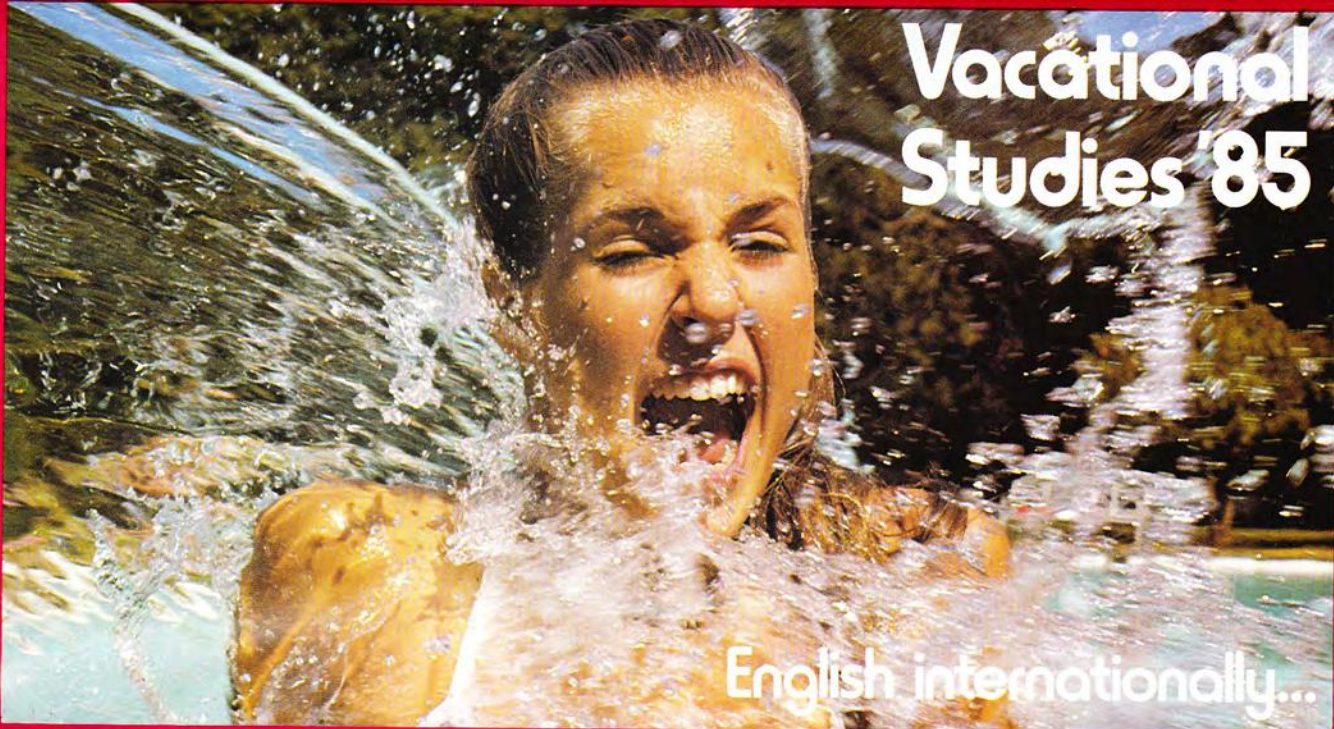




Vacational Studies '85

English internationally...



Residential English Language Courses

Vacational Studies Courses have been running for 14 years and we have tried in this time to develop a programme to provide an enjoyable balance between 'vacation' and 'study'. Here is our programme for Summer 1985.

Recognised by The British Council

Vacational Studies is 'Recognised as Efficient by the British Council' and is a member of ARELS-FELCO (The Association for Recognised English Language Teaching Establishments in Britain) — a professional body, membership of which is granted only after thorough inspection and 3-yearly re-inspections.

What we try to do

Vacational Studies tries to create a totally international Course with students from as many different countries as possible. We avoid accepting a large number of students from any particular country. In this way 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 our students will realise better its importance and value. When children must use English to make friends, the element of self-motivation greatly increases their fluency.

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

Residence

The Courses are all fully residential. The children sleep, eat and receive classes in the Schools.

The Students

We accept boys and girls aged 11 to 16 — beginners, intermediate and more advanced students. We also accept a small number of students at 17 — normally only if they have been with us before.

The Courses are sports-orientated and encourage good social development in a community situation.

The Schools and Surroundings

For 1985 our Courses are at four Schools near Newbury. The Mary Hare School, Cheam School, Elstree School and Hawtreys. Newbury is in a pleasant part of southern England amid the hills of the Berkshire Downs in a rural area well known for race-horse training. Newbury is a small market town 70km. west of London and 45km. south of Oxford. Our four School buildings are among the finest in the area.

The Mary Hare School

The Mary Hare School is a large mid-nineteenth century manor

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. There is an excellent multi-purpose sports hall/gymnasium. The School's large grounds include several playing fields, lawns and woods. A planned maximum of 95 students will be accepted.

Elstree School

Elstree School is a splendid, large eighteenth century country house, attractively set in 40 acres of grounds with large playing fields, gardens and woods. It has a modern well-equipped gymnasium. A planned maximum of 85 students will be accepted.

Hawtreys

Hawtreys is an impressive mid-nineteenth century Stately Home owned by the Marquess of Ailesbury, set in 55 acres of grounds with playing fields, gardens, woodland and open spaces. The classrooms are contained within the main building. A planned maximum of 75 students will be accepted.

All Schools have

- swimming pool
- tennis courts
- basketball and volleyball courts
- football fields
- sports hall
- table-tennis
- dormitory accommodation
- hot and cold baths and/or showers
- library
- colour television
- recreation rooms

Choice of Course

The Courses at Mary Hare, Cheam, Elstree and Hawtreys have the same format, but each develops its own atmosphere and traditions. Each Course is of 4 weeks' duration. We offer a choice of dates:

Mary Hare

7 July — 4 August 1985

Cheam

18 July — 15 August 1985

Elstree

21 July — 18 August 1985

Hawtreys

24 July — 21 August 1985

(Please see section on 'Travel')

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The Mary Hare School

The Mary Hare School is a large mid-nineteenth century manor house, excellently equipped and maintained in superb condition. There are formal gardens and extensive grounds which include several large playing fields, a range of tennis courts, a gymnasium and a large indoor swimming pool. A planned maximum of 100 students will be accepted.



Hawtreys



Elstree

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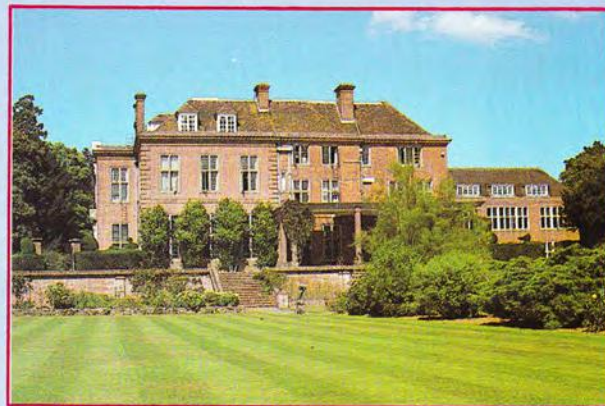
Hawtreys

24 July — 21 August 1985

(Please see section on 'Travel')



Part of Mary Hare - The Manor House



Cheam

The Teaching

A staff of qualified, professional teachers, experienced in the teaching of English as a foreign language give 4 classes, each of 45 minutes, every day except Sunday and the weekly excursion day. In addition, there is a supervised 30 minute study period each afternoon. Classes are graded according to age and ability in English. Students are placed first in an 'assessment group', then in what we consider to be the correct teaching group. Class placements are constantly reviewed and students may be moved to more or less advanced classes, according to their performance. The teacher:student ratio is approximately 1:13. We provide all books and teaching materials. The teaching is by 'direct method'. Both oral and written English are taught and there is an emphasis on conversation practice. Some 'technical' vocabulary is covered in the more advanced classes. Textbooks used are: 'Access to English' by Coles and Lord; 'Streamline English' by Hartley and Viney; 'Flexicourse' by Hills and Lewis.

Sports

Sport is an important part of the Course. Our Sports/Social Organiser arranges a regular programme including football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, tennis, table-tennis, swimming, etc. Competitions run throughout the Course. There is also a 4-School 'Sports Day' when all four schools meet for friendly competitions in the major sports. This Sports Day will be arranged so that every student will have the opportunity to participate as well as watch.

We take all practicable safety precautions — for example, children using the swimming pool are always supervised by a teacher.

Social Activities

We try to create a relaxed and friendly 'family' atmosphere in which children will feel 'at home' quickly and make good social contacts. There is a variety of activities on the programme — discotheques, films, barbecues, folk-singing, concerts, games, optional theatre visits, etc. The programme is a full one. There is always something to do and children are encouraged to participate.

Excursions

Newbury is well situated as a centre for various excursions. For 1985, there will be two excursions to London. One will be for sight-seeing where the students will be in small groups, each with a teacher, to see various interesting parts of the capital. The other will be for shopping or sightseeing or a combination of both. As far as possible, students will be able to choose for themselves what they see and do in London. The third excursion will be decided after the students and staff have discussed where they wish to visit. Some students may, of course, prefer to remain at the School. The fourth excursion will be the grand 'Sports Day'. All these excursions are included in the Course Fee.

Shopping afternoons (Optional Extra)

In addition to the organised excursions above (which are included in the Course Fee), there are three optional shopping afternoons (not included in the Course Fee), two in Newbury and one in a town near the School. We think it is safe for children to shop in these towns unaccompanied by staff, if parents have indicated their agreement to this on the Application Form. This helps children to achieve a measure of independence. Children can be accompanied by staff if parents so wish and there will be several staff in the towns while the children are shopping. Travel is by private coach from the School, payable by students if they wish to go. The cost of transport is in the range from 70p to £1.20.

Theatre Visit (Optional Extra)

Among London's world-famous theatrical productions, 'Cats' is ideal for our students. It is, however, fully booked months ahead. For 1985, we have already reserved 50 special-price seats for each Course. The number of students wishing to go will exceed the number of tickets available, so in allocating places we shall bear in mind willingness to use English. We hope this will be an incentive. The total cost of this theatre visit will be about £8.

Tennis Lessons (Optional Extra)

Children may play tennis at any time, but we can arrange professional lessons, if required. These are available for beginners or near-beginners only. 8 one-hour lessons are given in groups of no more than 4 and must be requested in advance on the Application Form.

Lunch:

Fried plaice garni with chipped potatoes and tomatoes or
Chicken with mashed potatoes and sweetcorn or
Salad bar
Yoghurt and fresh fruit

Evening meal:

Roast lamb or steak and kidney pie with
Roast potatoes, carrots and peas or
Salad bar
Apple and honey pudding or
Cheese and biscuits

Before bedtime:

Hot chocolate and biscuits

At times throughout 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.) There will also be 'national meals'. Students of each nationality will be invited to help the kitchen staff prepare and serve a meal consisting of dishes from their own country.

Residential accommodation

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



Preparing the French 'National Meal' at Mary Hare

A super save from
Nicholas (Greece)



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Tennis Lessons (Optional Extra)

Children may play tennis at any time, but we can arrange professional lessons, if required. These are available for beginners or near-beginners only. 8 one-hour lessons are given in groups of no more than 4 and must be requested in advance on the Application Form. If tennis lessons are taken, a tennis racquet must be brought.

Horse-Riding (Optional Extra)

6 one-hour horse-riding lessons are available at the Newbury School of Riding for novices and more advanced riders in groups according to ability. The cost includes transport to and from the Riding School and the hire of a hat. Children must bring strong shoes or riding boots. These lessons must be requested in advance on the Application Form and include 'hacking' at the discretion of the Riding School. 'Hacking' is riding in the countryside in supervised groups. Students will only be allowed to 'hack' when they are considered sufficiently competent. Jumping can be included if parents indicate their agreement on the Application Form. The Riding School has excellent indoor riding facilities. Please note that the Riding School instructors supervise students during lessons. Our staff do not accompany students. The number of riders is limited to the first 15 on each course who apply.

As tennis and horse-riding lessons are pre-arranged, it is not possible to refund the cost of lessons booked, but not taken, so parents are asked to make sure their children really want them.

Meals

We realise that food is an important part of the Course. Meals are prepared and served at the Schools. Menus have been revised for 1985 and students will be able to select from a choice of two hot meals or a mixed salad bar. Fresh fruit and vegetables are always included. Cold orange juice is available at all times. A typical day's menu is:

Breakfast:

Choice of cereal
Hot rolls and butter
Milk, juice and jam

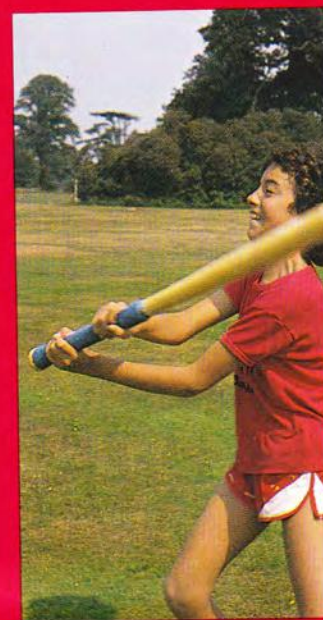


Preparing the French 'National Meal' at Mary Hare

A super save from Nicholas (Greece)



Jane trying to teach Ilias (Greece) tennis



A Typical Day

08.30	Breakfast
09.00	First class
09.45	Break
09.55	Second class
10.40	Break
11.10	Third class
11.55	Break
12.50	Fourth class
12.50	Break
13.00	Lunch
13.45	Supervised Study
14.15	Break
14.45	Organised sports and games
18.00	Evening meal
19.00	Games, films, etc.
21.00	Hot chocolate and biscuits
21.30	Bedtime 'Juniors'
	('Seniors' have their own 'Club')
22.30	Bedtime 'Seniors' (may be put back to 22.45)

'Senior' bedtimes apply to students aged 13½ and over. Pocket Money and stamps are obtainable from the Office every day from 13.20 — 13.45 and 14.15 — 14.45.

Health

Minor illnesses are treated by our own staff. There is a Matron with a special surgery/sick room in each School. We also use the services of doctors in the locality. We ask parents to give us full health information on the Application Form.

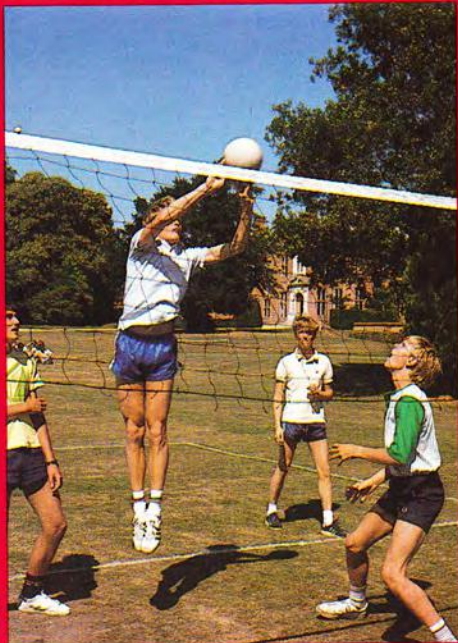
Insurance

Every student is now covered by a special Insurance Policy. 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 or advanced departure through illness or accident.

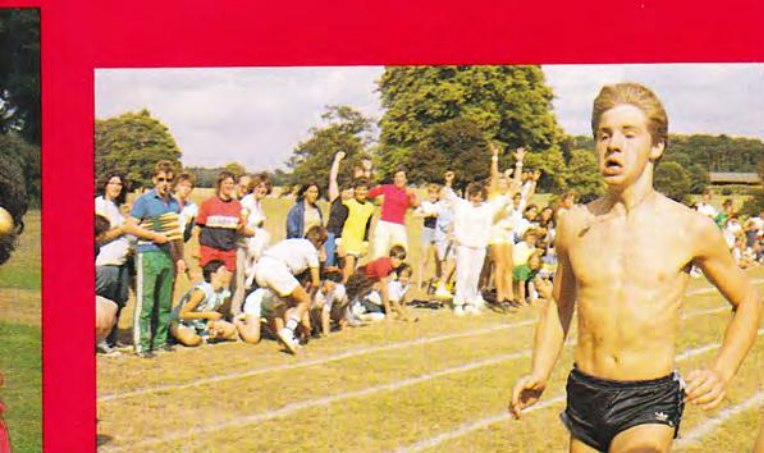
There is **no extra charge** for this Insurance. Every student is automatically covered (subject to the enclosed conditions) when the application is accepted.

How we look after children

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 1:8 ensures that the children are well looked after.



Felipe (Spain), Tilman (Germany), Robert (Sweden) and Jan Fredrik (Norway) playing volleyball



having with us will be internationally-minded, interested in English, outgoing 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 they will benefit

We hope that our students will learn a great deal of English, make good friendships and develop a positive international feelings. As well as formal study, we concentrate on the holiday aspect of the Course. While we try to involve students in all the activities, we naturally respect the wishes of those who like to read quietly or be with friends. Over the years, we have built up an excellent reputation with parents and children all over the world. Many boys and girls spend several summers with us renewing old friendships and making new ones. Most children come to us on personal recommendation. 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.

Teacher's Report

To ensure that all our students are well-motivated and keen to participate, we ask for a brief teacher's report with all applications from new students. This should mention attitude to study and behaviour. No report is needed for students we already know.

How we encourage the use of English

On each Course there are students from many different countries. We try to ensure a mixture of nationalities in classes and dormitories. We aim to stimulate the speaking of English socially in various ways. Members of staff constantly encourage English-speaking around the School; they also sit on children's tables at every meal. Some meals have internationally mixed seating plans, although for most meals students may sit wherever they wish.

Another 'encouragement' to speak English is the 'English Only Raffle' with a valuable prize for the winner — a 'Walkman' cassette player, or similar. Every student is entitled to one raffle ticket each week if he has spoken English much more than his own language during the week. Throughout the Course there will also be 'English Only Bonus' days. If a student is noticeably using English and is not caught more than once using any language other than English on that day, he will gain an extra ticket — a 'bonus'. At the end of four weeks there will be a draw for the lucky ticket. The more tickets, the greater the chance of winning the prize. We hope that the prize will be a positive inducement for students to use English.

Religion

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

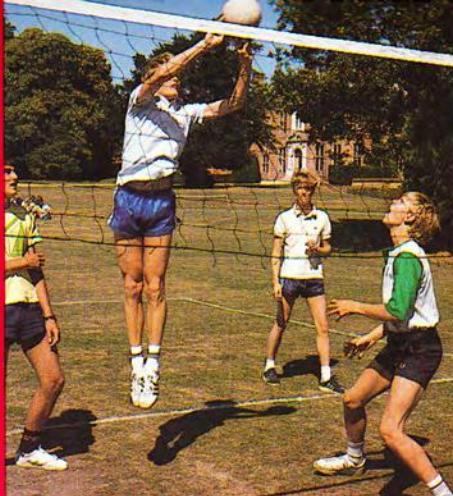
The Jörg Weise Memorial Trophy

This is awarded occasionally for 'an outstanding contribution to the ideals of the Course'. The Trophy was presented to Vocational 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 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 the sort of student outlined above who will benefit from attending the Course, but who is unable to apply for a place in the normal way for financial reasons. We welcome nominations for the Scholarship in 1986 which should be sent in confidence, and without informing the potential recipient, to Vocational Studies.

The Course Fee includes:-



Felipe (Spain), Tilman (Germany), Robert (Sweden) and Jan Fredrik (Norway) playing volleyball



Axel (Germany) in the relay on Sports Day

Noa (Israel) missing the ball

In addition to the staff, on each Course there is an older ex-student, a 'Staff Helper', 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 report from the Director on the student's general progress and behaviour.

If there is a problem

We shall contact you. We send students a list of rules and standards of behaviour expected before the Course begins. These are straightforward. Basically, we expect children to respect the buildings, equipment and the feelings of other people and show good manners.

If a child is correctly motivated (see section on 'Children who will benefit') there should be no discipline problems, but if any 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 without refund of Fees. Parents must, therefore, ensure that we have a telephone number through which they can always be contacted.

Children who will benefit

Please make sure that our Course is suitable for your child and that he/she wants to come. The children who will benefit and we enjoy

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The Course Fee includes:-

- residence at the school
- all meals*
- tuition
- the sports programme
- the use of facilities
- excursions and one basic entrance fee
- comprehensive insurance
- the laundering of clothes
- (*except lunch on the visits to London and the third excursion).

There are **no extra charges** except for optional church, theatre or shopping visits and professional tennis and horse-riding lessons. A small (75p) deduction is made from pocket money to provide indoor board games.

The Course Fee does not include:-

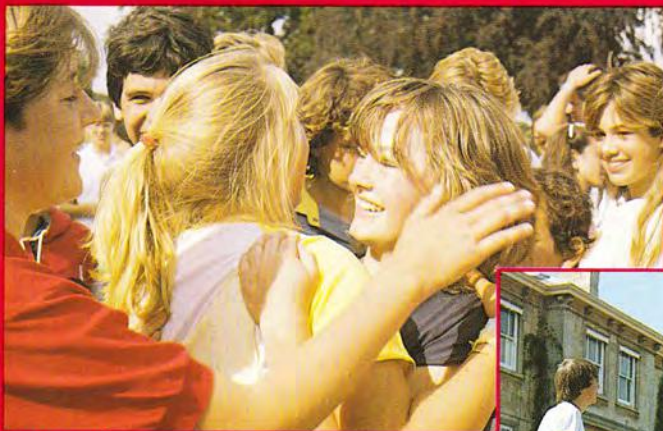
- pocket money
- optional church, shopping and theatre visits
- travel to and from England
- travel from Airport to School and School to Airport*
- (*This is available at a small extra charge. Please see section on 'Travel').

How to apply

Answer all the questions on the Application Form and (if we do not know your child) 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. (Please note — in some countries we understand tax relief is allowed on all or some of the Fees). The place is confirmed when

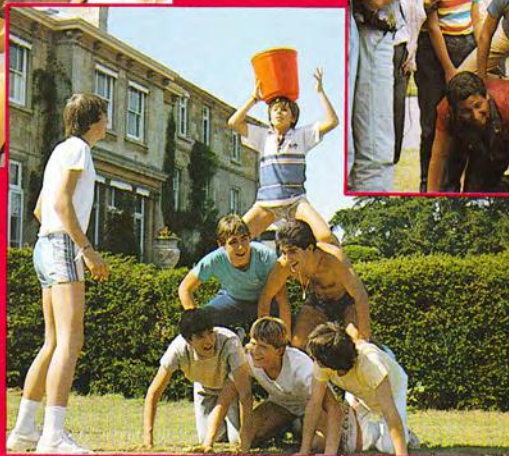


Jubilation!



and at Elstree...

Pyramid at Mary Hare



the full Course Fees have been received by us. We shall also request travel details.

Travel

It is quite safe for children to fly alone. For young children, Airlines operate an 'Unaccompanied Young Persons' service and look after them. There are many cut-price air-ticket offers — for early booking, for young people, or for travel on particular flights. We operate a standard collection and return transport service between Heathrow Airport and the Schools on arrival and departure for a small charge (see Fee slip). Our staff can meet students on flights arriving at Heathrow and check-in students on outgoing flights from Heathrow on the stated dates. Our staff are at Heathrow from 12.00-18.00 on arrival days and from 09.00-13.00 on departure days. If flights arrive earlier than 12.00, students can wait for our representative near the 'Information' desk. If flights leave after 13.00, we shall take students to wait in the correct area and explain the procedure. For arrivals or departures outside our requested times, parents are asked to indicate on the Travel Details form their agreement to children being at Heathrow without our staff. This is absolutely straightforward and safe.

We can make special taxi or minibus arrangements on your behalf if your child must arrive later or leave earlier than our dates or times, or if arrival or departure is at Gatwick Airport. There is no extra charge for our making arrangements for you, but instead of our stated collection/return service charge, the taxi or minibus charges are payable direct by students. (As a guide, a one-way taxi to Heathrow is about £30 and to Gatwick £40.) Please indicate any special requirements on the Application Form and send details separately.

At the Airport

Before travelling, we send an identity badge and luggage tags to ensure quick recognition. Our representative will also be wearing a badge, carrying a large 'Vacational Studies' sign and will meet your child at the entrance to the Arrivals Hall after leaving the Customs Hall.

If you do not take our standard collection/return service, but we make other arrangements for you, the same procedure applies.

If you come by car

Road directions are given by the Schools' addresses. Parents bringing their children to the School are asked to come between 12.30 and 14.30. Parents collecting children from the Schools on the last day are asked to come before 11.00.

Pocket money

Pocket money can either be brought by your child, or sent in

Cheam School

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

Address for students' letters:

Cheam School
Headley Newbury Berkshire RG15 8LD.
Telephone (to contact Course Manager only):
Headley 242 (STD code 063523) (Mornings, please).

Elstree School

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

Address for students' letters:

Elstree School
Woolhampton Reading RG7 5TD.
Telephone (to contact Course Manager only):
Woolhampton 712725 (STD code 0734) (Mornings, please).

Hawtreys

From London, follow M4 to Exit 14 (Hungerford/Wantage). Take A338 to Hungerford, then turn right onto A4, through Hungerford and through Froxfield. 5km. past Froxfield, turn left at signpost 'Burbage 5'. Follow this road for 5km. and turn right at signpost 'Savernake/Burbage'. Continue for 2km. and turn left over cattle grid at sign 'Tottenham House'. Hawtreys is at the end of the drive.

Address for students' letters:

Hawtreys
Savernake Forest
Marlborough Wiltshire SN8 3BA
Telephone (to contact Course Manager only):
Marlborough 870331 (STD code 0672) (Mornings, please).

By train from London, leave from Paddington Station. For Mary Hare and Cheam, arrive at Newbury Station. For Elstree, arrive at Reading Station. For Hawtreys, arrive at Pewsey Station. There are normally taxis at Newbury Station, if not you will find telephone numbers in the telephone box just outside the Station. There are always taxis at Reading Station. At Pewsey Station, you must telephone for a taxi.

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It is quite safe for children to fly alone. For young children, Airlines operate an 'Unaccompanied Young Persons' service and look after them. There are many cut-price air-ticket offers — for early booking, for young people, or for travel on particular flights. We operate a standard collection and return transport service between Heathrow Airport and the Schools on arrival and departure for a small charge (see Fee slip). Our staff can meet students on flights arriving at Heathrow and check-in students on outgoing flights from Heathrow on the stated dates. Our staff are at Heathrow from 12.00-18.00 on arrival days and from 09.00-13.00 on departure days. If flights arrive earlier than 12.00, students can wait for our representative near the 'Information' desk. If flights leave after 13.00, we shall take students to wait in the correct area and explain the procedure. For arrivals or departures outside our requested times, parents are asked to indicate on the Travel Details form their agreement to children being at Heathrow without our staff. This is absolutely straightforward and safe.

We can make special taxi or minibus arrangements on your behalf if your child must arrive later or leave earlier than our dates or times, or if arrival or departure is at Gatwick Airport. There is no extra charge for our making arrangements for you, but instead of our stated collection/return service charge, the taxi or minibus charges are payable direct by students. (As a guide, a one-way taxi to Heathrow is about £30 and to Gatwick £40.) Please indicate any special requirements on the Application Form and send details separately.

At the Airport

Before travelling, we send an identity badge and luggage tags to ensure quick recognition. Our representative will also be wearing a badge, carrying a large 'Vacational Studies' sign and will meet your child at the entrance to the Arrivals Hall after leaving the Customs Hall.

If you do not take our standard collection/return service, but we make other arrangements for you, the same procedure applies.

If you come by car

Road directions are given by the Schools' addresses. Parents bringing their children to the School are asked to come between 12.30 and 14.30. Parents collecting children from the Schools on the last day are asked to come before 11.00.

Pocket money

Pocket money can either be brought by your child, or sent in advance to the National Westminster Bank, 30 Market Place, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5AJ, ('Vacational Studies Pocket Money A/C 65400100'). We recommend between £80 — £120 for the month and add optional sports coaching fees, if applicable. Pocket money should be brought in £ Sterling cash high value (£20) notes.

Clothes and possessions

Notes and advice on what to bring and other information will be sent to parents and students in advance.

On arrival at the School

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

On the first day

Each new student will be allocated to a returning student who will act as a 'guide' explaining the layout of the building, the way the Course runs and answering any questions.

Schools' addresses and directions

The Mary Hare School

From London follow M4 to Exit 13 (Newbury). Leave M4 and follow signs 'A34 Newbury'. After 1km. take slip road on left signposted 'Curridge/Winterbourne/Hermitage', then immediately right signposted 'Winterbourne/Donnington', then left signposted 'Donnington'. The Mary Hare School is first on the right.

Address for students' letters:

The Mary Hare School
Newbury Berkshire RG16 9BQ.
Telephone (to contact Course Manager only):
Chieveley 248464 (STD code 0635) (Mornings, please).

Cheam School

Headley Newbury Berkshire RG15 8LD.

Telephone (to contact Course Manager only);

Headley 242 (STD code 063523) (Mornings, please).

Elstree School

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

Address for students' letters:

Elstree School

Woolhampton Reading RG7 5TD.

Telephone (to contact Course Manager only):

Woolhampton 712725 (STD code 0734) (Mornings, please).

Hawtreys

From London, follow M4 to Exit 14 (Hungerford/Wantage). Take A338 to Hungerford, then turn right onto A4, through Hungerford and through Froxfield. 5km. past Froxfield, turn left at signpost 'Burbage 5'. Follow this road for 5km. and turn right at signpost 'Savernake/Burbage'. Continue for 2km. and turn left over cattle grid at sign 'Tottenham House'. Hawtreys is at the end of the drive.

Address for students' letters:

Hawtreys

Savernake Forest

Marlborough Wiltshire SN8 3BA

Telephone (to contact Course Manager only):

Marlborough 870331 (STD code 0672) (Mornings, please).

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Finally...

We have tried to describe the Courses fully and frankly. We hope 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 list) and the Director. We suggest that you contact our parental references as they may offer 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.

As we take only a limited number of students from any particular country, we suggest you apply early. A 'waiting list' operates when the Courses are full.

Biographical Note

Ian Mucklejohn — who, as the Director, co-ordinates the Schools — was born in London, 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 organising Language Courses and in teaching as Head of an English Department.



Vacational Studies

Pepys' Oak Tydehams Newbury Berkshire RG14 6JT

Telephone: Newbury 41867 (STD code 0635)

Telegrams: Vacstuds, Newbury, Berkshire.

Telex: 848507 (Attn: VACS)

Vacational Studies '84/'85

News-Sheet



Ilona (Netherlands) and Peter (Germany) in the relay on Sports Day



'T-shirt and shorts' swimming race at Elstree

probably Oxford for Mary Hare, Basingstoke for Cheam, or Elstree and Swindon for Hawtreys.

edtime

ut back by 15 minutes for 1984, but will revert to 22.30 at the 1985 Courses. If seniors are co-operative at bedtime, this is 22.45 at the discretion of the Course Manager.

ling

any activities at the School, students away horse riding for a month missed out on too large a part of the have, therefore, reduced the number of lessons to six. The proportionally less, too. So that everyone can ride at the same time waiting, the number of riders at each school is limited

Weise Trophy

this has been awarded for the 'greatest all-round man to the Course' at each School. Students, knowing that will be presented, have been tempted to guess who will win. We have speculated that contributions to the Course have been order to win, maybe because of the widely-held belief that winners become Student Helpers. The qualities I look for in helpers are, however, not only found in Trophy winners. awarding the Trophy for 'an outstanding contribution to the Course'. The Trophy will, therefore, be awarded only to, not at every School every year. The basis on which the awarded is deliberately wide.

ne ideals of the Course? We set out to achieve a al community in which young people can realise that andes are not barriers and that we can all communicate ur cultural and linguistic differences. We communicate in s, obviously by using English, but also by involvement in activities. A contribution to the ideals of the Course can orms but is, in essence, an awareness of the wider aims of ism combined with positive action during the Course — it — to achieve these aims.

ies are distinct from sporting prowess, gregariousness, xtroversion and friendliness. We have many students who ling in these respects and such people would make dent Helpers. For the Trophy, I am looking in particular gent to the international ideal and the willingness by action t to work to this end. While I take the views of others into

account, as the ideals of the Course go beyond the four weeks, the decision must be my own.

The 1984 winners of the Jörg Weise Trophy were:- Oliver Thomas, Stéphane Lobono and Franck Lobono at Mary Hare; Tilman Ehret at Cheam; Laurent Fève, Ilona Molhuysen and Isabel Santamaría at Elstree; Hans van den Hout at Hawtreys.

'Student Helpers'/'Staff Helpers'

They are generally over 18, have all the benefits of the Staff Room and are with us to help students rather than as students themselves. The title 'Student Helper' is ambiguous and really a misnomer, albeit a well-understood term with us. As I wish 'SHs' to be seen by students and staff as responsible adults, I shall change the title to 'Staff Helpers'. Traditionally, ex-students contact me if they wish to be considered as 'SHs' and I have already received several requests. It is also likely that I shall appoint a former student as my Personal Assistant for the duration of the Courses.

Year-Round Courses

After so many years limiting my work to children in the 11-17 age-range for just four weeks in the summer, and as a command of English is now essential for every professional person, it would make sense for me to offer Courses with more emphasis on 'study' than 'vacation' to adults during the rest of the year. I am actively exploring this possibility and shall circulate everyone connected with Vacational Studies when I have more detailed information to give.

And finally...

My thanks to everyone connected with the Courses: to the parents who have entrusted us with their children, I hope we have returned them wiser and more fulfilled; to the students who are every year among the brightest and most pleasant of their generation; to the staff who have put in long hours and stamped their personalities on each Course; to the Staff Helpers who have so clearly demonstrated their love for the Course — and to all who believe in the work we do and who recommend us to so many people in so many countries. We still do not advertise; we use no travel agencies; our waiting list starts early and is embarrassingly long.... All who hear about us do so in the very best way — by word of mouth.

Ian G. Mucklejohn — Autumn 1984

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Printed in England





Fernando (Spain) and Ed (Netherlands), previous Trophy winners, with Laurent and Hans (Netherlands) at the Trophy presentation at Hawtreus

These are optional visits, not programmed excursions. We arrange transport and staff accompany the coach, but if students wish to go, they pay for it. For 1984, I chose towns that were interesting for sight-seeing as well as shopping, but it is clear that almost everyone goes around the shops rather than the sights. It is also clear that students will go on shopping trips whenever possible and will be tempted to waste their pocket money. There will be only three shopping afternoons in 1985 – two to Newbury and one to a town near each

These qualities are distinct from sporting prowess, gregariousness, popularity, extroversion and friendliness. We have many students who are outstanding in these respects and such people would make excellent Student Helpers. For the Trophy, I am looking in particular for commitment to the international ideal and the willingness by action and example to work to this end. While I take the views of others into

My thanks to everyone connected with the Courses: to the teachers who have entrusted us with their children, I hope we have repaid them wiser and more fulfilled; to the students who are everywhere among the brightest and most pleasant of their generation; to those who have put in long hours and stamped their personalities on the Course; to the Staff Helpers who have so clearly demonstrated their love for the Course — and to all who believe in the work we do. I would recommend us to so many people in so many countries that I do not advertise; we use no travel agencies; our waiting list stands at 1000 and is embarrassingly long.... All who hear about us do so in the best way — by word of mouth.

© Vocational Studies MCMLXXXIV



Elstree '84



for the children in our care continues 24 hours a day, week — a daunting prospect, but a necessary realisation. pools and 340 students to oversee, I decided to delegate the academic side of the Course to a peripatetic studies whose function was to check on the correct students, observe the teaching to assess its effectiveness in lessons and afterwards discuss ideas and techniques. Such a post demanded not only skill and experience of English as a Foreign Language, but an enormous t so that advice would not be seen as criticism and of misconstrued as interference. I searched hard for the judiciously given and seen as constructive by the staff. analysis of the linguistic side of the Course has provided recommendations.

Assistant Course Manager at Hawtreys (made revisions of Work' she devised for us in 1983 so, in one way the staff were given more support than ever before. In al staff changed Schools this year to give the benefit of ce to new recruits.

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postgraduate course in the Teaching of English Overseas at the University of Manchester.

With our most experienced Course Manager, Tony Chew, now in his sixth year with us, leading a staff who were constantly and volubly active, working hard to make the Cheam Course successful, we had expected the students to be similarly participatory. Many were, but a lead from the older students was lacking. Every student needs to give as well as take and we felt that too many of the returning seniors spent time, perfectly happily, with old friends, not considering the Course as a corporate experience in which everyone has a part to play. The staff kept the 'atmosphere' going and full credit goes to Lucinda Smiles, our Sports and Social Organiser, who co-ordinated activities so well. One of the high-spots was the Revue which was considered the best ever. Back again as Student Helper par excellence was Jacopo Gasparetto and Rita Gundersen made her mark as our first girl Student Helper.

I know Cheam students since 1979 would like to congratulate Tony Chew on his recent appointment as Head of History and Housemaster at Clayesmore School, Blandford Forum, Dorset.

"We were all together" sums up Elstree '84. This was an outstanding Course with the vast majority of the students integrating inter-nationally and joining in the spirit of active involvement that prevailed. The returning students set a superb example. Brian Holden, firmly in charge in his second year as Course Manager, led a strong team of staff, many of whom already had the benefit of boarding experience, and the Student Helpers, Laurent Fève and Ernesto Marti, were great value. Nick Swann took charge as Sports and Social Organiser and domestic arrangements were once again in Shirley Guest's capable hands. The Revue, the Swimming Gala and the competitions were all of the highest standard ever, emphasising what a talented group of students and staff we had this year.

Hawtreys was the great experiment for 1984. For most staff posts on this new Course, I decided to appoint those who had proved their worth on other Courses in previous years. David Robertson was Course Manager for the third time, ably assisted by Val Ford, in her sixth year with us. Debbie Charlesworth was Matron for the third time and Mike Kidd, who did such a splendid job at Cheam last year, was Sports and Social Organiser. Our experienced Student Helpers, Ed Bergsma and Fernando Silva, were exemplary and helped make the newcomers aware of what the Course is about.

That Hawtreys has become established so quickly is a tribute to all involved. Right from the start we had excellent co-operation from



Petra (Germany), Trophy winner 1983, with her brother, Oliver, and Stéphane and Franck (Monaco) at the Jörg Weise Trophy presentation at Mary Hare



Jacopo (Italy) and Rita (Norway), previous Trophy winners, with Tilman at the Trophy presentation at Cheam

Gerald and Barbara Watts, the Headmaster and his wife, and Edmund Baillie, in charge of maintenance. They helped us come to terms with a labyrinthine building and smoothed our way. I can do no better than quote from David Robertson's post-Hawtreys letter to me: "....a memorable summer....I can honestly say that I have not enjoyed another school as much as I did this summer's one. The factors? Some excellent students, a first-class staff, a marvellous place and a great feeling of goodwill and helpfulness from everyone."

In this year's 'Walkman Raffle', I decided to let students have 'two bites at the cherry' with a radio and a cassette-player 'Walkman' at each School. Tickets were awarded fairly at silent Staff Meetings by a simple majority vote. 'Walkman' winners were: Claudia Clemente and Thomas Rating (Mary Hare); Tiziana Fantuzzi and Eugenia Pantelides (Cheam); Francesco Martina and Mirjam Wolfsbergen (Elstree); Kristina Beckhaus and Atzmon Orkalsky (Hawtreys).

Catering

At the end of last year, I decided to change Caterers and appointed Grandmet Catering Services to provide meals at all the Schools. Grandmet's Regional Manager, Gordon Guile, and Hilary Dooley met me initially every month and, nearer the Courses, every two weeks to discuss and plan the catering. I wrote a 'Notes for Catering Staff' which was incorporated into their training programme. The preparation was worthwhile and the result was greater choice, a more appealing menu, better presentation and improved service. The quality of catering depended more on the talents of the caterer at each School than the kitchen facilities and standards varied. It is just not possible to please everyone with institutional food, but I think we satisfied most people much of the time. Valuable lessons were learned and will be incorporated into arrangements for 1985.

National Meals

When I wrote to parents in April, advising that I had changed Caterers, I included a request for parents to tell me about a meal they thought their child would like on the Course. I received many recipes for favourite traditional meals everywhere from Iceland to Egypt. If enough parents are interested, I would be willing to type these up and produce a small booklet.

The Caterers co-operated willingly in helping students prepare National Meals. Some were deliciously different. Others, shall we say, lost a little in translation. Nevertheless, the students enjoyed the experience and it will be repeated.



Mary Hare '84

"We become so close during the four weeks. You can't imagine how well you can get to know someone in this time — and then we're pulled apart". For some students, indeed, it was a matter of prising them away from friends. Some farewells extended from the Heathrow check-in, up the escalators and across the departure hall. At such times, emotions run close to the surface; the 'memory books' appear during the last week; messages, addresses and birthdays are exchanged, then the little world we have created for four weeks disappears through 'Passport Control' for another year.

Yet the spirit of the Course lives on. Letters, telephone calls, reunions, but above all the feeling of being part of an international community mean that, in a sense, the summer never really ends. During the past year there have been several international get-togethers. One in Albstadt, Germany for example, was attended by students from as far apart as Norway and Italy. During the summer several former students and almost every recent Trophy winner came to visit us.

It is clear from all the letters I receive that no student, however quiet or unspontaneous, is untouched by the experience. For some the benefits are obvious — total participation, non-stop English, plenty of friends. It is not so easy to spot the shy child who now knows a little independence; the solitary child who has found a real friend; the outsider who has felt the joy of belonging.

The letters I am receiving from parents, students and even staff are almost embarrassing in superlatives — "it is a real source of joy and satisfaction for all of us to see how very obviously the children have enjoyed their month....". Modesty prevents me from quoting more!

Summer '84 remembered

England's green and pleasant land looked faded and brown, there was water-rationing in the west and the rainfall was the lowest for years, but we had few complaints about the weather. Bright, warm days arrived with a delightful predictability and the sun even joined us on Sports Day.

As promised in last year's 'News-Sheet', where the team-work did not work, I changed the team. As the success of each Course is so dependent on the staff, I also incorporated a few changes designed to prepare everyone connected with our work more comprehensively for the rigours of the four weeks. My 'Notes for Staff' (variously described as 'draconian' and 'useful') were expanded to include points which I had previously — wrongly — assumed to be self-evident. These 'Notes' will be further extended for 1985 for the benefit of those new to boarding education who may not fully appreciate that our



First Course at Hawtreys

responsibility for the children in our care continues 24 hours a day, seven days a week — a daunting prospect, but a necessary realisation.

With four Schools and 340 students to oversee, I decided to delegate supervision of the academic side of the Course to a peripatetic Director of Studies whose function was to check on the correct placement of students, observe the teaching to assess its effectiveness and to sit in on lessons and afterwards discuss ideas and techniques with the teacher. Such a post demanded not only skill and experience in the teaching of English as a Foreign Language, but an enormous amount of tact so that advice would not be seen as criticism and observation not misconstrued as interference. I searched hard for the right person — and found him in Bill Horncastle whose guidance and support were judiciously given and seen as constructive by the staff. His detailed analysis of the linguistic side of the Course has provided useful recommendations.

Val Ford (our Assistant Course Manager at Hawtreys) made revisions to the 'Programme of Work' she devised for us in 1983 so, in one way or another, all the staff were given more support than ever before. In addition, several staff changed Schools this year to give the benefit of their experience to new recruits.

Heather Starkey's five years' experience with us as a teacher and her complete awareness of what the Course is about, enabled her to provide a much-needed lead at Mary Hare where almost all the staff were new this year. Once again, a large number of the students were old hands returning, so the combination was interesting. On the sports and social side, Stuart Hinson and the Student Helpers, Victor Alberola and Oliver Thomas, proved a youthful and enthusiastic trio who led a supportive staff by example and encouragement. A notable effort was made by some of the older students to take over the coaching and captaining of teams and help generally backstage. The strains of the 'Mary Hare Calypso' were heard once again and the atmosphere of camaraderie — fierce loyalty even — among the students was strong.

Shortly before the Course, the Mary Hare School authorities told me that building work on new bathrooms in the Manor House would mean using four dormitories in another building in the grounds. While this means improved facilities for 1985, it presented duty staff with a great deal more ground to cover when supervising the School. It reflects well on their teamwork that, in this respect as in many others, they were well able to cope.

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