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TD/LAB

March 2015

Dear Parent / Participant

Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Bronze Expeditions

As part of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award your son/daughter has been taking part in a range of activities that contribute to the scheme.

The expedition part of the scheme is for many 'the main event'. There are in fact 2 expeditions, a practice and a qualifying. The practice will take place on 2/3 May in the Ashdown Forest area. As long as your son/daughter completes that to the satisfaction of the leaders (and I am sure they will) they will be allowed to take part in the qualifying expedition on 23/24 May in the South Downs/Plumpton area.

On the expeditions they will travel independently in groups of 4 – 7 but marshalls will be tracking/monitoring their progress during the 2 days and several adults will sleep at their campsites on Saturday evenings. Because of the County rules limiting the numbers on expeditions there will be 2 parallel expeditions running. I shall be overseeing both, but two members of our team will supervise the actual expedition. John Dransfield will supervise the Ashdown Forest expedition and Alwyn Burnell the South Downs expedition. Both are fully qualified for the role, holding what is called a 'Bel' Certificate (Basic Expedition Leader Certificate), which takes months of periodic training, including on expeditions, to obtain. Further, within the Risk Assessment I have carried out I am content that the balance of the team have been certified as competent adults.

By now your son/daughter will have experience/knowledge in all of the areas outlined in their award book. However they will undoubtedly make mistakes – go the wrong way, forget to pack something, burn their dinner etc. What is most important is that they learn from their mistakes, retain a sense of humour and complete the journey to the satisfaction of their leaders and assessors.

The cost of the weekends is £30 per expedition, as per my letter of last September. This covers their campsite fees, insurance, maps and marshalling expenses. There is also a charge for the visit by St Johns Ambulance of £10 also mentioned in the letter of last September. This visit will cover managing a first aid incident and CPR. If your son/daughter already has this qualification and produces their certificate they do not need to attend the session, the date of which has already been circulated and you do not need to pay the £10. Payment of £70 (£60) should be made through ParentPay. If there are any changes to the consent form already signed please let me know. If the money is a problem, please speak to me in confidence.

Saturday 2 May – Drop off at The Royal British Legion car park, Horsted Keynes in time for departure at the times mentioned below.

| | | | |
|---------------|------|-----------------|------|
| Teams 1 and 2 | 0900 | Teams 10 and 11 | 1000 |
| Teams 3 and 4 | 0930 | Team 12 and 13 | 1030 |

Sunday 3 May – Collect from The British Legion car park.

Saturday 23 May – Drop off at Jack and Jill Windmills, Clayton in time for departure at the times mentioned below.

| | | | |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| Team 1 | 0900 | Team 10 | 1015 |
| Team 2 | 0920 | Team 11 | 1030 |
| Team 3 | 0940 | Team 12 | 1045 |
| Team 4 | 1000 | Team 13 | 1100 |

Sunday 24 May – Collect from the Ditchling Beacon top car park.

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU AS PARENTS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND TO COLLECT YOUR SON/DAUGHTER IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY AND AVAILABLE FROM 1.30 PM ON THE SUNDAY. THIS IS SO IMPORTANT. ONE YEAR A TEAM FINISHED AT 1.30 PM AND BECAUSE PARENTS HAD DECIDED TO GO OUT FOR THE DAY SOME MEMBERS WERE NOT COLLECTED UNTIL 6.00 PM, CAUSING DISTRESS ALL ROUND.

The conduct of the participants in previous years has been exemplary but I do have to mention that should any act irresponsibly or fail to follow directions given by the Leadership Team you will be phoned to collect your son/daughter. I am sure this will not be necessary.

If you have any queries do not hesitate to contact me or Mrs Jarvis. Should you need to contact me, the expedition leaders or your son/daughter urgently over the weekends the emergency contact number is 07825 616806. A message will then be relayed to me.

Just a final point, namely that the expensive gear that we will hand out needs to be carefully looked after and any damage or loss caused whether deliberately or negligently will mean the college will submit an account for the cost of repair/replacement.

Yours sincerely

Trevor Dore

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