



Thursday 11th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Year 9 Battlefields of World War One Trip to Belgium and France

Description of trip: I am delighted to be able to offer your son/daughter the opportunity to attend the Gosford Hill School Year 9 visit to the Battlefields of World War One. The trip is being organised by the History department and provides a unique opportunity for students to visit the sites associated with this conflict. I hope you will agree when viewing the itinerary below that the trip offers a wealth of experiences to our students and is excellent value for money. The visit would greatly enhance their knowledge of the causes, events and consequences of World War One which they have been studying this year.

Dates: Thursday 26th March to Friday 27th March 2025.

Location: Ypres, Belgium and the Somme, France.

Travel arrangements: The departure time on Thursday 26th March and the return time on Friday 27th March will be confirmed closer to departure.

Meal arrangements and money: Please provide your child with enough food for lunch and snacks on the first day of the visit (including drinks). Dinner is provided in the evening. Students will be provided with breakfast and a packed lunch on the second day, but please provide any snacks and enough money to purchase food on our journey home. Any food allergies must be declared on the medical consent form which will follow. **Students may want to bring some spending money for museum gift shops and the chocolate shop.**

Itinerary: The trip has an exciting itinerary and includes the following:

- Tyne cot Memorial Cemetery
- Memorial Museum Passchendaele
- Langemark German Cemetery
- Trenches at Memorial Museum Passchendaele
- Visit to the historic city of Ypres. This is where we will stay and students will have a chance to explore the city, chocolate shopping and attend the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate.
- Thiepval Memorial
- Visit the sites around the Battle of the Somme. This will include Hawthorn Ridge Crater, the Newfoundland Memorial Park and Ulster Tower.
- Accommodation in Ypres
- Half board meals (Dinner on day one, breakfast and a packed lunch on day two)
- Ferry crossing and coach hire



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We will also be accompanied by an expert tour guide who will provide information on each of the sites we visit throughout the trip. As well as this we are also able to provide our tour guide with information about soldiers from our local community or any family connections to World War One and they will be researched and incorporated into the itinerary where possible.

Costs: The cost of the trip is **£290** which covers the cost of travel, insurance, accommodation on a half board basis and the entry to various venues as detailed above. This can be paid in instalments, as detailed below, or in full. Please note that students will need some money for lunch on the first day, dinner on the second and any other spending money they wish to take.

Although unlikely, the price of the trip may vary slightly depending on the number of students who wish to travel. Any changes to the price will be communicated directly to parents at the earliest opportunity. There will be an additional charge of around £25 for a trip midlayer top – more information to follow during the World War One Trip Information Evening in January 2026, for those who sign up for the trip.

Payment schedule:

Date due	Payment	Amount
28 th September 2025	First deposit	£50
23 rd November 2025	Second deposit	£100
11 th January 2026	Final deposit	£140
	TOTAL	£290

Once accepted on the trip, the deposit and any subsequent payments made will not be refunded under any circumstances unless covered by the insurance and refunds will be issued only upon a refund from the insurance company.

In the event that a student is requested by Gosford Hill School to withdraw due to behaviour related issues no payments will be refunded. **Please note that Gosford Hill School reserves the right to cancel the place of any student whose behaviour does not give the school the confidence to trust the student to act responsibly at all times.** A behaviour policy will need to be signed and returned by both parent and student.

Mandatory Documents

Students must be in possession of a valid passport **with at least six full months remaining from our arrival date** before reserving a place on the trip. Students from non-EU countries must also be in possession of the appropriate Visa/documentation to travel through Belgium and France. Travel insurance is included in the cost of the visit. However, students should obtain a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) to ensure access to free health care if necessary whilst outside the UK. If students do not have an EHIC card, they should apply for a new GHIC card on the gov.uk website. These cards are available at <https://www.gov.uk/global-health-insurance-card>.



If you would like your child to be considered for the World War One trip, please **log onto ParentPay** to pay and give consent by **28th September 2025** to reserve their place. Please also return **a copy of your child's passport along** with the signed behaviour policy in an email to mgannon@gosfordhillschool.org or in a named and sealed envelope to the school reception. Your child will not be allocated a place on the trip until we receive the full deposit and the completed forms.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Gannon
Head of Year 11

Miss E Hall
Subject Leader of History



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BEHAVIOUR CODE OF CONDUCT

World War One Trip 2026

The success of the trip is dependent on all the group working together to ensure that everybody has an enjoyable time. Consequently some rules are necessary to avoid situations which will endanger or inconvenience yourselves or others.

1. Whilst on visits to the various sights, Students must, under no circumstance leave the group.
2. Smoking of cigarettes, any vaping devices or taking of/smoking of illegal substances will not be allowed. It is absolutely forbidden in bedrooms or corridors and will also not be tolerated on either the coach or whilst on visits. It is illegal to smoke in public places in Belgium and France
3. Drinking alcohol will not be allowed. It is absolutely forbidden to drink anywhere or purchase alcohol in local shops/duty free for consumption. Visits to local bars are also prohibited. Failure to comply with this rule will result in immediate sanctions. You risk being sent home. DON'T DO IT!
4. Visiting other people's rooms is not permitted after the evening entertainment activity, or the agreed bedtime. Physical relationships between students will not be permitted.
5. There will be an important daily brief of the days' activities during breakfast at the hotel. It is a requirement that the entire group attend this brief to receive their timed itinerary and instructions for the day.
6. The entire party will be expected to show respect when visiting all the sites and cemeteries.
7. Remember that there may be other clients staying in the Hotel and also using the restaurant. Your conduct and behaviour will be very visible at all times and will need to be of the highest order.
8. Students must keep the emergency contact card that they will be issued with on them at all times.
9. Students will be expected to take part in all activities and follow all instructions of the staff leading the trip

I have read the above conditions and rules and do agree to comply with them.

NAME _____ **STUDENT SIGNATURE** _____

I/We have read the above conditions and rules and will expect my/our son/daughter to comply with them.

NAME _____ **PARENT/CARER SIGNATURE.** _____

