

4th October 2023

Dear Parents

YEAR 9 FRENCH / HISTORY TRIP 2024 - FRANCE AND BELGIUM / WORLD WAR 1

I am delighted to invite your son to sign up to take part in this year's French / History trip to Northern France in June 2024. We will be leaving early morning **Friday 7th June** and returning early evening on **Monday 10th June**.

We are going to be staying at 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 second year here – last year it proved very popular.

This trip will be extremely beneficial for all boys, giving them an opportunity to experience French culture and food 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 programme for the four days is:

- Friday: Travel to the château via Vimy Ridge (trenches, tunnels, monument) and Notre Dame de Lorette (cemetery, trenches, memorial, museum).
- 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 St Omer. Town trail challenge in French, free time in town and/or supermarket visit before returning to Calais.

The cost of the trip will be between £405-410, depending on final numbers. 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 son to take part in this trip, please log onto ParentPay, look up **French History Trip 2024**, and pay the initial deposit of £120 by **Monday 16th October**. Further payments will be due as follows:

£100 by Friday 17th November 2023

£100 by Friday 2nd February 2024

Balance (£85 - £90 to be confirmed) by Friday 1st March 2024

There are 115 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 boys will be disappointed but we are unable to take more than 115 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 son has a full valid passport by May 2024 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 – acb@rgshw.com.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A. C. Balaam

Languages Department, Trip Leader