

14th September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Ypres and the Somme Trip from 27/09/2022 to 30/09/2022

Please find below the travel details and information for the Year 9 visit to the First World War Battlefields from Tuesday 27th September 2022 to Friday 30th September 2022.

I would like to remind you that students need **their own passport** for travel as well as a **valid EHIC card/GHIC card**. Therefore I am asking for students to make sure that they have brought in a photocopy of their passport and EHIC/GHIC card, so that I can confirm that they have them ready for the trip. If there are any problems at all please contact the school office immediately.

Departure

Students will need to arrive at school at **4:00am on Tuesday 27th September**. The coach will depart promptly at 4:30am. **When dropping students off, please do not block the lane and adhere to the “unofficial one-way system”, as this this will help speed up departure.** The staff school car park (first gate) will be open for parents to drop students off. If anybody is late we will be unable to wait due to the booking that we have for the Channel Tunnel. On arrival at the school Mr Emmett and I will be collecting all passports and EHIC/GHIC cards from students **as the board they coach**. **Students without these documents will not be able to travel under UK law.**

Return

We should arrive back at school at **8:00pm on Friday 30th September**. Should this time be any different, we will arrange for students to telephone you from a motorway service station; updates will also be posted on all the various Fairfield social media accounts. If you hear nothing, assume the arrival time is 8.00 pm. **Please make sure that you arrive on time to collect your child and again, please keep the lane free for the coach and avoid blocking the lane.**

Parents & Carers Meeting

Due to the Covid restriction over the last 2 years, this is possibly the first residential that many of these students will have been on. Therefore, I am running a Parents’/Carers’ Meeting on Tuesday 20th September from 5pm – 6pm in the school hall. If you wish to attend, please could you indicate your attendance on the

Google form (link below). The meeting will give me an opportunity to share key information and to answer any questions you may have.

What to take

- Students should wear sensible clothing that is also **appropriate to visit places of remembrance**.
- This trip is all outdoors and the weather at this time of year is likely to be wet as well as cold. Please ensure that your child has a waterproof coat and **sensible shoes (something that is warm and the students do not mind getting muddy at any point)**.
- Toiletries and a bath towel, along with changes of clothes and underwear should also be packed.
- Slippers or sliders should be packed for use in the Youth Hostel - shoes cannot be worn indoors. The floor is stone, so very cold and slippery!
- Other items such as cameras, iPads or phones may also be brought on the trip. Please note that the care and security of any personal items taken on the trip are the responsibility of the student. Any phones/iPads/similar will be taken in at night by staff and given back to the student in the morning (see below).
- The coach journey is very long and our first meal will not be provided until we check into our accommodation in Ypres. We will probably stop at service stations and the Eurotunnel terminal, where it will be possible to purchase food and drink.
- However, please do not rely on this and ensure that your child has plenty of food and drink for the journey. Fizzy drinks and high caffeine energy drinks e.g. Monster, will not be allowed and any brought with them or purchased on route, will be confiscated and disposed of. This rule applies at school as well as on trips, but bitter experience has also found a high degree of correlation between travel sickness and fizzy, sugary drinks.
- The last meal on Day 4 will be a packed lunch provided by the Youth Hostel.
- **Students will need sterling and euros.** Euros can be ordered from any bank or post office. It is your responsibility to order any foreign currency for your child (a budget of £10 a day will be plenty!).
- Students will need English money to buy food during the return journey. We are coming back via the ferry so they have the opportunity to purchase some food on board.
- Spending money could also be brought for souvenirs. However, many shops in Ypres, including the chocolate shop, will accept sterling.
- **Please remind your child that they are not to buy any items that date from the war e.g. shells etc. These items may not have been checked for safety and they would need special permission to be brought back into the country.**

Contact Details

In Ypres we will be staying at:

CJT DE IEP
Poperingseweg 34
B-8900 Ieper
Belgium
Tel: 00 32 (0) 5720 8811 in emergency only.

During normal school hours, telephone Mrs Gaston or Mrs Hart on: 01981 550231

or
Out of school hours please ring school mobile number for Mrs Gaston on: 07971 640635



FAIRFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Peterchurch, Herefordshire HR2 0SG | 01981 550 231 | admin@fairfield.hereford.sch.uk | Head Teacher: Mrs S L Gaston

Mobile Phones

Students are allowed to bring their mobile phones; however students will have them collected in by school staff during the evening and handed back to them in the morning. This is so that students get a good night's sleep and are ready for the next day. As a result, they will not be able to contact you at these times.

Please complete the linked Google Form (<https://forms.gle/cDMrKLo2qd9jaHsZ7>), to give up to date medical and emergency contact information and to confirm receipt of this information. If you have any queries, please contact me at the school on admin@gvsc.org.uk

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Giggle', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mr C Giggle
History Teacher/Trip Leader