

## Year 8 and 9 Residential to Belgium

Dear Parents and Carers, We are delighted to share details of the Year 8 and 9 residential trip for this academic year. Pupils will have the opportunity to visit Ypres, Belgium from Tuesday 28th April – Friday 1st May 2026 (4 days, 3 nights). The total cost of the trip is £300, which covers all transport, accommodation, meals, and excursions. This has been subsidised by the school in order to make the trip more affordable for families.

Pupils attending this residential will require a valid passport; we are happy to provide support with any passport applications if needed.

### Itinerary highlights:

- Executive coach travel to Belgium via ferry crossing (Dover–Calais)
- Accommodation and meals at Ypres Lodge
- Full day tour of WW1 battlefields, including: Passchendaele and Hill 62 Museums, Menin Gate and Last Post Ceremony, plus cemeteries linked to our curriculum work
- Bowling evening
- Visit to Belgian chocolate and waffle shops
- Full day at Bellewaerde Theme Park

This year marks our fifth school visit to Belgium, and it remains one of the most important and memorable experiences we offer our pupils. As part of the Year 8 humanities curriculum, pupils study World War I, exploring the events, causes, and human stories behind this important period in history. This residential visit offers an exceptional opportunity to bring that learning to life. Pupils will visit battlefield sites, memorials, and museums that deepen their understanding of the realities and sacrifices of the Great War. This first-hand experience also supports future learning, as pupils later revisit these themes in Year 11 English coursework, when they study WWI poetry and letter writing. Beyond the classroom, the visit also helps pupils develop independence, teamwork, and empathy—qualities that are invaluable both in school and beyond. Pupils were shown videos and photographs from previous visits during assembly today to give them a sense of what to expect. Please can **ALL** parents complete the form below to enable us to determine interest. To secure a place for your child, please complete the form and pay a non-refundable deposit of £100 via the Arbor Parent App by Monday 1st December 2026. Further payments can be made in instalments following this initial deposit. We look forward to offering your child a memorable and enriching experience. Yours sincerely,  
Mrs McVeigh (Residential Leader)