

24 June 2011

Dear Parents

Year 9 History & English Trip to Ypres, Belgium, 'Aspects of the Great War' - Thursday 9 and Friday 10 February 2012

For several years now, the History Department (joined recently 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 majority of Year 9 pupils will be able to participate. For the 2 day trip we also expect to be joined by the historian, broadcaster and battlefield archaeologist Dr Andy Robertshaw who gave the Remembrancetide lecture last November. **There will also be the option of a one day trip to Ypres** focusing solely on History. Both trips will leave on Thursday 9 February, the last day of school before the Spring Half Term holiday. The one day trip will return at around midnight and the 2 day trip will return at around 2230-2300 on Friday 10 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 Hill 62, the Caterpillar Mine crater and the execution post at Poperinge. There should also be the opportunity for some chocolate shopping in Ypres as well. Both groups will also attend the moving Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. Travel will be by Lucketts coach and Eurotunnel, and will involve leaving PGS between **0630 and 0700** on the Thursday for both the 1 and 2 day trips. Nearer the time pupils will be given exact timings and the itinerary for their group.

Accommodation will be at the Peace Village at Messines which we have used in the past and offers an excellent standard of affordable hostel accommodation. 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 **two day trip** will be **£105** while the **one day trip** will cost **£55**. The cost will cover the following:

- Coach travel to and from PGS
- All museum entrances/guides
- Dinner on Thursday night (and also Friday night for the 2 day trip)
- One night's bed and breakfast in a hostel (for the two day trip)
- Packed lunch on the Friday (for the two day trip)
- 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). Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis although we will do our best to accommodate as many of Year 9 who want to go. 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 9 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 £14. Further letters along with consent and medical forms for both trips will be distributed early in the Spring Term. Given the complexities and amount of prior bookings that needs to be done for all the trips, a swift response would be much appreciated. The reply slip at the bottom must be returned to your son/daughter's History teacher **no later than Monday 19 September**.

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 three 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 19 September**

Year 9 History & English Trip to Ypres, Belgium, 'Aspects of the Great War' - Thursday 9 and Friday 10 February 2012

Pupil Name _____ History Teacher _____

I would like my son/daughter to take part in:

The 2 Day trip to Ypres

The 1 Day Trip to Ypres

The Trip to the Army Museum in London

Please tick as appropriate

Signed _____ Date _____
(Parent/Guardian)