

To: Parents/Carers of Year 9 History Pupils

Our Ref: 87587047

20 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Year 9 visit to First World War Western Front Battlefields**

The History department is pleased to offer your child the opportunity to apply for a visit to Belgium and France to visit the First World War Battlefields.

The provisional dates of the visit are Saturday 8 June 2024 to Tuesday 11 June 2024.

The details are as follows:

Travel: by coach to Dover for a ferry crossing to Calais.

Accommodation: 2 nights in Ypres, Belgium and 1 night in Northern France (Somme region).

Tour Operator: WST.

The proposed itinerary includes:

Visit to the interactive Flanders Fields Museum.

One day visit to key sites around Ypres such as Hill 62, the Sanctuary Wood Museum, the site of the Christmas Truce, the German military cemetery Langemark and the British and Commonwealth cemetery at Tyne Cot.

One day visit to Vimy Ridge and sites on the Somme battlefield, including the Thiepval memorial and Sheffield Park.

Attending the Menin Gate 'Last Post' ceremony.

Opportunities for pupils to visit graves of ancestors around the Somme and Ypres.

As a school we work to ensure that the costs of all our visits are minimised so that as many pupils as possible can take advantage of these valuable learning experiences. In this case, to be able to offer the visit, we are requesting a contribution of £450 per pupil. If the level of contributions fails to cover the costs, then the visit may be cancelled, and monies will be refunded. Otherwise, all deposits are non-refundable. The visit cost includes travel, insurance, full board once we arrive in Belgium and France and all entrance fees to the museums. Although the visit is not a requirement of the curriculum and no pupil will be disadvantaged by not attending, this is an exciting opportunity for them to enhance their understanding of the First World War.

Due to the popularity of this visit in previous years, we cannot guarantee everyone a place. The visit is likely to be oversubscribed and if this does occur again, pupils will be selected at random and will be notified by letter after the application deadline if they have been selected. Those who are successful will be required to pay a non-refundable deposit of £150 by 20 November 2023; the final payment of £300 will be due by 31 March 2024. Details of how to pay will be included acceptance letter.

Should you require any further information at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact me.

If you would like your child to participate, please complete the digital form by 9am on Monday 6 November 2023 <https://forms.office.com/e/WvShkjWGPS>.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Whitney Bower', written in a cursive style.

Whitney Bower  
**Assistant Headteacher**