



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

October 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: School Tour to WW1 Battlefields: Belgium & France, 18/05/26 (Mon)- 21/05/26 (Thu)

We are offering our students the opportunity to visit the First World War battlefield sites 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.

Below is a Provisional Itinerary

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

Day 2: Ypres area: pay respects to the Old Boys of QMGS memorial who died at Passchendaele, In Flanders Field Museum, Hill 62 preserved trenches, Tyne Cot British & Langemark German military cemeteries, The Last Post ceremony Menin Gate and Memorial to Sikhs soldiers. Legendary Belgian chocolate shop visit.

Day 3: France: The Somme and Vimy Ridge battlefields. Preserved trenches & battlefields, Lochnagar mine crater. The war tunnels at Vimy if available.

Day 4: Talbot House- rest area for soldiers fighting on the front line. 'Shot at Dawn' post. Return to QM via the Eurotunnel.

- The **total cost of the tour is £495**
- You will need to bring provision for lunch going out and return journeys (service stations) and whatever pocket money you wish (personal choice but as a guide maybe £50-£100). Many students do like to bring back Belgian chocolate, eat some Belgian waffles and buy 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 (44 pupils). If you have not been successful and wish to be put on a reserve list write to Mr Reynolds as people's circumstances do change and a place may become available later.

- Payment is via Parent Mail. See below the payment schedule but you can pay all in one should you wish:

1st Payment: £165: 8th October 2025. Parent Mail opens at 7pm

2nd Payment: £165 due by 30/1/26

3rd payment: £165 due by 30/ 3/26

Parent Mail will open at 7pm on for first payment. Please note that places tend to get filled up within minutes.

- **Financial Assistance**

We have worked very hard to keep costs down. Students eligible for Pupil Premium may receive funding for £100 of the cost of this trip. 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 on the school website [Here](#)

If you wish to apply for financial assistance you must apply by 1pm Monday 6th October 2025.

In addition to the trip cost, pupils must:

- Have a **full valid passport** that meets travel requirements (eg **valid until at least Sept 2026**).
- A **UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)** [Here](#) or the EHIC card if applicable.
- If applicable, have a correct visa.

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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