

AJR/cc battlefields of WW1 Year 9
28th July 2011

To all in Year 9

Dear Parents/Guardians

The Battlefields of the First World War, 3rd – 5th July 2012

Following the success of previous History department visits to the battlefields, I have provisionally booked guides, transport and accommodation for the above extra-curricular visit on 3rd – 5th July 2012; please note that these dates fall in the final week of term during Curriculum Enrichment Week. This visit is for pupils in Year 9 only and will provide them with an invaluable insight into the nature of trench warfare. Pupils will study both World Wars in Year 9 and always value the opportunity to travel to France and Belgium for this visit. There is also an option to visit Dunkirk on the final day should the pupils wish to do this; the itinerary can be amended nearer the time of departure and you will be notified of any change.

The pupils will be accompanied by teaching staff in addition to our guide Philip Pearce who has expert knowledge of military history and war poetry; he has guided our groups for several years. We will be travelling with Anglia Battlefield Tours and have used them for previous visits with great success.

The cost of the visit will be £277 based on 35 pupils travelling. If more pupils take part, the cost will fall and I will advise you of this. This cost includes food (excluding breakfast on day one and evening meal on our return), accommodation, museum entrance fees and guides. Pupils will be in shared rooms with en-suite facilities at The Messines Peace Hostel in Belgium.

This has always proved to be a most valuable experience for pupils. I hope that you will consider allowing your son/daughter to take part. If you have any queries regarding this visit please do not hesitate to contact me at school. The travel company require confirmation of our final numbers so a prompt reply, using the slip below, would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Anna Jo Righton
Head of Humanities, Director of Studies



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Please return to Anna Jo Righton, Sibford School as soon as possible and by **9th September at the latest.**

I would like my son/daughter to take part in the visit to the Battlefields of the First World War on 3rd – 5th July 2012. I understand that the cost, £277 will be added to my end of term account and **is non-refundable.**

Pupil's Name:

Signed: Parent/Guardian

Date:

Day 1 Tuesday 3rd July 2012

- 0800 Executive coach arrives at school
Coach Company: Premiere via Coaching Connections
- 0830 Depart School
- 1030 Collect Guide: **Philip Pearce**
At Maidstone Services J8 of the M20
Toilet stop and opportunity to get something to eat under own arrangements
- 1120 Depart Maidstone for the shuttle
- 1150 Check in for shuttle
- 1250 Outbound shuttle
- 1330 Arrive France (local time)
- 1430 Travel to Ypres

Lijssenthoek
Brandhoek NMC – Noel Chavasse – a double VC winner
Bayernwald Preserved German Trench
- 1830 Dinner at Vivaldi's restaurant in Grand Square in Ypres

Time for chocolate shopping
- 1945 Briefing for Last Post
- 2000 Menin Gate - Last Post Ceremony
- 2015 Depart for Accommodation - tbc
Youth Hostel Messine
Nieuwkerkestraat 9a
8957 Mesen
Belgium

Day 2 Wednesday 4th July 2012

- 0830 Depart Accommodation
- 1030 Arrive Somme to include:

Serre – orientation
- 1100 *Pick up packed lunches from Ocean Villas*

Newfoundland Memorial Park

Ulster Tower
Mansel Copse
Lochnagar Crater
Thiepval Memorial to the Missing

1730 Supper at Ocean Villas

1830 Depart Somme for Ypres

2030 Arrive back at accommodation

Day 3 Thursday 5th July 2012

0830 Depart accommodation with packed lunches

0915 Essex Farm
Vancouver Corner - maybe a drive by - time permitting
Langemarck – German Cemetery
Tyne Cot

1200 Depart for Poperinghe -
Firing Post

1300 Depart for shuttle

1400 Check in for shuttle

1450 Inbound shuttle

1430 Arrive UK (local time)

1800 Arrive School (approx)