



14 September 2018

Dear Parents

Abingdon School Biennial Sponsored Walk 2018

We are writing to inform you that the school's biennial sponsored walk will be taking place on Thursday 27 September 2018. The whole school, including teachers, will be taking part in the event to raise money through sponsorship for Crisis Skylight Oxford and Mary's Meals.

The walk will comprise of a circular route from school taking in sections of the Oxfordshire Greenbelt Way and the Thames Path. The walk is of 10 miles for all students as we would like the boys to participate in a collective experience. However we do invite the boys to make the challenge their own and as a result some student groups will be running, canoeing or rowing the course. If you son is involved in one of these groups he will be contacted with further details by the group leader.

The proceeds from the walk will be split between two charities:

Crisis Skylight Oxford

Crisis Skylight Oxford is our local branch of the national charity Crisis. It is a charity that works to end homelessness across England, Scotland and Wales. On a national level donations go towards funding research into the causes of homelessness and ways that it could be prevented. Through Skylight Centres those who are homeless or are facing homelessness are offered support, education and advice on employment and housing. The centre in Oxford runs a café which enables the homeless to develop skills in catering and hospitality and any profits generated are ploughed back into the charity.

In addition to this Crisis runs Crisis at Christmas, which since 1972 has been offering food, warmth, companionship and vital services to homeless people over the Christmas period. In 2016 almost 4,600 homeless people visited Crisis at Christmas, which was run by about 10,500 volunteers.

Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals have one key goal - that every child receives a nutritious daily meal in a place of education. They run school feeding programmes that are owned and run by community

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volunteers in the countries where they provide food. The aim is to attract chronically poor children into the classroom, where they receive an education that can, in the future, be their ladder out of poverty.

Mary's Meals is currently operational in 15 countries across the world, and in Malawi alone there are over 80,000 volunteers who take turns to prepare, cook and serve the daily meal in each school.

On the day the boys will leave the school at staggered intervals and will be supervised by teachers and senior pupils throughout the walk. A picnic lunch will be provided which your son will need to carry during the walk so a backpack will be required. This year we will not be providing plastic bottled water: as a school we would like to reduce our environmental impact where possible and so ask that your son brings his own reusable water bottle. There will be the opportunity to fill the bottle before departing and some top up points on the route if necessary. Your son may wish to bring additional snacks and there will be a tuck shop on the route.

Boys will need to wear well-fitting shoes that they have worn before, and bring clothing appropriate for the weather (hats/waterproofs as needed). They will also need to carry with them any inhalers, epipens or other daily medication.

Sponsorship can be made via the Virgin Giving Website <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/AbingdonSchool> or alternatively your son has been given a paper sponsor form by his tutor. It would be much appreciated if you could encourage him to collect as much money as possible - perhaps you could take it to your place of work on his behalf? A number of companies will match the sponsorship of the children of employees. The last sponsored walk raised over £28,000, something we would love to better this year.

Many thanks for your support of this event.

Yours sincerely

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