



TORQUAY BOYS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Dear Parent/Carer

Dartmoor Society and Ten Tors

The Dartmoor Society is open to all students in Years 9 to 13. To sign up your son or daughter to join, simply complete all sections of the attached form and return to the school Cashier's Office. Parentpay will then be opened for you to book your son/daughter's place on the next walk – see attached list of dates. Further details of all walks and in-school training, including any last-minute changes and meetings that your son/daughter will be required to attend, are advertised on the Dartsoc noticeboard opposite the school library entrance, as well as via the daily Tutor Bulletin. Students wishing to be considered for places in the 45 and 55-mile Ten Tors teams should also check email regularly for communications from their trainer.

The aims of the TBGS Dartmoor Society are to encourage appreciation of the Dartmoor National Park while learning skills of walking, navigation and survival in the full range of conditions that we experience on the moors. Successful students will develop skills of teamwork, leadership, independence, organisation, initiative and perseverance. Students in Years 10 and 12 (and, in special circumstances, in Years 9 and 13) may then be selected for places in the TBGS and National Trust Ten Tors teams. Year 11 students will need to wait until next year to be in a team, due to the close proximity of GCSE exams to the Ten Tors Challenge, but they are welcome to complete the whole programme of training this year and then continue to train next year for 45 or 55 miles. Parents should also be aware that competition for places in 35-mile teams is intense, so Year 10 students who are half-hearted about full participation in any aspect of training & preparation are unlikely to be considered.

We do not provide guided walks; all students can attend navigation and survival theory lessons that take place at school as advertised on various lunch times, covering what they will need to take responsibility for their own route planning, navigation and survival. They will be required to demonstrate sufficient competence on the moors and in a written exam before being allowed to continue walking after Christmas. Laminated copies of the OS Dartmoor map, and Silva compasses, are available from the school library at a discounted price, and students are encouraged to purchase these as soon as they decide they are committed to Dartsoc.

Our outings start in the Autumn Term with day-walks of 10 to 15 km designed to be accessible to any student with a reasonable level of fitness in Year 9-10, while Year 11 and 12 students go a bit further as they start to develop the endurance and speed required to attempt the longer Ten Tors distances later in the year. Students should meet at the school bus bay at 08:15 on Saturday morning and the minibuses will leave as soon as everyone has been registered. For most walks, one or two other pickup points will be available by prior arrangement when booking on Parentpay. Most of the Autumn Term walks will finish around 3 p.m., arriving back at school between 3.30 and 5 p.m., but please be flexible as we will not leave Dartmoor until all the students are safely back in minibuses, or may return early if the weather is very bad.

All students need to be suitably clothed for rain, gales, fog, hail, snow, sun or whatever combination of these we may be expecting (sometimes all five in one day!). For the second walk onwards, walking boots are also required. See kit list overleaf – if you have any problems or queries with equipment, please contact me. Students who are not suitably equipped will not be allowed to walk.

During the Spring Term, harsher weather conditions are more likely and we increase the length of the walks as soon as daylight allows, including overnight camps from March onwards, with earlier starts for the final two outings. The school provides tents (on payment of a deposit) and some students borrow camping stoves from the Outdoor Education Department; for a full list of other equipment required, see the Ten Tors website¹, which should be consulted before writing a Christmas present list if your son/daughter is keen to embark upon Ten Tors training and has demonstrated the necessary competence and ability. If we have a significant number of parents who are new to Ten Tors, we may run a parents' information evening in January where all your questions can be answered.

Most of the cost of running Dartsoc and Ten Tors training is met by volunteers and staff giving up their time free of charge, but we do ask for a contribution to the remaining costs via Parentpay. This year, each day walk will be £9.60 and a weekend with camping £14 per student. Please note that Parentpay will close as soon as each walk is fully booked and not later than three days before each walk to allow time for all the logistical arrangements and paperwork to be completed, so book early to avoid disappointment! Each walk will open for bookings a few days after the previous one.

If you have any further questions, the best way is to encourage your son or daughter to find out the answer and speak to you, but it's always a pleasure to hear from you directly so you're welcome to send email to rcolvile@tbgs.torbay.sch.uk or try phoning me on 01803 615501 x310. On Dartmoor and the day before a walk, I or a trusted colleague usually carry the school Red mobile phone 07713 506531. An alternative emergency contact number is 07593 668764, please to be used in genuine emergencies only.

Yours sincerely

Dr Roy N Colvile
Ten Tors Team Manager

¹ <http://www.tentors.org.uk/training/clothing-and-equipment-guidance>

Programme of walks and training

These will go ahead on the dates indicated unless unforeseen circumstances force any changes of plan. Sometimes we will change the location, for example in case of bad weather forecast.

- Saturday 30th September 2017: Introductory day walk for Y9-10 new members; Longer social walk and advice on equipment etc. for Y11-12 new members and returning Y10-12s
- September-November 2017: School-based weekly training at school in navigation and basic survival
- Saturday 21st October 2017: Dartsoc Day walk
- Saturday 18th November 2017: Dartsoc Day walk
- Saturday 9th December 2017: Dartsoc & TBGS/National Trust Ten Tors Christmas walk and Barbecue
- Saturday 13th January 2018: Ten Tors training near Fernworthy – large rucksacks, day walk
- Saturday 3rd February 2018: Ten Tors training – day walk carrying tents and stoves, North Dartmoor
- February 2018: School-based training in camping and use of portable stoves
- Saturday afternoon 3rd **March** to Sunday 4th **March** 2018: Ten Tors camping training following by a long walk on **South** Dartmoor with early Sunday morning start. Camping training **will probably be at school, incorporating a kit check and cooking test that must be passed for team members to be allowed to join the subsequent wild camps on Dartmoor.**
- Weekend of 24th-25th March 2018 South Dartmoor 2-day walk and camp, Ten Tors initial team selection/shortlisting
- 30th March 2018 (to be confirmed) Bag packing at Sainsbury's The Willows to raise funds for base camp and other equipment renewal
- Weekend of 28th-29th April 2018 Final Ten Tors training for teams and reserves, North Dartmoor
- Friday 11th May 2018: Teams and reserves to Ten Tors Base Camp; dinner at Betty Cottles
- Saturday-Sunday 12th-13th May 2018: Ten Tors Challenge
- Monday 14th May 2018: Most GCSE exams start

Equipment

Dartsoc Autumn term

- Waterproof jacket (with hood n.b. if purchasing for Ten Tors make sure the hood is permanently attached **not** removable)
- Waterproof trousers (should be able to be put on and taken off over boots)
- Walking boots (compulsory from second walk onwards)
- Walking socks – to avoid blisters on longer walks, recommend thin synthetic baselayer socks and separate good quality walking sock providing good cushioning and enough insulation but avoid getting sweaty (e.g. Coolmax)
- Old trousers, track-suit bottoms (NOT JEANS)
- Warm shirt e.g. rugby shirt
- Jumper or sweatshirt
- Jacket (Fleece or similar) (n.b. if purchasing for Ten Tors note that a warm all-seasons fleece is required, not a microfleece)
- Warm hat (to cover ears) and gloves. Sunhat is also needed in sunny conditions.
- Small Towel
- Packed lunch and drink (minimum 1 litre)
- Emergency food
- Small first aid kit (plasters in a waterproof bag) including any personal items required e.g. inhaler even if rarely used
- Sun block suitable for skin type and 6 hours exposure to Autumn or Spring sunlight (higher UV than summer!)
- Small rucksack with plastic liner to keep contents dry
- Change of clothing in a bag (can be left on minibus)
- Gaiters (optional, but most find these really help keep feet dry)
- Torch with spare batteries or 12-hour battery life
- 1:25000 Ordnance Survey Dartmoor map, laminated or in waterproof case, plus compass

Ten Tors training January to May

- See <http://www.tentors.org.uk/training/clothing-and-equipment-guidance>

