



# Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

## Battlefields Visit to Belgium and France Friday 7<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024

We are very pleased to again offer the extremely successful visit to the World War I battlefields that the History Department has run for pupils in the past. The trip will take place in the area around Ypres in Belgium and the Somme in France. We have been able to secure a very competitive price for next summer, however this is provisional on booking and paying deposits this year.

The programme will be very full and will take place over two days, including visits to Ypres and the battlefield memorials both in Flanders and on the Somme. We feel this is a worthwhile and valuable experience giving pupils a chance to reflect on an important episode in the past. The pupils that participated in the last battlefields trip found it a truly moving and memorable experience and we were able to reunite pupils with the names of their ancestors found engraved on the Menin Gate memorial.

### Proposed Itinerary:

#### Day 1 – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – The Ypres Salient

0545 Depart School

0920 Outbound ferry crossing (including breakfast voucher)

1030 Arrive France (local time)

1130 **Arrive Ypres Salient, to include:** Essex Farm Cemetery and Advanced Dressing Station, Langemark German Cemetery, Vancouver Corner 1<sup>st</sup> use of poisonous gas on the Salient, Tyne Cot and Memorial Museum and recreated trench system Passchendaele- with Show and Tell – weaponry and dress in uniform and gas masks from the Great War

1800 Dinner at a restaurant and chocolate shopping in Ypres

2000 Last Post Ceremony and laying of the school remembrance wreath by two students at the Menin Gate

2030 Depart for accommodation: Holiday Inn, Lille, France

*"Pupils flourish and support each other to succeed"*



## Day 2 –Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – The Somme

0830 Depart accommodation

1000 **Arrive Somme, to include:** Sunken Lane – Battle of the Somme, Newfoundland Memorial Park (preserved trench system), Ulster Tower, Lochnagar Crater, Thiepval Memorial to the Missing (Reflection)

1200 Lunch at Ocean Villas Teas Rooms

1700 Depart Somme

2120 Inbound ferry crossing (including dinner voucher)

2100 Arrive UK (local time)

2300 Arrive school (approx.)

The cost of the 2 day, 1 night visit (assuming no significant change in the exchange rate), will be **£255**. This will cover travel by an air-conditioned coach, return ferry crossings (including food vouchers), one night's board and accommodation (bed, continental breakfast in a hotel, packed lunch and evening meal) and insurance for the whole period of the trip. Your child will also need approximately 15-20 Euros for Belgian chocolates or small souvenirs.

All pupils travelling will need and will have to have their **own passport**. Please apply for, or renew your child's passport as soon as possible to avoid any last minute problems. Passports should be valid for at least 6 months after the return date of the trip. **Any pupil travelling on a non-UK passport is responsible for obtaining any additional travel documents required.**

**In order to be considered for a place on this residential trip, a non-refundable deposit of £100 is required by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 to secure the competitive price of the trip.** The balance of the residential trip is payable in 2 further instalments by February 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 and March 1<sup>st</sup> 2024. Alternatively the total cost of the trip can be paid in full.

- i) A £100 initial deposit by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023
- ii) A further £80 by Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024
- iii) The remaining £75 to be paid by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

This is an optional residential trip and unless sufficient pupils subscribe to cover costs, the trip will not take place. Please make payment of the deposit or full amount via WisePay by **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023**. 50% of the cost of the trip will automatically be met by the school for pupils in receipt of free school meals.

**Please note there are limited places available.** *Only those pupils for whom we have received parent/carer permission and payment of deposit/full amount via WisePay by the deadline of Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 will be considered for a place. If pupil numbers exceed the number of places available, then a ballot will be held. Those unsuccessful in the ballot will receive a full refund and be given priority in the next school visit available to them in year 8.* If we do not receive payment via WisePay by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023, we will assume that you do not wish your child to be considered for a place.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Miss S Maisey  
**Subject Leader for History**

### **Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School Terms and Conditions for Residential Trips:**

Participation in residential trips is dependent on:

- Pupil of attendance of above 95% unless the absence is authorised by the school;
- An outstanding level of behaviour.

In the unlikely event that your child is unable to go on the trip due to illness, or any other insured event, supporting evidence will need to be submitted to the school Finance Office so that an insurance claim can be made.

If an amount for cancellation/amendment is charged by the Travel Company this will be deducted from any refund paid.

If your child **chooses to withdraw** from the trip for any other reason, a refund will only be possible if another pupil is able to take her place. An administration fee may be deducted to effect the change of name.

In the instance where a trip with limited spaces is oversubscribed a ballot for places will take place and be supervised by a member of the leadership team.

Failure to adhere to the payment schedule may result in your child being withdrawn from the trip.

### **Travel Documentation and Brexit:**

We recommend that you review the [latest Government advice](#) regarding Brexit. Anglia Tours FAQs can be found [here](#). Please ensure that your child has a valid passport and/or visa. Any non-British Passport holders need to check with their own Embassy for validity and any additional visas required for them to be able to travel. Requirements may change and you must check the up to date position in good time before departure.

### **Insurance:**

The tour company, Anglia Tours has a new insurance policy for customers contacting us from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021. Travel Sure is a bespoke policy developed for schools and groups, backed by ABTA and the School Travel Forum and underwritten by AXA. Please see <https://travelsure.abta.com/stf/>. Cover will commence on receipt of deposits. Anglia Tours Covid-19 Promise can be found here <https://www.angliatours.co.uk/safety-support/plan-book-with-confidence-covid-19-promise/>

### **Health Requirements:**

Details of any compulsory health requirements applicable to British citizens for the tour are shown [www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice). You should note that covid-19 regulations are subject to change, and it is your responsibility to ensure you are aware of all compulsory and recommended vaccinations and health requirements (whether relating to Covid-19 or otherwise) in good time before departure. Details are also available from your GP surgery and from the National Travel Health Network and Centre [www.nathnac.org](http://www.nathnac.org) Information on health is contained in the Department of Health leaflet T7 (Health Advice for Travellers) available from the Department of Health by telephone on 0870 1555455 or via its website [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care) and from most Post Offices.

For tours in the EU / EEA you should obtain a **Global Health Insurance Card** - GHIC prior to departure from the Department of Health on the NHS website. As stated, health requirements and recommendations may change and you must check the up to date position in good time before departure.