

05 January 2012

Dear Parents

Year 9 History and English Trip 'Aspects of the Great War' Thursday Friday 10 February 2012

Thank you for returning your form for this activity. I am now in a position to tell you more about the two day trip to Ypres your son/daughter will be going on, and to give you some further details about the trip. Those going on the 2 day Ypres trip have been divided into two groups, each with its own coach but with both groups staying at the Peace Village Hostel in Messines for the night of Thursday 9 February.

The Lucketts coach will be leaving PGS at **0700** and we will be unable to wait for any latecomers so please be prompt! Pupils should arrive at school between **0640 and 0650**. Please note that each group will be following a slightly different itinerary, with one group focusing more on war poetry which will have some input from the English teachers who will accompany that group. The other group will focus more on the battlefields and will be accompanied by Andrew Robertshaw, a Great War expert and author. Pupils will be pre-allocated into their respective groups by their teachers

Both groups have a busy and full schedule for each day and we intend to include some of the following on our itinerary:

Thursday 9 February:

- The Allied War Cemetery at Lijssenthoek where three OPs are buried
- The execution posts and cells in Poperinge - Talbot House
- Essex Farm
- Langemark German Cemetery
- The Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate

Friday 10 February

- the Passchedale Museum at Zonnebeke
- Guided visits to the preserved trench system at Bayernwald and the bunker at Cryer's Farm
- Hill 60 and the Caterpillar Crater
- The Trench of Death and the Ijzertoren memorial tower at Diksmuide
- Dinner in Ypres

We envisage a return to PGS by approximately **2300-2330 on 10 February** but pupils will be asked to phone home approximately 45 minutes away from school so as to enable a smooth and efficient collection operation.

Pupils will need to bring along sufficient food to last till dinner time (1800) on the 9 February. Dinner will be provided at the Peace Village Hostel. Breakfast will also be provided at the hostel and a packed lunch will also be provided for the Friday. Dinner has been booked for us at the Den Anker restaurant in Ypres and will consist of chicken and chips (or a vegetarian alternative), a soft drink and dessert and as previously intimated is included in the cost of the trip. There will be some time after or just before dinner for chocolate shopping for those who wish to partake. Pupils will need to ensure that they have the following with them for the trip:

- **a valid passport and European Health Card (no passport, no trip!)**
- suitable wind and waterproof clothing, a hat and gloves; we will be outside for much of each day, therefore several layers would be sensible to ensure warmth and comfort.
- Sensible footwear (Wellington boots or similar) as we will be walking around the sites which may well be muddy.
- Clean set of clothes to change into for the evening in the hostel
- Overnight necessities e.g. toiletries and pyjamas
- A towel (these are not provided at the Hostel)
- All overnight packing should fit into a small bag (hand size luggage where possible) in order to provide space on the bus.
- sufficient food/snacks as indicated above and pens in a day bag for frequent use
- a mobile phone in case we are significantly delayed on our return journey

In addition we will be asking each pupil/pair of pupils to write up over Half Term, a log/diary of their trip so they also need to bring along a pen/pencil and notebook, and ideally a camera. There will be prizes for the best pieces of work.

I would also be very grateful if you could complete and sign the attached consent and medical form, and return it to your child's History teacher **no later than Monday 23 January**.

Should you have any queries or questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact me at s.lemieux@pgs.org.uk. My thanks again for your support of what should be a most worthwhile and enjoyable trip.

Yours sincerely

S Lemieux
Head of History and Politics

Parental Consent and Information Form

This completed consent/information form must be with the Trip Leader by the date specified in the covering letter, otherwise the pupil will be unable to be included in the party.

Title of Trip:	Year 9 History and English Trip 'Aspects of the Great War' Two Day Trip Ypres	Date:	Thursday 9 & Friday 10 February 2012
-----------------------	--	--------------	---

Pupil Details

Pupil's full name:		Date of birth:	
--------------------	--	----------------	--

Home address and contact address (if different):

In an emergency I can be contacted as follows:	Home Tel:		Work Tel:	
	Mobile:		email	
If not available, please contact the following person:			Tel:	

Medical Information: Please tick Yes or No for each question and give details for each 'Yes'

Does your child:	NO	YES	DETAILS
suffer from any allergy to food, medication, fur, bee sting etc.?			
currently receive treatment for or take any medication for or suffer from any medical condition?			
carry an inhaler, epipen, insulin kit or other? If yes, please ensure that a second labelled inhaler, epipen etc. is given to the Trip Leader for safe keeping.			
have any special dietary requirements?			
suffer from vertigo (fear of heights)?			
suffer from travel or motion sickness?			
Is there any physical activity your child may not participate in?			

Please Turnover

		NO	YES	DETAILS
Has your child had any recent illness or injury? If yes, please give details of what and when.				
Has your child had a tetanus injection in the last 10 years?				
Contact details for doctor: Name:	Address:		Tel:	
Please add any additional information you may consider the school should know. Please feel free to contact the Trip Leader if you would like to discuss particular needs more fully.				
Please ensure that you inform the Trip Leader of any changes to this information before the start of the trip.				
Conduct during the Trip				
<p>Pupils are expected to obey instructions given by the staff of any establishment visited, and activity instructors, as well as teachers. Normal school rules apply. In the very unlikely event that a pupil fails to comply, staff reserve the right to remove a pupil from a trip and make arrangements for their return home at parents' expense. In this situation no refund of trip fees would be payable.</p> <p>Pupils are expected to take responsibility of all belongings, especially valuables, in accordance with arrangements specific to the trip. These are not covered by the school insurance policy.</p>				
Consent Declaration				
<p>I, being the parent/guardian of the child named at the head of this form, give consent for him/her to attend the proposed activity.</p> <p>I have read and understood the expected code of conduct and agree that my son or daughter will abide by these instructions.</p> <p>I realise that in some cases the activities offered have some risk involved which may be of a type not encountered during normal life and that this risk whilst small, cannot be eliminated without making the activity pointless. Portsmouth Grammar School has done its utmost to minimise and manage these risks.</p> <p>I give consent for him/her to receive emergency medical treatment, including anaesthetic and/or blood transfusion, as considered necessary by any medical doctor present, should the need arise. I have informed the school of all medical conditions or treatments that he/she suffers from or requires to maintain health. I agree to inform the group leader of any change in medical condition.</p> <p>I am aware that the school has a detailed policy on the safe running of educational visits, which can viewed on the school website.</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Signature and date: _____</p> <p>Relationship to child: _____</p> <p>Please return the signed form to the Trip Leader</p>				