



Urmston Grammar School

January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: History Department Residential Trip to WWI Battlefields - France and Belgium

Each year in November the history department at UGS organises a field trip to the First World War battlefield sites in northern France and Belgium. The trip is timed to coincide with teaching of the First World War in year 9. The trip is also helpful for those who are intending to study GCSE history since one of the units at GCSE covers medicine and treatment in the trenches. This year's trip will probably run from **Wednesday November 25th to Saturday November 28th (but could be the week before)**. The aim of the trip is to visit the trenches, memorials, cemeteries and museums of the area in order for the students to better comprehend the effects of the war on Britain and on the people of this part of Manchester. Students find that the field trip brings the First World War 'to life'. We travel down to France on the Wednesday and travel back from Belgium on the Saturday – departure time is 5.30am. That gives us two whole days to explore the battlefield sites. We visit the Somme area for a day before driving into Belgium to visit the battlefield sites around Ypres. We travel to the continent by coach and ferry and we stay for three nights at two hostels, one in Albert and one in Ypres. I have booked one night at full-board and two nights at half-board accommodation. It is important to note that, whilst students find the trip fascinating and enjoyable, it is an extracurricular trip and not vital for success in history in year 9 or in year 10. We would like to prioritise students who enjoy history and who are **highly likely** to take history at GCSE. Students will be expected to complete a coursework booklet as we tour the battlefield sites and museums. The most engaged and hard-working students on the trip will lay the school's wreaths at the Menin Gate during the Last Post ceremony.

The cost of the trip is £369 and payment can be spread out over five instalments. The final instalment will be payable in early September. To sign your son/daughter up for this trip please reserve a place, without deposit, through ParentPay. The trip will go live on ParentPay on **Friday at 3.30pm** and the deadline to sign up is Friday January 30th at 3.30pm. There are enough spaces on the trip to take approximately half of the year group. Once we have the names of all of those interested in coming on the trip we will, if necessary, hold a draw, confirm places and ask for a non-returnable deposit of £90. This will be due by **February 23rd** in order to secure a place on the trip.

The remaining payments should then be made according to the following schedule:

- Payment 2 of £70 by April 30th 2026.
- Payment 3 of £70 by May 31st 2026.
- Payment 4 of £70 by June 30th 2026.

The final balance (£69) is then required by September 7th (start of the second week of the new school year). By making the initial payment you are agreeing to Urmston Grammar School's [Trip Payment Agreement](#).

Students who have shown an exceptional attitude in history lessons may be offered a place without entering the draw and this will be entirely at the discretion of their class teacher. Students whose behaviour and attitude in school, in general, has fallen well below expectations will not be offered a place on the trip. **Please do NOT apply for a place on the trip if your son/daughter has decided that they are definitely not taking GCSE history.**

If you have any questions regarding the trip, please do not hesitate to contact me (mmcpartland@urmstongrammar.org.uk). I will hold a parents' information evening at some point in the autumn term for those students and parents who have successfully secured a place on the trip – date TBC.

Yours Sincerely

Matthew McPartland
(Head of Humanities)