



August 2007

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your son/daughter as part of his/her Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Bronze level has to take part in a two-day assessment expedition with one overnight stay in tents. The purpose of this expedition is for candidates to demonstrate their expedition skills such as route planning, navigation, campcraft, fitness and teamwork.

Candidates must plan and carry out an assessment expedition with the minimum of assistance from staff. Groups therefore will not be accompanied by staff on their expedition route. Staff will check that groups reach their campsite safely and may shadow candidates closely in the event of poor weather conditions. Assessment will be carried out by external assessors who will also visit candidates at their campsite and who may shadow the group for all or part of their route.

The expedition involves strenuous walking with heavy rucksacks. Foul weather conditions may be encountered. Therefore candidates must have a reasonable level of physical fitness and be in good health before embarking upon the venture. Only pupils who have completed Bronze expedition training (including the satisfactory completion of a training expedition) are eligible for assessment. Competency in the following areas must be demonstrated by candidates for the successful completion of an assessment expedition.

- Physical fitness
- General organisation
- Care of equipment and cooperation with staff in expedition store procedures
- Commitment to group expedition preparation and route planning

Assessment groups are expected to following their planned routes unless foul weather, illness or injury necessitates a change of route.

Candidates must also produce a written account of their expedition experiences afterwards to fulfil the requirements of the expedition section of the Award.

All assessment expeditions will take place in the Ochil Hills and are planned for the following weekends:-

8-9th September

*

All candidates who play for a school rugby team must choose this weekend to avoid a clash with sports fixtures.

15-16th September

22nd-23rd September *

6-7th October ▲

▲

All candidates who play for a school hockey team must choose one of these weekends to avoid a clash with sports fixtures.

Candidates must take part in one of these expeditions. In each case the expedition will leave Dollar at around 9.00 am on the Saturday, returning on the Sunday afternoon/evening.

Candidates have been provided with a list of necessary equipment and should note that carrying the correct equipment is compulsory. Assessors will carry out an equipment check with all groups at the start of each expedition. Certain items of equipment are available for hire from the school stores and these are indicated on the equipment list provided. A deposit of £20.00 is also payable which is returned when equipment is handed back on time and in good order.

Please note that the use of mobile phones by candidates is not encouraged on these expeditions. The carrying of mobile phones goes against the ethos of isolation and adventure which is an essential part of these trips. It can also lead to a false sense of security in remote mountain areas in which mobile phones often do not work. The inappropriate use of mobile phones on assessment expeditions could result in candidates failing that assessment. Each group, however, will be asked to carry a mobile phone for use in emergency situations only.

If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact me in school by telephone or e-mail (fraser-jb@dollaracademy.org.uk).

Yours faithfully

John Fraser
Expeditions Organiser