

September 2009

Dear Parent,

Sponsored Walk – Wednesday 21 October – Hampstead Heath

As you will have read in the Head Master's letter, pupils across the Highgate Foundation will be embarking on a sponsored walk on the last day of this half term. This follows on from the immense success of the walk two years ago, which raised funds to build The Great Lakes High School in Kirima, south western Uganda.

We intend to continue our support of The Great Lakes High School this year and we hope to raise at least £40,000. This will enable the school to maintain and develop its current buildings and provide a new dormitory and a science block, help to fund the necessary expansion as the pupil population grows and equip the school with text and library books. We would also like to provide a fund to help pupils whose families find it hard to raise the £180 required to attend the school for a year. With your help we can make an enormous difference to the children and their families in Uganda. For more information regarding this project please visit www.volunteeruganda.org. If we are fortunate to raise more than our target, £40,000, the monies will all be donated to the charity, VolunteerUganda, which supports the Great Lakes High School so that a fund can be established to secure the future education of its pupils.

The practical details for pupils in Year 7-13

A consent form and a sponsorship form are enclosed with this letter along with a map of the route that the pupils will take on the day. Please return the consent forms to the school office by as soon as possible, and no later than **Monday 12 October**.

Pupils will begin the day at the normal time, 8.30 am, when they will be registered by their tutor. They will then spend the first couple of periods watching one or two presentations. One of these will be given by a group of Year 12 students who have spent some time this summer at The Great Lakes High School. After the presentations the pupils will spend some time with their tutor which will also allow for a final briefing about the walk. They need only bring a pen for the 'lessons'.

They will then walk down to the Bishopswood Road site, before departing from the official start point at the Mallinson Sports Centre, which will also act as the command post on the day. The Dining Hall will be open to give pupils somewhere to eat their packed lunches, but will not be serving food.

Clothing for the walk must take into account the forecast nearer the time, but given the time of year all pupils should be equipped with waterproof outer layers, sturdy footwear, warm clothes including hat and gloves, and a day sack in which they can carry their waterproofs, packed lunch, water and

mobile phone (for emergencies only). If they need to carry their own medicine this should also be in their bag.

Health and safety measures

The route involves entering the Heath at the Kenwood House gate, and walking down past the ponds to the Lido. It then follows the perimeter of the Eastern side of the Heath before looping back through the Kenwood estate and out of the Heath. There will be 3 main checkpoints on the Heath where there will be adults and qualified first-aiders as well as supplies of bottled water. There will be marshals along the whole route and first aid trained people between checkpoints. All pupils will be issued with a map showing where first aid, toilets, water and help can be found as well as contact phone numbers. They will also be walking with their tutor or another designated teacher.

Sponsor forms should be brought into school on Monday 19 October to be checked.

A decision will be made on Tuesday 20 October if we need to cancel the event (based on the weather forecast). If that is the case then the day will revert to a normal Wednesday in Week A.

Finish times will be staggered but we would hope that Year 12 and 13 would be finished by around about 12.00 pm, apart from the prefect body who will be marshalling and therefore the last to finish. Year 11 should be finished by 11.30 am, Year 10 by 12.30 pm, Year 9 by 12.45 pm, Year 8 by 1.30 pm and Year 7 by 1.15 p.m. Pupils will be free to go home when they have reported to their tutor when they return to the Mallinson Sports Centre.

Sponsorship money should be returned to school on **Monday 1 November**, after the half term break, and handed in to the tutor/ Form tutor. Any cheques should be made payable to "**VolunteerUganda**" (Charity Number 1128290).

Any parents who would like to help on the day please make contact with me. Thank you for your help in making the sponsored walk possible and for supporting your child in his or her fund-raising efforts.

Yours sincerely



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