



Winner of the
Manchester Evening News
"School in the Community Award"

15th May 2024

Dear Students, Parents & Carers,

DofE Bronze Qualifying Expedition A - Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th June 2024

This is the Qualifying Expedition A, which will be in the Rivington area. Completion of this expedition is essential for students intending to complete their DofE Bronze Award. The Qualifying Expedition will be on 8th and 9th June 2024.

At Bronze, the qualifying expedition involves two days of walking, with one night of camping in between.

On the expeditions, students will be walking in teams of about six, carrying their own camping equipment, navigating their own route and supporting each other. Students will be cooking a hot meal on the Saturday evening using their camping stoves and they will be pitching and sleeping in their three person tents together with their team mates.

In accordance with DofE requirements, student walking teams will be supervised remotely rather than directly. This means that supervising staff will be in the vicinity, will meet students at pre-arranged checkpoints and will be able to step in to help students if required. Students will have a staff contact phone number to call if needed, but student walking teams will have primary responsibility for their own navigation and team decisions. However, staff will be camping in the same camp sites and will be directly supervising students' cooking with the camping stoves.

The expedition kit list, together with other guidance on food, packing rucksacks, etc. is on the DofE section of the school website at <https://www.sharplesschool.co.uk/duke-of-edinburgh/>. Students will need to ensure that they are fully equipped. We will be checking kit at the start of the expedition. All students are borrowing tents, stoves, maps and compasses from us and some students are borrowing some other items. These will be given out at school in the week before the expedition so that students can pack their rucksacks at home, ready for the expedition.

Since students carry everything for two days in their rucksacks, including their food, we must really think about our equipment, including sleeping bags, roll mats and overnight clothes. Efficient planning and packing is the key, so it all fits into our rucksack and we can carry it. There is advice on rucksack packing on our website.

On Saturday 8th June, students meet at school at 8.15am ready for an 8.30am coach departure. Students arrive dressed for their expedition with walking boots on and rucksacks fully packed. Meet in the main carpark at school.

On Sunday 9th June, we expect to be back at school at 4pm.

If you wish to drop off and pick up your son or daughter directly at Rivington rather than coming to school then please tick the appropriate box on the reply slip. Meeting times and locations for those making their own transport arrangements are as follows: -

Headteacher Ms A. Webster: headteacher@sharplesschool.co.uk

Admin Office: office@sharplesschool.co.uk

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Registered Company No: 09677469 Registered office address: Sharples School, Hill Cot Road, Bolton, BL1 8SN



- Meet at 9.00am on Saturday at the public carpark on Rivington Lane (opposite and just past Rivington & Blackrod High School, which is BL6 7RU for those using satnav.)
- Pick up at 3.30pm on Sunday from the same car park on Rivington Lane.

It is a condition of coming on this expedition that students will be in school on time on Monday morning after the expedition. Students will be tired after the weekend, but we will not be back late.

A paper copy of this letter will be given out in school. Please return the completed tear off slip to me as soon as possible.

To prepare for the expedition students must attend an after school stove training session and an after-school expedition planning session as follows: -

- Wednesday 15th May – Camp Stove Training for Teams A1-A4 only. A separate letter for this has previously been given out and emailed. Finishing by 4.30pm.
- Wednesday 22nd May – Camp Stove Training for Teams A5-A8 only. Finishing by 4.30pm.
- Wednesday 5th June – Expedition Planning Session (for all A teams) finishing by 4.15pm.

Lastly, to ensure that their Bronze Award is completed, students must complete their other three activities (Volunteering, Physical & Skill), logging their evidence on edofe and getting their assessors' reports from their assessors. Advice and details are on the DofE section of the school website. Bronze Awards should be completed by the end of term in July, if possible, so that students do not need to continue and complete over the summer or in Year 10. However, depending on the progress of individual students' activities, a few of these may need to be completed in the Autumn of Year 10.

If you have any questions or concerns then please email me at i.davies@sharplesschool.co.uk or phone the school. If you would like a conversation then I can phone you back.

Yours faithfully,

Ivor Davies

Ivor Davies
DofE Co-ordinator
Sharples School

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Bronze Qualifying Expedition
Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th June 2024
Rivington

Reply Slip

STUDENT NAME: - _____ FORM: - _____

I would like my son/daughter to attend the Expedition. I understand that: -

- students will be supervised remotely during the walks (explained in the letter above) and that
- my son/daughter must be in school on time on the Monday after our return.

If you will be dropping off or picking up your son or daughter directly at Rivington rather than at school the please tick one or both boxes below. **If your son or daughter is meeting us at school and travelling on the coach to and from Rivington then leave the boxes blank.**

We will drop off at Rivington

We will pick up at Rivington

Details of any medical conditions, medication carried or dietary needs are given below: -

Medical conditions, medication carried or dietary needs: - (continue on the back if necessary)

If the student has an asthma inhaler then this must be brought with them.

PARENT NAME:- _____

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER:- _____

PARENT/CARER SIGNATURE:- _____

DATE:- _____

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