



21<sup>st</sup> June 2021

Dear Students, Parents & Carers,

## DofE Bronze Qualifying Expedition Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2021

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.

Due to the recently announced delay in the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, unfortunately, this two-day expedition now 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 about 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 requirements, 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. However, 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.

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

We are providing a coach to transport students and staff between school and the Rivington area at the start and the end of both Day 1 and Day 2. Families who prefer to can drop off and pick up in the Rivington area (exact location and times below) rather than having their son or daughter travel on the coach. Students must bring their facemasks and wear them on the coach, unless they are exempt.

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

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

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The meeting time on both Saturday and Sunday morning for travel by coach is 8.15am ready for an 8.30am departure. 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 9am on Saturday at the public carpark on Rivington Lane (opposite and just past Rivington & Blackrod 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 9am on Sunday at Bibby's Farm Campsite.
- Pick up at 3.30pm on Sunday from the same car park on Rivington Lane.

As per normal school rules this year, if a student tests positive for covid within 10 days before the expedition or has covid symptoms or is told to self-isolate, then you must inform the school and the student cannot attend the expedition. We would then discuss with you how the student can still complete their Bronze Award.

A paper copy of this letter will be given out in school. Please return the completed tear off slip to me as soon as possible, but by Friday 02<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 at the latest.

The expedition complies with government rules as they now stand, but remains subject to any changes between now and the expedition date.

Lastly, to ensure that their Bronze Award is completed, 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.

Bronze Awards should be completed by the end of term in July, if possible, so that students do not need to continue and complete over the summer or in Year 11.

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.

Yours faithfully,

*Ivor Davies*

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**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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