Dear Parent/Guardian 17th January 2017

**VISIT TO YPRES & THE SOMME, 21st-24th September 2017**

We are proposing to take the current Year 8 History Students away on a 4 day tour to the Battlefields of Ypres and The Somme in Belgium and France.

The visit will be based around the historic events of the First World War and is a truly worthwhile trip for all History students who will be doing an in depth study into the First World War in Year 9. As well as the opportunity to experience at first hand the locations of some of the most momentous events of the First World War, the students will be able to visit the Trench Museum where they will be able to see the underground tunnels which were used as shelters during the war and have now been turned into a World War 1 museum. We will also be taking part in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate.

It is a busy itinerary, leaving Chauncy at about 06.30 hrs on **Thursday 21st September 2017** and travelling via Eurotunnel to Ypres, where students will have the opportunity for some free time to visit the chocolate stores. We will be based at the Peace Village Messines. Students will share quad rooms with en suite facilities. We will visit Hill 60, Essex Farm Field Dressing Station and Bedford House Cemetery. We will visit the Passchendaele Museum, the preserved trenches at Sanctuary Wood and Hill 62 museum, the Commonwealth Tyne Cot Cemetery and German Langemarck mass grave. As well as visiting sites in Belgium, we will also travel to France via the Vimy Ridge Memorial to the battlefields of the Somme, visiting the museum, Thiepval, and The Lochnager mine Crater. On our final day we will load the coach and check out from our hostel after breakfast. We will visit some local cemeteries before returning to Calais for the 16.00 hrs Eurotunnel to Folkestone. We will return to Chauncy at approximately 18.00 hrs.

The cost of this visit will be **£260.00** per student, which includes transport, full board hostel accommodation, entry to all museums and a tour hoodie, but **does not include spending money**. The price is based on 46 students travelling. This is always a very popular trip and it fills very quickly. Participation on the trip is dependent upon good student behaviour and we reserve the right to withdraw a student from the trip if we feel their behaviour will jeopardise the safety and enjoyment of the other students.

In order to secure a place for your child, we require a non-refundable deposit payment of £100.00 to cover costs already incurred in booking the trip.  In order to make this easier to afford, we are happy to accept this in two instalments of £50.00, the first payable by**Friday 3rd February 2017 latest** and the second payment of £50.00 on 1st March.  Please note, the initial payment of £50.00 commits you to the trip and if you wish to cancel after making this payment, you will still be liable for the balance of £50.00 as part of the non-refundable deposit.  The remaining balance of £160.00 must be paid by 1st July 2017, but may also be paid in 4 instalments of £40.00 each on 1st April, 1st May, 1st June and 1st July 2017.  All students have Wisepay accounts and to be fair to all pupils, deposits must be paid via Wisepay. We will make the trip available on Wisepay at 10.00am on Friday 3rd February 2017.  No payments will be accepted before this date.  If you require a reminder of your login details or how to use Wisepay, please contact the Finance Office before this date. (accounts@chauncy.org.uk)

All students will need to have their **own** **valid** passport and EHIC card **(available free of charge from** [**www.ehic.org.uk**](http://www.ehic.org.uk)**).** Once payment has been made, please complete and return the attached Reply Slip, giving details of your wisepay payment, and attaching a copy of your child’s passport (we can copy your child’s passport in school if you are unable to do this).

We very much hope that you will give permission for your son/daughter to come with us. If the cost is too difficult to meet, please contact the Finance Office to discuss your situation in complete confidence. We have aimed to keep the cost to a minimum. This trip is subject to price fluctuations in the exchange rate. Please note, we have included the cost of a hoodie in this price, but if the rate of exchange fluctuates in the next few months, and affects our accommodation rate, we may need to ask for payment for this.  The hoodie will cost no more than £15.00 and we will have a better idea if this will be required in July

An information evening will be held for parents and students nearer the time of the tour, when confirmed details of departure times, kit and spending money will be advised.

Yours faithfully

**J. Bayley (Miss)**

**Teacher of History**