



# WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

An Academy Grammar School  
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January 2017



Dear Parents/Carers

## Duke of Edinburgh Gold Practice Expedition 10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> April 2017

We are looking forward to accompanying your daughter/son on their Gold Practice Expedition and with that in mind there are a few final details to be communicated.



### Pre Trip Meeting

On Tuesday 21st March 2017 in the main school hall. This will give you an opportunity to meet the staff accompanying the Gold Expeditions and also to meet one of the Adventure Expeditions instructors (Rik Wojtaszewski) and ask questions. The meeting will start at 7pm and last about an hour.



Science

### Consent Form

Students will be issued with an itinerary. As part of that document, there is a consent/medical form which is required by Adventure Expeditions. Please complete and return to me as soon as possible.



Engineering

### Medical/Contact Details

Please would you update Mrs Emery with any changes to medical or contact details regarding your daughter/son, particularly if you intend to be away whilst we are in Derbyshire. This can be by email to: [st-shirley.emery@whsg.info](mailto:st-shirley.emery@whsg.info)



### Payment

The next instalment of £180.00 if not already paid is due by 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2017. Please would you ensure that this is made in time as we will need to pay Adventure Expeditions. Should your daughter/son need to withdraw from the expedition, please contact Mrs Emery and she will advise you of any costs incurred that may need to be covered.



### Travel arrangements

We will be travelling in two minibuses the drivers of which are MiDAS qualified. The itinerary requires the students to arrive in Hathersage, Hope Valley, Derbyshire at 12 noon. We will be leaving school at 7am, please would you meet us at school at 6.45am. We will be travelling via the M1 with a stop at the Milton Keynes service area (dependent on traffic). From there we anticipate no further stops until Hathersage. Students will need to bring a packed lunch with them for the Monday and/or money to buy something en route.



"Supporting Excellence in Education"



For the return journey we will plan to leave Hathersage at 5pm on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April following the successful completion of the practice walks and route planning for the

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assessment. We will stop on our way back at MacDonalds in Chesterfield and students will need to bring money for that.

The students are allowed to bring their mobile phone with them but it will need to be switched off whilst they are on the expedition and they will receive further instructions from Adventure Expeditions about that. However, it will be useful for them to be able to contact you on our return journey to let you know an arrival time. We will drop off at three points on the way home: Pipp's Hill Retail Park (by SCS), Sainsburys car park at the Rayleigh Weir and Westcliff High School for Girls. Please would you let me know which is your preferred drop off point before the meeting in March.

### **Food for Expedition**

Students are expected to bring enough food for the entire expedition of 5 nights, although they will only be carrying enough for the nights that they are out on the walking bit of the expedition. Any food (and spare clothing) not required for the actual expedition can be left with Mrs Tompkins on the Wednesday morning prior to commencing the walk.

### **Staff Contact**

During our time in the Peak District, myself and Mr Tompkins will be available and will meet up with the students on a daily basis either at the bunkhouse accommodation or at the campsites whilst out on expedition. The instructors at Adventure Expeditions will be in daily contact with me regarding the students and any concerns that they may have. Please be advised, however, that supervision at this level is expected to be remote and therefore students are not closely monitored or supervised – it's all part of the adventure and challenge of Gold. Should you as parents need to contact us direct, we will let you have a mobile number that will be switched on during the evenings, at the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

Please feel free to contact me direct on [st-ali.tompkins@whsg.info](mailto:st-ali.tompkins@whsg.info) should you have any further questions about the practice expedition and we look forward to facilitating this exciting opportunity for your daughter/son.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Ali Tompkins

**D of E Coordinator – Silver and Gold**