

Ransom Road  
Woodbridge  
Suffolk  
IP12 4JX

Telephone: 01394 385720  
mail@farlingaye.suffolk.sch.uk  
[www.farlingaye.suffolk.sch.uk](http://www.farlingaye.suffolk.sch.uk)

Dear Parent/Carer,

The History department is delighted, once again after the challenges of the last 2-3 years, to offer students in Year 9 the opportunity to visit the First World War battlefields of France and Belgium. The trip provides the chance for students to build upon their understanding of the Great War by experiencing the battlefields for themselves.

The trip will run from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June to Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and will include 3 nights' full board accommodation with students in multi-bedded rooms. The average cost of the trip per student will be in the region of **£370**. The cost includes hotel accommodation, executive coach travel during the visit, return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais, entrance to the various historic sites, travel insurance and meals. Please note, there is no obligation to make a full contribution to the cost of the trip, but if insufficient contributions are made then it will not be viable and will not go ahead.

Our itinerary includes the following:

En-route to the Belgian Hotel:

- Visit to Poperinge death post and cells, and Talbot House "Every Man's Club" Museum
- Essex Farm Military Cemetery, the site of an advance dressing station where Dr John McCrae wrote the famous Great War poem "In Flanders fields"

On the Somme:

- Lochnagar Crater- An explosive packed mine detonated here on 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. Students will see the magnitude of the crater the explosion left behind- the explosion could be heard in Southern England
- Ulster Tower- students will be taken on a guided tour of the surviving trenches where the Ulster regiment succeeded in achieving their aims of the first day of the Battle of the Somme
- Thiepval- Memorial to the missing of the Somme bears the names of more than 72,000 officers and men who died on the Somme and have no known grave
- Newfoundland Memorial Park- students will have a guided tour of the remaining trench lines and hear about the experiences of the 800 men of the Royal Newfoundland regiment on the first day of the Battle of the Somme
- Hawthorn Ridge- site of the "sunken lane", a cemetery and the crater famously filmed being created as the mines were detonated on the first day of the Battle of the Somme

On the Ypres Salient:

- "In Flanders Field Museum" at the cloth hall in Ypres. This newly renovated museum brings the First World War to life through first-hand accounts
- Students will have the opportunity to enjoy some time in the centre of Ypres where we will also visit the Menin Gate Memorial. We will return there in the evening to take part in the "Last Post" ceremony, where we will lay a wreath on behalf of everyone at Farlingaye, in honour of the memory

- of those who fought and died in the Great War
- The German trenches at Bayernwald- a restored German trench system with 300 metres of trenches, 4 concrete bunkers and a 100 foot deep mineshaft
- Tyne Cot Cemetery- it is the largest Commonwealth military cemetery in the world with 11,954 soldiers buried here
- Langemark German Cemetery- one of the few German cemeteries on the Salient, holding 44,000 German war dead
- The Passchendaele Memorial Museum in Zonnenbeke, which offers students the chance to actually walk through a fully reconstructed First World War British trench system, and see the paraphernalia from the Battle in 1917

Journey home:

- Morning visit to Bruges, including a boat trip around the canals and free time to explore the beautiful city centre

I am sure that you will agree this trip offers students a valuable and unique opportunity to experience, first-hand, the importance of the Great War in our nation's history.

At this stage, we need to obtain committed expressions of interest to see if we have enough students to make the trip viable. If we receive the required minimum number of students for the trip, I will then write again to provide parents/carers with more information and proceed with arranging payment details. If there are more students who would like to go on the trip than there are places available, we will employ a 'names from a hat' system to select who is successful in securing a place. Any student unsuccessful can then have their names added to a waiting list.

If you would like to express your committed interest in your child participating on the Battlefields 2023 trip, please complete the Microsoft Form via the hyperlink below by **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023**:

[Expression of Interest Form](#)

May I take this opportunity to remind you that, as with any trip organised through an agent, withdrawal from a trip will incur increasing penalties up to the date of departure at your expense. There will be a date for the payment of the outstanding balance that you will receive in another letter that I will send nearer the time. As parents/carers, you need to be aware that, as with all trips, there is an element of risk. In this instance, we will be travelling by coach and ferry. The students will also be walking around the places that we visit.

Due to the residential nature of this trip, there will be a meeting beforehand where you will have the opportunity to meet with the staff going on the trip. At this meeting we will go over the detailed itinerary, check on dietary and medical arrangements and offer you the opportunity to ask any questions that you may have to ensure you are fully informed on the school's trip guidelines.

All students will need a current passport. No visas should be necessary at this stage, although this may alter in 2023. We will, of course, keep you informed of any changes that may affect our trip.

Parents/carers should be aware, that it is school policy that participation in a trip will be dependent on staff feeling confident that your child will behave appropriately. In particular, poor behaviour between now and the date of the trip will likely result in your child being withdrawn from the trip. The decision of the Headteacher in this matter is final.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or queries about this trip, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours faithfully,

Mr N Webb

Head of Humanities

[nwebb@farlingaye.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:nwebb@farlingaye.suffolk.sch.uk)