

11 May 2017

Outwood Academy Bydales

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Dear Parent/Carer of «forename» «surname»

Clarification regarding Duke of Edinburgh arrangements – Guisborough Youth Centre

I thought I would write to you now that the Duke of Edinburgh expedition season is upon us. I am delighted by the large numbers of students who have committed to this excellent scheme, and indeed we have record numbers in the history of Outwood Academy Bydales and the predecessor school. As you may be aware, we have Year 9 students involved this year for the first time, and it may well be when some reach Year 11 they may achieve Gold. This is rare to secure in Pre-16 education.

It seems a good opportunity to clarify the arrangements for Duke of Edinburgh this year, as they differ from how we have approached this opportunity in the past. As I hope you are aware the whole award is run and organised by Guisborough Youth Club colleagues including Pete Buckby, a retired member of staff and his wife Elaine Buckby who is also responsible for oversight of DofE across Redcar and Cleveland.

We are grateful of the support of Guisborough in ensuring that such high numbers can continue and for taking sole responsibility for the planning, training sessions, risk assessments and supervision during both practice and qualifying expeditions.

It is important to note that the expeditions are not Outwood Academy Bydales school visits; these are expeditions run out of Guisborough Youth Club and as a result the usual risk assessments and insurance arrangements as well as decisions regarding levels of supervision are that of Elaine Buckby, co-ordinator. For your information all risk assessments put in place by Guisborough have to be approved by a Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council visits panel before trips can go ahead. It is also worth understanding that during the overnight stay at a campsite students are remotely supervised by colleagues from Guisborough. This means they are contactable by telephone either by the campsite owners if needed, or students themselves. It is the view of Elaine Buckby and her team, that in the spirit of the DofE award, which is designed to build independence and resilience, that no Guisborough colleague will be directly supervising overnight. Careful decisions are made about how to ensure effective remote supervision whilst ensuring arrangements are in place for emergencies. Please note that Outwood Academy Bydales staff do not supervise at the campsite overnight either. It is important that parents of students completing DofE are fully aware of this arrangement and should you have any further questions please contact Elaine Buckby via Elaine.Buckby@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk.

We also want to make it clear our role in supporting Guisborough, in that we provide a venue after school during Enrichment time for colleagues to come into the academy and work with young people on their preparation. We of course waive any lettings fees, and indeed use internal communication to remind students when sessions are on. This, in our opinion, makes it easier for more students to be involved as there is not the added complication of travelling to Guisborough for such sessions instead. In future years, in order to keep things simple and even more efficient, all payments for DofE will be made by parents directly to Guisborough Youth Club, and details of the cost for the entire year will be made clear at the start of the academic year by Guisborough colleagues.

I do hope your child enjoys the experience and I wish them well for their forthcoming qualifying expeditions in the next few months.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Wappat
Principal

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