

April 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student

## **HISTORY TRIP TO FLANDERS, PICARDY AND BRUGES, 11-15 JULY 2016**

Thank you for the final payment for the trip. If you have an outstanding payment to make please could you send it to the school as soon as possible. The purpose of this letter is to give you some more precise details concerning the trip, a few instructions and notification of a parents meeting in June where I can run through the details of the trip and you can ask any questions which occur to you.

### **Itinerary**

<b>Monday 11 July</b>	Leave school at 2.30pm for the journey to Hull. School bags to be left secure at a location to be confirmed. Overnight ferry to Zeebrugge in Belgium. Evening meal and breakfast on ferry.
<b>Tuesday 12 July</b>	Tour of Ypres Salient, "In Flanders Fields", including Tyne Cot Cemetery, Langemarck German Cemetery, Hoge Crater Museum, muddy trenches and tunnels at Sanctuary Wood. Free time in Ypres town. Check into Ypres Lodge centre. Last Post Ceremony, Menin Gate, 8.00pm.
<b>Wednesday 13 July</b>	A full-day excursion to the battlefield of the Somme in France. This year marks the centenary of this famous battle. Visits to Newfoundland Park (a preserved battlefield site), the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, Sheffield Memorial Park and sites particular to where Yorkshire/Harrogate soldiers fought.
<b>Thursday 14 July</b>	A tour of the beautiful city of Bruges, including a boat trip and museum visit. Free time as well. Journey to Zeebrugge for the overnight ferry to Hull. Evening meal and breakfast
<b>Friday 15 July</b>	Return journey from Hull to Harrogate, arriving back at school about 10.45 am

Wherever possible or practical, special visits are made to sites where relatives of students are buried or commemorated. If you have a relative who fell in the war, but are uncertain where they are buried/commemorated, visit the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website and search their register. We shall do our best to fit in a particular visit.

### **Behaviour and Free Time**

The visit to Ypres on Tuesday and especially Bruges on Thursday offers us some free time. For this, students must remain in groups of 3 to 4. On no account should any student wander off by themselves or be in a pair. Staff will be on hand at all times at a specified location if any problem arises.

Exemplary behaviour will be expected at all times. **The Governors and Senior Staff wish to remind all participants that taking and purchasing alcohol, tobacco or any illegal substances is totally unacceptable and will be dealt with severely.** I very much hope for a trouble free trip, something that has been the hallmark of previous visits to sites where a previous generation gave their lives so that we might live in freedom.

## Clothing

Belgium and North-East France can be as variable as Britain in its weather. Please ensure you have sufficient clothes in case conditions are wet and cold (most of our sites are in the open air). No strappy tops will be permitted to be worn, only T shirts (for health and safety reasons) while shorts are not to be worn when touring battlefield sites. Please be sensible about dress if the weather is hot and sunny: there have been cases of sun-burn and sun-stroke in the past. A sun hat and sun cream is recommended. A pair of Wellington boots will be essential for a walk in the muddy trenches. Please bring a separate bag for these. You will need your own towel for washing/showering at the Hostel.

## Money

Money will be needed for any purchases of food and drink beyond that provided as well as souvenirs (packed lunches are provided on each day except Friday). It is important to drink plenty of water if the weather is hot. Any amount suggested is purely subjective; I cannot see why a student would need more than £80-90 in Euros (Sterling or Euros can be used on the ferry). Please apply to your Bank, Building Society or Travel Agent in good time for your currency. It will be your responsibility to look after your money as well as other valuables.

## Medical Details

The school has on file medical details, dietary requirements and emergency contact numbers of all students. If any of these have changed in recently please could you let me know as soon as possible. We trust students to take any medicines or medical precautions as they have need (eg for travel sickness). If you have been prescribed medicines by a doctor please could you let me know. Our designated First Aider is Mrs McArthur.

## Passport & European Health Insurance Card

These will need to be brought to school on Monday 27 June when they will be collected in and held by myself. As indicated on previous letters both are compulsory and no youngster can go on the trip without them. **PLEASE CHECK AS A MATTER OF URGENCY THAT YOUR EHIC IS IN DATE.** The quickest and easiest way to get an EHIC is to apply online at [www.dh.gov.uk/travellers](http://www.dh.gov.uk/travellers).

## Accommodation

The contact details of our hostel is

Ypres Lodge  
A Dehemlaan 19  
8900 Ypres  
Belgium  
Tel no: 0032 (0) 5721 7000

## The Emergency Contact Number in Britain for the duration of the trip is

Mrs Soper (Deputy Head): 0790 498 5654 (Out of Hours). In case of any difficulty in contacting Mrs Soper, Mr Burt (Deputy Head) can be contacted on 07929 982307

School Hours 8.30am-5.00pm: 01423 885814

## Parents' Information Evening

This will take place on Monday 27 June at 5.30pm in the New Chapel. Details of the trip will be run through and parents are invited to ask any questions they wish. Please can passports and EHIC be handed in at this meeting (if you cannot attend the meeting please bring them into school on Monday 27 June)

If you have any immediate queries at this stage, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

J N 

Dr J Nicholas