

## Battlefields Trip

Ypres Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Students have been reminded today (Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March) of the following:

- **Leaving at 5am.** Please aim to arrive at school by **4:45** to ensure we can head off for 5am. Delays by students will result in catching a later train (and potentially missing sites.)
- **Wet weather clothing:** The sites are often muddy and cold so students will need appropriate footwear and clothing (sensible shoes, trousers and a warm waterproof jacket). It is therefore also a good idea to bring **spare clothing** to get changed in to for the return journey. Please bring a **spare carrier bag** to keep muddy shoes and boots in.
- **Food.** There are chances to buy food in the morning but we are going to be in the Belgian countryside for most of the day so students should ensure they have a packed lunch and ideally food for a dinner with them too. Students need to ensure they have enough food to last them for the day.
- **Passport:** students need to ensure they have their passport with them ready to be checked. Any student, who does not have their passport with them when checked in the morning, will not be able to go on the trip.
- **Spending money:** students may bring some money to spend in the chocolate shop or in the Ypres museum but students must be responsible for this.
- **Contact with students:** Staff have the school mobile with them at all times should you need to contact your child. There are points in the day where reception in the Belgian countryside can be limited but in case of emergency, please contact the school reception on **01273 304086**.
- **Return:** we anticipate being back at school site around 9 pm but this is dependent upon traffic etc. Students will be able to contact parents / carers to let them know what time we will be back on the day. (we will advise students to contact home around 1 hour before arrival back at Longhill High School)
- **Behaviour.** All students must be respectful. We are visiting important historical sites and members of the public and armed forces also visit to remember those who died in World War One. Any misbehaviour will **not** be tolerated. Please be respectful of the coach driver and the coach guide who offer a very engaging experience and do **not** litter on the coach.

Structure of the Day- all times are **approximate** times. (We move to Belgian time once on the train)

5am – Leave school for Dover.

7am- arrive at Dover and await arrival of train. Opportunities for toilet and buying snacks (WH Smiths and a Starbucks)

10am- arrive in Calais and travel through France to Belgium. Coach guide gives a guided talk about World War One and the History of Flanders.

12pm- arrive in Ypres. Visit to **Museum** is scheduled for 12 and will involve the new interactive WW1 displays and experience.

1pm- walk around **Ypres** town centre to **Menin Gate** to look at memorials. Visit to a traditional Belgium chocolate shop who do offer special student deals so is worth bringing some money for this.

2pm- Lunch on the coach, stop off at the site where John McCrae wrote in 'Flanders Field' , chance to walk around the **Commonwealth War Commissions Site**.

2:30- arrive at **Langemark** German Cemetery.

3:00- Travel to see various sites such as the **Canada Memorial** and **Hooge crater** and various trenches. This is very dependent on the weather. We will also visit **Tyne Cot** which is the major cemetery for British soldiers in WW1.

3:30- Arrive at **Sanctuary Wood** to see a real trench experience. It is an excellent chance for students to explore a real and authentic WW1 trench.

4:30- On coach to head back to Calais. Students can buy some food at the terminal if they wish to but choices can be limited (There is a Burger King and a café)

7:00- catch first available train back to Dover and drive back to Longhill. This is usually estimated to be around 9pm but can change dependent on departure times, traffic from Dover and back to Brighton. Students will be advised to call parents when we are 30 minutes from school to notify parents of what time they need to be collected.

Any problems then please email [l.kenward@longhill.org.uk](mailto:l.kenward@longhill.org.uk) or contact the school on 01273 304086. In case of an emergency, please contact the school who will direct your call through to the school mobile phone or alternatively to a member of staff on the trip.

Thanking you for your support,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "L.J. Kenward". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Ms Layla Kenward

(History Department)