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Dear Parents / Carers

10 July 2017

**Year 10 History Visit to the WW1 Battlefields of Somme & Flanders
2 – 3 November 2017**

In conjunction with the school travel company NST, the History department is offering a field visit for students in the current Year 9, who will be studying History in Year 10, to the First World War Battlefields of The Somme & Flanders, 2 – 3 November 2017. The aim is to give students a clearer understanding of the experience of the First World War, and the problems which faced statesmen in the 1920s and 30s in the aftermath of the war. Transport will be by coach leaving from school in the early hours of Thursday 2 November and travelling to Dover to take the early morning ferry to Calais. We will study the Somme Battlefields, including Newfoundland Memorial Park, Hawthorn Ridge and Thiepval. Visits will include the 1917 battlefield of Vimy Ridge, looking at the preserved trench system and the memorial, the Flanders Fields Museum, Sanctuary Wood Trench Museum, and Tyne Cot Cemetery. All students must be carrying a current passport and European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) with them when they travel. We will return late Friday evening 3 November.

The school's expectation is that your child's attendance is 94% or above in order to participate in this trip. A student's attendance history will be taken into account early in the academic year.

A voluntary contribution of £140 to cover all associated costs is requested for this visit.

Places are limited and also dependent on students being up to date with their History notes and tasks, showing a good standard of behaviour, and completing the 'In Memoriam' investigation. In order to secure our booking we require a deposit of £70 by Tuesday 18 July, with the balance of £70 to be paid by Friday 1 September at the latest in order to meet our final invoice. The visit is available to book through our online payment system Wisepay. If we receive insufficient contributions the visit will be cancelled.

We will require a photocopy of your child's passport and EHIC at the beginning of September to complete the necessary travel documentation for the tour company, so please do not delay applying for or renewing these documents. Nearer to the departure date students and parents/carers will be invited to a full briefing evening, to be given detailed information/an itinerary, check travel documents and sign behaviour contracts. Full risk assessments are in place and school travel insurance arranged, details available on request. Please do not hesitate to contact me at school if you have any questions.

Please be aware that once we have paid our deposit to the tour company and are therefore committed to their terms and conditions, if a student wishes to subsequently withdraw from the visit we must be notified in writing immediately at that point and that contributions made will be non-refundable unless a replacement for that student can be found.

Yours sincerely

**J Lloyd
Visit Leader**

**S Bajic-Raymond
Deputy Headteacher**



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