



Reminder- D of E Silver ORANGE Paddle Practice Expedition 20- 23 April LOCATION CHANGE

[Ocean Rock Parents Information Evening PPT](#)

Dear Parents

The expedition season is upon us. Please find below important information in preparation for the upcoming expedition as well as the Information Evening PPT with Ocean Rock directed at Bronze, Silver and Gold reminding your child of appropriate food and clothing choices.

Change of Mode and Location-

We have been monitoring the weather closely over the past two months and unfortunately, due to the heavy rain that has occurred over the past month or so the water levels in the river are too high for Ocean Rock to run the practice expedition safely at the original location.

Following considering the options of cancelling the paddle expeditions completely, moving all Silvers to Foot only, what we consider to be a safe and enjoyable solution was put forward-

Fortunately Ocean Rock have a reservoir license which means that we can still enable our students to have a paddle based expedition however it will be **based on reservoirs/canals instead of the river for their practice**. To ensure they meet their DofE requirement we have converted their expedition to a **Mixed Mode (Foot and Paddle Expedition)** to ensure they can travel between reservoirs and canal systems.

We realise students did not sign up for a foot expedition and as such they may not have walking boots or may be worried about their rucksack weight, please see the frequently asked questions that Ocean Rock have put together to reassure them. We appreciate this change of mode and location will be a surprise and perhaps disappoint some of the students but it is for their safety and weather permitting we do still intend for the paddle section of their assessed expedition to be on the river (with a little walking near the campsite to align with their practice).

FAQ:

- Swimmers & towels still needed for the WSTD, there are showers at Dolygaer Campsite. Student bags containing wet swimmers need not be carried on either the paddle/foot day, they can be transported in the OceanRock van.
- The water Sports Training Day will still include the Capsize Drill
- To paddle on the Brecon Reservoirs requires a License, which OceanRock hold. It is a beautiful venue, not open to the General Public, right in the heart of the mountains.
- Kit for the walk: trainers are suitable if you do not have walking boots.
- Bring a larger rucksack if you have one, but small school bag style bag will suffice if it is all you have.
- There is a local Fish and Chip Shop where we can try to buy hot food for Saturday night; fish and chips are £10.00.
- All Hire kit orders will remain.

Hired Equipment-

If you have hired a rucksack from STRS your child will have collected it before the Easter break, they can keep hold of this for the duration of the Practice and Assessed Expedition. If your child hired personal equipment through Ocean Rock this will be given to your child at the start point.

*Group Equipment that Ocean Rock supplies on the day of the Practice Expedition - Tent, Trangia Stoves, Maps (2 per group), **Ocean Rock Emergency Contact Details.***

STRS Trips Phone (Mrs Rigby-Smith) - 07367 440 335

Dates to remember:

Practice Expedition Transportation is by parental drop off and pick up.

Day 1- Saturday 20th April

Water Sports Training Day (WSTD).

Meet point: Dolygaer Activity Centre, Parkwood Outdoor, Dolygaer, Pontsticill, CF48 2UR

Google Maps Link: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/6qxbmVJiP6EJ6gKW6>

What3words: asset.wager.tangling

Meet time: All Teams 13.00

Day 2- Sunday 21st April

Canoe Journey at Pontsticill

Campsites Days 1&2:

Dolygaer Activity Centre, Parkwood Outdoor, Dolygaer, Pontsticill, CF48 2UR

Day 3 – Monday 22nd April

Walk from Pontsticill to Pencelli

Campsite Day 3:

Pencelli Castle Caravan & Camping Park, Pencelli, Brecon, Powys, Wales, LD3 7LX

Day 4 Tuesday 23rd April

Canoe Journey on the Brecon & Monmouth Canal

Meet point: Brecon Canal Wharf Canal Rd Brecon, Powys LD3 7EW

What3words: introduce.revisits.renewals

Google Maps Link: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/9ZR4zchWfJB1b2S56>

Pick up time: All teams 14.30.

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Note: Address information is accurate with Google Maps. Due to the rural location of venues, postcodes alone will rarely be accurate. Please consider this when using SatNavs and check locations with Google Maps before.

Teams

Teams lists are on Satchel One. If students have any queries about this please email me.

eDofE Sections

At this point, your child should have completed at least one section of their award and all sections should be in progress (If your child has not entered information on the eDofE app and submitted it for approval it will not be in progress- please get them to check). In order to get a section marked off as completed their assessor must submit an assessor's report. Their assessor will need the following information:

- ID number (this is on the eDofE account)
- Level of Award (Bronze, Silver or Gold)
- Section they are assessing (Volunteering, Physical or Skill)
- Timescale (3 months or 6 months at Bronze and Silver, 12 or potential 18 months at Gold)

They will need to submit their report via this link: [Assessor's Report - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award \(dofe.org\)](#)

Please remember parents/caregivers/relatives and under-18s cannot be assessors.

Hopefully, this will answer any questions you have but, as always, if you have any queries please email me (cer@strs.org.uk).

Best wishes

Mrs Rigby-Smith

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