

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 9 WW1 Battlefields Visit from 28/09/26 – 01/10/26

The Humanities Department is proposing to take a four-day guided history tour to the First World War battlefields in Ypres, Belgium and the Somme in France, from Monday 28th September 2026 to Thursday 1st October 2026.

In Year 9 your son/daughter will study the First World War in depth. Whilst this is an optional visit, it would be an ideal opportunity for your child to gain first-hand knowledge of what happened there over 100 years ago, as well as pay their respects to those who died.

Our tour will include visits to many different sites that will enable our students to see the impact of the war on both sides of the fighting as well as the suffering that it caused. During the first two days we will visit Canadian memorial at Vimy Ridge, Essex Farm, Tyne Cot and Talbot House Museum. The students will have the opportunity to go into the trenches and remaining tunnels to see just what life in the war was really like.

One evening we will walk into Ypres town to take part in the 'Last Post Ceremony' at the Menin Gate. The Menin Gate is a famous memorial that contains the names of around 50,000 men whose remains were never recovered from the battlefields in the area. This moving tribute takes place every day at 8pm and some of our students will have the chance to take part in the actual ceremony and represent their school.

On the third day we will travel back into France and visit some of the sites on the Somme Battlefield. These might include the Thiepval Memorial, the mine crater at La Boisselle, the Ulster Monument and trenches at Beaumont Hamel and Wellington Quarry in Arras.

On the final day we will depart our accommodation after breakfast for one further visit if time permits, to the Bayerwald and the Chocolate Shop in Ypres, before returning to Calais and the Eurotunnel Terminal.

We will stay for three nights at CJT DE IEP, near Ypres town. This is on a full board basis. During our time here one of our evenings will also include a chance to go bowling.

Here is the first and last day itinerary for the trip (exact timings may change):

Monday 28th September 2026		
	Depart school	05:00
	Arrive Folkestone	10:30
	Depart Le Shuttle	14:00
	Arrive in Ypres	18:30
	In Ypres over night	
Thursday 2nd October 2025		
	Leave hostel	08:30
	Depart Calais Le Shuttle	14:30
	Arrive at Fairfield	19:00

(All times are subject to change and will be confirmed nearer the visit.)



Peterchurch, Herefordshire, HR2 0SG | 01981 550231 | admin@fairfield.hereford.sch.uk | Head Teacher: Mr Paul Jennings

The tour price is £409.00. This includes all transport costs, travel insurance, accommodation and museum entrance. **Students will need their own passports and a valid GHIC/EHIC card to enable them to travel.** The GHIC/EHIC card is free and can be applied for online.

The accommodation is on a full board basis. Students will need to have some spending money to purchase any extra drinks, food or souvenirs as required. **Students will also need to be provided with a packed lunch for Day 1 as we travel.**

The trip is open to **all students** in the current Year 8 (who will be in Year 9 when the visit takes place). To confirm a place on this visit for your son/daughter we require a £102.25 **deposit by 10th Dec 2025**. Payment needs to be made via the ParentPay facility. Should you have difficulty in paying the deposit at this point, but would still like your child to go, please contact me as soon as possible.

The remainder of the tour cost will be paid in three instalments.

£102.25 will be due on 1st Feb 2026

£102.25 will be due on 1st April 2026

£102.25 will be due on 1st June 2026 (final instalment).

If you wish for your child to participate in the Battlefields Trip, please pay the deposit on ParentPay ASAP as this is your indication of interest, and this will be the list of names that I pass to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) so that they can confirm places (see below*). All applications for the trip will need to be approved by SLT before any student places are confirmed. There are a maximum of 90 student places and if the trip is oversubscribed, names will be pulled at random by SLT. Once students have been allocated a place on the trip, the deposit is non-refundable. Places will be confirmed at the latest by early January.

***Please note that poor behaviour in school and/or poor attendance prior to the event may prevent your child from going on the trip. We will also consider carefully whether to take any child who exhibits behaviour that might put themselves, other students or staff at risk. Whilst we will discuss our concerns with parents and carers, the school's decision is final. In that instance, or if you withdraw your child for any reason, then any monies paid already will NOT be refunded.**

Yours sincerely

Mr J Emmett
History Lead Teacher