

25th September 2025

Dear Parents / Carers

YEAR 9 FRENCH / HISTORY TRIP 2026 - FRANCE AND BELGIUM / WORLD WAR 1

I am delighted to announce the French / History trip to Northern France in June 2026, leaving very early morning **Friday 5 June** and returning early evening on **Monday 8 June 2026**.

This trip will be extremely beneficial for all students, giving them an opportunity to experience French food and culture at first hand, to improve their spoken French and to look at some of the history of the area with particular reference to World War 1, an important part of the Year 9 curriculum and highly supportive of their study of Weimar-Nazi Germany in the GCSE History specification. This is also a wonderful trip for personal development and character building. All pupils will be expected to take a full part in the History / French fieldwork.

We are going to be staying in The Château de Warsy just south of Albert in the Somme area of Northern France. We will be travelling with the company Manor Adventure who will organise accommodation, catering and transport. The site is located in a hamlet and consists of impressive 88-acre grounds. We will be staying in their two Eco-pod villages – pupils will sleep in wooden pods (like mini chalets) for four boys, with central bathroom facilities in each village. Meals will be served in the main chateau complex and evening activities will also be included. This will be our third year here – in the last two years it has proved very popular.

The provisional programme for the four days is:

- Friday: Travel to the château via Arras. Town trail challenge in French and a variety of spoken language activities.
- Saturday: Visit the Somme (Beaumont Hamel, the trenches, Thiepval monument, Lochnagar Crater, Ulster Tower, British and German cemeteries). French activities late afternoon.
- Sunday: Belgium: Remembrance Ceremony at grave of VC winner and RGS old boy Frederick Youens, followed by visits to Ypres and other WW1 sites in Belgium.
- Monday: Leave château and travel to Vimy Ridge (trenches, monument) and Notre Dame de Lorette (cemetery, trenches, memorial, museum).

The cost of the trip will be £489. This covers all transport (coach and ferry) High Wycombe - France - High Wycombe, full board and lodging in France (from evening meal on Friday to packed lunch on Monday), all excursions and entry fees within the four days and travel insurance.

If you would like your child to take part in this trip, please log onto ParentPay, look up **French History Trip 2026**, and pay the first instalment of £130 by **Monday 13 October**. Further payments will be due as follows:

Second instalment: £130 by Friday 28th November 2025

Third instalment: £130 by Friday 30th January 2026

Balance of £99 by Friday 27th February 2026

There are 103 spaces available which will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Please be aware that places have traditionally sold out long before the deadline. If you are unable to pay online, please contact the Finance Office to pay by an alternative method. If you are unable to secure a place, please email me immediately to be added to the reserve list. We appreciate that some students will be disappointed but we are unable to take more than 103 due to other bookings at the Château.

If you feel that the cost involved is prohibitive, please do contact me in strictest confidence and I will see if there is any funding available to assist you. We may also be able to arrange an alternative payment plan. Please note, as the School is required to make non-refundable payments to the trip provider, we would not be able to make any refunds should you withdraw your son from the trip once his place is confirmed, unless we can find a replacement.

Please ensure your child has a full valid passport by April 2026 as you will need to submit their passport number to us in advance of the trip. If a visa is required for entry into France please contact me as I can organise a visa waiver for those travelling with a school group.

Withdrawal from a School Trip

Please be aware that withdrawing a student from a confirmed school trip may incur costs that the school is obligated to cover. These costs can include, but are not limited to:

- Non-refundable payments made to travel operators, accommodation providers, or activity venues.
- Cancellation fees levied by service providers.
- Costs associated with staffing and resources allocated based on the initial number of participants.
- Upon notice of withdrawal, parents/carers will be informed of the specific amount required to cover these costs, which may be in addition to any instalments already paid.
- This amount will be communicated to parents/carers as part of the formal withdrawal confirmation process.

If you have any queries, please contact us on the below email addresses.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Taylor and Mr Geering

sbt@rgshw.com nrg@rgshw.com

History and French Department Subject Leaders