

Dear Year 9 parents,

Important Information for Ypres 2018

Please find attached copies of the itinerary for both the November and the December trips to Ypres. You will note that we have a very early start for both. Could I please stress that the boys need to be at school for **5am in the morning** and the coach will leave promptly at 5.15. We will not wait for stragglers as we have a Eurotunnel train to meet, so make sure you set your alarm clocks. The boys should already have handed in their passports and EHIC cards to the finance office, and their consent forms to myself – if they have not yet done so, then could they please do this as matter of urgency. If your child requires travel sickness medication, can they have taken it before we leave and can they have sufficient for the 2 days. Please note boys in 9H and 9S will be returning by ferry and so if they suffer from seasickness, you may want to provide medication/prevention for this.

I have also included a suggested kit list supplied by the tour company. Please remember that it will be cold, so make sure they have layers; it could also be wet, snowing, windy – or all of those. The weather will not stop what we do, so they need to be prepared. The boys also need to have suitable footwear. They need boots or walking shoes/boots for tramping round battlefields and they will also need a clean/dry pair for the coach, hotel and Menin Gate. Please can you ensure that the waterproof coat and walking boots (or equivalent) are separate to their overnight luggage. Walking boots should be in a separate plastic bag as they will get muddy.

The boys will also need to bring a packed lunch with them on the Thursday, as we will not be feeding them until the evening. Please supply them with sufficient food for the day. No glass bottles or fizzy drinks please. They may also like to bring some Euros with them – I suggest 20-30 Euros should be sufficient. There are not many opportunities to spend money, but they will go to a chocolate shop in Ypres after they have been to Menin Gate on the Thursday evening.

The itinerary suggests a time for us to arrive back at school. However, this could vary slightly and so we will get the boys to update you as we are leaving Folkestone/Dover with a more accurate time. When parking on the school site, could I ask that you park at the far end of the playground, beyond the barriers, so that the coach has space to pull in and turn around. When we arrive, we will pass the boys to you as quickly as possible, however, they will be expected to make sure the coach is spotless before we let them go, so please bear with us.

Hopefully, the boys will find the trip as beneficial as they have in previous years. We will bring them back full of History, tired and muddy. If you need any further information, please email me directly.

Dr C Easterbrook
Subject Leader for History.