



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL LICHFIELD

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Headteacher: Ms J Rutherford BA (Hons)

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Dear Parents / Guardians

Visit to the Battlefields of the First World War – March 2018

This is a joint visit between the History and Religious Studies departments. As part of the Year 8 and 9 courses in History, students study the First World War. In R.E. students have started the GCSE course and are studying Christian teachings and practices and this will provide students the chance to see at first-hand how those who died in the First World War are remembered and honoured. The visit this year will be of particular significance as 2018 marks the centenary of the end of the First World War and this will be an opportunity to commemorate the importance of this event.

The visit will be organised by a school travel group, Select School Tours. The visit will take place between Tuesday 06/03/18 and Friday 09/03/18. Students will be based in a purpose built youth hostel, The Peace Village in Messines, Belgium, and from there will visit sites connected with the war. We will spend time visiting the Somme Battlefield and other sites around Ypres. Trip visits include; Hooge Crater, Passchendaele Memorial Museum, the Menin Gate for an evening ceremony of the Last Post, and Vimy Ridge amongst others.

The cost of the visit is expected to be £400. This charge includes full-board accommodation for 3 nights, travel by coach and Eurotunnel, all entrance fees, including guided tours for some of the sites, and insurance. The cost also covers staffing cover for the 4 school days, as well as a contingency plan for emergencies. Following the trip any surplus funds would be returned to parents via Parent Pay.

All students who are offered a place are expected to have their own passports and EHIC card. This card entitles you to reciprocal medical care in EEC countries and can be obtained from the Post Office or it can be arranged on line (www.ehic.org.uk). There is no charge for this service.

Should you give your consent to your child joining this visit, please complete the slip below and return to Bader Reception for the attention of Mrs Jetson, and make a deposit of £50 by Tuesday 17/10/17 through Parent Pay. Specific information about subsequent payments and timescales for other instalments will be provided in the near future. These would roughly follow as a payment of £150 in early November, £100 in early December and a final £100 payment due early February. If demand exceeds the number of places, those not allocated a place will have deposits returned via Parent Pay.

The trip is open to all of Year 9. In previous years this visit has proved very popular with students and there are only a limited number of places (40-45 student places) available and so places will be allocated on a ballot system if the trip is oversubscribed.

If this is the case, to reward effort and enthusiasm in Year 9, 16 places, 2 per tutor group, will be allocated to students whose effort has been excellent throughout Year 8 and so far this year. This will be measured by effort both in lessons and towards homework as indicated on termly reports. A member of the Senior Leadership Team will then draw the remaining places out of a hat.

If your child is offered a place it is on this visit will need to have a record of good behaviour and demonstrate that they can obey safety and other rules. Anyone whose behaviour becomes unacceptable after the trip has been booked may be excluded and any expenses incurred will be the responsibility of their parents.

Yours faithfully,

Mr R Garner. Head of Religious Studies Department.

PARENTAL CONSENT FOR A SCHOOL VISIT

Please complete this form and return it to Mrs Jetson, Bader Office

1. Visit to Battlefields, Belgium

2. From 6th March – 9th March 2018

3. Medical details. My son/daughter has the following medical or special needs.
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I understand that for residential visits I must complete and return a medical form, with up to date details, not more than fourteen days before the visit.

4. Dietary details. My son/daughter has the following dietary needs.
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5. Insurance. I understand the limits of insurance provided for this visit.

6. Transport. I understand the transport arrangements for this visit and my child understands the need to wear a seatbelt.

7. Return to Home. I understand the predicted time of return and where this is outside normal school hours I will attend to collect my son/daughter or my son/daughter will be returning home by.....

8. Financial Contribution. I am making a voluntary contribution of £..... which I either A) have sent via ParentPay, B) enclose.

9. Photographs. Photographs taken on the visit may be used in school or education service promotional information. Please answer Yes or No

I agree to my son/daughter attending the visit detailed above and I acknowledge that to be included he/she will need to maintain responsible behaviour.

Name of son/daughter Class

Signed..... Date..... Person with Parental Responsibility

Once completed please return this form in a sealed envelope to Mrs Jetson in Bader Office. For parents not using the ParentPay facility a cheque should be included with the form made payable to Staffordshire County Council. The envelope should be marked clearly with the name and tutor group of your child and the destination and date of the educational visit.

Deposit

If your child is unsuccessful in gaining a place then the deposit will be returned.

Deposits for the trip once places have been allocated and bookings made are non-returnable*.

*Once deposits have been paid to the relevant companies return of individual deposits will not be possible. The booking of the trip is made through Select School Tours and covered by ABTA travel group which insures funds in the event of a company failure.