



Dear Parents and Friends of the School

**Short Tour of WW1 Battlefields Site for Staff, Parents and Friends of St. George's School,  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

I am pleased to write to give details of a trip we intend to offer to Old Georgians, Staff, and Parents of current students. This repeats the trip we ran during the school Centenary in 2007.

Largely in response to comments to the effect that modern school trips are wasted on the young, we have linked up with Rayburn Tours to offer an abbreviated battlefields tour *for adults*. Departing early on Saturday, the tour party will spend a day in the Somme area and a second day around Ypres in Belgium, returning late on Sunday night. Travel will be by coach and the crossing by Eurotunnel, and the party will stay in the 4\* Novotel in Ypres. While the pace of the itinerary means that some meals will need to be packed and eaten on the hoof, the package includes a 3 course restaurant dinner in Ypres on Saturday night with half a bottle of wine each, and a restaurant lunch on Sunday. Travel insurance is also included.

We expect the itinerary to be as follows:

<b>Sat 8<sup>th</sup> September</b>	
0500	Depart Harpenden
0730	Arr Folkestone (Eurotunnel) for Train at 0830
1000	Arr Calais (time forwards 1 hour)
1150-1200	Arr Somme Area Visit to Newfoundland Park, site of the disastrous attack of the Newfoundland Regiment on 1 <sup>st</sup> July 1916, and where the trench systems can still be made out with clarity. Visit to Blighty Valley Cemetery, resting place of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lt. Wilfrid Thomas, killed on the first day on the Somme and introduction to Battlefields Cemeteries. Visit to the giant memorial to those with no known grave at Thiepval, where Lister Goddard is commemorated. Visit to the mine crater at La Boiselle, site of one of the few successful British attacks on 1 <sup>st</sup> July 1916.
1600	Dep Somme Area
1830	Arr Ypres and check in to hotel
1930	Depart to Ypres for famous Menin Gate Ceremony, where buglers play the Last Post for the fallen every evening at 8 p.m. 2000 end at 2010
2100	Dinner at an Ypres restaurant

Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> September	
0900	Depart Hotel Visits in Ypres area to German Trench system at Bayernwald, where the front line has survived in an almost original form. Visits to the Dugout Museum at Zonnebeek, and to Essex Farm, site of the dressing station where John McCrae penned "In Flanders Fields". Visit to cemetery at Tyne Cot
1230	Lunch in Ypres
1400	Visit to St. George's chapel Ypres (which features a memorial plaque to the war dead of St. George's which we inaugurated at the centenary service in 2007). Some free time in Ypres to shop or visit the "In Flanders Fields" Museum as you wish.
1700	Dep Ypres
1830	Arr Calais (1 hour check in - time for snack - train at approx 1930)
1905	Arr Folkestone
2115ish	Arr Harpenden

The trip will be accompanied and led by History department staff in order to keep costs down. The exact cost will depend on the size of the tour group, but is expected to be £229 per person sharing. We hope you will agree this is pretty good value given all that is included: we are running the trip entirely at cost, and would be surprised if you can find anything like this on the internet at this price. There is a £40 supplement if you require a single room.

*Please note that while the relevant school staff have encyclopaedic experience of running History trips, school students on tours are generally expected to be quite hardy and unfussy. If you are used to couriers and reps catering for your every whim as if their lives depended on it, myself and Mr Waters will be likely to disappoint you!*

In order for our planning to proceed we need to be sure that there is sufficient interest. If you would like to take a place on the tour and wish us to reserve a place for you in the party, I would be grateful if you would complete the reply slip below and return it to me at school along with a deposit cheque for £50 made payable to St George's School.

A further payment of £79 would be due at the end of January, and £100 in May.

I am sure the tour will prove a memorable and moving event, and a lot of fun.

Yours sincerely,

Paddy Storrie  
Deputy Head

David Waters  
Head of History

Reply Slip

**Short Tour of WW1 Battlefields Site for Staff, Parents and Friends of St. George's School, September 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> 2012**

**Return to Mr P Storrie at St. Georges School by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2012 at the latest, with a cheque for £50 payable to St. George's School for each person travelling and a **STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE** to enable us to return your cheque and application if unsuccessful.**

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your link to the school (e.g. name of student and tutor group) \_\_\_\_\_

Your e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your telephone numbers \_\_\_\_\_(day) \_\_\_\_\_(eve)

**Name of Person 1 wishing to travel:**

UK Passport Holder      Yes / No      if No, Nationality \_\_\_\_\_

If passport will still be valid at time of travel write number here \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate Rooming Required by this person:      Twin?      Single ?

Indicate Dietary Requirements:      Standard?      Vegetarian?      Vegan?

Indicate food allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate any cultural / religious dietary needs \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate mobility problems:      Some ?      None ?

**Name of Person 2 wishing to travel:**

UK Passport Holder      Yes / No      if No, Nationality \_\_\_\_\_

If passport will still be valid at time of travel write number here \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate Rooming Required by this person:      Twin?      Single ?

Indicate Dietary Requirements:      Standard?      Vegetarian?      Vegan?

Indicate food allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate any cultural / religious dietary needs \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate mobility problems:      Some ?      None ?