

Vacational Studies '86

English internationally...



Residential English Language Courses

Vacational Studies Courses have been running for 15 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 1986.

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 1986 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 95 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

6 July — 3 August 1986

Cheam

17 July — 14 August 1986

Elstree

20 July — 17 August 1986

Hawtreys

23 July — 20 August 1986

(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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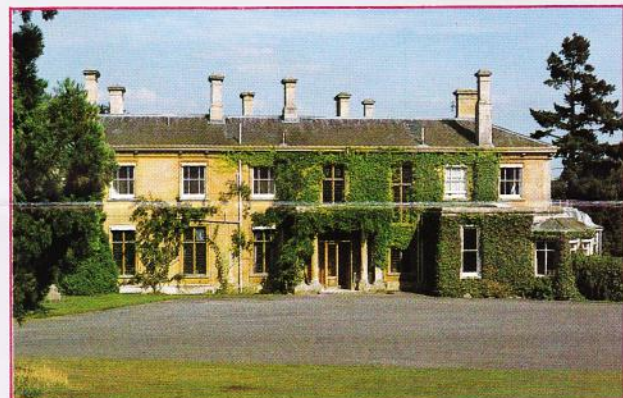
Elstree

20 July — 17 August 1986

Hawtreys

23 July — 20 August 1986

(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 1986, there will be two excursions to London. One will be principally for sightseeing 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 80p to £1.30.

Theatre Visit (Optional Extra)

Among London's world-famous theatrical productions, 'Starlight Express' is ideal for our students. It is, however, fully booked months ahead. For 1986, we have already reserved 50 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 £11.

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, students will be given a special discount on the Course Fee.

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.



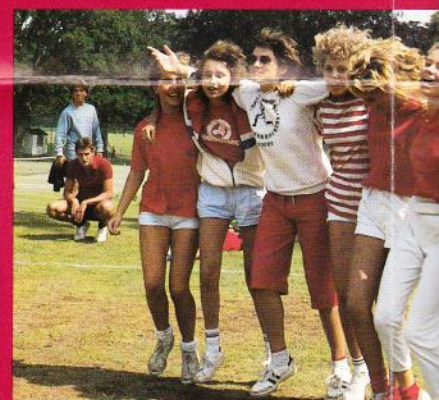
Preparing the French 'National Meal' at Cheam



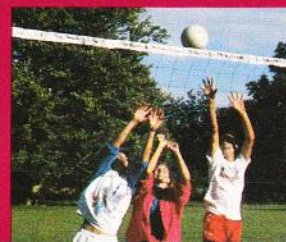
Ivor trying to teach Tale (Norway) tennis



Alvaro (Spain) and Hans Peter (Netherlands) playing basketball



Celebrating



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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

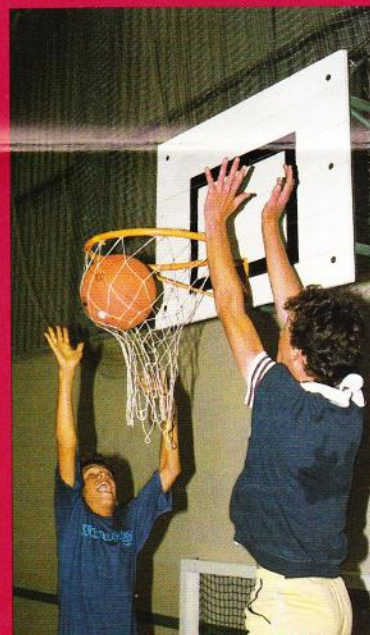
We realise that food is an important part of the Course. Meals are prepared and served at the Schools. Students are able to select from a choice of two hot meals or a mixed salad bar. Fresh fruit and vegetables are always included. Cold orange juice is available at all times. A typical day's menu is:

Breakfast:

Choice of cereal
Hot rolls and butter
Marmalade and jam
Tea or coffee

Preparing the French 'National Meal' at Cheam

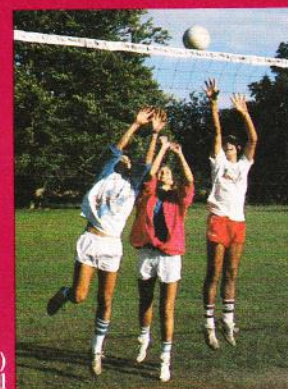
Ivor trying to teach Tale (Norway) tennis



Alvaro (Spain) and Hans Peter (Netherlands) playing basketball



Celebrating



Marzio (Italy), Alexandra (Norway) and Oscar (Spain) playing volleyball

What the Elstro

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
12.05	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.

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 feeling. 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; some 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 or she has spoken English much more than his/her 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 or she 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 1987 which should be sent in confidence, and without informing the potential recipient, to Vocational Studies.

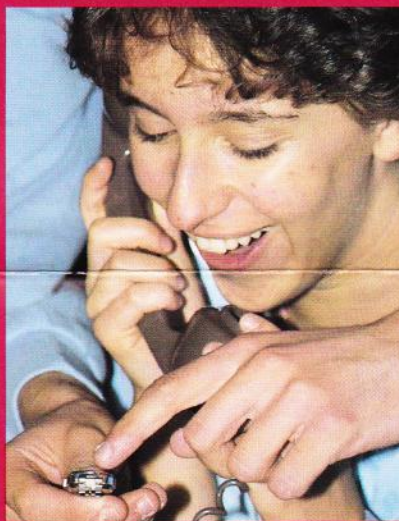
The Course Fee includes:-



'T-shirt and shorts' swimming race at Elstree

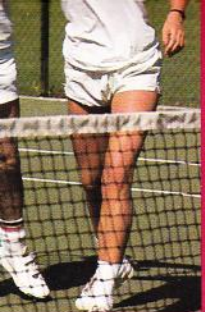


Corporations at Sports Day



Exceeding the time limit on 'Telephone Sunday'

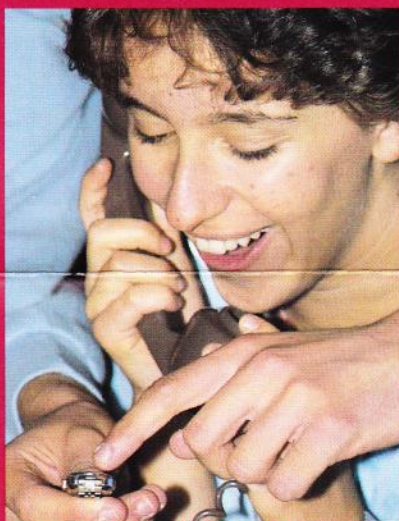




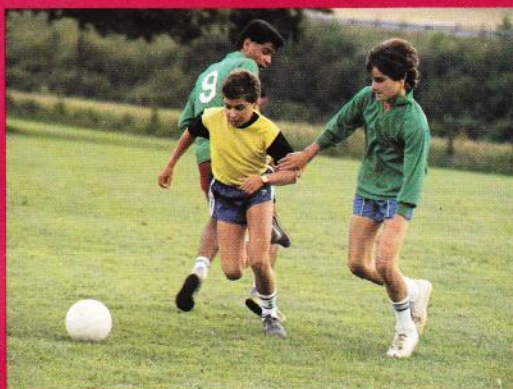
'T-shirt and shorts' swimming race at Elstree



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t the referee didn't see in
Elstree v Hawtreys match
on Sports Day

In addition to the staff, on each Course there are two older ex-students, 'Staff Helpers', 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 (£1) 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

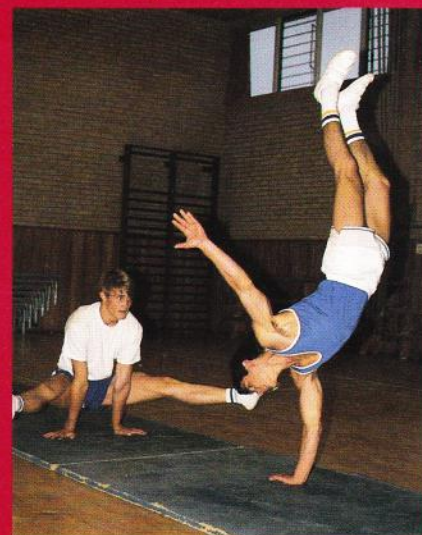


'Casino'



Practising the German entry for the 'Eurovision Song Contest' at Cheam

Gymnastics from Sebastian (Germany) and Nicholas (Greece)



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 12.00-17.00 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 £33 and to Gatwick £44.) 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,

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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Finally

flights arriving at Heathrow and check-in students on outgoing flights from Heathrow on the stated dates. Our staff are at Heathrow from 12.00-17.00 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 £33 and to Gatwick £44.) 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 £90 — £130 for the month and add optional sports coaching fees, if applicable. Pocket money should be brought in £ Sterling cash high value (£20 and £50) 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

On request, new students 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).

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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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.

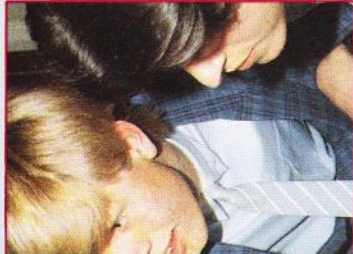


Vacational Studies

Pepys' Oak Tydehams Newbury Berkshire RG14 6JT
Telephone: Newbury 41867 & Newbury 35711 (STD code 0635)
Telegrams: Vacstuds, Newbury, Berkshire.
Telex: 848507 (Attn: VACS)

Vacational Studies '85/'86

News-Sheet



Andrik (Norway) at the



by the same writer. Tickets are sold out months ahead, so book 50 for each School well in advance.

Sports Day

It was the fourth excursion. The decision not to have an excursion this year was understood and well received. The staff of enthusiastic cheering and chanting — so much so that the boys and staff lost their voices the next day. The day was happy and lively and, while the competitions were contested, fair play and good sportsmanship prevailed.

It was the 'cheer-leading' was impressive and I am proud of the photographs of them all. From the arrival of Hawtreys down the drive to the chanting of my name at the end of the day, I must confess that, even with the reservations I have about such inter-School competitions, I actually almost

enjoyed it. The appointment of Bill Horncastle as peripatetic Director of Studies in 1985 has enabled me, through him, to gain an insight into the work of the staff and take a critical look at what is being taught and how it is being taught. Clearly an enormous amount of work is being done in the classroom. Nevertheless, I believe more guidance can be given to the teachers so Val Ford, who has been working on a revised 'work programme' for the English series will still be used, but the advanced books will be used earlier. We have observed that, more than ever before, the teachers who come to us tend to be highly motivated and capable. We shall also adopt a more advanced level. Generally a teacher remains with the same class throughout the Course. This ensures that a relationship between the teacher and his or her students' is maintained. We have suggested that teachers should occasionally for a few periods a week, this has rarely happened. We shall make this as part of our teaching programme for the summer in 1986.

Students are now well aware that Staff Helpers are not just for the Staff. What potential Staff Helpers may not be at all, I never make the first move of suggesting that a boy or girl should become a Staff Helper. I consider it shows initiative if the student from the student in the first place. So, if there are senior students who wish me to add their names to the list of those hoping to



Leverkusen, Easter '85. The Trophy Holders with the Weise family and Ian Mucklejohn
Magali (Monaco) at the Trophy presentation at Elstree with Trophy Holder Laurent (France)

be 'SHs' — they should write to me immediately!

Most 'SHs' know instinctively how they can be most helpful, but a few may appreciate more guidance. The new 'Notes for Staff Helpers' will be slightly more prescriptive than before.

The Jörg Weise Trophy

I awarded this for 'an outstanding contribution to the ideals of the Course' to Talitha de Jong Luneau and Guglielmo Pisapia at Mary Hare; Andrea Holz and Jan Fredrik Rosenberg at Cheam; Magali Girod at Elstree; Maurien Cosijn at Hawtreys. I took staff views into account as far as possible and found it very hard to make the choice. As I said in the last 'News-Sheet', I look for an awareness of the wider aims of internationalism combined with positive action during the Course — and outside it — to achieve these aims.

The Jörg Weise Association

At the kind invitation of Prof. Dr. and Frau Weise, the Trophy Holders and I joined the Weise family as their guests in Leverkusen at Easter. It was decided that the 'Jörg Weise Association' be formed comprising, initially at least, the Trophy Holders and Lutz and Maren Weise. Prof. Dr. and Frau Weise and I were invited to become Honorary Members. The scope of the Association and its Constitution have yet to be decided. A further meeting is planned in Venice at Easter 1986. More news later....

And finally...

My continuing thanks to the staff whose personalities give each Course its special character; the Staff Helpers whose affection for and understanding of the Courses ensure the continuity of the Vocational Studies ethos among the students from year to year; the parents who deliver into my care their most precious possessions and the students who are always among the finest of their generation. I very much appreciate the confidence everyone has in me to organise what must be among the best experiences a young person can have. To all those who have mentioned us to friends and relatives, my special thanks. Our only advertising is recommendation — and this is all I want it to be.

Ian G. Mucklejohn — Autumn 1985

Hawtreys '85



Cheam '85



Mary Hare '85

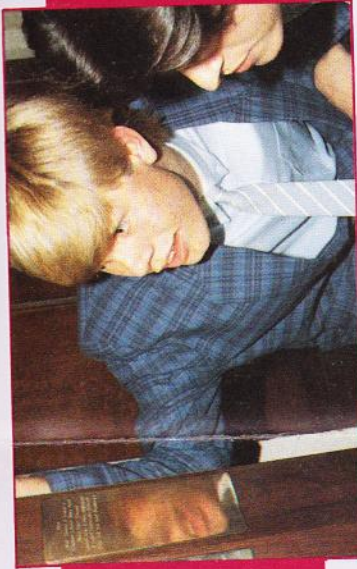


Elstree '85





Maurien (Netherlands) at the Trophy presentation at Hawtreys with Trophy Holders Ed (Netherlands), Jesus and Fernando (Spain)



Andrea (Germany) and Jan Fredrik (Norway) at the Trophy presentation at Cheam



Magali (Monaco) at the Trophy presentation at Elstree with Trophy Holder Laurent (France)



Leverkusen, Easter '85 with the Weise family

not going well. An adjustment to the personnel at Elstree, for example, meant that the food improved noticeably after a shaky start. Two former students of ours who wanted to work in the summer, were employed by the Caterers at Mary Hare. The work was hard, but they enjoyed the experience. The idea of 'national meals' was continued. Some were excellent.

The last meal at each School was formal this year. At Hawtreys, the top class volunteered to be waiters and waitresses and served everyone. This is a splendid idea and will be recommended at all Schools next year.

The 'Rules'

The new 'rules' concerned the use of fire escapes and smoking. I have already mentioned the former. Either all our students were non-smokers this year, or very discreet about it. It was not a 'problem'. For non-smokers like me, it was difficult to be in the Staff Rooms where tobacco fumes hung penetratingly. Now that I have non-smoking students, I shall see what I can do about the staff....

Excursions for 1986

This year's arrangements worked well and will be continued with slight variations. It is clear that what constitutes a child's idea of a good trip may be different from what a parent thinks. Provided the shopping element is balanced by an amount of sightseeing, everyone should be happy. There will be two excursions to London — one for shopping with a little sightseeing and one for sightseeing with a little shopping. The third excursion will again be optional with students and staff discussing where to go. We shall bear their requests in mind before making a decision. Students preferring a quiet day at School will not be obliged to go.

As an additional safety measure and as some older students do not like to wear our badge, whenever they are out of School, all students will be required to have with them a copy of 'Notes for Students'. This will contain a 'help square'. In case they become lost, they will be told to show the 'help square' to anyone in uniform. The square will give a telephone number and a promise that we shall pay any expenses incurred. I shall have enough 'Notes' printed to ensure that every student can have one on each trip.

'Cats'

The idea of booking 50 tickets for 'Cats' at each School eight months ahead proved successful and all who went told me how much they had enjoyed it. 'Memories' became the Course song. I am tempted to repeat this in 1986, but as so many students are returning, I have decided to book for 'Starlight Express' — another 'smash-hit' West

End musical by the same writer. Tickets are sold out months ahead, so I shall again book 50 for each School well in advance.

4-School Sports Day

This will again be the fourth excursion. The decision not to have an overall points score this year was understood and well received. The day was full of enthusiastic cheering and chanting — so much so that several students and staff lost their voices the next day. The atmosphere was happy and lively and, while the competitions were keenly contested, fair play and good sportsmanship prevailed.

The effort put into the 'cheer-leading' was impressive and I am including photographs of them all. From the arrival of Hawtreys dancing a conga down the drive to the chanting of my name at the end of the day, I must confess that, even with the reservations I have about the value of such inter-School competitions, I actually almost enjoyed it.

The teaching

The appointment of Bill Horncastle as peripatetic Director of Studies in 1984 and 1985 has enabled me, through him, to gain an insight into every classroom and take a critical look at what is being taught and what methods and materials are being used. Clearly an enormous amount of good work is being done in the classroom. Nevertheless, I feel that even more guidance can be given to the teachers so Val Ford, Bill Horncastle and I will be working on a revised 'work programme' incorporating some changes based on our experience. The excellent 'Streamline English' series will still be used, but the advanced books will be introduced earlier. We have observed that, more than ever before, the students who come to us tend to be highly motivated and capable. To encourage teachers to 'stretch' the students, we shall also adopt a new series at a more advanced level. Generally a teacher remains with the class throughout the Course. This ensures that a relationship develops and that the teacher is always aware of his or her students' needs. While we have suggested that teachers should occasionally swap classes for a few periods a week, this has rarely happened. We shall introduce this as part of our teaching programme for the advanced classes in 1986.

Staff Helpers

It is clear that students are now well aware that Staff Helpers are not necessarily Trophy Holders. What potential Staff Helpers may not be aware of is that I never make the first move of suggesting that a boy or girl may like to become a Staff Helper. I consider it shows initiative if the request comes from the student in the first place. So, if there are senior students who wish me to add their names to the list of those hoping to

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Ian G. Mucklejohn — Autumn 1985



Elstree Cheer-Leaders



Hawtreys Cheer-Leaders



Talitha (Netherlands) and Guglielmo (Italy) at the Trophy presentation at Mary Hare



chants, teams were keyed up and ready — and, in the week of soaking wet days, 31 July dawned bright, clear and bright!

Anyway, the daily downpours became largely irrelevant. None of our letters I have received has mentioned the subject. Our curriculum programme has now become so developed and so such a wealth of ideas for sports and games, that really more of a bonus than a necessity.

My new students at Mary Hare and a rather lower average as quite a change in the atmosphere — mainly for the almost completely new staff adjusted quickly to the ethos, helped by the experience of Heather Starkey, returning in her first year as Course Manager and her seventh year with us, Hawkins, back again as Acting Course Manager. Talitha and Oliver Thomas as Staff Helpers gave the benefit of experience on the Course. Richard Prior was in his first year as Sports/Social Organiser and, as well as a full and varied programme of events, masterminded a big Sports Day.

Peace of life at Mary Hare led to quite a few bumps and changes in temperature to several coughs and colds. The minor crises, are all 'par for the Course' and only to be dealt with efficiently on the whole. What we did was to have half the number of washing machines we had and to find major building work going on inside the house. This meant more consideration in future. Last year's rebuilding involved bathrooms and new dormitories in part of the house. It did at Mary Hare include more renovation and we shall be the benefits next summer.

A wealth of experience on the staff at Cheam and we had a lot of returning students. Many students were returning and new ones had read the 'Notes' and were well-prepared. Sports Hall was put to good use and Stuart Hinson, the Organiser, devised an innovative programme, ably assisted by Staff Helpers, Andrea Holz and Jan Fredrik Rosenberg, who knew well what being an 'SH' entailed and lived up to all the demands. Judith Rigney did a splendid job as our new Matron, happily with the various illnesses and ensuring that the all-important side ran with as few hiccups as possible.

Co-operated well with the staff and inter-staff relations, although yet again tending to raucousness. Tony Chew, Manager for the sixth time, led with his customary efficiency

and our Acting Course Manager, Chris Gallen, back again for his sixth year, proved invaluable in liaising with the staff.

There has always been a rule banning fire escapes from normal use. This year, I made breach of this rule an expellable offence. At Cheam these escapes are vertical metal ladders, compulsory by law, but certainly to be used only as a last resort. It is such a pity that several boys broke this rule on the last night. We take our responsibilities seriously and will do all we can to prevent over-excited children endangering themselves. I hope that a lesson for the future will have been learned from the resulting expulsions. Sadly, because of this incident, we have lost a number of potential Staff Helpers.

Some 'old staff' who know me are becoming cautious about what they include in their letters to me, knowing that comments are apt to appear in the 'News-Sheet'.... In describing Elstree, however, I can do no better than use the words of one of our Staff Helpers: 'The reason why this Course was so good is that there was very good contact between staff and students. There was nothing going wrong with that relationship during the whole Course and I think that was because of Brian and Nick. They were really great'. There is little to add but my whole-hearted agreement. Brian Holden, now in his sixth year with us and his third as Course Manager, and Nick Swann, in his fourth year as Sports/Social Organiser and now also Acting Course Manager, helped create a superb atmosphere. The students did the rest. To the tune of 'Milord', the Elstree song ran: 'I've got an Elstree dream/If you know what I mean/I want to stay right here/Even if it takes a year/The staff is really great/The students integrate....' And they did!

Moments at Elstree stand out in my memory — the spontaneous formation dancing involving half the Course that just happened on the lawn one afternoon; the impeccably stage-managed 'Casino' due to end at 9 that ran on until 10.30; the mass weeping on the last morning when even our most grown-up students were red-eyed and damp-cheeked.

On the domestic front, Shirley Guest, Matron for the fifth year, was, as always, a gem. Staff Helpers Laurent Fève and Floris Toth completed a hard-working team.

Hawtreys, now in its second year, had the benefit of returning students and a remarkably strong staff. Our Staff Helpers, Maurien Cosin and Fernando Silva, well know the ethos of the Course and set the tone from the start. They were tireless in their work and did a remarkable job, helping to create a very positive atmosphere in a Course which is still new.

David Robertson was Course Manager again — his fourth year with

us — and this time his wife, Lynn, was Matron. Their young children, Susi and Russell, were quickly adopted as mascots and added to the family atmosphere of the Course. Last year I quoted from David's end-of-Course letter to describe Hawtreys. I can do so again: 'As for me, well (I have to watch what I say this year) — an excellent Course.'

Val Ford, our capable and experienced Acting Course Manager, has been less guarded: 'I was wondering why it should have been such an amazing ending — the most emotional last disco and airport returns I've ever experienced.... then it slowly started dawning on me that it was simply because it had been such a fantastic Course. I suppose I shouldn't really marvel that it was so good, because all the ingredients for success were there — Hawtreys '84 as an excellent precedent with enough returning staff and students to build on last year's foundation, a good mix of nationalities.... The new staff fitted in very well and were carried along by the atmosphere, the students were great — almost without exception.... It there's such a thing as an 'epitome of togetherness', Hawtreys '85 was it. After seven years, the whole Vacstuds experience is as incredible as ever.'

There is always another side, though, and while I appreciate the hard work put in, I must say that some of the students and even the staff had insufficient regard for the trust placed in us to safeguard the building and its contents. Changes based on lessons learned this year will be incorporated next year and the 'Notes for Staff' will be made yet more specific.

For the 'English Only' raffle, I reverted to just one prize. I was starting to wonder if a 'Walkman' were sufficient incentive to win tickets as so many of our students have headphones dangling on their ears, but I was assured that it is still the 'in-thing'. 'Walkman' winners were Guglielmo Pisapia at Mary Hare, Alejandra Vericat at Cheam, Marc van Iersel at Elstree and Kristina Beckhaus again at Hawtreys.

Catering

As last year, we awarded the contract for this to Compass Services (a division of Grand Metropolitan Hotels). We had a Caterer and a Chef at each School in charge of the kitchen staff. Compass's Regional Operations Manager, Gordon Guile, liaised with me during the year and Philip Ellis was the mobile Catering Manager, travelling from School to School making sure that standards were maintained. My belief that the excellence, or otherwise, of the catering depends on the quality of personnel was confirmed by this year's experiences. Quality, quantity and variety were all an improvement on previous years. The general assistants had obviously read my 'Notes for Catering Staff' (yes, they have their 'Notes', too!) and gave good service. Having a mobile manager enabled us to take quick action when something was



Mary Hare Cheer-Leaders



Cheam Cheer-Leaders



Elstree Cheer-Leaders

'The best summer of my life'; 'One of the richest experiences I've ever had... I feel that a totally new world has opened up for me'; 'I couldn't believe that so much can be learnt and such an atmosphere generated by your staff and yourself' — and more and more comments like these in letters sent to me after the Courses make me realise that, once again, students and staff have let the magic work on them and have responded accordingly. Some arrive nervous and unsure. They have heard about it from their friends and have taken the brave step of deciding to come. Soon they, too, are experiencing the feeling of being part of a community, a sense of belonging reinforced by shared experiences, almost impossible to describe in words, but so real to those who have been part of it. Yet again we saw the shy ones blossoming, the serious ones loosening up, the selfish realising the need to consider others, the extroverts meeting their counterparts from all over Europe and, of course, we saw the nascent leaders emerging among whom will be the Staff Helpers of future years.

This 'News-Sheet' is sent to everyone connected with the Course — students, parents, staff, caterers — those we look forward to seeing again and those we prefer to forget. It gives me the opportunity of commenting frankly, and 'between the lines', on the Courses individually and collectively, indicating how we learn from our experiences and what changes we propose to make. The ingredients for our Courses are fundamentally students and staff. If we get the mixture right and improve on the already proven recipe, the result should be better each time.

Summer '85 remembered

'When that I was and a little tiny boy,
With a hey, ho, the wind and the rain;
A foolish thing was but a toy,
For the rain it raineth every day.'

(Twelfth Night)

How right Shakespeare was! After so many years of hot, dry summers with our students thinking of Britain as a sub-tropical country (and, indeed, as I write this on a beautiful September afternoon, the sky is blue and the temperature nudging 30°C), it was bound to happen. This year, from mid-July, the British weather fell out of the sky with tedious regularity, confirming every prejudice about how rotten our climate is. Eventually we decided not to be intimidated and we just carried on in the wet more or less doing what we would normally do in the dry.

My fear was that we would not be able to proceed with Sports Day. Preparations went ahead, cheer-leaders practised, each School wrote

its song and chants, teams were keyed up and ready — and, in the middle of a week of soaking wet days, 31 July dawned bright, clear and dry. Amazing luck!

In a strange way, the daily downpours became largely irrelevant. None of the post-Course letters I have received has mentioned the subject. The extra-curricular programme has now become so developed and the staff have such a wealth of ideas for sports and games, that sunshine is really more of a bonus than a necessity.

With so many new students at Mary Hare and a rather lower average age, there was quite a change in the atmosphere — mainly for the better. The almost completely new staff adjusted quickly to the ethos of the Course, helped by the experience of Heather Starkey, returning for her second year as Course Manager and her seventh year with us, and Norman Hawkins, back again as Acting Course Manager. Talitha de Jong Luneau and Oliver Thomas as Staff Helpers gave the benefit of their years of experience on the Course. Richard Prior was outstanding in his first year as Sports/Social Organiser and, as well as providing a full and varied programme of events, masterminded a smooth-running Sports Day.

The active pace of life at Mary Hare led to quite a few bumps and bruises and the changes in temperature to several coughs and colds. These, and other minor crises, are all 'par for the Course' and only to be expected. They were dealt with efficiently on the whole. What we did not expect was to have half the number of washing machines we had last year and to find major building work going on inside the house. We are promised more consideration in future. Last year's rebuilding gave us improved bathrooms and new dormitories in part of the house. Work planned at Mary Hare includes more renovation and we shall see some of the benefits next summer.

There was a wealth of experience on the staff at Cheam and we had a good spirit among the students. Many students were returning and most of the new ones had read the 'Notes' and were well-prepared. The indoor Sports Hall was put to good use and Stuart Hinson, Sports/Social Organiser, devised an innovative programme, ably assisted by Staff Helpers, Andrea Holz and Jan Fredrik Rosenberg, both of whom knew well what being an 'SH' entailed and lived up to all our expectations. Judith Rigney did a splendid job as our new Matron, coping unflappably with the various illnesses and ensuring that the all-important domestic side ran with as few hiccups as possible.

The students co-operated well with the staff and inter-staff relations were positive, although yet again tending to raucousness. Tony Chew, Course Manager for the sixth time, led with his customary efficiency

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