



CATERHAM SCHOOL

4 October 2013

To Parents and Guardians re Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition

Dear Parents and Guardians

Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition

Your daughter or son is going on a Silver Practice expedition from Saturday 19 October to Monday 21 October. The expedition will be undertaken in the South Downs National Park and the pupils will be staying at 'The Ship & Anchor' and 'Graffham' camp sites. Transport to and from the expedition will be by Coach.

The consent forms that were completed on registering for Silver are on file, however if contact details or medical details have changed please email me details of these changes as soon as possible, and no later than **Friday 11 October. It is essential that I am informed of any new or pre-existing medical condition(s) that may affect the ability of your daughter or son to complete the expedition.** If you are unsure as to whether information has previously been provided, please provide me with details just in case.

The groups will be supervised by staff; however pupils will be walking without an adult present for the majority of the time. They will be accompanied overnight on the campsites by male and female members of staff. Should you need to contact the supervising staff in the event of an emergency please use one of the following School mobile phones:

07525 907901 or 07525 907902

These may not be available at all times due to poor signal strength in some areas of the countryside.

It will be necessary for your daughter or son to bring kit as per the kit list provided in the joining pack. There are additional items that will also need to be organised:

Group kit (e.g. tents, cookers, etc)

This will be allocated during the week preceding the expedition.

First Aid Kits

Pupils need individual First Aid kits, including blister plasters.

Key points arising from previous expeditions

Pupils are not permitted to use mobile telephones on expeditions, including on campsites; however, they may be carried in a sealed bag for use in emergencies or to 'check in' with staff in the event that a group is out of contact for more than 3 hours.

- iPods or other music players are not permitted.
- Before the expedition groups must purchase their food, based on their planned menus. A packed lunch will be required for the first day.
- It is essential that walking boots fit properly. New walking boots must be **well** worn-in.

Although every student on the expedition has completed their Bronze award, could I please ask you to encourage your daughter or son to re-read the information in the joining pack, to ensure they are aware of our expectations and the expedition rules.

Please also encourage you daughter or son to think about their other DofE sections as we will have time to discuss these with them during the trip, and an idea of possible areas will be useful.

Pupils should meet at School at 7.15am on the first day of the expedition. Pupils will be arriving back to School after the expedition between 4.30pm and 5.30pm, but as you will realise, these times are approximate and it is not advisable to plan anything for the evening.

Should you need to contact me prior to the expeditions, please do so by email or through the School Office.

Yours sincerely

Ben Wilkinson
Silver Leader, Duke of Edinburgh's Award
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