



Hallfold, Whitworth, Rochdale, Lancashire OL12 8TS  
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Headteacher: Mrs G Middlemas B.Ed, MA (Dist)

09/09/2020

Dear parent / carer,

### **Bronze DofE - COVID-Secure Expedition Reminder**

The COVID-secure DofE Bronze expedition will take place on Friday 18th to Saturday 19th September 2020. Friday 18th is a school INSET day so no lesson time will be missed.

The expedition will operate as follows:

- **Wednesday 16/09/20 3pm-4pm.** Final preparations and equipment issue in school.
- **Friday 18/09/20 8:30am - parents to drop students at designated start points.** These will be 20-30 minutes drive from school.
- Students walk planned expedition routes finishing at school carrying all equipment and food, initially with staff, then in remotely monitored groups as on any DofE expedition.
- Friday evening - students set out sleeping bags etc. as if spending the night in the school sportshall as a "bunkhouse". They will cook a substantial meal on camping stoves outdoors and eat it. At staggered, designated times (around 8pm), **parents will pick up their children to spend the night at home.**
- **Saturday 19/09/20 8am - students return to school** by 8am, have breakfast and pack up. They will then walk a day-long planned expedition route with all equipment in their rucksack as normal.
- **Saturday late afternoon - parents to pick students up at designated end points.** These will be 20-30 minutes drive from school and you will be texted when the students are close to completing their walk.

Students will need to be present for the Wednesday session and for full days on both the Friday and Saturday. **We will provide you with details of the Friday dropoff and Saturday collection points next week.**

Why are we making these arrangements? We are having to ask parents to pick up and drop off their children as use of the minibuses with large groups is not currently advisable. Participants are having to return home overnight as no overnight educational visits are currently permitted. All participating students will be a part of the year 10 bubble, and will be encouraged to maintain social distancing whenever possible as well as operating in an outdoor environment where transmission is already at low risk.

Students will need to be equipped as for any DofE expedition with walking boots with ankle support, waterproof jacket and trousers, a sleeping bag and sleeping mat, hat, gloves and warm clothing. School will loan backpacking rucksacks and camping cookers and provide the fuel for these. Students will need to put in their pack at the beginning all the food they wish to eat over the two days. Students have been

given lots of training on food and equipment and the notes can be found in the Bronze 2019-20 DofE Google Classroom (oeuzzkr) if a refresher is needed. DofE themselves publish information on equipment at <https://www.dofe.org/shopping/dofe-expedition-kit-list/> .

We hope that all the participants will take part in this expedition as this is all that is left for them to do in order to complete their DofE Bronze Award.

It goes without saying that should your child be showing COVID-19 symptoms or be in self-isolation on the dates of the expedition they will not be able to take part.

We had hoped to be able to offer the Silver Award to those students wishing to progress to it, but in light of the additional pressure of work on this year group, combined with the current uncertainty in the scheduling of the summer 2021 examination season we are unable to do so. Rest assured that it will still be possible to go on to Gold during post-16 education!

Yours sincerely,



Mr W Cawley



Mr D Crook



Mr B Clayton