



09 February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Medicine on the Western Front: GCSE History Trip

The current travel guidance has created a number of challenges for us as a school, which unfortunately means that the planned visit to Belgium, on 17th May, has had to be postponed and will now take place on **Thursday 13th October 2022**.

Currently, all travellers to Belgium must be fully vaccinated (including young people aged 12 and over) in order for them to enter the country without the need to quarantine. **This means that all students attending this trip must have received 2 vaccines no later than 2 weeks before the date of the trip.**

Since the UK government currently require young people to wait 90 days after testing positive for Covid-19 before they can have their second dose of the vaccine, many of our students would not have been able to meet this entry requirement, and so the visit has been postponed, in the hope that this will allow students the time to have the required vaccinations.

The ongoing changes to guidance make it difficult to predict what restrictions may be in place going forward, so we are only able to make decisions based on the information that we currently have.

Please could I remind you that for foreign travel during these times you need to ensure that you are aware of the current foreign travel advice and entry restrictions and requirements. These may change with little warning, If you are required to prove a negative COVID-19 PCR test or negative COVID-19 rapid antigen test from a verified provider, the booking and cost will be in addition to the trip and is the responsibility of the parent/carer.

To help support international travel, including school trips, children aged 12 to 15 years old can now obtain a digital NHS COVID Pass, the NHS COVID Pass can be accessed through the NHS website for those aged 12 years and over. For young people aged 13 and over, the NHS App can also be used to access the NHS COVID pass.

If a student is unable to travel, due to not meeting the entry requirements, it will be classed as disinclination to travel and you will therefore not be eligible for a refund.

Due to the later date of the visit, the second instalment of **£65** will now be due on **Tuesday 31st May 2022**.

Many thanks to all families who have already provided details of their child's **passport** and **EHIC card** (or UK global Health Insurance Card, UK GHIC). We have to supply a list of names (exactly as it appears on their passport as any changes will incur a charge) to enable the tour company to book travel. Passports must have at least 6 months validity from the end date of the trip. You can apply:

- Online at: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-ehiceuropean-health-insurance-card/>
- By telephone on 0300 3301350

If you have yet to do so, please could you ensure that you forward a copy of the details page to the Finance Office, and a copy of the EHIC card by **Thursday 7th April**.

Should you have any further questions about this postponement, or would like to discuss the visit, further, please contact me on the school telephone number or by email on jennifer.hicks@ickniel.d.oxon.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jen Hicks', written in a cursive style.

Jen Hicks
Head of History, RE and Citizenship