

COLYTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Colyford, Colyton, Devon, EX24 6HN



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December 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award – Expedition Section

I am writing to you to explain how the expedition section of the Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award (DofE) is organised and supervised here at Colyton Grammar School. We are very lucky to have a loyal group of parent volunteers who give their time freely to support the programme. This year the Silver DofE expedition training is being led by Matt Porter and Patrick Domhof, with support from myself, John Bodley Scott, and other parent volunteers. Between us we have put together a full training programme to make sure that by September students are able to undertake their qualifying expedition safely and independently. This will include training in skills such as:

- Route Planning
- Navigation
- Teamwork
- First Aid
- Emergency Procedures
- Awareness of risk and health and safety procedures
- Camp craft
- Cooking

This training progressively develops their knowledge and understanding through a series of theoretical sessions in the classroom and practical sessions out on the moor. It is therefore important that your child attends each session. During this training the DofE leaders will gradually give the team more and more responsibility so that by the end they are able to journey accompanied without the Supervisor present. We ask for your support in making sure students are able to attend all the sessions, are suitably equipped and are fit and ready for their practice and qualifying expeditions.

The training schedule for 2018 is as follows:

Tue 30 th Jan 7:00 – 8:30pm	Equipment Evening	CGS
Sat 3 rd Mar 10:00 – 4:00pm	DofE Indoor Training Day	CGS
Sun 18 th Mar	DofE Woodbury Wander – Outdoor Training Day	Woodbury Common
Sat – Mon incl. 23 rd – 25 th Jun	DofE Silver Practice Expedition	Dartmoor
Sat – Mon incl. 15 -17 th Sept	DofE Silver Qualifying Expedition	Exmoor

Please put the dates in your diaries.

The Equipment Evening on the 30th January is specifically designed for parents / carers to give you an understanding of what equipment is needed for students to undertake the expeditions safely. Hopefully, we will be able to inform you of the most appropriate clothing / equipment prior to you making any expensive purchases.

Costs. The Silver and Gold DofE Award Programmes at Colyton are 'not for profit' with teachers and parents giving up their time freely. Students are therefore only charged for costs; roughly £40 for the practice expedition and £40 for the qualifying expedition; which is great value.

Attendance. Each student will need to attend both of the training days to be eligible to go on the Practice Expedition, and to have successfully completed a practice expedition before being eligible to take part in the Qualifying expedition. If there are any problems with the dates please inform us at the earliest opportunity. Students unable to complete the award in 2018 may complete in 2019, or join another open group to complete in 2018.

Communications. The award requires students to be able to organise, plan and conduct their expeditions independently of adults. Supervisors will primarily communicate with students directly through their school email accounts. Please encourage your child to check their emails regularly during the expedition season, and respond promptly. We will make sure you have important information about the expeditions, but we expect students to inform you of what is happening and what they need to do.

Transport. To make the process manageable for parent volunteers to organise, we ask parents to co-ordinate between themselves lifts to and from training days and expeditions.

We hope your child will find the expedition an enjoyable and fulfilling experience. If you have any questions, please contact Matt Porter or myself, as per the details below (usually best to email us in the first instance).

We look forward to seeing you in February.

John Bodley Scott
Patrick Domhof
Matt Porter

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