

7<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Parents,

### **Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

We have an extremely exciting opportunity for your daughter to complete her Gold Award expeditions in an array of locations this year. Below I have outlined what expeditions will be available for your daughter in order for her to complete her Gold Award.

#### **Gold Practice Expedition: 13<sup>TH</sup> – 18<sup>TH</sup> April 2019 The Peak District, UK**

Flying into Manchester and meeting our instructors, then taking a private transfer to Hathersage where we will route plan and undertake some training for the remainder of the day. Students will stay in clean, comfortable YHA accommodation in nearby Castleton. They will undertake a three day two-night practice expedition in the surrounding area with qualified instructors. Students will camp, be self-reliant and be supervised by staff and instructors throughout. This trip also includes 2 hearty pub meals, and use of all camping equipment. Flights, transfers, pub meals and all accommodation is included.

Your daughter will need additional spending money for airport meals and snacks.

**Cost: £500** (This cost is based on a minimum of 6 students participating).

#### **Gold Qualifying Expedition: 24<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> July 2019 The Peak District, UK**

Students will once again fly into Manchester where we will be met by our Adventure Expedition Instructors. We will have a private transfer to Hathersage, and then undertake route planning and training for the remainder of the day, Students will enjoy a hearty pub meal ready for four days and three nights out on expedition. Students will walk a different, more challenging route around the Peaks. Students will then enjoy a celebratory meal on the day they complete their expedition, followed by a comfy night's sleep in the YHA. Flights, transfers, pub meals and all accommodation is included.

Your daughter will need additional spending money for airport meals and snacks.

**Cost: £500** (This cost is based on a minimum of 6 students participating).

## **Gold Practice & Qualifying Expedition – 24<sup>th</sup> July – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019**

### **The Peak District, UK & Slovenia**

Much like the above two trips, this is also a fully inclusive trip with the added twist that students fly to Slovenia to complete their Qualifying expedition. We have combined the practise and qualifying expeditions on this trip to minimise travel time and cost, as well as planning an exciting expedition that has plenty of interest combined with a bit of culture and sightseeing.

Students will arrive in Manchester with the above qualifying group, and head to Hathersage to settle in, route plan and complete some training. They will also be staying in the YHA when not on expedition. Students will plan, and undertake a three day two-night expedition where they will be supervised by Adventure Expedition instructors.

On completion of their practice expedition, students will have a day free before departing to Slovenia. This will be spent doing Slovenia specific route planning and training. There will also be some free time for the girls to explore the nearby village and stock up on any snacks and kit they feel they may need for Slovenia. We usually do a pizza dinner for the girls the night before we fly.

Slovenia is new on the agenda this year, and will be the first DofE trip for our students. The format will follow that of the Poland/Slovakia trip from the previous two years.

Arrive into Slovenia and take a private transfer to our starting hostel in Kranjska Gora. Students will all enjoy a welcome meal at a local restaurant. Everyone departs on expedition with various instructors'/college staff remotely supervising groups. Expedition will last for four days and three nights in the Soca Valley, and the girls will enjoy 'camping' in remote mountain huts. Students will stay in hostel accommodation when not on expedition. We also have a few celebratory meals included as well as some additional activities in and around Lake Bled. We have spent a day sightseeing and white water rafting, as well as visiting Auschwitz Concentration Camp on previous trips. I will absolutely look at booking something exciting for the girls to enjoy post expedition. This will definitely be an unforgettable and extremely rewarding trip!

**Cost: £1450**

#### **All trips.....What is included?**

- All accommodation; Camping, Bunkhouses, Hostels or Mountain huts
- Two evening meals in the Peak District + Pizza Night
- Private transfers between Manchester airport and Peak District
- Use of all group equipment is included in the cost (tents, stoves, pots and pans, gas for stoves, group shelters, group first aid kits, maps, training materials and route planning briefs)
- All flights, including 20kg luggage
- Qualified Mountain Leaders

#### **What's included with the Slovenia Trip?**

- Breakfasts in hostel and a number of evening meals in Slovenia
- Private coach transfers between Slovenia airport and expedition town / city
- Transfers within Slovenia
- Insurance that covers trekking in Europe
- One-day excursion in Slovenia including an adventurous activity.
- Sightseeing/shopping
- Qualified Mountain Leaders

Students will need to supply their own meals whilst on expedition which is part of their expedition preparation. There will be an opportunity to purchase food in Manchester for the practise, and Slovenia for the qualifying expedition. Food in Slovenia is very cheap to buy, and there will be plenty of camping shops to buy supplies. You can even pre-book expedition meals and collect these on arrival to the Peak District.

## **Payment**

College may be able to provide bursary support for students who cannot meet the cost of taking the gold award. Please contact Miss Bridge our Bursar to discuss your options.

[bursar@ladiescollege.ac.gg](mailto:bursar@ladiescollege.ac.gg)

Please return the initial interest form to school by Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December to register your interest in one of the above trips. Deposits will be requested by Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019. Please make a note of the payment plan attached.

Cheques are to be made payable to **‘The Ladies’ College Duke of Edinburgh’s Award’**.

## **Parents’ evening**

We will hold a parents evening during Lent term 2019 where you will have the opportunity to discuss the forthcoming trips with me. I will write to you in due course to confirm dates and times.

Once we have received your initial interest forms, we will write home with a more detailed itinerary for your chosen expedition. In the meantime, should you have any further questions about the trips, please do not hesitate to email me.

My office hours are:

Tuesday 1-4

Thursday 09.30 – 4

Friday 09.30 – 1.30

[lmitchinson@ladiescollege.ac.gg](mailto:lmitchinson@ladiescollege.ac.gg)

Yours sincerely



Miss L. Mitchinson (D of E Co-ordinator)  
**The Ladies’ College**

**Attached:**

**Initial Interest Form**  
**Payment dates**

## **Payment Details**

**Trip 1 - Gold Practice Expedition: 13th – 18th April 2019**  
The Peak District, UK

**Deposit:** £250 - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019

**Final Payment:** £250 - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February

**Trip 2 - Gold Qualifying Expedition: 24th – 29th July 2019**  
The Peak District, UK

**Deposit:** £250 - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March

**Final Payment:** £250 - Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April

**Trip 3 - Gold Practice & Qualifying Expedition – 24th July – 7th August 2019**  
The Peak District, UK & Slovenia

**Deposit:** £250 – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019

**Second Payment:** £300 – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February

**Third Payment:** £300 – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March

**Forth Payment:** £300 – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April

**Final Payment:** £300 – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May