

...the English way,
internationally

Vacational Studies '81

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to present the Vacation! Studies residential English Language Course programme for Summer 1981. Vacation! Studies Course Director — Ian Mucklejohn — has welcomed boys and girls from 35 nations in 4 continents since 1970 and over the years has developed the programme to provide an enjoyable balance between 'vacation' and 'study'.

For 1981, we believe the Course represents the best value ever. An innovation this year is a comprehensive Insurance scheme automatically covering every student at no extra cost.

Vacational Studies is a member of FELCO — the Federation of English Language Course Organisations — membership of which is granted only after thorough inspection and periodic re-inspection.

Vacational Studies aims to create a Course that is as international as possible and avoids accepting a large number of children from any one country. Thus we try to ensure that English is the main medium of communication among the students. By using English, not just as a school subject, but as a living language, we hope that our students will realise better its importance and value. We have found that when children must use English to make friends, the element of self-motivation to learn greatly increases their fluency.

This emphasis on the practical use of English is combined with a full sports and social programme helping children to learn English 'the English way, internationally...'

The Course is fully residential. The children eat, sleep and receive classes in the schools.

THE CHILDREN

This Course is an important stage in a young person's social development. At all the schools we accept boys and girls aged 11-16 — those just starting English, intermediate and more advanced students.

THE SCHOOLS AND THEIR SURROUNDINGS

For 1981 the Course will be held at three centres — Crookham Court School, Cheam School and Elstree School. All are located near Newbury which is pleasantly situated amid the hills of the Berkshire Downs in a rural area famous for race-horse training. It is centrally positioned in southern England 70 km. west of London and 45 km. south of Oxford.

ELSTREE SCHOOL

Elstree School is a splendid, large, eighteenth century country house attractively set in 40 acres of grounds with playing fields, gardens and woods. The school features a particularly well-equipped, new gymnasium. A maximum of 80 students are accepted.



Cheam

ALL SCHOOLS HAVE:

- large, open-air swimming pool
- hard and grass tennis courts
- basketball and volleyball courts
- football fields
- croquet lawns
- table tennis
- comfortable dormitory accommodation
- hot and cold baths and/or showers
- libraries
- colour television
- recreation rooms

CHOICE OF COURSE

The Courses at Crookham Court, Cheam and Elstree have the same format, but each develops its own atmosphere and traditions. The school buildings and grounds are all different and each has its particular features. The schools are all near to each other. Courses are of 4 weeks' duration. To assist parents, we offer a choice of Course dates:-

CROOKHAM COURT

THURSDAY 16 JULY — THURSDAY 13 AUGUST 1981

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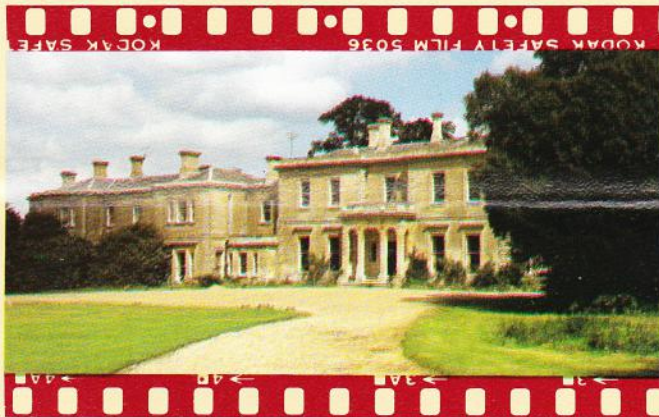
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Crookham Court

CROOKHAM COURT SCHOOL

Crookham Court School is a large mid-nineteenth century manor house with large, bright rooms and spacious planning. Its rambling layout and general unpretentiousness encourage an easy-going atmosphere. The grounds extend to 20 acres and include large playing fields, lawns, gardens and woods. A maximum of 80 students are accepted.

CHEAM SCHOOL

Cheam School is an elegant late-nineteenth century mansion with impressive interior designing on a grand scale. A particular feature is the sunken, formal garden. The school's extensive grounds include several large playing fields, lawns and woods. A maximum of 80 students are accepted.

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Cheam

ALL SCHOOLS HAVE:

- large, open-air swimming pool
- hard and grass tennis courts
- basketball and volleyball courts
- football fields
- croquet lawns
- table tennis
- comfortable dormitory accommodation
- hot and cold baths and/or showers
- libraries
- colour television
- recreation rooms

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CROOKHAM COURT

THURSDAY 16 JULY — THURSDAY 13 AUGUST 1981

CHEAM

THURSDAY 23 JULY — THURSDAY 20 AUGUST 1981

ELSTREE

THURSDAY 30 JULY — THURSDAY 27 AUGUST 1981

Children should arrive in the afternoon of the first day stated and leave in the morning of the last day stated.



Elstree

THE TEACHING

4 classes, each of 45 minutes, are given every day except Sunday, the excursion day and a shopping afternoon by a staff of fully-qualified professional teachers experienced in the teaching of English as a foreign language. Classes are graded according to age and ability in English. Numbers are kept small so that each child will receive a high degree of individual attention. The teacher: student ratio is approximately 1:13. All books and teaching materials are provided and some audio-visual aids are used. We encourage the use of 'direct-method' teaching and the incorporation of conversation practice into the lessons. Some 'technical' vocabulary is covered in the more advanced classes. The textbook series used is 'Access to English' by Coles and Lord, supported by various readers and other stimuli.

SPORTS

Sport forms an important part of the Course. All sports activities are under the overall control of a qualified physical education specialist teacher who arranges a regular programme including football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, tennis, table-tennis, croquet, swimming, etc. Competitions in various activities are held.

Luis (Portugal) doing the backstroke



*Maïke and Francoise (Netherlands)
at the Crookham Court barbecue*

The full sports programme is included in the Course Fee, but in addition we offer professional coaching by expert instructors — at extra cost — in the following sports:- horse riding (at the Newbury School of Riding) and tennis (at each School). As the instructors can take only a limited number of pupils, these lessons must be requested in advance on the Application Form. Although we suggest that this is a good opportunity to become proficient in either or both of these sports, as the lessons represent a commitment please make sure that your child really wants to take them. If horse riding is selected, your child must bring strong shoes or riding boots. Hats are compulsory and are provided by the Riding School. Lessons are available for novices and more advanced riders. The Riding School will group riders according to ability. Parents are asked to indicate their agreement or otherwise to jumping and 'hacking' ('hacking' = cross-country riding for the more experienced). Tennis lessons are available for beginners or near-beginners only and the child must bring his own tennis racquet. Teaching is in groups of no more than 4. As horse riding and tennis lessons are pre-arranged, it is not possible to refund the cost of lessons not taken.

We emphasise that the regular sports programme is available at no extra charge and that the Sports

There will be an excursion each week, including:- a boat journey on the Thames from Maidenhead to Windsor (famous for its Castle) and a visit to the Wildlife Safari Park; a drive into Wales over the magnificent Severn Bridge to the Welsh Folk Museum near Cardiff; two choices of shopping or sightseeing in London or Oxford.

Members of staff accompany the students on all excursions.

A TYPICAL DAY

08.30	Breakfast
09.15	First class
10.00	Break
10.15	Second class
11.00	Break
11.30	Third class
12.15	Break. Collect pocket money for the day
13.00	Lunch
13.45	Fourth class
14.30	Organised sports and games
18.00	Evening meal
18.30	'Homework' followed by games, film, etc.
21.00	Hot chocolate and biscuits
21.30	Bedtime Juniors. (Seniors have their own 'Club')
22.30	Bedtime Seniors

There are no classes on Sundays.

'Senior' bedtimes apply to students aged 13½ and over.

MEALS

We realise that food is an important part of the Course. Meals are prepared and served at the Schools. Menus for 1981, have been completely revised so as to make them specially attractive to children. Students are able to select from a choice of up to three menus with the emphasis on quality and quantity. There is a plentiful supply of fresh fruit and vegetables. Cold orange juice is available at all times. A typical day's menu is:-

Breakfast:	Choice of cereal Hot rolls and butter Jam and marmalade Tea or coffee
Lunch:	Fried plaice garni with chipped potatoes or Chicken with fresh green salad Yoghurt and fresh fruit
Evening meal:	Roast lamb or steak and kidney pie Roast and creamed potatoes Carrots and peas or 'cold table' (e.g. pâté with various salads) Apple and honey pudding or Cheese and biscuits

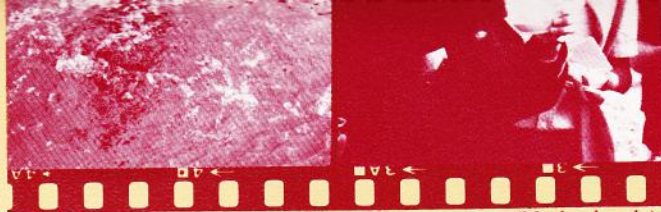
Before bedtime: Hot chocolate and biscuits

At times through the Course the menu will be varied to include:- 'English breakfast' (fried egg and bacon with grilled tomato, or similar); 'English tea' (choice of different kinds of bread, choice of spreads, cakes and buns) and barbecued meals (spare rib, sausage roll, jacket potatoes, coleslaw dip, crisps, ice cream, etc.)

LIVING ACCOMMODATION

At all schools, the children sleep in dormitories. The girls are in one part of the house, the boys in another. The accommodation is comfortable and roomy. Bed linen is provided by us.





*Maike and Francoise (Netherlands)
at the Crookham Court barbecue*

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We emphasise that the regular sports programme is available at no extra charge and that the Sports Organiser is available at all times to offer advice and assistance. For reasons of safety, a teacher always supervises children in the swimming pool.

SOCIAL LIFE

We regard the children at each School as a family who live, work and play together. For many of them this is their first time away from home with other children, so we provide a relaxed atmosphere in which they may make friends and form social contacts. We arrange country walks, discotheques, barbecues, film shows, folk-singing, games, theatre and cinema visits, etc.

As Newbury is an easy bus ride away and is a quiet town, we allow children to go there once or twice a week, if they wish, on unaccompanied shopping expeditions in groups of no less than 3. This, we feel, helps them to achieve a measure of independence. Parents are asked to indicate their agreement to this on the Application Form. Parents are also asked to indicate their agreement — or otherwise — to children being allowed to go sightseeing without staff supervision (but in a group of 3) on the excursions.

EXCURSIONS

Newbury is well situated as a centre for excursions to various places of interest. As so many children come to us more than once, we have largely revised the excursion programme for 1981.

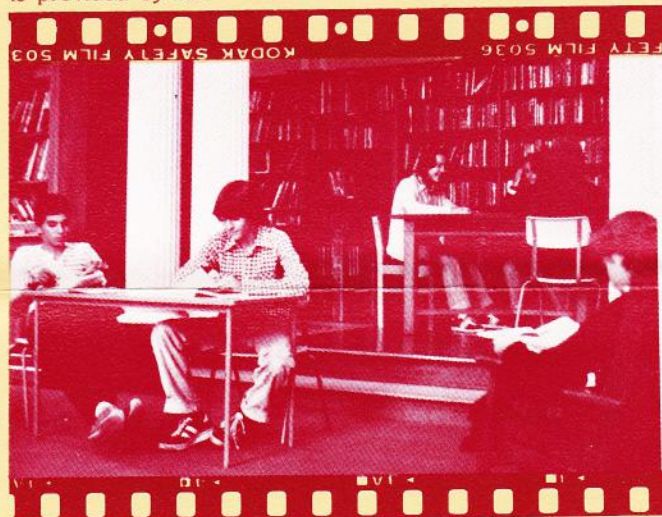
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- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Breakfast: | Choice of cereal
Hot rolls and butter
Jam and marmalade
Tea or coffee |
| Lunch: | Fried plaice garni with chipped potatoes or
Chicken with fresh green salad
Yoghurt and fresh fruit |
| Evening meal: | Roast lamb or steak and kidney pie
Roast and creamed potatoes
Carrots and peas
or 'cold table' (e.g. pâté with various salads)
Apple and honey pudding
or Cheese and biscuits |
| Before bedtime: | Hot chocolate and biscuits |

At times through the Course the menu will be varied to include:- 'English breakfast' (fried egg and bacon with grilled tomato, or similar); 'English tea' (choice of different kinds of bread, choice of spreads, cakes and buns) and barbecued meals (spare rib, sausage roll, jacket potatoes, coleslaw dip, crisps, ice cream, etc.)

LIVING ACCOMMODATION

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Makram (Lebanon), Alon (Israel), Amna (Yugoslavia), Maria (Portugal) and Ifigenia (Greece) in the Library at Elstree

HEALTH

Minor illnesses are treated by our own staff and there is a Matron with a special surgery/sick room in each School. We also use the services of doctors in the locality. All our students are entitled to free medical treatment under the British National Health Service, but transport to and from the local hospital or doctor's surgery for NHS treatment is chargeable.

INSURANCE (NEW FOR 1981)

Every student is now covered by a special Insurance Policy underwritten by Lloyds. Full details are on the enclosed information sheet. Briefly, the Insurance includes

refund of full Course Fees if certified serious illness or accident during the month before the Course prevents attendance on the Course; private medical treatment to the value of £2,500; personal possessions and luggage cover to the value of £400; personal money cover to the value of £100; return air fare to the value of £200 if an APEX reservation is lost because of delayed departure through illness or accident.

There is no extra charge for this Insurance. Every student is automatically covered (subject to the enclosed conditions) when the application is accepted. We are sure that parents will be reassured by the additional protection provided by this Insurance cover.

CARE AND SUPERVISION

We understand the concern felt by parents when their children are away from home. They are under constant supervision, as far as is practicable, both in the School and on excursions. Our total staff: student ratio of about 1:6 ensures that the children are well looked-after.

In addition to the staff, on each Course there is an older ex-student to assist with sports and social activities.

During the Course, progress reports are sent to all parents detailing the child's performance in oral and written work and also social behaviour. At the end of the Course, all parents are sent a final report and leaving certificate together with a detailed report from the Director on the student's general progress and behaviour.

DISCIPLINE

We regard the Course as an international community and have, therefore, some straightforward rules designed to ensure that every member of the community is happy. We expect children to respect the buildings, equipment and the feelings of other people, and to show good manners on all occasions.

It is important that, before a child is enrolled for the Course, he has the proper motivation for it — the desire to learn English, to be a member of a happy, well-integrated, multi-national society and the willingness to participate in the extra-curricular activities.

If a child is correctly motivated, there should be no disciplinary problems, but if they should arise, we reserve the right to contact parents and, if we consider it necessary, require that the child be taken home at the parents' expense. Parents must, therefore, ensure that we have a telephone number through which they can always be contacted.



Rita (Norway), Marta (Germany) and Iciar (Spain) in the Cheam v Elstree girls' football match

successful and popular with the students in 1979 and 1980. Students heard speaking any language other than English will be 'fined' 10p for each occasion. These 'fines' will be returned to students on the last day.

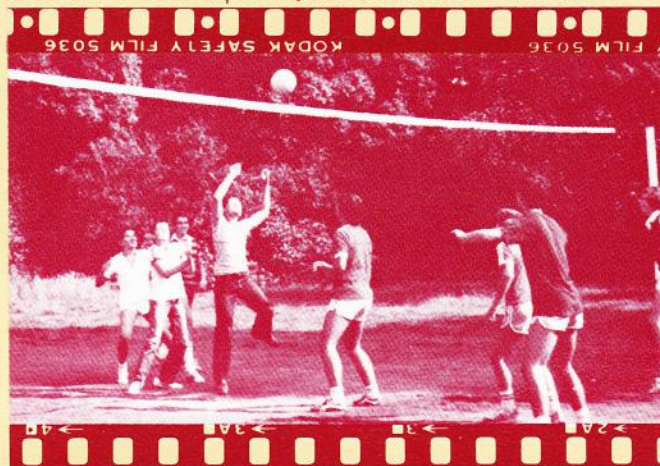
The Course is interdenominational. If parents so wish, we shall arrange for the children to attend an appropriate service. Please indicate this on the Application Form. Transportation to and from the Church is payable by students.

THE JÖRG WEISE MEMORIAL TROPHY

This is awarded annually at each School to the student who makes the best all-round contribution to the Course. This magnificent sculpture was presented to Vacational Studies in 1980 by Professor Dr. Eberhard Weise, the Director of Bayer A.G. in Leverkusen, Germany, in memory of his son, Jörg (1958-1979) who was a student of ours in 1971. For us Jörg Weise embodies the finest qualities of endeavour and achievement with a completely international outlook. The names of the recipients each year are engraved onto the Trophy.

THE JÖRG WEISE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

We are also proud to be associated with the Jörg Weise Memorial Scholarship awarded by Professor Dr. Weise. The Scholarship is a place on any of our Courses, return air ticket from anywhere in the world, pocket money and optional sports fees. The recipient of the Scholarship will be internationally-minded, outgoing and gregarious, keen to learn English and gain a greater understanding of the world, but unable to apply for a place on our Course in the normal way for financial reasons. Nominations for the Scholarships in 1981 and 1982 should be sent in the first place to Vacational Studies.



Anton (Jordan), Victor (Spain), Luis (Portugal), Nabil, Na'man and Yara (Lebanon), Spyros (Greece) and Luis (Netherlands) playing volleyball

WHAT THE COURSE FEE INCLUDES

For details of the Course Fees, please see the enclosed slip. The Course Fee includes Insurance and:

- residence at the School
- all meals
- tuition
- the sports programme
- the use of facilities
- excursions and basic entrance fees
- the laundering of clothes

There are NO EXTRA CHARGES except for optional church, theatre or cinema visits and professional coaching in horse riding and tennis (if required). Optional coaching must be requested in advance on the Application Form. A small (50p) deduction is made from pocket money to provide indoor board games.

The Course Fee does NOT include:

A detailed list of rules and standards of behaviour expected will be sent before the beginning of the Course.

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Rita (Norway), Marta (Germany) and Iciar (Spain) in the Cheam v Elstree girls' football match

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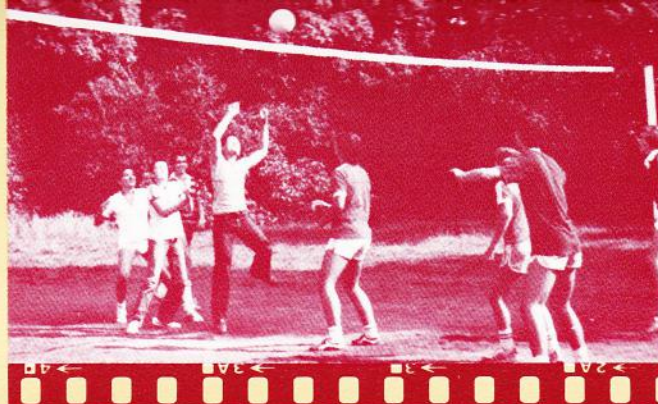
To ensure the success of the Course for everybody, we are unable to accept new applications without a teacher's report including attitude to study and general social behaviour. (A teacher's report is not required for students already known to us). We also ask parents to provide the fullest information about their child.

IN GENERAL

Vacational Studies has, over the years, built up an excellent reputation with parents and children all over the world. Many boys and girls spend several summers with us and return from year to year renewing old friendships and making new ones. Most children come to us on personal recommendation.

As well as formal study, we concentrate on the holiday aspect of the Course. We believe that the children should feel free to enjoy themselves out of class. There is always something to do, and children are always encouraged to participate, but if a child prefers to read or be with friends, we naturally respect his/her wishes. The numbers on the Courses are deliberately kept small so that the staff can get to know everybody and treat each child as an individual. The students meet and form close friendships with children from many lands. We aim to promote a truly international spirit.

To stimulate this international feeling and the speaking of English socially, two days a week for the first two weeks will be 'English Only' days. This has proved



Anton (Jordan), Victor (Spain), Luis (Portugal), Nabil, Na'man and Yara (Lebanon), Spyros (Greece) and Luis (Netherlands) playing volleyball

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The Course Fee does **NOT** include:

- pocket money
- travel to and from England
- collection from Heathrow Airport, London at the beginning of the Course and return there at the end. (This is available at a small extra charge to cover our expenses. Please see the enclosed slip. The collection/return service fee **ONLY** applies to collections at Heathrow Airport between specified times on the afternoon of the first day of the Course and returns there on the morning of the last day of the Course. We cannot be responsible for students outside the stated dates and cannot collect or return outside the specified times. We may, however, be able to arrange a special taxi service at cost).

BEFORE YOU APPLY

Please make sure that our Course is suitable for your child and that he/she wants to come. The children who will benefit and who we enjoy having with us will be internationally-minded, interested in English, out-going and gregarious. They will also be willing to accept the constraints of community living. We consider it so important that our standards and expectations are understood and accepted that we ask parents to confirm that they and their child have read and agree with our rules. A slip sent with the rules is provided for this purpose.

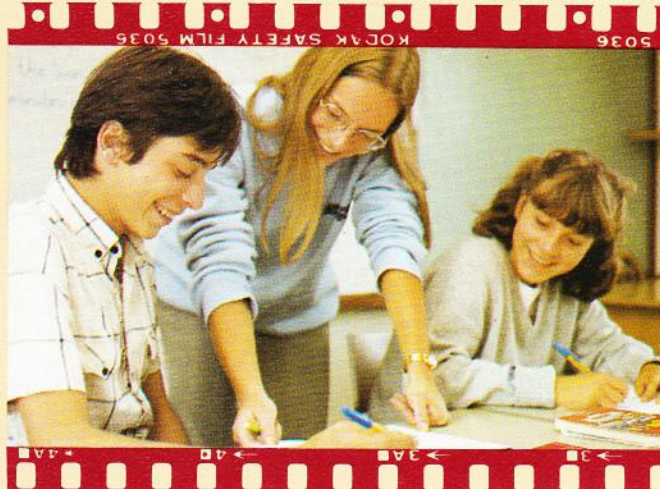
HOW TO APPLY

Answer all the questions on the Application Form and return it with a teacher's report on attitude to study and behaviour. Retain your copy for reference. We shall tell you immediately if the application is acceptable.

WHEN THE APPLICATION IS ACCEPTED

We shall write to inform you of this and include our Invoice for the Course Fees. The Invoice can be settled in full immediately or 50% can be paid immediately and the balance by the date shown on the Invoice. The place will be confirmed when the full Course Fees have been received by us. We shall also request travel details. It is completely safe (and normally advisable) for our students to fly alone as all airlines make special arrangements for 'Unaccompanied Young Persons'. Please consult your Travel Agent. Students are met by a Vocational Studies representative at Heathrow Airport. Before the Course, we shall send a special badge for your child to wear and this will ensure quick recognition. The badge is designed to include personal data. Our representative will also be wearing a badge and carrying a sign and will meet your child as soon as he/she has been cleared through Customs formalities.

To assist our transport arrangements, children must arrive during the AFTERNOON (13.00 — 18.00) of the first day of the Course (16, 23 or 30 July) and leave during the MORNING (09.00 — 13.00) of the last day of the Course (13, 20 or 27 August). Parents bringing children direct to the Schools are asked to arrive between 12.30 and 14.30. Parents collecting children from the Schools on the last day are asked to come before 11.00.



Ramzi (Lebanon) and Isabelle (Monaco) in class at Elstree with Val

WHAT TO BRING

Pocket money can either be brought by your child, or sent in advance to: 'Vocational Studies Pocket Money Account', Number 65400100 at The National Westminster Bank, 30 Market Place, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5AJ. The amount of pocket money depends on age and spending habits, but should be in the range £60 — £90 (+ optional sports coaching fees, if applicable). Pocket money must be brought in £ Sterling cash (high value notes), or be sent in advance.

All money is handed in at the Office for safe-keeping and the student can then withdraw money from his/her account daily. We also keep passports and tickets safely. We cannot accept responsibility for pocket money or valuables not handed to us.

Parents are asked not to pack too many clothes. Casual, practical, machine-washable clothes are normally worn. We specially ask for the following to be included:

Cheam School

Take the A339 road from Newbury (signposted 'Basingstoke') for 10 km. Cheam School is signposted on the right.

Address for students' letters:

Cheam School

Vocational Studies Course

Headley Newbury

Berkshire RG15 8LD England

Telephone (to contact Course Manager only):

Headley 242 (STD code 063523) (Mornings, if possible).

Elstree School

From London, follow M4 to Exit 12 (Theale). Leave M4 and follow signs 'A4 Newbury' for 9 km. to Woolhampton. In Woolhampton, turn right after Falmouth Arms at the 'Upper Woolhampton/Chapel Row' signpost. Elstree School is 1 km. along this road on the right.

Address for students' letters:

Elstree School,

Vocational Studies Course

Woolhampton Reading

Berkshire RG7 5TD England

Telephone (to contact Course Manager only):

Woolhampton 3302 (STD code 073521)

(Mornings, if possible).

THESE TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE SPECIAL. THEY ARE ONLY FOR USE DURING THE COURSE AND ONLY THE COURSE MANAGER CAN BE OBTAINED ON THEM.

There is also a frequent train service from Paddington Station, London, to Newbury Station. It is then an easy taxi journey to the Schools.

During the rest of the year, please use our Office address and telephone number:-

Vocational Studies

Pepys' Oak Tydehams

Newbury Berkshire RG14 6JT

England

Telephone: Newbury 41867 (STD code 0635)

Telegrams: Vacstuds, Newbury, Berkshire.

Telex: 848507 (Attn: VACS)

Visits to the Schools outside the Course dates may be made only by appointment through our Office.

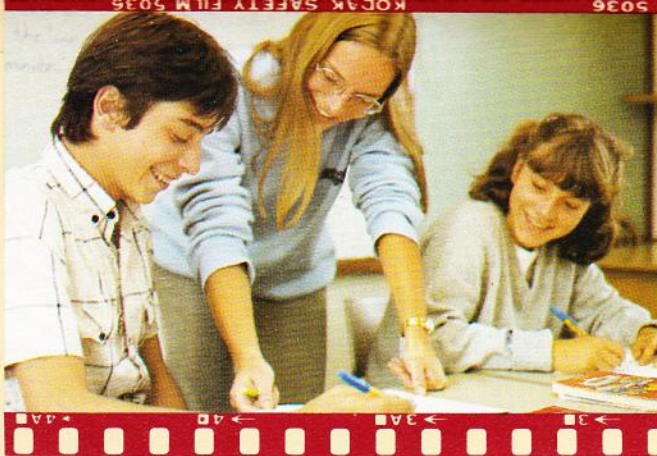
FINALLY

We have tried to describe the Courses fully and frankly. We hope that this brochure contains all the information you need to make your choice. Any further details you may require can be obtained from the parents of our past students (the addresses of some of these are on the enclosed slip) and the Director. We suggest that you contact our parental references as they may offer some useful advice.

Our Courses are designed with the benefit of years of experience and we are confident that we can combine the learning of good written and spoken English with an unforgettable and enjoyable holiday for your child.

THE 1980 COURSES WERE FULLY BOOKED. WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU APPLY EARLY FOR THIS YEAR'S COURSE. A 'WAITING LIST' OPERATES WHEN THE COURSES ARE FULL.





Ramzi (Lebanon) and Isabelle (Monaco) in class at Elstree with Val

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All money is handed in at the Office for safe-keeping and the student can then withdraw money from his/her account daily. We also keep passports and tickets safely. We cannot accept responsibility for pocket money or valuables not handed to us.

Parents are asked not to pack too many clothes. Casual, practical, machine-washable clothes are normally worn. We specially ask for the following to be included:

- warm pullovers
- an anorak or raincoat
- bedroom slippers
- sports shoes
- air-mail paper and envelopes
- a dictionary
- at least three towels (one large)
- clothes hangers
- a tennis racquet (if needed)
- a table-tennis bat (if needed)

ALL PROPERTY MUST BE MARKED WITH THE STUDENT'S NAME!

Further notes and advice will be sent to parents and students before the Courses begin.

THE SCHOOLS' ADDRESSES AND HOW TO FIND THEM

Crookham Court School

From London, follow M4 to Exit 12 (Theale). Leave M4 and follow A4 to Thatcham. In Thatcham turn left after Little Chef restaurant, then left again, straight on past Thatcham Station, up the hill and Crookham Court is at the top of the hill on the left.

Address for students' letters:

Crookham Court School

Vacational Studies Course

Newbury Berkshire RG15 8DQ

England

Telephone (to contact Course Manager only):

Thatcham 64800 (STD code 0635) (Mornings, if possible).

address and telephone number:

Vacational Studies

Pepys' Oak Tydehams

Newbury Berkshire RG14 6JT

England

Telephone: Newbury 41867 (STD code 0635)

Telegrams: Vacstuds, Newbury, Berkshire.

Telex: 848507 (Attn: VACS)

Visits to the Schools outside the Course dates may be made only by appointment through our Office.

FINALLY

We have tried to describe the Courses fully and frankly. We hope that this brochure contains all the information you need to make your choice. Any further details you may require can be obtained from the parents of our past students (the addresses of some of these are on the enclosed slip) and the Director. We suggest that you contact our parental references as they may offer some useful advice.

Our Courses are designed with the benefit of years of experience and we are confident that we can combine the learning of good written and spoken English with an unforgettable and enjoyable holiday for your child.

THE 1980 COURSES WERE FULLY BOOKED. WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU APPLY EARLY FOR THIS YEAR'S COURSE. A 'WAITING LIST' OPERATES WHEN THE COURSES ARE FULL.



Hein (Netherlands) learning tennis at Crookham Court with Ivor

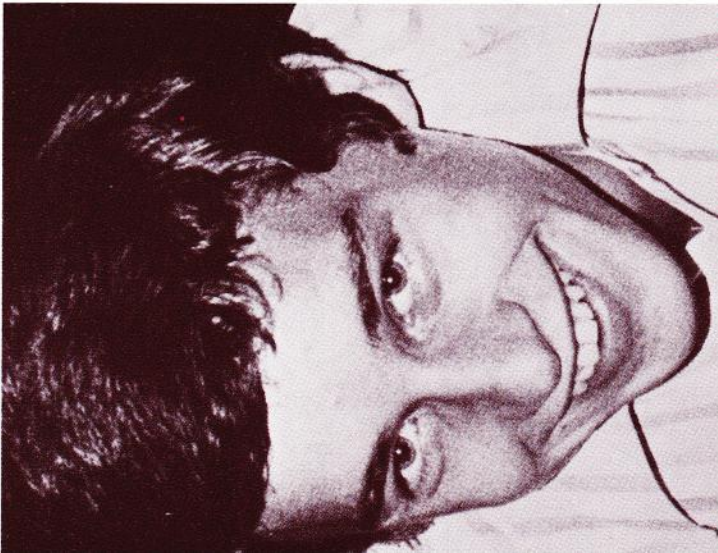
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Ian Mucklejohn — who, as the Director, co-ordinates the Schools — is a Londoner by birth, but has lived mostly in Newbury. He is a Graduate of the University of London with an Honours Degree in English Language and Literature and is an Associate of the College of Preceptors. He has had many years experience in organizing Language Courses and in teaching as the Head of the English Department at a private school.

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JÖRG WEISE TROPHY

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Jörg Weise (1958-1979)

THE JÖRG WEISE SCHOLARSHIP

In addition to the Trophy, I asked Prof. Dr. Weise, who is the Director of Bayer A.G. in Leverkusen, Germany, if he would choose a young person to come to one of our Courses in 1980 on a Scholarship to be known as the Jörg Weise Scholarship. Our first recipient attended this Summer. Prof. Dr. Weise has generously donated Scholarships for future years which will enable a young person each year to benefit from a Course with us. The Scholarship comprises a place on any Course; travel from anywhere in the world; pocket money and optional sports fees. Prof. Dr. Weise and I would appreciate your help and the help of your children's teachers in selecting a suitable recipient. He or she should be outgoing, keen to know more about Britain and the world, enjoy learning and using English, be adaptable, gregarious and sporting and, importantly, be able to benefit from the experience and to re-adjust without difficulty afterwards. It is now a condition of the Scholarship that the recipient would not, for financial reasons, be able to apply for a place in the usual way.

The choice of recipient lies with Prof. Dr. Weise, but for convenience all recommendations with supporting letters should be sent to me. You may know of a young person who would be eligible. It is also likely that your son or daughter's school will wish to make a recommendation. I am enclosing a brief note about the Jörg Weise Scholarship and would ask you to ask your child to give this to the Head Teacher or English Teacher, so that they may make recommendations for 1981 or 1982.

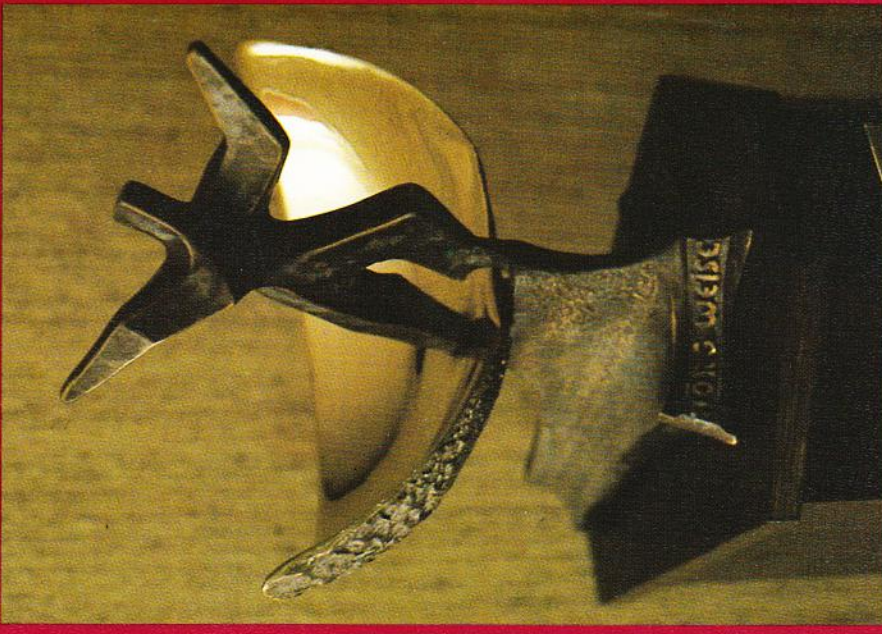
Prof. Dr. Weise and I would like to extend the opportunities afforded by the Scholarship, so if any individuals or companies would like to discuss the possibility of sponsoring or part-sponsoring a less-privileged student, please let me know.

AND FINALLY

Thank you for your interest in reading this far. We should like to think that our Courses do not end when the last student departs. We are happy to see past students when they are in this country — parents too! Also, much of our Office capacity is under-used during the 'off-season', so if any parents or their companies wish to use us as a 'contact in Britain', either to help with education, business, or arranging hotels, transport, etc., please contact me. I am sure we can handle most assignments with our customary efficiency! Incidentally, we now have a Telex facility — (848507 Attn: VACS).

Ian G. Mucklejohn — Autumn 1980

Vacational '80 Studies-Sheet News-Sheet



The Jörg Weise Memorial Trophy

In a year when the number of students attending English language Courses declined generally, our numbers increased as our capacity increased. Apart from our brochure, we do not advertise; to do so would, I believe, result in the removal of much of the essential internationality from our Courses, and (except in Greece) we do not use travel agencies. This, incidentally, is the reason we print our brochure and forms only in English. I know this makes life difficult for some, but I think we should receive students from the world as a whole rather than concentrate on any particular part of it. We rely on parents to recommend us. If we are good at our job, we continue; if we are not, we cease to exist — and that is as it should be.... I greatly appreciate all the kind letters I have received from parents and students after this Summer's Courses. I should like to say at this point how gratified I am to receive such compliments — it's really the staff who deserve them! In fact, so many parents have agreed to be on the parental reference list that I have no more room. So that I can keep to one A4 sheet, I am limiting the references to three or four per country, so if you have agreed to be on the list and are not, it's only pressure of space.

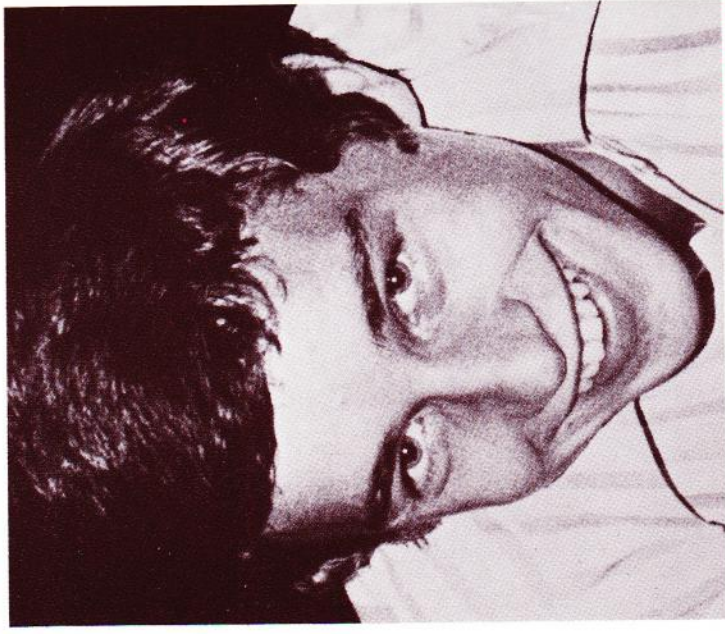
In our latest FELCO assessment (1979) most aspects of our Courses were inspected and on a scale from A (excellent) to D (unsatisfactory) we scored A grades all round with the exception of two B+ grades. Modesty prevents comment!

Having established that we are good, I hope I can also establish that we are good value-for-money. Our fees have always been competitive; many other organisations charge far more and I should say that the value-for-money we provide is second-to-none. In the past we have priced our Courses for the year in October. This year we are pricing for the half-year and shall hold the fees until 1 February at which point we may increase them. Applications accepted before 1 February will be charged at the pre-increase level. I hope that we shall hold the fees until the Summer, but if this is not possible our existing clients, those who apply early for 1981 and those we had to decline for 1980 when we were full will benefit.

I am sending two sets of 1981 documentation to our 1980 parents as so many request additional copies — one for passing on to friends.

THE JÖRG WEISE TROPHY

Our 1980 students will have seen the magnificent sculpture in each school this summer. The sculptural symbolism is for the individual to interpret but I should like to take this opportunity to explain its history, meaning and purpose. Jörg Weise was one of our students in 1971. When I heard from his father in 1979 that Jörg had been killed at the age of 21 in a road accident, I wanted to find a way to make something meaningful out of something so senseless and tragic; to perpetuate the memory of a young man who embodied such fine qualities of personality, character and intellect with an essentially international outlook on life. The award for the student who made the best all-round contribution to each Course had been inaugurated in 1978, but it seemed so fitting that this Trophy be named after Jörg that I asked his father for his agreement. It was willingly given. This year's recipients were George and Manolis Houpis (our first identical twin winners) at Crookham Court, Jan Kees Mol at Cheam and Dagmar Schittenhelm at Elstree. Their names are now inscribed on a plaque on the Trophy.



Jörg Weise (1958-1979)

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1981, we shall show separate junior and senior films
small screen which, along with improved sound
will enable us to be more adventurous in our
of titles.

This year saw several innovations on the social side.
The 'Casino' at Crookham Court was enormously popular
(it involved no exchange of money!) as was the 'Pub
Games Evening' at Cheam. Elstree's 'Magazine', now into
its second edition, remains a most remarkable
achievement. Every student contributed something and
the results are a typescript of the students' work exactly
as presented by them.

We attach a great deal of importance to Course
discipline which is usually good. In 1980 we were
impressed by the general politeness and co-operation
shown by the vast majority of our students. I am sure
parents understand why we ask for teachers' reports!
Only one or two incidents of anti-social behaviour
occurred during the Summer. I suspended a number of
students from Crookham Court for breaking our
dormitory rule at 4 a.m. They may have thought that on
the second-to-last night there was nothing we could do.
They discovered otherwise. Also, sadly, I expelled a
student from Elstree for shoplifting — the first time I
have had to expel and, I hope, the last. I have made the
police aware of our policy concerning theft and they
approve wholeheartedly.

Not only do we have to please parents, students and
staff, but also the schools we rent. Our task is to create
an 'instant' boarding school and instil a corporate feeling
into our students. This has to include respect for the
buildings and their contents. By and large, our students
co-operate in this, but, sadly, there were a few cases of
unreported damage — particularly at Elstree this year.
We should also be glad if the Elstree library books which
may have (accidentally?) travelled far away could be
returned. We shall be more vigilant in 1981.

Another memory of 1980 is an enormous pile of un-
named lost property. Named articles have been returned
— an expensive process — and we were able to guess at
a few of the owners of un-named items. Named
possessions would help us greatly!

By far our biggest problem, however, was the
telephone. Most parents did not use it and we really
appreciate their complying with our request in this
respect. A small minority made our lives very difficult by
telephoning almost daily. It is very hard for Course
Managers to say 'no' to parents and occasionally callers
were so persistent that they were permitted to speak,

even though it meant disruption of the lessons, sports, or
an exhaustive search of the school. Next Summer we
shall retain our rule, but ask callers to phone again on a
particular day when we shall stop all activities and just
have telephoning.....

No doubt parents who have read this far will not be
among the few who:- visit the schools unannounced
before the Courses begin (awfully inconvenient for the
school and embarrassing for me when I have to
apologise); send pocket money late (naturally, I advance
money in such cases, but children can feel most
distressed without their own money to spend); do not
mention that optional coaching fees will be deducted from
pocket money on arrival (how difficult it is for a child to
tell me I have taken too much from pocket money and
how awkward it is to back-track afterwards) and arrange
for friends and relatives to visit students, or vice-versa,
without letting us know first (several parents discovered
how tight our security is!) We found that some children
had signed our slip without having read our 'Notes', so
we shall spend the first few periods at each school next
Summer going through and explaining them. In case I
have given the opposite impression by stressing these
negatives, I must say that the overwhelming majority of
parents and students were very willing to help us and
understand how we try to keep our administration smooth
in the midst of a hectic programme.

NEW FOR 1981 — INSURANCE

Insurance is the major innovation for the coming
Summer. I have spent some time putting together a
comprehensive Insurance 'package' so as to reassure
parents that not only are their children in good hands,
but should disaster strike, they can receive immediate,
practical help. Cover includes cancellation, private
medical treatment, luggage, personal money and delayed
repatriation expenses — a total of over £3,500 cover for
each student — all at no extra cost! This brings me to
the next point our fee structure. We hope that all
parents who have corresponded with us have found our
administration system efficient. My secretary and I share
the typing; my office is attached to my home and this
close contact normally results in letters and telephone
calls being dealt with the same day we receive them.

SUMMER '80 IN RETROSPECT

As I see the tear-stained, emotion-ravaged faces disappearing into the Reliance coach in the grey dawn of the last day en route for Heathrow and the flight home, I wonder what sort of picture parents have of the Courses when they piece together their children's fragmented recollections. Hence this News-Sheet — giving my views on the Courses, recollected in tranquility.

I take it for granted that most things will go as planned and after a year's planning, all certainly should go well. Nevertheless, it always tends to be the hitches that stick in the mind. I must say at this stage a big thank-you to the vast majority of our parents and students who read the 'Notes' and helped us by following them. I shall mention later the few who did not....

The 1980 Courses survived the recession well and were fully subscribed as always. In fact, our total number of students was greater than in 1979 as we increased our first-year 'pilot' of 50 at Elstree to our usual 80. Everyone tells me that the weather this Summer was the worst since 1956. We didn't notice it. Apart from a few wet days at the beginning of the Crookham Court Course, we saw very little rain. At Elstree, only two afternoons of sport were lost because of the weather. Although there were few warm, sunny days, the swimming pools were put to good use and all the outdoor activities were able to run uninterrupted. Crookham kept up their unbeaten record at inter-School football. We hope Elstree will win their first match in 1981.

Comparisons are odious. Students who come year after year love to compare and tell me how things have changed. Usually it is they who have changed, not the Course. I try not to compare, but take each Course, each year, as a separate entity. This year's students, by and large, entered into the spirit of things well and a number of 'characters' emerged, although a few national groups stuck together from beginning to end and so missed all kinds of opportunities for integration. We thought that they would have become bored with each other's company, but they determinedly sought each other out and succeeded in wasting their time. Fortunately, most of our students overcame their inhibitions and were prepared to mix. I expect many of the friendships will last for years.

Emotions run close to the surface at the end of the Courses and it is, perhaps, hard for parents to understand just how well children can get to know each other and how much they can feel at home in the school in just four weeks. Life is so full that four months of activities seem to be compressed into as many weeks. For me, commuting from school to school, the many different events all happening at three places at the same time could occupy me for the whole year!

Our main concern this Summer was the food. For the 1980 Courses, we employed a qualified dietician to work out a series of menus, abandoning the traditional international concept in favour of British fare. She incorporated some interesting 'cold tables' as options and devised an 'English tea' once a week with different types of British bread, cakes and spreads. We discovered that children are quite conservative in their eating habits and shunned the delights of kipper, curry, chocolate and crunchy cheese spreads in favour of strawberry jam. The 'regional days' (one a week, with all the meals coming from a particular part of Britain) were not well received. The recipes were far too recherché and, although the kitchen staff struggled manfully with the complexities of 'Westmoreland Tatle Pot' and 'Original Cumberland Raised Pie', they had to admit defeat. The meals were a great improvement over 1979 (they needed to be), but the menu plan will be simpler and more child-based for 1981.

'English only' proved more successful at Crookham Court and Elstree than at Cheam. This has everything to do with staff attitudes. The students certainly saw value in the system — but the staff had to 'police' it!

We also reduced the number of 'Newbury days' from two to one a week, mainly because there were so many activities that we needed to have the students 'on the campus'. Our change from public bus to private coach reduced the cost of travelling to Newbury, but only if most students went. Limiting shopping to one day ensured that they did.

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