



Banchory Academy

Schoolhill
Banchory
Kincardineshire AB31 5TQ

☎ 01330 823357
Fax: 01330 825409

banchory.aca@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
www.banchoryacademy.co.uk

Rector: Judith Wight

August 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

Banchory Academy Sponsored Walk – Thursday 7th September 2017

Sponsored Walk and School Fund

Our annual sponsored walk is an excellent start to the session providing an opportunity for pupils and staff to be involved in an enrichment activity, which greatly contributes to whole school ethos, as well as raising a considerable sum for the school fund.

In the course of any one school year, the vast majority of pupils benefit from the school fund to some extent. Each session, virtually all of the money in the school fund is used up supporting pupil activities. Not surprisingly in a rural school, most of the funding goes to cover transport costs. At present a local coach journey can cost us anything from £75 - £150 **after pupil contributions have been collected**. A coach journey further a field can cost us up to £600 **after the pupil contributions have been collected**.

To maximise the amount of funds we can raise we are using Gift Aid which allows the tax to be reclaimed on each donation so, for every £1 donated we will receive £1.25. To benefit from gift aid, sponsors must complete the attached Sponsorship and Gift Aid Declaration form including **their post code, and ✓ the gift aid box**. This will allow Banchory Academy Parent Teacher Association, through their Charity status, to administer the monies for us. Non-tax payers should not ✓ the gift aid box. **Cheques should be made payable to Banchory Academy Parent Teacher Association**. Additional sponsor forms are available at the school office.

How will the sponsored walk be organised?

S1 will walk with their register teachers and S6 will assist by walking with junior classes. S2-5 will walk with their year group accompanied by a group of teachers. The route will take pupils down through the park over the bridge at the bottom of Dee Street, along the Auchattie road and into the forest trails around Scolty and Blackhall. There will be a lunch stop at Shooting Greens picnic area. The distance to be walked is 10 miles and the route is largely on tracks and paths. It is anticipated that the walk will take most of the day. Please note a reserve date of Thursday 14th September has been arranged should the weather force the postponement of the walk on the original date.

The walk will start and finish at Banchory Academy. Pupils will be escorted across Station Road and Dee Street by staff. There will be a high degree of supervision on the walk and pupils will be monitored throughout the day.

Pupils **must bring** a waterproof top and wear clothing suitable for walking (not denim trousers), a pair of walking boots or thick soled trainers (not fashion trainers). To

promote the house system, we ask all pupils to wear at least one item of clothing in their house colours. They should also take sun cream and a packed lunch. In September the weather can be quite cool and bringing a warm fleece or sweater is also advisable. All this essential equipment should be carried in a rucksack and not something which has to be carried in the hands such as a carrier bag.

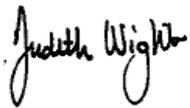
The walk is planned to last the entire day but it is usual for the first groups to return to school slightly earlier. Our plan is therefore to release pupils from school from 2.45 pm onwards, when they complete the sponsored walk, unless you contact us to say you do not wish them to be released early. Pupils who travel by school transport will be supervised until 3.40 pm as normal.

I hope your daughter/son will be able to participate in an enjoyable day, which should also substantially enhance the School Fund. Please contact the school if your child is unable to participate in the walk.

Please find attached Sponsorship and Gift Aid Declaration form, which should be completed and returned along with any sponsor monies raised.

I will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith Wight". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Judith Wight