

Headteacher: Mr D. Whales | Chair of Governors: Mr T. French

DWS

10th November 2023



Dear Parent/Carer

Malcolm Whales Sponsored Walk 2023 – (11th to 15th July 2024)

I am delighted that as a school we will again be taking part in The Malcolm Whales Dorset Walk in July 2024 for the fifth time.

The Dorset Walk is open to students in Years 9, 10, 11 and 6th Form. The trip consists of a 3-day, 40 mile sponsored walk, along the Jurassic Coast in Dorset. The walk sets off from the seafront in Weymouth and finishes at Studland near Poole. The route is **extremely challenging** with numerous ascents and descents along the way.

The walk raises funds for The Malcolm Whales Foundation, a charity set up to raise awareness and funds to support those suffering from cancer, especially as a child or teenager. Over the last 14 years with the help and support of hundreds of walkers, the foundation has managed to raise over £420,000.

Your son/daughter has shown an interest in participating in the walk. Details are outlined below:

- Cost: **£150**
- Depart **Thursday 11th July** and return **Monday 15th July 2022**.
- Thursday and Monday are travel days.
- Each day we will walk approximately 14 miles.
- We will be camping for 4 nights at the same campsite – ‘Burnbake Campsite’.
- We do not carry our equipment we are dropped and picked up at the start and end of each day.
- All food and drink will be provided. A small amount of spending money will be required. (On one of the nights, participants purchase their own dinner in the local town).
- Participants sleep in their own tents, which they share with their friends.

There is a short fitness test. If you, or we, have any concerns about your potential ability to complete the walk, we may ask you to participate in this very short test.

The test can be completed at school or at any gym. The test attempts to replicate the intensity of the walk on a very limited scale. The test is a 20 minute inclined walk (15%) at 3mph, on a treadmill. It is not so much a pass/fail it is an attempt to get students to appreciate the physical nature of the walk.

There are a limited number of places for this trip, and these will be awarded on a ‘first come, first served basis’. To secure your child’s place, please complete attached online sign-up form as soon as possible along with a **minimum £40 deposit**, this must be paid via ParentPay. The rest of the payment can then be paid in instalments, with the final payment needing to be paid by **24th May 2024**.



The £150 is the total cost of this trip. This includes walk t-shirts and food each day. We do try and offer some financial support for those families that are experiencing significant financial hardship. We are desperate that no child should be unable to participate due to cost. Please contact your child's Head of Year for further details.

The £150 doesn't completely cover the costs, we are very keen to receive additional financial support. We are looking for business/personal donations or any sponsorship towards specific aspects (the cost of transport/accommodation/t-shirts etc). I can provide breakdown of individual costs if anybody thinks they may be able to help in anyway. You may also consider offering to sponsor a student place for £150 to help enable access for all.

This experience introduces students to charity, as such, all participants are expected to raise sponsorship ideally through a personal JustGiving page that can be created to support The Malcolm Whales Foundation.

Further information can be found via the charity website tmwf.co.uk and via our various social media platforms – just search for 'The Malcolm Whales Foundation or TMWF'. There will also be an information evening that will explain further logistical details (the time and date for this is yet to be confirmed and won't be until the new year).

With your participation and your support, we are able to make a massive difference to the lives of those children and families affected by cancer. If you have any questions, or able to offer support please don't hesitate to contact me d.whales@kscs.org.uk.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Whales
Headteacher

This short video was created to celebrate 15years of this walk:

[The Malcolm Whales Foundation - YouTube](#)

Please complete the sign-up form here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/xDMaQemsgS>

