

Battlefields Tour 2025

**Saturday 21st June -
Wednesday 25th June**



Staff

- **Miss Flaherty** – SLT
- **Mrs Jackson** – TA
- **Mrs Hughes** – TA
- **Mr Johnston** – Maths Teacher
- **Mr Cummings** – Trip Lead



The Travel Company

- The trip is being organised in conjunction with NST travel company. They are the country's largest school travel firm.
- The coach conforms with the highest of European safety standards. It will be issued with certification for both coach and driver.
- As part of the overall price package we are escorted throughout the duration of the journey by **Mr Peter Crook** (NST representative).
- Students are fully insured whilst they are away. The fee you've paid includes full cover. This is in addition to cover provided by the LEA.

Standards of behaviour on the **journey**

- **On the bus journey seat belts will be worn at all times.**
- Students will only be allowed on the front deck of the ferry to enable pupil safety. A member of staff will be (a) patrolling inside the ferry (b) the outside deck **at all times.**





Hotel Oude Abdij Lo



Standards of behaviour in the hotel

- **Staff bedrooms strategically placed to ensure noise and behaviour is monitored.**
- When staff inform pupils of 'lights out' we mean 'lights out'. Tiredness will spoil the following day!
- Other schools/members of the public will be nearby. Pupils must remember that they are ambassadors of De La Salle School.
- **Poor behaviour will result in you spending the rest of the trip with a teacher.**
- Pupils will be informed of fire drill routines and muster points on arrival.



Mobile Phones

- Although we expect pupils to have mobile phones with them we expect the same usage of them as we do in school.
- We will confiscate if used when told not at specific points during the trip e.g. when at the dining table or when our guide is talking.
- Pupils will also be **responsible for any form of electronic device they bring with them.**
- Failure to subscribe to the above will result in an immediate sanction (a) on the trip itself (b) on return to school.



Mobile Phones

- It is crucial that you're child is aware of the excessive cost of mobile phone usage abroad. Please ensure that you have checked this. The school cannot be held responsible for your child's phone bill.
- *We will advise pupils to turn off 'data roaming' when we get to Dover, but after this point phones are their responsibility.*
- Please remember your charger. We will ask pupils to contact you on the return journey.



Pupil Safety - During site visits

- Pupils will be accompanied by a member of staff at all times.
- They will be expected to walk around in groups of 4 as a minimum.
- Pupils will be given a staff mobile phone number to contact in the slim case of an emergency.

Luggage

- Please be reminded that there is limited space on the bus. A 'weekend' case/oversized rucksack is sufficient.
- Students need to bring with them a small bag/rucksack to keep belongings, food and drink in.



Suitable Clothing (1)-for site visits

- Given that we are visiting battlefields sites sensible and well fitting shoes i.e. walking boots/wellies/trainers should be worn.
- The sites are generally paved but for your own comfort and safety we advise the above.
- **Given the fact that we are visiting graveyards and other sites of remembrance pupils must wear respectful clothing at all times.**



Suitable Clothing (2)-weather considerations

As with British weather the climate in Belgium is difficult to predict. As a result of this:

- (a) Bring a waterproof jacket.**
- (b) Bring sun lotion. Pupils will be expected to take responsibility for their own skin!!**



Blue Ocean



Food and drink

- On the day of departure you may want to send your child with a packed lunch. We will not be having opportunity to buy a great amount of food until we get on the ferry.
- Please could you ask pupils to bring with them a **water bottle**.
- Given the fact we are outside all day pupils should fill up a water bottle prior to leaving the hotel in the morning.



Towels

- According to NST, the accommodation does not provide towels so please ensure one is packed.



Hair Dryers

The accommodation DOES NOT provide hairdryers. Please could you ensure that one is brought.

It would be sensible for children to organise this amongst themselves.



Travel Adaptors

- Please equip your son/daughter with one of these.
- Again, these are not provided by the hotel.

Money

- Pupils will not have a great deal of opportunity to spend cash. The only opportunities for this will be
 - (a) in service stations
 - (b) on the ferry
 - (c) in souvenir shops at the Battlefields sites
 - (e) in the chocolate shop we will be visiting in Ypres
 - (d) The fun day - Bellewaerde Park
- It is up to you how much money your child takes with them. However, it is suggested that pupils bring with them
 - no more than say £160 in Euros/Sterling.**This should be a combination of **notes and coins.**
- **There will be no opportunity to change cash abroad. Pupils will also be responsible for the safe keeping of their spends!**



Itinerary- DAY 1- Departure

- Bus departs from the school car park (*accessed via the Mill Brow entrance*)
 - Please park on the left
 - ***You must be at school for 6.30 am. This is to ensure:***
 - (a) *we have collected pupil passports/medicines**
 - (b) *bags are stored safely*
 - (c) *Pupils are well versed in safety expectations on the bus*

Please ensure you have registered with Mr Cummings when you arrive at school.

We will have the passports and colour copies safely stored.

PLEASE BRING ANY MEDICINES/ TABLETS in a sealed, labelled bag and hand to Mrs Jackson who will keep them safely throughout the trip.



Itinerary - Day 1

Time	Activity
06.30	Arrive at school
07.00	Depart from school
14.00	Leave Dover
18.00 (local time)	Arrive in Calais
20.00	Arrive at the hotel
20.30	Evening meal
21.00	Free time in the hotel
22.30	Lights Out

Itinerary Day 2

Essex Farm Cemetery and Dressing Station

- The site of John McCrae's writing of 'In Flanders Field'.
- Time will be spent reflecting on the experiences that led to this poem being written.
- Also the site of the grave of the youngest allied soldier killed in action.



Teething. 5s. 6d. the set (or, including model Electric-drill and old Illustrated Papers for Waiting-room, 12s.).

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.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

"Will this war bring us to Kidderminster?"
English Churchman.

Well, there are worse places than Kidderminster.

Itinerary Day 2-

Tyne Cot British Cemetery

- We will finish the morning by visiting the largest allied cemetery of the western front: Tyne Cot
- Some 25,000 graves exist here alone.
 - We will make attempts to locate graves of St Helens troops.
- We will spend some time reflecting on the horrors of the Great War and light candles of remembrance and carry out collective worship prior to departure.



Itinerary - Day 2- Sanctuary Wood/Hill 62

Our day will build up to this very unique experience. Sanctuary Wood/Hill 62 boasts some of the best preserved WW1 trenches.

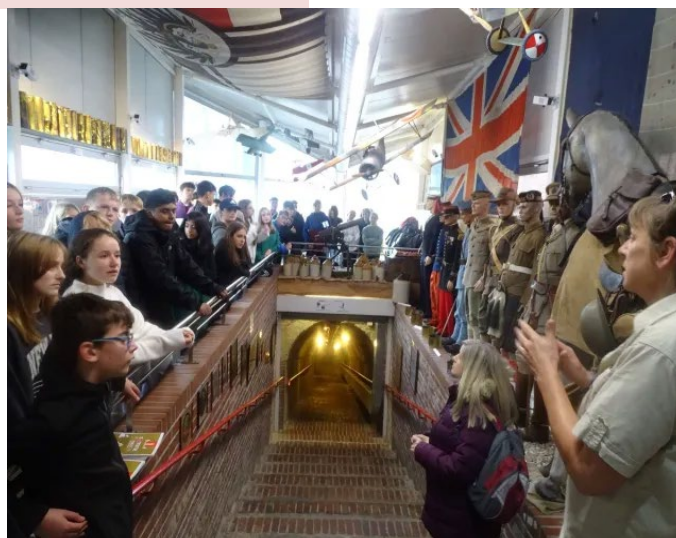
There is also a superb museum on sight containing original artefacts and photographic evidence





Itinerary Day 2 - Passchendaele Trench Museum

- It is interactive. Learning is 'hands on' and ICT based.
- It will help pupils have a clear understanding of Life and Warfare in the Trenches.



Visitors can walk the trench networks at the International Museum Passchendaele

Itinerary - Day 2- Evening meal

**2 course meal
provided at a local
Ypres Restaurant.**



Itinerary - Day 2

Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate

**After the meal we will then
make the short walk to
observe the last post service.**

**Some of students will be
taking part and laying a
wreath as a mark of respect
to two former De La Salle
pupils who are named on the
gate.**

**Once completed we will then
have some time to go and buy
souvenirs (chocolate!)**





Itinerary - Day 3

Bellewaerde Fun Park and Zoo (Ypres)





Itinerary-Day 4

Lochnagar Crater

We will also visit the largest crater created by mines in the whole of the Great War.





Itinerary-Day 4

Thiepval Memorial and Visitors Centre

- As a mark of respect to the soldiers of WW1 we will then move on to Thiepval Memorial.
- We will also visit the excellent museum at the centre.





Itinerary Day 4 - **Ulster Tower**

- Memorial to the Ulster Regiment
- Lovely views/nice place to have lunch and a chat





Itinerary Day 4 -

Pals Memorial and Newfoundland Park

- Scene of some of the bloodiest fighting of WW1
- Contains well preserved British and German front-line trenches





Itinerary - Day 5 - Travelling Home

- We will ask pupils to text you when we are an hour away from school. It is essential you have your phone switched on. We cannot bring pupils home for you!
- We are expected to be back at school for approx **9pm** (although this is subject to change depending on traffic).



Checklist

1. Set an alarm so that we can get to school for 06.30am latest on Saturday 21st June
2. Got my mobile switched on Wednesday 25th (PM) to keep informed of arrival times?
3. Ensured my child has a combination of Euros and Sterling in notes and coins?
4. Reminded my child of expectations on school trips?
5. **Ensured that my child has:**
 - (a) a suitable sized case
 - (b) rucksack (with a packed lunch for the first day) and something to keep cash safe in.
 - (c) water bottle/ hat or cap
 - (d) appropriate clothing i.e. walking shoes/waterproofs
 - (e) sun cream
 - (f) Towel
 - (g) Hairdryer
 - (h) phone charger



2nd Lieut. E. McDERMOTT,
East Yorks (St. Helens); killed in

*Eddie
McDermott*



Bertie Marsh



Thomas Keelty



Frank Cunliffe



Charlie Edwards



Bill Frodsham

Lest we forget