



Portlethen Academy
Bruntland Road
Portlethen
Aberdeen AB12 4QL
Telephone 01224 782174
Fax 01224 782076
portlethen.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
www.portlethenacademy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk

07 September 2018

Portlethen Academy Sponsored Walk 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you of Portlethen Academy's intention to hold a Sponsored Walk on **Friday 21st September 2018** at Durriss Forrest.

The most important purpose of the walk is to allow a positive whole school event with pupils and staff of all ages mixing and bonding in a challenging activity outside of the school environment. It will also make a positive contribution to our Health Promoting School commitment and fund raising.

Normal timetable will be suspended to allow the event to take place. Should you not wish your son/daughter/ward to participate in the event, alternative provision will be made in school.

Pupils are encouraged to gain as much sponsorship as possible. Proceeds from the event will support pupil activities throughout the year and there will be a donation to charities supported by the school.

It is hoped each participant can gain a minimum of £10.00 in sponsorship to help us reach our target of £8000. This year, money from the sponsored walk is being donated to Cancer Charities. We have decided to donate to two local organisations, CLAN and Maggie's Aberdeen. Cancer is sadly a word we come across far too often in our daily lives and it has an impact on both the person diagnosed and those dearest to them. Many staff and pupils will have experienced the impact cancer can have on people they know and love and we feel it is important to continue to raise money for such a vital cause. The more we raise, the bigger chance we have of someday beating this horrible disease which impacts so many in different ways. The week after the Sponsored Walk we will continue our fundraising efforts for the charity Macmillan through activities planned for the Macmillan Coffee morning. Together, let's beat cancer sooner!

Last session we donated to MHA (Mental Health Aberdeen) and a national charity SAMH (Scottish Association for Mental Health). Sponsored walk money was also used in school to support a number of pupil activities which included the Careers Fair, the Award Schemes, Health & Wellbeing and S1 breakfast events.

On the day a fleet of buses will transport pupils to and from the forest from approximately 8.30 am, returning from approximately 1.00pm onwards. Staff will operate as Marshalls on the course and qualified First Aiders will also be present.

All staff in checkpoint areas will be carrying personal mobile phones and numbers will be distributed to allow communication between staff.

The Forestry Commission has been notified and the school is adhering to their requests.

Detailed information on requirements and arrangements for the walk will be issued to pupils on Wednesday 21st September; however basic information on what to take on the walk is listed below.

- Food – take a packed lunch and plenty to drink. There will be a tuck-shop at checkpoint 3 with a selection of juice drinks and water, fruit and chocolate – any two items for 60p, so bring the right change please. It is suggested that packed lunches are eaten at checkpoint 3, where litter can be deposited and chemical toilets are situated.
- Suitable warm clothing and **waterproofs**.
- Comfortable footwear and socks (**no pumps, wellies or thin soled shoes**).
- A small rucksack to carry everything in, sharing with a friend can ease the load.

Could you please complete the attached consent form. This should be returned via tutors by **Tuesday 18th September**. **Pupils will only be allowed to walk if the consent form is returned.**

Sponsor money should not be handed in until after the walk. A place and time will be designated for this, so receipts can be issued immediately.

I hope your son/daughter/ward will participate in and enjoy this very worthwhile Whole School event. If you have any further queries please contact myself.

Yours faithfully



Neil Morrison
Head Teacher