

5 July 2023

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 mapping a journey along the River Thames, filming/sketching their journey as a point of reference for future groups.

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, 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 21st September –Friday 22nd September - Assessed expedition

Below is an itinerary and list of equipment required.

Wednesday 20th September – Students attend school as usual – bring all equipment (except food) and medication with them allowing us to do a kit check etc so we know they have everything. Kit stays at school. Return home on school transport.

Thursday 21st September –

- Students travel to school on transport as usual with food for two days and small backpack (see list below).
- Travel by school minibus to Bisham Sailing School.
- Professional instructors lead the group on a paddle on the River Thames
- Disembark at Bisham Sailing School.

- Return to Manor Green School
- Erect tents
- Cook meal on camping stove
- Free time in allocated areas.
- Sleep in tents

Friday 23rd June

- Arise and have breakfast.
- Pack down tents and clear area
- Shower
- Kit check
- 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
- 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 to shower in if supported by adults.
- Old trainers or shoes that will get wet to wear when bell boating.
- 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), waterproof jacket. 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 2nd 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 nearer the time.

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 will forward medication forms nearer the date.

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. Due to the needs of the students at MGS there is the possibility of students returning home to sleep, parents would need to pick them up from MGS at 8.00pm and return them to MGS by 8am the following morning for them to pass the certification requirements. We would need to discuss this with you immediately if your son/daughter is unable to camp.

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

Please fill in the reply slip and return to school by Monday 10/07/23

Sharon Astle
D of E Manager / Blackman Class Teacher

I give permission for my son/daughter(name)to participate in the Duke of

Edinburgh Camp from Thursday 21 – Friday 22 September 2023.

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

1.
2.
3.

Signed Print name:
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