**; students will be assessed on their ability to work as a team, to navigate and their camp craft (including kit management, cooking a meal and tidiness of the camp area).

May I take this opportunity to remind you of the following, whilst we will make every effort to get the students back at the time stated above to avoid any inconvenience (for parents and also the staff who have given up their time to volunteer) the student’s safety and needs will always be our main priority. Hence please be patient and understand there could be reasons for a slight delay. In addition students are also assessed on their camp craft which includes looking after all of the group kit; this must be done as a team to ensure all the kit is returned in a usable fashion for next time and therefore no student may leave until this is done and they are dismissed.

Students should now have almost completed the other sections of the award and uploaded their evidence onto eDofE (www.edofe.org). Two of the sections must be done once a week for 3 months and one of the sections once a week for 6 months. All assessor reports must be uploaded by 11th September 2019.

The Awards evening for those that have achieved the Award will take place on Thursday 12th December. It will consist of a pizza party for the groups after school in room 7 then at 6.30 there will be a presentation and motivational talk by adventurer Sarah Outen. All students are expected to attend and we also invite family members to the presentation evening at 6.30 for what promises to be a lovely celebration of your child’s achievements.

Many thanks for your support, if you have any questions regarding the expedition then do not hesitate to contact us at school.

Kind Regards,

Miss McNeela

**Duke of Edinburgh Award**