



18th October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 World War I Battlefields Trip to Belgium

Saturday 6th July - Tuesday 9th July 2024

The history department will be running their annual trip to the battlefields of World War I next summer and it is open to all students in Year 9. The trip offers students the opportunity to visit some of the World War I battlefield sites and memorials in Belgium and France, which will give them a real sense of what the ordinary soldiers' experience involved. The tour centres on the Ypres area of Belgium, which saw constant fighting throughout the war and was ultimately responsible for the loss of approximately one million British, German, French and Belgian lives. For the first time we are also including a visit to the Somme in France where one of the most significant battles of World War I took place. Whilst it is now more than 100 years since the Great War began, students can still explore the evidence (museums, cemeteries, surviving trenches and battlefield sites) to develop an understanding of this conflict.

In terms of travel, I propose leaving Hall Park early in the morning of Saturday 6th July to catch a ferry from Dover to Calais. From there we will travel, via introductory visits, to our hostel arriving in the early evening; the next 3 days will be spent exploring the sites of the Ypres area and the Somme. Our accommodation will be the Peace Village in Messines, close to Ypres. For the return journey, we will catch an afternoon ferry from Calais to Dover on Tuesday 9th July, arriving back at Hall Park late on the same day.

The cost for your child to join this trip will be between £340 - £390 depending on how many students are interested in joining the trip. Once we have taken deposits we can confirm the final cost; this includes all travel by coach, ferry and accommodation on a full board basis (although students have to make their own arrangements for dinner on the Sunday evening), together with insurance and museum entry fees. Students will also require spending money. **All students will need their own individual passport and GHIC/EHIC. If your child does not have a passport, it is essential that you apply for this in plenty of time.**

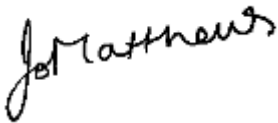
There is a maximum number of 50 places for this trip. If there are more students than this wanting to go, names will be selected at random. We reserve the right to refuse permission for any student to go on this trip in cases where a student's conduct at school has not been acceptable, including in the time up to the date of departure, by giving you a full refund. In addition, all students must have a good attendance record (unless there are mitigating circumstances). There will be an additional letter after the closing date to inform you of whether your child has been accepted onto the trip and provide you with a payment schedule for the balance. If your child is successful in getting a place on the trip, please note all payments are **non-refundable**.

In order to secure a place for your child, we request a deposit of £50 per student. The deadline for the deposit is **Monday 20th November 2023** and should be paid via the ParentPay website. Payment of the deposit does not guarantee a place on the trip as this is also subject to approval by the school. If you were unsuccessful for whatever reason, the deposit will be fully refunded.

Please note, participation in school trips is conditional upon satisfactory attendance and good conduct before the trip.

We do hope your child will be able to take part in what will be a valuable, interesting and moving educational visit. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at matthewsj@hallparkacademy.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Matthews". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Mrs J Matthews
Teacher of History