

BANBRIDGE ACADEMY
SAMPLE ITINERARY FOR WWI BATTLEFIELDS TRIP TO FRANCE AND
BELGIUM

PLEASE NOTE: FLIGHT TIMES HAVE NOT BEEN CONFIRMED

Day 1 Friday 15th June

02:00hrs Your Coach will meet the group at the school for the transfer to Dublin Airport.
04:10hrs Check in for your flight to Brussels Airport (BRU) at the Aer Lingus check-in desk.
*A representative from NST will meet the group at Dublin **during** check in to assist your group.*

06:40hrs Depart Dublin.
09:25hrs Arrive Brussels Airport (BRU) and meet your coach.

Continue by coach to **Sanctuary Woods** for a prebooked tour. This fascinating visit shows well-preserved, original British trenches. The museum consists of two rooms housing artefacts and photographs from World War I.

Group will also have time today to visit **Memorial Museum Passchendaele**. Students can follow in the footsteps of the 40th Australian Battalion on 4th October 1917 with this interactive visit which can include a battlefield walk in full uniform, an authentic 'Tommy Tucker' meal and a guided tour of the Memorial Museum.

Coach will continue on to Ebbingham where you will check in to your accommodation, NST's Chateau d'Ebbingham.

Evening meal at your accommodation. Evening activities can be arranged e.g. table quiz

Day 2: Saturday 16th June

After breakfast your coach will collect the group at the Chateau for transfer to Vimy Ridge, Beaumont Hamel, Thiepval Memorial and the Ulster Tower.

Vimy Ridge was the scene of fierce fighting in 1917, when the Canadians successfully took the ridge from the Germans. A reservation will be made for the group to have a guided tour of the tunnels and trenches.

Afterwards, the group will have some free time to visit the monument and the visitors centre.

The coach will transfer the group to **Thiepval Memorial**. This is the largest memorial to the British missing on the Western Front, containing the names of 73,412 men who died from 1915 to 1917 and have no known graves. The new visitor centre houses an informative exhibition designed to aid understanding of the history of Thiepval during WWI.

Transfer by coach to **Beaumont Hamel**.

This is undoubtedly one of the largest and best-preserved trench memorials on the Western Front. Just outside the park lies Hawthorn Crater and within it are the 'Danger Tree' and remains of the British Front Line. The German Front Line can be seen across No Man's Land. Canadian guides can be pre-booked free of charge between May and November

Afterwards, the coach will transfer the group to the Ulster Tower.

A reservation will be requested for your group for a guided tour of the **Ulster Tower and Woods**. Built as a memorial copy of the tower that the 36th Ulster Division had trained under in County Down, Northern Ireland, the tower marks the area where the men of Ulster advanced on 1st July 1916. The northernmost 7km of The Somme Battlefield can be seen from here

The coach will transfer the group back to the Chateau for evening meal. Evening activities can be arranged.

Day 3 Sunday 17th June

After breakfast your coach will pick you up for a full day at Bellewaerde **Theme Park** Spend a day at this fantastic theme park which offers a wonderful mix of animals, nature and the thrill of theme park rides and attractions.

The group will have their evening meal and then make their way to the Menin Gate for 19:45hrs for the Last Post Ceremony at 20:00hrs sharp.

Straight after the ceremony, the coach will transfer the group back to your accommodation. The group will have time for ice-cream when they return.

Day 4 Monday 18th June

After breakfast, the group will visit Ypres.

A reservation will be requested for the **In Flanders Museum**. This superb state-of-the-art, interactive museum covers most aspects of the war in Flanders and shows the war through the eyes of soldiers, nurses, refugees and children. An educational pack and study resources are available.

You will also have time to visit **Langemark and Tynecot cemeteries** before your coach will transfer your group to Brussels Airport.

19.15hrs Check in for your flight to Dublin at the Aer Lingus check-in desk.

21:15hrs Depart Brussels.

21.50hrs Arrive Dublin, terminal 2.

Your coach will transfer the group back to the school.