

22/03/24

The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As part of your child's Duke of Edinburgh Award training, we have organised a practice weekend, which will involve **2** days of walking and **1** night camping. This will give them practical experience of both walking in their chosen groups and of carrying all of the equipment they will need to survive for the duration, as well as improving their practical map work, teamwork and camping skills. This will be on **Friday 19th and Saturday 20th April**

This letter gives all the details regarding the practice weekend, including start times, locations and what students need to ensure a successful weekend.

Equipment:

I have attached a kit list to this letter which students have already had access to and have been encouraged to share with you. School equipment, including rucksacks, Trangias and tents will be distributed prior to the weekend. Each team has pre-ordered the equipment they need to borrow. It is vitally important that students have appropriate footwear and waterproofs. Please look at the pictures of boots on the kit list before buying/borrowing footwear. Some equipment will need to be shared amongst the group. Students should organise this before the weekend.

Any equipment borrowed from school must be cleaned, dried and returned at the end of the Assessment weekend. Students will use the same school equipment for the two weekends, so if tents are not dried or stoves are not clean, they will have to deal with the resultant mould! Failure to return clean equipment could result in a replacement fee being charged.





Food:

Students will need plenty of food for the weekend. They will need to cook a hot meal for the evening. This should be high in calories and include all of the major food groups. Students have two stoves per group and gas in regulation canisters. Cooking together as a group is required. Quick snacks such as Pot Noodles are not suitable choices. Also a few hints: use milk powder, not fresh milk; don't carry food in large bulky boxes, which are hard to pack; fresh fruit is easily bruised, dried fruit is a sensible alternative.

They will need packed lunches, breakfasts and plenty of high energy snacks to keep them going and to keep their morale up.

Emergency rations should be packed and sealed separately and the idea is that the students do not touch these unless there is a genuine emergency. They could include dried fruit, cereal bars, nuts, glucose sweets, Kendal mint cake or chocolate.

Start:

Students should be dropped at **Cremyll Ferry** ready to depart on their walks within 15 minutes of arrival. Start times for each team are below:

Team	Arrival Time / Ferry Time
1	9:00 AM / 9:15 AM
2	9:00 AM / 9:15 AM
3	9:30 AM / 9:45 AM
4	9:30 AM / 9:45 AM
5	10 AM / 10:15 AM
6	10 AM / 10:15 AM
7	10:15 AM / 10:30 AM
8	10:15 AM / 10:30 AM

Contact numbers:

If you need to get in contact at any time during the weekend, we can be reached by phone - **01752 556065** ext **4476** or Miss Haley on **01752 284134**



Finish:

We will be finishing at **Royal William Yard**. Students will arrive at the finish location between 1:00pm and 5.00pm. If they have a mobile phone it will be returned at the finish and they can make contact **once they have arrived at the finish**.

Further Important Dates:

Below is a reminder of the last important date for the student expeditions. Further information will be sent out closer to the dates below to confirm all the arrangements:

Assessment Weekend:

Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th May 2024

If you have any queries or questions do not hesitate to contact, preferably by email to jharris@sdcc-smhc.net

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Harris
Bronze DofE Leader