



14th June 2024

Dear Students, Parents & Carers,

DofE Silver Qualifying Expedition Saturday 13th to Monday 15th July 2024

This is the final Qualifying Expedition, which will be in the Eyam and Castleton area of The Peak District. Participation in this expedition is essential for students to complete their DofE Silver Award.

At Silver, the expeditions involve three days of walking, with two nights of camping in between.

On the expedition, students will be walking in teams of six or seven, carrying their own camping equipment, navigating their own route and supporting each other. Students will be cooking a hot meal on both the Saturday and Sunday evenings using their camping stoves and they will be pitching and sleeping in their two or three person tents together with their teammates.

In accordance with DofE requirements, student walking teams will be supervised remotely rather than directly. This was the same at Bronze level last year and it 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 staff contact phone numbers 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 campsites and will be directly supervising students' cooking with the camping stoves.

We will meet after school on Tuesday 2nd July to plan and prepare in our teams for our Qualifying Expedition walking routes. This will be a classroom session in U47 for an hour after school, until 4:15pm. Attendance is essential. Please let me know if there is a difficulty with this.

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.

Remember lessons from the practice expedition, especially the need for sufficient food, proper breakfasts and lunches (not just snacks) on each day and substantial hot evening meals. Ready cooked noodles on their own are not enough for a substantial evening meal. Also, can we

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

Admin Office: office@sharplesschool.co.uk

Sharples School, A Multi Academy Trust, A Private Limited Company by guarantee.

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

request that parents do not pack the expedition rucksacks, this is the responsibility of the student.

On Saturday 13th July, students should meet at **the front of school at 8.30am**. Students should arrive dressed for their expedition with walking boots on and rucksacks fully packed. The coach will depart at **9:00 am prompt**.

On Monday 15th July, we expect to arrive back at school at approximately 4:00 pm, where arrangements need to be made for students to be collected. Exact arrival times can be updated by students to their parents/carers by mobile phone on the day.

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.

Lastly, to ensure that their Silver 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. Silver 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 11. However, depending on the progress of individual students' activities, some of these may need to be completed in the Autumn of Year 11.

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

Yours faithfully,

Claire Finney

Claire Finney
Assistant DofE Co-ordinator
Sharples School

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

Admin Office: office@sharplesschool.co.uk

Sharples School, A Multi Academy Trust, A Private Limited Company by guarantee.

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





SHARPLES
SCHOOL

Silver Practice Expedition
Saturday 13th to Monday 15th July 2024 Derbyshire Peak
District

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 Tuesday after our return.

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:- _____

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

Admin Office: office@sharplesschool.co.uk

Sharples School, A Multi Academy Trust, A Private Limited Company by guarantee.

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

