

4 March 2024



Vyners School
Striving for Excellence

Dear Parent / Carer

**Subject Day trip to the WW1 battlefields in Ypres, Belgium –
Friday 20th September 2024 or Friday 27th September 2024**

In September, the History Department is running a trip to the WW1 battlefields in Ypres, Belgium. Belgium was at the heart of fighting during the First World War and the town of Ypres witnessed more than 5 major battles over the course of the war. This trip offers your child a chance to experience what life was like in the trenches and to reflect on the conditions and harsh realities of the First World War. Students will visit both British and German WW1 cemeteries in the morning as well as a museum that has accurately recreated both WW1 trenches and bunkers. They will finish the day by having time to explore the beautiful city of Ypres before attending the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate. This will greatly support their studies in History in Year 8.

Due to popular demand in previous years we will now be offering this trip on two different days in September 2024. One trip will take place on Friday 20th September 2024 and the second on Friday 27th September 2024. We have enough spaces to take 70 students on each day, however, if we do not have enough students for both days then only the 20th September will go ahead. If there are enough students for both days we will confirm which day children will attend once student numbers are confirmed.

In order to attend this trip students **must have an in date passport with at least 6 months validity from the 27th September 2024**. Children will need to be in school at 4:30am and the expected return time is 01:30am - 02:00 am (Saturday morning). This will make it a long day but it enables us to stay for the Last Post at the Menin Gate in the evening; a very special event and a real highlight of the trip. The students will then have the weekend to recover.

Students will need to **bring breakfast** to eat on the coach before we cross to France. They will also need to **bring euros** in order to buy their meals (due to regulations students cannot take meat or dairy from the UK across the border into the EU) and any souvenirs (there is a world-renowned chocolate shop!). Students will be required to wear school uniform and bring suncream and/or a waterproof coat (depending on the weather) but are welcome to wear more comfortable footwear e.g. trainers.

The cost of the trip is £155, funded by voluntary contributions. It will only be possible to run the trip if the level of support from parents is sufficient. If you are experiencing financial hardship and this is likely to prevent your child attending, please contact me. The school has some funds available to facilitate student participation in these circumstances.

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Mr Gary Mullings BA (Hons)
Headteacher



Vanguard Learning Trust
Registered in England and Wales Number 07796938

Payment should be made via sQuid, our online payment system. **Cash and cheques will no longer be accepted.** Please log onto the system (www.squidcard.com) and select the 'trips/activities purse'. This trip will be clearly visible as **Year 8 History Belgium Trip 2024** must be specifically selected in order to make payment. Please follow the instructions on screen. An emailed receipt will automatically be sent to you by the system once payment is made.

It is very important that payment is made before the stated deadline of **11th March 2024**. The school does not have funds available to meet the cost of late contributions. Regrettably, a failure to pay promptly may result in your son or daughter being removed from the trip.

This is usually a very popular trip and spaces have historically gone quickly. If all spaces have gone before the deadline and you would like to place your child on a **waiting list** then please do so [here](#). This waiting list will be used on a first-come-first-served basis if any other students have to drop out.

Vyners School has in place detailed procedures for ensuring that trips are well planned and that the health, welfare and safety of students is protected. A careful and written risk assessment has been prepared for this trip and adequate student supervision and insurance arrangements will be put in place.

It is expected that all students will observe the highest standard of politeness, courtesy and conduct at all times. Our students are representing Vyners School and it is expected that they will do everything in a way that reflects positively on themselves and the school. The School's Behaviour Policy continues to be in force throughout the trip. Should it prove necessary to send a student home for misbehaviour, parents / carers will be expected to meet all extra costs incurred. In the event of a student being refused participation on a trip before departure because of poor behaviour, any contributions already paid will also be forfeit.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely



Ms M Soley
History Teacher

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