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Newlands Girls' School

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Acting Co-Headteachers:

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16th May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 8



Year 9 History visit: First World War Battlefields, 23rd – 25th February 2023

In 2023, the History Department intends to return to the Battlefields of the First World War in Belgium and northern France for the first time since 2020. This will be open to students who will be in Year 9, who will be studying the war as part of their Twentieth Century World course.



We shall attend the “Last Post” ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres, a Belgian town which was demolished by artillery shells and rebuilt to its medieval design after the war. We will search the names on the Gate, at Tyne Cot cemetery, and at the Thiepval Memorial for soldiers from Maidenhead who fought and died in the trenches. The girls will walk the trenches of the famous battles of the Somme, see where the men of Newfoundland died by the “Danger Tree”, and learn how the Canadians stormed Vimy Ridge and captured it from the Germans - and much more besides, including visits to two modern museums assisted by experienced local guides. We will be staying at a hotel in Albert, which was designed for school parties and has recently been refurbished.



I hope you will feel able to support this trip. The total cost will be **£315** per pupil, with an initial payment of £150. If you wish your daughter to join the visit, please go to www.portal.squidcard.com and log on to your daughter’s sQuid account. Select the ‘School Trips and Offers’ purse. Select the ‘Year 9, History Trip to the Battlefields in February 2023’ and follow the instructions. **The payment will only be returned if the trip is cancelled by the school, for example if there are insufficient contributions to run the trip.** There are some terms and conditions that must be agreed to by ticking the boxes before you can make the voluntary contribution using your debit/credit card, and your payment denotes acceptance of these T&Cs, namely:



- I give my permission for my daughter to participate go on the First World War Battlefields Trip on the 23rd – 25th February 2023 and travel to and from Belgium by coach, Channel Tunnel and ferry.
- I understand that the full cost for my daughter to participate in the trip is £315.
- I confirm that my daughter will have a valid passport at the time of travel.
- I understand this contribution is non-refundable.



Please be aware that there is a maximum number of 75 places available for this trip and on previous occasions the places have been filled very quickly. The trip availability will open on **Tuesday 17th May 2022 at 7.00 p.m.** Should you have any problems in using the e-payment system or any questions regarding making the payment please contact the School Finance Office on 01628 625068. Cheques and cash will not be accepted as payment for this trip. If your child is eligible for Free School Meals and you would like them to participate in this trip please contact me immediately on the school telephone number 01628 625068.



Yours sincerely

D. Wills

Dr D. Wills
Teacher of History

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Cost includes:

- Accommodation for 2 nights
- Dinner on days 1 and 2, breakfast and packed lunch days 2 and 3
- Return coach travel
- Return Eurotunnel/ferry cross-Channel travel
- Entrance to museums in Ypres and Peronne
- Guided tours of Ypres and Somme Battlefields
- Student boot bags
- Insurance

Cost does not include:

A small amount of spending money, which participants may wish to bring.
Breakfast/packed lunch for day 1.

Mobile phones and pupil conduct

The Party Leader will permit participants to bring a mobile phone. Please note, however, that he will be issuing guidelines for their use. For example, it is not appropriate for pupils' phones to be used whilst on a museum visit, whilst listening to guides, or for making first contact with parents in the event of an accident suffered by another member of the party. In the event of misuse, the party leader reserves the right to temporarily confiscate a pupil's phone.

You will be aware that schools take on a heavy responsibility when they organise residential trips. We will be working with the Borough's Off-Site Activity Coordinator on risk management, and teachers who accompany the trip will work together to ensure a safe and successful visit. Parents will understand that teachers will rely on girls to be calm and respectful throughout; if the school is concerned that behaviour will not be appropriate it reserves the right to deny access to the trip on an individual basis.