

Final week expedition email

Dear Students, Parents & Carers

Well done to all the students who have completed their walking training and are now ready for their expedition, which is only a week away now. This email tells you which team you will be walking in and how to pick up the equipment that you are borrowing from the school, plus some guidance on packing your rucksack.

The team lists are attached. Remember that DofE rule number one is that the team must stay together at all times on the expedition. For example the team must not allow any members to get far ahead or to fall behind the rest of the group. The team must work together and support each other.

All students are borrowing school tents and camp stoves. If you have asked to borrow a rucksack or waterproof jacket/overtrousers then we have enough for you. If you have asked to borrow walking boots then these are also available, unless I have specifically spoken to you to say that your size is unavailable.

Teams 1, 2 and 3 need to come to collect their equipment on Tuesday lunchtime (15th September) before 1pm. Meet me at the DofE kit storeroom in the Sharples Health Hub leisure centre, downstairs by the reception. The whole team needs to be there, not just some members. **Teams 4, 5 & 6** need to come on Wednesday lunchtime, before 1pm.

Each team will be taking two tents and two camp stoves between the team, plus any rucksacks and other equipment being borrowed. You will be dividing up the tents and stoves between you and taking everything home in your borrowed rucksack so you can pack at home for Saturday morning. If you are not borrowing a school rucksack then you should bring in your rucksack or another large bag to carry items home. You will be able to leave rucksacks in the New Block superclassroom during periods 5 & 6 rather than carrying them to lessons.

There are two ways to divide tents between the team:-

- The fairest way is to take it out of the bag and divide it between team members (eg inner to one student, outer to a second and poles/pegs to a third).
- The simplest way is to give all or most of the tent to one student and compensate by other team members carrying stoves, food and other items for the student with the tent. The team must decide.

Times, transport and details are all set out in the expedition parent letter (additional copy attached below). Please make sure I have your paper reply slip returned to me by Wednesday 16th September at the latest. The website has details and advice including kit list and guidance on expedition food and packing your rucksack. Link here:- <https://www.sharplesschool.co.uk/duke-of-edinburgh/>

On Saturday morning you will arrive with your walking clothes and boots on and your rucksack packed and ready to go. We will provide maps and compasses on Saturday morning. Pack your rucksack well in advance so you know you are ready. The school rucksacks have adjustable straps at the shoulders, lower back and on the waist and chest belts, so experiment with these to make them comfortable and supportive. The rucksack should fit snugly to your back and not sag loosely, but it should not be tight and uncomfortable on your shoulders. Much of the weight should be on your waist rather than your shoulders. Wear new walking boots outdoors this week to get used to them. Experiment with one pair of socks or two. Blister plasters are part of the kit list, much better than ordinary plasters for blisters. Available from chemists and from outdoor shops like Decathlon in Bolton.

I've slightly updated the kit list to clarify the food requirements this year given that we are not camping overnight. That will be updated on the website on Monday, but an updated copy of the kit list is attached for your reference.

Remember your face mask for the coach if you are travelling by coach rather than dropping off and picking up in the Rivington area.

Lastly, the emergency staff mobile number for parents and carers during the expedition will be **07943364139**. Please use this only if you need to.

If you have any questions or concerns before Saturday then please email me.

Many thanks

Ivor Davies
DofE Co-ordinator