



17th October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Year 10 - First World War Battlefields Trip to France & Belgium – 19th April - 21st April 2024.

The History Department are delighted to offer a trip to Ypres in Belgium and Thiepval in France to visit the First World War battlefields and cemeteries. Students attending the trip will leave early on **Friday 19th April** and return to school on **Sunday evening 21st October 2024**. This trip is open for all GCSE History students in years 9 and 10 in the academic year 2023/2024. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for an enriching experience with renowned military historian, Steve Roberts.

As part of our GCSE specification, it is important students know the significance of war on surgery and medicine. Steve's focus for the trip will be, but not limited to, military hospitals, equipment, and the role of medics on the Western Front. Plenty of weapons from the Great War and props will be used to engage and teach the students, building on prior knowledge from KS3.

Our Conflict and Tension: 1918-1939 GCSE topic takes a close look at how and why the First World War shaped public attitudes across the world, and the terms of Germany's surrender. Knowledge of the extent of destruction caused by the First World War is imperative to understanding why international relations collapsed in Europe and Asia during the two decades that followed.

Places are limited to 46 students and will be allocated on a 'first-come, first-served' basis for each year group. In the event of the trip being oversubscribed a reserve list will be held (please email k.sen@marlborough.herts.sch.uk or call 01727 731341). Should your child be allocated a place then the deposit is non-refundable unless the vacancy from our reserve list is filled. Those placed on the reserve list will be advised if a place becomes available.

We will be travelling by coach and crossing the channel either by ferry or the Eurotunnel. On arrival in Calais we will head straight for Belgium and the Bayernwald trenches that have been preserved since the end of the war. Students will also have the chance to handle equipment and weaponry and for a member of the group to dress in Great War uniform, before finally arriving in the Belgian town of Ypres to take part in the Last Post ceremony. This historic ceremony has taken place every evening at 8pm at the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres since 1928.



On the second day two students will visit battlefields near the river Somme, where the infamous Battle of the Somme took place in the Summer of 1916. There, students will visit the Thiepval Memorial and the Ulster Tower to remember all the lives lost, and learn more about the battle itself. Later that day we will visit Lochnagar, where a crater 98 feet deep and 330 feet wide is what remains of a detonated underground explosive. We will also take time away from the front to visit a local museum and focus on the roles of empire troops and women during the war.

The Firing Post at Poperinghe awaits us on the third day, where we will learn about military discipline and the punishments soldiers faced for desertion and disobeying orders. In the afternoon we will visit the largest British military cemetery called Tyne Cot where students will lay a wreath in remembrance of all those who lost their lives, and finally onto the German cemetery, Lengemarck, before leaving for Calais.

The cost of the trip will be **£405** payable in instalments. Included in the cost is all travel; all accommodation and meals. Students will need to purchase their own dinner on the way home from a service station. Evening entertainment, such as pool, table tennis and a quiz will be provided for students.

The release date and availability to make payment for this trip will be Friday 20th October at 9.00am.

If you wish your son or daughter to take part in this trip a **non-refundable** deposit of **£100 is required by Friday 20th October** to be paid online using the School Gateway website.

Two further payments will need to be made online using the School Gateway website and will need to be received as follows:

- **£76.25 Friday 24th November 2023**
- **£76.27 Friday 29th December 2023**
- **£76.27 Friday 26th January 2024**
- **£76.27 Friday 23rd February 2024**

You may pay more than the required amount each month if you prefer and therefore complete payment earlier or pay the full amount at any time. **Please ensure that payment dates are adhered to.**

Please be aware that if you are registered for free school meals, there is funding available of 25% (£101.25) towards the cost of this trip. **If you are registered or have previously been registered for free school meals, please contact Mrs Sen after you have made your deposit payment on 01727 731341.** Please be aware that funding will be applied to the final payment.



Please ensure that your son/daughter has their own passport which must have three months remaining following the month of return (runs to the end of January 2023).

Yours sincerely

Andrew Pressland
Head of History

How to pay online:

Log on to: www.schoolgateway.com

Select: Make a Payment

Select: **Battlefields 2024**

Follow the on screen instructions to complete the payment.

If you would like information on how to access the School Gateway system then please contact the School Office on 01727 856874.

