



Dear Old Aldenhamian,

You may remember reading in *Aldenhamiana* that on Friday 6th May 2011 the School will be dedicating a plaque in St George's Memorial Church, Ypres, Belgium to commemorate the members of Aldenham School who gave their lives in the Great War and subsequent conflicts. 163 OAs and former Masters died serving their country in the First World War. 129 are buried or remembered in France and Belgium, 29 of them in the Ypres Salient.

The Headmaster has invited all OAs to join the School for the Dedication Service, and to enable as many OAs as possible to take part the OA Society is organising a coach to Ypres and back. There are still a few places remaining. The coach will depart from the School at 8.00 am on Friday 6th May, catching the ferry from Dover to Calais, staying overnight in the Novotel in Ypres, and returning to the School at approx 9.00 pm on Saturday 7th May.

The coach will also pick up at approx 9.00 am from Coach Park of Maidstone Services, Junction 5 of the M20. Parking is permitted in the main services car park. Tickets cost £10 a day and should be purchased from either the restaurant or *Smiths* stationers in the main services building. There is no requirement to make a reservation.

OAs will arrive in Ypres on the Friday in time to join the School at the Dedication Service at 4.45 pm. Following the Service you are invited to join the Headmaster at a reception at the Novotel and then at 8.00 pm to witness the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, at which the School will lay a wreath. On completion of the Last Post Ceremony, dinner has been arranged at a restaurant in Ypres.

After breakfast on Saturday there will be a guided tour, by a professional guide, of important sites in the Ypres area. Museum entrance is included in the price and the tour will include:

- **Sanctuary Wood Museum**, one of the few places on the Ypres Salient battlefields where an original trench layout can be seen in some semblance of what it might have looked like.
- **Tyne Cot Cemetery**, the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world and the most important reminder of the battle of Passchendaele.
- **Langemark German Military Cemetery**, the largest and only one of four First World War German cemeteries in the Flanders region. A complete contrast to the Commonwealth cemeteries.
- **Essex Farm Advanced Dressing Station and Cemetery**, this is believed to be the location where Major John McCrae wrote his famous poem *In Flanders Field*.

You will find full details and prices at http://www.aldenham.com/uploads2/1/YPRES_Flyer.pdf and a booking form at http://www.aldenham.com/uploads2/1/YPRES_Booking_Form.pdf

Yours sincerely,

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