



# The Astley Cooper School

Aspiration, Determination, Integrity

9 March 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

As part of your child's Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) expedition in July, students are required to participate in a 10km walk. In order to support your child in completing their Bronze DofE expedition, we have decided to organise this trial walk. The walk will allow students to trial their walking equipment, practise their map reading skills and work in their allocated expedition groups.

The walk will be on Thursday 30 March, leaving Astley Cooper School at 12pm. The walk is a planned circular route commencing at Astley Cooper School and returning to school. We aim for the walk to take between 2-3 hours. When the students have completed their walk and returned to school, students can make their own way home as they may be returning after 3:15pm.

Please note, students will be completing the walk in their expedition groups without staff supervision. There will be designated checkpoints along the walking route which will be monitored by teachers. However as this is a practice to prepare students for their final expedition walk, students will be expected to work together in their expedition groups to complete the walk independently. The students will also have the ability to contact staff using a mobile phone during the walk in the case of an emergency.

Students will be in normal lessons period 1 and 2. Then, they will have a meeting to prepare for the walk and begin the walk from 12pm onwards. They will therefore need to be in school uniform during the morning from period 1 and 2 until the walk commences.

During the walk, students must be in suitable active outdoor clothing. This must include sturdy outdoor footwear, we recommend walking boots, however trainers will be acceptable for this walk. Students will have to carry their belongings with them. This is in preparation for their final expedition where they will have to carry their belongings and camping equipment. Therefore, please ensure that your child brings a suitable backpack for this day. Please note, students must be in appropriate outdoor clothing, as outlined, for them to participate in this walk.

In preparation for the walk, there will be a training session held on Wednesday 22 March after school for an hour. In this session, we will practise map reading skills as well as familiarising the students with the walking route and checkpoints.

Please note, students must attend the walk on Thursday 30 March in order to take part in the final expedition in July to achieve their Bronze DofE award.



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There is no cost for this walk; however, if you would like your child to participate, please log in to ParentPay to check your child's medical details are up to date and sign the consent to say that you are happy for them to participate in the walk from Astley Cooper School and make their own way home from school afterwards. Please login to ParentPay by Friday 17 March. We no longer require a paper reply slip and medical form.

It is your responsibility to notify the school and update any changes to medical/allergy or emergency contact details on ParentPay that occur after you have completed the online form.

If you would like any further information regarding DofE, please feel free to contact us.

Many thanks for your support and we look forward to helping your child achieve their DofE.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Alwis, Miss McLaughlin and Miss Oliver

DofE Coordinators

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