



## THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD'S BLUECOAT SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr Tom Williams

October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

### **History and French Visit: Sunday 12th July to Wednesday 15th July 2026**

In connection with their teaching programmes, the Humanities and Languages faculties are running a visit to the sites of the First World War Battlefields in Northern France and to visit the region of Boulogne-sur Mer, including markets, museums and other cultural sites, in order for students to practise their French. This visit coincides with a unit of work that is taught in History in Year 8 during the Spring and Summer Term and again in Year 10, having some links to the GCSE Medicine unit which looks at the impact of war on medicine, and also the GCSE Conflict and Tension Unit (1894-1918) on the causes and events of the First World War. It will also coincide with the French taught and examined in school and allow students to immerse themselves in French culture. The trip will be staying in a specialist centre in France, in Albert, near to the heart of the Somme battlefield sites.

The faculties would like to offer current Year A, the opportunity to take part in this visit during the Summer term of 2026. A provisional booking has been made for approximately 45 students from Sunday 12th July to Wednesday 15th July 2026. This is part of the proposed Enrichment Days.

The cost of the visit will be approximately £550. The final cost will be given when student numbers are known. This sum will cover every aspect of the visit, from ferry to transport costs, accommodation, food, on-site activities and entry fees. It includes tours of Battlefield sites and other relevant sites.

The visit is one of the best educational experiences that the school provides. We have a provisional booking for 45 students, so if you would like your child to be a member of the group, I would be grateful if you would click on the link at the end of this letter as soon as possible or by 12.00pm Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> of October at the latest.

Once notified of your child's place on the trip a deposit of £100 (which is non-returnable) will then be required and should be paid through SCOPAY by Friday 17th October. A payment scheme with scheduled dates will be put in place in the run up to the trip. Failure to meet payments may result in your child being removed from the trip.

Participation in the trip is dependent on your child meeting the official entry requirements of France and other countries the trip will travel through. It is vital that

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you consider your responsibility in terms of ensuring they have the necessary documentation, when confirming your child's participation.

Two further points – the visit has the potential to be an extremely popular one and could get booked up very quickly. If the trip is oversubscribed, we will draw names out of a hat. Secondly, each member of the group will need to have their own individual passport that is within date, and that will not expire until after January 2027. They must also have a valid EHIC/GHIC. Any international students will require proof of residency. By the time of the visit, it is expected that the ETIAS system will be in place. Further information will follow but non-EU passport holders will need to have applied for an ETIAS, which is free for under 18s.

There is the possibility of some limited support with funding for students who qualify for Pupil Premium, so please send a letter of application to Mr Jonathan Nicholas in the first instance, whilst ensuring the application form is returned to Mrs Cox by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

Please click on the link to Microsoft Forms if you would like your child to be included on the trip:

<https://forms.office.com/e/q6iMJUXFrA>

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs Emma Robertson**  
Trip Leader