

Archbishop Blanch World War 1 Battlefields Trip 2018: Information for parents/carers

This information sheet has been provided to ensure you have all the information you need to prepare your daughter for the upcoming trip. An information meeting is also scheduled to take place at 4.30pm on Wednesday 10th October, which will also provide you with an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. Please ensure you read this information thoroughly.

DAY 1: SUNDAY 21st OCTOBER

Meet coach	School	04.30am
Coach arrive	Dover	11.55am
Ferry depart	Dover	12.55pm
Ferry arrive	Calais	15.25pm (local time)

On arrival at Calais, our coach will transfer us to our accommodation with stops en-route to visit:

- Lijssehoek Military Cemetery
- Death cells & execution spot, Poperinge Barracks

We will then board the coach for the short drive to our accommodation, arriving at 18.45pm:

Peace Village Hostel
Nieuwkerkestraat 9, 8957
Ypres, Belgium

We will then enjoy a meal together and spend the evening relaxing after the journey.

DAY 2: MONDAY 22nd OCTOBER

- 08:00: Breakfast at hostel/Collect packed lunches
- 09:30: Meet our coach
- 10:00: In Flanders Field Museum
- 12:15: Meet coach for transfer to Thiepval Memorial (Authuille, France)
- 15:15: Meet coach for your transfer to Lochnagar Crater

The Lochnagar mine was an underground explosive charge, secretly planted by the British during the First World War, ready for 1 July 1916, the first day of the Battle of the Somme. It was then detonated under the German trenches.

- 16:00: Meet coach for transfer back to hostel
- 18:00: Evening meal at hostel
- 19:00: Meet your coach for your transfer to the Menin Gate
- 19:45: Arrive at the Menin Gate for 'The Last Post Ceremony'
- 20:00: Sounding of The Last Post

The ceremony takes place under the Menin Gate in Ypres. The Last Post Ceremony has become part of the daily life in Ieper (Ypres) and the local people are proud of this simple but moving tribute to the courage and self-sacrifice of those who fell in defense of their town. 'The Last Post'

bugle call is sounded, this is followed by a minute's silence. The Buglers will then play 'Reveille' and march off, ceremony ends.

- 20:15: Meet coach for transfer back to your hostel for the night.

DAY 3: TUESDAY 23rd OCTOBER

- 08:00: Breakfast at hostel/Collect packed lunches
- 09:00: Meet our coach
- 09:30: Tyne Cot Military Cemetery (British & Commonwealth)
- 10:30: Langemark Military Cemetery (German)

Coach depart	Langemark	11.30 AM
Coach arrive	Calais	13.20 PM
Ferry depart	Calais	14.20 PM
Ferry arrive	Dover	14.50 PM (UK TIME)
Arrive	Archbishop Blanch	10.30 PM

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Accommodation and food

Accommodation is on a full board basis from arrival at the Peace Village and includes packed lunches on day 2 and day 3. Please ensure you advise us of any dietary requirements on the medical consent form enclosed.

Children will need to bring sufficient food with them to cover breakfast and lunch on day 1, although they will also be able to purchase food onboard the ferry.

Clothing and personal items

The weather in Belgium and France is likely to be similar to the UK in October so it is essential that suitable clothing is brought on the trip as we will be spending a lot of time outdoors.

The following items are essential:

- Passport
- Warm/waterproof jacket
- Warm fleece or hoodie
- Sensible outdoor shoes such as wellies or walking boots are recommended as the trenches can be muddy
- Comfortable shoes/trainers
- Warm hat/gloves
- Sufficient changes of clothing for 3 days
- Suitable bedclothes

Given the packed itinerary and the fact that all meals are provided, there will be little time to go shopping. However, if time allows, the girls will be able to visit the chocolate shops in Ypres and may wish to purchase food on the ferry journeys. Therefore it is recommended that they bring a limited amount of cash with them in both Sterling and Euros. There are electrical points in the rooms to allow for charging of mobile phones, however, please note that an EU adapter will be required.

Evenings are also rather busy, however, there will be some time to relax in the accommodation and explore the grounds on both evenings.

Medical

Please ensure that any prescription medication is clearly labelled with the pupil's name along with dosage instructions and is passed to Mr McLaren before boarding the coach at school. This will then be dispensed as per the instructions.