



TON/rmc

2 July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Re: Gold D of E Assessed Expedition

I would like to take this opportunity to write to you regarding the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Assessed Expedition this summer.

### Expedition Information

This year's qualifying expedition will take place in Wales. The expedition dates are 7 – 11 July 2024. Students will need to arrive at school at 10:00 and meet in the swimming pool car park. On our return day 11 July, arrival will be dependent on traffic. Students will make contact once we are nearer to Northampton, but the anticipated time of arrival back to NSB is 18:00.

As Wales can be a long journey and students must complete 8 hours of planned activity each day, we will be travelling up on the 7 July and staying in a Hostel. This will give the students a chance to review their routes and meet their external assessor before they embark on their 4-day expedition.

The cost of the expedition should now have been paid up to the fifth Instalment, due 28 June 2024, with full payment being due 30 September. Please check ParentPay for up-to-date balances and to make any payments. The cost of the expedition with BXM covers the accommodation, transport costs, kit hire (tents & fuel) and instructors plus one night in the hostel. This does not, however, cover food, therefore students can bring their own or purchase at service stations if they bring their own money. We have discussed this with the group.

### Equipment

Your child should now be well versed in what equipment they need take on an expedition. A kit list was issued during expedition training. Should another copy be required it can be found on the D of E website. They were also issued with a paper copy at the Tuesday meeting.

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 very difficult during their practice expedition.

The most important part of carrying any equipment is that it is watertight. With the weather in July 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!

Headteacher Mr R Bernard MA

Billing Road Northampton NN1 5RT T 01604 230240

E [nsb@nsb.northants.sch.uk](mailto:nsb@nsb.northants.sch.uk) [www.nsb.northants.sch.uk](http://www.nsb.northants.sch.uk)

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## Pre-expedition check

I will do a thorough kit check prior to departure on the day. Student will need to be prepared to unpack their rucksack before we load the vans. There is also the expectation that students bring with them a **detailed** menu plan.

## Help

The expedition is one section of five that your child needs to complete to achieve the award. For most, the skill/ volunteering /physical sections are well underway, but for the majority the residential section hasn't been achieved, planned, or even booked. In my experience if they do not complete this residential section, they will never complete the Gold Award. Students have been told where to find information on this section; they are expected to spend five days and four nights taking part in a shared, worthwhile activity with people they have never met before. Further information is available at: [www.dofe.org/residential-section](http://www.dofe.org/residential-section)

Please encourage your child to arrange this for the coming summer holiday period before students depart for university or enter employment and the award is forgotten.

## Medical / Contact Information

Although you kindly completed the BXM medical form for the practice gold expedition, with contact numbers and medical information this may have changed. Please email any information that has changed to me ASAP: [Toneill@nsbtrust.school](mailto:Toneill@nsbtrust.school)

## Emergency Contact Number:

This number should only be used in the event of an emergency: Mr Kneeshaw 07968 530221.

Kind Regards

Mrs T O'Neill  
Geography Team Leader  
Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager  
EVC

Headteacher Mr R Bernard MA

Billing Road Northampton NN1 5RT T 01604 230240

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