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14 October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Educational Battlefields Visit to France and Belgium Thursday 1 May 2025 – Monday 5 May 2025

I am pleased to be able to offer forty places on the above visit, full details of which are set out below. The visit is open to all students currently in Year 9. The trip will be led by Cardinal Heenan staff and organised by Galloway School Tours, a long established operator. Galloway is an Assured Member of the School Travel Forum (STF) and a Member of the Bonded Coach Holiday Group of The Confederation of Passenger Transport UK Ltd.

The cost of the visit will be **£559.00**.

The visit is an optional extra for those pupils wishing to extend their knowledge of the First World War by means of an overseas residential experience. **Consequently, parents who wish their children to participate in this visit will be required to pay the costs in full by ticking the “commitment to pay” section in the expression of interest form below.** This will ensure that sufficient monies are received to fund the trip.

The cost of the visit includes:

- Transport by coach to Belgium and use of the tour bus for the visit.
- Return ferry crossings from Hull to Rotterdam.
- Four days and two nights hostel accommodation at Ypres, Belgium, close to the battle fields and two nights aboard the ferry. Pupils will be sharing rooms with private en-suite facilities.
- All meals, from arrival on the ferry on Thursday afternoon until return on the Monday.
- A full programme of visits to the battle fields of Belgium and France including the price of entrance to the museums.
- Comprehensive travel, medical and personal insurance. (Parents should note that, in keeping with most insurance policies, the first part of any claim is not covered). Please also check for pre-existing conditions.
- Recreational fees.

It is emphasised that this is an educational visit. Although pupils will not be expected to complete written work on the visit, the focus of this tour is gaining an understanding of *Life on the Western Front*.

If you wish your son or daughter to participate, please complete expression of interest form by following this link <https://forms.office.com/e/hDu4swGtp2> by Friday 25 October 2024. Places on the visit will be allocated according to the information above. If the visit is oversubscribed, places will be allocated by means of a lottery.

No payment is requested until your child is allocated a place on the visit.



Payments

Parents of those students selected will be required to pay a deposit of **£200** by **Friday 22 November 2024**. Should there be too few pupils interested in taking part, all deposits will be returned in full.

Once a place has been offered to your child, further contributions should be made as follows:

Second Payment of **£200**: no later than 24 January 2025

Third Payment of **£159**: no later than 21 February 2025

Failure to meet these payment deadlines will incur extra charges by the tour operator; such charges would be passed on to parents/carers in full. Payment will be by means of ParentPay only. Details of the ParentPay scheme are available on the school website.

Exclusion of Students

The Headteacher reserves the right to exclude any pupil from this visit at any time prior to departure if the pupil's behaviour makes it impossible for him or her to be considered suitable to represent the school. In this event, a refund would not be issued. This is a decision that would not be taken lightly, and parents would remain fully informed throughout any such process.

Yours faithfully

Mr K Wild

Visit Leader and Teacher of History