

9 November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 Battlefields Trip 2023

The History Department is delighted to be offering an exceptional opportunity for students to take part in our four-day visit to the First World War Western Front Battlefields in Belgium and France.

This is a long-standing trip and is always very popular, giving students the opportunity to appreciate the realities of the First World War. It is a packed trip where students will visit the following: Serre & the Accrington Pals' Trench, Passchendaele Memorial Museum, Lochnagar, Ovillers-La-Boisselle (Donald Bell VC), Passchendaele Ridge, Newfoundland Memorial Park, Thiepval, Ulster Memorial Tower, Essex Farm Cemetery & Dressing Station, Tyne Cot Cemetery, La Boisselle, Gordon Dump Cemetery, Pilkem Ridge, Langemark Cemetery and Menin Road South Military Cemetery.

Students will leave HGS on the afternoon of Thursday 18 May and return to HGS on Sunday 21 May 2023, timings and a full itinerary to be confirmed at a later date.

Students will require a **current passport with at least 6 months remaining before expiry at the time of the trip and a GHIC** (Global Health Insurance Card). If your child requires a GHIC, they can be obtained **free of charge from the NHS Website**. Websites trying to sell them should be avoided. If your child does not hold a British passport, you will need to check if any other documentation is required for entry to Germany.

From a COVID-19 perspective, there are currently no entry restrictions for France or Belgium. If this situation were to change, we would let you know as soon as possible. It would then be the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure that the appropriate documentation is acquired to meet the entry criteria.

Expression of Interest

If your child would like to take part in this trip, please complete an expression of interest form by clicking [here](#) by Wednesday 16 November 2023. In the event the trip is oversubscribed, places will be allocated on a random basis and Parents/Carers will be notified if their child has secured a place by Monday 21 November 2022. If unsuccessful at this stage, your child will be added to a reserve list.

Cost of the trip

The total cost for the trip will be £450, which includes all travel, accommodation, the services of an experienced tour guide, entry fees to museums and all meals. Any surplus would be returned to families in due course.

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.

Payment schedule

Once you have been notified that your child has secured a place on the trip, please pay via our online payments system, [Scopay](#), in line with the payment schedule below.

- Initial non-refundable deposit of £150 due by Friday 2 December 2022
- Second Instalment of £150 due Tuesday 28 February 2023
- Final Instalment of £150 due Friday 31 March 2023

If you would prefer to pay in smaller instalments, or one lump sum, that is possible through our online payment system but please ensure that these are received in line with the set payment deadlines.

If you would like to make an additional voluntary contribution to support children from families on low income to participate in this trip and other trips like this, there is a payment option available on [Scopay](#) under 'Additional Trip Voluntary Contribution.' Any donation you are able to make is greatly appreciated.

Next Steps

- Please complete the expression of interest form [here](#) by Wednesday 16 November 2022
- If successful, please pay the £150 deposit by Friday 2 December 2022 to secure your child's place. Please click [here](#) and select Trips and Events to give consent and make the payment
- Please email a copy of your child's passport and GHIC to hgsfinance@hgs.rklt.co.uk if you already have this available, otherwise, these must be sent by Friday 27 January 2023
- Ensure your contact details and your child's medical details are up to date, emailing any changes to HGSgateway@hgs.rklt.co.uk

We are very much looking forward to this trip.

Yours sincerely



Miss N Devey

Trip Leader