

TON/TDY

29th November 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Gold D of E Practice Expedition

I would like to take this opportunity to write to you regarding the Gold Practice D of E Expedition.

Expedition information

This year's expedition will take place in the Black Mountains. The expedition will take place on **25th April 2017 to 28th April 2017**.

The cost of the expedition will be **£120**. This includes transport, fuel, maps, campsite fees and an overnight accommodation before the expedition. As with previous expeditions the charge **does not include food**, this will need to be supplied by the participants.

Please send payment via Parent Pay or by cheque made payable to Northampton School *for Boys* (with **Gold Practice 2107**, your child's **full Name** and **Form** on the back of the cheque) to **The Finance Office**. A deposit of £50 is required by the **16th December 2016** and the remainder by **the 24th March 2017**.

Could you also complete the Residential Consent/Information Form (attached) and return it to me by **Friday 16th December 2016**.

Equipment

Your son/daughter should now be well versed in what equipment they need take on expedition. A kit list was issued during expedition training. Should another copy be required it can be found on the D of E website. Other useful information is included on the trip information sheet.

This expedition is the longest the participants will have undertaken, therefore, they will need to work on the packing of the expedition rucksack - "Light is Right" will be a very useful mantra. Students must work on their own clothing and equipment as well as that of the team. Communication with others in the team will be essential – this is a vital skill that some of the groups found difficult during the Bronze expedition.

The most important part of carrying any equipment is that it is water tight. With the weather in April being increasingly unpredictable I would highly recommend the use of a specifically designed waterproof rucksack liner. There's nothing worse than a wet sleeping bag!

Pre-expedition check

Before the expedition, it is normal for the participants' kit to be checked. To give your child enough time to correct any potential issues with their equipment, pre-expedition checks will take place on **Monday 24th April, 4pm at the school.** Whilst it is imperative all participants attend, should there be an issue with attendance, I would appreciate it if you could inform me prior to the above date.

If your child participates in sporting activities, they should cope well with the demands of an expedition in wild country, the challenges of steep terrain and the carrying of a well packed rucksack. If, however, they do not participate in much sport or physical activity, then it would be advisable that they start to improve their fitness now, even if it is just walking at weekends. If new boots (not walking trainers) or rucksacks are to be used on expedition they should be thoroughly broken in and well fitting. Although the students have been fully advised, they may need you to encourage them that this will make the expedition a much more comfortable and, ultimately, more enjoyable experience!

Arrangements for Travel

The attached trip information sheet contains all information on timings for the road travel. Food on the evening of the 25th of April will be down to the individual choice of the students, however, the Bar/Restaurant which the hostel is attached to is very reasonable.

It is acceptable for the students to go to a pub for an evening meal, as long as they only purchase soft drinks. To drink alcohol on any school trip is prohibited. Any student found to have consumed alcohol at any time will be sent home immediately and therefore will fail the expedition. The expedition should finish on Friday 29th April, and we will anticipate arriving back to school at 19:00, but this is dependent on the students leaving camp in the morning on time, navigating well throughout the day and any traffic. Student will telephone as we approach Northampton.

Emergency Contact

Due to the location of the expedition, mobile contact is sometimes difficult. In case of an Emergency, please contact the school during office hours on **01604 230240**. Out of hours contact should be through Mr O Harris (Senior Deputy Headmaster) on **07894 411822**. Please do not, under any circumstances, use this number for general information or for non emergency communication. The school will then endeavour to contact me.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. Please complete and return the attached reply slip.

Yours faithfully



Mr T O'Neill
Leader of Duke of Edinburgh Award

REPLY SLIP

Please return this reply slip to Mrs T O’Neill (classroom F8) by Friday 16thth December 2016 together with the completed Residential Consent/Information Form.

I/We* have received the letter regarding the April Gold Practice Expedition and wish my/our* son/daughter* to take part. I/We* agree to him/her* taking part in the activities described and acknowledge that the final payment is due **24th March 2017**.

Name of student:.....**Form:**.....

Name of Parent/Guardian (please print):.....

Signature of Parent/Guardian:.....**Date:**.....

*(*Delete as necessary)*