

April 2021

**Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award
Practice walk and Expeditions**

Dear Parent/Carer,

As part of the DofE programme your child must complete a Qualifying Expedition and a series of skills training sessions to achieve the Bronze Award. These are often regarded as the most exciting and memorable parts of the award and present the most challenges!

Skills training sessions

A compulsory training programme must be undertaken before students 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, emergency procedures and awareness of risk and health and safety procedures. The majority of these skills training sessions will take place during normal school time and students will be informed of when these sessions will take place.

Practice Walk

Bramhope to Menston Train Station

Friday 28th May

A practice walk has been arranged during which time the students can practice some of the skills that they have learnt. One of these key skills is being able to independently make decisions without a Supervisor intervening. They will be working in their expedition teams and Hanson staff will be on hand at checkpoints to assist where necessary at various key points on the route. This is essentially a student led walk.

The practice walk will start at Bramhope and finish at Menston Train Station. The walk is approximately 6 miles and should take between 3-4 hours to complete, depending on their walking speed and navigation skills.

Arrangements: We will leave school at approximately 9.30am and be taken to Bramhope by school mini-bus.

Students must bring a packed lunch and a kit list will be provided. Please make reference to the kit list to support your child by ensuring they are fully prepared. Remember to check the weather forecast on the day of the walk to ensure they have the correct clothing.

The groups will complete the practice walk when they arrive at Menston train station at approximately 2pm, depending on the speed of their walking. Students will return to school by school mini-bus and can leave from here.

Qualifying Expedition

Day 1 – Bolton Abbey to Ilkley (staying at Curly Hill campsite, Ilkley)

Day 2 – Ilkley to Menston Train Station

Monday 12th to Tuesday 13th July

On the assessed expedition the student teams will be supervised remotely. This means that the Supervisors (members of Hanson staff including Senior Leadership) will not be constantly accompanying the team, nor will they be in constant sight or sound of the Supervisor. The Supervisors will meet up with the team at key points during the day at checkpoints and will camp with the team in the evening at the camp site. This allows the Supervisors to check on the team's safety and welfare whilst still allowing the team the experience of being on their own.

Arrangements: The students will be taken to Bolton Abbey from Hanson by school mini-bus on the morning of day 1 of their expedition. They will be required to carry all their own equipment during the walks, including sleeping bags, tents, food and clothes (see kit list in the pack), as being self-sufficient is a key aspect of the DofE award.

They will be camping out in tents at Curly Hill Campsite on the evening of Day 1 and will be expected to prepare their own evening meals and breakfast at the campsite.

On day 2 we will aim to arrive at Menston Train Station between 1-2pm dependant on the walking speed of the teams. As with the practice walk, students will return to school by school mini-bus and can leave from here.

Students must behave responsibly and work as a team to complete the walks. We will not hesitate to disqualify any student who is taking unnecessary risks and behaving in an inappropriate way. The routes we take will have members of the public present and students need to remember they are representing the school and the staff leading the expeditions. Parents will have to collect any student who does not abide by our rules and those of the countryside code.

Voluntary contribution

We do our utmost to keep costs as low as possible and the school pays for the majority of DofE costs, including the enrolment fee, campsite and transport fees. However, to ensure we are able to continue to provide the Duke of Edinburgh Award to our students we are asking parents for a voluntary contribution of £10 to go towards these costs and to ensure its continuation. If you are able to contribute please select the appropriate box in the consent section below and we will then add this to your Parent Pay account. Please be aware, if you are unable to contribute your child's involvement in the award will not be at risk.

Please complete the consent below and enclosed medical form and return to school by **Friday 14th May**.

Due to current circumstances we cannot hold our normal Parent Information Evening to discuss these plans with you, but if you would like to discuss these arrangements in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact us on the email addresses below.

Yours faithfully,

Adam O'Neill

Kate Hodson

Director of Transition and Progression
a.o'neill@hansonacademy.org.uk

Associate Assistant Headteacher 6th Form
k.hodson@hansonacademy.org.uk

Pupil name: _____ Form: _____

I give permission for my child to take part in the practice walk (May) and Expedition (July) and understand that they will be remotely supervised during these walks. I understand that Hanson staff have been trained to risk assess the route.

I would like to contribute £10 to the DofE award and I will pay this via Parent Pay.

I consent for my child's photograph and image to be used on the Hanson School website and in promotional material used within school (display boards/projector screen for assemblies) which may also include a promotional video. This will be for school use only and not shared with external sources.

Parent/carer name: _____

Parent/carer signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return the completed consent form and medical information (attached) by Friday 14th May to Mr. O'Neill (Room 219).