

# Urmston Grammar School

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June 5<sup>th</sup> 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

## **RE: History Department 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 battlefields 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 covers medicine and treatment in the trenches. This year's trip will run from **Wednesday November 22<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday November 25<sup>th</sup>**. 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 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. Students can also practice their French on day 1 of the trip! We travel to the continent by coach and ferry/tunnel and we stay for three nights at two hotels, one in Albert and one in Ypres, where we receive full-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 take students who enjoy history and who are seriously considering taking it as an option 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 schools wreaths at the Menin Gate during the Last Post ceremony.

The cost of the trip is £329 and payment can be spread over the next 5 months. (At the moment the quote from the coach company depends on fuel costs remaining stable so there is a danger that the cost could rise slightly). The final installment will be due just before October half term. There are enough spaces on the trip to take approximately half of the year group and we would like to prioritise those students who have demonstrated a positive attitude to learning in history and who sincerely intend to take history in year 10. Once we have the names of all of those interested in coming on the trip we will hold a draw, if necessary, confirm places and ask for a non-returnable deposit of £90. Please note that I have not discussed this trip with the students so please do discuss it with your son/daughter if you think it is something they would enjoy and if it is feasible for them to take part.

**Can I ask that you request a place on the trip through parent pay – no payment will be requested – by the end of the day on Monday June 12<sup>th</sup> (3.30pm) so that we can then finalise the list of attendees and request payment of the deposit.**

If you have any questions regarding the trip please do not hesitate to contact me, but I will hold a parents' information evening at some point in the autumn term – date TBC.

Yours Sincerely,

Matthew McPartland

(Head of History)

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**Urmston Grammar School - Headteacher: Mrs R S Wall**  
**pride, participation, empathy**