



Mearns Academy
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Ref: GC/DA/SL

Date: 1st July 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Sponsored Walk – Friday 16th September 2022

I am writing to inform you about this years Sponsored Walk, which is being organised to take place on **Friday, 16th September 2022**. We are all delighted that the walk will go ahead this year as I know it is an absolute highlight of the year for both staff and young people.

A consent form must be completed for all pupils prior to the walk. Please complete the online consent form via the following link:

[Mearns Academy Sponsored Walk 2022 Consent Form](#)

How can I sponsor?

For this event we will be using an online platform to collect sponsor money. I would appeal for your support in encouraging your child to both participate in the walk and by encouraging them to try and raise money through sponsorship. There will also be the opportunity to donate cash on the day during Tutor Time.

A sponsorship link has been created through just giving:

[Sponsorship Form - Mearns Academy Sponsored Walk](#)

Please share the link via social media and amongst family and friends.

About the Walk

The walk will begin before 10 a.m. when pupils will be bused to the start of the walk near Auchenblae. They will walk for a distance of approximately 15 kilometres during the day, through Drumtochty Forest and be collected by bus to return to school.

Each pupil should bring:

- A water bottle and packed lunch
- waterproof jacket and trousers
- rucksack or shoulder bag to carry lunch, etc.
- insect repellent
- comfortable sturdy footwear
- non-school uniform**
- fancy dress for pupils in S6 only**

Staff will be supervising the route either by walking with pupils or at the checkpoints.

Our school code of conduct of: **Be Considerate, Be Responsible and Be Safe** will apply at all times during the walk.

Any young person who cannot be trusted to respond appropriately will not be allowed to go on the walk or be removed during the event.

Return to school

Pupils will return to school in the afternoon from around 2pm until 3.30pm.

On return to school, pupils who do not require school transport **will be allowed to go home**. Please confirm your permission via consent form above.

Medical Information

If there is any medical condition which we do not have on our records and you think we should be aware of before your child participates in this sponsored walk, please email mearns.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Where does the money go?

Our Sponsored Walk is the major fund-raising event for the school fund. It supports a number of activities and events throughout the year which benefits all young people within Mearns Academy. The money raised contributes to pupil experience both inside and outside the classroom. As an event it brings our school community together and gives the young people a sense of achievement. Please see below just a couple of examples as to how our Sponsored Walk fundraising benefits the pupils of Mearns Academy.

- Prize Giving
- Recognising Achievement Awards
- Registration fees / memberships for groups/clubs
- Heavily subsidise transport costs for class trips, events, competitions
- Extra-curricular groups – equipment/resources
- House Competitions & Events
- Sports Days / Activities Day
- Subsidising school ties

This year we have agreed that 15% of the profit raised will be donated to a local charity. This is the first time we have made such a contribution and we delighted that such a highlight of our school year can also contribute positively to our local community. The charity will be selected by our Pupil Council following the Sponsored Walk.

At Mearns Academy we are proud of our Sponsored Walk and I am sure our Sponsored Walk 2022 will be another successful event which your child will enjoy. Let's hope the weather will be kind to us!

Yours sincerely,



Gareth Campbell
Head Teacher