



Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust

Ref: MAB/LAT

5th September 2023

Dear Parents and Families,

Okehampton College is part of the
Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust family



OKEHAMPTON COLLEGE SPONSORED WALK

The sponsored walk is a yearly tradition for the college, over the years our students have raised thousands of pounds for various charities which has been truly amazing, this is also a great day out for students and staff at the beginning of the academic year. The event will run this year on **Friday 22nd September**, during the school day.

Our walk in September 2022 raised over £6,000 for various charities. This year our charities have once again been chosen by our tutor teams, our local charity will be Devon Air Ambulance, our national charity is Cancer Research UK, and the international charity is Make a Wish Foundation. This is a challenging event but a wonderful opportunity to raise money for these very worthy causes. Any sponsor money or donations will need to be collected and paid to the college via your child's online SchoolGateway account by Friday 6th October. This specific payment offer will go live on your child's account once the event has taken place. Please be advised that the college are not able to accept any cash.

The walk not only gives students the opportunity to support worthy causes but also enables them to build relationships within their tutor groups while enjoying the natural environment and benefiting from the healthy exercise of an 8-mile walk.

The walk will take place throughout the school day, appropriate clothing and footwear must be worn, in particular stout shoes are very important and sunscreen should we be lucky enough to have a warm day. A packed lunch with plenty of snacks along with plenty of drinking water are also essential. No additional food or drink is available on the walk so please ensure at least 2 litres of water (not fizzy drinks) are carried and more food than students would bring on a normal school day to keep their energy levels up.

Students will walk in their tutor groups accompanied by their tutor wherever possible. In addition, there are four control points on the route where first aid can be provided. Students could be taken by minibus back to college should the need arise. Throughout the day, there are senior students who will act as marshals and assist where necessary. Temporary toilet facilities will be available at two locations on the moor.

In order for the event to be a success we have a few health and safety guidelines; headphones, speakers and sports equipment are not allowed as they prevent pupils from hearing traffic when on roads and also deter from the aim of the event; bonding as a tutor group.

Okehampton College
Mill Road
Okehampton
EX20 1PW

Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust
Holsworthy Training and Business Centre
Western Road, Holsworthy, Devon, EX22 6DH

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Students must register as a tutor group at all control points and not pass through a control point without the permission of their tutor. Pupils should endeavour to walk closely with their tutor group at all times.

Important information about permissions to take part.

To enable your child to participate in the walk, we must receive parental permission via your child's online SchoolGateway account, no later than **Sunday 17th September**, this allows us plenty of time to finalise staffing, registers, and other paperwork essential to the event.

When logging permission on SchoolGateway, please use the comments box provided to leave any information concerning your child's medical needs, or anything that staff may need to be aware of during the walk. Please also make it clear in the comments box if you do **not** wish for any photographs of your child to be taken during the event and used for promotional purposes, such as the following:

- On the college / DMAT website
- On the college / DMAT social media page (e.g. Facebook)
- Throughout the college on display boards

If we have not received parental consent, then your child will remain in school where there will be staff to supervise their school-based work. In this case your child should wear their full school uniform and the normal times of the school day will apply.

If you experience any issues with logging consent on SchoolGateway, please contact Mrs Thompson in the curriculum support office, lhompson@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk

If you have any concerns regarding your child's ability to complete the route, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance.

We hope that your child is looking forward to taking part in this sponsored walk and raising money for these amazing charities.

Yours faithfully

Mr M Bailey

Sponsored Walk Co-Ordinator

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