

April 2024

The Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

As part of your child's Duke of Edinburgh Award assessment weekend, which will involve **2** days of walking and **1** night/s camping. They will be walking in their chosen groups and carrying all of the equipment they will need to survive for the duration, as well as being assessed on their practical map work, teamwork and camping skills. This will be on **Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th May 2024.**

This letter gives all the details regarding the qualifying weekend, including start times, locations and what students need to ensure a successful weekend.

Equipment:

As they have completed their Practice Expedition, please ensure anything missed or forgotten is addressed. The school will provide the same equipment, including rucksacks, Trangias and tents as this has been distributed prior to the weekend.

It is vitally important that students have appropriate footwear and waterproofs. Please look at the pictures of boots on the kit list before buying/borrowing footwear. Some equipment will need to be shared amongst the group. Students should organise this before the weekend.

Any equipment borrowed from school must be cleaned, dried and returned at the end of the Assessment weekend. Failure to return clean equipment could result in a replacement fee being charged.





Food:

Students will need plenty of food for the weekend. They will need to cook a hot meal for the evening. This should be high in calories and include all of the major food groups. Students have two stoves per group and gas in regulation canisters. Cooking together as a group is required. Quick snacks such as Pot Noodles are not suitable choices. Also a few hints: use milk powder, not fresh milk; don't carry food in large bulky boxes, which are hard to pack; fresh fruit is easily bruised, dried fruit is a sensible alternative.

They will need packed lunches, breakfasts and plenty of high energy snacks to keep them going and to keep their morale up.

Emergency rations should be packed and sealed separately and the idea is that the students do not touch these unless there is a genuine emergency. They could include dried fruit, cereal bars, nuts, glucose sweets, Kendal mint cake or chocolate.

Start:

Students should be dropped at **The Crooked Spire, Ermington, PL21 9LP** ready to depart on their walks within 15 minutes of arrival. Please arrive to the drop off point allowing time to get bags on and ready to head off on time. Their start times for each team are below:

Team	Arrival Time
1	9:00 AM
2	9:15 AM
3	9:30 AM
4	9:45 AM
5	10:00 AM
6	10:15 AM
7	10:30 AM

When arriving please be ready to set off as soon as possible. Before you start your mobile phone will be collected unless it is sealed and will be carried as an emergency phone. Water, waterproofs, emergency rations, maps, routecards and compasses will be checked before departure. Your team will be delayed if you do not have these essential items.



Route:

The expedition will take place in the area of Southwest Coast Path.

Day 1 - The Crooked Spire, Ermington to Brixton Caravan and Camping Site,
Brixton Caravan and Camping Park

Brixton

Plymouth

Devon

PL8 2BN.

Day 2 - Brixton Caravan and Camping Site to Mount Batten Bar for collection from Mount
Batten.

Contact numbers:

If you need to get in contact at any time during the weekend, we can be reached by mobile phone on **01752556065 and type in the extension number 4154 or 4475**. We ask that this option is only used for emergency reasons, if there is a less urgent situation we are still reachable via email using jharris@sdcc-smhc.net

Finish:

We will be finishing at **Mount Batten Bar, PL9 9SJ**. Students will arrive at the finish location between 1:00pm and 5.00pm. If they have a mobile phone it will be returned at the finish and they can make contact **once they have arrived at the finish**.

If you have any queries or questions do not hesitate to contact, preferably by email to jharris@sdcc-smhc.net

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Harris
Bronze DofE Leader