



## Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

March 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Re: School Tour to WW1 Battlefields, Belgium & France, 25/05/2022 (Wed) - 28/05/2022 (Sat)**

We are offering our students the opportunity to visit the First World War battlefields in Belgium / France. The four day tour will include return coach & ferry travel, full-board accommodation, and a full programme of activities. Our hotel is in Belgium and we will spend the three nights in the Ypres region with visits to iconic sites such as; Vimy Ridge, Passchendaele, The Menin Gate and Tyne Cot military cemetery amongst other sites. We will also spend a day visiting The Somme Battlefield in France.

The tour is organised by NST, a well-established schools tour operator who are members of ABTA. The cost also includes insurance cover and all taxes and gratuities.

Pupils must have

- A full valid passport for the time and duration of travel ( 6 months validity must be remaining from 29/6/22)
- Be double vaccinated by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022.
- Take a Covid Lateral Flow Test the night before departure and report any positive result.
- Be prepared to follow Covid guidelines & requirements for entry and duration from the governments of The UK, France and Belgium.

Provisional Itinerary

Day 1: Meet at school, travel to Belgium via coach & ferry. Evening in Ypres

Day 2: Ypres: pay respects to the Old Boys of QMGS who died at Passchendaele, In Flanders Field Museum, Hill 62 preserved trenches Tyn Cot British & Langemark German Military Cemeteries, Last Post ceremony Menin Gate and Memorial to Sikhs soliders.

Day 3: The Somme and Vimy Ridge battlefields, France: preserved trenches & battlefields, Lochnagar mine crater

Day 4: Talbot House rest area, 'Shot at Dawn' post, legendary Belgian chocolate shop visit and return journey



Queen Mary's Grammar School, Sutton Road, Walsall, West Midlands, WS1 2PG

01922 720696 [www.qmgs.org](http://www.qmgs.org) . [enquiries@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk)  @qmgs1554

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- The **total cost of the tour is £350** based on 45 pupils travelling and five members of staff. You will only need to bring provision for lunch going out and return journeys and whatever pocket money you wish.
- Due to our departure being quite soon, the tour company has asked for payment quite soon. Please note the trip has always been very popular and spaces tend to fill up very quickly after launch and is on a first come first serve basis. Payment is via Parent Pay. See below the payment schedule but you can pay all in one should you wish:

1<sup>st</sup> Payment: £175 due by 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022

2<sup>nd</sup> Payment: £175 due by 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Parent Pay will open on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm for payments

- *Once you have made your initial deposit payment, please **return your completed Form 3 to Mr Reynolds**. Form 3 can be found on the school website under 'Letters for Parents'.*
- We would not want any pupil to be discouraged from participating in this trip because of cost. If cost is a barrier, you should contact the Headmaster in confidence to discuss what other support could be available.

Please note that this deposit is non-refundable once your child's place on the trip has been confirmed. In the event that your child is withdrawn from the trip, either by you or the school, you will be liable for costs in accordance with NST's cancellation policy, unless there is a medical emergency which can be claimed via insurance or a replacement member of the party can be found.

This visit is entirely optional, but will provide additional insight into pupils' study of this important conflict.

Should you have any questions relating to this visit, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Reynolds at the school. [rp-reynolds@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk](mailto:rp-reynolds@qmgs.walsall.sch.uk)

Mr R J Langton  
Headmaster

Mr R P Reynolds  
Head of History & Trip Organiser