

Monday 4th April 2022

Dear parents / carer(s),

**Year 10 Silver D of E – Group B Assessed Expedition
Saturday 23rd – Tuesday 26th July 2022**

As part of the Silver D of E Award, students will be participating in an assessed expedition on the above dates in the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean. The area covers parts of the counties of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Monmouthshire and is an area of outstanding natural beauty. The expedition will be led by Lees Brook staff.

Please be aware that your youngster must have completed their final two 6 month sectional assessors reports to be allowed to go on their Assessed Expedition this year. The deadline for this is Friday 10th June 2022.

One week before the expedition – Wednesday 13th July

There will be a meeting for all students attending the expedition from 3:00pm – 4:00. This meeting is to ensure all students are fully prepared for a successful expedition.

Friday Before the Expedition

Students are expected to attend a preparation session at school from 1.00pm – 2:30pm approx. to pack their rucksacks. Students will need to bring in all belongings necessary, in a bin bag labelled clearly with their name. This will be stored safely in the D of E Store Room and packed after school. Only perishable food / medication should be brought in on the day of the expedition.

Expedition schedule:

Students should arrive at school for 7:45am on the morning of the expedition. We will be leaving for the Forest of Dean shortly, after by coach.

On arrival in the Forest of Dean, students will begin walking day one of their three day expedition, completing the final leg of the expedition on the Monday. Students will stay at a different campsite each night. We will be travelling back to school Tuesday morning by minibus with an ETA of approx. 12 noon (traffic dependent). There may not be mobile signal in the area; however, your child will be able to phone you on the way back to school, to provide you with an estimated time of arrival.

At some of the campsites, there will be an opportunity to have a campfire during the evening, which will be directly supervised by staff. There will also be some short night walks, led by staff, to develop students' night navigation skills.

Students are required to help unpack equipment upon returning to school which will take approximately 1½ hours. Students will be free to make their own way home when finished.

Food for Monday Night / Spending Money

We plan to take students to a restaurant on the Monday for their evening meal (Pizza Express or similar) as a reward for completing the expedition. During the expedition, there will also be an opportunity for students to buy an ice cream, should they wish to. Please send your child with some money so that they can purchase food / Ice Cream. We recommend approximately £20 - £25.

Mobile phones

We encourage students to bring mobile phones for emergency use. It is, however, against D of E conditions for students to use mobile phones for any other reason during their expedition. Because of this, students will have their phone sealed in a tamper proof bag, which can be kept with them for emergency use. D of E is a great opportunity for some screen downtime!

Emergency Contact Details & COVID-19

Please provide any information about your child, such as medical conditions, medication or personal circumstances that may affect your child's performance whilst on the expedition. It is vital that leaders are aware of this for the safety and well-being of your child and others around them.

We ask that you do not allow your child to attend the expedition if they have a positive test or have any symptoms of COVID-19.

Should your child become unwell and need to go home, an emergency contact (parent / relative) must be available to call on to collect your child immediately.

Please confirm your up-to-date emergency contact details on the consent form. Please also indicate on the reply form if you are happy for your child to be given Ibuprofen / Paracetamol by a First Aider, should they require it during the expedition.

Kit requirements

Students will need to bring the items on the attached kit list. We have a limited supply of kit that can be loaned to your child at no extra cost (please see kit list). If your child requires any of these items for the expedition, please specify this on the personal kit loan request form.

Please complete the online reply form by **Friday 8th April 2022**, giving your consent for your youngster to take part in this expedition.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=iQyZI2eu_EqHzkcMI6_rN-VbkjtCMIpBtpYU1rTFX7IUMjBUUEVPQTI0MjkzUUUpGU0RNVUcxUkhLNS4u

If your youngster needs to borrow hiking boots, waterproofs or a sleeping bag, please request below:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=iQyZI2eu_EqHzkcMI6_rN-VbkjtCMIpBtpYU1rTFX7IUREtVRzdFUkFDV1JOVzQ1QTczWEhHMkIVSy4u

I wish your youngster every success with their Assessed expedition. Should you have any queries about any aspect of the Award, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Mr A Waterhouse
D of E Manager

Personal kit Provided by Student		
Item	Description	Check
1	Food Money (£20 - £25) & Camp food - 2 dinners, 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches	
2	Emergency food (wrapped in plastic bags and labelled e.g. cereal bar, dried fruit, jelly)	
3	Plimsolls or light / compactable trainers for use at campsite	
4	Hat - baseball cap in hot weather & woolly hat in colder weather	
5	Gloves (for cold weather expeditions)	
6	Knife, fork, spoon, bowl & mug - small & lightweight (plastic only)	
7	Bin bags x4 - For keeping things dry & rubbish etc.	
8	Personal medication (if applicable)	
9	Sun cream (high factor - essential if hot weather)	
10	Toiletries (Travel size) (toothbrush / paste, toilet paper, soap).	
11	Torch – with full batteries	
12	Hand towel (small)	
13	Walking clothes - plus one spare set (t-shirt / shorts / tracksuit bottoms / fleece / underwear) NO JEANS	
14	Walking socks – available from outdoor shops (two pairs)	
15	Watch	
16	Water bottles - plastic ideally; 2 x 750ml bottles or 2 x 1 litre bottles	
17	Whistle for emergency help	
18	Personal first aid kit – including Compeed Blister Plasters	
19	Survival bag (e.g. Hi Gear Survival Bag from Go Outdoors £2.25 approx.)	
20	Emergency blanket (put in carrier bag with name on – transported in the minibus should your youngster be cold at night)	
21	Hot Water Bottle (Optional for cold weather expeditions - transported in the minibus)	
22	Hand sanitiser and packet of wet wipes - small / pocket size	

Group kit One Per Walking Team		
Item	Description	Person responsible
23	Brillo pads / washing up liquid in a small bottle	
24	Matches (in waterproof container) no lighters	
25	Old dish cloth & tea towel	
26	Tin opener (if needed)	
27	Wooden spoon	

Kit available to loan from school (or provide yourself) We have limited supply. Please specify on the reply form if your youngster would like to borrow any of these items		
Item	Description	Check
28	Hiking boots - High enough sides to protect from ankle injuries. Must be fully waterproof.	
29	Compact Sleeping bag (2 season for summer, 3 season for spring / autumn expeditions). Must be in compression sack	
30	Waterproofs - coat and over-trousers. Coat must have attached hood. Breathable fabric and fully waterproof.	

Kit provided by school This kit will be provided to all students.		
Item	Description	
31	Roll mat	
32	Trangia stove & Gas bottle	
33	Lightweight backpacking tent	
34	Rucksack (65L) - (you can provide your own rucksack)	

It is important to bring suitable clothing for unpredictable weather. Day 1 could be torrential rain and very cold with gale force winds. Day 2 could be warm and sunny. Be prepared! Should you have any questions, please ask your leader.