

*Summer 1994*



Vacational  
Studies®

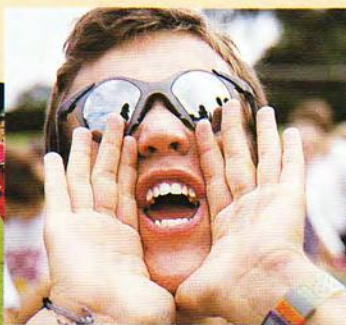


1994

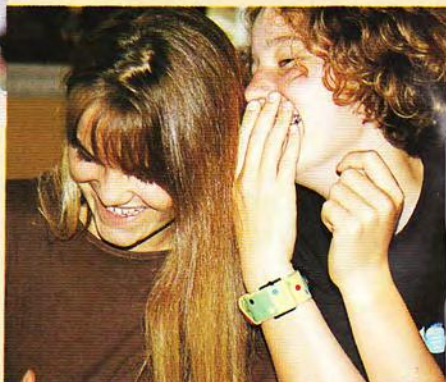
*English internationally...*



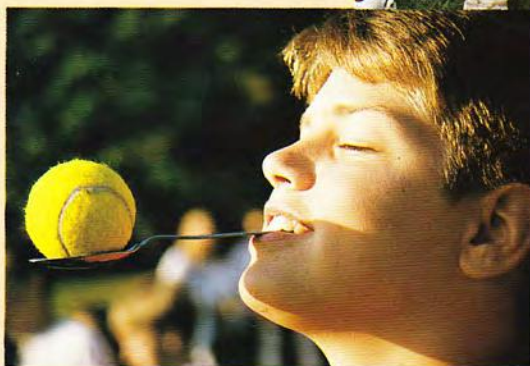
Douai pole-bending  
at Sports Day



Secrets



'Mary, Mary, Mary, Mary,  
Mary, Mary Hare...'



Fabien (Switzerland)'s  
'egg and spoon' race



'I've got an Elstree dream...'

## RESIDENTIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSES

Vacational Studies Courses have been running for 21 years. We have tried in this time to develop an enjoyable balance between 'vacation' and 'study'. Here is our programme for Summer 1994.

### WHAT WE TRY TO DO

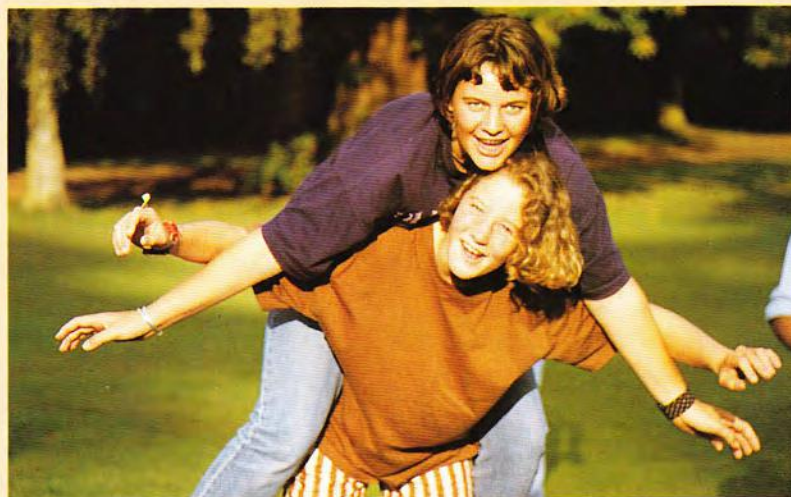
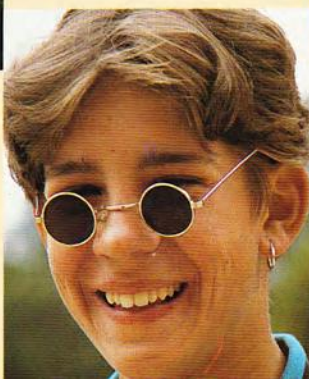
Vacational Studies tries to create a totally international Course with students from as many different countries as possible. We avoid accepting a large number of students from any particular country. In this way we try to ensure that English is the main medium of communication among the students. By 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 want to use English to make friends, this element of self-motivation greatly increases their fluency.

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

The 'snake' at Cheam's Crazy Sports



Hans Jacob (Norway) and Federico (Italy) love getting in the picture



### RECOGNISED BY THE BRITISH COUNCIL

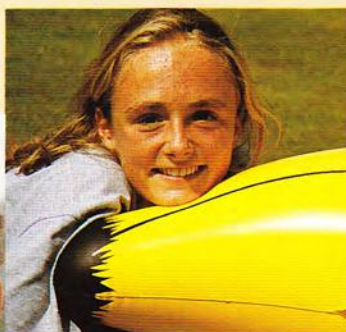
Vacational Studies is 'Recognised for the teaching of English by the British Council' and is a member of ARELS (The Association of Recognised English Language Services) – a professional body, membership of which is granted only after thorough inspection and re-inspections every three years. We were last inspected in 1993.

### RESIDENCE

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

### THE STUDENTS

We accept boys and girls – near-beginners, intermediate and more advanced students – aged 11 to 16. We also accept a small number of students at 17, normally only if they have been with us before. As they cannot participate in an international community, complete beginners are not accepted.



Kathrin (Germany) relaxes on a banana

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

### STUDENTS WHO WILL BENEFIT

Please make sure that our Course is suitable for your child and that he/she wants to come. Those 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 children have read the rules and that they agree to abide by them. 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 young people all over the world. Many boys and girls spend several summers with us renewing old friendships and making new ones. Most students 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

## THE SCHOOLS AND SURROUNDINGS

For 1993 we have four Courses at Schools near Newbury – The Mary Hare School, Douai School Cheam School and Elstree School. Newbury is a small country town in a pleasant part of southern England in the hills of the Berkshire Downs. It is 70km west of London and 45km south of Oxford. The Schools we use are among the best in the area.

### THE MARY HARE SCHOOL

The Mary Hare School is a large mid-nineteenth century manor house with many later additions. There are formal gardens and woodland and extensive grounds which include several playing fields, a range of tennis courts, a gymnasium and a large indoor swimming pool. A planned maximum of 100 students will be accepted.

### DOUAI SCHOOL

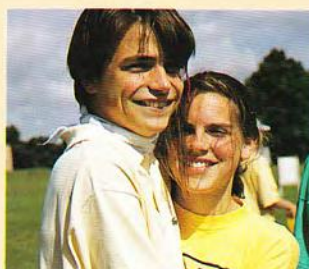
Douai School dates from the mid-nineteenth century with many later additions. It is set next to Douai Abbey in 80 acres of its own grounds and woodlands. It has extensive playing fields which adjoin Elstree School and a range of tennis courts. It has a large indoor swimming pool, a gymnasium and a 'multi-gym'. A planned maximum of 95 students will be accepted.

### CHEAM SCHOOL

Cheam School is a late nineteenth century mansion. A particular feature is the sunken formal garden. The School's large grounds with playing fields, lawns and woods, back onto Watership Down. There is recently built sports hall/gymnasium and a range of tennis courts. It has an open-air swimming pool. A planned maximum of 85 students will be accepted.

### ELSTREE SCHOOL

Elstree School is a large eighteenth century country house set in 40 acres of grounds with playing fields, gardens and woods which adjoin Douai Abbey. It has a modern gymnasium and the dining room, kitchens and some dormitories were rebuilt in 1991. There is an open-air swimming pool and a range of tennis courts. A planned maximum of 90 students will be accepted.



Kai (Germany)  
giving a lift



Mary Hare (The Manor House)



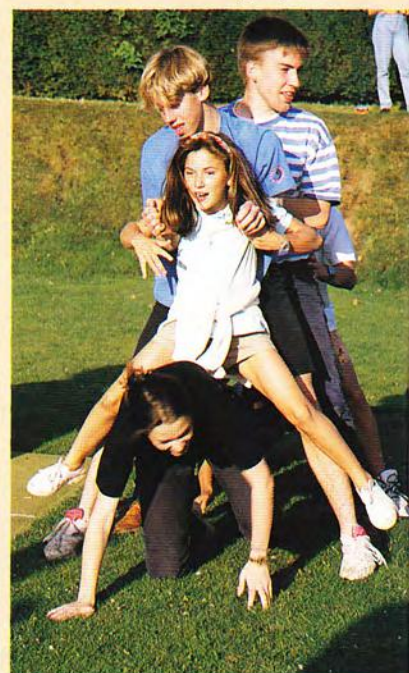
Douai (Part of the main building)



Cheam (from the formal gardens)



Elstree (from the park)



All the Schools have swimming pools, tennis, basketball and volleyball courts, football fields, sports hall, recreation rooms, colour TV and bathrooms.

### RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

At all Schools, students sleep in dormitories. Girls are in one part of the house, boys are in another.

### CHOICE OF COURSE

The Courses all have the same format. The only differences are location and dates. 1994 dates are:-

#### Mary Hare

7 July – 4 August 1994 (4 weeks)

#### Douai

11 July – 8 August 1994 (4 weeks)

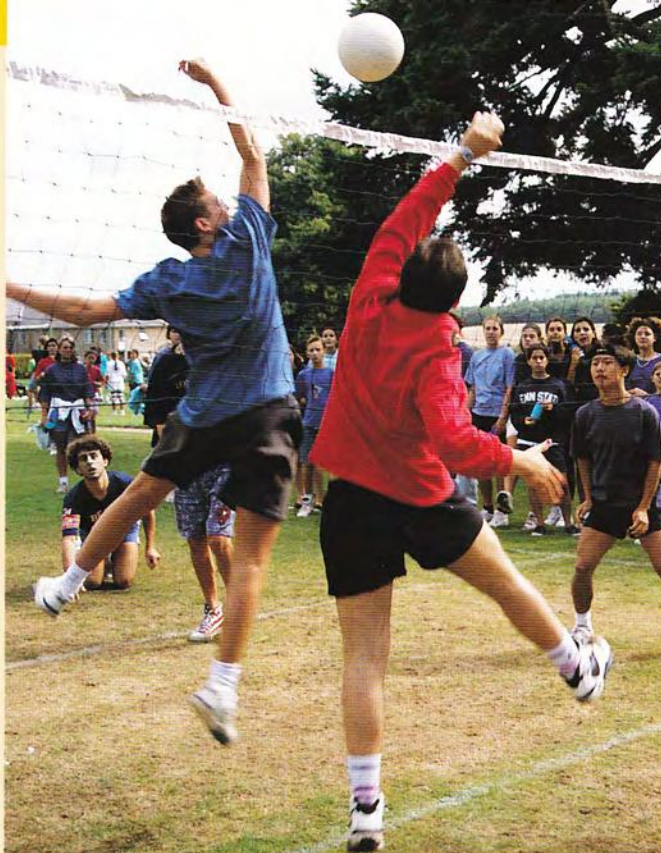
#### Cheam

14 July – 11 August 1994 (4 weeks)

#### Elstree

17 July – 15 August 1994 (4 weeks)

# The Programme



Mary Hare and Cheam reaching for the sky

## 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 'homework' period each afternoon. Classes are graded according to age and ability in English. Students are placed first in an 'assessment group'. They are given a brief multiple-choice placement test the result of which is taken into consideration with the teacher's opinion. Students are moved to the 'assessment group' which we consider correct and, after two or three days, these become classes. 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. Coursebooks include 'OK', 'Intermediate Matters', 'Compact' and 'Headway'. The teaching is by 'direct method'. Both oral and written English are taught and there is an emphasis on conversation practice. A prize is awarded for on each Course for academic excellence.

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

We try to create a relaxed and friendly 'family' atmosphere in which young people 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 students are encouraged to participate.

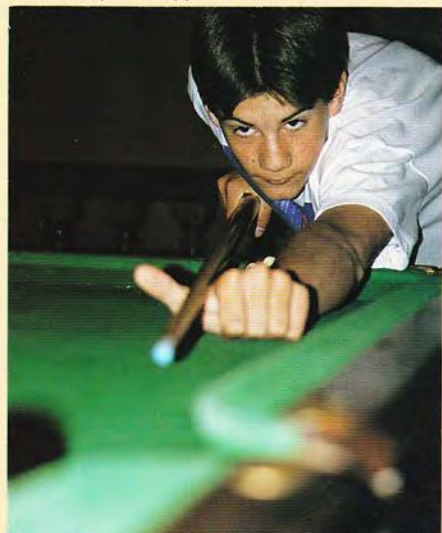
## EXCURSIONS

There are four excursions. One is a sightseeing tour around London with a professional guide; the second is a sightseeing tour around Bath with a professional guide; the destination for the third excursion will be Oxford,



optional shopping afternoons which are not included in the Course Fee. These are in Newbury or another town near the School. We think it safe for young people to shop in these towns unaccompanied by staff, if parents have indicated their agreement to this on the Application Form. This helps young people achieve a measure of independence. Younger students can be accompanied by staff if parents or we so wish. There will be several staff in the town while our students are shopping. Travel is by private coach from the School with accompanying staff. The cost of transport (payable by students if they wish to go) is in the range from £1.00 to £2.50.

Mads Peter (Denmark) pots black



## SPORTS

Sport is an important part of the Course. Our Sports/Entertainments 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 the Schools meet for friendly competitions in the major sports.

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

Cheam v Elstree at Sports Day

Windsor, Winchester or another visit to London or a similar city of historical importance; the fourth excursion is to '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 two



# The Programme

'Gotcha!' Jurian (Netherlands) and Antonio (Spain) play chess at Cheam



## THEATRE VISITS (Optional Extra)

'Cats', 'Phantom of the Opera', 'Starlight Express' and 'Les Misérables' — all these smash-hit West End musicals are booked out months in advance. Tickets for these and other shows have been requested and we will be allocated a limited number. We shall allocate tickets to students so that they can see at least one show of their choice, up to a maximum of three shows. How many shows will be possible depends on the availability of tickets. The cost of each (show + travel to the theatre) will be in the range £20—£30. Parents are asked to indicate the number of shows required and an order of preference for these. £20 or so for each show requested should be added to pocket money. If it is not possible to provide the number of shows requested, the money will be returned with the student at the end of the Course.

## ARELS/UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE EXAMINATION (Optional Extra)

The University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate in conjunction with ARELS (the Association of Recognised English Language Services) has developed a special examination for students on English Language Courses in the summer. The examination (testing listening, reading and language use) is taken at the end of the Course and is standardised so that it can be marked internally according to a predetermined marking scheme. Certificates will be issued immediately after the examination so students can take them home with them. It is not competitive. The Certificate will take

with a score and a stated recommendation that the candidate is ready to prepare for an examination which will be specified on the Certificate. The University of Cambridge will charge £7.65. We add no administration or marking charge. We do not charge for the Record of Attainment. Parents wishing their children to sit the ARELS/UCLES examination are asked to add this small sum to pocket money.

## TENNIS LESSONS (Optional Extra)

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

As these lessons are prearranged, it is not possible to refund the cost of lessons booked, but not taken. Parents are asked to make sure that lessons are really wanted before booking them. If tennis lessons are requested, the cost (£30) should be added to pocket money.

## MEALS

Food is an important part of the

Course. Meals are prepared by professional caterers to a high standard. Our specification is for a choice of hot dishes at lunch at dinner and a salad bar comprising about ten different items. Students are encouraged to have as much as they want and if they cannot find anything they like among all these choices, they can ask the caterer to prepare something special.

Here is a typical menu for guidance:-

### Breakfast:

Choice of cereal  
Choice of various breads, meats, cheese  
Jam, marmalade, other spreads  
Tea, coffee, milk, fresh orange juice

### Lunch:

Choice of three hot dishes  
Buffet-style salad bar  
Choice of puddings or fresh fruit

### Dinner:

Choice of three hot dishes  
Buffet-style salad bar  
Choice of puddings or fresh fruit

### Before bedtime:

Hot chocolate and biscuits

Special diets can be catered for. Cold orange juice or other drinks are available at no charge. There is a small 'sweet shop'.

At times throughout the Course, the

menu will be varied to include barbecues (spare rib, sausage roll, jacket potatoes, coleslaw dip, crisps, ice-cream, etc.) There will be also be a traditional British 'Christmas Dinner' (roast turkey with stuffing, roast potatoes, Brussels sprouts, cranberry jelly). There will also be 'national meals'. If they wish, students from various countries can advise the kitchen staff on how to prepare and serve a meal consisting of dishes from their own country.

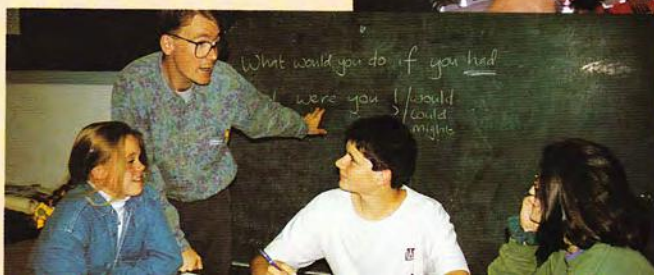
## A TYPICAL DAY

|       |                            |
|-------|----------------------------|
| 08.15 | 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 | Written 'Homework'         |
| 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 | 'Club'                     |
| 22.30 | Bedtime (or 22.45)         |

Pocket money and stamps are obtainable from the Office every day from 13.20—13.45 and 14.15—14.45.



'Cheers!' at Cheam's Christmas Dinner



After starring in the cover-picture last year *Casi* (Norway) and *Alexandra* (Netherlands) again



#### 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 students' tables at meals.

Another 'encouragement' to speak English is the 'English Only Raffle' with a valuable prize for the winner. Students who have spoken English much more than their own language are, at the end of each week, entitled to one raffle ticket. Throughout the Course, there are also '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, an extra ticket is awarded — a 'bonus'. At the end of the Course there is 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.



Eirinn Christine (Norway) getting the message

#### HEALTH

Minor illnesses are treated by our own staff. There is a Matron with a special surgery/sickroom in each School. We also use the services of doctors in the locality. The St John's Ambulance Service provides training for all our staff at the start of each Course in the latest methods of basic first aid and resuscitation. We ask parents to give us full health information on the Application Form.

#### RELIGION

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



Wheelbarrow

## The Programme

#### HOW WE LOOK AFTER STUDENTS

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 our students are well looked-after.

In addition to the staff, on each Course there are two older ex-students, 'Staff Helpers', to assist with the sports and entertainments programme.

During the Course, progress reports are sent to all parents describing performance in class 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. Parents must ensure that we have a telephone number through which they can always be reached. If it is an emergency and we cannot reach you, we shall contact the person named in section 8 (our 'emergency contact') on the Application Form. If we cannot contact either of you, we shall assume your authority to act 'in loco parentis' and, in a medical emergency, for example, give consent to appropriate medical treatment. We send students a list of rules and standards of behaviour expected before the Course begins. These are straightforward. Basically, we expect students to respect the buildings, equipment and the feelings of other people and to show good manners.

If a student is correctly motivated (see section on 'Students who will benefit'), there should be no discipline problems. 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.

#### INSURANCE

Every student is covered by a special Insurance Policy while they are with us. 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 £10,000; personal possessions and luggage cover to the value of £500; personal money cover to the value of £200; return air fare or repatriation to the value of £10,000 if an APEX reservation is lost because of delayed or advanced departure through illness or accident while the student is with us. Personal accident insurance is included.

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

## HOW TO APPLY

Answer all the questions on the Application Form and return it to us with (if this is a first application) a letter of recommendation from the school on behaviour and attitude to study. Retain your copy for reference. We shall tell you immediately if the application is acceptable and for which Course. A 'waiting list' operates when the Courses are full.

## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

To ensure that all our students are well-motivated and keen to participate, we ask that a brief letter of recommendation from the school accompanies all applications from new students. This should mention behaviour and attitude to study. No such letter is needed for students we already know.

## WHEN THE APPLICATION IS ACCEPTED

We shall write to inform you of this and include our Invoice for the Course Fees. The Invoice can be settled in full immediately, or 50% can be paid immediately and the balance by the date shown on the Invoice. The place is confirmed when the full Course Fees have been received by us. We shall also request travel details.

## HOW TO PAY

Please see the 'Course Fees 1994' slip.

## THE COURSE FEE INCLUDES:-

- residence at the School
- travel Heathrow-School/School-Heathrow<sup>1</sup>
- all meals<sup>2</sup>
- tuition
- the sports programme
- the use of facilities
- excursions
- insurance<sup>3</sup>
- the laundering of clothes<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>At specified times and terminals – see 'Travel'

<sup>2</sup>Except lunch on excursions, but including lunch on Sports Day

<sup>3</sup>As described in the 'Insurance' slip

<sup>4</sup>If not sensitive to bulk washing/drying, at your own risk



Michael and Mads (Norway) and Philip (Germany) getting to work at the Mary Hare Casino

There are NO EXTRA CHARGES except for optional church, theatre or shopping visits and professional tennis lessons. A small (£3) deduction is made from pocket money to provide indoor board games and records, tapes and CDs for the 'Club'. £20 'caution money' will be retained in the student's pocket money account until the last day when it will be returned less deductions for damages (if any.)

## THE COURSE FEE DOES NOT INCLUDE

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

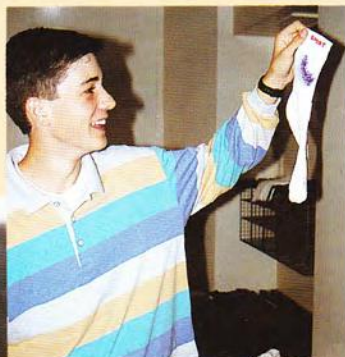
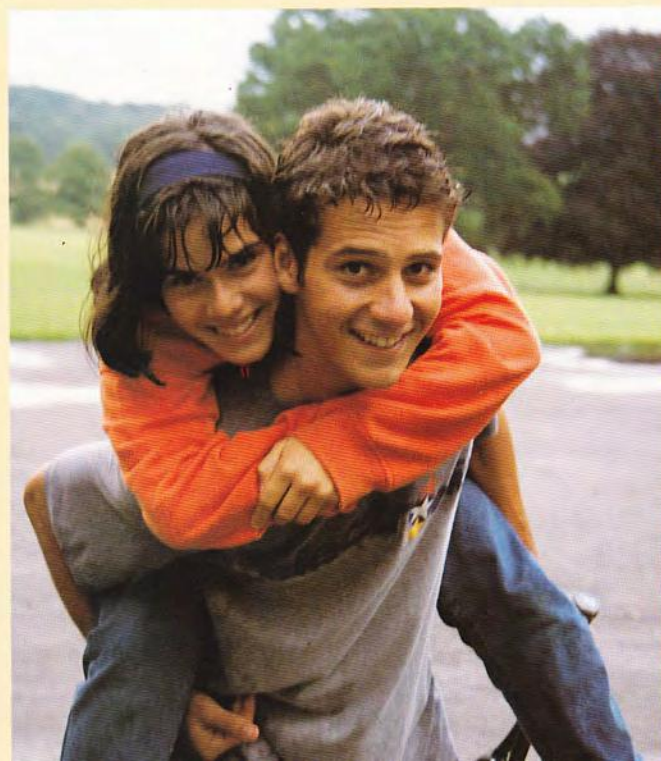
## POCKET MONEY

Pocket money can either be brought by students (as a £ Eurocheque under £700 in value, or as a £ cheque drawn on a British bank, payable to 'Vacational Studies Pocket Money A/C') or sent in advance to the National Westminster Bank, 30 Market Place, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5AJ for Vacational Studies Pocket Money A/C 65400100. Students will tend to bring about £200. Optional tennis coaching fees and the cost of theatre visit(s) should be added (if applicable). Do not send more money during the Course.

## CLOTHES AND POSSESSIONS

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

Piggy-back ride



Evarist (Spain) finds his sock

'The Crazies again'



## TRAVEL

It is quite usual for our students 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 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 wait for our staff near the Information Desk. If flights leave after 13.00, we explain the procedure and take students to wait in the correct area.

When arrival is later or departure is earlier than our stated dates or times, or if the flight is via Gatwick Airport, our standard service cannot be used. If a student is booked UM to arrive at or depart from Terminal 3 or 4 or outside our requested times, 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 the student. (As a guide, a one-way taxi for one person to Heathrow is about £45 and to Gatwick about £55. For two people, the cost is shared). Special requirements should be indicated on the Application Form and details sent separately.



Three Graces

## AT THE AIRPORT

Before travelling, we send an identity badge and luggage tags to ensure quick recognition. Our representatives will carry a large Vocational Studies sign and will meet students 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 after the Schools' addresses. Parents bringing students are asked to arrive at between 12.30 and 14.30. Parents collecting students on the last day are asked to arrive before 11.00.

## ON ARRIVAL AT THE SCHOOL

All money is handed in at the Office for safe keeping. Students can withdraw money every day. 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, 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/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):  
National: (0635) 248464  
International: +44 635 248464

### DOUAI 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/Douai School' signpost. (Elstree School is 1km along this road on the right). Continue for ½km. Turn right at 'Main Entrance' sign and immediately left.

Address for students' letters:

Douai School  
Woolhampton Reading RG7 5TH.  
Telephone (to contact Course Manager):  
National: (0734) 715262  
(note new number)  
International: +44 734 715262  
(note new number)

### CHEAM SCHOOL

From Newbury, take the A339 road (signposted 'Basingstoke') for 10km. Cheam School (Front Entrance) is signposted on the right.

Address for students' letters:

Cheam School  
Headley Newbury Berkshire RG15 8LD.  
Telephone (to contact Course Manager):  
National: (0635) 268803  
International: +44 635 268803

### ELSTREE SCHOOL

See directions to Douai.

Elstree School  
Woolhampton Reading RG7 5TD.  
Telephone (to contact Course Manager):  
National: (0734) 712725  
International: +44 734 712725

The telephone numbers and addresses given above are only for use during the Courses 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.

## DIRECTIONS BY RAIL

By train from London, leave from Paddington Station. For Mary Hare and Cheam, arrive at Newbury Station. For Douai and Elstree arrive at Reading Station or Midgham 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 road, then follow road directions.

## VISITS TO THE SCHOOLS

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

## FINALLY....

We have tried to describe the Courses fully and frankly. Please also see the sections 'Unrealisable Expectations' in the News Section. 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 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.

Henrik (Norway)  
circuit training at Elstree



The faces, contorted in grief, say it all in the grey dawn of the 'last day'. For many of our students it does, indeed, feel apocalyptic. The fun is over, the friends are scattered, the community that has been such a strong binding force disappears in an instant – down the drive in a green Bennetts bus. Quite what parents think when confronted by the red-eyed, tear-streaked faces of their youngsters, I cannot imagine. I hope they understand that it's because they have had such an intensity of experience that the nerve endings are so close to the surface. The emotion hangs in the air on the Courses. It develops its own momentum. It feeds on itself and transcends all frontiers. This, I think, is where the magic is.

I can let others speak for me. From a member of staff at Cheam – 'The four weeks flashed past and the pathos surrounding the empty school the day after the Course had finished was an indication that both staff and students had had the time of their lives.' From a student at Mary Hare – 'It was the best month of my life. An unforgettable time. And it was also a big experience. Everything I write doesn't seem to be enough to explain how wonderful it was.' From a student at Elstree – 'It was an unforgettable experience which I will treasure for the rest of my life.' From a parent at Elstree – 'As parents, we had full confidence in you and your staff and you most certainly did not disappoint this confidence. She had the time of her life.' From a Staff Helper at Douai – 'I have decided that every year is better than the last and worse than the next. I can say this with my five years experience.' From a member of staff at Douai – 'You run one of the best and most caring set-ups that I have ever encountered.' From a student at Douai – 'I think my parents are bored stupid by all my stories which all seem to end "Oh, it was just BRILLIANT!!!!" 'The experience is more valuable than anything that can be obtained from books. Never before have I spent such a great time....' All summed up, perhaps, by '.... expectations were really high and they were fully met. Thank you once again for your excellent job, organising summer schools for foreign young people'.

There is more, much more – but (to quote Gordon), I don't want to bore

As in every year, 1993 has taught us as many lessons as we taught our students. Fundamentally our Courses are rooted in traditional values. This feature will remain. Parents expect it and I rather think students do, too. Just as we see the similarities in children, whatever their national background, so we see that, wherever they come from, parents want the same for their children – to feel that they are looked after, that they are having fun and that they are learning. This time we learned how resourceful our students can be – and that we have to remain a jump or two ahead of them. More later....

Elstree Cheerleaders



Mary Hare

#### SUMMER 1993 REMEMBERED

That it was hot and sunny immediately before the Courses and hot and sunny immediately after them, is not going to impress anyone. The best that can be said about our weather between 6 July and 11 August is that it did not rain all day every day. The trouble with long, hot, sunny days is that everyone tends to feel like doing little other than laze by the pool. Our Courses rely on activities to get people moving and integrating. As we were, in Voltaire's words, 'not inconvenienced by the heat', our Sports Crews could come up with as many activities as they liked and everyone would join in. By and large they did and the all-important 'atmosphere' that either makes or breaks a Course was almost palpable at all four schools. In one of the classes I observed, the students were asked what they thought about the weather – 'It's good, it makes a

change'; 'It was too hot at home'; 'It's nice, I like it' were the answers. What else did they like? Read on....

Cheam moved back to being our first Course and filled early. Blessed with quite a number of returning students and staff and with an old hand (Richard Turner) at the helm, new students and staff quickly realised that they had joined a long-established club. Two former students were on the staff. Sports Organiser, Federico Sanavio, has worked his way up through Staff Helper and Assistant Staff. The enormous advantage such experience provides is a knowledge of what the students like; what works and what does not. The trick is using the skills of colleagues to put the ideas into practice. Federico performed with great enthusiasm and was ably assisted by Marco Bonetti who came across to help out after his university examinations. I think they both

learned something about how the vagaries of the weather have shaped the British mentality. No sooner had an outdoor activity been arranged than the heavens opened. As soon as a game in the Sports Hall was underway, out came the sun. 'Sun's shining, Federico. You'd better get the students inside', I would say, quite unfairly, but with an element of truth. The other ex-student was the ubiquitous Rosalie Troost as Assistant.



**Mary Hare Cheerleaders**

She had a lovely time. Much of the video footage can be stored to be used against her when she is a successful lawyer. Our other Assistant was the youthfully energetic Kieran Earley — he of the amazing physique — a superb entertainer and all-round performer. Sergio Capdepon (Spain) returned as Staff Helper without breaking anyone. Idun Lunde (Norway) made a decorative debut and had much fun. David Delaney looked as if he was aiming for the non-stop chess-playing record. It became a major activity worthy of a contest at Sports Day. Andrew Feeney was the astute Senior Teacher.

Returning teachers were Ian Lain and Liz Morris. Newcomers, Bridget (Aussie rules) Walker, Kiki Marriott and Jacqueline Connell completed the team. Cheam's all-year Matron, Judith Hamilton, became our Matron and Assistant Course Manager, coping with ailments ranging from common colds through hysteria to potentially exploding eardrums, with her calm efficiency — while doing the pocket money with her other hand. Several of the students were willing to use their artistic talents, notably Ana's Spanish dancing at the 'Folies' and several others 'tinkling the ivories' at the 'Casino'. The staff showed a penchant for the '60s in their repertoire; their voices 'Blowin' in the Wind' from the

captured on video. Cheam looked brighter, too. We have now installed our own dramatically multicoloured duvet covers, so parents need no longer try to obtain the unobtainable to send with their children.

Passions surged at The Mary Hare. The sports crew, led by five-year veteran Tim Colman ('who worked so hard and didn't sleep') with assistance from the authoritative Sylvia Haltermann and the dramatic Martin Hutson, hyped up the hysteria. The students lurched from one emotional moment to another. Teaching during the gaps in between were returnee Rachel Bridgeman and newcomers Barry Percy-Smith, Clare Carney, Stephen Brown, Karen Taylor, Annette Holland and David Jones (who commuted between Mary Hare and Cheam as Peripatetic Teacher.) Senior Teacher was Peter Jennings. In charge again was Francis McIvor, fortified by nine years' experience of our work and still coming back for more. Moving on from Cheam last year, we had David Smith as ACM. He had a lovely time, too. Barbara Sykes had her third year with us as Matron and was sensibly co-opted onto the sports crew, no doubt to oversee repairs to the injured and supply coffee to the exhausted. Adding to the students' enjoyment were first-time Staff Helpers, Nuria Flaquer (Spain) and Maarten Koch (Netherlands).

Talented students abounded. Some used their skills constructively and produced the finest 'Folies' ever seen. The subtle distinction between the 'Folies' and the 'Revue' was made clear at The Mary Hare, so I have included extracts as a separate section



in the 'VacStuds '93 All Over Again' video to give ideas to those who would not normally watch the Mary Hare segment. It shows just what young people can achieve, given the opportunity. For the first time, a full-length melodrama was produced and was rapturously received. Some splendid acting and witty writing accompanied the photo-stories displayed on the walls. All-in-all, there was plenty happening — on and off the programme.

This was our biggest-ever Course at Douai and, in Chris FitzGerald, we had a Course Manager to match. Lauded resoundingly and frequently by his students, he presided over a supportive staff with veteran ACM, David Johnson, taking over on the occasions when decrepitude set in. Callum Robertson was the no-nonsense Senior Teacher, also i/c minesweeping. Simon Etherton returned for more after several years. Newcomers on our teaching staff Rebecca Johnson, Jonathan Timms, Rachel Hunt, Jane Sowerby, Dawn Lowry and Brendan Agnew (shared with Elstree) quickly found their feet. Matron, Judith Rigney, continued soothing with one hand and brandishing burning brooms in the other. Saving the school was all in a day's work to her. She even found time to direct 'Romeo and Juliet' —

a splendid effort at Shakespeare — and continuation of what has become a Douai tradition, a classic play. Staff Helper, Silvia Abello (Spain), bounced round the Course with her boundless enthusiasm and frenetic energy, not to mention an accent thick enough to peel paint. After three years as Assistant, Phil Kefford took personal control of the sports and entertainments programme, even including cricket. His commitment was never less than total. His idea of a 'Derek jacket' worn by anyone who had made a fool of him/herself the previous day, was inspired.

Appropriately, he was seen wearing it himself, too. Apart from his singing, his Assistant, Ed Yarker, proved to be a first-class all-rounder, as did Poppy Sutton, back again sporting and soothing. The continuing success of our Course at Douai is also due in no small measure to the co-operation we receive from the School itself. Father Dermott, Graham Smith and John Sellers went out of their way to be helpful and became familiar figures on the Course.

The students quickly homogenised and many of the older ones set a positive example, making the contribution we expect and which gives a Course its momentum. The full extra-curricular programme, overseen by a strong and enthusiastic staff, provided most with the variety they wanted. A few sought illicit excitement and learned a hard lesson. The repercussions will remain with us.



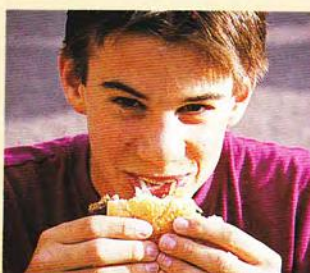
**Toni (Spain) celebrating Christmas in July**

Elstree 'went bananas' this year. Under the stewardship of Richard Wijeratne once again, the students achieved a special togetherness. The staff did not. Richard Rees was back in charge of the sports, assisted by Gavin Falk from Eire and Albertine Kronenberg from The Netherlands. Their programme kept everyone on their toes and left one or two flat on their backs. Matron, Sally Beaton, had a complete change of rôle and had to learn some new skills rather quickly. Returnee Staff Helper, Chiara Filippi (Italy), was serene. Excellent newcomer, Christian-Alexander Noll (Germany), was punctilious. On the teaching side we had Steve Warriner again as forthright and dependable ACM. Vanessa Hiett was back as Senior Teacher. Jane Scott and Joe Caslin returned. David Klappholz, Jacqueline Whiteley and Anna McAdam were new this summer. Elstree Courses tend to generate their own impetus. This is characterised by the likes of spontaneous formation dancing and ritual chanting combined with an intensity of emotion and depth of friendship that are the hallmarks of most Elstree Courses. Such a corporate spirit needs nurturing and those staff who were involved in the extra-curricular programme know that they have helped perpetuate new traditions and enhance those already established. One that we all enjoyed was having Class 6 as waiters.

Elstree

As always, we had several 'peripatetics' on the Courses. Mark Thatcher must have in his archives the songs that have achieved classic status at our discos. Each year the records are dusted off and raves from the decade before last like 'Viva España!', 'The Birdy Song' and 'YMCA' catch the imagination of a new generation of students – each with its own special dance. At just the right moment 'Leaving on a Jet Plane' starts the ritualised weeping. Christine O'Callaghan, from St John's Ambulance, provided first-aid instruction to all the staff before the students arrived – just in case. Liz Fidler, our tennis coach, had the bad luck of losing several lessons to the rain in the first year that she took on the coaching at all four schools. Clare Abbott helped out. Another noticeable presence at the schools was my PA's characterful Frog Escort.

And there was me. Once again, I seemed to have the knack of arriving at just the right time. Some would say the wrong time. My visits to the schools are always interesting. If not, I try to make them so. I know Course Managers appreciate them.



The traditional Elstree pyramid

## THE TEACHING

Although Fred Gooch is no longer Director of Studies with us, his legacy remains. He completed the 'Programme of Work' that we suggest for the teachers and edited the 'VacStuds Teaching Video' we present so that our polyglot (and demanding and intelligent – and psyched-up and occasionally exhausted) students will not come as a complete shock. At his suggestion, we had a Senior Teacher at each school with one visiting teacher for Mary Hare and Cheam and

another for Elstree and Douai. The idea was sound and depended for its success on those doing the job. We shall continue to have a 'Senior Teacher' in charge at each school, although with a less onerous job-description, and two 'Support Teachers' for all the schools to share. Fred's idea of a prize for the 'Best Presented Workfile' continued. The prize this time was a VacStuds watch. Watches also went to the winners of the 'English-Only' draw.

## SUPERVISED STUDY

Will be changed for 1994. It will become written 'Homework'. In that our students do not go home, it should more properly be called 'Prep', but 'Homework' is universally understood. This will be a written follow-up of a topic covered in class and will be given a mark. The Senior Teacher and I will see and reassess the workfiles of all high-scoring students. There will be a prize for 'Academic Excellence' at each school.

## 'ARELS/UCLES' EXAMINATION

The University of Cambridge has devised with the Association of Recognised English Language Schools, a special examination for short summer courses. This was its





Douai  
Cheerleaders

were entered. It gave them a clear idea what their English is like and what the next Cambridge examination they might take should be. Each successful entrant received a certificate. The examination fee charged to us per candidate was £7.50. We added nothing for administration and produced and supplied certificates at no charge. For students to take a well thought-out public examination and to receive a grade, a mark and a certificate for £7.50 is a bargain. We shall repeat it in 1994, again at cost price (now £7.65) deducted from pocket money. A 'yes/no' 'ARELS/UCLES Examination' box appears on the 1994 Application Form. It is a suitable examination for those above 'lower intermediate' level.

## SPORTS DAY

Saturday 31 July dawned bright and clear – to everyone's relief. In a month of rainy days, I had, once again, struck lucky in my choice. Just a brief shower mid-morning sent onlookers scurrying for shelter. The songs rang out again as they have for the last ten years of Sports Days, their origins lost in the mists of antiquity – but I know where they started. Cheam's 'Hey, ba-ba-riba', for example, was created in 1980 by a Dutchman (now a respectable accountant) and was initially 'Hey, Benedicte' (a delightful girl whom I still meet occasionally.) It continued, 'We love you in the morning/And we love you in the night/ We love you in the evening/When the stars shine

bright.' The Revue in 1979 saw the first performance (to the tune 'Milord') of 'I've got an Elstree dream/If you know what I mean/I want to stay right here/Even if takes a year/The staff are really great/The students integrate/The beds and showers are too small/But that's not all.....' New Mary Hare songs were composed in 1993 to go alongside the old ones and Douai are seeing what catches on. None of the schools' names lend themselves readily to chants, so the originators have done a remarkable job in producing singalongs that erupt spontaneously on one day in the year in the west of Berkshire and would be quite at home on the lips of a Wembley Cup Final crowd. They are all in evidence on the videocassette. Sports Day has its own section. The Day was graced by the presence of the Course Managers. As one or two are non-ambulatory, they had their own inter-school 'Trivial Pursuit' challenge in the Office. I gather a few of the questions were answered correctly. A fragment of this is also on the videocassette. All-in-all, it was a thoroughly enjoyable day and, almost without exception, there was good behaviour and friendly badinage from everyone.

## CATERING

In that the catering was of a good standard at all the schools, I would say that this has been the best year yet. The range of choices ensured that there was something for everyone. Gardner Merchant catered at Cheam

and Elstree. 'The best in seven years' was a comment from one contented regular at Elstree. 'And – you may be glad to hear – she very much liked the food' said one of the Cheam parents. Mrs Jean Monger was in charge at The Mary Hare. Her magnificent buffet at Sports Day is on the video. Fairfield Catering were at Douai. There will be a change of caterers there in 1994. Needless to say, it is just not possible to please everyone. I observed several girls walking past all the hot choices, past 14 different cold dishes, past various yoghurts, gateaux and fruits, pausing only to pick up two slices of bread. Obviously, we intervened, but it taught me again this year that we can never, never win.

## TRIPS

In trying to steer our students away from 'shopping' and adopting a more educational, 'hands-on' approach to trips, I think I may have strayed too far in this direction. I shall redress the balance for 1994. The London trip will be a sightseeing tour of the entire city with a professional guide at the microphone. There will be time for two or three stop-offs. After the tour – shopping. There will also be a trip to Bath, again with a professional guide, followed by shopping. The third trip will be optional and may be another visit to London, if the students wish. The fourth trip will be Sports Day. There will be two shopping afternoons locally. Most schools arranged another trip during the month. Elstree, for example, went to see 'Jurassic Park'. Other schools went ten-pin bowling. I think this is an excellent idea. If students express the wish to go somewhere, or do something special, we shall try to make the arrangements.

## POCKET MONEY

I am sure we shall get never this right. Some parents (correctly, in my opinion) think the figure we suggest is ridiculously high. Others send three times this amount and then more during the Course. The figure I quote is what most students bring. I think young people have better things to do while with us than go shopping. Nevertheless, I must accept reality. One or two parents were surprised at

that students are aware of their spending patterns (and also to check on our arithmetic), they will check and sign every seventh transaction on their pocket money sheets.

## CHEWING GUM

Fines for chewing gum totalled £100 this year. I presented this sum to Esther Rantzen, Founder of Childline, at the BBC in September. While this is a considerable benefit to Childline – a cause dear to our hearts – I hope (but I assume Esther would demur) that the donation will be smaller in 1994...

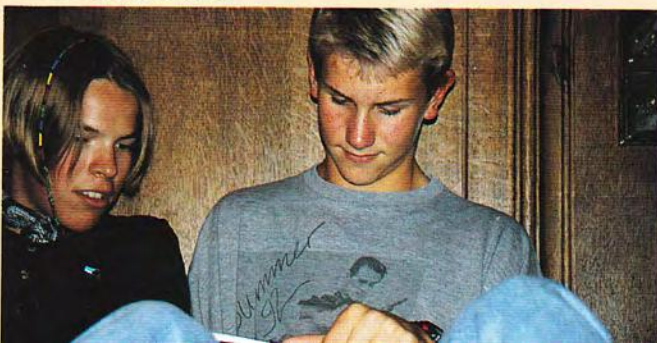


Victory for Ana (Spain)!

## FEEDBACK

I am flattered that so many people, especially staff, should take the trouble to comment on the Course in such detail. Their wish that every aspect of it should be a success comes across clearly. I have asked those expressing opinions to be specific. The latent interpersonal conflicts inevitable in a small, intense community are impossible to resolve, but I have a fair idea of who did (and did not do) what and where attention needs to be directed to the managing of human resources. Given a body of people almost all of whom are motivated to put effort into the Course, it should be possible to cultivate the strong points and give advice on areas of weakness. It is essentially a matter of teamwork as much as individual excellence. The feedback will be used as informative material for those in charge, but where the teams have not been

Memory Book time at Elstree



## LESSONS V SPORTS

I wonder if there may be a dichotomy here. One of the pieces of feedback suggested that there may be an element of confusion in the students' minds about what the Course is about. Is it about learning English in class or is about playing sports and having fun? Some students resent lessons – no matter how well thought-out and good they may be – because they represent time when the sports staff cannot entertain them. The easy answer is that it is about both. Thinking about it, though, I suppose the considered answer is that the Course is about growing up. We take young people at a tender age and present them with all kinds of challenges. A real culture-shock. New people, a new language, strange food, odd weather and even a different time-zone. All quite confusing. That so many of our students reconcile going to classes in the morning and enjoying them and playing sport and having fun in the afternoons and evenings and enjoying this is, maybe, remarkable. That some fail to reconcile these diverse elements seems to me to be inevitable. What is certain is that a VacStuds Course is not just a language Course.

## INSURANCE (New Policy for 1994)

We had an incident this year during which a few students engaged in a clandestine and dangerous activity resulting in a serious injury. I have had to accept that young people may injure themselves as a result of their own intentionally reckless actions. It is to ensure that, in any eventually, extensive private medical care here or an air ambulance home are available at no cost to parents that I have decided to increase the benefits available under the special Insurance Policy we have for our students and to provide automatic personal accident cover for them. Please see the enclosed information sheet for the new benefits. The premiums we pay have increased considerably, of course, because of the extra cover. I think it is a price worth paying. This accounts for the rise in Fees above the British inflation rate.

## 'TELL ME'

came telling them to let me know if there was something wrong or if there was something I could help with. Although I was asked all sorts of questions along the lines of 'At what time is my tennis lesson tomorrow?', a few students raised with me points of real relevance to the teaching they were receiving and to their well-being in general. This has added to my awareness of what students' concerns are and I shall act on this knowledge.

## ENGLISH STUDENTS

At three of the four schools, we had English students. This is the first time we have tried this idea and I received warnings from many quarters that it could not work. It struck me that the Courses are not really international unless we include all nationalities, including the English. They were all 16 and went into the top classes. As I expected, they reacted like everyone else – enjoying the fun and games and entering fully into the spirit of the Course. The famous 'British reserve' was not apparent, although politeness was. They encouraged English-speaking among the students as well as having a great time themselves. Francis McIvor and I made the choice from the boys at Norwich School. They have been excellent ambassadors for their school and their country. We are proud of them.

## OLDER STUDENTS' COURSE

The Course for 17+s I mentioned last year will not happen. I received only one letter in response to my request for views. It was positive and I know from 'the grapevine' that there are others who are positive, too. No one else contacted me, though, so I have insufficient feedback to enable me to proceed.

## STAFF HELPERS

Anyone wishing to be considered in 1994 or 1995 should contact me now. There will be quite a number of



Douai

vacancies for 1994. I am particularly interested in receiving applications from those who are 19+ and from those who left us as students two or more years ago. Previous applicants will be considered again. A new feature in the selection of Staff Helpers will be a question sheet. This will contain a number of 'situations' of the sort that arise on the Courses. Applicants will assess these situations and write down how they would react to them – and why. There are no right or wrong answers. The responses will help me assess the values and attitudes of Staff Helper applicants.

## FAXED APPLICATIONS

This is how most application forms are sent nowadays. Stephen Green, my designer, has redesigned them to be more fax-friendly. (If they were not photocopied first, the coloured forms ground slowly, expensively and illegibly through my fax machine, reaching me as spotty shadows of their intended selves.)

## THE 'FOLIES BERGERES'

Introduced by Maurien Cosijn several years ago when she was Sports Organiser at The Mary Hare, this has become an established tradition there. It is a completely student-generated activity with the staff giving help only when asked and is quite different from the 'Revue'. It has been wonderful to

see how many students have shown real talent in various areas – some as performers, some as organisers – and how polished the show has become. Not only has this been developmental for those involved, but a great pleasure to watch. Indeed, the concluding song (written by a student) captures the moment so poetically that it cannot fail to moisten the eye. Everyone should watch this one. It is with the hope that all our students at all the schools can benefit from this activity that I have included a few items from the Mary Hare 'Folies' at the end of the video. All the 1994 Sports/Social staff will be given a copy.

## THE VIDEO

VacStuds '92 All Over Again' was far too long and the interviews became boring. Nevertheless, almost everyone had a copy and many watched it over and over again. 'VacStuds '93 All Over Again' is different – shorter, snappier, has no interviews, uses less language and includes (as far as I can tell) everyone. I did the editing myself, but had the mastertape produced in a studio, so the quality is better, too. I learned this year not to mix recorded and new tapes in my camcorder bag. Sorry Cheam and Mary Hare. 90 minutes of your footage (including Cheam's Casino and Mary Hare's Christmas Dinner) was overtaped and I did not realise this until you had all gone home.... Although some of the material that I shot has been edited out of the final version of the video, it still exists on the original cassettes, so if any student remembers being filmed and does not find it in the video, it may be worthwhile contacting me.

Cheam Cheerleaders



#### PHOTOS IN THIS BROCHURE

If parents or students would like the original slides used in this brochure, please ask. 'First come, first served.'

#### LOST PROPERTY

or rather 'found property'. All named property, regardless of value, has been sent back. I have received some named property that ended up in other students' suitcases. This has also been returned. If any property has been mis-packed, please let me know or just post it back to me. I shall forward it to its owner. Several quite high-value items (cameras and watches) are sitting in my store-cupboard waiting to be claimed. If such items have gone missing, please check with me before abandoning hope.

English. Parents may make requests, but we reserve the right to place students in what we consider to be appropriate classes and dormitories. The Course is a communal experience. Individual freedom is restricted. Our school buildings are boarding schools – not hotels. Accommodation, washrooms, etc. are shared. Bedrooms are boarding school dormitories and these may be sparsely furnished. Our schools become co-educational only in the summer, so bathrooms may be away from dormitories and boy/girl rotas for their use are sometimes needed. Clothes storage space may be limited. All sorts of compromises have to be made, but for most young people this

Melodrama at Mary Hare



#### UNREALISABLE EXPECTATIONS

Those who know our work will understand why we include this paragraph – and why it is relevant to those sending children to us for the first time. We do what we can to encourage students to learn and use the Course to advantage. We do our best to look after them. We make no other claims. We cannot force a child to integrate. While we provide encouragement, they must help themselves. They will find others who speak their language and they may be tempted to take the easy way. They may come with friends from home. We cannot keep friends apart when they are at the same School. They must decide to broaden their

is part of the fun. We also ask parents to accept that telephone contact with their children, especially in the first few days, is not a good idea. We are not being difficult, just putting into practice what we know from experience works. In effect, what we are requesting is a partnership between us based on our expertise and your trust in us. What we provide and the parameters of what we permit are in our literature. We act on the assumption that parents and students read it all.

#### BEFORE AND DURING THE COURSE

Parents are welcome to keep in touch by telephone via the Course Manager. If they could telephone children only

mentioned in the 'Notes for Parents', this would be appreciated. Parents are also welcome to contact me on any matter. In July and August I tend to be at my desk from 08.00 (English time) until 11.00 and then I travel around the schools. If there is a problem, I can take immediate action. During the period before the Courses, letters are replied to immediately. I shall probably not be able to reply to letters received during July and August until after the Courses, however.

#### AFTER THE COURSE

Feel free to contact me on any matter connected with Britain. For example, parents ask for my advice on continuing their children's education in Britain. I am happy to help. No charge! I see this as a natural extension of my work with young people. Students ask for information, sometimes ten or twenty years later. No problem! This year, for example, through my contacts, three students are at school full-time in Britain, another is working at the LSE, and yet another is helping out for half a year at one of the schools before starting university. Several others are at university here. It has been said before and it is not an overstatement – coming on a VacStuds Course can change your life.... There are two other extensions to my work – The Jörg Weise Association and Giotto.

#### The JÖRG WEISE ASSOCIATION

Briefly, the history of the JWA is that in 1979 one of our first students, Jörg Weise, who was with us in 1971, was killed at the age of 21 in a motorcycle accident. It was particularly sad as he had shown promise as an actor and was already involved in international work. His father was on the Board of Directors of Bayer AG in Leverkusen, Germany. In the name of his son, I invited Prof. Dr. Weise to nominate a young person for a place on one of our Courses. He agreed, but went further. He asked that he be permitted to nominate and pay for a place in his son's name in perpetuity. He also agreed to the sculpting of a trophy that would be awarded annually in his son's name to a student or students making an outstanding contribution to the international aims

Trophy were invited to a gathering each year and, in time, the group grew to a sizeable number. Such a collection of talented young people from many different countries needed more of a reason for being than just an annual get-together, I felt, and in 1985 I put to them the idea that they could form themselves into an Association that would work towards giving other, less privileged young people the opportunity to cross frontiers. The Jörg Weise Association was born. It is a now a charitable institution, registered in Germany, for the advancement of international understanding. The Jörg Weise Trophy is no longer awarded annually as it tended to promote too competitive a spirit, but it is still awarded occasionally for 'an outstanding contribution to the ideals of the Course'. The Association meets annually at Easter. The 1993 Meeting was in Budapest. Older (16+) students who wish to be considered for membership can contact me for information.

#### THE JÖRG WEISE SCHOLARSHIP

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, theatre tickets and tennis lessons. 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. The Scholarship Committee will take steps to verify the financial situation of candidates. We welcome nominations for the Scholarship in 1995 which should be sent in confidence, and without informing the projected recipient, to Vacational Studies. I shall forward nominations to the Scholarship Committee of the Jörg Weise Association.

#### GIOTTO

Giotto was started in 1986, the year of Halley's Comet. It seemed to me a pity that the strong international contacts made by our students in their teens should disappear with the passage of time. It is not that they did not wish to

to continue correspondence after the shared experience of the Course has faded from the memory. Nevertheless, I felt that these contacts, good in one's teens, could be even more beneficial later on. I decided to contact all our past students to see how they felt. It was my biggest-ever mailshot and the response was overwhelming. I named this organisation Giotto after the collaborative European space-probe, Giotto, which was sent up in February 1986 to observe Halley's Comet. No one knew at that time if it would succeed or fail. In fact, it succeeded. The probe Giotto was so named because Halley's Comet features in a work by the Florentine painter, Giotto. When I decided in 1986 to collate the names of our students from 1972 to date and create this international organisation, I did not know if it would succeed or fail. That the 1994 Giotto Book (published in January) will be its 8th Edition and will contain over 1200 names, suggests to me it is succeeding. The Book is provided at no charge. It is totally financed by Vacation Studies as an adjunct to our work in helping make the world a smaller place. Some now in the Book are rather young, but time will put this right. In a few years, the Giotto Book will include many interesting and useful people in various fields who are willing to be contacted. For those who are visiting or need help in another country, here are contacts. For those who wish for a more personal contact through this organisation, Giotto Tours was created by a group of students in 1992. Giotto Tours arranges holidays and get-togethers for its members. The next will be from 31 March to 5 April 1994 in Brussels. Information



'I don't know what you've been told...'

can be obtained from Eva Mila (Spain) or Gabriella Hoffmann (Italy). Their addresses and phone numbers are in the Giotto Book.

## COCKTAIL PARTIES

These enable parents and students to meet each other and are also an opportunity for new parents and students to meet those who have been before – and to meet me. In making the arrangements I was helped enormously by friends whose names appear in brackets and without whose assistance the parties would not have been possible. I had parties in Barcelona (courtesy of Hanneke Derksen de Alorda), Madrid (Jesus Silva), Venice (the Carrain family), Oslo (Finn Røgenæs) and Monte-Carlo (Franck and Stéphane Lobono.) Thanks! More are planned for 1994. Suggestions for new venues (and help in organising them) gratefully received!

## PARTY IN ROME

There will be a party for past and present students, parents, staff and friends – from all countries – (courtesy of the Sorvillo family) at Anagni, near Rome on Saturday 27 November 1993. Everyone is invited. Details from Eddie Sorvillo on (+39) 775 727189 (fax (+39) 775 727112) or me.

## MY THANKS

– to the vast majority of parents, students and staff who by their co-operation have helped make the Courses what they are. There are,

Course Managers managing at Sports Day



needless to say, those who do exactly what I ask them (in five languages) not to do. I doubt if they will have read as far as this.

As I say to the students on the rare occasions when matters of discipline arise, it's all a matter of trust. Parents trust me to look after their children. The students trust me to provide friends and fun for them – and interesting lessons, too. I pass on this trust to the staff and I am rarely let down.

As is obvious from all the above, I greatly enjoy every aspect of my work. Having contacts all over the world is an enormous pleasure as well as being most useful. It is gratifying that so many other people can benefit from the network that has been set up over the years. I hope I have not become complacent. I value – and am receptive to – suggestions for development and change.

Ian G. Mucklejohn – Autumn 1993

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Ian Mucklejohn – who, as the Director, co-ordinates the Schools – was born in London. He is a graduate of the University of London with an Honours Degree in English Language and Literature. He has had many years experience in teaching. He is the founder of Vacation Studies.

James (England) saying good-bye



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