



15 October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 7 and Year 8 French Trip and Battlefields – Tuesday 23 to Friday 26 June 2026

The French and History departments are collaborating on a trip that offers a chance to visit the First World War Western Front Battlefields, as well as some fun excursions and experiencing a taste of modern-day French culture.

The Battlefields part of the trip is a powerful experience and offers students the opportunity to learn more about the First World War. It includes visits to the graves of past students including 2nd Lt. Donald Bell, the only professional footballer to be awarded the Victoria Cross. The remainder of the trip is designed as an introduction into French culture, a little adventure and the chance to try out some French phrases, bringing the classroom learning to life.

The provisional itinerary is shown below and will be confirmed in due course:

Day One: Outward Travel and Vimy Ridge

- Depart from HGS at 4am and coach to Dover
- Ferry crossing, arrive in France and visit to Vimy Ridge
- Youth hostel accommodation in Amiens

Day Two: The Somme

- Depart after breakfast to the battlefields of the Somme
- Visits to: Sunken Lane, Auchonvillers, Newfoundland Memorial Park, Bell's Redoubt Memorial, Gordon Dump, Fricourt, Lochnagar Crater, and Thiepval Memorial
- Evening meal in Auchonvillers and return to accommodation

Day Three: Parc Astérix

- Depart after breakfast to Parc Astérix
- Full day at the theme park
- Evening meal at the youth hostel in Amiens

Day Four: Le Touquet, Bakery, Return Travel

- Depart after breakfast to Le Touquet
- Beach trip or walk around the town
- Bakery visit and activity
- Return coach journey via Calais-Dover ferry crossing
- Arrive at HGS 11.30pm

Harrogate Grammar School Arthurs Avenue, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 0DZ
☎ 01423 531127 ✉ mail@hgs.rklt.co.uk 📘 HarrogateGrammarSchool 📧 @HarrogateGS
www.harrogategrammar.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr N Renton, Associate Headteacher: Mrs K Moat



Learning Trust Alliance Teacher Training Teaching School Hub

Expression of Interest

If your child would like to take part in this trip, please complete an [expression of interest form](#) by **9am on Friday 31 October 2025**.

In the event the trip is oversubscribed, current Year 8 students who missed out on the Year 7 Valencia and Rhineland trips will be given priority and any remaining places will be allocated on a random basis. Parents/carers will be notified if their child has secured a place by Friday 7 November 2025. If unsuccessful at this stage, your child will be added to a reserve list.

Awareness of other MFL trips for prioritising and budgeting

This French and Battlefields collaborative trip will take place every two years for Years 7 and 8, so this is the only chance for current Year 7 and Year 8 students to take part. There may be a shorter Battlefields trip in 2026-27 academic year, but this is not confirmed.

Students in Year 7 who study Spanish will have the chance of a trip to Valencia in the summer of their Year 8. Students in Year 7 who study German will have the chance of a trip to the Rhineland in the summer of their Year 8.

When in Years 10 and 11, there are week-long exchanges to partner schools in each of France, Germany and Spain. These run every two years.

Students will require a current passport, in date until at least 23 December 2026, along with a GHIC (Global Health Insurance Card). If your child requires a GHIC, they can be obtained free of charge from the NHS Website by clicking [here](#). If your child does not hold a British passport, you will need to check if any other documentation is required.

Cost of the trip

The overall total cost for the trip is **£655**. This includes return travel, insurance, accommodation, meals and activities when in France, all entry fees and experienced tour guides for the battlefields.

I am sure you will understand that we do not have the funds available to us from which to pay for the entire trip. Therefore, we politely ask you to make a voluntary contribution of **£655 towards the cost of the trip**. Unfortunately, if insufficient voluntary contributions are received, then regrettably, the trip will not go ahead.

We do understand that the cost may be prohibitive for some families, and we would not wish to preclude any students from taking part on this basis. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact hgsfinance@hgs.rklt.co.uk

If you can support in making additional trip contributions for families in financial hardship, there is a voluntary trip donation available in Arbor under School Shop.

Payment Schedule

Once you have been notified that your child has secured a place on this trip, please **pay via Arbor**. A guide for this payment system can be accessed [here](#).

- Initial non-refundable deposit of £100 due by Friday 21 November 2025
- 5 monthly instalments of £100
- Final instalment of £55 due by Sunday 31 May 2026

You may pay in larger instalments or one lump sum through our online payment system. However, please ensure that these are received in line with the set payment deadlines.

Next Steps

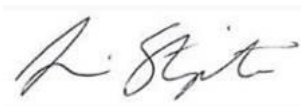
- Please complete the expression of interest form by clicking [here](#) by **9am 31 October 2025**.
- You will be contacted by **Friday 7 November 2025** to confirm whether your child has been offered a place
- If successful, please pay the **£100** deposit by **Friday 21 November 2025** via Arbor, to secure your child's place
- Ensure your child's passport and GHIC are in date until at least **Tuesday 23 December 2026** and send a picture to HGSfinance@hgs.rklt.co.uk
- Ensure your contact details and your child's medical details are up to date, emailing any changes to HGSgateway@hgs.rklt.co.uk
- Please [click here](#) to access the general trip information sheet, which includes details of our cancellation policy, administering of medication and behaviour expectations

We are looking forward to this exciting trip.

Yours sincerely



Mrs L Chesworth
Head of History



Mr A Stipetic
Faculty Leader - MFL