



South Dartmoor Community College

Executive Head teacher | Mrs J Veal

Balland Lane | Ashburton | Devon | TQ13 7EW

01364 652230 | www.southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk



20 September 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

Ten Tors Challenge 2024

Ten Tors is a walking challenge run by the military which takes its participants into the most remote and beautiful parts of the moor throughout their training and on the event. You can find out more about the event and its history at www.tentors.org.uk/challenge/about.

At South Dartmoor Community College, we have a strong history of success at Ten Tors, entering 35, 45 and 55 mile teams previously, and it is a highlight of the school calendar.

As part of the training, you will undertake a number of day walks and overnight camps which will teach you the skills you will need to be independent for the event.

The dates of walks and key events are as follows:

Date	Walk or event
Thursday 12 October 2023 Closes at 9.00 pm	Deadline for expressions of interest (Expression of interest link: https://forms.office.com/e/xfXjDpxH8G - you must use your school email to log in). Those who have not completed the form may still attend the Parent Introduction Information meeting.
Thursday 19 October 2023 Start time 5.30 pm Estimated finish time 6.30 pm	Parent Introduction Information meeting. Attendance required from participant and parent/guardian so you know what you are signing up for.
Thursday 9 November 2023	Deadline for entry payments on ParentPay.
Friday 17 November 2023 Start time 3.30 pm	Day walking kit check in SC9.
Saturday 18 November 2023 Start time TBC	Day walk 1.
Saturday 9 December 2023 Start time TBC	Day walk 2. <i>Saturday 16th December as contingency for poor weather.</i>
Saturday 6 January 2024 Start time TBC	Day walk 3.
Saturday 27 January 2024 Start time TBC	Day walk 4.
Saturday 17 February 2024 Start time 9.00 am Parent meeting start time 4.00 pm Estimated finish time 6.00 pm	In school training day ahead of Camps. Parent Camp Information meeting for overnight camp information.
Friday 1 March 2024 Start time 3.30 pm	Camp walking kit check in SC9/JMB.
Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 March 2024 Start time TBC	Camp 1.
Friday 15 March 2024 Start time 3.30 pm	Camp walking kit check in SC9.
Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 March 2024 Start time TBC	Camp 2.
Saturday 13 April 2024 Start time 6.00 am	Challenge walk. <i>Final teams and reserves chosen after this walk.</i>
Friday 19 April 2024 Start time 3.30 pm	Camp walking kit check in SC9.
Saturday 20 & Sunday 21 April 2024 Start time TBC	Camp 3.
Tuesday 7 May 2024	Routes published on Ten Tors website. Afterschool meeting TBC 3.30 pm - 5.30 pm.

Wednesday 8 May 2024 Start time 3.30 pm Parent meeting start time 6.00 pm Estimated finish time 7.30 pm	Final kit check for event in SC9/JMB. Parent Event Information meeting for event.
Friday 10 May 2024	Participants arrive at basecamp, Okehampton.
Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 May 2024	Ten Tors Challenge 2024 Event.

It is strongly advised that you attend every walk and aspect of the training in addition to all parent information evenings. I understand and appreciate that things can happen at the last minute. However, students who do not regularly attend walks and meetings will run the risk of being cut from the selection process, so please check these dates before you sign up. Missed walks will not automatically mean you are cut from the training and selection process but it will be taken into consideration.

In addition to the dates above, there will be briefings and debriefings from Miss Upton for each walk. The time and place of these will be confirmed via Teams.

Dartmoor can be a hostile environment especially in winter and it is important that students are properly equipped. A kit list will be discussed and shared with you at the initial parents' information meeting. Participants will need their day kit from the first walk on **Saturday 18 November and will be checked on Friday 17 November**. Full camp kit will be required from the first camp kit check on **Friday 1 March**.

In the last few years, we have had competition for places which means we will assess the participants continually and we will have to cut participants that have not shown us the commitment, team work or personal skills required to be successful. Our final team selection will be in **April** following the Challenge walk and not before. This means participants will need the kit for training camps but may still not make the team. We have a limited store of kit which is available on request.

Although all efforts have been made to keep costs down for our training, there is a participant training fee to be paid of £80 (which includes school transport) or £60 for self-transport to and from the start and finish points to be paid on ParentPay.

We strongly believe that this opportunity and experience is one that should be available for all. Thanks to our fantastic fundraising team we are able to offer financial support on a case-by-case basis or fully funded spaces for our Pupil Premium students. Our stores also have much of the kit you will require for the day and camp kit which can be loaned for the duration of the season. If this is something you are concerned about or would be of interest to you, please contact me directly using the e-mail address at the bottom of this letter.

To participate in the Ten Tors event, your child must have permission for photos to be taken and potentially be used on public websites and media outlets. In addition, by paying the enrolment fee and completing the consent form you are agreeing to give photo permission to both us and Ten Tors for use of these images.

If you are interested in finding out more, we are holding an information evening on **Thursday 19 October at 5.30 pm in the Sixth Form Centre**. The potential participant AND a parent/carer must attend in order to share key information and understand the commitment required.

Kindly keep this letter and bring it with you, along with any questions, to the Introduction Information Meeting or email me: kupton@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely

Katie Upton

Katie Upton
Outdoor Education Manager

