RICKMANSWORTH SCHOOL

HISTORY DEPARTMENT YEAR 9 STUDY TOUR TO YPRES

5th and 6th October 2018

STUDENT AND PARENT INFORMATION
Ypres Trip (Friday 5th and Saturday 6th October 2018)  
Student and Parent Information

The following guide should hopefully answer any questions or queries that you may have regarding the trip. Please read this in advance of the visit carefully. I am planning on holding a parents evening shortly before the visit (Tuesday 18th September at 7.00pm in the canteen extension) when you can meet the members of staff attending the trip and ask any questions that you still have; alternatively you can contact me at any time at school on lcramp@rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk.

Staff attending the trip:

Mrs L Cramp  
Mrs F Stannard  
Mr S White  
Mr N Radford  
Mr G Burgess

Travel Details:

We will be traveling to and from School by coach to Folkestone and then using the Eurotunnel shuttle to Calais. It is important that students are on time and that they remember their Passports and EHIC cards. Please note the timings below:

Friday 5th October 2018

05:45   Meet at School, luggage to be loaded onto the coach. Please be on time as we will not be able to wait for late comers  
06.00   Depart School, proceed to Folkestone  
08.20   Check-In  
09.20   Shuttle departs  
10:55   Arrival in Calais, group to proceed to Ypres

Saturday 6th October 2018

15.15   Proceed to Calais  
16.50   Check-in at Eurotunnel terminal Calais  
17.50   Shuttle departs  
17.25   Arrival in UK, onward travel  
19.30   Approximate arrival back to School – students will be notified when we are 15 minutes away

Please ensure that you are waiting to collect your son/daughter at School promptly as both staff and students will be very tired after a long day of traveling.

Accommodation:

We will be staying at the following hotel:

Salient Hotel  
Dhontstraat 27  
8900 Ieper  
Belgium  
Tel: 00 32 57 21 20 01
Detailed Itinerary:

Friday 5th October 2018

05:45 Meet at School, luggage to be loaded onto the coach.
06.00 Depart School, proceed to Folkestone
08.20 Check-In
09.20 Shuttle departs
10:55 Arrival in Calais, group to proceed to Ypres
12.45 Approximate arrival in Ypres, eat lunch (students will need a packed lunch or some money to purchase lunch). Sightseeing in Ypres.
15.00 Visit to In Flanders Field Museum
16.30 Arrive Salient Hotel. Check in for 1-night full board accommodation
17.15 Evening meal in local restaurant
18.45 Group to proceed to the Last Post Ceremony to secure a good position / viewing place
20.00 Group to attend the Last Post Ceremony which takes place every evening at the Menin Gate

PM Return to hotel.

Saturday 6th October 2018

AM Check out of hotel after breakfast, with packed lunch
09.00 Four hour guided tour, to include Tyne Cot and Langemark Cemeteries
12.00 Confirmed visit to Sanctuary Wood Museum (Hill 62). Please make sure you wear sturdy waterproof footwear
13.00 Return the guides back to Ypres. The group will have time for lunch (provided)
15.15 Proceed to Calais
16.50 Check-in at Eurotunnel terminal Calais
17.50 Shuttle departs
17.25 Arrival in UK, onward travel
19.30 Approximate arrival back to School

Supervision:
Students will be under constant supervision however they will have the opportunity for independent socialising when in the hotel and during their free time.

Emergencies:
The students will be briefed on what to do should they lose themselves from the group. They will also be issued details of the hotel to contact in an emergency. Most Mobile Phones will work in Ypres. On the morning of departure and at all other times during the trip, our emergency contact number will be 07486 669274.

WST School Travel:
We are travelling with the group ‘WST’ who have been providing educational travel for more than 30 years. Their team have arranged thousands of successful tours for students from schools and colleges across the UK and the itinerary has been especially designed to enhance the study of WW1 and conditions in the trenches, for more details, please visit WST’s website at www.wsttravel.com
Student Check-list

Before we go, please make sure you have done/packed the following:

• Have your passport and EHIC card packed
• Know who you’re sharing a room with
• Have told Mrs Cramp whether you have any dietary requirements
• Have told Mrs Cramp whether you have any serious medical concerns
• Have packed your own ‘First Aid’ kit: paracetamol, plasters etc.
• Have packed any medicines, asthma inhalers or EPIPENs that you need
• Have got some spending money
• Have got your parent’s and the School’s mobile numbers written down somewhere safe
• Have packed a camera and a mobile phone charger

What to pack:
Students should bring one piece of luggage and one day bag/backpack. Although it will be early autumn, the weather can be quite cold and wet and we will be spending a lot of time outside, we would therefore suggest that all members of the group dress with plenty of layered clothing and check the weather report before packing. Casual clothes can be worn but you should be mindful that we will be visiting some memorial sites. Therefore, please be careful about logos and phrases on items of clothing; your clothing should be discrete. The following is a guide to the basics that you will need to pack:

• PASSPORT & EHIC Card
• Towel
• A warm and waterproof coat
• A pair of jeans or trousers
• A warm jumper/fleece
• T shirts
• Underwear
• Waterproof shoes/boots suitable for wearing in muddy conditions
• Further pair of shoes for travel/indoor use
• Socks
• Pyjamas
• Toiletries
• Lightweight day bag
• Adaptor plug (2 pin European)
• Camera & charger/batteries
• Mobile phone/chargers
• Entertainment and snacks for the coach journeys
• A pen/pencil
• Umbrella
• Necessary medication - students must bring sufficient quantities of necessary prescribed medication for the whole trip. Anyone with asthma should bring at least two inhalers on the trip.

Currency/Spending money:
The unit of currency in Ypres is the Euro (EUR)
As of 10/09/2018, £1 is €1.12
Please exchange your money to Euro’s BEFORE the trip.

Spending money is at your discretion, but I should imagine that students will need no more than €25 (£20) to cover lunch on day 1 and any other items that they should wish to buy. There will be opportunities for students to shop for souvenirs/chocolate.
Electricity/voltage:
Electronic current in Ypres is mostly 220V, with European-style round two-pin sockets.

Security:
Like most major cities there are reported cases of pick pocketing and thefts, especially from popular tourist attractions where large crowds are gathered. It is therefore important that the students stay together in groups and remain vigilant to distraction-type thefts or be aware that thieves can inadvertently involve individuals in scams, resulting in thefts.

Terror Alert:
As you are aware, like many countries in Western Europe, Belgium and France are in a state of high terrorist alert. We will take every precaution to keep the students safe, but I completely understand if you personally feel the risk is too high for your son/daughter. The Foreign Office say it is safe to go to these countries, but to be cautious. As such the trip is proceeding, but if you wish for your son/daughter not to go on the visit I must draw to your attention that there will be no reimbursement of costs. I realise this is not your priority, but I must bring it to your attention.

Time Zone:
Belgium is 1 hour ahead of GMT.

Code of conduct for students:
In the interest of enjoyment and safety, and in the hope that we gain the most from our visit we expect students to adhere to the following standards of behaviour:

(a) Prior to the visit:
1. You should familiarise yourself with the programme itinerary.
2. If you have a particular allergy or medical condition about which we should be aware, this should be notified to us as early as possible.
3. Ensure that you have all the correct clothing.

(b) At your accommodation:
1. Familiarise yourself with the hotel surroundings and the most direct route to be taken in the event of fire.
2. Do not indulge in smoking or the consumption of alcoholic beverages within the accommodation or its grounds (or at any other time/place on the trip).
3. Do not leave the hotel without a member of staff.
4. Remember that this is also the home of your hosts and that the usual home courtesies are expected.

(c) In the city and historical sites:
General Safety: Remember that you have a responsibility (a) to yourself, (b) to those around you, and (c) if called upon, to those who might be called in to help you. Please respect the advice of the guides and your leaders however petty some instructions may seem.

Crossing Roads: The Belgians drive on the right hand side of the road. Caution must therefore be taken when crossing the road, especially in Ypres town centre.

Getting Lost: At no time should any group split up or any individual select to go off without first asking a member of staff. The only place where groups will be more independent is in Ypres old town square, which is a very safe, and the instructions to you will be very specific. You will also have an I.D. card with the details of our emergency contact number and hotel details. You must keep this with you at all times.

Unforeseen hazards: Considerate and safe conduct must be enforced at all times.
**First Aid:** While we carry a First Aid kit on the coach, it is your responsibility to carry your own basic kit of plasters etc. for blisters, cuts etc. as there will be a lot of walking.

**Clothing:** It is absolutely essential that you are prepared for potentially cold and/or wet weather.

**Mobile Phones/iPods/MP3 players etc.:** It is your responsibility to look after your own valuables. Please keep them inside the coach or accommodation (there will be a safe at the hotel).

**Sleep:** The days will be long and demanding. You should be in your bed by 22:00 and sufficiently quiet so that those around you may sleep.

**Food:** The days can be long and demanding. Do not skimp on your food.

In addition to this, you must always follow the advice and guidance given by your group leaders and guides.

**Final Note:**

I am personally very excited by this opportunity; I think it is a fantastic opportunity not only for students, but also for the History department. With support from the parents, students and the many staff that have been involved in its preparation I am sure it will be a great success.

Should you have any further questions, as ever please feel free to contact me at the School.

L Cramp
Head of Faculty Humanities