

COLYTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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2017/8 DofE Expedition Programme at Colyton

With enrolment in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme complete for 2017/8, I am delighted to say we have another 42 students from Yrs 10 and 11 signed up to do their Silver award and a further 17 to do their Gold this year. Whilst a commercial company (Dynamic Adventures) delivers the Bronze DofE expedition programme, Silver and Gold expeditions are run entirely by Parent Volunteers; that could be you! If you are interested in walking and feel you can offer some of your time and expertise, there are two ways you can help with the school DofE programme:

Walking Group Helpers – to walk with student groups during the initial training expedition, passing on navigation tips and advice on the country code, plus staying overnight on a tented campsite alongside student groups, in order to provide additional adult safety cover. This role would suit parents with hill-walking and navigation experience, but you do not need to be formally qualified. Mileage and subsistence will be paid for. You will be required to complete the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) form via School.

Expedition Supervisors – to manage a group of students (no more than 12) through the expedition element of the DofE award scheme. You will already be an experienced hill-walker, able to commit to two long weekends per year, plus two Saturday training days and occasional e-mail/telephone liaison with students. Depending on your experience levels, you may need to undertake additional qualifications. Whilst Expedition Supervisors gain their qualifications at their own expense, the school will pay for DofE training and first aid training. However the satisfaction of working with students to gain their awards is immeasurable. Current Expedition Supervisors are very happy to discuss the role, what it entails, and the process of qualification.

We would like to have at least one parent helper with each practice expedition group during the walking day to support the Expedition Supervisor, and ideally one overnighing as well. The expedition areas are usually Dartmoor and Exmoor, so relatively close by. There is less need for parent helpers on Gold practise and qualifying expeditions, as the students are more experienced and the supervision levels are more 'remote'. You can arrive in the morning, walk and then overnight, or arrive in the evening, overnight and then walk the next day, spend the whole weekend on the hill, or just come for the day. All the Supervisors would appreciate the support/company! There is no requirement to 'instruct', just to monitor, but we welcome more experienced walkers to contribute and advise students, under the guidance of the Supervisor. For those of you who are keen to gain log book experience, these expeditions provide quality log book time.

Helping with the DofE expedition programme is a great way of supporting students and helps to keep the cost of DofE down. So if you are interested or just want to know more, please do not hesitate to contact myself or any other Parent Volunteer Expedition Supervisor – we're happy to help. Many thanks in anticipation. We have a lot of students wanting to complete Silver and Gold DofE in 2018, so it would be great to provide them with the right level of support to achieve this.

With very best wishes

Bill Lush, DofE Parent Volunteer Coordinator

Matthew Porter, Silver DofE Supervisor

Patrick Domhof, Silver DofE Supervisor

John Bodley Scott, Gold DofE Supervisor

Full contact details are contained in the email version of this letter sent direct to parents, or via DofEEnquiries@colytongrammar.devon.sch.uk