

Tomlinscote School & Sixth Form College



A Specialist Language College

Dear Parents and Carers

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Final Expedition
Friday 21st June-Saturday 22nd June 2019 Surrey Hills

We hope your son/daughter enjoyed the Practice Expedition and found the experience useful in preparation for the Final Expedition.

On Friday 21st June, students should come to school wearing their expedition clothes with their expedition bag fully packed. The bags can be placed in the Conference Room before morning registration. Students will need to bring a packed lunch on this day.

Students will only need to bring a pencil case in for their morning lessons. We will make staff aware, but students should not bring their iPads, or any other valuables, into school on this day. The students will be able to leave pencil cases with staff and collect them at the end of the Saturday walk if necessary.

There are a number of end of year exams taking place during this week. The Physics exam will take place on the Friday morning but will not be affected by DofE as there is no clash between the two events. Students will need to make sure that they have all of the equipment needed for the Physics exam in their pencil case.

We will be leaving school at 1pm and travel via coach to the Surrey Hills. The students will be dropped off at a start point where they will walk in their teams to the campsite (Bentley Copse Activity Centre, Guildford). Staff will be located at checkpoints along the routes.

On Saturday 22nd June, your son/daughter will ring you from the final checkpoint and give you a time for you to meet them at the pickup point. The pickup point for all groups is Fourwents Pond, Holmwood, RH5 4NX. Your child's group will have an estimated time of arrival that they will have worked out from their map. However, this should not be relied upon as there are many factors that can affect what time a group will finish. There is limited parking so please do not come to collect your child until they have contacted you.

Students will need all the equipment on their DofE kit list, including waterproof trousers. Students must not wear jeans, because if they get wet, jeans can be very uncomfortable especially when they rub. The school will supply team trangias, maps and compasses. Students will be supplied with the fuel to cook with at the campsite.

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The Prospect Trust, registered in England number 10842315

Registered office: Prospect Avenue, Farnborough, Hants. GU14 8JX



Your son/daughter will also be required to bring food for the length of the expedition. They will have planned their meals and submitted a menu plan and therefore they will know what food to bring for all meals for the Friday and Saturday of the expedition. This must include snacks they can eat while walking. Students must carry 2x1 litre bottles of water. If students are using a bladder (Camelbak or Platypus etc), they will still need to have a 1 litre bottle in case the bladder bursts. There will be water at some checkpoints.

Mobile phones will be needed for emergency use only. However, they must be sealed in an envelope that will then be wrapped inside a plastic bag to avoid water damage. This must stay in the sealed bag throughout the expedition period. They will be given an emergency number (07765 408735), and will therefore be in contact with staff in case of an emergency. Students can bring a camera to take photos of their journey as this is a good way of documenting their progress.

If your child has a medical issue please ensure that the medical information is up to date and as accurate as possible - medical information will not stop a student walking but will help us avoid them being hurt and withdrawn from the expedition. We will be using the emergency contact/student medical details that you confirmed on the consent form. If these change before the Final Expedition, or if you have any questions, please email doe@tomlinscoteschool.com.

Yours sincerely

Mr T Johnston
DofE Team Leader