

Our Ref: EWL/DMB

17 May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

History Trip to Belgium 7th-8th October 2023

The History department are delighted to be restarting our trip to Ypres, Belgium, to support students with their studies this year. This will be over a Saturday-Sunday, so will not impact on any learning. It is an excellent opportunity to visit both museums and battlefields linked to World War One, which the students will be learning about at the time of the trip. We will be travelling with NST, who are a very well credited tour company and are providing an expert guide as part of the package. There will also be History specialist staff there, too.

A full itinerary is being produced by NST and we are waiting for it to arrive. However, the trip will run similar to the sample from them below:

Day	Sample Itinerary
1	Morning departure from school
1	In Flanders Fields Exhibition Menin Gate & St Georges Church
1	Meal at Ypres Lodge
2	Breakfast Sanctuary Wood (packed lunch)
2	Tyne Cot British Cemetery & Langemark German Cemetery Depart for return journey to school

[Visit the WWI Battlefields \(adobe.com\)](#) → This comes from NST and has useful information if you wish to make note.

As soon as a full itinerary is received, this will be sent out to students and parents. Accommodation is on a full board basis and we will stay at the Ypres Lodge ([YpresLodge.pdf](#)). All meals are catered for at the venue. All excursions will have been paid for in advance, but students can take spending money (euros) if they wish to purchase any additional snacks, drinks or souvenirs. Food or drink are not supplied for travel, including on the ferry, so this should be considered. Covid-19 insurance is included in the price.

40 places will be on offer for the trip. If we don't get to 40, the next target is 30 to make the trip viable, but the cost would be £20.00 per person higher. I will let parents know once I have the initial replies to see if this is the case. Students in current Year 8 will

be eligible to attend the trip. Places will be transferred to other year groups if they do not fill their allocation. If over-subscribed, places will be allocated by means of a ballot.

If we get 40 students, the cost will be £222.50. If we only get 30 students, the price will be £20.00 higher.

- Deposit of £92.50 will be due by Friday 26 May 2023.
- Second payment of £80.00 will be due by Friday 30 June 2023
- Final payment of £50.00 will be due by Friday 14 July 2023

As we are limited in the number of students that we can take, I would like parents to submit the attached reply slip but not send in any deposit at present. These must be handed in to the Finance Office by Monday 22 May, 9am. If the activity is oversubscribed, a transparent draw will take place. Notification as to whether your child has a place will be communicated by email later that day. The remainder will be put on a reserve list in the order they are drawn from the ballot.

As this trip is deemed to be an enhancement to the curriculum, the school normally is unable to offer financial assistance and therefore the full cost of the activity must be borne by yourselves. Payments and accompanying paperwork must be handed in on or before the deadline date specified. Please do not send post-dated cheques. Should your child withdraw from the activity please be aware that deposits are non-refundable and any further payments can only be refunded if the place can be filled by another student on a waiting list, or if the withdrawal is for an insurable reason. If there are significant changes to the cost of the trip, these may have to be passed on to the student. Be assured that we will try to keep such costs to a minimum.

We would advise that students do not take valuables out on school activities, however, should they be taken parents should ensure personal possessions are adequately insured. It is the parent's/carer's responsibility to update the school should there be any changes to the medical information about their child.

Please complete and return the consent form to the Finance Office by Monday 22 May, 9am. Our preferred method of payment is online. Alternatively, you can pay by cash or cheque (made payable to Oaklands Catholic School).

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at e.leath@oaklandscatholicschool.org

Yours sincerely

Mr E Leath
History Teacher & Tour Leader

PLEASE RETURN TO THE FINANCE OFFICE BY MONDAY 22 MAY 2023, 9AM

History Trip to Belgium 7th-8th October 2023

Student Name: Form:

I would like to submit an application for my child to participate in the visit to History Trip to Belgium

He/she is in good health and I consent to him/her taking part in the programme detailed in your letter. Should my child secure a place on this trip, I will ensure deposits and payments are made according to the payment schedule as outlined in the trip letter.

I will make future payments on line

I understand and accept that it is my responsibility to update the school should there be any changes to the medical information about my child.

Parental Signature: Date:

Email address: