



11 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 9 Educational Visit to WW1 Sites in France and Belgium 8-10 June 2027

The First World War is without doubt one of the most significant events in our history, the effects of which are still felt today. To deepen understanding of the conflict, we are again organising a visit for Year 9 students to key sites in France and Belgium in June 2027. The trip will explore WW1 through historical events and the literature associated with them, offering valuable insights into the cultural significance and physical landscape of the war. The trip is **open to all students**, not just those studying GCSE History, and we would urge all who can to join what is a powerful and enriching experience.

We will be staying just outside Ypres at Peace Village, a centre specifically designed for educational residential visits and which can accommodate the full year group. Students are accommodated in multi-bedded rooms and, as a dedicated schools' residential centre, Peace Village is fully able to accommodate all dietary requirements.



On Tuesday 8 June we will leave Marlow at approximately 6am and travel by coach and ferry or tunnel to Peace Village, where students will spend the afternoon settling in and learning about the context of WW1. After an early dinner we will travel to Ypres where we will participate in the moving 'Last Post' remembrance ceremony at the Menin Gate, at which a Borlase choir will perform and students will lay wreaths.



On Wednesday 9 June we will visit a number of key sites in the Somme area, including the Thiepval Memorial, Lochnagar Crater, Sunken Lane and Beaumont-Hamel, before visiting the Arras Memorial to commemorate Old Borlasian Basil Horsfall, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery.



On Thursday 10 June we will visit a number of sites around Ypres, including the Passchendaele Memorial Museum and the Tyne Cot and Langemark cemeteries, before returning to England, arriving in Marlow around 8pm.



The total cost of the trip, which includes a charge for board and lodgings as well as a voluntary contribution towards travel, admission fees and insurance (excluding lunch on Day 1) will be **£305 - £325** depending on the final number of students travelling. Once the booking deadline has passed, we will be able to confirm a more exact cost and provide you with a payment schedule to spread the cost of the trip over the coming year. Please note if the trip is not viable due to insufficient funding we will let you know in good time and refund any payments made.

In line with the school's charging policy, parents are reminded that financial support may be available to assist families whose financial circumstances would otherwise prevent their child from participating. Applications must be made in writing to bursar@swbgs.com, outlining the reasons why support is required, as soon as possible and latest by the deadline.

To secure a place for your child on this trip, please pay an **initial deposit of £75** by **Sunday 27 September** via [ParentPay](#). If you need a copy of your activation details or are unable to access Parentpay, please email parentpay@swbgs.com. Please note that the deposit is a commitment to pay the full cost of the trip. If your child withdraws from the trip, we will endeavour to find a replacement to take their place, otherwise you will be required to pay the full cost, less any recoverable costs. However, if the trip has to be cancelled, you will be refunded in full.

If you have any questions regarding the trip, please email Mr Lofthouse via parents@swbgs.com.

Yours faithfully,

Mr P Mead
Head of History

Ms D Harris
Head of English