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Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Battlefields Trip (Ypres and the Somme) from 03/10/23 – 06/10/23**

Please find below the travel details and information for the Year 9 visit to the First World War Battlefields from Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023 to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

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 that students 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 with this, please contact the school office immediately.

### **Payment**

The final payment was due on the 1<sup>st</sup> June; please can you check that you are up to date with your payment. If there are any difficulties with this, please can you contact the finance department as soon as possible.

### **Departure**

Students will need to arrive at school at **4:30am on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023**. The coach will depart at 5:00am. When dropping students off, please do not block the lane and adhere to the “unofficial one-way system”, as this will help speed up departure. The school car park 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 collect all passports and EHIC/GHIC cards from students **as the board they coach**. **Students without these documents will not be able to travel abroad under UK law.**

### **Return**

We should arrive back at school at **7:00pm on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023**. 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 7.00 pm. Please make sure that you arrive on time to collect your child and, again, avoid blocking the lane so that the coach will be able to drop the students off safely.

### **Parents & Carers Meeting**

As it was incredibly useful last year, I will run a Parents/Carers' Meeting on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September from 5pm till 6pm in the school hall**. Students will be reminded of this meeting in the new school year. The meeting will allow me to cover a number of aspects of the trip in more detail, as well as give you all a chance to ask any questions you may have.

### **What to take**

- Students should wear sensible and appropriate clothing to visit places of remembrance. Also, 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 as shoes cannot be worn indoors. (The floor is stone, so very cold and slippery!)
- Other items such as cameras and tablets may be brought on the trip. Please note that the care and security of any personal items taken on the trip is the responsibility of the student.
- Please ensure that your child has plenty of food and drink for the journey. Please do not give high caffeine/energy drinks; any found will be confiscated as we have found that these often lead to students being sick on the coach.
- 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.
- 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 at that time.
- Souvenirs can also be bought during the trip. 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.

**Students are allowed to bring their mobile phones. However, these will be collected before bedtime and handed back to them in the morning 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 can you ask students to join the Google Classroom via this code (**yelfndm**), so that I can see that you have safely received this letter and can add any updates over the summer or in September.

If you have any queries, please contact me at the school.

Yours sincerely



Mr C Giggle  
History Teacher