

Ypres trip 6/2 to 7/2 2026



Please give your son's passport to a teacher as you come in so they can photocopy it. You will get it back at the end.

Dover crossings – contingency plan

- Your son is unlikely to be turned away, however if this happens we will have to ask you to come and collect him as quickly as possible
- You may be asked to take a teacher back with you, as we can't leave a staff member in Dover with the expectation to make their own way home or to go through France and Belgium by themselves to try and catch up with us.



Dover Crossing –Contingency

- Possible reasons for being turned away could be:
 - Having a passport from a country that doesn't have travel agreements with EU (as far as I can tell this doesn't apply to anyone here)
 - Having a passport that expires before May 7th. If your son's passport does expire before May 7th, if you act very fast you may still be able to apply for an expedited passport as this can be applied for and received within a week
 - Losing or forgetting their passport
 - Bringing a prohibited item across the border (weapons, gunpowder, non prescription drugs)



Pick up and drop off times

- Due to Brexit related knock on effects, the crossings take much longer than they used to, and that has squeezed the itinerary quite a lot as we can do less on each day.
- This means we are back later than we were initially quoted.
- We will meet at SHSB at 5am on the Friday to check in at Dover at 7.45 for our crossing at 9.45.
- On the Saturday, our crossing is at 5.45pm so we should be back at SHSB at around 8pm.
- We will get the boys to let you know where we are as we get closer to the school so you have a more accurate ETA



Spending money and meals

We recommend about 75 Euros as spending money

- **They should set aside 15 Euros of this for dinner on the return leg of the journey**
- Breakfast is provided on Saturday, as is a packed lunch. Dinner however is not provided, so they will need to buy something on the Ferry to eat, or at the service station at the terminal
- Optional places where pupils may like to buy things are:
 - the family run Belgian chocolate shop we will be visiting on Friday
 - We will be having some free time in the town square of Ypres before the Menin gate on Friday
 - There are gift shops at the museums we will attend on Friday
 - Service stations that the coaches stop off at, however we have no pre scheduled stops it is ad hoc as needed

What to pack

- Lunch for the Coach on Friday
- Medium to large Bag
- Coat
- Jumper
- Wellies/old footwear
- Sturdy shoes for walking
- Long trousers/jeans
- T shirts/shirts
- Soap/toothpaste/shower gel/shampoo

- Underwear for two days
- Towel (not provided by the hotel)
- Snacks (**no nuts!**)
- Phone charger cable and plug
- Any medication your son requires
- A book/entertainment for the coach
- Mains adapter



Meals

Friday

- Breakfast – **not provided**
- eat at home or bring with you
- Lunch– **not provided** –
please pack a lunch
- Dinner - **provided** by a local restaurant

Saturday

- Breakfast – **provided** by hotel
- Lunch – **provided** with a packed lunch by Hotel
- Dinner – **not provided** - I recommend 15 Euros is kept aside for dinner and snacks on the ferry

Friday 6th

Itinerary

Saturday 7th

- 'In Flanders Fields' Exhibition
- Bayernwald - Croonaert Wood
- 4.30 pm Sanctuary wood - Hill 62 Museum
- 5.30 pm Chocolate shop visit
- 6.00pm Dinner in Ypres
- 7.00pm Menin gate ceremony
- 7.20 + Free time in Ypres town square
- 8.30 board the coach to go to the Hotel

- 7.30am breakfast
- 9.15am Langemark cemetery
- 10.30 Tyne Cot cemetery
- 12.00pm Hoge Crater museum and trenches
- 1.30pm on coaches to leave Ypres
- 3.15pm check in at Dover
- 5.15pm cross back to Britain
- Arrive back at SHSB around 8pm





Sanctuary wood

- Ypres is naturally marshy with a high water table. The rain earlier in the year hasn't gone anywhere so it will be very muddy, this is the main reason why they need to bring wellies
- If you don't have wellies, an old pair of football boots or trainers will suffice
- If not, there is a route which will be out of the trenches which will be drier, so you will not be excluded!
- This route is also less claustrophobic, so if anyone is uncomfortable in tight spaces do not worry!







Our guides have flagged our visit to the chocolate shop as a potential concern. If your son carries an EpiPen or struggles with being in proximity to nuts, we will not take him into the chocolate shop – unless instructed to do so by you.











If you'd like to keep track of us:

Locate my trip - live updates on your group's tour location with NST's trip tracker

Locate My Trip is the easy, convenient way for your school to follow your group's location whilst on tour, and has been specifically designed to provide reassurance to both parents and teachers.

Watch our short Locate My Trip video here – <https://www.nstgroup.co.uk/locate-my-trip-app>

School phones are:

- 07981770404
- 07545211623

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Our Priorities

- Student safety and wellbeing
- Respectful behaviour
- A meaningful learning experience



Supervision & Organisation

- Students supervised at all times
- Small groups with named staff
- Regular headcounts
- Clear meeting points

Travel Safety

- Seatbelts worn on coaches
- Remain seated while moving
- Clear ferry rules
- Staff supervision throughout

Medical & Welfare

- First aid trained staff
- Medical information carried
- Medication managed by staff
- Warm, waterproof clothing required

General Behaviour Expectations

- Follow instructions first time
- Stay with your group
- Polite language and behavior
- Mobile phones used appropriately

Cemeteries & Memorials

- Places of remembrance
- Quiet voices at all times
- No running or climbing
- Respect graves and memorials

Menin Gate Ceremony

- Formal act of remembrance
- Silence and stillness expected
- Students briefed beforehand
- A privilege to attend

Museums & Trenches

- Uneven ground – walk carefully
- Do not touch artefacts
- Stay within marked areas
- Follow staff instructions

Free Time in Ypres

- Supervised small groups
- Defined town square area
- Clear time limits
- No wandering off

Behaviour in dormitories

You are representing the school

Questions