



Urmston Grammar

A Science and Language
College with Academy
status



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February 18th 2020

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. This year the trip will run from Tuesday November 24th to Friday November 27th. 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 Tuesday and travel back on the Friday. 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 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 and in the upper school. We would like to take students who enjoy history and who are seriously considering taking it as an option at GCSE since the GCSE specification now includes a unit on life in the trenches and medical care and treatment of the soldiers on the battlefield. Students will be expected to complete a weighty 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.

This year's trip will depart very early in the morning, on Tuesday November 24th, and will return on the evening of Friday November 27th. The cost of the trip is £270 and payment can be spread over the next 8 months. The final installment will be due in by October half term. There are enough spaces on the trip to take approximately half of the year group and, initially, we will fill those places on a first come first served basis. However, we also reserve the right to use behaviour, attitude to learning and levels of engagement and active participation in history lessons to determine whether or not a student is permitted to take part in the trip. Payment of the deposit should not, therefore, be interpreted as a guarantee that your son/daughter have a place on the trip. The trip will go live on parent pay on Monday lunchtime at around 1pm. Year 8 history classes will be told about the trip and this letter this week so if you do not receive a copy of the letter on your e mail account and hear about the trip only from your son/daughter then please do not hesitate to contact me via the e mail below.

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.

Yours Sincerely,

Matthew McPartland
(Head of History and year 9)
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A Science and Language College with Academy status

