



4 November 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

**Subject - Day trip to the WW1 battlefields in Ypres, Belgium – Friday 9 June 2023**

The History department is running a trip to the WW1 battlefields in Ypres, Belgium. Belgium was at the heart of fighting during the First World War and the town of Ypres witnessed more than 5 major battles over the course of the war. This trip offers your son/daughter a chance to experience what life was like in the trenches and to reflect on the conditions and harsh realities of the First World War. Students will visit both British and German WW1 cemeteries in the morning as well as a museum that has accurately recreated both WW1 trenches and bunkers. They will finish the day by having time to explore the beautiful city of Ypres before attending the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. This will greatly support their studies in History in Year 8.

The trip will take place on Friday 9 June 2023. In order to attend this trip students **must have an in date passport with at least 6 months validity from the 9 June 2023**. Children will need to be in school at 4:40am for a departure time of 5:00am and the expected return time is 01:30am - 02:00 am (Saturday morning). This will make it a long day but it enables us to stay for the Last Post at the Menin Gate in the evening, a very special event and a real highlight of the trip. The students will then have the weekend to recover.

Students will need to **bring euros** in order to buy their meals (due to regulations since Brexit students cannot take food from the UK across the border into the EU) and any souvenirs (there is a world-renowned chocolate shop!). Students will be required to wear school uniform and bring suncream and/or a waterproof coat (depending on the weather) but are welcome to wear more comfortable footwear e.g. trainers.

The total cost of the trip is **£143**. If you are experiencing financial hardship and this is likely to prevent your child attending, please contact me. The school has some funds available to facilitate student participation in these circumstances.

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**Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)**  
Headteacher

To secure your child's place on this trip the **total amount of £143** is required by **12pm on 21 November 2022**. This is normally a very popular trip and it will be first come first served. Payment is needed at this time to secure a time slot for the channel tunnel crossing. Payment should be made via sQuid, our online payment system. **Cash and cheques will no longer be accepted.** Please log onto the system ([www.squidcard.com](http://www.squidcard.com)) and select the 'trips/activities purse'. This trip will be called '**History Ypres 2023**' and must be specifically selected in order to make payment. Please follow the instructions on screen. An emailed receipt will automatically be sent to you by the system once payment is made. It is very important that payment is made before the stated deadline. The school does not have funds available to meet the cost of late contributions.

The school is delighted to be able to start offering overseas experiences to our students; these are an exciting part of a child's development.

Parents will understand though that the context in which international travel is currently taking place remains fluid. We have all seen examples of entry requirements being changed at short notice.

The school carries insurance, and this will cover parents against a cancellation of the trip due to a country closing its borders, or a child being diagnosed with covid immediately before departure (this will need to be formally supported medically). Our insurers have made it clear though that they will not refund costs where a parent voluntarily decides to remove their child from the trip.

The school has no control over the rules that may be in place to either facilitate entry into another country or a return to the UK. In order to give parents the maximum amount of time to pay for these activities, the lead time has to be quite lengthy, which makes predicting these requirements even harder to do.

In paying a deposit for your child to participate, parents are confirming to the school that they are prepared to comply with whatever rules might be in place. This could include mandatory proof of vaccination or a requirement to undertake PCR or lateral flow testing. Where such testing incurs extra cost, this will need to be met by parents.

We will clearly keep these requirements under review, and will communicate to parents if anything is required nearer the date of departure.

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Vyners School has in place detailed procedures for ensuring that trips are well planned and that the health, welfare and safety of students is protected. A careful and written risk assessment has been prepared for this trip and adequate student supervision and insurance arrangements will be put in place.

It is expected that all students will observe the highest standard of politeness, courtesy and conduct at all times. Our students are representing Vyners School and it is expected that they will do everything in a way that reflects positively on themselves and the school. The School's Behaviour Policy continues to be in force throughout the trip. Should it prove necessary to send a student home for misbehaviour, parents / carers will be expected to meet all extra costs incurred. In the event of a student being refused participation on a trip before departure because of poor behaviour, any contributions already paid will also be forfeit.

Yours sincerely

Kind regards,



Ms M Soley  
History Teacher

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