

Melksham Oak Community School

raising aspirations, learning for life, success for all



September 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

RE: HISTORY VISIT TO YPRES AND SOMME BATTLEFIELD THURSDAY JUNE 29TH – SATURDAY 1ST JULY 2023

Purpose of Visit

In Year 10 GCSE History pupils will study the nature of surgery in World War One. Elements of this have included issues such as blood loss, infection, pain relief as well as an overview of the war. Alongside this they will need an understanding of key battles (e.g. Arras and the Somme) and conditions of the First World War. We would like to offer year 10 GCSE History pupils an opportunity to take their learning to a unique and potentially life changing environment. What the pupils learn on the trip will be taken back into the classroom for further work.

The trip will be run on a first come first served basis, with those able to pay a **deposit of £45 which will be non-refundable** given priority. Those outside the 50 will make up a waiting list. There will be approximately 50 places available however if sufficient numbers apply this may be increased.

Transport

We will travel by executive coach and will stay in hostel style accommodation. There will be adults accompanying the visit with an adult to student ratio of 1:8 which is within the LEA overseas guidelines. In the unlikely event of not enough pupils participating in the visit, we will cancel the visit.

Itinerary

The approximate itinerary run by Anglia Tours will include; Bayernwald trench system, Hill 60, Lijssenthoek, Tyne Cot, the last post ceremony at Menin Gate, Wellington Quarry, Vimy Ridge and Thiepval Memorial to the Missing.

Expectations

This is an educational visit and the focus of the trip will be targeted in this manner, as a result both parents and pupils need to be aware that each day will be long, allowing us to see as many sites as possible during the visit. As a parent you will be required to attend a briefing on the behavioural and safety expectations throughout the trip. **Date of briefing to be confirmed.** Please be aware your child must have both a **passport** and a **UK Global Health Insurance Card (Ghic)** which is free (unless your EHIC card is still in date for the trip). The Ghic replaced the European Health Insurance Card (Ehic) for all EU countries in Jan 2021.

The cost

The cost of the visit provided we get a minimum of 50 pupils will be **£405 per student**. This covers the cost of; guide, travel, accommodation, food and insurance. It will also include a booklet from Anglia Battlefield Tours which will be useful for revision.

Insurance - Travel Sure is a bespoke policy developed for schools and groups, backed by ABTA and the School Travel Forum and underwritten by AXA. Please see <https://travelsure.abta.com/stf/>.

Brexit – Whilst we hope this will not be the case, the outcome of the ongoing Brexit process may have an impact on this trip and we will communicate with parents in due course, should the need arise.

How and when to pay

All payments should be made by Parent Pay. If you do not have your log in and password to activate Parent Pay then please contact Mel Matthews to provide it on 01225 792755 or matthewsm@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk . All places on the visit will be on a first come first served basis. If the trip is full and you wish to be put on the waiting list you must inform Mel Matthews and Mr M. Maguire.

The payments will be due thus.

- Thursday, 30th September 2022 - £45 (non-refundable)
- 24/10/22 - £72 (non-refundable)
- 28/11/22 - £72
- 13/02/22 - £72
- 16/03/22 - £72
- 20/04/22 - £72

A copy of this letter will be available on the school website and Parent Portal.

If you have any queries about this trip or **if you wish to send your child on the trip but cannot afford the deposit at this point** please contact maguirem@melkshamoak.wilts.sch.uk .

Yours sincerely

Mr M Maguire.

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Head of History.