

Headteacher: Mr D. Whales | Chair of Governors: Mr A. Brown

20<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Following the **information evening in March** I wanted to share some of the details for those of you who didn't attend. I have also included a very slimmed down version of the PowerPoint for reference.

During the evening, I shared the following information

1. Why the charity exists.
2. What the charity does - I shared some examples including Peterborough Hospital donations, the Woodlands Garden in Huntingdon, Malcolm's Retreat and the latest project The Malcolm Whales Centre. All of these can be seen on the charity website [www.tmwf.co.uk](http://www.tmwf.co.uk)

In terms of the Dorset trip:

1. We leave Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July at about 8.30am.
2. Equipment can be dropped of the day before (I will email nearer the time to confirm)
3. The 'away team' who go down on Wednesday will be Year 11 and Sixth Form volunteers - I will ask for these nearer the time.
4. Food is provided Thursday pm. We stop at the services halfway to Dorset.
5. Evening meal is provided every night except Friday night where we go to the local seaside town. They buy their own tea (fish and chips etc). They stay in groups of 4 and have some free time. If they don't like the food, we have hot water for pot noodles etc. All dietary needs are considered.
6. Breakfast is - cereal (bring your own) we provide milk, hot drinks are free. Bacon Rolls are available each morning to purchase.
7. Showers are communal in the changing rooms (x6). They are separate for adults, students and genders - bring a swimsuit/shorts. There are also two separate individual cubicled blocks that we hire in. There are longer queues for these so the changing rooms are much easier to access.
8. Tents - you can share with whoever you like (same gender) we camp as a school and separate girls and boys.
9. Saturday night is presentation and BBQ night. If you have been twice you get a certificate, three times a trophy and five times a glass.
10. We walk whatever the weather - check the weather and prepare. Sun cream, hat, water bottle, waterproof coat...

Headteacher: Damien Whales, Ken Stimpson Academy is a school within the Four Cs Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)

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11. You don't need walking boots we stick to a public path. If you buy new shoes wear them in - blisters will be one of the biggest challenges faced.
12. Equipment - one big bag and a ruck sack. Tents, sleeping bags, pillows etc don't need to go in the big bag. NAME EVERYTHING please. A t-shirt is provided every day.
13. They will go out of their comfort zone. They will be physically, mentally and emotionally tested. They might phone you and ask for you to come and pick them up - please don't! Not until you have spoken to us. Being tired and a bit home sick is not a good enough reason for you to drive an 8 hour round trip.
14. The walking is extremely challenging. I strongly suggest some practice 10 mile plus walks. We will do more than that each day, on some very challenging terrain - whilst 'sleeping' in tents to 'recover'. New participants underestimate it, the first day and a half are quite a shock to the system...
15. We don't carry the tents. We have a camp in Wareham and get transported to the start each day. We are also picked up at the end of each day.
16. During the day we have support teams who meet us at a couple of points each day. They provide additional water, food etc. They also collect any injuries.
17. If they can't walk they stay at camp (with DBS'd volunteers / teachers). We will contact you to let you know if this is the case.

#### What I need from you:

- I really need you all to complete the permissions form - this also gives me t-shirt sizes, which I need to order as soon as possible. Link here <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=F9oNNRvs8EukzsRR1AsZorIUUXdIZPRIjByAkwraqhUODc3M0FXVjM0NzVKTEk4MTU1SkROWU1QSi4u&route=shorturl>
- Final payment is due by the end of May
- The walk is very admin heavy - please help me by completing the above to reduce the amount of chasing I have to do - thank you 😊

#### Sponsorship

- A big part of the Dorset Walk is that it is a charity fundraiser. Each participant is expected to raise money the link for the KSA sponsorship page is here [KSA's Dorset Walk 2026 - JustGiving](#)

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## Social Media

- Please do follow us - help spread awareness to people who need our help. Throughout the walk I share regular updates and 'Facebook lives' which parents really enjoy and your children will endure...

The walk is without question one of the most rewarding events your child will participate in. It means so much because it demands so much. The more prepared they are the easier they will find it. If they find it challenging - that is the point. They will be outside the comfort zone - they will make it, you will be very proud of them for raising money and supporting families impacted by cancer.

As I say every year - your children will change as a result of this experience - always for the better!

Thank you for your support.



**Mr D Whales**

[Previous letter link](#)

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