

April 2021

**Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award  
Practice and Qualifying Expeditions**

Dear Parent/Carer,

As part of the DofE programme your child must complete a series of skills training sessions and expeditions to achieve the Silver 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 expeditions. 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 Expedition**

**Day 1 – Harewood to Bramhope (staying at Bramhope Scouts campsite, Ilkley)**

**Day 2 – Bramhope to Ilkley (staying at Curly Hill campsite, Ilkley)**

**Day 3 – Ilkley to Bolton Abbey**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June to Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

A practice expedition must be undertaken and has been arranged for students to 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 and students will be supervised remotely.

**Arrangements:** We will leave school at approximately 9.30am on Day 1 and be taken to Harewood by school mini-bus. Students will return from Bolton Abbey to school by school mini-bus in the afternoon of day 3.

**Qualifying Expedition**

**Day 1 – Ilkley to Appletreewick (staying at Masons campsite, Appletreewick)**

**Day 2 – Appletreewick to Kettlewell (staying at Kettlewell campsite, Kettlewell)**

**Day 3 – Kettlewell to Malham**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July to Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July**

**Arrangements:** The students will be taken to Ilkley from Hanson by school mini-bus on the morning of day 1 of their expedition. Students will return from Malham to school by school mini-bus in the afternoon of day 3.

**Details for both expeditions:**

**Kit:**

Students will be required to carry all their own equipment during the walks, including sleeping bags, tents, food and clothes (see kit list), as being self-sufficient is a key aspect of the DofE award. The school will provide some of this equipment and this is made clear in the kit list. We are also able to provide some personal equipment, free of charge, if required. This includes walking boots (limited supply), sleeping bags, roll mats, cooking equipment (Trangia's), rucksacks and first aid kits. Please see the separate 'kit hire' form for more details on how to access this support.

**Food:**

Students must also bring their own food, which must be carried by them and be enough for 3 days. The skills training sessions will cover the best type of food to bring and the easiest to cook on camp.

Please make reference to the kit list to support your child by ensuring they are fully prepared. Remember to check the weather forecast at the day of the expedition to ensure they have the correct clothing

**Supervision:**

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 constantly be accompanying the team, nor will they be in constant sight or sound of the Supervisor. The Supervisors will meet up with the team on a few occasions 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.

*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 read and sign the consent form and enclosed medical form and return to school by **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:a.o'neill@hansonacademy.org.uk)

Associate Assistant Headteacher 6<sup>th</sup> Form  
[k.hodson@hansonacademy.org.uk](mailto:k.hodson@hansonacademy.org.uk)

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Pupil name: \_\_\_\_\_ Form: \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my child to take part in the practice expedition (June) and qualifying 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 14<sup>th</sup> May to Mr. O'Neill (Room 219).**