

BEAMINSTER SCHOOL

**BEAMINSTER
DORSET DT8 3EP**

**Tel: 01308 862633
Fax: 01308 863909
Absences: 01308 861917**

Email: office@beaminster.dorset.sch.uk



**HEADTEACHER
MR K HALES NPQH**

**DEPUTY HEADTEACHER
MR D WITHERS NPQH**

Website: www.beaminster.dorset.sch.uk

11th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Award Information 2021

Despite current restrictions we are trying to put a plan in place which will enable our students to fully complete their Awards this year.

Students do need to complete all four sections, with Volunteering, Physical and Skills being individually organised.

Due to lockdown restrictions, we have extended the deadline for completion of these sections, but **all three of them should have been started in order to take part in the Expedition training (apart from Silver who require longer).**

With regards to the Expedition section, temporary changes have been put in place to encourage students to complete it. For example, students will not camp as part of the process, but return home to sleep then continue the following day.

Parents and carers will need to be available and flexible with regards to the Practice and Assessment expeditions, as students will need to be dropped off and collected from a variety of locations, and with rather unpredictable navigational skills, timings might not always be spot on! Students will need to be able to call you to be collected as required on the Friday night (approx. 8 pm), and then dropped back for the following morning (timings tbc).

BRONZE AWARD INFORMATION

Practice Expedition Friday 23rd April 3.30pm-8pm Collection by parents at finish point
Saturday 24th April 8am-12.30pm

Assessment Expedition Friday 7th May 1pm-8.30pm Collection by parents
Saturday 8th May 7am-2pm (approx.)

Students will need all equipment for both of these expeditions, with kit checks prior to departure.

SILVER AWARD INFORMATION

Practice Expedition Friday 23rd April 3.30-8pm Collection by parents at finish point
Saturday 24th April 8am-1.30pm
Sunday 25th April 8am-12 noon.

Assessment Expedition Friday 7th May 1pm-8.30pm Collection by parents
Saturday 8th May 7am-3pm (approx.)
Sunday 9th May 7am-3pm (approx.)

Students will need all equipment for both of these expeditions, with kit checks prior to departure.

Equipment

This is a link to the required kit list:

[DofE Expedition Kit List - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award \(DofE\) Shopping](#)

The priority items need to be **walking boots/shoes**, walking socks as well as a decent **rucksack**. Despite not needing a tent and sleeping bag, students will be expected to carry the normal equipment as part of their expedition. Getting blisters can prevent a student from finishing their walk, so getting boots worn in over the next month or so is going to be important, and the importance of decent socks cannot be over-emphasised!

School will provide the cooking equipment (stove and pans), map cases and compass, but students will need the rest from the kit list which will include:

- Sleeping bag
- Tent (to share between the team)
- Waterproof jacket and trousers
- Cutlery and plate/mug
- First aid kit
- Torch
- Roll mat (please check kit list).

With lunchtimes also reduced in time, we will need to do some **training after school each week up to Easter** so that the holiday can be spent improving walking fitness with added confidence in navigation skills. Therefore, we will be running **after school training from 3.15-5.30pm each Thursday** until Easter, starting next week on 18th March, then Thursday 25th, and, if needed the following Thursday 1st April (the last day of term).

Students will need a change of clothes, as we will be getting out and walking footpaths which may be muddy.

All students have access to an excellent mapping resource via the Expedition section of their e-account. It is important they become familiar with this, and a guide is linked below to help them use it:

[eDofE Mapping User Guide incl. NI – DofE](#)

This resource allows them to make route cards, calculate distances, grid references, timings as well as share maps electronically between the team.

Teams will be maximum of 7 in size, minimum of 5, and students need **to let me know the names of their teams as soon as possible**.

Please note that students must attend all training, including the Practice Expedition, in order to take part in the Assessment Expedition.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any queries.

Kind regards

Mrs R Randall
Dof E Lead