

Sponne School

A Music & Science Academy



Inspiring
Achievement

24th June 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Battlefields trip, 28th-31st March, 2020, Year 12 & 13, History, Belgium and France

The History department has organised a visit for Year 12 & 13 students to the battlefields and cemeteries of the First World War in Belgium and France. The visit will take place between Saturday 28th March and Tuesday 31st March, 2020. This will directly support our study of the First World War in Year 13 as part of the unit investigating the experience of warfare on Britain and also the Year 13 coursework on the origins of the First World War.

The visit will include two full days of field study investigating the fighting during the First World War. We will be based in the small Belgian town of Ypres, once the most shelled place in the world, and we will also visit the Somme battlefields of 1916, including the largest man-made crater on the Western Front. At both locations we will study the nature of the conflict by visiting battlefields, trench systems, museums and war cemeteries.

I am confident that the experiences gained from such a visit will undoubtedly increase the interest and understanding that the students have of the First World War. The visit will encourage the students to think about the key events that have shaped the world today and the impact that these events had between 1914 and 1918. The visit will also help students to prepare for their A Level exams by seeing some of what they have studied, first hand.

For the three nights that we are away we will be staying in a hostel in the centre of Ypres and all meals are provided in the cost of the trip. The tour company helping us to organise the trip are specialists in these visits and Sponne have successfully travelled with this company on many occasions previously. The Sponne student feedback from last year's trip was overwhelmingly positive.

The cost of the 4-day visit will be **£310.00** and this includes all travel costs (including all insurance), accommodation (including all meals) and entrance to all museums and sites.

Places are limited to 40 and are allocated on a first come, first served basis. Therefore, early payment of the first instalment is recommended to secure a place. Once the trip is full, it will no longer appear on TSCO for first payments to be made.

We kindly request that by securing a place on this trip, parents/carers are in agreement to follow the Payment Plan detailed below. It is important that the Plan is adhered to as it enables School to be able to fulfil an arranged commitment with the tour operator to pay invoices in instalments. It is also designed to spread the cost for parents before the final date so that a large sum does not become due in one instalment.

£100	-	by 19 th July 2019
£70	-	by end of Sept 2019
£70	-	by end of Oct 2019
£70	-	by end of Nov 2019

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Please be advised that should a place be booked for your son/daughter and they later withdraw, we always endeavour to find a replacement student for the place. However if this is not possible, the tour operators terms and conditions state they will retain a minimum of the first deposit amount and up to 100% of the trip price depending on the date of withdrawal.

Should concerns be raised by school staff regarding behaviour or attendance issues of students, the school reserves the right to withdraw places on the trip at any time. Should this become necessary no refunds of monies paid will be forthcoming other than as per the tour operator's terms and conditions above.

The trip is now open and active on Tucasi Schools Cash Office for all eligible students. If you wish your son / daughter to go on this trip, you must give your consent by ticking the consent box on the TSCO payment page. Click on the name of the trip highlighted in green, enter the payment amount, tick the Permission Slip box, add to basket and proceed to payment. A first payment of **£100.00** will be required by **19th July** to confirm their place. Please be aware that if insufficient funds are received or if numbers of students are too low, it may be necessary to cancel the trip.

All payments should be made via Schools Cash Office. If you require any assistance, please contact Claire Invernizzi cinvernizzi@sponne.org.uk on 01327 350284.

This letter is now on the School Website, School Life, Parents, Letters Home, Year 12 and Year 13.

If you have any queries regarding this visit please contact me at school. A more detailed letter will follow once the details and numbers for the trip have been finalised.

Yours faithfully,

Miss K. Whitmore
Teacher and Operational Lead of History