



SIR THOMAS RICH'S GLOUCESTER

STRS,
Oakleaze,
Longlevens,
GL20LF.

February 19th 2018

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child has been given the opportunity to be selected as one of two pupils to represent our school on the First World War Centenary Battlefield Tours Programme. This is a national programme funded by the Government to commemorate the First World War. Two students and one teacher representative from every state funded secondary school in England are being given the opportunity to take part. Below you will find some information about the Programme and what is involved.

University College London Institute of Education and school tour specialists Equity are working together to deliver tours which are designed to:

- enable students to develop a deeper understanding of the significance of the First World War
- enable students to develop a personal connection to the First World War through interacting with the battlefield sites, participating in remembrance ceremonies, recording, reflecting and sharing their own experiences
- equip students with the skills to create an enduring legacy by developing and disseminating outstanding practice, empowering teachers to deliver more effective lessons and future battlefield tours, supporting schools in establishing commemorative projects
- bring different organisations together, extend local, regional, national and global networks and reach into communities.

The tours are coach tours and begin with students and teachers being picked up from pre-arranged meeting points which are usually service stations or coach and rail stations. Ongoing travel is by executive coach with students from up to 14 other schools from the region to the battlefields of the Ypres Salient (Belgium) and the Somme (France). Students will be away for 3 nights/4 days on a tour from October 12th- October 15th 2018. Our school has opted for the English Literature tour which combines the history of the First World War with the literature which emerged from it.

If you would like to know more about this initiative, a sample itinerary and a wealth of other information is available on the website - <https://www.centenarybattlefieldtours.org/english/tour-highlights/>. You might also like to look at the tour operator's responses to some Frequently Asked Questions, which I have added to the end of this letter.

We have today launched a competition in school to select the two students who will be able to go on the trip and who will disseminate what they discover in their own chosen form once they return. All Year 9 students are being encouraged to take part in the competition. We consider this to be great preparation for study at GCSE level.

The first stage of the competition opens today and will close on April 16th. Students are asked to write an extended essay of no more than 1000 words entitled:

“Some people say that one hundred years is long enough to mourn a lost generation. Should we continue to commemorate those who fought in the First World War?”

This essay will identify students who have some understanding of the issues; who are ready to undertake some independent research and who engage analytically and sensitively with the discussion.

Essays will be marked by teachers from the English and History departments and a shortlist will be compiled. Shortlisted students will then be invited to attend a viva in which they will be asked what they seek to gain from the opportunity to visit the battlefields and how they would disseminate the information which they have gathered to meet the requirements of Legacy 110. Vivas will be completed by May 18th and winners of the two coveted places will be announced in a special Y9 assembly on May 24th. Once these places have been accepted, more information will be released.

We ask you to familiarise yourself with the initiative. If you think it is something you would like your son to invest some time in, please encouraging him to take part in the competition.

Mrs Hansen and Mr Marks from the History department and Mrs Saunders and Mr Margetts from the English department, in partnership with Ms Case in the LRC, will be very happy to answer any questions you or your son might have. A power point about the competition and rules for entry will be deposited on Sharepoint and Accessit in the next few days.

Yours faithfully,

Judith Case
Learning Resource Centre Manager

FAQs: KEY TOUR INFORMATION - PARENTS and GUARDIANS

Q: Who will be running the tour?

A: The tour is operated by school tour operator Equity and UCL Institute of Education, on behalf of the UK Government.

Q: Will there be any additional charges or is the tour free of charge?

A: The tour is fully funded by the Department for Education (DfE) and Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and covers: travel from and to a designated regional meeting point, Eurotunnel channel crossing, accommodation, meals and educational visit costs in Ypres/Somme. Travel insurance is not included and your school will advise you of the arrangements for this. Each participant will be required to have adequate travel insurance cover to take part on this tour.

Q: Who will take care of my child's welfare?

A: Welfare of each pupil remains the responsibility of the school. As each school will travel with one accompanying teacher (two teachers for SEN and PRU), each teacher will be required to agree to a Collective Supervision Agreement. This means that if a teacher is incapacitated on the tour, consent is given that another teacher on the tour travelling in the same coach tour group will take over supervision of a maximum of two additional students to ensure their safety and will address matters of welfare up to the point of return coach disembarkation. There will always be a mix of male and female teachers travelling.

Q: What are the accommodation arrangements?

A: Boys and girls sleep in bunk beds in separate dorms in warm, comfortable dorms/hotel rooms of between two and eight. Sheets, duvets and pillows are provided. Some rooms are en-suite but there are always separate toilet and shower facilities for girls and boys either within or close to dormitories. Pupils will be expected to share a room with other pupils of the same gender and similar age. Where possible pupils of the same gender travelling from the same school will be in the same dorm room. Teacher's dorms are located close by on the same corridor but not necessarily next door to the dorm where your students may be located.

Q: What will the food be like?

A: Your child will be provided with breakfast, a packed lunch and dinner. The first meal provided will be dinner on arrival at Grosvenor Hall in Ashford. The last meal will be a packed lunch on the final day. Most special dietary requirements can be catered for, and we ask you to advise us of your child's requirements on the booking form. There is limited opportunity to purchase snacks and additional drinks during the tour, so we recommend that your child brings some snacks and bottled drinks.

Q: What will happen on the first night at the Kingswood Centre – Grosvenor Hall – in Ashford?

A: The purpose of the night in Ashford is to give pupils and teachers the chance to get to know those from other schools on the tour. There will be an itinerary planned for the afternoon/evening with organised activities. Some of these activities may involve climbing activities, for which the centre is fully licensed by the British Activity Providers Association. Please see the website for further details: <http://www.kingswood.co.uk/centres/grosvenor-hall>

There will also be a briefing from UCL Institute of Education on the plans for the rest of the tour as well as further learning sessions.

Q: What does my child need to take?

A: The following is a suggested list of items to pack for the tour:

- Passport
- EHIC card
- 1 bath towel
- Toiletries
- Night clothes
- Casual clothing for 4 days*
- A change of old clothing and shoes for activities at Kingswood, Grosvenor Hall including long sleeved top and trousers
- School uniform (optional) to attend Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate
- Socks and underwear
- Waterproof jacket (and trousers if you have them)
- Sturdy shoes or wellingtons
- Large plastic bag for dirty clothes
- Gloves, hat, scarf
- Water bottle
- Rucksack
- Food for journey on 1st day
- Snacks for 4 days to supplement provided meals
- Writing implements such as pens and pencils
- Your child's school may wish to participate in a post tour commemorative project, which could include recording of tour experiences. If your child possesses a mobile phone, tablet or other device capable of taking photographs and/or video, they may wish to bring it with them, although the tour providers cannot be held responsible for items lost, stolen or damaged whilst on the tour
- Pocket money for souvenirs and refreshments. We recommend €20-30.
- **Commemorative items such as poppy crosses will be available on the tours provided by the Royal British Legion. Pupils will be asked to make a donation to the Royal British Legion for these and the recommended donation is £2 per item.**

*The Battlefields of Ypres and the Somme can become extremely cold and exposed during autumn and winter months, therefore it is vital that pupils bring plenty of layers of warm clothing, waterproof outer layers and appropriate footwear. Likewise, it is important that in late sp