Dear Parent/Carer

The History Department is offering an opportunity for students to take part in our four-day visit to the First World War Western Front Battlefields, leaving school on the afternoon of Thursday 18th May 2017 and travelling to Hull by coach to catch the overnight ferry to Zeebrugge. This is a long-standing trip and is always very popular with the students who get the opportunity to appreciate the realities of the First World War first hand. The cost of the trip will be around £300, depending on final numbers. This includes travel, accommodation, the services of an experienced tour guide, entry fees to museums and all meals.

An outline of the initial itinerary for the tour is given below.

**Day One: Outward Travel**
- School pick-up & travel to Hull 14.30
- Check-in at ferry terminal 16.30
- Overnight ferry to Zeebrugge

**Day Two: The Somme**
- Visits to: Serre & the Accrington Pals’ Trench; Newfoundland Park Preserved Battlefield; Thiepval Ridge & Memorial to the Missing; Lochnagar Crater; Gordon Dump Cemetery; (Donald Bell VC); Ulster Tower
- Travel to overnight accommodation in Albert
- Check-in followed by evening meal

**Day Three: Messines & Passchendaele**
- Depart after breakfast to visit: Pilkem Ridge, Langemark German Cemetery; the Menin Road & Hellfire Corner
- Visit to Ypres & the Menin Gate
- Afternoon: Memorial Museum, Passchendaele; Passchendaele Ridge; Tyne Cot Cemetery
- Travel to Zeebrugge
- Overnight ferry to Hull

**Day Four: Return to School**
- Disembark in Hull
- School drop-off around 11.00

It is usually possible to visit the graves of relatives of students who have graves and memorials in these areas. This year we were very fortunate to be able to visit several sites of great significance to the students. This was a very powerful experience. We will also visit the graves of ‘old boys’ of the school, in particular Donald Bell, the only professional footballer to win the VC.
If you would like your son/daughter to take part in the trip, please pay the deposit of £50 online at www.harrogategrammar.co.uk. On-line payment will be open from the morning of Friday 21st October, from which time payments can be received. Places are allocated only when the online payment is received and on a first come first served basis. The deposit is non-refundable unless the trip is over-subscribed, in which case places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. The second instalment of £135 is due by Friday 3rd February with the final instalment of £135 being due by Friday 3rd March. If you would prefer to pay in smaller instalments that is possible through our online payment system as long as instalments are received in line with the set payment deadlines.

Please note that consent slips must be returned to the Trips & Visits letterbox for this trip.

This trip has been booked through a reputable schools’ travel company and as with any trip booked through a travel company, withdrawing your child from the trip incurs a tiered cancellation penalty charge. This could mean that in the event of any cancellations not caused by the school or travel company, these costs will be passed on to the parent/guardian.

We would ask you not to allow your child to take expensive items such as electronic devices on this trip. In the event that your child does have such items then the care of those items remains their responsibility.

The school has arranged for insurance to cover school visits and trips. A full electronic copy of the policy or key facts are available on request. Whilst this is a comprehensive policy it is subject to standard terms, conditions, excesses and a single article limit of £500. If it is not sufficient to cover your child’s property, then you may wish to arrange your own insurance.

In the event that the school insurance policy does not pay a claim made in respect of your child’s property the school does not accept responsibility for any loss. The school also cannot reimburse you in respect of any insurance excess.

In the event of any loss, theft or damage your child needs to notify the Visit Leader immediately so that the matter can be reported. The failure to report the matter is likely to lead to any insurance company rejecting their claim.

Upon return to the school we will provide you with any information you need such as the crime reference number and a claim form to assist you in making a claim but cannot make the claim on your behalf.

Please note that the emergency contact and medical details on the school database will be used for this trip. If you believe that any of these details may not be up-to-date please contact the Data Office. The insurance cover will be provided by the school insurance policy and this relies upon your medical details being correct. Insurance details are available upon request.

Yours sincerely

Miss N Devey
Trip Leader
Please return to the Trips & Visits letterbox.

I give permission for (student name)__________________________ Form__________ to take part in the Year 9 WW1 Battlefields Tour taking place on 18th to 21st May 2017. I have read the information and I agree to his/her participation.

I have paid my deposit of £50 online [ ] Please tick

Signed:______________________________ Parent / Carer Date:_____________