



KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

KNARESBOROUGH

June 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

YEAR 9 2018/19: BATTLEFIELDS TRIP 2019

The History department is delighted to offer a 3 day trip to the First World War Battlefields of France and Belgium, the trip will allow students to pay their respect to the fallen at the battlefields and memorial sites. During Year 9 your son/daughter will be studying the First World War in History lessons so the trip also offers the perfect chance to extend this learning with first-hand experience.

The tour will be organised by 'NST', a company we have worked with several times before. The trip will run at the start of the February half term and will leave school on **Friday 22nd February, returning on the Sunday 24th February 2019**. The trip is open to any students in the current Year 8.

The total cost is £245, which is based on 44 students attending the trip.

Highlights include:

Ypres: **Menin Gate and Last Post Ceremony** - The largest and the most important of the British memorials to the Missing in the Ypres salient, this memorial holds the names of 54,896 soldiers of the British Empire. The Menin Gate marked the start of one of the main roads out of Ypres towards the Front Line. Students will witness the moving 'Last Post Ceremony' which takes place every evening at 20:00hrs.

Tyne Cot British Cemetery - Tyne Cot Cemetery is the resting place of 11,956 soldiers, and the largest British Military Cemetery in the world. The panels in the rear wall hold the names of 34,888 missing soldiers.

In Flanders Fields Museum - This superb state-of-the-art, interactive museum covers most aspects of the war in Flanders, and shows the war through the eyes of soldiers, nurses, refugees and children.

Langemark German Cemetery - A sombre, foreboding place, this cemetery contains the bodies of more than 40,000 German troops, over half of whom lie in a mass grave.

The Somme: **Newfoundland Park, Beaumont Hamel** - One of the largest and best-preserved trench memorials on the Western Front. Just outside the park lies Hawthorn Crater, and within it are the 'Danger Tree' and remains of the British Front Line. The German Front Line can be seen across No Man's Land.

Thiepval Memorial - This is the largest memorial to the British missing on the Western Front, containing the names of 73,412 men who died from 1915 to 1917 and have no known graves.

Vimy Ridge - The scene of fierce fighting in 1917, when the Canadians successfully took the ridge from the Germans. Students will take a guided tour of the tunnels, trenches and the cemeteries.

The cost of the trip includes:

- Return coach to Ypres
- 2 nights full board
- Coach transfers in France and Belgium
- Entrance to the all memorials and trench systems.

Not included in the price:

- Pocket money for snacks, drinks and souvenirs

If your son/daughter would like to go on this trip please complete the expression of interest slip attached and return it to Mr Monaghan in L12 by Friday 13 July 2018. Confirmation of places will be notified to students by Monday 16 July. You will then be required to pay a non-refundable deposit of **£40 by Tuesday 31 July 2018**. Payment for this trip should be made online through ParentPay (www.parentpay.com). *Please tick the consent box for this trip.*

Please do think carefully before making a commitment to this trip. If you do wish to withdraw your son/daughter at a later date there may be a student willing to take their place, but please understand the position if this is not the case. I will do my best on your behalf; however, loss of all or part of your deposits can result.

Security Threats

National and international security threats in recent months are foremost in our minds as we plan our ongoing programme of trips and visits. Our partnership with parents as we plan and risk assess our visits is important as we all keep in mind our responsibilities within the framework of a trip. I can assure parents that we work very closely with our travel companies and we also take independent travel advice from North Yorkshire County Council who have specialist advice available in relation to trips.

We have a very robust risk assessment process and we review all trips on an ongoing basis. Security advice at the point where we plan a trip may be different by the time the trip is due to leave. Once a booking is made to go on a trip, travel and insurance companies treat cancellations as 'disinclination to travel'. Any withdrawal or cancellation by a parent, guardian or the school may incur financial losses and we cannot guarantee it would be paid for by our insurance provider except in exceptional circumstances.

It is very important that parents satisfy themselves that they are comfortable with the arrangements of a trip before they commit to it. The school works to the latest travel advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. If a serious incident occurs whilst travelling to the destination, the school reserve the right to cancel the trip or end a visit prematurely. We are always happy to discuss trips and visits in more detail if you need further information before making a commitment to a trip.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss this further.

Yours faithfully



Mr Michael Monaghan

Head of History

michaelmonaghan@king-james.n-yorks.sch.uk

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BATTLEFIELDS TRIP 2019: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Student Name:		Tutor Group:	
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(please tick boxes)

I confirm that the above named student has my consent to take part in the **Battlefields Trip**

I confirm I will pay the £40 non-refundable deposit via Parentpay by **Tuesday 31 July 2018**

Parent/Carer Name:		Date:	
Parent/Carer Signature:			

To be returned to Mr Monaghan in L12 by Friday 13 July