



**Lees Brook
Academy**

Tuesday 16th January 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

**Year 10 Silver D of E – Group A Assessed Expedition
Tuesday 16th – Friday 19th July 2024**

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 19th April 2024.

Monday Before the Expedition

Students are expected to attend a preparation session at school from 3.00pm – 4:30pm 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 Storeroom 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 minibus.

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 Thursday. Students will stay at a different campsite each night. We will be travelling back to school Friday morning by coach 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. Please note – this may be before the end of the school day.



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Food for Thursday Night / Spending Money

We plan to take students to a restaurant on the Thursday for their evening meal 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

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.

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.

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 needs to borrow any of these items: a sleeping bag, hiking boots or waterproof coat / over trousers for the expedition, please email: dofekit@leesbrook.co.uk

In the email subject, please put your child's full name and in the email, please remember to detail sizes needed (if applicable).

Please complete the reply form on Weduc giving consent for your child to take part in the assessed expedition by Monday 22nd January 2024.

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 email dofekit@leesbrook.co.uk if your child needs to borrow boots, sleeping bag or waterproofs. Please state in the email subject your child's full name and in the email, please remember to detail sizes needed (if applicable)		
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.