23 May 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award is the Expedition section. At Bronze level participants are required to plan a two day overnight camping trip that must have an aim which the students select as a group. Last year the group participated in a canoeing expedition with an aim of mapping a journey along the River Thames filming their journey as a point of reference for future groups. They camped at a site along the river near Hurley. They have to complete this independently and are assessed by a DofE Assessor.

As I’m sure you can imagine this takes some preparation and students are required to complete a full training package which teaches them how to pitch a camp, cook a full meal on camping stoves and complete their chosen aim. Don’t panic, staff are always in the wings!

Many of the students have never stayed away from home before and very few have camped without their parents. To prepare them fully we would like to take advantage of the summer months and start the process of camping now.

We have chosen Thursday 7th June 2018 for the first camp which will be on the school site, we like to ensure the students are in familiar surroundings to calm any anxieties they may have. This camp will focus mostly on preparing for sleeping in tents, they share with friends, usually 2 or 3 same sex pupils to a tent. Staff are on duty all night ensuring their safety.

Students will come to school as usual on the Thursday, at the end of the day they will stay at school with the DofE staff team and some extra staff for support. Students will be required to cook a meal for themselves but we will have use of the Food Technology room so will not cook on camp stoves for this camp. In the evening they will participate in team games and have the choice to chill or watch a film before they go to bed. In the morning they will also prepare their own breakfast, pack camp away, shower and return to their class by lunch time at the latest.

They are required to bring some equipment with them:

Sleeping bag

Pillow

Roll mat (we do have some they can use if required)

Torch

Blanket

Shower gel, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant or anti-perspirent, towel

Clothes to change into after school

Pyjamas and dressing gown if possible

Clothes for the following day, uniform and clean underwear, shirt.

A change of shoes

They will also be required to bring food for their dinner and breakfast and an extra packed lunch for the Friday if they require. All food will be stored appropriately from the Thursday morning. The students will bring a food list home with them prior to the camp once they have made their choice during their DofE lesson this week.

If this is a successful camp for all students, we will plan a second camp in Marlow later in June followed by another in September. Dates to be confirmed.

We know that several students will be anxious about the camp but it is really important they attend this first camp. Once they have done one they generally look forward to the next with excitement.

If you have any queries about the camp or DofE in general you can contact me at school on ext: 2615 - Milligan Class.

Medication: If any student has medication that needs to be taken in the morning/evening then we will need to know this in advance and ensure that it is signed in and medication forms are completed following the school policies.

Please fill in the reply slip and return to school by Monday 4th June.

Sharon Astle

D of E Manager / Milligan Class Teacher

I give permission for my son/daughter …………………………..name) to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh School Camp on Thursday 7th June.

My son/daughter has medication that will need to be administered during the camp. Please list all medications so forms can be sent home for signatures.

1. ……………………………………………………………………………………………

2. ……………………………………………………………………………………………

3. …………………………………………………………………………………………….

Signed ……………………………………………… Print name: …………..……………..