

26 September 2019

Dear Parents

YEAR 9 FRENCH / HISTORY TRIP 2020 - FRANCE AND BELGIUM / WORLD WAR 1

For the 30th year in succession, we are intending to take Year 9 pupils to Northern France for a short stay in 2020. We will be leaving early morning **Friday 12th June** and returning early evening **Monday 15th June**.

Accommodation will be in pairs with French families. Please note that the French parents who act as hosts have all undergone the French equivalent of a DBS (police) check, all the families are visited regularly by the French organiser and they must adhere to a strict code issued by the French organising company EDI.

This trip is extremely beneficial for all boys, giving them an opportunity to experience French life 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.

The provisional programme for the four days is:

- Friday: Travel to Armentières in Northern France via Notre Dame de Lorette (trenches, memorial, museum) or Vimy (trenches, museum, monument).
- Saturday: Visit the Somme (Beaumont Hamel, the trenches, Thiepval monument, Lochnagar Crater, Ulster Tower, British and German cemeteries).
- Sunday: Day with French families.
- Monday: Remembrance Ceremony at grave of VC winner and RGS old boy Frederick Youens (Belgium), followed by visits to Ypres and other WW1 sites in Belgium.

The cost of the trip will be £280 (based on the current exchange rate of the euro). This covers ALL transport 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 son to go on this trip, please log onto ParentPay, look up **French History 2020**, and pay the initial deposit of £100 by **Monday 14th October**. There are 160 spaces available and two reserve places. Please be aware that places have traditionally sold out before the deadline. If you are unable to pay online, please contact the Finance Office to pay by an alternative method.

We would not like anyone to be prevented from going on this trip for purely financial reasons. If you are in this situation, please contact me in confidence immediately as help may be available.

The deposit will be sent to *EDI* immediately after half term. Please note that the School cannot be held liable for the refund of any payments made in good faith to travel companies on your behalf. The final balance will be due in February.

Once your son's place on the trip has been confirmed, you will be asked to complete a detailed form on the VLE ensuring that we, the company and the French families are then fully aware of any allergies, dietary requirements and medical issues your son may have. **Please ensure your son has a full valid passport by May 2020 as you will need to submit his passport number to us in advance of the trip. If he requires a visa for entry into France please contact me as I can organise a visa waiver for boys travelling with a school group.**

If you have any queries, please contact me – rls@rgshw.com.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Smith

KS3 French Coordinator / Trip Leader