



**Meadowhead School**

**Academy Trust**

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**Deputy Headteachers**

*Steve Bacon*

*Tamsin Woodward*

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **GCSE History trip to First World War Battlefields for Year 9 and 10**

As part of the History department's enrichment programme, we are arranging a visit to the **First World War Battlefields in Belgium and France**. As part of the History GCSE, all students are required to complete an examination paper on '*The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches*'. We will therefore visit a number of key sites and provide activities to help students develop a greater understanding of medicine and surgery on the Western Front to help them with their GCSE study. In Year 9, we have spent the first term studying the causes of the First World War and what it was like to fight in the trenches on the Western Front. This trip will also provide students with the opportunity to broaden their understanding of the local, national and global implications of the conflict and participate in their own act of remembrance. A draft itinerary is attached to this letter.

We would encourage all Year 10 History students and Year 9 students who are intending to study GCSE History to consider this trip. **In total there are 50 places available for the trip and these will be offered on a first come first served basis.**

The trip will be from **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020** and the cost of the trip is **£252** per student. The price includes the coach for the duration of the trip, return ferry Channel crossing, food (on a full board basis), accommodation at Ypres Lodge, two full time experienced battlefield Guides, a 3 hour guided tour of WWI medical evacuation procedures at the Flanders Museum, and all entrance fees to museums and sites.

In order to secure a place for your child on the visit, we would ask that you pay a deposit of £126 by the **29<sup>th</sup> November 2019**. Please visit our online payment system <http://www.sims-pay.co.uk> where you will be able to view the trip under the Trips heading and give your consent and make the payment. Please ensure you 'check out' or the consent will not be activated. A second instalment of £126 will then be required on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2020. Please could you also bring in or email a copy of your child's passport that they would be travelling on?

Following the launch of our Parent App, we no longer require a separate medical form for this visit, instead please check your child's medical information and contact details are up to date via the Parent App. This information can be found under the Data Collection section and can be updated within the App. By consenting to the visit, you are also confirming that your child's medical information and contact details are up to date, as shown on the Parent App. Please contact the Network Support Team in School if you need any further assistance with this.

The trip is being booked through *European Study Tours*, one of the UK's leading educational travel companies. More information can be found on their website <https://www.euro-study-tours.co.uk/>. They will work closely with us during the whole tour planning process to ensure that your child will get the very best learning experience whilst away. Your child will also benefit from expert knowledge from the tour guides included in the trip.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact your child's History teacher for more details. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of the History department.

Yours faithfully

*Victoria Howard*

Miss V. Howard  
(Subject Leader History)

### **Planned activities for the trip and places to visit:**

The Ypres Salient and Somme area are key locations on the Western Front that allow students to explore the themes of conflict and medicine. Students who wish to attend this residential visit will be able to visit a range of sites including:

- Visit to Sheffield Memorial Park
- 3 Hour Guided Tour - WW1 Medical Evacuation
- Visit to St Julien Canadian Memorial
- Visit to In Flanders Fields Museum & Talbot House
- Visit to Sanctuary Wood Hill 62 Museum
- Visit to Langemark Cemetery
- Visit to Menin Gate & the Last Post Ceremony
- Visit to Tyne Cot British Cemetery
- Thiepval '14-18 Battles of the Somme' Museum
- Visit to Thiepval Memorial & Visitor Centre

### **Sample Itinerary - History 3 Day Battlefields Trip**

	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>Evening</b>
<b>Day 1</b>	Morning departure from school	Visit to Tyne Cot British Cemetery and Essex Farm Cemetery & Dressing Station (example of advance dressing station).	Evening meal. Local orientation.
<b>Day 2</b>	Visit Thiepval '14-18 Battles of the Somme' Museum  Visit to Thiepval Memorial & Visitor Centre	Visit the Sheffield Pals Cemetery on the Somme, St Julien Canadian Memorial and Langemark Cemetery	Evening meal.  The Last Post Ceremony at Menin Gate
<b>Day 3</b>	Visit to In Flanders Fields Museum & Talbot House Visit to Sanctuary Wood Hill 62 Museum Lunch and free time in Ypres.	Depart for return journey to school	