

## The *Malcolm Whales* Inaugural 40-mile Sponsored Walk

During July 2009 of this year a group of 28 students from the College took part in a sponsored walk. The walk was the first of its kind the school has been involved in. The charity that we were supporting this year was 'Beating Bowel Cancer'.

The group of students were all PE students from years 10-13. The challenge was to walk 40 miles along the Dorset coastline over a period of 3 days. The Dorset coastline provided a very stern test for both students and staff alike. During the 3 days' walking, the amount of height lost and gained was some 2587metres (Ben Nevis is only 1344m). Maybe the biggest challenge for some of the students was spending four nights in a tent.



The walk was an amazing success, with all those who participated thoroughly enjoying the trip. There were many highlights along the way and many laughs enjoyed. All students were a credit to the school from start to finish. There were many memories that will stay with all those who participated.

Some of the highlights included my favourite question 'will we suffer from altitude sickness?' We were currently approx 100metres above sea level. The low points included following heavy rainfall throughout the night and waking up to both minibuses full of



students whose tents had been flooded. As the walk was for charity, all students were asked to raise sponsorship. As this was the first time the walk has been organised it was difficult to place a figure on the amount of money we could hope to raise.

I have been overwhelmed with the amount students have managed to raise. Helen Garrod in Year 10 raised an amazing £600 on her own! At the time of writing this piece the group of staff and students have managed to raise an incredible **£5,500**. This is still not the final figure as sponsorship is still coming in.

Whilst organising this trip I was amazed by the amount of support I received to make the trip a reality. If I omit anybody from this thank you list then I apologise.

The biggest support came in the form of Tony Mcinally who helped me immensely throughout the planning stage. He also accompanied us on the walk to prepare the food for over 30 people and he also participated in the walk.

I would also like to extend my thank you to the PE staff who were involved and Charlie Crisp and Roy Stubbings who helped with the logistical side of the walk.

Other thanks go to to Keith Garrod for sponsoring the fuel, Andrew Odell-Rourke for supplying refreshments, Carol Fox for her cake stall and the sorting the raffle raising over £300, Lister BMW for donating cars for the raffle, Geoff Bonnett for donating £250, Mrs Macinally for her continued support and St James Place Bank who kindly donated £1000. Without the help of all of these people the walk would not have been able to go ahead and would definitely not have been the success that it was.

At the start of the planning stage I set two clear objectives. I wanted students to have an enjoyable and rewarding experience. I also wanted to raise a little bit of money for charity. I am happy to say on both accounts the walk was an overriding success!

I am hoping to make the event an annual event with the possibility of increased numbers each year. With the challenge to raise more money each year, this year's total has set a very high benchmark. Anybody who would be interested in sponsoring next years event please contact Mr Whales at [dwhales@elycollege.co.uk](mailto:dwhales@elycollege.co.uk).

