

Tuesday, 15 April 2025

Dear student

BATTLEFIELD TOUR – YPRES, BELGIUM 6th -10th April 2026

For the purposes of this document Battlefield Tour will be known as 'BFT'.

INTRODUCTION

A small group of students will take part in a BFT of World War 1 sites, centred around the town of Ypres, Belgium. This will take place 6th -10th April 2026.

The purpose of this activity is to give students the opportunity to visit battlefield sites and learn about tactics, strategy and the experiences of soldiers from the period. Activities, events and sites include:

- Commonwealth War Grave cemeteries
- Museums
- Battle sites

The tour will be predominantly led by Rob Cooke. **Students** will:

- take part in command & leadership activities
- take part in problem solving activities
- be expected to research and deliver short talks on given topics.

These will take place at relevant points during site visits.

- Students will also take part in preparatory work for presentations related to 'The Norfolk Regiment'.

ITINERARY

Timings at the various sites will remain flexible, but the daily start time will be fixed at 0900.

The outline itinerary is as follows:

	AM	PM	Evening
Monday 6 April 26	Departure – 0815h Travel to accommodation 17 seat minibus Cross-Channel ferry	Arrive accommodation Local acquaint & initial BFT sites	General brief and house rules - Staff
Tuesday 7 April 26	Day 1 – First Battle of Ypres Brandhoek CWGC (Noel Chavasse) Student problem solving activity 1 st Battle of Ypres – Langemark cemetery Hill 60 – the VCs British Trench system – Yorkshire Trench		
Wednesday 8 April 26	Day 2 – Second Battle of Ypres Second Battle of Ypres & Vancouver Corner Essex Farm CWGC Wipers Times Cloth Hall Museum (1400h) The Menin Gate Last Post (2000h) Returning to the accommodation around 2100h Students should plan to 'eat out' on this day, between the 'museum visit' and the 'Last Post'		
Thursday	Day 3 – Third Battle of Ypres		

Battlefield Tour – Ypres, Belgium 6th-10th April 2026

Direct Telephone: 01553 815765

Direct Email: Rob.Cooke@cwa.ac.uk

9 April 26	The Christmas Truce Spanbroekmolen - Mine Warfare Passchendaele Museum Passchendaele Cemetery CWGC Poperinge (Evening activity) -Death Cells and Firing Post
Friday 10 April 26	Return to CWA 17 seat minibus Arrive 1700h+

An additional note will be issued a week before we depart, with exact timings.

ACCOMMODATION & FOOD

To keep costs low, all members of the BFT will be accommodated in a house secured by CWA with ([Booking.com](https://www.booking.com)). The accommodation link is below:

[Vakantiehuis Zoetendaal](#) (click)

You will be responsible for providing your own food from the moment we leave CWA until the moment we return.

MONEY – You must carry enough money to cover the costs of food and any other personal costs.

As a suggestion:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| • Box of cereal & 2 litre of milk | | £4 Total |
| • Packed lunch >£10/ day | | £50 |
| • Evening meal (if eating out) | >£40 without drinks | £160 week |
| • Evening meal (if eating in) | >10 | £40 |

Because of the location of the accommodation, students will not have the option to eat out except for Wednesday 8th April 26, when we will be remaining in Ypres to attend the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate.

PASSPORT & MONEY

PASSPORT – Extract from the UK Foreign Office:

To enter Belgium (and all Schengen countries) your passport must:

- have a 'date of issue' less than 10 years before the date you arrive. Passports issued after 1 October 2018 are now valid for only 10 years, but for passports issued before 1 October 2018, extra months may have been added if you renewed a passport early.
- have an 'expiry date' at least 3 months after the day you plan to leave.

MEDICAL

Students **MUST** be in possession of an in-date Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)-link: <https://www.gov.uk/global-health-insurance-card>. It is unlikely that students or staff will be required to pay for medical services at a hospital. However, the same may not be true for private medical facilities.

Local hospitals:

Ypres:

Onze-Lieve-Vrouwgasthuis General Hospital
Ieperstraat 130
8970 POPERINGE
Tel: +32 57 34 69 10
www.gasthuis.be

Use of any other hospital will be signalled to parents/guardian at the time of service.

PAYMENTS

The cost of this trip is £350 per student, on a **first come first served** basis. Payments can be made in full or by instalment. Instalments are on or before the following dates:

- Immediate **securing** deposit of £150. This is non-refundable as it pays for the ferries & accommodation.
- Final balance payment of £200 by 31 January 2026.

Included in the price are the visits to the battle sites, entry to museums, accommodation and transport. Food is NOT included in this price.

PAYMENT DETAILS

Payments can be made via the Online Store once the system is enabled. Look out for **Battlefield Tour – Ypres**.

Card payments, only, are accepted. If you experience issues with the payment system, please call Student Services on 01553 815271. If you are paying by instalment, please enter the amount you wish to pay and follow the process on-screen.

CONDITIONS OF THIS TRIP

DISCIPLINE. Trips of this nature do not usually involve disciplinary issues. A full briefing regarding discipline will be provided by staff prior to departure. In addition:

1. Knives, drugs or alcohol related incidents will result in students being sent home (police involvement or not (see note 4, below)).
2. **Students will not be permitted to consume alcohol during this trip.**
3. In the event of a gross disciplinary issue involving the police, and where the individual cannot return with the main group on 10 April 2026, due to police custody reasons, it will be the responsibility of the individual or parent to collect/ pay for the individual's continued accommodation (if the student must remain in country) and return journey.
4. Students refusing to take part in any of the activities will not be entitled to a refund but will be required to travel with the rest of the group on a daily basis. Those individuals will remain in the vicinity of the minibus during visits.
5. Any negligent damage to private property is liable to replacement or repair by the student.
6. Any costs incurred for medical attention will be liable for payment by the individual or parents/guardians at the time of treatment, unless otherwise directed by the medical provider. This may be required over the telephone from the medical centre/ hospital at the time.
7. Any inability to pay for food will result in the parent/guardian providing the payment at the time of the service.
8. **CANCELLATION**

If you are required to remove your name from the trip, after the first payment, you will forfeit your deposit. The only way this can be recovered is by finding a replacement student for the trip. Once their deposit has been received (and required subsequent payments at the time of exchange), then CWA will arrange reimbursement of your payments to the original payment card.

COMMUNICATION

1. Your mobile telephone provider may charge you an additional rate for using your mobile telephone abroad. Please check with your provider to ensure that you have the correct coverage for Belgium, and that you are aware of the (possible) additional charges for using your phone abroad.
2. A WhatsApp group will be established once in Belgium, for easier communicating.

KIT & PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

Students are permitted a large bag or suitcase and a daysack (for daily use (packed lunch, waterproof etc)). Provision of personal equipment and food are the responsibility of the individual. Security of personal equipment is the responsibility of each individual.

Kit List

Holdall bag/suitcase

Lunch box

Daysack

Clothing for 5 days

Waterproof jacket*

Waterproof trousers*

Comfortable footwear suitable for an outdoor activity.

Sun hat & gloves

Money for food (Lunch x5, Evening meal x5, Breakfast x4)

Warm jacket/fleece*

Water container

Wash kit, towel and personal hygiene (including personal toiletries). Please bring a pack of travel Kleenex for toilet paper – just in case...

Female sanitary items

Knife, fork & spoon (for packed lunch choices)

Sunglasses

Sun cream/block

Relaxed clothing around the house.

Personal comforts

Personal medication

Note. The journey will take approximately 8-9 hours (with 1h 45m ferry crossing). Please ensure you have sufficient comforts for the trip, music, video, books, etc.

*Ypres (Flanders) is known for its Spring weather. Temps are averagely between 5° and 15°, with appx 9 days of rain in April. The 2025 trip was a mix of warm and cold, so appropriate clothing is a must.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have about this trip using the contact details below.

Yours sincerely

Rob Cooke

BFT Trip Organiser

Public and Protective Services

T: 01553 815 765

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Appendix 1 to BATTLEFIELD TOUR 6 – 10 April 2026 Map of BFT Sites

Battle Sites

A – Ypres Town, the Cloth Hall (Flanders Museum)
The Menin Gate, cafes and small shops

- 1.** Yorkshire Trench & Langemark Cemetery
- 2.** Ploegsteert Christmas Truce 1914
- 3.** Hill 60
- 4.** Tyne Cot Cemetery – Paschendale
- 5.** Spanbroekmolen Crater
- 6.** Essex Farm
- 7.** Brandhoek Cemetery
- 8.** Byernwald Trench
- 9.** British Army HQ & the Death Cells

