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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 South Downs/Plumpton 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 in the Ashdown Forest area on 23/24 May.

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. Sue Minter will supervise the South Downs expedition and Steve Minter the Ashdown Forest expedition. They 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.

Please arrange for your child to be dropped off in time for departure at the times mentioned below.

Saturday 2 May – Drop off at Jack and Jill Windmills, Clayton.

Team 5	0900
Team 7	0940
Team 8	1000
Team 9	1020

Sunday 3 May – Collect from the Ditchling Beacon top car park.

Saturday 23 May – Drop off at The Royal British Legion car park, Horsted Keynes in time for departure at the times mentioned below.

Teams 5 and 7	1000
Teams 8 and 9	1030

Sunday 24 May – Collect from The Royal British Legion car park, Horsted Keynes

**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**

Award Centre Co-ordinator  
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**Julie Jarvis**

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