

17 September 2010

Dear Parents

**Year 9 History and English Trip to Ypres, Belgium, 'Aspects of the Great War'
17 - 18 February 2011**

For several years now, the History Department (joined last year by the English Department) have run a variety of trips dealing with aspects of the First World War. Last year we successfully ran a residential trip two day trip combining a study of the battlefields with Great War poetry which forms part of the Year 9 English course. The History and English Departments plan to run this trip again in the Spring Term, and hope that the vast majority of Year Nine pupils will be able to participate. The trip will leave on Thursday 17 February, the last day of school before the Spring Half Term holiday and return late on Friday 18 February which is an INSET Day.

Among the places we intend to visit are some military cemeteries both Allied and German, the Passchendale Museum at Zonnebeke, Talbot House, a preserved trench system at Bayernwald and the execution post at Poperinge. There should also be the opportunity for some chocolate shopping in Ypres as well. We will also be attending the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. In order to run the trip effectively, the year group will be split into three coach parties each with slightly different itineraries and times of departure and return. Travel will be by Lucketts coach and Eurotunnel, and will involve leaving PGS between **0600 and 0700** on the Thursday and return on the Friday between **2300 and 0030**. Nearer the time pupils will be given exact timings and the itinerary for their group.

Accommodation will be in a number of hostels around the Ypres area frequently used by British school parties. By organising the trip 'in house' we are able to charge a significantly lower price than commercial operators without of course compromising comfort, the quality of the trip or most crucially pupil safety. The total inclusive cost of the trip will be £100. This will cover the following:

- Coach travel to and from PGS
- All museum entrances/guides
- Dinner on Thursday and Friday nights
- One night's bed and breakfast in a hostel
- Packed lunch on the Friday
- Insurance

Pupils opting for this trip must ensure they have a valid passport and European Health Card (available free online if you do not already have one for your child. Because of limits on coach and accommodation capacity, we can only take a maximum of 145 pupils. In the event of the trip being oversubscribed, places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. The trip will have added educational value as all Year 10 pupils study '*Journey's End*' as a set text for their GCSE English course, which deals with aspects of the Great War.

I fully understand that this trip may be impossible or impractical for a few pupils so an alternative, relevant and worthwhile trip to the National Army Museum in London will run for all other Year 9 pupils on Thursday 17 February. For this trip the coach will leave PGS at **0830** and will leave London at 1430 giving an estimated time of return back to school of **1630-1645**. The cost of this trip will be £13.00

Further letters along with consent and medical forms for both trips will be distributed early in the Spring Term. The reply slip at the bottom must be returned to your son/daughter's History teacher **no later than Monday 1 November**.

In the meantime, please contact me at school preferably via email (s.lemieux@pgs.org.uk) should you have any questions or concerns at this stage. My thanks in advance for your support of what should be two very worthwhile trips

Yours sincerely

S Lemieux
Head of History and Politics



Please return this reply slip to your son/daughter's History teacher **no later than Monday 1 November 2011**

Year 9 History and English Trip to Ypres 17 - 18 February 2011

Pupil name: _____ Tutor _____

History teacher _____

Please indicate clearly which trip you would like your son/daughter to go on.

***Trip 1: Two day visit to Ypres - cost £100**

Trip 2: National Army Museum London - cost £13.00

I wish to reserve a place for my son/daughter on one of the Year 9 History trips as indicated above. I also agree to the relevant amount of money being added to my school account.

Signed: _____ Date _____
(Parent/Guardian)