



## CATERHAM SCHOOL

14 June 2013

To Parents and Guardians re Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Practice Expedition

Dear Parents and Guardians,

### **Gold Qualifying Expedition: Tuesday 25 – Saturday 29 June**

Following the very successful Gold practice expeditions in April, the Qualifying expeditions are now imminent. We will be leaving, by minibus from the front of School at 9.30a.m. As with the practice, we'll do a quick kit check prior to loading, so I have asked your daughter or son to be at School by 9.00a.m. Although it is Summer, mountain weather is unpredictable, so personal kit must include a wooly hat, gloves and warm clothing, in addition to sun crème lotion and a suitable sun hat. On arrival at the YHA bunkhouse in Wales, where we will spend the first night, expeditioners will be issued group kit and prepare for their expedition. We have planned a group meal in a local pub for Tuesday evening. As before, £10.00 towards this meal is included in the fee paid. The Qualifying Expedition commences on Wednesday morning.

The expedition is scheduled to finish around 4.00p.m. on Saturday, after which there will be a de-brief, kit clean and return. I do not anticipate that we will be back in Caterham before around 8.30p.m. and it may be later. I will ask your daughter or son to contact you when we depart and again as we approach the M25.

As with the Practice, Miss Dawrant and I will be in the area to provide an emergency staff backup. Responsibility for the expedition rests with A to Z Expeditions and their appointed supervisors. In the event of an emergency on the expedition, the instructors will contact Miss Dawrant and me and we will, in turn, contact you. We will deal with your daughter or son's needs which may entail, with your permission, getting them back to Caterham by rail or you picking them up in the area. We will not be able to transport anyone who cannot complete the expedition back to School.

In the event of an emergency at home that necessitates contacting your daughter or son, this should be through myself (07843 265531) or Miss Dawrant (07843 265532). If this is not possible, you should try A to Z on their duty mobile number: 07554 426 621 (always available during expeditions) or their office: 01981 550 433. I appreciate that mobiles are not always reliable, hence the last option.

From the Practice, expeditioners are aware of how the instructors/assessors expect them to be using mobile phones to relay journeying and safety information. Any other use of a mobile phone, including in camp, could lead to an instructor/assessor deeming those concerned not to have met the expedition requirements. Passing or failing an expedition is at the discretion of the assessor, and I would be grateful of your support.

Last, but most important, A to Z will be using the Expedition Consent forms (including emergency contact details) with medical information you supplied earlier in the year. We have copies of those. Should any medical information (e.g. illnesses or injuries) or contact details have changed prior to the expedition, it is imperative for the safety of all concerned that you inform me in writing (email or letter). I will, in turn forward this information to A to Z Expeditions.

Should you need any further information, please contact me at School prior to the expedition on Ext. 452 or by email on [malcolm.bailey@caterhamschool.co.uk](mailto:malcolm.bailey@caterhamschool.co.uk). I shall endeavour to check my emails daily during the expedition but telephone contact is likely to be more effective.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

**Malcolm Bailey**  
**Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Leader**  
**[Malcolm.bailey@caterhamschool.co.uk](mailto:Malcolm.bailey@caterhamschool.co.uk)**