



MAHARISHI SCHOOL

23 January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Staffing of Duke of Edinburgh expeditions

I am very pleased to announce that this year we will be holding our fifth set of expeditions for our Bronze and Silver groups. I am writing to ask you for help with the staffing of these expeditions. Richard Scott, who passed away last year, used to be our very competent Expedition leader. We currently have the support of a parent who used to be an operations officer for the DofE, who will be helping with expedition training and supervision. But we need more adults participating for us to be able to continue to offer expeditions.

Expeditions are held over 2 days (Bronze) and 3 days (Silver). Participants start their expeditions in a location, walk for around 12 km and end at the chosen campsite. On Practice expeditions they are closely supervised by an Expedition leader and ideally at least one "competent" (there is a specific definition for this by the DofE) adult per expedition group. On Qualifying expeditions participants are remotely supervised by an expedition leader and assessor, and ideally one "competent" adult per expedition group.

"Competent" adults are needed to help us support the expedition groups. There are waypoints along the routes known as checkpoints. All expeditions have to pass through their checkpoints, ideally by a certain time. On both types of expeditions these support staff would go ahead and wait at checkpoints to make sure everyone has passed safely by a certain time and then return to the campsite. They would be in contact with the group leader or expedition leader at all times in case any issues arise. No training is required for this except basic fitness and some basic understanding of first aid procedures and map reading as well as a DBS certificate. (DBS certificates can be obtained by the school if you do not already have one). Adults helping on check points do not need to camp with the group.

Support staff would only be needed for two weekends in the year - usually around May and June - which would include a Friday if we have a Silver expedition group. This year it will be on the weekends of 18 - 20 May and 8 - 19 June.

Headteacher: Mrs L Edwards BA(Hons), PGCE.

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If you think that you may be able to help us with this very important event in the school calendar, please urgently contact Mrs Ingram at the Secondary Phase to register your interest. You can do this by email: mingram@maharishischool.com or leave a message of your intent with the school office, or return the reply slip at the end of the letter to the school office.

Thank you in advance for your generous support with this.

With best wishes
Mareanna Ingram
Manager Dofe

If you would like to help out on expeditions, please indicate if you have any experience in any of these areas (please note experience is not required, any training needed will be provided)

First aid _____

Map reading _____

DBS _____

Availability for this year's expedition dates _____

NAME: _____

Contact number: _____