

April 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Ypres visit 15th – 17th June 2016

Preparations are now well underway for the trip to Ypres and by now all payments should have been made. Please ensure that you have completed any outstanding payments as soon as possible.

We thought it helpful to let you have some tips for planning and a brief outline of the schedule. Please note there may be changes to the itinerary and you will be informed as soon as possible if this happens.

Day 1: Travel via Dover/ Calais on Ferry. Stop at Diksmunde - Trench of Death and Essex Farm Cemetery, Ypres. Travel to Hostel at Kemmel. Evening Lesson.

Day 2: Tour of Ypres battlefield sites and cemeteries. To include Pool of Peace, Sanctuary Wood, Tyne Cot, Bayenwald and Langemark German cemetery. Evening at Menin Gate.

Day 3: Pack. Travel via Vimy Ridge to Ferry and Return.

What to bring:

Toiletries

Outer coat and shoes for walking (wellingtons in carrier bag as the tunnels at Sanctuary Wood are always wet)

Packed lunch for Wednesday

Travel sickness tablets if needed

Inexpensive camera (if desired)

Suncream and hat (if hot)

Travel adaptor

Towels

Money and Personal items:

We recommend that each student takes about £25 in Euros. They may want to take more to buy presents. It is wise to take some Sterling. Money can be exchanged on the boat if necessary. **Staff cannot be held responsible for any personal items that may be lost or damaged and as such we would discourage students from taking valuables.**

Travel arrangements:

Departures: Wednesday 15th June. The coach will be at Wood Green Bus Park by 6.45am. It is important that we leave by 7.00am.

Return: Friday 17th June. We should return at about 7.00pm. If you choose to allow your child to walk home from school at this time, it is important to realise that responsibility for your child's welfare is yours and not the school's.

H.M. Customs Regulations: Children are not entitled to any duty free allowances of alcohol or tobacco. Other gifts are permitted (subject to usual legal restrictions).

It is particularly important that staff instructions are carried out promptly and exactly and that consideration is shown to other members of the party and members of the public in the hotel, coach, boat and at all the places we visit. Students will be expected to refrain from smoking and/or consuming alcohol. By accepting a place on this visit, students have contracted to follow the codes of behaviour which you and your child will have signed. Any infringement of this contract will be severely dealt with on return to school. **We would ask you to emphasise this point with your child.**

For most of the trip the students will be closely supervised. However, there will be some occasions when they will be given unsupervised free time especially for shopping in Ypres. Staff will be available at a designated place throughout this period and no student will be allowed to shop on their own.

Passports and the **European Health Insurance Cards** need to be taken to the Finance Office by 8th June. They will be returned to the students on the final stages of the return journey.

Please complete the attached forms and return to your child's History Teacher no later than 20th May.

The hotel we will be staying at is the CTT De Lork in Kemmel just outside Ypres.

Yours faithfully



SR Watson
History Department

SRW/new