SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Prittlewell Chase, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 0RG
(01702) 606200 enquiries@shsb.org.uk www.shsb.org.uk

Headteacher: Robin M Bevan MA MEd PhD FRSA

February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition 2024

The DofE practice expedition will take place on **27th – 28th April 2024**. Students will need to **arrive at approximately 9:00 on the Saturday** and we expect that the boys should be finishing around **14:00-15:00 on the Sunday.** The practice weekend will take place in the Southend/Hockley area. The **assessed weekend** will follow the same pattern and will be on **18th – 19th May**, and will take place in the Hatfield Peveral/Danbury area. Further details about exact arrangements for the weekends will follow.

The **cost for the expedition and sign up to the DofE scheme will be £85**. This can be paid in **one instalment of £85 by 29th February** or **two instalments, one of £55 by 29th February and one of £30 by 31st March**. Should there be any difficulties in meeting these payments, please contact me to discuss alternative arrangements. A **medical form link** is below. This must be **completed by 31st March,** and any medication your child needs to take during the weekend should be listed on there. https://forms.office.com/e/mi7daiASdJ.

A **kit list is attached** to this letter. As the weather is very changeable during spring the kit is also, and students should be checking the weather before they pack to know whether a sun hat or woolly hat will be more appropriate, for example. Once the first payment is made, students will be signed up on the eDofE system, and as well as being able to log their progress they will also be able to access a discount code for 10% off at several major outdoor stockists. If more information is needed on equipment etc. then this may be found on the main Duke of Edinburgh Award website. **No student will be able to walk if they do not have a rain coat, a sleeping bag, and a first aid kit with any necessary medication as indicated by the medical form.**

All kit must be contained in a rucksack that is suitable for a walk. The rucksacks should have approximately 60L capacity and should have a waist band to support the weight of the bag. If students are not sure if the bag they have is suitable, we encourage them to bring the bags into school and/or talk to their leaders for advice.
Students will be given their part of the group kit in the week before the expedition. They must have this packed in their bag for the expedition.

Students will not be able to use their mobile phones during the expedition. We ask that all groups have at least one mobile phone available in case of emergencies. These will be taped into a

Southend High School for Boys Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (Company number 07485584)

waterproof bag and will not be opened unless needed. Students who bring mobile phones will be able to phone their parents to let them know a more accurate finishing time on the Sunday. Groups that wish to take photographs during the expedition may do so on a mobile phone, but will need to remove the SIM card. Any phones brought on expedition are at the owner's risk. **Should a mobile phone be used inappropriately by a student, they and the rest of their group/tent risk being deferred**, meaning they would have to complete the expedition again to complete their award.

If you are having trouble sourcing appropriate kit, the school does have a small selection of backpacks, sleeping bags, etc. that we can loan out. Please contact me or ask your sons to speak to me in school/during their training/planning sessions.

If there are any questions, or queries about payment or kit, or you son no longer wishes to participate in the DofE, please do not hesitate to contact me via KS4admin@shsb.org.uk.

Finally, please review the school's code of conduct for offsite visits below:
https://www.shsb.org.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1070

Yours sincerely,

Mr Sweeting