

6th May 2022

Silver Award Duke of Edinburgh Award Practice and Assessed Itinerary (27th-29th May and 15th- 17th July)

Dear Parent / Carer,

We have been delighted with the enthusiasm shown by students so far in obtaining volunteering placements, attending their chosen physical and skills activities and attending Wednesday evening enrichments to learn how to navigate in the countryside. We are writing to you to give the full details with regards to the upcoming practice and assessed expedition.

Overview

Below are brief details of the upcoming expeditions. See the itinerary for more detailed information.

When	What	Where
Friday 27th May – Sunday 29th May	Silver practice	Surrey Hills, area South of Gomshall and Sayers Croft Outdoor Learning Centre
Friday 15th July – Sunday 17th July	Silver assessed expedition	Surrey Hills, area South of Gomshall Accommodation: Sayers Croft Outdoor Learning Centre

Silver practice expedition

Thursday 26th May

4:00pm-4:30pm - Kit check and drop off. Students to bring in fully packed bags except for food and first day of walking clothing. Teachers will check that students have all required equipment safely packed. This equipment will be stored securely in school overnight.

Friday 27th May

8:00am - Meet at KAA. Students meet in dining hall over breakfast, last equipment check and registration.

9:30am - Depart KAA via coach which will take students to Gomshall station via coach.

10:30am - Practice Expedition begins. Students will be walking independently on pre-planned route. This will be completed under remote supervision.

Evening - Students will cook a warm meal and will be camping at Sayers Croft Outdoor Learning Centre (Cranleigh Rd, Ewhurst, Cranleigh GU6 7SS).

Saturday 28th May

8:00am - Following breakfast students depart campsite and complete a pre-planned circular route around the Surrey Hills area returning to Sayers Croft Outdoor Learning. This will be completed under remote supervision (approx. 10km).

Evening - Students will cook a hot meal and will be camping at Sayers Croft Outdoor Learning Centre (Cranleigh Rd, Ewhurst, Cranleigh GU6 7SS).

Sunday 29th May

8:00am - Following breakfast students depart campsite and will return to Gomshall Train Station following pre-planned route under remote supervision (approx. 8km).

3:00pm (approx.) - Start to return to KAA from Gomshall station via coach.

4:30pm (approx.) - Return to KAA.

Silver assessed expedition

Friday 15th July

8:30am - Meet at KAA. Students meet in dining hall over breakfast, last equipment check and registration.

9:30am - Depart KAA via coach which will take students to Gomshall station via coach.

10:30am - Practice Expedition begins. Students will be walking independently on pre-planned route. This will be completed under remote supervision.

Evening - Students will cook a warm meal and will be camping at Sayers Croft Outdoor Learning Centre (Cranleigh Rd, Ewhurst, Cranleigh GU6 7SS).

Saturday 16th July

8:00am - Following breakfast, students depart campsite and complete a pre-planned circular route around the Surrey Hills area returning to Sayers Croft Outdoor Learning. This will be completed under remote supervision (approx. 10km).

Evening - Students will cook a hot meal and will be camping at Sayers Croft Outdoor Learning Centre (Cranleigh Rd, Ewhurst, Cranleigh GU6 7SS).

Sunday 17th July

8:00am - Following breakfast students depart campsite and will return to Gomshall Train Station following pre-planned route under remote supervision (approx. 8km).

3:00pm (approx.) - Start to return to KAA from Gomshall station via coach.

4:30pm (approx.) - Return to KAA.

Students will be dismissed from KAA on our return. Should you wish to collect your child, please inform Miss O'Regan (i.oregan@kaa.org.uk) who will wait with them at the KAA student entrance.

What will I need for expedition?

Please see the comprehensive kit list attached to this letter that outlines what is required for the Duke of Edinburgh expedition. Bear in mind that all this equipment needs to fit into one bag (albeit it a large 65L bag) so pack wisely and ask if you have any questions.

Students must be wearing walking boots on the expedition as they will be walking on uneven ground, trainers **are not suitable**.

Students are also expected to provide all their personal food for the duration of the expedition. Students will be working in groups to devise a menu and determine which member is to bring which item of food.

If you require any financial support in purchasing any of the kit required, please do not hesitate to contact us on: i.oregan@kaa.org.uk or j.speakman@kaa.org.uk

Risks (remote walking)

On the practice walk students will be accompanied by a member of staff to support and develop navigational skills. On part of the practice walk and the expedition students will be remotely supervised.

Remotely supervised expeditions involve journeying, in groups, unaccompanied by staff. Staff will meet groups through the day, but if the group goes off their route there may be periods of a few hours when the group has no staff contact, and when the staff do not know the group's exact location. Participants are trained how to manage these journeys safely including going off route and dealing with emergencies.

Students will be remotely supervised for the duration of their journey on the assessed expedition. Students will be fully supervised at the campsite.

We will have a staff:student ratio of 1:7 on our trips. All staff have been trained to look after students outdoors and confidently lead in case of emergency. Both Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) link teachers have walked all the routes students will be walking and have identified appropriate teacher check points to ensure safety (e.g. road crossings). As per DofE guidelines, all students will be walking in groups of 4-7 people. In case of emergency, their group will be large enough to contact help.

GPS trackers will be used throughout the trip to monitor the location of students and will be used in case of emergency.

First Aid and Medications

The two DofE Leaders are first aid trained and will carry an extensive first aid kit and are aware of the nearest A&E. Students will be given basic first aid training and carry a first aid kit with them whilst walking remotely.

Any medication taken by students will be carried and administered by members of staff. Please email j.speakman@kaa.org.uk or i.oregan@kaa.org.uk detailing the medication, dosage, time and your permission for it to be administered.

Mobile Phones

The use of mobile phones is prohibited on a Duke of Edinburgh expedition and can lead to failure of the award.

Mobile phones can be a bit of a contentious issue on DofE expeditions. Essentially, DofE guidelines state that students may have individual mobile phones, but that they should be for emergency use only.

Therefore, if students do bring their phones, they'll be placed in sealed envelopes, turned off and kept by a member of staff at the beginning of the walk. We will also be giving one basic phone to each group, which will be kept on throughout their journey. Personal phones will also stay in envelopes whilst at campsite, to preserve their battery and the sense of isolation that is key to the expedition aims.

Why do the DofE have this policy?

Firstly, because students aren't allowed to use GPS navigation, which if they have their phones readily available, they could easily use.

They also give a false sense of security. Signal is not always available, or batteries may die, and students need to be prepared to use alternative ways of calling for help should something happen, for example finding the nearest habitation or shop.

We will be doing training with students on when they need to call for help, and when they need to deal with a situation themselves. E.g. realising they've taken a wrong turn isn't necessarily the time to call for help. They may just need to work out where they are on the map, and back track for 20 minutes.

Expedition handbooks states: "Persistent or deliberate misuse of mobile phones may lead the assessor to conclude that the team cannot fulfil condition two of the 20 conditions: to be isolated, unaccompanied, self-sufficient and remotely supervised."

On the practice and expedition walks students' phones will be placed in sealed envelopes. They will have school provided mobile phones for use in emergency.

We have tried to provide you with everything you need to know with regards to the expeditions. If you have any questions or concerns please contact us.

We hope that these expeditions will give your child an amazing opportunity to develop their independence, build friendships and enjoy the outdoors. Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely,

**Miss O'Regan and Miss Speakman,
Duke of Edinburgh Link Teachers**
i.oregan@kaa.org.uk j.speakman@kaa.org.uk

Expedition Kit List

Got it (or KAA provides)	Packed it	Item needed
Clothing		
		1 pair of walking boots (broken in)
		2-3 pairs of socks
		2-3 t-shirts
		2 fleece tops or similar
		2 walking trousers (warm, NOT jeans)
		Underwear
		Flipflops/trainers/sandals (optional for camp site use)
		1 pair shorts
		Waterproof jacket
		Waterproof trousers
		Sun hat
Personal Kit		
KAA		Rucksack
		Rucksack liner (or 2 strong plastic bags)
KAA		Sleeping mat
		Sleeping bag
		Torch (plus spare batteries)
		Expedition food (including emergency rations)
		Water bottle
		Knife, fork, spoon, plate, mug (plastic)
		Wash kit/toiletries
		Sun cream
		Small towel
		Watch
		Plasters
Group Kit		
KAA		Tent
KAA		Stove
		Tea towels
		Sponges
		Plastic bags (for rubbish etc)
KAA		Map & map case
KAA		Compass