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Richard Brand: Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer

Walk in the Woods 2023

We are delighted to announce the return of Walk in the Woods. This year the walk is back again and will take place on **Friday 14th July 2023**.

The entire school will take part in this special event, which will provide an opportunity for us all to achieve a personal challenge, build community spirit, raise money for charity and get out into the glorious forest that we are lucky to live alongside. Over the last few years students have raised close to £8000 for charity, and this year each House has chosen to raise money for Young Lives vs Cancer. More details on how to donate can be found at www.thedeanaacademy.org/WITW. The House that raises the most money this year will receive a special end of year reward!

Shuttle coaches will transport students to the start of the route at the Forest of Dean Sculpture Trail. There will be stops at Mallards Pike and Pillowell, a risk assessment has been completed together with The Forestry Commission. On the day students will be walking in groups of no less than 3 and will be supervised by a member of staff. Students will need to carry a packed lunch and water in a rucksack; there will also be the opportunity to refill water bottles along the route.

Students will be required to wear PE kit for the walk, wearing suitable footwear for a long walk over uneven ground. Your child will receive an information booklet about the event, including FAQ's, kit list and details of the charity we are supporting. Parents will be able to view this booklet on our website in the near future; we would encourage you to look through this so that you can help your child to prepare for the walk.

All students will need to have a consent and medical form completed no later than Friday 7th July. This can be done on ParentPay, however, should you require a paper copy one can be collected from the school office by your child. Any students that do not have a completed consent and medical form will unfortunately not be able to join in with this whole school event and will remain supervised on the school site for the day.

The walk will be a massive challenge for us all, but we are confident that all students will be able to complete the route (though of course we have contingency plans in place to support any students who are struggling). To support your child with the best possible preparation we request that you make sure they:

- Wear sensible shoes (hiking boots/strong trainers)
- Have a hat, sun cream, waterproof and layers of clothing to add/remove as necessary
- Have a packed lunch with snacks for energy, and a water bottle
- Eat well on the evening before and the morning of the walk

Many thanks for your support in making this memorable, fun-packed, and worthwhile end to our school year.

Yours Sincerely

Mr Craig Palmer
Senior Pastoral Lead



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