



November 2023

Dear Parent,

Headteacher - Patrick Earnshaw
Deputy Headteacher - Mathew Downs

Year 8 History and First World War Battlefields Trip – 19th- 22nd July 2024

Your child has expressed an interest in taking part in the Battlefields trip to France and Belgium. We have run this trip very successfully previously, and students enjoyed the unforgettable and emotional experience. Initially there are 52 places available on the trip, these can be secured by paying the deposit of £100 (non-refundable) via the schools WisePay facility.

In the event the trip is over-subscribed we will activate a waiting list, once we reach a minimum of 18 students, we will be able to book a second coach to accommodate this.

This will be a two-centre trip. Our intended itinerary will include visits to **Beaumont Hamel** and **Sunken Lane**, to contemplate the massacre which occurred there. We will also visit the vast **Lochnagar Crater** at La Boisselle. The second day will consist of a series of visits to other key sites in Flanders Fields: including **Hooge Crater** trench experience, where students will get to dress in soldier uniform and compare soldiers rations before a guided visit to the emotive British Cemetery at **Tyne Cot**, the largest Commonwealth military cemetery in the world. After the evening meal in Ypres we will participate in the **Last Post Ceremony** at the **Menin Gate** where students will get to lie a wreath as part of the ceremony. A day will also be spent studying the Ypres Salient, beginning with the **Yser Tower Museum** which takes a more personal look at the Belgian army's experiences in the trench and an emphasis on the peacefulness of the area. We will also visit **Vladslo**, the German Military Cemetery. After an opportunity to walk around the area, including a visit to a **chocolate shop**. The final day will see us visit the beautiful city of **Bruges**.

World War One is studied in Year 9 History and the Battlefields trip is a great starting point to bring that topic to life in the classroom.

Travel will be by coach, which is available for our exclusive use throughout the stay, crossing from Dover to Calais by ferry. We will be leaving very early on **Friday 19th July** and returning to school in the evening of **Monday 22nd July**.

The cost of the trip is **£699** per student. This price will include all accommodation and meals abroad, entrance fees and coach travel to and from Highcliffe. Students will need a small amount of money for spending at the chocolate shop, on souvenirs and additional drinks or snacks.

If your child is interested in this trip, **WisePay will open to pay the initial (non-refundable) deposit of £100 on Friday 24th November at 6pm**. The initial 52 places will be awarded on a first come, first served basis, if you are not able to secure a place, please re-register your interest via WisePay, once this list reaches 18 we will re-open for the additional places.

There will then be two further instalments; £300 due by Thursday 8th February 2024 and £299 due by Thursday 18th April 2024. Payment should be made using the school's on-line WisePay facility. Please make a note of your WisePay receipt reference, as you will need to provide this on the consent form. Receipts are generated automatically on WisePay and sent to the email address you supply when making the payment.

Please be aware that the Headteacher will consider attendance and behaviour before the trip commences. If they are not acceptable prior to the trip, parents will be consulted and where time allows, be involved in achieving a positive resolution. Where participation is disallowed this may result in the partial or full loss of trip costs.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. Roberts', written in a cursive style.

Miss Roberts
Head of History

