



Beths Blog

Week ending Friday 4 May 2018

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award – Practice Expedition

Last weekend, the hardier members of Year 11 and 12 made it down to the Ashdown Forest for the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award practice expedition. Aply accompanied by Messrs Law, Reason, McCartin and Parsons, pitching their tents in the pouring rain, they prepared for two days of full on hiking and navigation in and around the Hundred Acre Wood where Pooh and Piglet made their names in AA Milne's classic 'House at Pooh Corner'.



Campcraft is a crucial part of any expedition and, after an attempt on their own, they were treated to a fire-making masterclass from Mr Law. Fortunately the torrential overnight rain stopped for the two days walking, although it was very cold. Map-reading skills improved over time, as did pace and stamina. We should never

underestimate the value of the DofE award, and over the weekend, there emerged some very obvious candidates to progress onto the Gold award.

My personal thanks to Mr Law and Mr Reason for the amount of work they put in to preparing our students for what is a really rewarding challenge.

By Mr Parsons

Year 10 Geography Field Trip to Reculver

The Geography Department led the first of two GCSE field trips to Reculver on Wednesday in torrid conditions! The 109 students taking part from Year 10 did exceptionally well mustering their Dunkirk spirit and completing their data



collection in challenging conditions. The April showers certainly descended on the party! Well done all Year 10 geographers.

By Mr Hegarty



Up and Coming Activities/Events

Tomorrow (Saturday), nearly 50 of our Year 8 students will be attending a trip, organised by the Geography Department, to the Green Britain Centre in Norfolk. The students will be able to scale the giant Wind Turbine where they will be able to reach the viewing platform under the turbine blades. This will give them a fantastic panoramic view of the surrounding area. This trip has been organised to inspire and motivate the students and to give them an understanding of the task we face for a low-carbon future.

Next Thursday is the Year 8 Parents Evening. This will be their first time of using the 'on-line booking system' which, following a few tweaks along the way, appears to now be working well.

Monday 14 May sees the examination season start in earnest with GCSE Computer Science and Religious Studies, and AS English Language, Psychology, DT Production Design and Further Mathematics taking place on the day. Good luck to all the students about to sit their exams.

Finally, the weather has brightened and we have a Bank Holiday to enjoy and look forward to. Enjoy the extra day and we look forward to seeing you all back in school on Tuesday 8 May.

Students on Site

A reminder that there are still an increasing number of students arriving particularly early in the morning and staying late into the evening. The school actually opens for students at 8.00am in the morning and we would encourage all students (unless they are remaining for pre-arranged activities) to have left the site by 5.00pm.

This request is being made as we are unable to supervise students outside of these times and we can therefore take no responsibility for them, should they be involved in any form of incident. It would therefore be helpful if we could ask parents to please discourage their sons and daughters from being on the school site outside of these times.

Safety and Courtesy

On a more serious note, we would like to remind parents, students and staff to continue to be respectful of our neighbours and not park across their driveways. The safety of our students continues to be our utmost priority and so we also ask that, if you are dropping off or collecting your son or daughter, you abide by the road markings and refrain from parking on zig-zags or double yellow lines.

We have also received a couple of calls from members of the public about parents dropping students in the morning actually on the roundabout at the top of Bourne Road – close to Dartfordians. This is obviously extremely dangerous not just for other road users, but also for the students themselves. We would urge that parents please find a safe place to drop-off their child/children for school.