

February 2017

Dear Parents and Students

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award – Practice Expedition

The Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award groups will be undertaking their practice expedition from 5th to 7th May in the Yorkshire Dales.

The expedition will begin in Leyburn (A684) on Friday 5th May and finish at Pinker's Pond, Coverdale on Sunday 7th May (map attached). We will depart from St Aidan's **at 7am** on Friday 5th by coach but students will need to be collected from Pinker's Pond, Coverdale (grid reference 114 869) around 4pm on the Sunday evening. *Please bear in mind that exact finish times depend on each group and we may contact you if they finish earlier.* If transportation home from the expedition causes problems please do not hesitate to contact us.

The cost of the expedition is £55: this covers the cost of transport, campsites and fuel for cooking. There is also a £25 refundable deposit payable at this stage for any individual and group kit borrowed from the school. This deposit will be held until after the Assessed Expedition in July and will be refunded directly if you use ParentPay, or to your son/daughter's catering card should you pay by cheque (allowing for any loss or damage to group or individual kit). Please complete the attached consent form and return it to Miss Phillpotts/Miss Blewitt as soon as possible. Payment can be made by cheque or via ParentPay. If paying by cheque, please make payable to St Aidan's and write your son/daughter's name of the back, along with their form and 'Gold Duke of Edinburgh'.

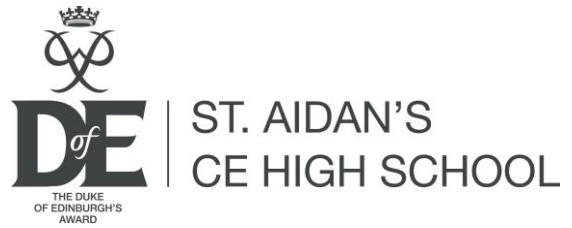
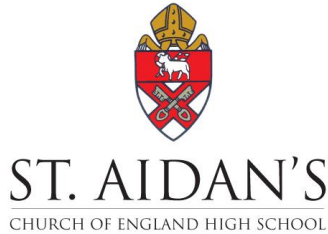
Information relating to health and emergency contacts will be taken from the medical form provided at the beginning of the school year. If there are any amendments to this information please make a note on the consent form. **If your son / daughter's medical details indicate that they need medication such as inhalers they must bring them on the trip, showing a member of staff before boarding the coach.**

Certain items of kit can be borrowed from school and students will reserve this in the forthcoming weeks. They will be able to collect their equipment during the week preceding the expedition.

The practice expedition itself will take the form of a physically demanding three-day walking expedition, carrying all necessary camping equipment, including the food required during the period. It is a Duke of Edinburgh requirement that participants be self-reliant during the expedition and therefore the purchase food and drink during this time and use of mobile phones, is not permitted. Students need only bring a mobile phone if they are one of two designated emergency contacts within their group. We would appreciate your support in this matter throughout the D of E.

Headteacher: Mr J Wood

St. Aidan's Church of England High School, Oatlands Drive, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8JR
Tel: 01423 885814 • Fax: 01423 884327 • Email: admin@staidans.co.uk • www.staidans.co.uk



After departing from Leyburn, participants will camp at Street Head Caravan Park in Bishopdale. On the second day they will walk into Nidderdale and camp near the Crown Hotel, Middlesmoor. On the third day they will make their way back towards Coverdale, to Pinker's Pond. Participants will be walking and camping unaccompanied in groups of four to seven, but will be checked regularly by members of staff from St Aidan's who will be staying nearby.

I will take my mobile phone, number 07824 883661 but there may not always be full reception in the Dales. The emergency contact for the expedition out of school hours is Mr Holdsworth on 07793 815824.

If you have any questions at all about the expedition, please do not hesitate to contact me or Miss Blewitt at school. Thank you for your co-operation and support.

Yours faithfully

Miss Phillpotts
Gold Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

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I consent to my son / daughter taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition in the Yorkshire Dales between Friday 5th and Sunday 7th May. **I have paid on ParentPay/I enclose a cheque*** for £80. I also confirm that any changes to the medical/emergency contact details provided are listed below:

Signed Parent / Guardian:

Student's Name:..... Tutor Group:.....

Please return to Miss Phillpotts/Miss Blewitt by Friday 3rd March

*Delete as appropriate

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