

3 May 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Your son/daughter is a Participant of the Duke of Edinburgh (D of E) Award at Bronze Level. Part of the Award is an Expedition – Camping trip.

At Bronze level, participants are required to plan a two day/ one night journeying and camping trip.

This year the group will participate in a bell boating expedition with an aim of sketching wildlife they see on their journey along the river.

They will be accompanied by trained staff from Bisham Sailing School and staff from the Manor Green, D of E team.

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. We understand this can cause you and them some anxiety, but they are always supported by staff who are used to dealing with your and their worries after organising and attending many expeditions in the past. We will take very good care of them without stripping them of their independence. Staff are on night duties so the students will always be monitored by MGS staff.

**The expedition dates are as follows:**

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> –Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May - Assessed expedition

The date is approaching quickly, we have been waiting on permissions from the local borough so I must apologise for the late notice.

**Below is an itinerary and list of equipment required.**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May**– Students attend school as usual – bring all equipment (except food) with them to do a kit check during the afternoon. Kit stays at school. Return home on school transport.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May** –

Students travel to school on transport as usual with food for two days.  
Final kit check  
Travel by school minibus to a launch area near Henley  
Professional instructors lead the group on a paddle on the River Thames  
Disembark at Bisham Sailing School.  
Erect tents  
Cook meal on camping stove

Free time in allocated areas.  
Sleep in tents

### Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May

Arise and have breakfast.  
Pack down tents and clear area  
Shower  
Kit check  
Walk or travel by mini bus to Higginson Park in Marlow for orienteering activity  
Return to school by 2pm  
Debrief with DofE team

- Return home on school transport.

### Kit List

- Sleeping bag (we do have some they can use if required)
- Pillow
- Roll mat (we do have some they can use if required)
- Torch (we do have some they can use if required)
- Blanket
- Shower gel, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant or anti-perspirant, towel
- Clothes to change into after canoeing.
- Pyjamas and dressing gown or warm hoodie/ jumper, if possible, woolly hat.
- Clothes for day 2.
- Swimming trunks
- Old trainers or shoes that will get wet to wear when bell boating. Surf shoes are ideal.
- Slippers or flip flops to wear in the evening.
- Small backpack with a full change of clothing (in a plastic bag inside backpack), towel, sun cap, sun protection, sunglasses (if possible). They will carry this with them on the bell boats.
- Two packed lunches, one for day one which they will carry in their backpack. The 2<sup>nd</sup> pack lunch will be stored in a fridge at school for day 2. (If your son/daughter is entitled to free school meals – please inform me and I can order them from school kitchen). Please ensure the lunches are in two separate boxes/ bags that are named.
- Plenty of drinks and sensible snacks for 2 days, they will need them throughout the day.
- Waterproof jacket and trousers if weather is wet.

They will also be required to bring food for their dinner and breakfast. We will send a list home of what they will need to bring prior to the expedition.

We have kit at school so if you do not have any of the equipment listed, please contact me.

**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. I enclose forms for you to complete and return by Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

We know that several students will be anxious about the camp, but it is important they attend this camp as it is a requirement to pass their DofE Award and receive certification. If they do not attend camp, they can achieve the full award.

If you have any queries about the kit list, canoeing, camp or D of E in general you can contact me (Sharon Astle) by ringing 07852168097 between 12 -13.00hrs. Alternatively, you can email me [Sharon.astle@manorgreenschool.co.uk](mailto:Sharon.astle@manorgreenschool.co.uk)

Please fill in the reply slip and return to school by Friday 10/5/24

Sharon Astle

D of E Manager

I give permission for my son/daughter

.....(please clearly print full name)  
to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Camp from Thursday 16 – Friday 17 May 2024.

My son/daughter has medication that will need to be administered during the camp. Please list all medications.

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....

Signed ..... Print name:

