



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

September 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: School Tour to WW1 Battlefields: Belgium & France, 23/05/2023 (Tues)- 26/05/2023 (Fri)

We are offering our students the opportunity to visit the First World War battlefields in Belgium and 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 that meets travel requirements (eg valid until at least Sept 2023).
- If applicable, have a correct visa.
- Meet any Covid entry requirements of both France & Belgium as well as the UK. Please note this may include a requirement to be double vaccinated in enough time to gain entry. France & Belgium do have separate authority on this so both country's requirements need to be met. If your son is not double vaccinated already, I recommended that you begin that process as soon as your place is confirmed. This is the responsibility of parents/ guardian to organise.
- Be prepared to follow Covid guidelines & requirements from the governments of The UK, France and Belgium eg use of face masks during our stay .

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 via The Tunnel.



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

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Registered in England and Wales No 07611347

Registered Office: Mercian House, Sutton Road, Walsall, WS1 2PG

- The **total cost of the tour is £445**
- You will need to bring provision for lunch going out and return journeys and whatever pocket money you wish (personal choice but as a guide maybe £50-£100). Many students do like to bring back Belgian chocolate.
- Please note the trip has always been very popular and spaces tend to fill up very quickly (usually within a couple of hours of it opening) and is on a first come first serve basis. If you wish to be put on a reserve list, let Mr Reynolds know.
- Payment is via Parent Mail. See below the payment schedule but you can pay all in one should you wish:

1st Payment: £150 due by 10th October 2022

2nd Payment: £295 due by 6th February 2022

Parent Mail will open at 7pm on 7th October 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' and contains your medical requirements.
- **Financial Assistance**
Students eligible for Pupil Premium may receive funding for 50% of the cost of an activity up to a maximum of £100. For this trip this would be £100. The school will consider other applications from families in need of financial support on a case-by-case basis. Our financial assistance form is available on our website and can be found [here](#).

Please note that this deposit is non-refundable once your child's place on the trip has been confirmed as bookings and deposits have to be made. In the event that your child is withdrawn from the trip by you, 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.

It is a fantastic trip which your son will learn from and should enjoy very much so.

Should you have any questions relating to this visit, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Reynolds at the school. rp-reynolds@qmg.walsall.sch.uk

Mr R J Langton
Headmaster

Mr R P Reynolds
Head of History & Trip Organiser