

November 2022

Princethorpe
Rugby
CV23 9PX

Telephone: 01926 634200
e-mail: post@princethorpe.co.uk

Dear Parents

Year 8 Trip to Ypres and the Somme, 2023

The History department is pleased organising a trip to **Ypres and the Somme** to overlap with the start of **Activities Week 2023** from Friday 30 June to Tuesday 4 July 2023.

The Year 8 program of study will end with an investigation into the First World War in the Trinity term. This is therefore an ideal opportunity to take a group of pupils to the WW1 Battlefields in Ypres, in Belgium, and in the Somme region of France to experience what the war was like first hand. The trip will also allow pupils to experience the culture of France and Belgium.

The proposed itinerary is detailed below;

Friday 30 June – the students will depart Princethorpe College at the end of the school day. We will make the crossing of the Channel; then on to Ypres, a town which witnessed some of the most horrific battles of the Great War.

Saturday 1 July - the students will visit areas of interest surrounding Ypres. This will include Sanctuary Wood. The slopes of Hill 62 were part of the front line in 1915. The museum at Sanctuary Wood is one of few sites on the Ypres Salient battlefields where an original trench layout can be seen, relatively unchanged since the war. The students will also visit the Passchendaele Memorial Museum that offers a wealth of interactive exhibits that help the students understand trench life with greater clarity.

Sunday 2 July- the tour will make a trip to the Somme region in France. This was the region which saw many fierce battles throughout the war, most notably the Battle of the Somme between July and November 1916. We will visit the Ulster Memorial, where a tour guide will take us through what happened there during the Battle of the Somme and help student to imagine trench life with the original trenches being excavated and restored.

Monday 3 July- the students will enjoy some downtime at **Bellewarde Park**, a theme park based in Ypres that promises a good day out for the whole group. In the evening, we will participate in the memorial ceremony at the Menin Gate, Ypres.

Tuesday 4 July – in the morning we will visit the Flanders Field's museum, where we will aim to understand the peace following the end of the war and its consequences for the rest of the twentieth century. We will also have an opportunity to explore Ypres town centre and visit an authentic Belgian chocolate shop. Our expected return to Princethorpe is approximately 20:00.

Senior School (11-18 years) at Princethorpe College

Junior School (4-11 years) at Crescent School

Junior School and Little Crackers Nursery (2-11 years) at Crackley Hall

Insurance

This trip is covered by the Halsbury Travel's insurance policy, details of which will be provided to you once your child has indicated their interest in the trip.

Pre-existing medical conditions are covered provided that the travel is not against doctor's orders. We recommend that, if a pupil does have a pre-existing condition which a parent may be worried about that they seek their doctor's permission to travel (preferably in writing).

Please note that the school no longer holds travel insurance. Parents should ensure that personal possessions are covered through their own insurance. The school recommends that pupils do not take items of value on any school trip.

The cost of the trip will be approximately **£506** including;

- Coach travel and Channel crossing
- Entrance to all fee charging museums listed
- 4 nights full board accommodation Pax Hotel in Diksmuide (AA 3* accommodation)

It is proposed to spread the cost as follows:

1. £75 deposit via bank transfer (Monday 05 December, with Evolve consent);
2. £215.50 billed with Lent term fees on Wednesday 04 January 2023;
3. £215.50 billed with Trinity term fees on Monday 17 April 2023.

An email from Evolve will be sent next week to authorise consent for this trip and explain the process for making the initial deposit. Places on the trip are limited so they will be allocated on a first come, first served basis following approval of the online form **and the deposit** placed in the school account.

Yours sincerely

Mr Peter Bucknall
Head of History