



Hugh Sexey

C of E Middle School

Proposed World War One Battlefields Trip – 30th April 2026 - 3rd May 2026

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 7 Pupils,

As part of the **Year 8** Humanities curriculum **next year**, your child will be learning about the First World War in History and about the moral and ethical issues around conflict in RPE. In addition to the in-school learning, I am proposing to lead a four-day, three-night extra-curricular trip to the World War One Battlefields in Belgium and France. The trip would leave very early on Thursday 30th of April, travel by coach via Eurotunnel and will return late on Sunday 3rd May. The accommodation will be at the Peace Village hostel (<https://www.peacevillage.be/en>).

The trip is expected to cost in the region of £350-£425. This includes most meals and is based on costings from previous trips between 2017-2025. It is uncertain what impact the current financial crisis might have on price inflation.

The most recent trip's itinerary (2025) is attached and can be used as a reference, though the specific itinerary may vary slightly.

If you and your child would likely be interested in a place on this trip, please can you complete the MS Forms linked here: to show your level of interest and probable commitment. Due date for returns is **Friday 5th September 2025**.

<https://forms.office.com/e/GZnY4fiTpA>

There are **45 places** for pupils on this trip. We are limited by the respectful capacity of many of the cemeteries, memorials at sites we will be visiting. If interest in the visit exceeds the number of places available, a ballot will be held and names selected at random. This will take place in the week following the close of the ballot. Pupils (families) who have been successful in securing a place will be notified and a request for a £25 deposit, payable via ParentPay will be requested to secure the place.

Further payments would be required at intervals throughout next academic year.

Yours Sincerely,

Hugh Sexey Church of England Middle School

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Part of the
Wessex Learning Trust

Thurs 24th April, 2025	Arrive via Eurotunnel, Lijessenthoek Cemetery, Ypres town centre walking tour, Shopping in Ypres and meal, Ceremony of the Last Post at the Menin Gate, Ieper (Ypres), Peace Village
Fri 25th April, 2025	CWGC Experience, Wellington Quarries Tunnels tour, Neuville-St. Vaast German Military Cemetery Notre Dame de Lorrette Cemetery and Basilica, Peace Village, Evening Learning Activity: Artefact Handling Session
Sat 26th April 2025	Beaumont Hamel Newfoundland Memorial Park (and Sunken Road), Caterpillar Valley, Delville Wood, High Wood, Thiepval Memorial, Peace Village, Evening Activity - Bowling
Sun 27th April, 2025	Tyne Cot Cemetery, Memorial Museum Passchendaele, Home via Eurotunnel

Amy Godwin

Faculty Lead for Social Studies

Examples itinerary – 2025 Trip – for illustration purposes only

Day 1:

Thurs 24th April, 2025

04.00 hrs Pupil arrival at HSMS

04.30 hrs **Coach departure from HSMS**

Travel direct by coach to Eurotunnel

Travel time: approx. 4 hours plus driver stop – stop 20-30 min *(toilet break at Motorway services – pupils may purchase snacks, but we will not be stopping for a full meal – Currency= Pounds)*

9.20 hrs Arrive at Folkstone – pre boarding

10.20 hrs Depart from Folkestone with Eurotunnel

11.55 (CET) hrs Estimated arrival at Calais (35 min crossing + 1 hour time change)

13.00 hrs **Lijssenthoek Cemetery**

Address: Boescheepseweg, 8970 Poperinge, Belgium

Focus Question: *Every headstone holds a story: What is the role of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission?*

Pupils will eat their packed lunch (which they have brought with them) upon arrival at Lijssenthoek Cemetery.

Coach travel depart 14.30 hrs for Ypres town centre

15:00 hrs Arrive at Ypres town centre

15.00 hrs Investigation – Ypres town centre. What does that tell us about the character of the people of Ypres? (guided walking tour)

17.00 hrs **Shopping in Ypres**

(pupils will be free to explore a small area of Ypres High Street. Pupils often purchase token souvenirs and Belgium chocolate during this time – Currency = Euros)

18:15 hrs Evening meal at a restaurant in Ypres town centre – traditional Belgian set menu

Address: t'Ganzeke, Vandepeereboomplein 5, 8900 Ieper (Ypres), **Phone:** +32 50 34 44 68

19:30 hrs **Ceremony of the Last Post at the Menin Gate, Ieper (Ypres)**

Address: Menenstraat, 8900 Ieper, Belgium

Focus Question: *How should the First World War be remembered today?*

(pupils will wear their summer (polo shirts) school uniform to the ceremony)

Coach travel depart 20.15 hrs for **Peace Village**

Address: Nieuwkerkestraat 9a, B-8957 Mesen, T +32 57 226 040, F +32 57 226 045,
mailto:info@peacevillage.be

Day 2:

Fri 25th April, 2025

07:00 hrs Breakfast and prepare packed lunch

08:00 hrs Depart Peace Village with packed lunch

09:15 hrs **CWGC Experience**

Address: 7 Rue Angèle Richard, 62217 Beaurains, France

Focus Question: *How does the work of the CWGC enable remembrance?*

Coach travel depart 10.45 hrs

11.00: **Wellington Quarries Tunnels Tour**

Address: Rue Arthur Delétoille, ARRAS • Tél +33 (0)3 21 51 26 95 • Fax +33 (0)3 21 71 07 34

Focus Question: *What impact did the underground war have on the battle of Arras?*

Coach travel depart 13.00 hrs (lunch on coach)

13.30 hrs **Neuville-St. Vaast German Military Cemetery**

Address: Rte de Béthune, 62580 Neuville-Saint-Vaast, France

Focus Question: *Mein kamerad: How is the commemoration of the German war dead different to that of British and empire soldiers?*

Coach travel depart 14.45 hrs

15.15 hrs **Notre Dame de Lorette Cemetery and Basilica**

Address: Place de Notre Dame de Lorette, 62153 Ablain-Saint-Nazaire, France

Focus Question: *What was the human impact of the war on the French nation?*

Coach travel depart 17.00 hrs

18.00 hrs Arrive back at **Peace Village**

18:45 hrs Evening meal at Peace Village

20:00 hrs **Evening Learning Activity: Artefact Handling Session**

Focus Question: *How might it have felt to be a soldier on the front line?*

21:00 hrs Goodnight

Day 3:

Sat 26th April, 2025

07:45 hrs Breakfast and prepare packed lunch

08:30 hrs Depart Peace Village with packed lunch

Coach travel: (1hr 40m)

10.15 hrs **Beaumont Hamel Newfoundland Memorial Park (and Sunken Road)**

Address: Rue de L'église (D73), 80300 Beaumont-Hamel, France. Tel: 0033 3 22 76 70

Focus Question: *What was learned from the failure of the first day of the Battle of the Somme?*

Coach travel: depart 12.30 hrs *(eat packed lunch on coach)*

13.00 hrs **Caterpillar Valley, Delville Wood, High Wood**

Address: D107, 80360 Longueval, France

Focus Question: *What does the fight for High Wood teach us about tactics and development in technology in the First World War?*

Coach travel: depart 14.30 hrs

15.00 hrs **Thiepval Memorial**

Address: Memorial Britannique, 80300 Authuille, France. Tel: 0033 3 22 74 60 47

Focus Question: *How is the Thiepval Memorial important in shaping how we remember the Somme?*

Coach travel: depart Thiepval 16.30 hrs

18.00 hrs Return to **Peace Village**

18.00 hrs Evening meal at Peace Village

Coach travel depart: 18:45 hrs for Bowling

19.00 hrs: **Evening Activity - Bowling**

Address: Atlantis Bowling, Posthoornstraat 8, 8900 Ieper, TEL 057209010

Coach travel depart 20:30 hrs

20.45 hrs Arrive Peace Village – pack and prepare for departure in the morning

21:00 hrs Goodnight

(driver needs 9 hours break minimum)

Day 4:

Sun 27th April, 2025

07:30 hrs Breakfast and prepare packed lunch

08:30 hrs Check out and depart Flanders Lodge with packed lunch

09.00 hrs **Tyne Cot Cemetery**

Address: Tynecotstraat 22-28, 8980 Zonnebeke, Belgium

Focus Question: *Following in their footsteps: Does remembrance get more or less important as the years go by?*

Coach travel depart 09.50 hrs

10.00 hrs **Memorial Museum Passchendaele Group 1**

Address: Ieperstraat 7A, 8980 Zonnebeke, Belgium. Tel: 0032 5 77 04 41

Focus Question: *What are the best ways to learn about the First World War?*

*(Group 2 Focussed questions with Simon – key take away points: Discussion of what are the best ways to learn about the First World War – leading to ‘What **would** this museum need to do/show/tell to **make it** an important part of our learning journey?)*

10.30 hrs **Memorial Museum Passchendaele Group 2**

Address: Ieperstraat 7A, 8980 Zonnebeke, Belgium. Tel: 0032 5 77 04 41

Focus Question: *What are the best ways to learn about the First World War?*

*(Group 1 Focussed questions with Simon – key take away points: Discussion of what are the best ways to learn about the First World War – leading to ‘What **does** this museum do/show/tell to which **makes it** an important part of our learning journey?)*

Coach travel depart 11.45 hrs

13.20 hrs Check in for arrival at Calais Eurotunnel Terminal

14:20 hrs Depart from Calais with Eurotunnel

13.55 hrs (GMT) back in England

20.00 hrs Estimated arrival at HSMS