



Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Year 8 History Trip - Battlefields 2025 - Monday 23rd June to Tuesday 24th June 2025

We would like to invite your son/daughter to the Humanities Department's annual tour of the First World War Battlefields and Memorials in Belgium and France. The trip is a **two-day** visit taking place on Monday 23rd to Tuesday 24th June 2025.

The visit forms part of Year 9 students' study of the First World War. It is a deeply moving, memorable and exciting experience that has a tremendous impact upon our students, encouraging them to think deeply about both the past and their own views.

The full itinerary is to be finalised however the following is currently suggested:

Day 1: We will be visiting the historic and beautiful town of Ypres, exploring the World War I interactive museum, walking in real trenches and tunnels, investigating the largest British war cemetery in the world.

Day 2: We will travel to France to visit the Wellington Quarry before travelling back via ferry.

Parents and students should be aware that this trip involves some visits of a sensitive nature and that behaviour must be of an excellent standard throughout, with silence during teacher instructions and ceremonies essential.

We will be leaving the school at around *5am on Monday 23rd June 2025 and returning to Bracknell at around *8pm on Tuesday 24th June 2025 (*actual departure & arrival times will be confirmed nearer the time). We will travel to the continent via an executive coach and Eurotunnel.

The trip will cost £350 and this includes all travel, insurance, an evening meal on Monday night, a night in an the Hotel Munchenhof including a continental breakfast and packed lunch on Tuesday. Students will need to bring a packed lunch for the journey on Monday and Euros for food for the journey home on Tuesday due to us arriving back late.

The full payment of £350 is to be received by Thursday 1st May 2025. We suggest payments are made in a series of instalments as detailed below unless you choose to pay in full; **the deposit amounts and dates are mandatory and non-refundable unless a replacement for your child's place is found.**

Payment	Due Date
1st Deposit - £50 (non-refundable)*	Immediately
2nd Deposit - £100 (non-refundable)*	1 March 2025 (mandatory date)
3rd Deposit - £100 (non-refundable)*	1 April 2025 (mandatory date)
Balance - £110* (non-refundable)*	1 May 2025 (mandatory date)

*Please note cancellation charges will be incurred if you cancel your child's place; this will be in line with the tour company's cancellation guidelines and may also include any additional costs incurred by the school. Some instances of cancellation would fall under the insurance policy (i.e., medical reasons) and if a successful claim was made the loss would be limited to the insurance excess charge.

The school would endeavour to fill a cancelled place however this is not always possible. If a replacement were found, there may be associated costs which you would be required to bear, such as a change of name if these have been confirmed with the travel provider. You would then be refunded the difference upon full receipt of payment for the place from the other payee.



Entry rules for France & Belgium in response to COVID-19:

Current UK Government travel advice to France:

****From 1 August 2022, all COVID-19 travel restrictions for travellers to France have been lifted. The rules that previously applied to travellers coming to France no longer apply.****

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/france/entry-requirements#entry-rules-in-response-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

Current UK Government travel advice to Belgium:

****There are no longer COVID-19-related restrictions on travel from the UK, such as the need to present evidence of vaccination, a negative COVID-19 test or to complete a Passenger Locator Form.****

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/belgium/entry-requirements#entry-rules-in-response-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

****However, the guidance above can change at any time.** Therefore, if for any reason your child is not, or will not be, fully vaccinated you are advised not to book a place for your child as this will be at your risk if guidance changes to require this prior to departure. **It is your responsibility to determine the risk of losing £350 if your child is not vaccinated due to restrictions which may change in the future. There is no insurance cover for this circumstance. ****

Students wishing to go on the trip will require their own passport with at least 3 months remaining at the time of return. **Please check if your child requires a Visa to travel to France or Belgium as you will need to organise them.** If students do not have the required travel documents, they will be unable to go on the trip and your payment will be forfeited so please check very carefully and plan enough time to obtain them.

If your child still has a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) you can continue to use this until it expires. If they do not have an EHIC or it has expired, you can apply for a Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC). Please visit the NHS website to order: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>

Places for this visit are limited and as demand is always very high, will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis however should not enough parents sign up, the trip may not be viable to run. A reserve list will be opened up if necessary. The Humanities Department reserves the right to refuse any student whose attitude, effort or behaviour might put the safety and good order of the group at risk.

To reserve a place for your child, please make payment via your ParentPay account and complete the parental question section **upon deposit payment.**

If your child does not yet have a valid passport or EHIC/GHIC please enter an X in the details box so you can make payment and secure your child's place. These details can be added later.

Should you need to activate your ParentPay account, please email finance@kgaeasthampstead.uk.

I will write again nearer the time with further details, and I will be running a Parents' Information Evening in June where I can answer any questions regarding the trip. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at nathan.ball@kgaeasthampstead.uk if you require any further information at this stage.

Yours sincerely



Mr N Ball
Teacher of Humanities