

Dear parent/guardian,

WWI Battlefields (Ypres & the Somme) trip, February 8th-11th 2018 (4 days – 3 ½ nights).

Following an immensely successful inaugural trip, the RE, History and English Departments are running their second educational trip to the Battlefields of World War One in Northern France and Belgium next year. This trip allows pupils to gain a more detailed insight into various RE topics including Religion & Suffering, Capital Punishment and Religion & Conflict.

It also includes looking at the weapons, tactics and technology of the First World War whilst allowing students a more detailed overview of the 'historic environment' (The British sector of the Western Front; injuries, treatments and the trenches) element of the GCSE History course. In English, it will help them to understand the topic of War Poetry including visiting sites where the poetry was written, including a visit to Mametz Wood.

It is NOT essential that students attend this visit in order to complete their GCSE studies but participation will benefit them particularly in RE and English as it will enable them to deepen their understanding of the topics they are studying and place them in their context. Students **do not** have to be currently studying GCSE History or wanting to as part of the option process. If a pupil has a particular interest in the topic generally and wishes to sign up for the trip, then they are free to do so. The students who went this year thoroughly enjoyed the trip and felt that it was a memorable and worthwhile experience. A number of these students are wanting to repeat the experience on this second trip.

We will be leaving on Thursday 8th February (at approx. 00.30 am) and will return on Sunday 11th February (approx. 11pm). We will travel via coach and ferry on the outward journey and by coach and the EuroTunnel on the return journey. We will be staying at hotels in France (Thursday night) and Belgium (Friday and Saturday night); these hotels are not open to the public and are used for school groups only. We will be visiting a range of museums, military cemeteries and battlefield sites and will participate in the 'Last Post Ceremony' which has been held every evening at 8pm since 1928 at the Menin Gate in Ypres whilst we are there. A more detailed itinerary will be given out once students have paid their deposits along with requests for medical information/emergency contact/passport details (if they have a passport) if they don't have a passport, this will not be an issue as we will organise a collective passport.

Mr Hargreaves is himself a WWI Battlefield guide and has led several visits to Ypres and the Somme in the past and will therefore be our guide for the duration of the trip. There will be a wealth of knowledge available particularly as this is our second trip, to ensure that pupils gain an insight into what happened and to commemorate what our soldiers gave up for us.



The cost of the trip will be **£320** (however this could be reduced, dependant on the numbers of students attending the trip). To secure a place on the trip, your child will need to bring in a **£20** non-refundable deposit by Friday 31st of March 2017 (cash or a cheque made payable to Rhyddings Business and Enterprise school is acceptable and should be given to Mrs Crawshaw in room 12).

A further **£30** must be paid by the 28th of April. Once the deposit has been paid and you have signed the permission letter, this confirms that you are committed to paying the full amount of the trip. If your child changes their mind with regards to going on the trip once the deposit has been paid, the amount owing must still be paid for in full, as we will still be charged by the coach company and hotels, therefore any monies already paid will not be reimbursed.

If your child cannot make the trip for medical reasons, a doctor's note will be required, covering your child for the period of the trip. In this instance, any monies paid (excluding the deposit of **£50**) will be reimbursed to yourself.

For pupils who have secured their place on the trip, the remaining money can be paid in full or by a series of instalments. To spread the cost and to try and make it affordable, we suggest the following:

- £70 to be paid by Friday 9th June 2017
- £70 to be paid by Friday 14th July 2017
- £70 to be paid by Friday 29th September 2017
- £60 to be paid by Friday 15th December 2017

Once the initial deposit is paid we will ensure you have access to Parent Pay, where you can pay when it is convenient to yourself. Whether you choose to pay in instalments or by a lump sum full payment for the trip **MUST** be made by December 15th 2017. If you encounter problems at any point, please inform Mrs Crawshaw on ext 151 or on crawshawk@rhyddings.co.uk.

If you would like your child to secure a place on this trip, please complete the slip below and return it to school as soon as possible with the **£20/£50 deposit**. Please note that places are limited on the trip and allocation will be made on a first come, first served basis.

As your child will be travelling as a member of Rhyddings Business and Enterprise School, the highest standard of behaviour is expected at all times. Staff have the right to refuse any pupil the opportunity to be part of this trip. We will also take into account your child's behaviour in and around school during the months leading up to the trip. Should your child not comply with these expectations, the money you have paid so far will not be returned.

If you have any queries regarding this trip, please do not hesitate to contact myself, Mr Hargreaves (Head of History) or Mrs Stevens (Head of English).

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Crawshaw (Trip Leader), Mr Hargreaves (Deputy Trip Leader and Guide) and Mrs Stevens



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at the heart of the community

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Headteacher: Paul Trickett B.Sc

Please return this page only;

Name of child: _____

Form: _____

I give permission for my child to attend the **WWI Battlefields visit (8th – 11th February 2018)** and enclose cash/cheque for **£20.00** made payable to Rhyddings Business and Enterprise school. I understand that a further **£30** must be paid by the 28th of April and that these two payments make up the non-refundable deposit of **£50**.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Your child will then be given a medical information form for you to fill in and return.

