

6th September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you give you some more information about the expeditions for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) here at Arnewood School.

The DofE has a full training programme that every DofE participant needs to undertake before they will be allowed to take part in their qualifying expedition. This will include training in skills such as:



- Camp craft
- Cooking
- First aid
- Navigation
- Teamwork
- Observation and recording
- Emergency procedures
- Awareness of risk and health and safety procedures
- Country and Highway Code

This training will be completed both in theory and practical sessions and the students should be congratulated on their continued commitment and attendance at these sessions which will take place on **Tuesday's at 3pm for approximately 1hr 15 mins.**

In addition to this, the students will need to have completed **all three** of the other sections (skills, volunteering and physical) before they are allowed to participate in the pre-assessed and assessed expeditions.

As part of the training the DofE Leaders/Staff will gradually give the teams of students more and more responsibility so that they are able to journey unaccompanied without the Supervisor present.

The first 'out of school' training will take place on **Sat 23rd September 2017**. The students will need to be at school with day backpacks at **8am** promptly and can be collected from school at **approx. 3pm** – please keep phones on you for students to contact you with the finish time on the day. We will be travelling by minibus into the New Forest and the students will be walking in two groups with D of E Leaders/staff accompanying them. They will be called upon to navigate their route from the pre-planned route cards. They will need to wear/bring with them walking gear, including walking boots, a spare pair of socks and waterproofs, a packed lunch, some energizing snacks and plenty of water. Blister plasters and a basic first aid kit are also useful. (Leaders will be carrying full first aid kits).

The second day training will take place on **Saturday 19th May 2018**. The students will once again need to be at school with their expedition rucksacks at **8am** promptly and can be collected from school at **approx. 4pm** – again, this time is subject to change due to navigation on the day. The plan for the day is similar to the previous walk, although groups will be walking in their separate groups (accompanied by DofE leaders/staff) using route cards prepared by staff. Students will be expected to carry their full D of E ruck sacks, fully packed, on this day walk. This kit will be issued closer to the time.

A practice (pre-assessed) expedition is arranged for **Sat. 16th – Sun. 17th June 2018** during which time the team have the opportunity to practice all of the skills that they have learnt. One of these key skills is being able to make decisions for themselves without a Supervisor intervening. During the practice the team will therefore have the opportunity to walk without a Leader/staff member present and the Supervisor will supervise remotely.

This expedition is likely to take place in the New Forest, however this is subject to change, and the students will be walking and camping in the area around Brockenhurst. The location of this expedition will be confirmed nearer the time. The campsite is a Hampshire outdoor education centre site and D of E Leaders/Staff will be camping with the students. Students will need to be at school at **7.45am** with their full camping kit and can be collected on Sunday from school at **approx. 4pm**. Students are expected to provide and cook their own food and will be given guidance for this.

The assessed expedition is **Sat. 7th July – Sun. 8th July 2018**. During this time the team will, at all times, be supervised remotely. This means that a Supervisor will not constantly be accompanying the team, nor will they be in constant sight or sound of the Supervisor. The Supervisor will meet up with the team on a few occasions during the day and will see the team in the evening at the camp site. This allows the Supervisor to check on the team's safety and welfare whilst still allowing the team the experience of being on their own. The location of this expedition is to be confirmed, but we will leave from school at **approx. 6.45am** on Saturday morning and return at **approx. 4.30pm** on Sunday afternoon.

The total cost for the four expedition training sessions will be **£125** to include a DofE hoody and this should be paid to the finance office either as one **non-returnable instalment of £125** or as four separate **non-returnable** instalments as listed below

£10 by Thursday 22nd September 2017

£20 by Thursday 20th October 2017

£20 by Thursday 9th March 2018

£35 by Thursday 4th May 2018

£40 by Thursday 8th June 2018

This cost includes all transport, insurance, camping and equipment hire costs but does not cover food and drink which they need to provide for themselves.

If you have any questions about these arrangements please do not hesitate to contact us.
Whilst on the expeditions, staff can be contacted **in an emergency** on one of the DofE mobile phone numbers listed below:

07939 397008, 07908 805603, 07960 041584, 07908 805349, 07960 501391.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs M.Knight
Arnewood School D of E Coordinator

REC1718DOFE