



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

June 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: School Tour to WW1 Battlefields: Belgium & France, 21/05/2024 (Tues)- 24/05/2024 (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 2024).
- A UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) [Apply for a UK Global Health Insurance Card \(GHIC\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic) or the EHIC card if still valid.
- If applicable, have a correct visa.

Provisional Itinerary

Day 1: Meet at school, travel to Belgium via coach & ferry. Evening in Ypres, demonstration looking at artefacts from the war

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 soldiers. legendary Belgian chocolate shop visit and return journey via The Tunnel.

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.

- The **total cost of the tour is £475**
- 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, souvenirs from the museums & get snacks at the service stops.
- Please note the trip has always been very popular and spaces tend to fill up very quickly (usually within minutes of it opening) and is on a first come first serve basis. Unfortunately, some may be disappointed but we are limited to how many we can take (45 pupils). If you have not been successful and wish to be put on a reserve list write to Mr Reynolds.
- Payment is via Parent Mail. See below the payment schedule but you can pay all in one should you wish:

1st Payment: £125 deposit by 4/7/23
2nd Payment: £175 due by 16th September 2023
3rd payment: £175 due by 5th February 2024

Parent Mail will open at Tuesday 4th July at 7pm for payments

- **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](#). **You must apply by 4pm Thursday 29th June .**

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. r.reynolds@qmg.merciantrust.org.uk

Mr R J Langton
Headmaster

Mr R P Reynolds
Head of History & Trip Organiser



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