



59 The Spinney  
Sidcup  
Kent  
DA14 5NE  
[www.benbullenadventures.co.uk](http://www.benbullenadventures.co.uk)

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Participant and Parents/Carers,

We're very proud to be working with Hayes School to help you through the expedition section of your Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. The expedition section involves a practice and a qualifying expedition and this letter sets out the details of both. There is also a training day on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – please see a separate letter from the school regarding this.

#### **Practice Expedition – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

A coach will take students from Hayes School on the Friday morning to Snodland Station in Kent where our expedition will start. From here the group will walk to Hopehill Scout Camp in Meopham. On day two they'll do a circular walk, camping again at Hopehill. On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> they'll walk to Platt Memorial Hall, Platinum Way, St Mary's Platt, Sevenoaks TN15 8FH. Parents are expected to collect their child on the Sunday afternoon between 1pm and 4pm. If you can car share it would be appreciated due to the lack of parking. But I'd suggest only car share with people in the same walking group as one group might get in hours ahead of another group!

#### **Qualifier Expedition – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

For the qualifier expedition we head to the South Downs National Park. A coach will take the students from school to the start point at East Dean near Eastbourne. From here we do a three day walk, camping at Alfriston and Golden Cross before finishing on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> at Horam where a coach will collect the students and bring them back to school.

Walking will be done in groups of between 4-7 although we're really looking for groups of 6 or 7 to help with logistics. The school will inform students how they should be making their expedition group choices. Leaders will walk with their groups for part of the first day of the practice, but after that the groups will walk unaccompanied, meeting leaders at checkpoints along the way. Leaders will have phone numbers for students and vice versa, although only two participants per group will keep their phone on them – all other phones will be wrapped up and sealed to ensure they're not used. Phone usage is permitted for three reasons for the two who have their phones:

1. So a leader can get in touch with the group
2. So the group can call a leader if needed
3. For taking photos or videos

You'll need to bring all the items mentioned on the kit list attached with this letter. We'll provide tents, Trangias and maps. We have enough rucksacks for most of you but will find out on the training day who needs one so please find out if you have a rucksack of 55litres or more (the type that covers the whole of your back!)

Also included with this letter are some training notes which will help students prepare – and help parents who will no doubt be asked to help!

Payment for the expedition should be made to the school. I will need you to complete our online medical information form. It asks for the eDofE number but this isn't necessary unless you do know it. The link is:

[https://www.benbullenadventures.co.uk/enroll/?expedition\\_ids=12754&group=HayesSilver24](https://www.benbullenadventures.co.uk/enroll/?expedition_ids=12754&group=HayesSilver24)

Please complete the link by 8am on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

Feel free to email me if you have any questions about the expedition section – [ben@benbullenadventures.co.uk](mailto:ben@benbullenadventures.co.uk)

Yours sincerely

Ben Bullen