

April 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Current Year 7/Future Year 8 Trip to YPRES on Enrichment Day on
Friday 29th November 2019**

We are delighted to be able to offer a day trip to the World War 1 Battlefields in Ypres, Belgium. As you will know, 2019 marked the centenary of the end of the First World War and we placed great emphasis on commemorating this anniversary at The Weald. As a result, we would like as many of our Year 8 students as possible to take part in our battlefields trip to Ypres. This trip will be offered to Year 8 students as part of the Enrichment Day on **Friday 29th November 2019**. In addition, we feel that this is an ideal opportunity for the students to develop social and European cultural awareness as well as to practise their French speaking skills. As a result, this will be a trip planned jointly with the Languages department.

This trip has been an enormous success in recent years and the students always come away having had an excellent day and feeling that they have learnt a great deal. We are keen that the students have a similar experience this year. Friday 29th November is a school enrichment day so pupils will not be missing lessons. **However, the date does clash with the dress rehearsal for the school play so going on the trip will prevent students participating in this.**

Trip information

The trip is a fantastic opportunity to visit a variety of sites that will really inform students what it must have been like for our young men on the fields of World War One. The trip will cost **£70.00** and will cover the cost of the coach, Eurotunnel and insurance as well as visiting a number of sites, including Tyne Cot Memorial, Langemark German cemetery, Passchendaele Memorial museum and the Menin Gate in Ypres. In addition, students will have some time to visit the shops in Ypres. The trip is being organised by the same successful tour operator as last year which provides some added protection in the unlikely situation of any cancellations.

Students will be travelling by Coach, and will need to be in the Sports Hall by approximately 4.30am in order to depart school at approximately 4.45am. We expect to return back to school by approximately 9pm. It is your responsibility to ensure your child can return home safely. We recommend you stay in touch by mobile phone.

Full school uniform is expected to be worn by every student and they should have suitable outdoor clothing for the time of year including: waterproof jacket and a change of trousers in a carrier bag or bin liner. In addition, your child will need to bring a packed breakfast, lunch and evening meal. It is not recommended that students should bring more than a small amount of money - there will be no opportunity to exchange currency on the trip, so students should bring Euros with them.

Trip fees and payment

We have been fortunate to secure 150 places for the trip at this busy time. At this stage we will require a commitment to take part and, therefore, we will require a **£40.00 non-refundable deposit by Sunday 12th May 2019**. As a result of this trip being organised by a tour operator, this deadline is fixed and therefore, if we do not receive enough interest from parents by this date, the trip will have to be cancelled. The remainder of the balance of **£30.00** is to be paid by **Friday 12th July 2019**. You are not obliged to make this contribution, but if insufficient funds are received, it is likely that the trip will be cancelled. If you are unable to contribute, please contact the school directly to discuss further. Students who do not choose to join this trip will have a program of in-school enrichment provided for them instead.

Parents/carers should pay for the trip using ParentPay, at www.parentpay.com using their unique login and password. Please note that payment for the trip through ParentPay acts as parental permission and therefore no reply slip is necessary. If you would prefer to pay by cash, you may do so at your local Paypoint retailer using a barcoded letter. Please request this letter from the finance department (tel: 01403 787223 or email finance@theweald.org.uk).

Please note that payments are non-refundable as the school makes a financial commitment to the tour operators and other companies based on the number of places we book. Should you secure a place for your child and subsequently decide to cancel, you may be liable to pay any outstanding balance in full, which we have already committed to the operators or venues. However, if your child is unable to travel due to ill health, a medical certificate to cover the date/dates involved from GP/hospital will be required, in order that a claim can be made through the school insurance. Without this evidence we will be unable to make any refund.

Passports and EHIC's

It is your responsibility to provide up to date, current passport and EHIC (European Health Insurance Card) details, including if your child has a non-EU passport. This will be required to secure your child's place on the trip, along with any other specified details. Anyone who does not have a passport should apply for one without delay. You can apply for an EHIC at www.dh.gov.uk/travellers or telephone 0845 6062030 (this will take around 10 days) or collect a form from the Post Office and apply by post (takes approx. 21 days).

Please be aware of the current advice from the Government for trips to Europe after Brexit using the following link <https://bit.ly/2NLz2Nv>. You will need to ensure your child has 6 months left on their passport on the day of the trip.

You can inform the school of any changes to these documents using the Passport Information Form found on the website under School Information, Enrichment Activities, After School & Offsite Enrichment Activities or by using the following link <http://bit.ly/2s4PgDq> and return it to centraladmin@theweald.org.uk. We need to give this information to the tour operator in **October 2019**.

Terms and conditions

As you know, we have the highest expectations of our students for their behaviour and conduct around school, and they rarely let us down. However, please be aware that your child's place on any school trip is dependent on their ability to cooperate fully with staff and other students, to be a responsible member of our community and to comply with school rules. In the unlikely event that a member of staff feels this is not the case, they reserve the right to withdraw a child from a trip for safeguarding purposes. Please note that payments are non-refundable and you may be

liable to pay any outstanding balance in full, which we have already committed to the operators or venues.

We would encourage you to read all trip terms and conditions, including cancellation policies, medical, refunds and student expectations on our website under School Information, Enrichment Activities, After School & Offsite Enrichment Activities or by using the following link <http://bit.ly/2s4PgDg> .

To help keep our records up to date, please inform us of any changes to your child's personal or medical information. This can be updated through the online Parent Portal or via Pupil Reception.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



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Miss D McInerney
Head of MFL