



3<sup>rd</sup> Augusty 2020

Dear Students, Parents & Carers,

### **DofE Bronze Qualifying Expedition Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

This is the Qualifying Expedition, which will be in the Rivington area. Completion of this expedition is essential for students intending to complete their DofE Bronze Award this Autumn.

Under government rules for re-opening schools in the Autumn term, this two-day expedition has to be non-residential. Therefore, students will return home on Saturday evening to sleep at home and they will return to the expedition on Sunday morning. The expedition remains subject to any changes in government rules between now and the expedition date.

On the expedition students will be walking in teams of five or six, carrying their own camping equipment, navigating their own route and supporting each other. Students will be cooking a hot meal in the later afternoon using their camping stoves and they will be pitching and then taking down their tents together. They will have the full DofE expedition experience, except that they will not be sleeping in the tents overnight.

In accordance with DofE conditions, student walking teams will be supervised remotely rather than directly. This means that supervising staff will be in the vicinity, will meet students at pre-arranged checkpoints and will be able to step in to help students if required. Students will have staff contact phone numbers to call if needed. However, student walking teams will have primary responsibility for their own navigation and team decisions. Students' training to date and the Training Walk on 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> September are therefore essential to prepare students properly for the expedition.

Staff will be directly supervising students' cooking with the camping stoves.

The expedition kit list, together with other guidance on food, packing rucksacks, etc is on the DofE section of the school website at <https://www.sharplesschool.co.uk/duke-of-edinburgh/>. Students will need to ensure that they are fully equipped. We will be checking kit at the start of the expedition. All students are borrowing tents, stoves, maps and compasses from us and some students are borrowing some other items. These will be given out at school in the week before the expedition so that students can pack their rucksacks at home, ready for the expedition.

**Headteacher Ms A. Webster:** headteacher@sharplesschool.co.uk

**Admin Office:** office@sharplesschool.co.uk

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Registered Company No: 09677469 Registered office address: Sharples School, Hill Cot Road, Bolton, BL1 8SN



Food and cooking utensil requirements are also on the expedition kit list.

We are providing a coach to transport students and staff from school to the Rivington area on both Saturday and Sunday morning and back to school again on both Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Families who are shielding and any family who is able to should make their own transport arrangements to drop off and pick up in the Rivington area (exact locations and times below) rather than having their son or daughter travel on the coach. Therefore, students who need to travel by coach can socially distance more easily on the coach. Facemasks will be worn on the coach. Please bring your own, although we will have spares if needed.

Meeting times for travel by coach are 8.45am ready for a 9am departure on both Saturday and Sunday. Meet in the main carpark at school. We expect to be back at school at 6pm on Saturday and 4pm on Sunday.

Meeting times and locations for those making their own transport arrangements are as follows:-

- Meet at 9.30am on Saturday at the public carpark on Rivington Lane (opposite and just past Blackrod & Rivington High School, which is BL6 7RU for those using satnav.)
- Pick up at 5.30pm on Saturday from Bibbys Farm Scout Campsite, Heath Charnock, Chorley, Lancashire. PR6 9DL. Please don't arrive early as we want to let the coach leave first.
- Meet at 9.30am on Sunday at Bibby's Farm.
- Pick up at 3.30pm on Sunday from the same car park on Rivington Lane.

A paper copy of this letter will be given out when we return to school in September. Could you please return the completed tear off slip to me as soon as possible, but by Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September at the latest?

If you have any questions or concerns then please email me at [i.davies@sharplesschool.co.uk](mailto:i.davies@sharplesschool.co.uk) or phone the school. If you would like a conversation then I can phone you back.

Lastly, to ensure that their Bronze Award is completed this Autumn, students must complete their other three activities (Volunteering, Physical & Skill), logging their evidence on edofe and getting their assessors' reports from their assessors. Advice and details are on the DofE section of the school website.

Yours faithfully,

*Ivor Davies*

Ivor Davies  
DofE Co-ordinator  
Sharples School

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September 2020

**Reply Slip**

STUDENT NAME:- \_\_\_\_\_ FORM:- \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my son/daughter to attend the Expedition. I understand that:-

- students will be supervised remotely during the walks (explained in the letter above) and that
- my son/daughter must be in school on time on the Monday after our return.

Travel arrangements – my son/daughter will be travelling in the following way:-

On the coach to and  
from school

We will pick up and drop them off at the  
meeting points in the Rivington area

Details of any medical conditions, medication carried or dietary needs are given below:-

Medical conditions, medication carried or dietary needs:- (continue on the back if necessary)

If the student has an asthma inhaler then this must be brought with them.

PARENT NAME:- \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER:- \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/CARER SIGNATURE:- \_\_\_\_\_

DATE:- \_\_\_\_\_

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