March 2019

Dear Parents

**Year 8 Trip to Ypres and the Somme, 2019**

The History department is organising a trip to **Ypres and the Somme** to overlap with the start of **Activities Week 2019** from Thursday 27 June to Monday 1 July 2019.

The trip is designed to support the History curriculum followed in Key Stages 3 and 4 and engender a love of France and French culture to underpin the acquisition of skills in the French language.

The proposed itinerary is detailed below;

**Thursday 27 June** – the students will depart Princethorpe College at 07:00. We will make the crossing by Channel Tunnel; then on to Ypres, a town which witnessed some of the most horrific battles of the Great War. The students would get the opportunity to take part in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. Accomodation will be at *Pax Hotel in Diksmuide* for the duration of the trip.

**Friday 28 June**- the students will visit 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.

**Saturday 28 June**- 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 Newfoundland Park where the scars of trench warfare can see be seen, as well as a number of exhibits and memorials where trenches have been preserved. The students will also visit some of the British cemeteries in the region.

**Sunday 29 June**- 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.

**Monday 1 July** – return to Princethorpe via La Coupole V2 Rocket site. This links with the events of the Second World War, and afterward, which will be studied as part of the Year 9 History course. We will return to Princethorpe at approximately 19:00.

Insurance

This trip is covered by the school’s annual travel insurance. This includes unlimited cover for medical expenses.

Full details of the insurance can be found on the Parent Portal.

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).

The school will not make claims for items such as laptops, PDAs, smartphones and cameras and other expensive personal possessions and other expensive personal possessions under the travel insurance as we wish to maintain our claim record. 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 **£445** including;

* Coach and travel by the Channel Tunnel
* Entrance to all fee charging museums listed
* 4 nights full board accommodation Pax Hotel in Diksmuide

It is proposed to spread the cost as follows:

1. £75 deposit via bank transfer (Monday 19 November, with Evolve consent);
2. £185 billed with Lent term fees in January 2019;
3. £185 billed with Trinity term fees in April 2019.

Yours faithfully



**Mr Peter Bucknall**

**Head of History**