

To Parents/Carers of pupils participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award

6th March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award 2023 – Training and Expedition Dates

Training and Expedition Dates

The date for the assessed expedition has now been set and booked. Please ensure your child is available on the following dates.

Silver Assessed Expedition (Year 10 pupils): New Forest National Park 14th – 16th June (3 days)

For your child to complete their expeditions successfully, in-school training is provided on the following areas: map reading and compass skills, the countryside code, route planning, camp craft and cooking. This training takes place in DofE Club on Fridays (Week B). Pupils must attend these sessions.

Pupils are required to plan their Assessed Expedition route themselves. They will also receive First Aid training relevant to the risks associated with their Assessed Expedition.

Expedition Information

Throughout the expedition, pupils will need to display that they can train, plan for, and complete a journey on foot, incorporating various navigation and camp craft skills, to the satisfaction of the Assessor. Pupils will be walking in groups of between 4 and 7 pupils. During the Assessed Expedition, a member of staff will **not** accompany pupils during the walking element of the expedition. Pupils will meet with staff at various checkpoints along the route and will be expected to navigate themselves along their designated route unaided and in a timely manner, whilst adhering to the Countryside Code.

Pupils will be spending the night at the campsites and must behave according to the campsite's rules and regulations. Should they do anything that jeopardises their safety or the safety of others, or behave inappropriately, parents will be asked to pick their child up.

Pupils are required to carry all their belongings with them for the duration of the expedition so that they are adequately prepared in case of emergencies.

Please see attached for the expedition itineraries.

Equipment

Attached to this letter is the suggested equipment list for the expedition as sent earlier in the academic year. Pupils will need to carry all their equipment with them for the duration of the expedition, so please do not pack unnecessary items. **Their bag must be lined with a bin liner and pupils must have waterproof clothing, regardless of the forecast.**

A small number of camping stoves and 2-person tents are available to hire from school for a deposit of £10 per item. Please note if items are not returned, or are not returned in working order, your deposit will be held and you may be charged to replace the item.

Transport

It is the parent/carer's responsibility to arrange transport to and from the start/end train station for the Assessed Expedition days.

Pupils need to have arrived at the starting train station by 9.30am in order to set off in their teams by 10am.

Please note the time of arrival at the train station on the final day is only an estimate. Therefore, if buying train tickets, please do not buy tickets for a specified time but purchase an anytime single/open return instead.

COVID-19

A number of changes have been made to the trip to ensure we minimise the risks of COVID-19 for pupils. We advise pupils to bring their own hand sanitiser and face masks. Pupils will be asked to wash/sanitise their hands regularly, particularly before preparing food or eating.

Pupils will be limited to four pupils per tent to minimise the risks.

There are also temporary changes in place for 2023 to the Expedition Section from the DofE Charity, therefore pupils will be attending one 'Assessed Expedition'.

Emergency contact

In case of emergency or if your child is unwell on the day and is unable to attend the expedition, please contact the school on 020 8780 1244. The expedition leader will have an emergency mobile phone with them, which can be used in case of an emergency. This number will be shared nearer the date of the expedition. Please avoid texting your child on expedition as they will need to be independent, including in an emergency.

Expedition Fee

Please pay the expedition fee of **£50** on ParentPay by **Monday 27th March 2023**. If you are unable to make this payment, please speak to our Finance Team for a payment plan.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via dofe@saintcecilias.london

Please find the following attached:

- Consent and medical forms (please return to reception by **Monday 1st May 2023**)
- Itinerary
- Suggested equipment list

Yours sincerely,



Rachel Skinner

Teacher of Science, Turing House Leader, and Duke of Edinburgh Award Coordinator

**Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School**

Duke of Edinburgh's Award
Silver Assessed Expedition (Year 10 pupils): Ferny Crofts/New Forest 14th-16th June 2023
(3 days)

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION IN BLOCK LETTERS:

Pupil Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number(s)

(Home/mobile): _____

Emergency contact name(s) and numbers:

(1) _____

(2) _____

Name and address of doctor (please include telephone number):

VEHICLE TRANSPORT AUTHORISATION:

I, _____, the parent/carer of: _____

_____, hereby give my permission for my child to be transported in a staff member's vehicle in an emergency situation, or if my child needs to be driven to a train station or other location for pick-up should they not be able to complete their full journey.

Signature of Parent/Carer: _____ Date: _____

CODE OF CONDUCT:

I understand that should my child behave in a way that causes serious concern, or should the health and safety of any person be placed at risk as a result of actions by my child, I am responsible for making arrangements for my child's premature return, including collecting them in person if required.

Signature of Parent/Carer: _____ Date: _____

MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

Name: _____

Mentor Group: _____

Health

Please detail any health concerns or issues we need to be aware of. Please include any medication currently being taken, allergies etc. If your child has a Health Care Plan, please make this clear here.

Parent's/Carer's signature: _____ Date: _____

COVID Contingency

By signing below, you agree to your child remaining at home and not attend the trip if they display symptoms prior to the expedition. You agree to collect your child upon presentation of symptoms during the trip.

Parent's/Carer's signature: _____ Date: _____

**Saint Cecilia's
Church of England School**

Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Silver Expedition

Itinerary for Assessed Expedition: 14th June – 16th June 2023 – New Forest National Park

- Day 1 –Pupils are to meet staff at Ashurst New Forest Station by 9.30am.
- Pupils are to depart at approximately 10am in their walking groups after a morning briefing.
- Arrive at Ferny Crofts Scouts Activity Centre by 4.30pm
- Stay overnight in campsite.
- Day 2 - Wake-up, breakfast, pack, and depart campsite by 9.30am.
- Arrive at Tile Barn Activity Centre by 4.30pm
- Stay overnight in campsite.
- Day 3 - Wake-up, breakfast, pack, and depart campsite by 9.30am.
- Arrive back at Ashurst New Forest Station by approximately 3.30pm.

**Parents/carers are responsible for transport to and from Ashurst New Forest Station **

Pupils will be expected to be out for at least 7 hours per day, and at least 4 hours of this time must be spent travelling. This equates to walking at least 16km per day.

Saint Cecilia's Church of England School

Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Silver Expeditions – Equipment List

per group	Number
Trangia/Stove **No BBQ's allowed** <i>Available to rent from school</i>	1
Fuel/Gas - <i>available to rent from school</i>	1
Matches	1
Cleaning equipment (sponge, washing up liquid, bin bags)	1 per group
Map – <i>provided by school</i>	1
First Aid Kit	1
Compass – <i>available to rent from school</i>	1

per person	Number
Tent - <i>Available to rent from school</i>	1 per 2 people
60L Rucksack with waterproof covering	1
Sleeping bag	1
Roll mat	1
Torch	1
Watch	1
Whistle - <i>Pupils should have their own for hygienic purposes</i>	1
Notebook and pen	1
Knife, fork and spoon	1
Plastic mug, plastic plate, and bowl	1
Water bottle (enough for 1 day's walking)	1
Food for dinner (including an emergency)	A- 2 days
Food for breakfast	A- 2 days
Food for lunch	A- 3 days
Snacks	A- 3 days
Waterproof coat and Waterproof trousers	1
Walking trousers/ tracksuit bottoms/ leggings	2
Fleece or jumper	1
T-shirt and/or Long sleeve top	2
Walking boots – MUST have ankle support	1
Hat, gloves and scarf	1
Underwear and walking socks	2
Suncream	1
Any medication needed + spares – Teachers and pupils in group must have access in an emergency	2