



# Arthur Mellows Village College

Graded Outstanding consecutively by Ofsted (November 2009 and December 2014)  
"Constant improvement provides students with outstanding opportunities to learn"

Helpston Road, Glinton, Peterborough, PE6 7JX  
office@arthurmellows.org

Tel: (01733) 252235  
www.arthurmellows.org

Head of College: Mr J Gilligan, BSc (Hons), PGCE, NPQEL

EKA/FLE/Admin/2023-24/Dept Type/Trips/Charity/Dorset Walk final letter 3

24 June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

## MALCOLM WHALES SPONSORED DORSET WALK 2024 FINAL ARRANGEMENTS: THURSDAY 11 JULY – MONDAY 15 JULY 2024

We are now just three weeks away from the Dorset Walk 2024. I thought I would contact you with some updates and additional information.

I have held several meetings with students, and I will be holding another, final meeting with them at the start of July. They all have access to a Teams group where they can ask me questions. There are some key things I need you as parents/carers to do and be aware of which are detailed below. If you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself or the Deputy Leader, Ms Lewis. There is also a box available in the forms link below for you to ask us questions.

Please complete this form by **Monday 1 July 2024** with final medical information and emergency contacts while we are away. Students will not be able to attend without this information being provided.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=mf3fnJGjkkSLiwO47x2kjBocSkH7MFxHtzlOQqFihMVUQzhESjRGQjRSNFq1M0xZOTc1NTFENDQyQi4u>

### Before we leave:

- **Final payments** should now have been made and should total **£150.00**.
- **Dropping of equipment:** please drop tents and bags off on **Monday 8 July 2024** at Main Reception or your child can bring them to **GP1**. All equipment must be brought in by 12.00 noon and can be dropped off from 8.00 am, as they are being collected after school by the charity. We advise that each student can take one big bag, along with a sleeping bag/pillow/blow up mattress/tent. They will also need a small rucksack to carry while they walk. They can bring on the coach anything that they do not want to send in advance. **It is essential that everything is labelled, and all students will be provided with personalised labels week commencing the 1 July. If you need these earlier, please indicate in the forms link above or email me directly a via office@arthurmellows.org**

### On the day: Thursday 11 July 2024

- We will be departing from the bus playground at **8.30 am Thursday 11 July** and **students should report to the staff team by 8.20 am**.
- Students will need to ensure that they have any medical items with them and the staff leader for their group will check this. eg inhaler, epipen etc

Head of College: J Gilligan      Arthur Mellows Village College is a school within the Four Cs Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)  
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- We have a long coach journey to Dorset, so students need to be carrying refreshments and any entertainment for the coach. Please keep valuables to a minimum eg no tablets or gaming consoles etc, but mobile phones and headphones are fine, and are carried at their own risk.

#### **While we are there:**

- We camp at Burnbake Campsite in Corfe Castle. We set up and stay at this campsite - we do not carry equipment.
- Your child will need **money** for the services, the night in Swanage and for any additional purchases. Lunch and tea are provided each day (apart from the night in Swanage).
- It is recommended that students bring some cereal bars for breakfast and any snacks that they may want during the Dorset Walk.
- **Tents** can be shared with whoever students would like to (of the same gender), keeping in mind that the size guide for tents are quite small! Some students have already indicated who they want to share with, but we will not be carrying spare tents so please make sure your child has their own tent or you know who they are sharing with.
- Staff will be staying in the same area as students so they will be safe and monitored at all times.
- There is a **tuck shop** where students can buy snacks and Lucozade. They also sell hoodies/caps and other merchandise. These can be **card or cash payments.**
- Students will have access to their mobile phones and we have electricity where they will be able to charge them, but it may be advisable for them to have a battery pack to keep charge during the days when we are walking, especially if they intend to take lots of pictures and videos of their walk.
- All students will be provided with a personalised water bottle (courtesy of Ms Kavanagh and AMVC).
- **Sun cream and a hat is essential**, these will be checked as students get onto the bus each walking day (as well as water).
- **Footwear** - students do not have to wear walking boots (and we suggest not doing so if they have not been walked in already), many of us walk in trainers (usually ones with good grip).
- **Blisters** - are likely to happen so please ensure that your child has some Compede blister plasters packed just in case. The staff team will also carry some of these.
- **Equipment:** <https://tmwf.co.uk/events/dorset-walk/> - scroll down towards the bottom of the page for the equipment list. Use this when packing! Pack for the 'British summertime' check the forecast!

#### **Return: Monday 15 July 2024**

We return on Monday 15 July 2024 at approximately 3.00 pm. We are travelling via a coach. You will be able to collect your child from the bus playground (Entrance A) from 3.30 pm once we have debriefed following the journey. We will contact you on the day to provide an accurate pick-up time. Please note students **do need** to be collected as they will have all their tents etc from the trip and these cannot be carried on school transport.

#### **Sponsorship**

Many of the students have already set up their *JustGiving* page, but if they have not started to collect sponsorship, please encourage them to get this sorted as this is the main reason this event has such a positive impact on the charity, with students raising on average over £100 minimum each, which is fantastic. Students can set up their JustGiving page by going to: [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) and then creating an account. Once they have done this, they then use this link to Join the AMVC team: <https://www.justgiving.com/team/amvc?invite=true>. This allows for them to gain sponsorship individually by sharing the link with friends and family but also to contribute to the overall AMVC pot for TMWF. So far, we have raised £3,746 which is incredible and an amazing effort by the team.

- As a charity, we are currently building a Lakeside Retreat in order to give families respite (<https://tmwf.co.uk/tmwf-lakeside-retreat/>) please have a look at what is being achieved!

### **Walking**

- We walk about 14 miles a day. The terrain is extremely challenging - it is a footpath, but it is very steep!

### **Communication with home**

- The walk is physically, mentally and emotionally challenging! It will test and build resilience in your child.
- With mobile phones you have easy access to your child. The walk is tough, camping can also be challenging. If your child calls you and asks you to collect them. Please do not do this unless you have contacted a member of staff.
- We will have a trip mobile phone that you can use to contact us if there are any problems, and we will share this number with you the week commencing the 8 July 2024.

### **Merchandise**

- While we are in Dorset, we sell lots of different TMWF kit. These items are really popular and range from hoodies to caps/hats.

### **Social Media**

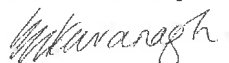
Please do follow us on Socials, Instagram and Facebook @arthurmellowsvillagecollege where Ms Kavanagh and the team will be providing some daily updates  
You can also follow TMWF:

- Instagram [The Malcolm Whales Foundation \(@tmwf\\_uk\)](#) • Instagram [photos and videos](#)
- Twitter [The Malcolm Whales Foundation \(@MalcolmWhales\)](#) / X ([twitter.com](https://twitter.com))
- The 15 year short film <https://youtu.be/W27M4SA0YY0?feature=shared>
- The Charity Website [The Malcolm Whales Foundation \(tmwf.co.uk\)](https://www.tmwf.co.uk)
- If you want to contact Mr Whales in connection with the charity itself - [themalcolmwhalesfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:themalcolmwhalesfoundation@gmail.com)

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch. I have also attached the presentation from the parent event earlier this year, just as a reminder of some of the other key facts and what we are doing each day. I am looking forward to taking the first cohort of students to participate in this amazing charity event and I hope they are excited too.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me directly.

Yours sincerely



**MS E KAVANAGH**

Deputy Headteacher and Trip Leader