

1<sup>st</sup> October 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Re: Year 9 Residential Visit – Battlefields of France & Belgium – 14-18 June 2010**

During Curriculum Enrichment Week from 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June, the History Department are offering a residential trip to France and Belgium. The primary focus will be to visit the World War I battlefields and memorials, but we are also combining this with a day visit to Paris.

For the first part of Year 9, in their history lessons students will be focussing upon the study of the First World War. They will study the causes of the outbreak of war, but perhaps the part that most students will be interested in is the experience of the war itself: trench warfare and the challenging conditions that this entailed for the vast majority of those who served between 1914 and 1918. It is this aspect of the war that so vividly comes to life at the sites that have been preserved in France and Belgium. The students in many cases will literally be walking in the footsteps of those who served as well as being able to see first hand the long-term effects of warfare through the landscape, the memorials and the museums we shall visit. We will also be taking advantage of the proximity of Paris and staying overnight to enjoy a day in the French capital.

We also intend to seek out the graves of local soldiers to create a more solid link to the war for the students. Where possible we will also try to find the graves of relatives of the students. Further details of the trip including an itinerary and photos can be found on the History Department website [www.beaumontminihistorians.blogspot.com](http://www.beaumontminihistorians.blogspot.com)

The total cost of the trip is £380 which includes all travel, accommodation, insurance, entrance fees and meals from our arrival on Monday evening to breakfast on Friday morning. Students may wish to bring their own spending money. The total cost consists of a charge for board and lodging as well as a voluntary contribution for transport and entrance fees. If insufficient pupils are prepared to pay the total cost including the voluntary contribution, the trip may have to be cancelled for all pupils. If you are entitled to financial support please contact the school in confidence before applying for the trip.

If you wish your son/daughter to take part, please complete the enclosed reply slip and return to school with **a non-refundable deposit of £50 by Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October**. Cheques should be made payable to Beaumont School and placed in a sealed envelope in the appropriate box outside the Finance Office. Please write your child's name and form on the back of the cheque. As places may be limited, it is important that this deadline is met. A second payment of £150 will be due by Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January and the final balance of £180 by Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March.

We are happy to accept smaller instalments or to discuss a different schedule for parents who may find these dates difficult – please contact the Finance Office in confidence to discuss. Could I also ask you to note that School Tour Operators such as NST do not differ from other travel companies with regards to cancellations and that cancellation fees will apply. I would like to draw your attention to the school Trips and Visits Policy, which requires that pupils participating in school visits have a good record of behaviour at school.

There are 48 places available on the trip. If it is oversubscribed and it proves necessary to create a selection process, places will be allocated by lottery. In the event of your son/daughter not getting a place on the trip, the deposit will of course not be processed.

We will hold an information evening for all parents and students in the summer term to discuss all the final arrangements. If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact either myself or Mrs Pellington, the Trips and Visits Co-ordinator, at school.

Yours sincerely

J Pearson  
Head of History