

Vacational Studies '89

English
internationally...



Residential English Language Courses

Vacational Studies Courses have been running for 18 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 1989.

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 — near-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. Beginners are not accepted.

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

The Schools and Surroundings

For 1989 our Courses are at four Schools near Newbury. Cheam School, The Mary Hare 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.

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 on each Course.

The Mary Hare School

The Mary Hare School is a large mid-nineteenth century manor house. 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 105 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 85 students will be accepted.

All Schools have swimming pool; tennis/basketball/volleyball courts; football fields; sports hall;

Choice of Course

The Courses at Mary Hare, Elstree and Hawtreys are of 4 weeks' duration. At Cheam, there are two courses each of 3 weeks' duration. Dates are:

Cheam (First Course)

6 July — 27 July 1989

Mary Hare

12 July — 9 August 1989

Elstree

16 July — 13 August 1989

Hawtreys

19 July — 16 August 1989

Cheam (Second Course)

28 July — 18 August 1989

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. Maximum class size is 16. 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.

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 four of the Courses meet for friendly competitions in the

Vacational Studies Courses have been running for 18 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 1989.

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 — near-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. Beginners are not accepted.

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

For 1989 our Courses are at four Schools near Newbury. Cheam School, The Mary Hare 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.

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 on each Course.

The Mary Hare School

The Mary Hare School is a large mid-nineteenth century manor house. 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 105 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 85 students will be accepted.

All Schools have swimming pool; tennis/basketball/volleyball courts; football fields; sports hall; recreation rooms; colour TV and bathrooms.

The Courses at Mary Hare, Elstree and Hawtreys are of 4 weeks' duration. At Cheam, there are two courses each of 3 weeks' duration. Dates are:

Cheam (First Course)

6 July — 27 July 1989

Mary Hare

12 July — 9 August 1989

Elstree

16 July — 13 August 1989

Hawtreys

19 July — 16 August 1989

Cheam (Second Course)

28 July — 18 August 1989

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. Maximum class size is 16. 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.

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 four of the Courses meet for friendly competitions in the major sports.

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



Cheam



Part of Mary Hare
— The Manor House

Elstree



Hawtreys



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.



Mirjam (Germany) pulling her weight at Cheam 2

Excursions

There are four excursions on the 4-week Courses and three excursions on the 3-week Courses. There are two excursions to London. One is principally for sightseeing. The other is for shopping or sightseeing or a combination of both. The students go in small groups, each accompanied by a member of staff. As far as possible, the students choose what they wish to see and do. On the 4-week Courses, the third excursion will be optional and the destination decided by the students and staff. Newbury is centrally located in the South of England and several interesting towns are within easy reach. The fourth excursion is the grand 'Sports Day'. The third excursion on the first Course at Cheam is the optional trip; on the second Course at Cheam it is 'Sports Day'. All the 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 or we 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 - 'Les Misérables'

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

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

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.



Summer — Sunday August 7th

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.



Cheam 2 SHs Leonardo and Albertine





Mirjam (Germany) pulling her weight at Cheam 2

Excursions

There are four excursions on the 4-week Courses and three excursions on the 3-week Courses. There are two excursions to London. One is principally for sightseeing. The other is for shopping or sightseeing or a combination of both. The students go in small groups, each accompanied by a member of staff. As far as possible, the students choose what they wish to see and do. On the 4-week Courses, the third excursion will be optional and the destination decided by the students and staff. Newbury is centrally located in the South of England and several interesting towns are within easy reach. The fourth excursion is the grand 'Sports Day'. The third excursion on the first Course at Cheam is the optional trip; on the second Course at Cheam it is 'Sports Day'. All the 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 or we 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 - 'Les Misérables' (Optional Extra)

'Les Misérables' is one of the most famous and enjoyable 'smash-hit' musicals in London's West End at the Palace Theatre. It received rave reviews and is fully booked months in advance. We have already reserved 50 seats for each Course. The total cost of the theatre visit to 'Les Misérables' (ticket + transport) will be about £13.00. If you wish your child to go, please tick the box on the Application Form and add £13.00 to the pocket money total. It is probable that the number wishing to go will exceed the number of tickets available. In this case, we shall allocate tickets in the order in which we have received applications. We thoroughly recommend 'Les Misérables' for students over 14. It is a great opportunity to see the best that London theatre has to offer.

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 four and must be requested in advance on the Application Form. If tennis lessons are taken, a tennis racquet must be brought.

As these 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.



Summer — Sunday August 7th

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.



Cheam 2 SHs Leonardo and Albertine



Crazy Sports — the bench race



Joachim (Norway) gets his face covered in flour in a quaint old English game

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.



Carl and Federico meet at the Hawtreys v Elstree match on Sports Day



Secrets

We are also proud to be associated with the Jörg Weise Memorial Scholarship. 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 1990 which should be sent in confidence, and without informing the potential recipient, to Vacational Studies.

The Course Fee includes:-

- residence at the school
- travel from Heathrow to School and School to Heathrow¹
- all meals²
- tuition
- the sports programme
- the use of facilities
- excursions and one basic entrance fee
- comprehensive insurance³
- the laundering of clothes⁴

¹ (At specified times and terminals — see 'Travel').

² (Except lunch on the visits to London and the optional trip.)

³ (As described in the 'Insurance Slip')

⁴ (If not sensitive to bulk washing/drying, at your own risk)

There are **no extra charges** except for optional church, theatre or shopping visits and professional tennis lessons. A small (£1) deduction is made from pocket money to provide indoor board games and records for the 'club'

The Course Fee does not include:-

- pocket money
- optional church, theatre and shopping visits
- travel to and from England

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. A 'waiting list' operates when the Courses are full.

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 part of the Fees.)

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 while the student is with us.

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.

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

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.



Charlotte (Monaco) and Jacob (Norway) sparring in the pool while Fumiaki (Japan) looks on

Another 'encouragement' to speak English is the 'English Only Raffle' with a valuable prize for the winner — "Trivial Pursuit", or similar. Every student is entitled to one raffle ticket

the month before the Course prevent 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 while the student is with us.

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.

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 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 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

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.



Charlotte (Monaco) and Jacob (Norway) sparring in the pool while Fumiaki (Japan) looks on

Another 'encouragement' to speak English is the 'English Only Raffle' with a valuable prize for the winner — "Trivial Pursuit", 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 the Course 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 & Scholarship

This is awarded occasionally for 'an outstanding contribution to the ideals of the Course'. The Trophy was presented to Vacation 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

The Course Fee includes:-

residence at the school
travel from Heathrow to School and School to Heathrow¹
all meals²
tuition
the sports programme
the use of facilities
excursions and one basic entrance fee
comprehensive insurance³
the laundering of clothes⁴

¹ (At specified times and terminals — see 'Travel'.)

² (Except lunch on the visits to London and the optional trip.)

³ (As described in the 'Insurance Slip')

⁴ (If not sensitive to bulk washing/drying, at your own risk)

There are **no extra charges** except for optional church, theatre or shopping visits and professional tennis lessons. A small (£1) deduction is made from pocket money to provide indoor board games and records for the 'club'

The Course Fee does not include:-

pocket money
optional church, theatre and shopping visits
travel to and from England

How to apply

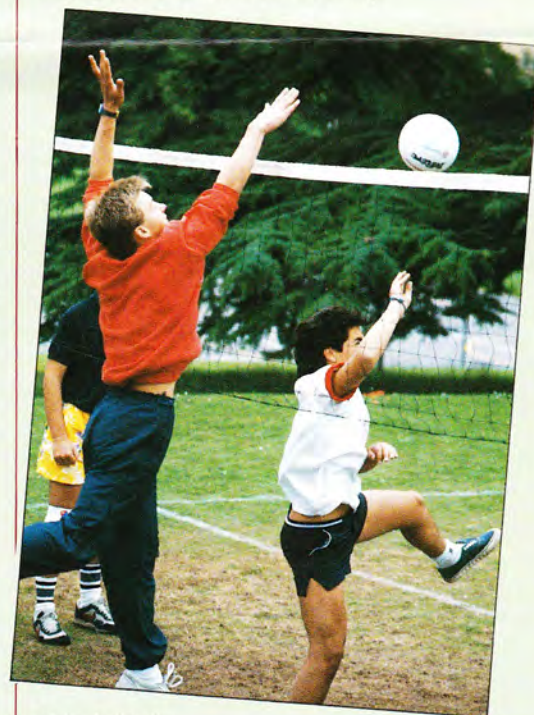
Answer all the questions on the Application Form and (if we do not know your child) return it with a teacher's report on attitude to study and behaviour. Retain your copy for reference. We shall tell you immediately if the application is acceptable. A 'waiting list' operates when the Courses are full.

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 part of the Fees.) The place is confirmed when the full Course Fees have been received by us. We shall also request travel details.

How to pay

Please see "Course Fees 1989" slip



Travel

It is quite usual for children to fly alone. For very 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 collection and return transport service between Heathrow Airport and the Schools on arrival and departure at no charge, subject to the conditions on our 'Travel Details' form. Our staff can meet students arriving at Heathrow Terminals 1 and 2 and check-in students on outgoing flights from Heathrow Terminals 1 and 2 on the stated dates. Our staff are at Heathrow from 12.00-16.00 on arrival days and from 09.30-13.00 on departure days. If flights arrive earlier than 12.00, students must wait for our representative near the 'Information' desk. If flights leave after 13.00, we explain the procedure and take students to wait in the correct area. For arrivals or departures outside our requested times, parents are asked to indicate on our 'Travel Details' form their agreement to children being at Heathrow without our staff. This is absolutely straightforward and safe.

If your child must arrive later or leave earlier than our stated dates or times, or if the flight is via Gatwick Airport, our standard service cannot be used. We can make special taxi or minibus arrangements on your behalf. We do not charge for making these arrangements, but the cost of the taxi or minibus is payable by students. (As a guide, a one-way taxi for one person to Heathrow is about £35 and to Gatwick £45. For two people, the cost can be shared). Special requirements should be indicated on the Application Form and details sent 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.

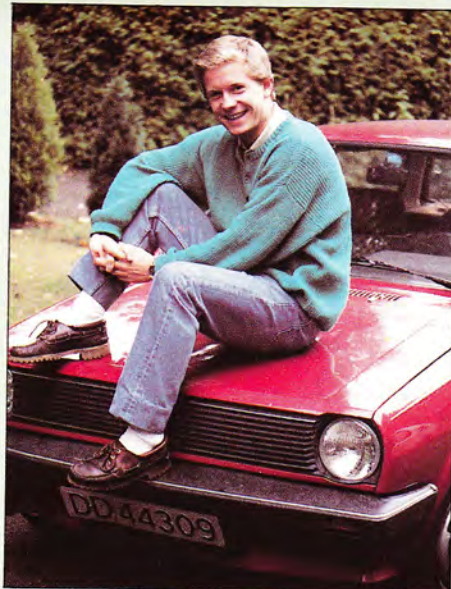
If you do not take our standard collection/return service, but we make other arrangements for you, the same procedure applies.

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 giving about £35.00 a week. Optional tennis coaching fees and the cost of the theatre visit should be added, if applicable. Pocket money should be brought in £ Sterling cash high value (£20 and £50) notes. Do not send more during the Course.



Lars with trusty Polo

Schools' addresses and directions

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).



Game, set and match to Kristin (Norway)

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/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).

By train from London, leave from Paddington Station. For Cheam and Mary Hare, arrive at Newbury Station. For Elstree, arrive at Reading Station or Midgham Station. For Hawtreys, arrive at Pewsey Station. There are normally taxis at Newbury Station. If not, there are taxi numbers in the phone box near the Station. There are always taxis at Reading Station. There are no taxis at Midgham Station. Walk to A4, then follow road directions. At Pewsey Station, telephone for a taxi.

The telephone numbers and addresses given above are **only for use during the Course** and only the Course Manager can be obtained on them. During the rest of the year, please use our Newbury Office address and telephone numbers below.

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

Finally...

We have tried to describe the Courses fully and frankly. Please also see the section 'Unrealisable Expectations' in the 'News-Sheet'. 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.



SHs Bea, Wouter, Antien, Gugli, Pierre, Jacopo, Marc and Perry

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.

but the cost of the taxi or minibus is payable by students. (As a guide, a one-way taxi for one person to Heathrow is about £35 and to Gatwick £45. For two people, the cost can be shared). Special requirements should be indicated on the Application Form and details sent 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 giving about £35.00 a week. Optional tennis coaching fees and the cost of the theatre visit should be added, if applicable. Pocket money should be brought in £ Sterling cash high value (£20 and £50) notes. Do not send more during the Course.



In-class collaboration at Cheam

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.

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



Game, set and match to Kristin (Norway)

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/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).

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).

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.



SHs Bea, Wouter, Antien, Gugli, Pierre, Jacopo, Marc and Perry

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.



The face behind the name



Pepys' Oak
Tydehams
Newbury
Berkshire RG14 6JT
England

Telephone
National
Newbury 41867 & 35711
(Code 0635)

International
+44 635 41867 & 35711

Telex
846999 VACS G

Telegrams
Vacstuds Newbury

Facsimile
National
Newbury 523999
(Code 0635)

International
+44 635 523999

now co-ordinated by Ivo von Kursell (Montalban 13, E-28014 Spain. Telephone: +34 1 5229632). Giotto exists so that those of us, as students or staff, can remain in contact with other people. Later in life such contacts may be useful for social or other reasons. Giotto was founded in the year of Halley's Comet and was given the name of the European collaborative project of that year.

There are two small children to keep him busy, he is finding it hard to do. If anyone is interested in co-ordinating Giotto, please phone me.

This happened. All were for reasons covered in the 'Notes'. Part of my anticipation what young people might want to do and either to do it by way of organised activities, or stop it by sanctions. I can be clearer than I am in the 'Notes'. Basically, neither the staff nor the students are in a position where a student thinks there is nothing to lose — because it's the last night, or it's a long way from home, or they think their responsibility to us is just short-term. I want to think carefully before doing something with expulsion as the general, expulsion means the permanent severing of all ties with my Organisation. I have also decided that I shall not expel a student who wrote the original report if that student is a teacher. This is partly so that the student will have to consider the consequences of expulsion in his or her own country and partly because a student is a right to know if glowing praise has not been justified. If I am a teacher on the last night and expel, I shall inform the student immediately by telephone so that they can experience with us in their child is creating.

Book series — 'The Cambridge English Course'
The position of Director of Studies, Richard Turner, we have adopted this series alongside and eventually in place of 'English'. This series is so new that not all the parts have yet been published. It should be complete by 1989. Teachers' reaction to it has been generally favourable. With so many books now published, I have asked our more experienced teachers to let me know which books that have worked for them. I may well incorporate some.

Real Expectations
Giotto seems to have become a standard feature, included not only of the students or parents in 1988 had expectations that realistic they could not be realised, but because I wish to parents to this danger. We do what we can to encourage them and use the Course to advantage. We make no other arrangements, we cannot force children to integrate. We help as far as possible, but they must help themselves too. If a child is a friend, it is not possible for us to keep them apart. They must decide to mix. Parents may make requests, but we must place children in particular classes or dormitories. We must make these decisions, based on our judgement. The purpose is to be a communal experience. Individual freedom in our school buildings are not hotels. Accommodation, etc. are shared. The parameters of what we permit are in Giotto and we act on the assumption that parents and students

After the Courses

A few parents have contacted me about the possibility of their children spending a term or two in a British boarding school. In some cases this is a good idea and several students have made social and academic gains. I am happy to give what help I can in matching the school to the child. I make no charge. Some traditional boarding schools are just not suitable for young people used to the comparative freedom of schools in mainland Europe and Scandinavia. I have contacts in a number of co-educational boarding schools, flexible in their approach, that I can recommend. Tony Chew, with us from 1979 to 1985, has had several students at the school in Dorset where he is a Housemaster. Through Paul Dodd, with us back in 1978, I have a contact at a prestigious school in New Zealand.

Parents come to me with a variety of questions — about special interest Courses in Britain, French Courses in France, German Courses in Germany and once or twice for hotel recommendations in this country! I can even suggest a good English Language School in Australia! If I can find answers, or make suggestions, I do. I, in turn, often seek advice abroad. It is always freely given. I see this contact and communication across frontiers as an extension of our Courses.

And finally...

My continuing thanks to the vast majority of parents who fill the forms in correctly, keep to the deadlines, resist the temptation to phone on arrival day, battle with the engaged signal on telephone days, remember to use the School address for children's letters and generally help us to ensure the smooth running of quite a complex organisation. Without this support, we could not do the job properly. Those (mercifully few) who change flights without telling me, who drain our energy with debates over the telephone about calling their children, who neglect the time difference and wake the School (or me) at 6 in the morning, who write to children at my address and expect me to play postman — will have all heard from me by now...

This year, as ever, letters are coming in from all over Europe telling me how the children who have been in our care have gained from the experiences the Course has given them. To have been part of this process is a real privilege and I take this opportunity of thanking everyone who has made it possible.

Ian G. Mucklejohn — Autumn 1988

Vocational Studies '88/'89 News-Sheet



he bench race, the wheelbarrow race and the strange event involving gutting one's wet face in a bowl of flour — maybe some quaint old British custom.

Catering

For the third year this was in the capable hands of André and Gary Lloyd of Compass Services. So important is the work of the individual in catering that I should say 'Lloyd Services'. The catering now bears their hallmark. The classical music at English Tea (scrumptious home-made eclairs and scones) was their idea. Theirs, too, the innovation this year - the (very photogenic) Birthday Party. All the birthdays were celebrated at one big party. Each birthday boy or girl had a cake and among the traditional sandwiches and cakes were balloons, streamers and a take-home packet of sweets. The catering staff came as clowns and took over the Course for a couple of hours while we looked on, bemused. After the musical chairs and pass the parcel, everyone helped clear up. Exhausting but memorable.

Given an adequate budget and competent staff, the quality of the catering is finally dependent on the imagination and adaptability of the Caterer at each School. In the Schools where the catering was in the hands of the likes of Anne and Tony, the standard was excellent. It is a shame that the Lloyds have now left Compass. Phillip Ellis will be taking over a hard act to follow.

Optional Sports

Tennis lessons were given by coaches Berin Ames, Paul Davies, Liz Fidler and Ivor Meacher. All were able to work their schedules round the intrusions of our organised programme and the weather. With horse riding this was not possible. Rain or shine, students opting for riding were out for the afternoon and it was noticeable that enthusiasm for riding lessons diminished as the Course progressed. This was more because of our students' wish to stay at the School and enjoy the programme than dissatisfaction with the quality of riding instruction. As the numbers choosing riding have been so small, I have decided to discontinue this option as an experiment.

Cheam 3'

This is the big change for 1989. We have tried to offer parents a good choice of dates in the past, while making sure that the timing of the Courses coincides with all the European school holidays. This ensures that a wide range of nationalities is represented. The success of 'Cheam 2' convinced me that I should look again at the duration of the Courses which have, for many years, been fixed at four weeks.

In 1989 I have decided to offer three four-week courses (at Mary Hare, Elstree and Hawtreys) and two three-week courses (at Cheam). All fit into the major European school holiday periods and all are long enough to allow for good linguistic and social development. Details are in the brochure.

Scholarships and the Jörg Weise Association

Through the efforts of the Committee of the Stichting Kinderoncoslogische Zomerkampen in the Netherlands, two girls joined us. They were well-chosen. In common with the other students, they had a great time and were in floods of tears at the end. I appreciate the help and hospitality of Diederik Brasser and Ilona Molhuysen during my visits to the Netherlands setting up the link with the Stichting. The Jörg Weise Association provided two Scholarships and has instituted a follow-up system so that its Members will keep in touch with those who come. The Association is now, so far as I am concerned, autonomous and without any direct connection with Vocational Studies. The Trophy, last awarded in 1985, remains in abeyance, as choosing a 'best student' among so many talented young people proved a thankless task fraught with complications I can do without. Internationally-minded young people can keep in permanent contact by joining Giotto.

Giotto

This is now co-ordinated by Ivo von Kursell (Montalban 13, E-28014 Madrid, Spain. Telephone: +34 1 5229632). Giotto exists so that those who come to us, as students or staff, can remain in contact with other nationalities. Later in life such contacts may be useful for social or professional reasons. Giotto was founded in the year of Halley's Comet (1986) and was given the name of the European collaborative exploration project of that year.

As Ivo has two small children to keep him busy, he is finding it hard to run Giotto. If anyone is interested in co-ordinating Giotto, please phone Ivo or me.

Expulsions

These happened. All were for reasons covered in the 'Notes'. Part of my job is to anticipate what young people might want to do and either provide for it by way of organised activities, or stop it by sanctions. I can hardly be clearer than I am in the 'Notes'. Basically, neither the staff nor I will be in a position where a student thinks there is nothing to lose — either because it's the last night, or it's a long way from home, or because they think their responsibility to us is just short-term. I want students to think carefully before doing something with expulsion as the penalty. In general, expulsion means the permanent severing of all connections with my Organisation. I have also decided that I shall inform the teacher who wrote the original report if that student is expelled. This is partly so that the student will have to consider the seriousness of expulsion in his or her own country and partly because a teacher has a right to know if glowing praise has not been justified. If I am called in to a School on the last night and expel, I shall inform the parents immediately by telephone so that they can experience with us the problem their child is creating.

New textbook series — 'The Cambridge English Course'

At the suggestion of Director of Studies, Richard Turner, we have decided to adopt this series alongside and eventually in place of 'Streamline English'. This series is so new that not all the parts have yet been published. It should be complete by 1989. Teachers' reaction to the series has been generally favourable. With so many books now being published, I have asked our more experienced teachers to let me know the books that have worked for them. I may well incorporate some of these.

Unrealisable Expectations

This paragraph seems to have become a standard feature, included not because any of the students or parents in 1988 had expectations that were so unrealistic they could not be realised, but because I wish to alert new parents to this danger. We do what we can to encourage students to learn and use the Course to advantage. We make no other claims. Nevertheless, we cannot force children to integrate. We help students as far as possible, but they must help themselves too. If a child comes with a friend, it is not possible for us to keep them apart. They themselves must decide to mix. Parents may make requests, but we cannot agree to place children in particular classes or dormitories. We must be allowed to make these decisions, based on our judgement. The Course is designed to be a communal experience. Individual freedom is restricted. Our school buildings are not hotels. Accommodation, washrooms, etc. are shared. The parameters of what we permit are in our literature and we act on the assumption that parents and students read it all.

After the Courses

A few parents have contacted me about the possibility of their spending a term or two in a British boarding school. In some cases is a good idea and several students have made social and academic gains. I am happy to give what help I can in matching the school to the child. I make no charge. Some traditional boarding schools are suitable for young people used to the comparative freedom of mainland Europe and Scandinavia. I have contacts in a number of educational boarding schools, flexible in their approach, that I can recommend. Tony Chew, with us from 1979 to 1985, has had students at the school in Dorset where he is a Housemaster. The Paul Dodd, with us back in 1978, I have a contact at a prestigious school in New Zealand.

Parents come to me with a variety of questions — about special Courses in Britain, French Courses in France, German Courses in Germany and once or twice for hotel recommendations in this country. I can even suggest a good English Language School in Australia. I find answers, or make suggestions, I do. I, in turn, often seek advice across frontiers as an extension of our Courses.

And finally...

My continuing thanks to the vast majority of parents who fill the in correctly, keep to the deadlines, resist the temptation to phone arrival day, battle with the engaged signal on telephone days, to use the School address for children's letters and generally help ensure the smooth running of quite a complex organisation. With this support, we could not do the job properly. Those (mercifully) who change flights without telling me, who drain our energy with debates over the telephone about calling their children, who note time difference and wake the School (or me) at 6 in the morning write to children at my address and expect me to play postman have all heard from me by now...

This year, as ever, letters are coming in from all over Europe to how the children who have been in our care have gained from experiences the Course has given them. To have been part of the process is a real privilege and I take this opportunity of thanking everyone who has made it possible.

Ian G. Mucklejohn — Autumn 1988

e brochure and 'News-Sheet' are sent to everyone with last summer — for better or worse. The latter may never themselves. This is the end-of-Course speech that I can never ar readers are aware, not all the double entendres are

Mary Hare saw Heather Starkey in her customary rôle as ger (CM) and Richard Turner as Acting Course Manager ning team. Richard combined his post with teaching and ctor of Studies at the other schools. It was, indeed, at his at we incorporated the 'Cambridge English Course' into programme as a replacement for the venerable More on this later. With so many old hands on the staff, it all would be well on that side. Conversely, there were dents, several of them 'characters' most of them charming ear as matron, ably assisted by twins Marie Barrand and ogers. After having been thrown in at the deep end last ouglass had a similarly soaking summer as Sports/Social SO) this time. Days of wet weather programmes left him did the students enjoyed the events. Helping him were Staff J) Marc Gerigk and Perry van Beek. Both were good value the experience more or less intact.

year were Sheila Blogg, Fred Gooch, Alan Murphy, Ian bra Teuton, Cara Trimarco, Richard Turner, Rita Wall and oods. Andrew Talbot was with us for some days prior to post at Elstree.



Elstree '88

New to Vacstuds was SSO Mike Garrick. It is no exaggeration to say that an SSO can make or mar a Course in a way that no other single staff appointment can. Mike took advice before the Course, was sensitive to reactions during it and saw at once the strengths of the staff. With seasoned SH Jacopo Carrain, newcomer Wouter Bensdorp and excellent first-time ancill Ian Laughland, the 'E Team' was a formidable combination. On the domestic side, Cathy Smith was back as our capable Matron. The students had a good idea of what the Course was about. The older ones had a positive approach and set the right example.

On the teaching side we had Frank Furlong, Vanessa Hiet, Richard Hill, Geraldine O'Connor, Jane Scott, Andrew Talbot and Stephen Warriener.

Back at Hawtreys after a year's absence, we realised its value as a home for our Course. It is indeed splendidly isolated. With Chris Gallen as CM and Francis McIvor as ACM, the staff had firm leadership. This was noticeably lacking among the older students and the national groups clung together, no matter how good their English, forming several miniature self-supporting communities which defied our exhortations to integrate. The staff deserved better for their efforts. SSO Mark Dunnachie worked hard and self-critically at the sports/social programme. He was most ably assisted by Guglielmo Pisapia as SH, now in his ninth year of Vacstuds, whose intimate knowledge of what



Hawtreys '88

old, now a seasoned three-times CM at Cheam, told me ing was far too good for him to begin his diet. His presence derable — and we would not have it any other way. His Johnson, made sure that Chris's high standards were his absence. Matron, new this summer, was Kathryn islands — another substantial figure. On the ancillary side chells and Wendy Tyler — an enormous help. SSO was a student of ours in 1980. It is the first time the accolade tment has been awarded to a non-Brit. Jan Kees's utskirts of Reading twang earned him the title 'honorary His unfailing energy and love of the Courses ensured the appointment. Antien Hartman was tireless in her second ierre Lefebvre made a notable debut in his first year.

gelled internationally and some leaders emerged. We had e. Several students discovered the boundaries of our ar as midnight visits are concerned. One or two found the e developmental experience than they had imagined.

team comprised Rachel Darby, Simon Eiherton, Jeremy t Higgins, Sally Howells, David Johnson and Richard

The end of Cheam was the beginning of Cheam 2 — of which more follows.

Having a new CM is a rare event for us. Most work their way up through the ranks. The occasional outside appointment is useful, however. I am glad I made this decision for Elstree. George O'Brien, Head of Modern Languages at Sedburgh in Cumbria, took over an established Course with a fair number of returning students and staff. He set his stamp on Elstree '88 and I was happy to entrust the course to his care. Vanessa Hiet, a veteran of six Elstrees, was his able ACM.



works on the Course showed in everything he did. Bea Argiles was our other SH. She clearly loved the experience. Both Ancills, Maria Hussey and Ian Robinson, were excellent value and highly-regarded by our new Matron, Fiona Dunnachie.

Teachers were Hilary Beagley, Mark Bennett, Norlene Conway, Karen Gill, Francis McIvor, Nigel Walkington and Gary Watson.

Cheam 2 was the great experiment for 1988. It was planned to be half a Course in student numbers and duration. The staff came mainly from Mary Hare. They arrived refreshed after their week's break, unlike the writer who was feeling it should all have been over by the middle of August as usual. Almost all the students were new, but with such an experienced staff, the Course took off from day one. It was as if the students realised that they would have to start integrating at once as time was short. There were several prominent personalities, almost everyone was positive about joining in and the atmosphere was happy.

Heather Starkey was CM with Ian Stephens as her ACM. Lynda Elvin and 'the twins' were Matron and Ancills. Willie Douglass as SSO spoke highly of our two new SHs, Leonardo Cerchiai and Albertine Kronenberg. Albertine will remain in my memory in her dressing gown at breakfast. 'But it's my home!' — and quite right, too.

Janet Dalzell, Jeremy Galgut, Alan Murphy, Ian Stephens and Rita Wall were the teachers par excellence.



Cheam 2 '88

All-in-all, the Cheam 2 students had a very good deal. That I am discontinuing this Course is in no way a criticism of the idea of a shorter Course. See the paragraph 'Cheam 3' below.

From the beginning of Mary Hare until after Cheam 2 had gone home, I had the help of Lars Gogstad as my Personal Assistant. Lars was with us as a student in 1985 and as SH in 1987. Together we shifted equipment in and out of Schools, saw students in at the start of Courses and bade them farewell at Heathrow at the end. Checking pocket money, tickets, passports, collecting goods in Newbury, transporting people all over the place, I could rely on Lars. Now practising his British humour on the Norwegian navy, their gain is my loss.

Sports Day

I congratulated myself on my forward planning this time. Sports Day was fixed as Wednesday 27 July back in January. My seaweed was right. It poured with rain up to the Wednesday and poured with rain after it. The day itself was dry and the sun made a rare appearance. Slogans were yelled, chants were chanted, normally placid students screamed themselves hoarse. The inter-School competitions featured prominently, but for me at least the best was at the end — the Crazy Sports. Everyone could have a go at the egg-and-spoon, the snake relay,

'This summer has been more than words can describe. The atmosphere of friendship has been everywhere and each member of the course tried to join together with the other people. Wherever you walked through the School you could hear people laughing'. 'We didn't recognise him. He had changed so much. He was really happy there and his English has improved. Staying there has done a lot of good to his character'. 'It was really wonderful and I liked all of it — the lessons, the sports, the excursions and the people'. These comments are taken at random from the many letters parents and students send me after the Courses. The staff write, too. 'I cannot tell you how much I've enjoyed the years working with you. It is not an exaggeration to say that some of the happiest times of my life have been at Vacstudz'. 'It was a super experience and I thoroughly enjoyed myself. All the students were polite, well-mannered and helpful. This is hard to find nowadays with children. You select well! I try, at least. Clearly the students we have are not just an average cross-section of European youth. Our staff are rather special, too.'

Once again modesty prevents me from further quotes or comments. Those who have already been with us will recognise the feelings expressed. For those who have not, I take the liberty of one more quote. 'The Course continues by letter between the students and she spends all her pocket money on stamps'. That is a feeling I can certainly identify with.

Summer '88 remembered...

At this time of year when peace descends and I collect my thoughts about the summer just past, I normally do so in England's warm September sunshine and compare it to the grey drizzle of July and August. I am spared the comparison this year. I write these words 'down under' at the tail end of a New Zealand winter which bears more than a passing resemblance to the British summer that has just dripped away.

It may be making a virtue out of a necessity, but I am coming to the view that the unpredictable and sometimes just awful weather the Atlantic has thrown our way for the last four summers has created a bond between the students that would not have been so strong by the swimming pool under cloudless skies. This year's Sports/Social Organisers arranged wet and dry programmes, confident that 'wet' would be the one implemented. To provide variety, they used their ingenuity and that of the staff developing the events and activities that have become part of the Vacstudz tradition. While the courses function independently, several of the staff know each other and ideas flow from one School to another. The 'Members Book' at the Casinos, for example, became more and more elaborate. At first just a book, at the next Casino the idea had been developed and it was made of antiqued paper (it is amazing what coffee stains and a warm oven will do to paper). Later the book was also bound and by the last Casino, this bound, decorated and antiqued book was awarded to the winner. The activity programme is what gets our students integrating and, on all five Courses, it has never been better. The 'human chemistry' in the staff rooms was good and I like to think I got the mixture more-or-less right.



Mary Hare '88

As always, the brochure and 'News-Sheet' are sent to everyone connected with last summer — for better or worse. The latter may recognise themselves. This is the end-of-Course speech that I can never give. As regular readers are aware, not all the double entendres are unintentional.

Year eight at Mary Hare saw Heather Starkey in her customary rôle as Course Manager (CM) and Richard Turner as Acting Course Manager (ACM). A winning team. Richard combined his post with teaching and acting as Director of Studies at the other schools. It was, indeed, at his suggestion that we incorporated the 'Cambridge English Course' into the teaching programme as a replacement for the venerable 'Streamline'. More on this later. With so many old hands on the staff, it was clear that all would be well on that side. Conversely, there were many new students, several of them 'characters' most of them charming and few of them leaders. Lynda Elvin was her customarily efficient self in her seventh year as matron, ably assisted by twins Marie Barrand and Gayle (SB) Rogers. After having been thrown in at the deep end last year, Willie Douglass had a similarly soaking summer as Sports/Social Organiser (SSO) this time. Days of wet weather programmes left him undaunted and the students enjoyed the events. Helping him were Staff Helpers (SHs) Marc Gerigk and Perry van Beek. Both were good value and survived the experience more or less intact.

Teachers this year were Sheila Blogg, Fred Gooch, Alan Murphy, Ian Stephens, Debra Teuton, Cara Trimarco, Richard Turner, Rita Wall and Catharina Woods. Andrew Talbot was with us for some days prior to taking up his post at Elstree.



Cheam '88

Chris FitzGerald, now a seasoned three-times CM at Cheam, told me that the catering was far too good for him to begin his diet. His presence remains considerable — and we would not have it any other way. His ACM, David Johnson, made sure that Chris's high standards were maintained in his absence. Matron, new this summer, was Kathryn (Beanie) Beanlands — another substantial figure. On the ancillary side were Mark Eichelsh and Wendy Tyler — an enormous help. SSO was Jan Kees Mol, a student of ours in 1980. It is the first time the accolade of this appointment has been awarded to a non-Brit. Jan Kees's Eastenders/outskirts of Reading twang earned him the title 'honorary Brit' last year. His untiring energy and love of the Courses ensured the success of his appointment. Antien Hartman was tireless in her second year as SH. Pierre Lefebvre made a notable debut in his first year.

The students gelled internationally and some leaders emerged. We had expected more. Several students discovered the boundaries of our toleration so far as midnight visits are concerned. One or two found the Course a more developmental experience than they had imagined.

The teaching team comprised Rachel Darby, Simon Eiherton, Jeremy Galgut, Claire Higgins, Sally Howells, David Johnson and Richard Wijeratne.

The end of Cheam was the beginning of Cheam 2 — of which follows.

Having a new CM is a rare event for us. Most work their way through the ranks. The occasional outside appointment is however. I am glad I made this decision for Elstree. George took Head of Modern Languages at Sedburgh in Cumbria, took established Course with a fair number of returning student. He set his stamp on Elstree '88 and I was happy to entrust his care. Vanessa Hiett, a veteran of six Elstrees, was his



Elstree '88

New to Vacstudz was SSO Mike Garrick. It is no exaggeration that an SSO can make or mar a Course in a way that no other staff appointment can. Mike took advice before the Course sensitive to reactions during it and saw at once the strength of staff. With seasoned SH Jacopo Carrain, newcomer Woulton and excellent first-time ancillain Laughland, the 'E Team' formidable combination. On the domestic side, Cathy Smith as our capable Matron. The students had a good idea of what Course was about. The older ones had a positive approach right example.

On the teaching side we had Frank Furlong, Vanessa Hiett, Geraldine O'Connor, Jane Scott, Andrew Talbot and Stephen Wariner.

Back at Hawtreys after a year's absence, we realised its value for our Course. It is indeed splendidly isolated. With Chris CM and Francis McIvor as ACM, the staff had firm leadership noticeably lacking among the older students and the national clung together, no matter how good their English, forming miniature self-supporting communities which defied our ex-integrate. The staff deserved better for their efforts. SSO N Dumachie worked hard and self-critically at the sports/social programme. He was most ably assisted by Guglielmo Pisano now in his nth year of Vacstudz, whose intimate knowledge



Hawtreys '88