

18<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Yr 9 & 10 - Second World War 'D-Day 80' Trip to Normandy – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

The History Department is delighted to offer a trip to Normandy in France to visit the Second World War battlefields and cemeteries. Trip participants will leave early on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March** and return to school on **Sunday evening 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025**. Year 9 and 10 GCSE students have priority for this one-off trip. This is a great opportunity for an enriching experience with published and renowned military historian, Steve Roberts. Steve has worked with Marlborough for the last few years and has done an excellent job engaging our students in important and enriching topics such as these.

Steve's focus for the trip will be, but not limited to, understanding how events unfolded on D-Day, role of medics and penicillin on the battlefield, the military equipment used, and the role of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission today. Plenty of weapons and props from the Summer of 1944 will be used to engage and teach the students, building on prior knowledge studied in Year 8.

GCSE history students will benefit from this trip, we will cover medical advancements, like penicillin, which feature in our *Britain Health and the People* topic. This knowledge will also support students' understanding of the fall of Nazi Germany, which features in our *Democracy and Dictatorship – Germany, 1890-1945* topic. This year places are limited to only 35 and they will be allocated on a 'first-come, first-served' basis.

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 Normandy and the historical sites, such as Pegasus Bridge, and the British Airborne Museum there, Gold Beach (the landing beach of the British 50<sup>th</sup> Northumbrian Division), Juno Beach (the landing beach of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Infantry Division), the German Battery at Longues sur Mer, which fired 170 shots on D-Day, 'Bloody Omaha' beach (portrayed in Steven Spielberg's *Saving Private Ryan*) and many more.

We will also be focussing on the important work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, paying our respects at British cemeteries and memorials, including The British Normandy Memorial at Ver Sur Mer, where our students will lay a poppy wreath in remembrance of all those who lost their lives during the Battle of Normandy in 1944. We will also be visiting American and German cemeteries, where we will also pay our respects.



There will also be an opportunity to soak up local culture in Normandy, where we will be visiting the local Caen Market on the Sunday morning before heading back home later that afternoon.

Lastly, if your families have lost any relatives during the Battle of Normandy and are buried in any of the cemeteries out there, or if you know of where any relatives may have fought in the Battle of Normandy, please let us know and we will try our best to visit the site where they fought, or cemetery where they are resting.

The cost of the trip will be **£645** payable in instalments. Included in the cost is all travel; all accommodation and meals (with lunch on the first day) included. Students will need to buy 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.

If you wish your son or daughter to take part in this trip a **non-refundable** deposit of **£100 is required by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025**. This is to be paid online using the school Gateway website.

Further payments will need to be made online using the school Gateway website and will need to be received as follows:

- **£100 by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025**
- **£150 by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025**
- **£150 by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2025**
- **£150 by Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026**
- **£150 by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Please be aware that if you are registered for free school meals there is funding available of 25% (£161.25) 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** payments.

**The release date and availability to make payment for this trip will be Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 9.00am.**

Yours sincerely

**Andrew Pressland**  
**Head of History**



Log on to: [www.schoolgateway.com](http://www.schoolgateway.com)

Select: Make a Payment

Select: **Battlefields**

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.

