

School puts best leg forward to raise £2,000

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PUPILS and staff of the Downs School, Compton, abandoned lessons last Friday to enjoy a day in the open air when they took part in a sponsored walk to boost school funds.

The route took the 500 pupils on a six mile circuit, after which there was time for a rest and some lunch before continuing for another six miles and returning to the school.

There were few casualties, and most managed to complete the 12 miles without too many blisters.

A few of the more energetic pupils managed a third circuit to raise even more funds, and history teacher Mr Victor Pocock, an experienced runner, completed the marathon distance at a run.

Headmaster Mr Graham Taylor explained that, in common with other schools, Downs School is currently under financial pressure and that the money will be spent on school projects.

He said that the school is committed to successfully funding the new CGSE syllabus, and that the proceeds of the walk would go towards large items of capital expenditure — for example equipment for science and craft departments which could not otherwise be purchased.

Mr Taylor praised the generosity of the parents and friends of the school who have pledged a total of around £2,000 in sponsorship.

The past week can be considered one of the most successful financially in the history of the school, as the total proceeds of the sponsored walk and the Summer Fair, held last Saturday, should top £3,000.