

27th January 2017

To the Parents and Carers of Y8 Students

Dear Parent/Carer

Battlefields Trip 2017

I am proposing to take a group of students to the Battlefields of Northern France and Belgium to enhance their knowledge and understanding of this topic. It is a trip that has taken place every year since 2003, students gain a lot from this trip.

The guided tour of the Battlefields will begin on the morning of Thursday 16th November. We will travel by coach to France to stay at 'Poppies d'Albert'. The itinerary is not yet confirmed, but we will be spending Friday on the Somme visiting places such as Vimy Ridge, Newfoundland Memorial Park and Thiepval Memorial to the Missing. We will travel to Ypres in Belgium for the Last Post Ceremony at Menin Gate and then spend the night at 'Hotel Oude Abdij'. We will spend Saturday exploring the Ypres Salient visiting places such as Tyne Cot Cemetery and Sanctuary Wood. It will be a packed programme on all three days. We will return to College on the evening of Saturday 18th November.

Included in the cost of this trip is the transport, accommodation, entrance to museums and sites, insurance and meals. The first included meal will be an evening meal on Thursday and the last meal will be an evening meal on the ferry on our return journey on the Saturday. The cost of the trip will be £270.

In order for this activity to take place, we ask you to make a contribution of £270. Although such a contribution is voluntary, in reality we have no alternative source of funding. If sufficient contributions are not received to make this visit financially viable it will be cancelled and all contributions refunded. In cases of financial hardship, any requests for the contribution will be treated sympathetically; please contact the Principal in writing or by e-mail. As this educational visit is taking place in school hours, we are not permitted by law (Education Act 1996) to exclude from such a visit children of parents choosing not to contribute to the cost.

If you qualify for Pupil Premium Grant support and would like to access some of this funding towards this trip, please tick the relevant box on the reply slip.

If you would like your child to be considered for a place on this trip, you need to complete and return the permission slip to the Finance Office with a non-refundable deposit of £90 by Friday 3rd March. We would prefer this to be paid online as not only is it the most secure method of payment, it also saves on the cost of administration. Please speak to the Finance Office if you need a

reminder how to use the online payment system. Students will be informed in College that their place has been secured. A second payment of £90 will be due by Friday 19th May. This is also non-refundable. The balance of £90 will be due by Friday 7th July. Please make a note of payment deadlines to aid with the planning of the trip. Your child will need his or her own passport to travel and a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).

Please note that places will be allocated on a 'first-come-first-served basis' and that we have had waiting lists for the last six years due to the popularity of the trip. If you would like to speak with me, please contact me at the College by email, rmustill@elycollege.co.uk There will be a parents' meeting in October that will finalise plans. You will be notified of the date in due course.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Rachael Mustill
Trip Leader



Battlefields Trip 2017

Please return to the Finance Office (first floor of Bedford, adjacent to B11) by 3rd March 2017.

Student..... Form

- My child would like to take part in the Battlefields trip (November 2017).
- I have paid a non-refundable deposit of £90 online.
- My child qualifies for Pupil Premium support and would like to access some of this funding towards the trip.

Signed (Parent/Carer) Date

Name in Capitals