



# Brine Leas School

## An Academy

Believe, Learn, Succeed

May 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### Re: Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Award has proved to be extremely popular as illustrated in the large numbers of this year's cohort. As many of you may already be aware, due to the high demand, we have had to outsource the expeditions to Cheshire East Council in order for all students to complete the expeditions at the same time. This also means that students will have completed both expeditions before the end of term and there will be no interference to their studies next year.

The first of the expeditions is a training weekend on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017 with the assessment expedition falling on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017. All students should also attend training sessions which will take place after school for no more than an hour on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017. These will help them to prepare them for expeditions and include camp craft, planning of meals and erecting tents.

The start point for the training expedition will be at The Lord Binning, Chester Road, Kelsall, Cheshire, CW6 0RZ and we ask for participants to arrive at 10.00am on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June. Participants will be using the local footpaths to navigate to their campsite in the area at Newton House Farm, Newton Lane, Tattenhall. The weekend will finish back at The Lord Binning at approximately 2pm and on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June. This is dependent on how long it takes students to get ready on the Sunday morning, how fast they walk, how many breaks they take and finally whether they manage to follow their route correctly.

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>, students will take part in their assessment expedition. This will begin at The Dysart Arms, Bowe's Gate Rd, Bunbury, Near Tarporley, Cheshire, CW6 9PH. Once again, students will use local footpaths, different to those on their training expedition, to navigate their way to Newton House Farm, Newton Lane, Tattenhall. The return journey of the assessed expedition will finish at The Bickerton Poacher, Wrexham Rd, Bulkeley, Malpas, Cheshire SY14 8BE on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July at approximately 2pm.

Whilst on expedition I would also like to capture the group's experiences through videos and photographs. If you wish to withdraw your child from being filmed or photographed, please could you indicate on the permission slip below.

Please can all participants be fully prepared for walking and camping in the outdoors, the temperature at night will become cold and there may also be wet weather. Spare footwear, for example old trainers or flip flops are always useful in case they wish to take-off boots on the campsite during the evening.

Headteacher:

Mr Andrew Giff

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Personal kit will be discussed during the initial training and a full kit list is available on the DofE website, however as a quick reminder, please ensure your child has the following items:

- Walking trousers (no jeans)
- T-shirts, base layers, warm jumpers/fleeces
- Thick socks, hat, gloves
- Waterproof jacket and trousers
- Walking boots and spare footwear
- Extra clothing as relevant to weather
- Sleeping bag and sleeping mat
- Toiletries (towel opt), medication, sun cream, plasters, torch (with batteries), matches
- Bowl, plate, mug, cutlery
- Spare carrier bags/bin liners to keep things dry
- Sun lotion and hat

We anticipate lending out stoves, fuel bottles (with fuel) and our 2/3 person tents to participants.

Finally, participants need to plan their own menu for the two days. Fresh water for drinking and cooking is available at the campsite. This again will be discussed with students, but please see our tips below:

- Bring plenty of snacks and lots to drink during the day
- Bring enough food for two packed lunches, one breakfast and an evening meal
- Do not bring anything that might go off or spill in your rucksack
- Remember that all food and litter must be carried each day (bins and recycling available at the campsite)
- Pack light food (avoid heavy tins)
- Bring food your child will eat – it sounds simple but all too often participants bring food they haven't tried before and if they don't like it they will be hungry!

We recommend that students work in pairs or trios to organise their equipment and food as this saves them carrying more than necessary, and also means they can cook together which will make eating a lot faster!

The cost of both the training and assessment expedition is £140. If you would like your child to take part please complete the permission slip below and return it with your payment, no later than Monday 5th June, 2017.

Cheques should be made payable to **Brine Leas School** and returned with the permission slip in an envelope to the Drop Box outside Student Reception.

Cash payments can be accepted when a cheque is not possible. Students must take cash payments directly to the Finance Office and this will be receipted in the student's planner.

If your child is currently eligible for Free School Meals/has in the past been on Free School Meals/ is currently a Child in Service/is currently a Cared for Child or has ever been a Cared for Child on or after 30 December 2005 then assistance can be applied for through the Pupil Premium fund. Please return the permission slip below with the Pupil Premium assistance application option ticked. The school will contact you to advise what assistance is available. If your form is returned to school showing the Pupil Premium option and we don't appear to have your child on our Pupil Premium records we may need to contact you to clarify.

It is the policy of Brine Leas to support families when financial hardship may preclude a student from attending a trip or activity, so if there are any problems, please contact Mrs K Bradshaw and the matter will be dealt with confidentially.

I have also enclosed a Form C (Parental Permission). Please complete the form detailing any medical issues your child may have and return it along with the payment and permission slip. Please note, without this form being completed and returned it will not be possible for your child to go on the expeditions.

Finally if you need to contact your child in an emergency, please use the number provided below.

Mr C Cador - 07816681683

If you require any further information, or have any concerns before the expedition, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours faithfully,



Miss L. Corcoran  
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator  
LCN/SJ/AE/PWD

**PERMISSION SLIP – DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION 2017 – MISS CORCORAN**

I hereby give permission for my child .....  
Progress Group ..... to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition from Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and the Assessment Expedition from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

I also give permission / do not give permission for my child to take part in any video blogs or photographs whilst out on expedition. **(Please delete as appropriate).**

I enclose a cheque for £140.00 made payable to **Brine Leas School**. Please post into the Drop Box outside Student Reception

I enclose a cash payment of £140.00 that my child will take to the **Finance Office** with their planner for a receipt to be provided

My child is on the Pupil Premium register and I would like to apply for assistance towards the Duke of Edinburgh Expedition 2017. The school will contact you to advise what assistance is available.

I have enclosed the completed Form C.

Signed ..... (Parent/Guardian) Date: .....