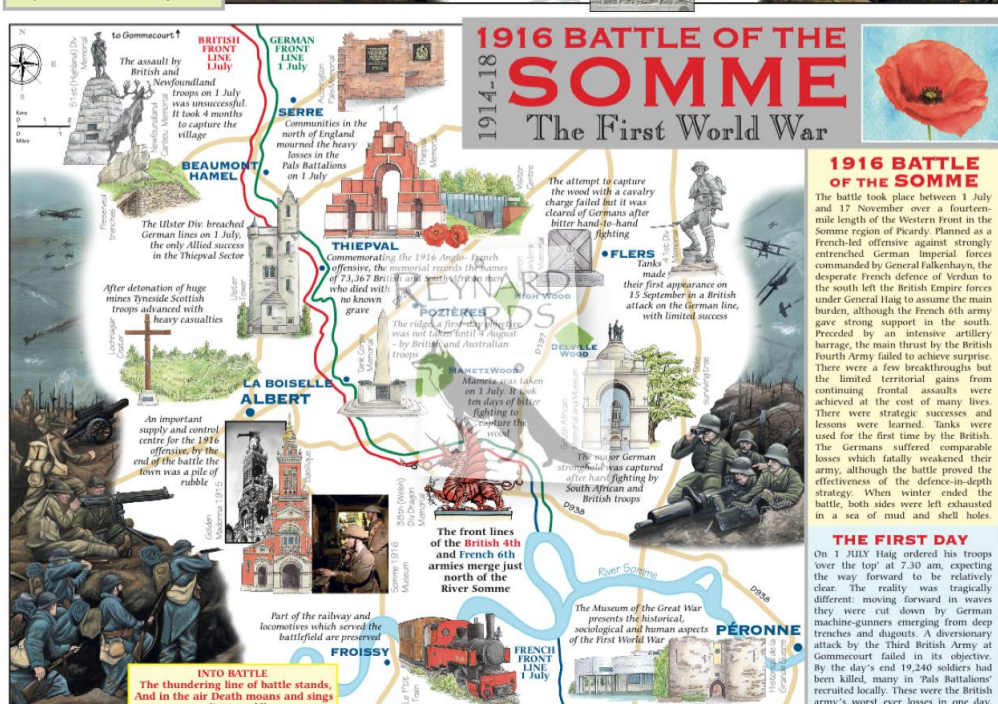
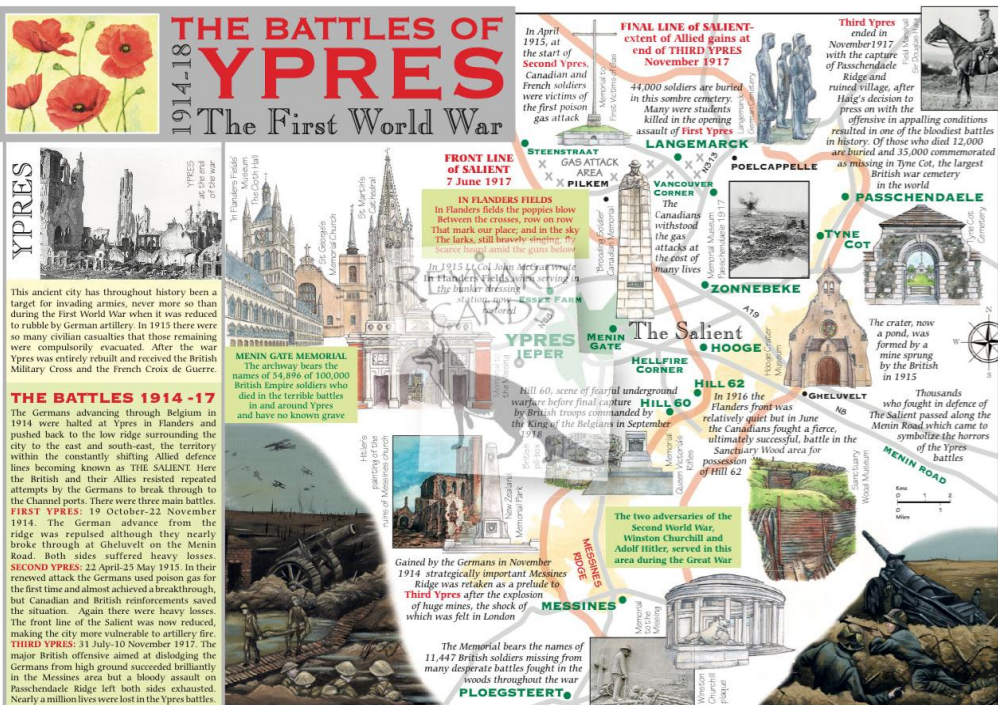




Notre Dame Battlefields Trips

24th – 28th September 2026

2nd – 5th October 2026

Parents' Information Evening

Please...

- make sure you have signed in on arrival (Mr Stubbs)
- students to sit with their parent
- return any forms to Mrs Shields
- have mobile phones off/on silent
- collect hotel etc details from front – (Mrs Woodward/Mr Adamson)





THE BATTLES OF YPRES

The First World War



This ancient city has throughout history been a target for invading armies, never more so than during the first World War when it was reduced to rubble by German artillery. In 1915 there were so many civilian casualties that those remaining were compulsorily evacuated. After the war Ypres was entirely rebuilt and received the British Military Cross and the French Croix de Guerre.

THE BATTLES 1914-17

The Germans advancing through Belgium in 1914 were halted at Ypres in Flanders and pushed back to the low ridge surrounding the city to the east and south-east, the territory within the constantly shifting Allied defence lines becoming known as THE SALIENT. Here the British and their Allies resisted repeated attempts by the Germans to break through to the Channel ports. There were three main battles. **FIRST YPRES:** 19 October-22 November 1914. The German advance from the ridge was repulsed although they nearly broke through at Gheluvelt on the Menin Road. Both sides suffered heavy losses. **SECOND YPRES:** 22 April-25 May 1915. In their renewed attack the Germans used poison gas for the first time and almost achieved a breakthrough, but Canadian and British reinforcements saved the situation. Again there were heavy losses. The front line of the Salient was now reduced, making the city more vulnerable to artillery fire. **THIRD YPRES:** 31 July-10 November 1917. The major British offensive aimed at dislodging the Germans from high ground succeeded brilliantly in the Messines area but a bloody assault on Passchendaele Ridge left both sides exhausted. Nearly a million lives were lost in the Ypres battles.

FRONT LINE OF SALIENT 7 June 1917

IN FLANDERS FIELDS
In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below

FINAL LINE OF SALIENT - extent of Allied gains at end of THIRD YPRES November 1917

44,000 soldiers are buried in this sombre cemetery. Many were students killed in the opening assault of **First Ypres**

Third Ypres ended in November 1917 with the capture of Passchendaele Ridge and ruined village, after Haig's decision to press on with the offensive in appalling conditions resulted in one of the bloodiest battles in history. Of those who died 12,000 are buried and 35,000 commemorated as missing in Tynne Cot, the largest British war cemetery in the world

PASSCHENDEALE
The crater, now a pond, was formed by a mine sprung by the British in 1915

Thousands who fought in defence of the Salient passed along the Menin Road which came to symbolize the horrors of the Ypres battles

HILL 62
In 1916 the Flanders front was relatively quiet but in June the Canadians fought a fierce, ultimately successful, battle in the Sanctuary Wood area for possession of Hill 62

HILL 60
The two adversaries of the Second World War, Winston Churchill and Adolf Hitler, served in this area during the Great War

MESSINES RIDGE
Gained by the Germans in November 1914 strategically important Messines Ridge was retaken as a prelude to Third Ypres after the explosion of huge mines, the shock of which was felt in London

THE MEMORIAL bears the names of 11,447 British soldiers missing from many desperate battles fought in the woods throughout the war

POELCAPPELE
The Canadians withstood the gas attacks at the cost of many lives

TYNNE COT
The largest British war cemetery in the world

STEEENSTRAET
Gas Attack Area

PILKEM
The British fought a fierce battle here in 1917

VANCOVER CORNER
The Canadians withstood the gas attacks at the cost of many lives

POELCAPPELE
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1916 BATTLE OF THE SOMME
The First World War

1914-18

BRITISH FRONT LINE July
The assault by British and Newfoundland troops on 1 July was unsuccessful. It took 4 months to capture the village

GERMAN FRONT LINE 1 July
Communities in the north of England mourned the heavy losses in the Pals Battalions on 1 July

SERRE
Communities in the north of England mourned the heavy losses in the Pals Battalions on 1 July

THIEPVAL
Commemorating the 1916 Anglo-French offensive, the memorial records the names of 73,367 British and Commonwealth troops who died with no known grave

POZIÈRES
The ridge, a first-day objective, was not taken until 4 August - by British and Australian troops

LA BOISSELLE
An important supply and control centre for the 1916 offensive by the end of the battle the town was a pile of rubble

ALBERT
The front lines of the British 4th and French 6th armies merge just north of the River Somme

PERONNE
The museum of the Great War presents the historical, sociological and human aspects of the First World War

THE ATTEMPT to capture the wood with a cavalry charge failed but it was cleared of Germans after bitter hand-to-hand fighting

FLERS
Tanks made their first appearance on 15 September in a British attack on the German line, with limited success

DELVILLE WOOD
The major German stronghold was captured after hard fighting by South African and British troops

THE RIVER SOMME

THE FIRST DAY
On 1 JULY Haig ordered his troops 'over the top' at 7.30 am, expecting the way forward to be relatively clear. The reality was tragically different: moving forward in waves they were cut down by German machine-gunners emerging from deep trenches and dugouts. A diversionary attack by the Third British Army at Commeuville failed in its objective. By the day's end 19,240 soldiers had been killed, many in 'Pals Battalions' recruited locally. These were the British army's worst ever losses in one day

INTO BATTLE
The thundering line of battle stands, And in the air Death moans and sings

Part of the railway and locomotives which served the battlefield are preserved

FROISSY

THE MUSEUM OF THE GREAT WAR presents the historical, sociological and human aspects of the First World War

PERONNE

THE FRONT LINES OF THE BRITISH 4TH AND FRENCH 6TH ARMIES MERGE JUST NORTH OF THE RIVER SOMME

THE ATTEMPT to capture the wood with a cavalry charge failed but it was cleared of Germans after bitter hand-to-hand fighting

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YPRES & SURROUNDING AREA BATTLEFIELD TOUR MAP

DAY 1

- 1 Vimy Ridge
- 2 Lissenhoek Military Cemetery
- 3 Poperinghe Execution Post
- 4 New Military Cemetery Poperinghe
- 5 Peace Village Mesen

DAY 2

- 6 Sanctuary Wood Trenches & Museum
- 7 Klein Vierstraat Cemetery (Grave of Adam Doig)
- 8 Ypres Main Square
- 9 Essex Farm
- 10 Langemarck German Cemetery
- 11 Brooding Soldier
- 12 Tyne Cot Cemetery
- 13 Menin Gate



1 VIMY RIDGE

Private Herbert Morris



6

SANCTUARY WOOD
TRENCHES & MUSEUM



Gunner Adam Doig



2

LISSENHOCK
MILITARY CEMETERY



3

POPERINGHE
EXECUTION POST



7

KLEIN VIERSTRAAT CEMETERY
(GRAVE OF ADAM DOIG)



Nurse Nelie Spindler



4

NEW MILITARY CEMETERY
POPERINGHE



Colonel John McRae



8

YPRES MAIN SQUARE



9

ESSEX FARM



10

LANGEMARCK
GERMAN CEMETERY

POPERINGE



5

PEACE VILLAGE
MESEN



Valentine Strudwick (Joe)

YPRES



12

TYNE COT CEMETERY



11

BROODING SOLDIER



13

MENIN GATE

MAP NOT TO SCALE



LEST WE FORGET

SOMME & SURROUNDING AREA BATTLEFIELD TOUR MAP

DAY 3

- 1 Arras Memorial and Cemetery (Walter Tull)
- 2 Delville Wood South African Memorial
- 3 Lochnager Mine Crater
- 4 Thiepval Memorial
- 5 Ulster Tower
- 6 Beaumont Hamel Newfoundland Memorial Site
- 7 Sheffield Memorial Park at Serre



ARRAS MEMORIAL
AND CEMETERY (WALTER TULL)



Lieutenant Walter Tull



DELVILLE WOOD
SOUTH AFRICAN MEMORIAL



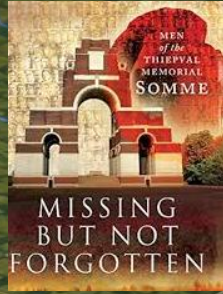
Private George Nugent



LOCHNAGER
MINE CRATER



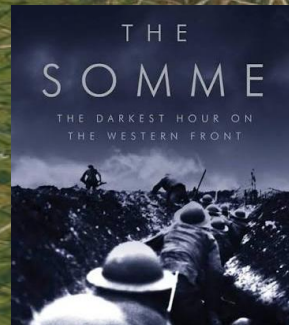
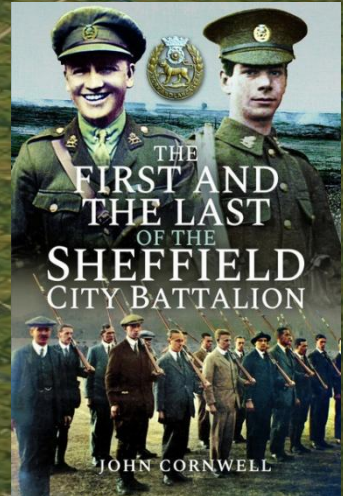
THIEPVAL MEMORIAL



ULSTER TOWER



BEAUMONT HAMEL
NEWFOUNDLAND MEMORIAL SITE



SOMME



Sgt Albert Gill (VC Winner)



SHEFFIELD MEMORIAL PARK
AT SERRE

MAP NOT TO SCALE



LEST WE FORGET





Important Information for Parents (Mrs Shields)

Paper copies available from the front

Peace Village Messines

Nieuwkerkestraat 9a

B-8957 Meseu

T +32 57 226 040

F +32 57 226 045

info@peacevillage.be

Staffing

Trip 1:

- Mr Scriven (Trip leader)
Sscriven@notredame-high.co.uk
- Miss Plant
- Mrs Woodward/ Rev Otieno

Trip 2:

- Mrs Shields (Trip Leader)
eshields@notredame-high.co.uk
- Mr Adamson
- Mr Pedler
- Mr Stubbs

What to bring: (Mrs Shields)

- **Passport** – handed in to HOY office on **WEDNESDAY** prior to travel
- UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)
- Money:
 - €50 - €60
 - Sterling – for Motorway Services/Ferry
 - Optional – bank card (tell bank)
- Packed lunch for Friday without dairy meat etc or means to buy at the port/on the Ferry

(No Nuts)

Medications

The policy on handling medicines on trips has been updated since the trip paperwork was sent to you.

- Medicines – parents must complete a proforma stating name, precise dose, times and who should administer for all GP prescribed medication
- These must be labelled for hand-in to staff and Drs note/ prescription details for border control

Insurance Documents: (Mrs Shields)

Travelbound supply insurance as part of the cost of the trip

- Follow the QR code to view this



If you need to order a card it should arrive in time but a screenshot of the order confirmation on student phone is needed prior to the trip if it doesn't.

GHIC

EHIC



If your child has an EHIC that is still within valid dates then this can be taken and should be left with the passport in the HoY office

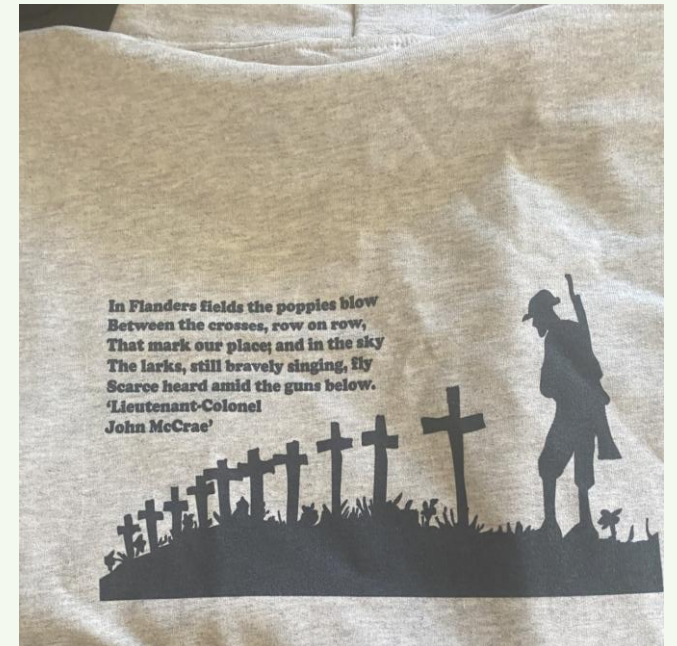
What to bring: (Mrs Shields)

Kit List

- Wellies – plastic bag, labelled to store under coach
- One suitcase!!!
- Towel
- Pillow for coach
- Waterproof Coat
- Sturdy walking shoes/ trainers
- Sun cream – we live in hope
- Mosquito repellent (cream/spray)
- A sharpie/felt tip pen
- Phone – check data abroad with provider – no speakers

Departure Checklist/Arrival Issues (Mrs Shields)

- Coach leaves promptly at 22:45 – please be here by 22:15 (*Thursday*) to allow for registering and loading. Ferry is pre-booked for 06:15am – can't be late
- Space for coach at front of school
- Staff will load the coach
- Seat is a fixed position - monitored
- Dover-Calais Ferry Crossing
- No takeaway food or hot drinks, no meat or dairy products, no speakers
- Hoodies



Peace Village, Messines

Nieuwkerkestraat 9a

B-8957 Mesen

T +32 57 226 040

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- Breakfast (Continental)
- Evening Meals
- Packed Lunches provided but made by students
- Games room and outdoor games area for evenings
- 10 minute drive from Ypres Centre
- Messines the home of a major battle in WW1

Accommodation (Mrs Shields)



Personal Information (Mrs Shields)

- Please make sure this has been returned
- Dietary requirements
- Medication
- Medical Issues*
- Anything you feel we should know about in order to safeguard your young person whilst abroad with them

*Any medication to be handed to staff with relevant consent forms/ prescription details:

Trip 1 – Miss Plant

Trip 2 – Mr Pedler

Code of Conduct (Mr Scriven)

- We don't anticipate any issues!
- Respectful to all
- Safety – Services, Ferries, Town Visits, Site Visits
- Dress Code
- Zero tolerance – alcohol, vaping, drugs, knives
- Issues will be followed up – Could be consequences on the visit itself or upon return to the UK

Room Prizes (Mr Scriven)

We have an excellent reputation at the Peace Village that we are keen to maintain.

Before departure each morning there will be a room check from two staff members and tidiness scores will be given

We have high standards!

Prizes

- **1st Prize - 50 Euros**
- **2nd Prize - 30 Euros**
- **3rd Prize - 20 Euros**

However, we are also very bribeable!

(You are staying in the capital city of chocolate!)



Mr Scriven,
Mrs Shields,
Miss Plant



Mr Adamson
Mr Stubbs



Mrs Shields
Mrs Woodward



Itinerary – Friday (Vimy/Flanders)

- Vimy Ridge – Canadian Trenches and Memorial
- Lissenthoeck Military Cemetery and Museum (**Nellie Spindler**)
- Poperinghe Town Centre (Shot at Dawn Memorial and Museum)
- Poperinghe New Military Cemetery (Time permitting!)
- Peace Village (Accommodation)



Itinerary – Saturday (The Three Battles of Ypres)

- Sanctuary Wood (trenches, tunnels, museum)
- Klein Vierstraat **(Adam Doig)**
- Ypres Centre (Lunch/Remote Supervision)
- Essex Farm (Clearing Station, **John McCrae, Valentine Strudwick)**
- Langemark (German Cemetery)
- Tyne Cot (British Cemetery)
- Evening Meal
- Menin Gate (Last Post Ceremony) – Wreath laying
- Peace Village

SS





THE
GLORIOUS DEAD

Itinerary – Sunday (The Somme)

- Coach to France (90 mins)
- Arras **(Walter Tull)**
- Lochnagar Crater/Delville Wood – (The 'last tree', South African Memorial and Museum)
- Thiepval (Monument and Museum)
- Beaumont-Hamel (Newfoundland Memorial, Trenches and Museum)
- Serre (The Sheffield Memorial Park and Trenches)
- Coach back to Peace Village
- Evening Meal



Itinerary – Sunday (The Somme)

- On the Sunday we will fit in at some point a reflection/service of remembrance
- We will pick a cemetery we have not been to before.
- We will give each student a wooden cross of remembrance and ask them to choose a headstone to place it on
- It is possible your son/daughter will be the first visitor from the UK to pause and pay respects towards this soldier and we ask students to represent that man's family in that moment
- Students can use their pen to write their name on the cross if they wish to
- We encourage students on their return to the UK to use CWGC to research their soldier

The Lady Haig Cross of Remembrance



Itinerary – Monday

- Return to Sheffield. Calais-Dover Ferry
- Will get students to ring at last services to confirm arrival time
- Approx. 17.00-18.00

Please leave space in front of main gates for our coach to pull into



Peace Village Messines

Nieuwkerkestraat 9a

B-8957 Mesen

T +32 57 226 040

F +32 57 226 045

info@peacevillage.be

School trip mobile: +447356201979

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