

17th January 2022

Dear Parent,

EXMOOR CHALLENGE TRAINING – 2022

Your son/daughter has expressed an interest in taking part in this year's Exmoor Challenge on **Saturday 30th April 2022**. The Challenge is organised by the Exmoor Rotary Club and starts from Dulverton Middle School following a 16-mile course over Exmoor, walking over varied terrain including open moorland. The route is not marked, and the teams will have to follow written instructions and use basic map reading skills. Checkpoints are clearly marked along the way and the teams have to complete each section within a set time.

Students wishing to be considered for selection need to pay **£20**, which covers the cost of training, the hire of minibuses, coach hire for both practice walks, providing safety vehicles and replacing perishable items such as first aid kits, maps, compasses and survival bags. **Please be aware that the number of students who express an interest in taking part in the Challenge will be far greater than the number the school is allowed to enter. There will therefore be a large number of good walkers who do not gain a place in the event.** *There will not be a refund for students who are not selected for the final event as the majority of costs are incurred in the training, but all students who complete the training will receive an **Exmoor Challenge badge**.*

We have planned a number of sessions to help students prepare for the Challenge. Further details about each will be issued nearer to the time. They are as follows:

1. **Wednesday 9th February** – Theory session in school from 3:45pm to 5:00pm (no further information to follow, pupils will need to be collected at 5:00pm).
2. **Tuesday 1st March** – Practice walk along the Culm Valley 1:30 - 6:00pm (a letter with details will be handed out at the theory session). TRANSPORT PROVIDED.
3. **Saturday 12th March** – Lynton/Lynmouth Practice Walk (a letter with details will be handed out at the theory session). TRANSPORT PROVIDED.
4. **Saturday 30th April** – Exmoor Challenge Event – NO TRANSPORT PROVIDED.

Students will be asked to organise themselves into pairs and we will select and combine pairs to make teams of four. The teams chosen to represent the school will be decided on the following basis:

1. Attendance at theory session and practice walks.
2. Organisation, cooperation and ability to work safely as a team.
3. Successful navigation and completion of the practice walks within the required times.

Your son/daughter will require suitable waterproofs (including over-trousers) and footwear (sturdy shoes/trainers are adequate). Please do not purchase any specialist equipment for the event (eg walking boots) as this is NOT required.

If you would like your son/daughter to take part in the Exmoor Challenge training, please pay the £20 on ParentPay by **Thursday 3rd February 2022**.

If, as a parent, you are keen to volunteer as an adult helper on the practice walks or you require any other information please contact me at evel@uffculmeschool.net

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mr Eve". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Mr Eve
Outdoor Pursuits Coordinator