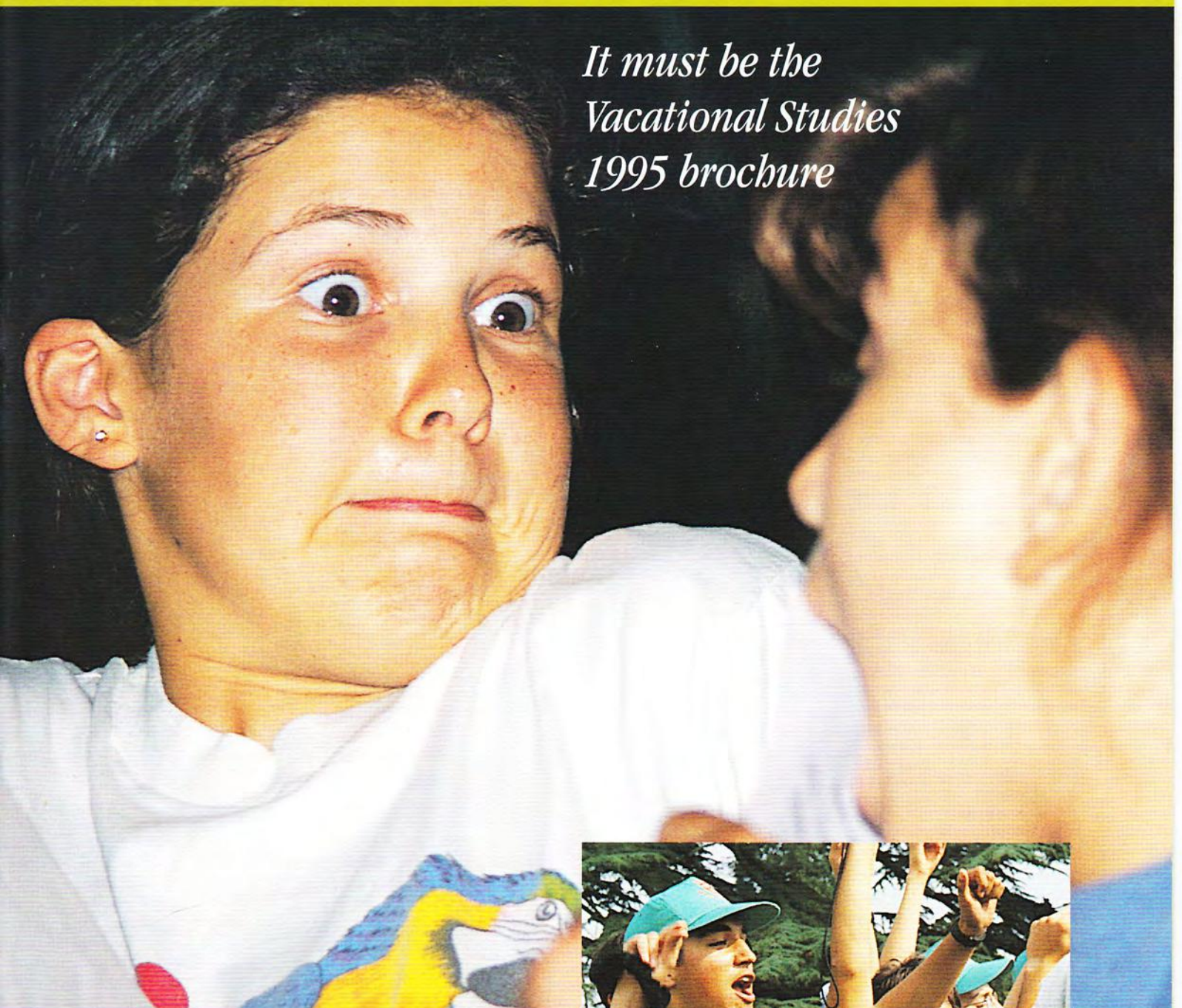


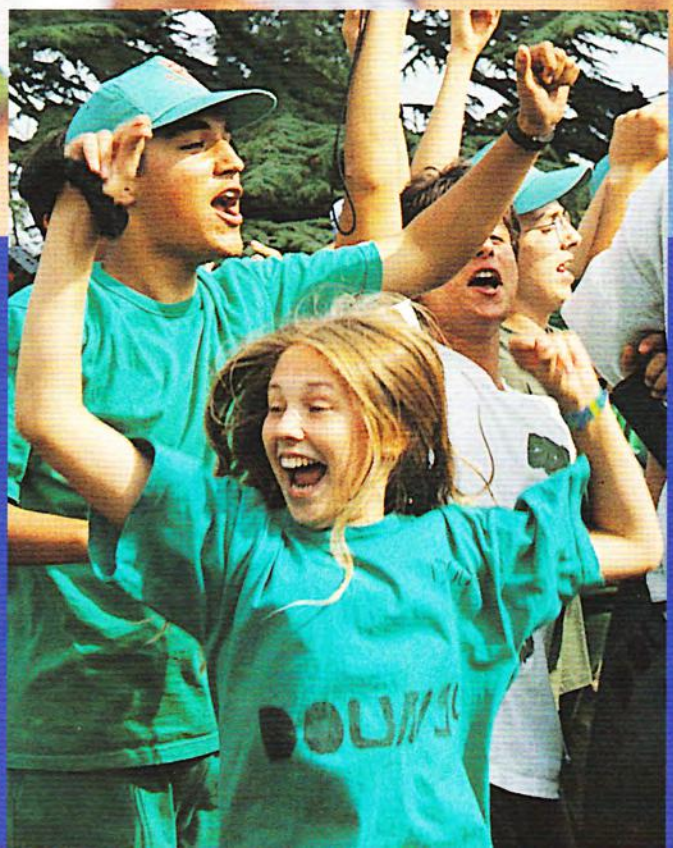
Summer 1995

*It must be the
Vacational Studies
1995 brochure*



Vacational
Studies®

English internationally...

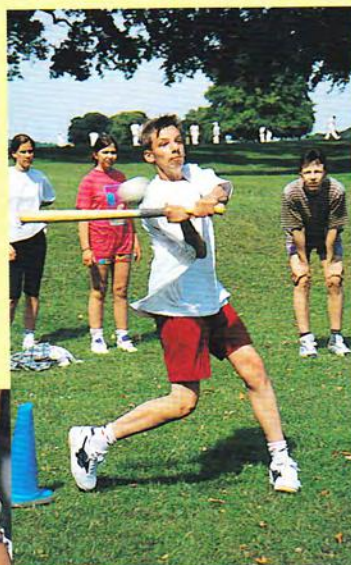




Shades of Norway



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



Eye on the ball



Party time



Caribbean Cheam



RESIDENTIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSES 11-17

Vacational Studies Courses have been running for 22 years. We have tried in this time to develop an enjoyable balance between 'vacation' and 'study'. Here is our programme for Summer 1995.

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 young people 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...'

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 17. As they cannot participate in an international community, complete beginners are not accepted.

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 individual.



The Schools

THE SCHOOLS AND SURROUNDINGS

For 1995 we have four Courses at Schools near Newbury — Douai School, The Mary Hare 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.



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.



Part of Douai

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.



Mary Hare – The Manor House

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 a 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.



Cheam

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.



Elstree



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. 1995 dates are:-

Douai

3 July – 31 July 1995 (4 weeks)

Mary Hare

6 July – 3 August 1995 (4 weeks)

Cheam

13 July – 10 August 1995 (4 weeks)

Elstree

16 July – 13 August 1995 (4 weeks)

The Programme

THE TEACHING

A staff of qualified, professional teachers, experienced in the teaching of English as a Foreign Language give 4 lessons, each of 45 minutes, every day except Sunday and excursion days. In addition, there is a 30 minute 'supervised study' period each afternoon. Classes are graded according to age and ability in English. Students are placed first in an 'assessment group' and complete a range of oral and written tasks, including a formal multiple-choice placement test. The combined results of these tasks together with the teacher's opinion eventually determine placement in a class. 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', 'Compact', 'Upper Intermediate' and 'Intermediate Matters' and 'Vista'. Our teachers are encouraged to work with a wide range of lesson materials and to utilise newspaper and magazine articles, selected TV and radio excerpts, short stories, poems, songs and advertisements.

The emphasis in lessons is to help develop the students' speaking, listening, reading and writing skills through a topic-based approach. This involves working with students on a variety of activities centred on a



particular topic and helping them with the language needed to complete the activities. In this way, we aim to develop our students' confidence in using English to communicate what is important to them and to stimulate their interest in English as the world's common language. We try to give students materials and activities that are different from those in their own countries. Oral and written English are taught and there is an emphasis on conversation practice. A prize is awarded on each Course for academic excellence.

Saved at Sports Day!



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 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.

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 of London, followed by shopping; the second is a visit to Stratford-upon-Avon; the destination for the third excursion will be Oxford, 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 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.

Concentration

'You do it like this'



Reach for the sky



The Programme

THEATRE VISITS (Optional Extra)

'Cats', 'Phantom of the Opera', 'Grease' 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 £25-£35. Parents are asked to indicate the number of shows required. £25 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 is issued by us and takes the form of a Record of Attainment 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 £8.00. We add no administration or marking charge. We do not charge for the Record of Attainment. The examination is suitable for students at lower-intermediate level and above. We decide on suitability for entry. Those wishing to sit the ARELS/UCLES examination are asked to add £8.00 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.

It's Christmas in July!



MEALS

Food is an important part of the Course. Meals are prepared by professional caterers to a high standard. Our specification for lunch and dinner is a choice of hot dishes (including one vegetarian) or a cold dish, a salad bar comprising about ten different items, a choice of desserts and fresh fruit. Students can have the first choice as they want and can return for another choice as 'seconds'. If they cannot find anything they like, 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 one cold or three hot dishes
Salad bar
Choice of desserts
Fresh fruit

Dinner:

Choice of one cold or three hot dishes
Buffet-style salad bar
Choice of desserts
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, for example, 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 may 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.

There is a students' Food Committee which meets the Caterer regularly to discuss all aspects of the catering.

A TYPICAL DAY

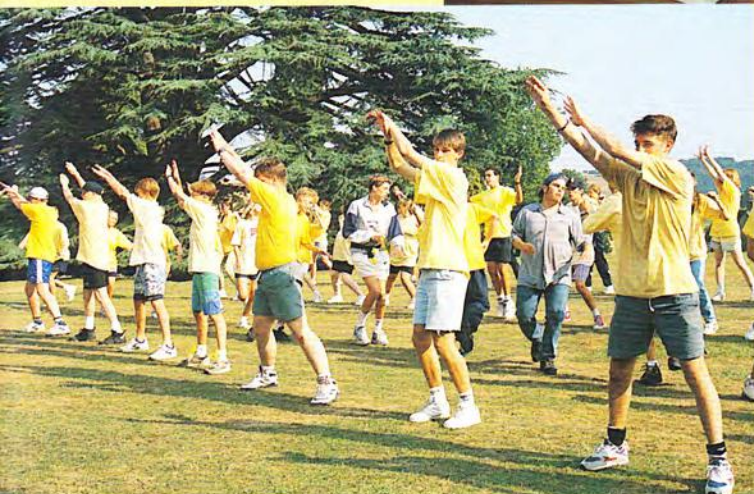
08.15	Breakfast
09.00	First class
09.45	Break
09.55	Second class
10.40	Break
11.10	Third class
11.55	Break
12.05	Fourth class
12.50	Break
13.00	Lunch
13.45	Supervised Study
14.15	Break
14.45	Organised sports and games
18.00	Evening meal
19.00	Games, films, etc.
21.15	'Club'
22.15	Hot chocolate and biscuits
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.





Elstree's African Dance at Sports Day



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.

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 can 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.

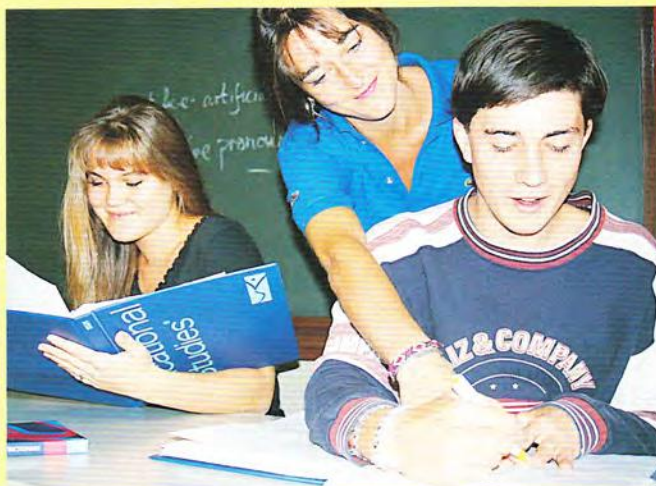
INSURANCE

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 WE LOOK AFTER STUDENTS

We understand the concern felt by parents when their sons and daughters 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 class with Sandra at Elstree

The Programme

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.

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. Indicate if you have kept a photocopy, or if you wish us to send you one. 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 or when this might cause conflict with educational authorities.

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 1995' slip.

THE COURSE FEE INCLUDES:-

- residence at the School
- travel Heathrow-School/School-Heathrow¹
- all meals²
- tuition
- the sports programme
- the use of facilities
- excursions
- insurance³
- the laundering of clothes⁴

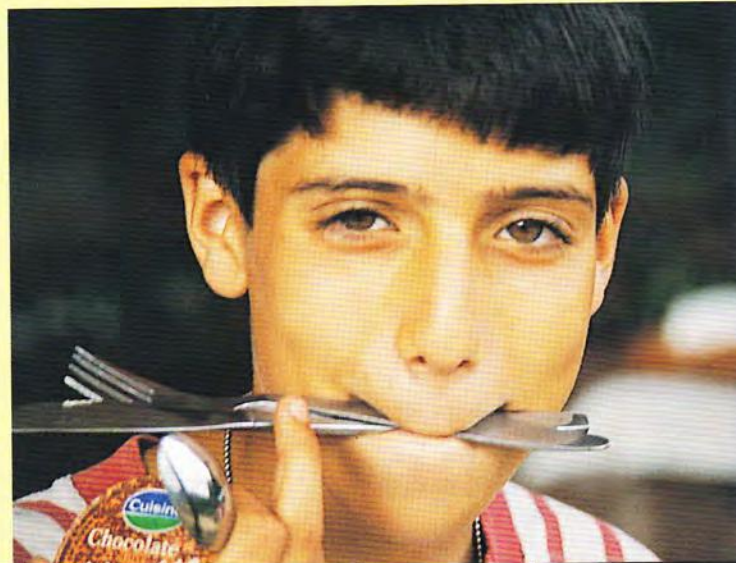
¹ At specified times and terminals – see 'Travel'

² Except lunch on excursions, but including lunch on Sports Day

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 (£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 £ cheque 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. We also have a Girobank account for personal money. The number is 255 7444. 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.

Keystone Cops





Hi, Mum!

Travel

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 £60. For two people, the cost is shared). Special requirements should be indicated on the Application Form and details sent separately.

Introduction at Cheam's Casino



AT THE AIRPORT

Before travelling, we send an identity badge and luggage tags to ensure quick recognition. Our representatives will carry blue 'Vacational Studies' folders 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 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 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

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 0.5km. Turn right at 'Main Entrance' sign and then immediately left.

Address for students' letters:

Douai School, Woolhampton
Reading RG7 5TH

Telephone (to contact Course Manager):

National: (01734) 715262

International: +44 1734 715262

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 'Mary Hare'. 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: (01635) 247733

International: +44 1635 247733

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

National: (01635) 268803

International: +44 1635 268803

ELSTREE SCHOOL

See directions to Douai.

Address for students' letters:

Elstree School

Woolhampton, Reading RG7 5TD.

Telephone (to contact Course

Manager): National: 01734 712725

International: +44 1734 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.

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 section 'Unrealisable Expectations' in the News Section. The News Section following contains more detailed information on various aspects of the Course. 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.

'Visiting the classes, I saw at once that the teachers were not concerned only with the language, but saw deep into the children's minds'. 'I asked if he had made any particular friendships and he replied with an absolutely straight face — Yes, about fifty. I don't think a parent could ask for more.' 'It is very interesting to see that the clear rules do not counteract the good and informal atmosphere'. 'My thoughts are still very much with Newbury and with all the many friends I made there, both among the staff and the students. They will remain for a long time.' 'Every minute was spent doing one thing or another and now life at home seems very empty.' 'He was so pleased with it all... happy and full of good memories... a perceptible difference from when we waved goodbye four weeks earlier.' 'The best teacher I have had — ever.' 'A summer filled with good times.' 'This was my second time and these two months have been the best of my life.' 'My deepest respect goes to you and your team for creating a Course of such high standards amongst all the mediocrity one so often encounters.' 'Like last year it was a great experience I will never forget.' I could go on. The above from students, parents and staff say it all. Ten years after being with us, a past student writes, 'As always, I feel that the magic carries on'. Maybe I should end the 'News Section' here, but I shall not disappoint those who like to read between the lines.

That our young people have had a profoundly affecting experience is without doubt. Maybe we underestimate its importance in their development. It is a privilege to be entrusted with what is a considerable investment in a young person's development — not just linguistic, but personal, social and — so importantly in our world of today — international. The fellow-feeling that lies at the heart of our work transcends all barriers. A parent collecting his daughter at the end of the Course looked wistfully at the outpouring of affection and emotion, the tearful farewell a mixture of intense happiness and sorrow able only to find expression in tears, and said, 'If only the world could be like this.'

If only...

SUMMER 1994 REMEMBERED

Throughout July, England baked in a sub-tropical humidity that burnished the grass and sapped the energy. Day after golden day brought no respite from the heat. Water supplies dried up. More on this later. I never thought I would welcome a wet Sunday, but when it came there was no one who complained. The unpredictability of our weather is world-famous. The Course works come rain or shine. Last year it was rain; this year it was shine. Students and staff adjust to whatever the weather brings and this year was no exception. In another sense, every summer is special in one way or another. What was special about the summer of 1994? Read on...

If the emotional content and heartfelt sincerity of its songs are a gauge of the success of a Course, Mary Hare '94 was a real hit. Ana Carvajal's 'Friends will be Friends' is already well known and appeared in the 1993 video. The new 'Forever Friends', played by Beatriz Alonso features in the 1994 video, giving it its subtitle, and captures poignantly the spirit of the Course. Its strains could be heard

The joy of the top of a double-decker



frequently around the School, multinational groups gathering round the guitar in an epitome of what the Course is all about. Having always been the 'geriatric' School, it was inevitable that a replacement of the older ones would happen at some stage. This was the year that Mary Hare became younger. A small group of older returnees showed generally positive leadership and paved the way for succeeding students. A few displayed real Staff Helper potential. Some events that had been taken for granted and flourished under the aegis of the talented older students needed more nurturing than they received. The 'Folies', for example, contained some individual gems, but needed a tighter organisation. Nevertheless, the Mary Hare student body showed itself to be a powerful force and operated as a unit with little staff prompting needed. The Spanish

entry in the 'Eurovision' was as stylish and choreographed as ever. I hear the 'Casino' was the best ever. Timed to coincide with the first day at another Course, I could not consign it to video. Francis McIvor returned for some unforgettable moments in his tenth year with us. The Course Tutor at each School took responsibility both as Senior Teacher and as Assistant Course Manager. At Mary Hare, Peter Crompton assumed this rôle and adjusted quickly to the established mores of the community. On the teaching staff, we had Richard Rawlins back from two years ago, joined by Vincent (aka Richard Gere) Purdue, the sunny Suzette Wells, the antipodean Martin Butts, the becaped Paul Abrahams, Dawn Nicholson and Sara Monday. Simon Northcott was the capable new Sports/Social Organiser. Barbara Sykes undertook the post of Matron



again with her customary unflappability. Both were most ably assisted by our former student and SH, Sylvia Haltermann, now in her fourth year on the staff and by another former student and SH, Maarten Koch, whose magnificent work on Sports Day in the absence of the Sports Organiser is mentioned later. Hard-working debutante Staff Helper, Ana Cuenca (Spain), used more English than she dreamed she possessed and fellow debutante, Tommaso Gibin (Italy), sang to a small guitar. With plenty of give-and-take, the staff chemistry worked and coped with the challenges that are part of any boarding school. The maintenance staff ensured that we had water, from a tanker when the



mains supply dwindled to a trickle, and also that the ailing swimming pool machinery was given life-support.

Whenever I went to Cheam, the students had been organised and were active. It is a tribute to our new Sports/Social Organiser, Marco Bonetti, that he managed to harness the students' enthusiasm into a team spirit. Marco has been with us since he was a 12 year-old. He knows what works and how to achieve the right atmosphere. He decided that only the totally student-generated activities were to be left to chance. Events proved him right. While some of the stronger characters among the

Cheam 1994



encourage the others to take responsibility on themselves, the majority expected to be led and waited for this lead. They were not disappointed. A particularly strong staff gelled around our experienced Course Manager, Richard Turner. His office became an ersatz staff room. As in many other smoke-filled rooms, ideas were bounced around there and transmuted into events. The atmosphere was one of teamwork and co-operation. Vanessa Hiett was Course Tutor. A highly experienced and talented teacher, Elstree's loss was Cheam's gain. Liz Morris returned for her third time on the teaching staff. Bridget Walker came back for seconds. Such was Kieran Earley's determination to return that he took unpaid leave from his regular job to do so. Newcomers Ruth Pettingale, Kieran Gilmurray and Graham Rumbelow completed the team. Matron and food critic, Judith Hamilton, soothed fevered brows again. We had two new Assistants — the capable James Olsen who showed what he was made of and the dramatic Suzy Haylett who had a super time. Sergio Capdepon (Spain) returned as the thinking man's Staff Helper. His co-worker, Patricia Monteiro (Portugal), unfortunately danced herself out of the action in the first few days. Cheam School has now merged with Hawtreys and the sign outside reads 'Cheam Hawtreys'. As Hawtreys used to be one of our Courses, for us Cheam will remain just 'Cheam' as it has for twenty years.

Douai moved into its fifth year under

its charismatic Course Manager, Chris FitzGerald. I promised him I would not mention his increasing girth. So I shall not. 'I would like to thank Chris for being a humourous Course Manager and for his 'English Humour' which only Gordon and I could understand,' wrote one of our English students. I wonder what our non-British students made of it. Assisted yet again by the punctilious Callum Robertson as Course Tutor and by Rebecca Johnson, the other teaching staff were new to us — Diana and Gary Birditt, Colin Morley, Mary Nicholson, Kevin Leahy and Alan Hardwick. Rita Waters was our no-nonsense and highly efficient Matron. Few fell ill this time. In charge of a strong Sports Crew, Phil Kefford — Sports/Social Organiser in his fifth year with us — made things happen, or not. His spoof 'dismissal' by Chris was an instance of English Humour going completely wrong. The ubiquitous Silvia Abello, now promoted to Assistant, was English Humour on leg(s). Whatever she said was hugely amusing whether it could be understood or not. Gerard Beaton as our other Assistant performed services over and above the



call of duty. Claudia Gerbino and Felix Bau were with us as Staff Helpers. The Douai tradition of the play continued. Mary Nicholson directed 'Cinderella'. Beautifully sung and slickly staged, it had the virtue of simplicity and was received by an appreciative audience. A new tradition of 'Folies' was started, put together by the students, and showed talent and innovation. I knew Douai could do it. The '70s 'Derek Jacket' appeared yet again, awarded by the Crew to those students or staff who had committed some gaffe. There was no shortage of recipients and could have been more. As before, we have been helped enormously by the regular Douai staff. Father Dermott, Graham Smith and John Sellers could not have been more supportive. They became familiar figures on the Course. We like Douai — so much that our first Adults' Course will be held there. More later.

There was more to Elstree than usual. One day more to be precise. The 1993 last day found its way into the 1994 dates. Only a few seemed to notice and no one minded. The 'togetherness' that is invariably the hallmark of Elstree Courses assumed the form of mass nocturnal wanderings at an early stage and led me to take the sort of action added to the 'Notes' last year for an eventuality that I thought might arise. More on 'Security' in a later paragraph. David Johnson moved from Cheam and Douai to take on the Course Managership of Elstree. Now that he is a Headmaster in 'real life', the rôle came as second nature to him. Heading a strong staff, David Delaney (another émigré from Cheam) was Course Tutor. Back again we had Jane Scott and Brendan Agnew with newcomers Sandra Barton, Harvey Buckley, Diane Farrar, Neville Carley and Naomi Matthews. The ever-smiling Dominic Floyd (my

working for me 24 hours a day 7 days a week and worked similar hours for our students instead. His Sports Crew and the teaching staff co-operated on an excellent programme, helped by the multifaceted Martin Hutson – initiated at The Mary Hare last year – and Helen Gibbs. Matron, Beany Beanlands, returned to Elstree after her Cheam years, accompanied by her redoubtable canine daughter, Petra. Our returning terpsichorean Staff Helper, Chris Noll (Germany), was fond of telling people what to do – the staff, CM, Director and the local policeman – as well as our students. New SH, Caroline Wijffels, was more reticent than to follow his lead. The students coped with the downside of a hot, dry summer in a building on top of a hill – low water pressure and sometimes no water at all. Notable was the 'Folies Bergères', quite the best this year, brilliantly compered and with such innovations as a gym display. Memorable, too, was the 'Wedding' arranged for the couple together the longest. Several students showed potential. Antics on the penultimate day have ensured that it will remain unrealised. Sometimes the consequences of a moment's 'fun' are more lasting than can be envisaged – as a few now know.

In addition to the staff based at each school, there were several who covered all of them. Fred Gooch was back after a year's break as our overall Director of Studies. He ensured similarity of teaching standards everywhere, provided a half-day induction for teachers at the start and liaised with Course Tutors. He also oversaw the report-writing. I have asked him to take a critical look at the teaching to change it to a topic-based programme. We had two 'Support Teachers' – Poppy Sutton and Michael Cunningham – available to take over in the absence of a teacher at any school. They were put to good use. In and out of all the schools all the time was my indefatigable PA, Seth Bolderow – his blue Beetle a familiar sight on school drives and broken down at the roadside.

Mark Thatcher continued to provide the discos, knowing just when to introduce the poignant strains of



'Leaving on a Jet Plane', as well as songs from twenty years ago that have created their own nostalgia with us. Christine O'Callaghan and her colleague from St John's Ambulance Service provided basic First Aid instruction for all the staff. Liz Fidler arranged tennis lessons at all the schools. The fine weather helped her cope single-handed with the large number of students requesting lessons.

And there was me. I did my best to keep up my reputation for arriving just at the right time. Course Managers appreciate the joy and goodwill I spread in my travels from school to school. They particularly delight in news of disasters that have happened elsewhere and never fail to phone their counterparts with condolences.

SPORTS DAY

This had been fixed for Saturday 30 July with, as usual, the possibility of putting it back to the Sunday and, for the first time, the additional safeguard of advancing it to the Friday. In spite of the unbroken sunshine and evident drought all round us, the forecasters were predicting the weather to break that weekend. At 06.00 on Friday 29 July, this was predicted to come the following morning with thunderstorms lashing our part of the country. I decided to put 'Plan A' (for 'Advance') into effect. Bennetts Coaches were phoned and, yes, they could do it. I asked Mrs Monger at Mary Hare if she could provide lunch in 4½ hours time for 400+ people. No problem. Then I phoned the schools with the news. Consternation. No one had believed I would do it. Some had made other plans for that day. One or two were caught out in other ways. Was it all some bizarre joke? I was phoned back in disbelief. No, it was true. Sports Day was just as moveable a feast as I had warned it might be.

Weather forecasters never apologise

when they get it wrong. All we had on the Saturday was a heavy shower. The deluge was saved for the Sunday. Although it was without Mary Hare's Sports Organiser and Course Manager and some other notables, we had the sunshine. And the students loved it – maybe all the more because it had come as a surprise. Mary Hare's Assistant, Maarten ('I even missed my breakfast') Koch, took charge. For any professional, it would be no small task to organise the students and staff of four schools. That Maarten did it so well just a year after leaving school, is very much to his credit. The sports went ahead with only a few little mini-tantrums – even from staff – in the middle of much bonhomie and friendly competition. As all the schools now have Crazy Games, we held just the tug-of-war after the main events. There are some who tire of chanting and spectating. For them we arranged a Garden Fête during the afternoon. So that those who are not so sporty can also participate, each school was invited to put on a 'Spectacular'. Mary Hare's was Scottish Country Dancing, prepared and rehearsed by Francis McIvor and Simon Northcott. Such a pity they had another engagement. Cheam put on a formation Pom-Pom Dance choreographed by Suzy Haylett. Elstree's complex and rhythmic African Dance, arranged by Martin Hutson, was a highspot. Of Douai's non-event, nothing can be said...

Sports Day is so keenly anticipated that it just must happen. The vagaries of our climate conspire against the certainty of a particular day being dry, so more than a little flexibility is needed. The thought of over 400 people sliding around in the rain is too horrendous to chance. This is why I publicised the day before and day after possibilities. Its usefulness has been proved and those who thought it would not happen now know better. For those who missed it and those who want to re-live it, the highlights are on video.

CATERING

This is the single most important – and most expensive element of the Course. Young people are notoriously conservative about food and I know how dispiriting it is for a caterer to see a dish touch the lips for an instant only to be discarded, untasted, with a wrinkle of the nose and a disdainful twist of the mouth. I organised a questionnaire about the catering, seeking the views of the students (as it is them we try to please), although some staff answered, too. Questions concerned the students' perception of the quantity, variety and appeal of each of the three main meals, the barbecues, the hot chocolate, the orange juice. I have analysed the responses and compared them school by school. The results are fascinating.



Douai 1994



In something so subjective as food, there are bound to be wide differences. A member of staff will give an overall rating of 10/10 while a student will give the same service 1/10. Nevertheless, it is clear that the catering in some schools worked and in some schools it did not. Whether the student's perception that there is not enough variety is right or not is irrelevant. The perception is what counts and that is what we must work on. I have had meetings based on the questionnaires with all the caterers. They have seen the marks and read the suggestions. There will be major changes at one school – The Mary Hare. Student Food Committees were started this year at two of the schools. All the Courses in 1995 will have Food Committees. Students on the Food Committee will meet the caterers regularly and caterers will be requested to take into account the Committee's wishes. It is so important for students' needs to be clearly understood and for the information they give to be acted on. Interestingly,

meals. I am sure there is a lesson to be learned here. Clearly at the top of the satisfaction league in 1994 (with a general satisfaction rate of over 75%) was the catering at Douai, organised for the first time by Graham Smith. Presentation, variety, cold table, hot dishes, all showed a sensitivity to our students' needs and scored good marks overall. David Freeman of Gardner Merchant, caterers at Elstree and Cheam, tells me they will achieve or exceed Douai's ratings in 1995. Next year, I intend to publish the overall % satisfaction scores. Watch this space!

Letting students take what they want has led to some strange combinations of choices and more wastage than is desirable. We have tried to devise a way for most students to get their choice of dish and for those who want to try various choices to do so after everyone has been served. From now on, students will be able to take one hot choice or cold choice of main course at a time. They can return for 'seconds' if they want another choice. There will be a free choice from the salad bar. Students can take one choice of dessert at a time and can return for 'seconds' if they want another choice. Fresh fruit can be taken in addition to the dessert choice.

'HOT CHOCOLATE' MOVES!

For the first time in 22 years, 'hot chocolate' will move from its 21.30 slot. The idea is Silvia Abello's. She writes, 'During the Club, the students expend lots of energy and they are hungry before going to bed, so if we change it they won't feel the need to eat so much during the night.' Another reason is that they are quite excited when the Club ends, so if we change the timetable, I think it will be much easier to send them to bed after a nice hot chocolate and about 15 minutes to relax.' In fact, hot chocolate at 21.00 is a legacy from the days of 'Junior (21.30) Bedtime' when everyone had chocolate, the young ones went to bed and then the Club started for the seniors. It had not occurred to any of us to change it. As with all changes, there may be knock-on effects we have not envisaged, so it will be an experiment that can be changed back again at will.

THE TEACHING

Fred Gooch, as overall Director of Studies, will produce a completely revised 'Programme of Work' for teachers for 1995. We already have the 'VacStuds Teaching Video' so that our polyglot (and demanding and occasionally exhausted) students will not come as a complete shock. There will continue to be a Senior Teacher (called a Course Tutor) at each school with two mobile Support Teachers who can be deployed where they are needed. The prize for Academic Excellence was a VacStuds watch. Watches also went to the winners of the 'English-Only' draw.



The Elstree Wedding

HOMEWORK

Will be changed back to 'Supervised Study' for 1995. To programme written 'homework' specifically for the period after lunch was seen as rather inflexible, so I shall not labour the point.

'ARELS/UCLES' EXAMINATION

The University of Cambridge devised with the Association of Recognised English Language Schools a special examination for short summer courses. This was its second year. Over half our students 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. We charged the examination fee charged to us per candidate and added nothing for administration. We produced and supplied certificates at no charge. Those who took the ARELS/UCLES examination in 1993 and again in 1994 will have noticed that the grade borders have changed. Indeed, some students will have lower marks than the year before when their English is actually better. The 1993 and 1994 marks are not comparable. Only the grades can be compared. The University of Cambridge accept that the marks are misleading and promise to address this problem. For those students wishing to know their level of ability, we shall offer the ARELS/UCLES examination in 1995 at their cost price of £8.00, deducted from pocket money. A 'yes/no' 'ARELS/UCLES Examination' box appears on the 1995 Application Form. It is a suitable examination for those above 'lower intermediate' level. It is not a suitable examination for near-beginners and we reserve the right not to enter those for whom we consider the examination unsuitable. Parents should make their children aware that they will be sitting the examination. One or two students were taken by surprise when they found themselves listed for it. One or two parents were surprised when their children were not entered, even though they had requested it. We must be allowed to make the decision about entry. I should add that it is internally marked and is more of an assessment than a proper examination. The certificate is issued by us, not by the University of Cambridge or by ARELS, and has value only as an indication of the next University of Cambridge examination which can be taken.

TRIPS

The move away from educational, 'hands-on experience' trips was welcomed. The guided sightseeing tour of the whole of London was generally well-received, although the success or otherwise of the accompanying guide depended on the individual. In Bath, the Roman Baths were a great success, but the guides on the buses were not. In 1995, one of the trips will comprise a sightseeing tour of the whole of London, followed by shopping. Another will be to Stratford-upon-Avon. Those students wishing just to see the town may do so. Those who wish to see the theatre and Shakespeare's birthplace may do as an option. We shall leave it to the individual student to decide. 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 – ten-pin bowling, for example, or to see 'The Flintstones' at the cinema. A small group went to the Ballet. If students express the wish to go somewhere, or do something special, we shall try to make the arrangements.

POCKET MONEY

So that students are aware of their spending patterns (and to check on our arithmetic), we have revised the pocket money sheets so that students check and sign every seventh transaction. Several parents queried the amount of spending money we suggest, maintaining that it is ridiculously high. I think they are quite right. Nevertheless, this is what our students tend to bring. Some parents send three times this amount and then more during the Course. We think young people have better things to do while with us than go shopping. Nevertheless, we must accept reality.

MONEY FOR CHARITY

The £10 fine for chewing or possessing gum goes to 'Childline' – a free telephone counselling service for children. This year Elstree decided to donate the proceeds from its 'Slave Auction' to Childline. Because of this – and the generosity of the gum-chewers – I have given a cheque for over £200.00 to Esther Rantzen at the BBC. I shall ask all the schools to have Slave Auctions in aid of Childline.

STAFF HELPERS

After the problem we experienced in 1993, this year I avoided having Staff Helpers likely to take advantage of their position for self gratification. In some cases, they did not use their position for the students' gratification either. We expect them to work for their keep. Just being a 'nice' person is not enough. Maybe I should add 'charisma' to the list of Staff Helper requirements – something between total anonymity and hurling abuse at passing police. There will be vacancies. Anyone wishing to be considered in 1995 or 1996 should contact me now. Previous applicants will be considered again.

GUESTS

Day visitors – no problem. We are glad to see old students for a day. Overnight stays are more problematic and Course Managers are generally hyper-cautious. As one or two discovered this year, it's essential to check with me before deciding to come. It puts me in an unfair position when I have to say 'no' to someone who has already booked flights.

SECURITY

I said in the 'Notes' I would do it – and I did it. I employed a security firm to stop students moving about at night. I did so after I had spoken to the students about how our organisation is based on trust. Parents trust me with their children; students trust me to provide them with everything that makes for a great Course. The staff and I have to be able to trust that, when the students have signed the 'Agreement and Travel Details' form (which includes the instruction that they are to stay in bed

after lights-out) and by so signing have agreed to stay in bed after lights-out, that they will keep their promise. If they do not keep their promise, this is unfair on us and we must act for their protection and ours. In 1994, I stated that the staff would be on all-night patrol as a first step. When, some days later, we found that there was still movement at night, I employed Scorpion Security. Whether or not the staff are paid, it is too much to expect them to patrol all night and then do a full teaching and activity programme the next day. In future, my first step will be to get Scorpion Security in. Some organisations have a security firm patrol all night in any case. I still wish to think we can trust the students, so Scorpion will be brought in only if the students break this trust by their nocturnal wanderings. As an incentive for them to keep their promise (or at least as a disincentive for them not to), the cost of any security patrol will be borne by the students from pocket money. In the case of Douai, where a public footpath runs close to the building, there will be a security patrol until midnight provided by Douai School and not charged to the students. Where there is any question of providing security to keep people out, the school will pay. In the case of providing security to keep our students in, the students will pay. It seems fair enough to me and none of the students this year could fail to accept the logic.



Elstree 1994



ENGLISH STUDENTS

We had at least one English student at each school. This was an experiment that we started last year to encourage English-speaking. Again it was a success. All the English boys entered into the spirit of the Course. As last year, Francis Melvor and I made the choice from the boys at Norwich School. They were fine examples of English youth and, if they occasionally over-stepped the mark, it was as a result of the exuberance that the Courses tend to stimulate.

SIBLINGS

I know it means doubling the number of airport trips, but in most cases it really is worthwhile sending siblings to different schools....

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Some are detailed and give a good insight into the student. Many are just two-liners. Some have the truth hidden in periphrasis. Others, in the light of our experience, indicate that the writer has no knowledge of what the student is really like. I am doubting their usefulness. That we ask for them may prevent some really awful people coming to us, so perhaps I should not run the risk of dispensing with them. Nevertheless, requesting them causes some problems in southern Germany. This why the 1995 Application Form has a couple of cryptic sentences (although all too understandable for those living in southern Germany) – 'Ein Empfehlungsschreiben wird nicht verlangt, falls dieses Probleme mit der

Schulleitung oder dem Ministerium verursacht. Bitte benennen Sie das Problem.' I hope this will enable some students to benefit from the Course who would otherwise be prevented by bureaucracy from doing so.

TALENT

I am sure we have the 'crème de la crème' of young people with us. Clearly some have special talents and we should all have the chance to see these. The 'Folies Bergères' has now become established at each school and this is the perfect vehicle for some of the brilliant piano playing, miming, gymnastics and other skills we have seen over the years. Sports/Social Staff should also be talent spotters and help the organisers get the most out of young people, some of whom – quite naturally – do not wish to push themselves into the limelight. Should students have a particular skill, interest or talent that requires costume or equipment, parents are asked to pack these. We can store them safely until they are needed.

THE VIDEO

'VacStuds '94 All Over Again' is now available. It has been offered to all those who were with us in 1994. Parents of new students who wish to see what the Course is all about can request a copy. It is not a promotional video. It is a compilation of various events that I filmed on my travels around the schools during the summer. It conveys, more than words ever could, the all-important 'atmosphere'. For those who will see each other only through this medium, I have subtitled it 'Forever Friends' after the song – 'Wherever you go I'll be with you/No matter if we're so far away/I'll always remember what you say/Forever friends'. Following last year's embarrassment when I overtaped 90 minutes of Cheam, I have learned how to separate recorded from unrecorded cassettes. Students who remember a particular event being filmed and do not see it in the edited version, might like to contact me. I may be able to put that section onto VHS for them.



PHOTOS IN THIS BROCHURE

If parents or students would like to have 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. If any property has been sent to the wrong person, please let me know or just post it back to me. I shall forward it to its owner. Several quite high-value items (cameras, glasses and watches) as well as dictionaries, cassette tapes and the like are sitting in my store-cupboard waiting to be claimed. If such items have gone missing, please check with me before abandoning hope.

UN-NAMED PROPERTY

'The marking of clothes was abysmal' writes one of the Matrons. This is the reason we have four large boxes full of un-named clothes to send to the 'Save the Children' shop at the end of the year. It also leads to students picking up the wrong laundry and other annoyances. I know it's a time-consuming nuisance to sew name tapes on, but it really is necessary. Just putting initials on clothes with a laundry marker is not enough. I can do no more than ask.

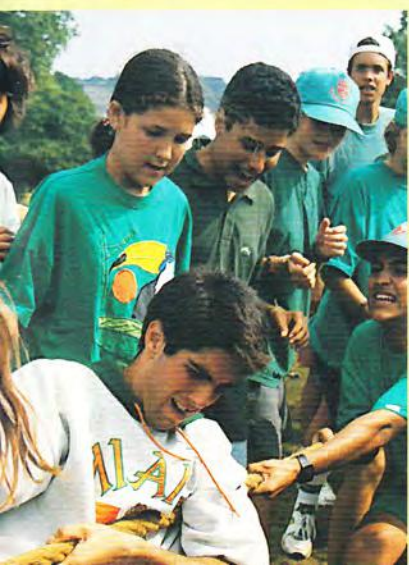
UNREALISABLE EXPECTATIONS

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 international horizons, mix and use 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 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 parents' 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. For the Adults' Course, some of the above applies, too. As it will be a learning experience for us to deal with grown-ups as students, we must also ask for forbearance.

BEFORE AND DURING THE COURSE

Parents are welcome to keep in touch by telephone via the Course Manager. If they could telephone children only on the two specific Telephone Days 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)



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, five students are at school full-time in Britain and another is at University in Scotland. 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.

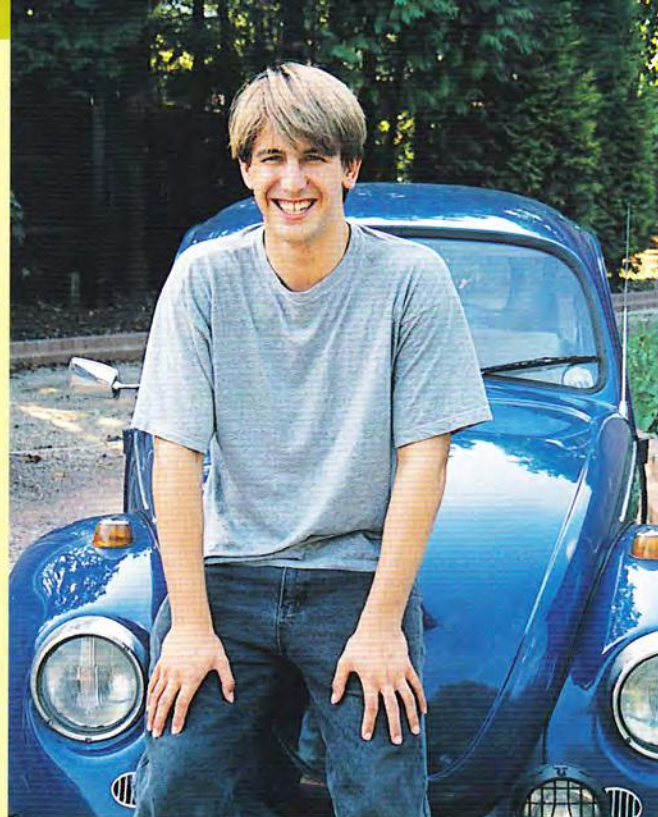
THE JÖRG WEISE ASSOCIATION

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 of our Courses. The recipients of the 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 1994 Meeting was in Eindhoven. The 1995 Meeting will be near Milan. 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 1996 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 keep up the contacts, it is just not easy 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

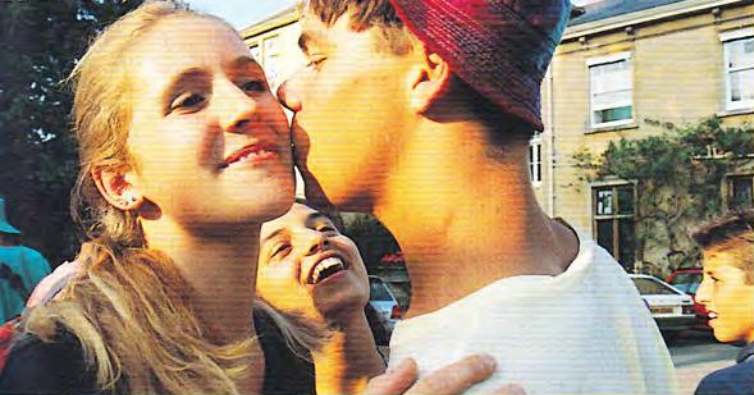
collaborative European space-probe, Giotto, which was sent up in February 1986 to observe Halley's Comet. No one knew at that time if it would succeed or fail. In fact, it succeeded. The probe Giotto was so named because Halley's Comet features in a work by the Florentine painter, Giotto. When I decided 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 1995 Giotto Book (to be published in January 1995) will be its 9th Edition and will contain nearly 1500 names, suggests to me it is succeeding. The Book is provided at no charge. It is totally financed by Vacational 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 more 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

'His name was Charlie...'



Secrets





created by a group of students in 1992. Giotto Tours arranges holidays and get-togethers for its members. Information can be obtained from Gabriella Hoffmann (Italy). Her addresses and phone number 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 am helped enormously by friends worldwide. Suggestions for venues (and help in organising them) will be gratefully received!

VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT)

Compulsory full-time education in Britain is not subject to VAT. This year, the Government decided that the teaching of English as a Foreign Language should be treated the same way. All of us in ARELS assumed that we would no longer be registered for VAT, would not have to charge it and gave three hearty cheers. When the Government realised the amount of revenue that would be lost to them, they quickly back-pedalled and made it clear that VAT exemption would apply only to the actual work in the classroom and to absolutely nothing else. ARELS may well argue that in order to teach students, they have to be fed and accommodated, but the ruling is being interpreted in its narrowest possible terms. The proportion of our work that relates

solely and exclusively to the classroom is very small and books are zero-rated for VAT anyway, so the exemption from 17½% VAT of that element of it will be hardly noticeable. Sorry! Like almost all other ARELS members, we remain registered for VAT.

'RETAIN THIS COPY'

I wonder how many do. The copies I have seen are generally blank, or brief synopses of the part sent to us, or in some cases contain different information. For 1995, the form asks if parents have made a photocopy, or if they wish us to send a photocopy of the form with our acceptance of the student. The second section of the form will be put to a very different use. Read on...

MORE VACATIONAL STUDIES - THE ADULTS' COURSE

Our four 4-week Courses will from now on have an age-range of 11-17. For those aged 18+, there will be an Adults' Course. This will be at Douai School where the accommodation possibilities are particularly flexible. Young people from 11-17 like the bonhomie that living in a dormitory provides. Adults like the idea of being part of a community, but need their own space and more privacy. The rules and guidelines that are necessary for children are quite inappropriate for adults. As the legal dividing age between childhood and adulthood is 18, it is sensible for us to make this distinction with our Courses.

Mary Hare 1994

The original Vacation Studies concept for 11-17s will continue unchanged. For adults, we shall maintain the sense of community, the essential internationality that characterises our work and the club-like atmosphere that prevails. There will be organised classes. Adults can choose whether their class should be 'intensive' or 'relaxed'. There will also be an organised sports/social programme. The Adults' Course will be immediately after the regular Douai Course with the same staff and many other similarities. The concept of the Adults' Course has been developed as a result of a questionnaire sent out to past VacStuds' students. They know which aspects of the Courses should be retained and which should be changed. We have been guided by them. The 1995 Vacation Studies Adults' Course is experimental and will be small enough for us to give its members what they want and to vary the programme in the light of experience. These are uncharted waters for us, so it will happen only if we have a sufficient mixture of nationalities to make it work.

MY THANKS

— to the vast majority of parents, students and staff who make life far easier than it could be. The few who do exactly what I ask them in five languages not to do will, I am sure, have looked at the pictures only and not read this far. I can only state and re-state our requests in the 'Notes'. We are all bombarded with information these days and have internal safety valves that filter most of it out. I am grateful that most parents act on our advice most of the time.

That I love the work I do and the contacts it brings is obvious from the above. While our Courses rely heavily on tradition and traditional values and I have no intention of changing these — there must also be development. The Adults' Course is a major step. There are also subtle changes elsewhere. Readers are invited to give me their reactions to these and to suggest others.

Ian G. Mucklejohn — Autumn 1994



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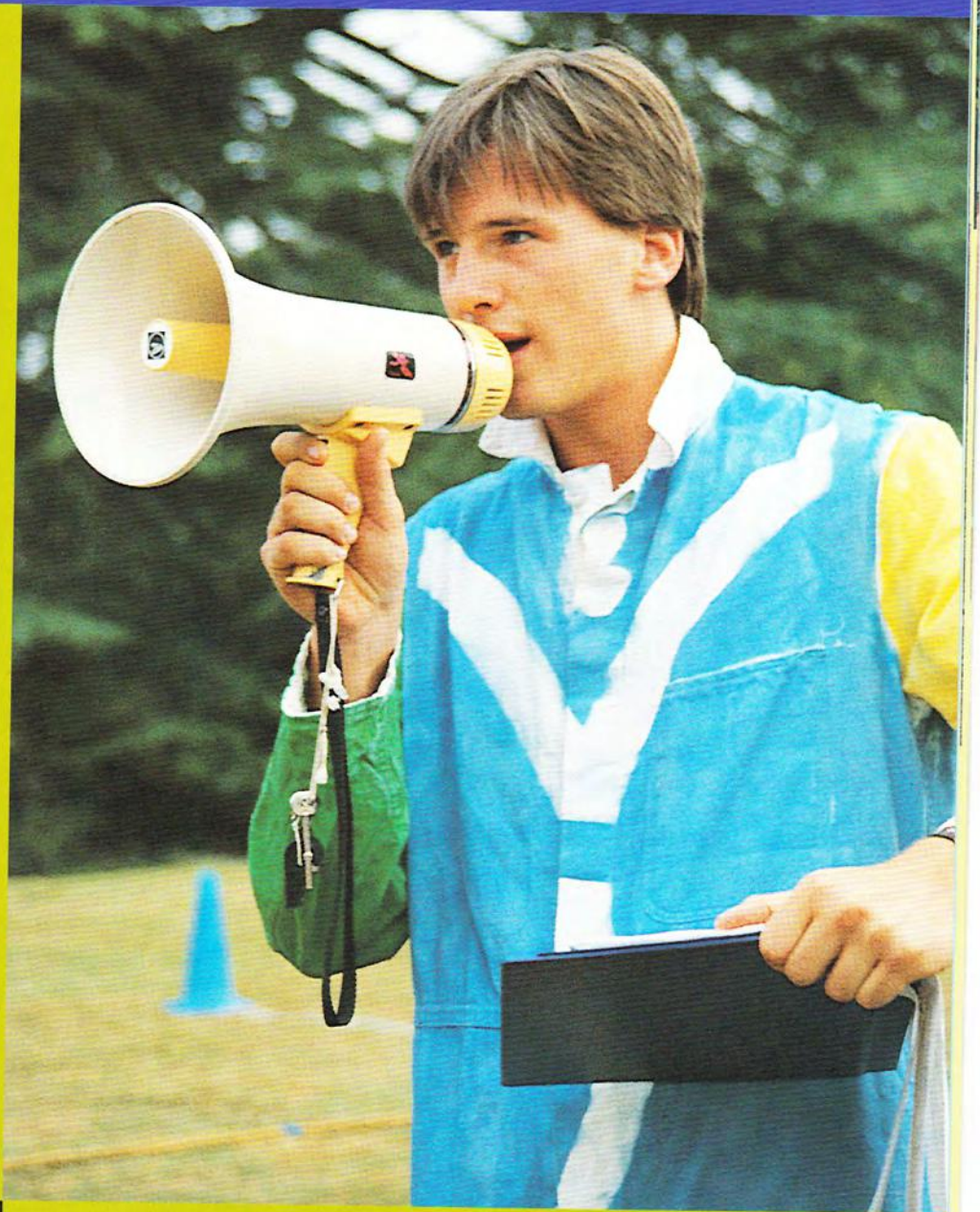
Printed in England on non-bleached paper from farmed sources
School Group photographs by David Hatfull
Other photographs by IGM
Designed by Stephen Green
Written by IGM

NEW PHONE/FAX NUMBERS

All British phone and fax numbers have changed.

Summer 1995

*It's the new
Vacational Studies
Adults' Course*



Vacational
Studies®

English internationally...

MORE VACATIONAL STUDIES

RESIDENTIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSE FOR ADULTS - AT DOUAI

Vacational Studies Courses have been running for 22 years. This is our first Course for adults. It has been devised after consultation with previous students who are now adults.

WHAT WE TRY TO DO

Vacational Studies tries to create a totally international Course with adult 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.

This emphasis on the practical use of English is combined with a full sports, entertainments and excursion programme to help the learner acquire 'English internationally...'

RESIDENCE

The Course is fully residential. There is a choice of accommodation - single rooms, twin rooms or in single alcoves in a larger room. Almost all the single rooms have wash handbasins. They have been newly refurbished and are in self-contained areas in the School. Each area of single rooms has its own washing and toilet facilities. There are a small number of double rooms either with their own or shared facilities. There are small number of twin rooms with centralised washing and toilet facilities. Single alcoves off a larger room have centralised washing and toilet facilities. Preference for a certain type of room can be indicated on the Application Form. Allocation is subject to availability. It is to retain the feeling of being part of an international community that the Course is held at a School to which only Course Members have access. Accommodation is not hotel or conference centre standard.

THE STUDENTS

Adults (= over 18) only are accepted on this Course. There is no upper age limit. Complete beginners are not accepted.

DOUAI SCHOOL AND SURROUNDINGS

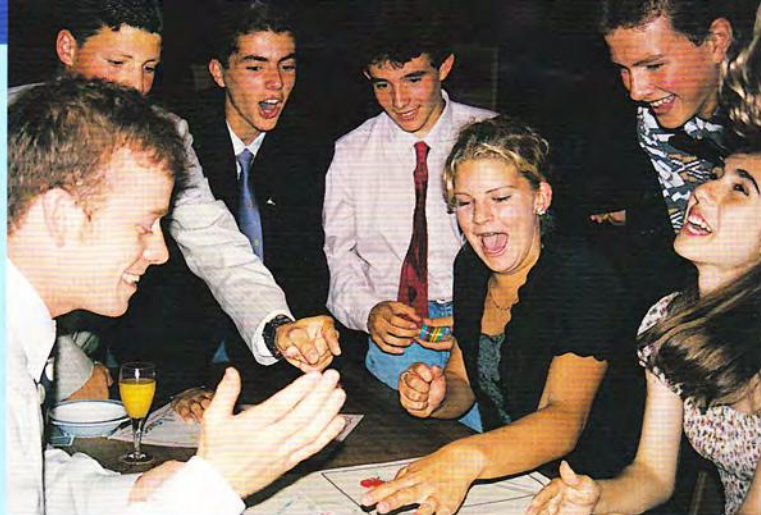
Douai School dates from the mid-nineteenth century with many later additions. It is set next to Douai Abbey in 80 acres of its own grounds and woodlands. It has extensive playing fields, a range of tennis courts, a large indoor swimming pool, a gymnasium and a 'multi-gym'. There are common rooms, colour TVs, table tennis, etc. A planned maximum of 40 students will be accepted.

DATES

2-16 August 1995 (2 weeks)

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 excursion day. In addition, there is an optional



additional class in the afternoon. Classes are graded according to ability in English and the preference of the student - 'relaxed' or 'intensive'.

SPORTS AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Our Sports/Social Organiser arranges a regular programme.

EXCURSION TO LONDON

A shopping trip to London is included in the Course Fee.

EXCURSIONS (Optional Extra)

Other excursions (and theatre, shopping or restaurant visits) can be arranged on request. These are not included in the Course Fee.

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. The Certificate is issued by us and takes the form of a Record of Attainment 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 £8.00. We add no administration or marking charge. We do not charge for the Record of Attainment.

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

must be requested in advance on the Application Form. If tennis lessons are taken, a tennis racquet must be brought. If tennis lessons are requested, the cost (£30) should be added to your personal money.

MEALS

Meals are prepared by professional caterers to a high standard.

Special diets can be catered for. Cold orange juice or other drinks are available at no charge.

At times throughout the Course, the menu will be varied to include, for example, barbecues and a traditional British 'Christmas Dinner' (roast turkey with stuffing, roast potatoes, Brussels sprouts, cranberry jelly).

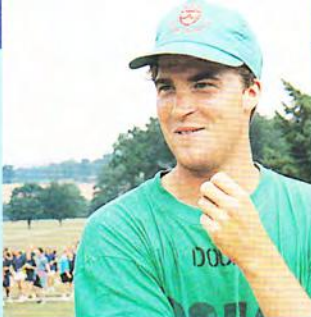
A TYPICAL DAY

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	Optional Fifth class
14.15	Break
14.45	Organised activities
18.00	Evening meal
19.00	More organised activities - or at leisure

HEALTH

Minor illnesses are treated by our own staff. There is a Matron with a special surgery/sickroom. 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 for full health information on the





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.

THE COURSE FEE INCLUDES:-

- residence at the School
- travel Heathrow-School/School-Heathrow¹
- all meals while at the School²
- tuition
- the sports programme
- the use of facilities
- one excursion
- insurance³
- the laundering of clothes⁴

¹ At specified times and terminals – see 'Travel'

² Except Lunch on excursions

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 excursions and professional tennis lessons.

THE COURSE FEE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- personal money
- optional excursions
- travel to and from England

HOW TO APPLY

Answer all the questions on the Application Form and return it to us. Indicate if you have kept a photocopy, or if you wish to send you one. We shall tell you immediately if the application is acceptable.

WHEN THE APPLICATION IS ACCEPTED

We shall write to inform you of this and include our Invoice for the Course Fees. The Invoice can be settled in full immediately, or 50% can be paid immediately and the balance by the date shown on the Invoice. The place 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 1995' slip.

TRAVEL

Our staff can meet students arriving at Heathrow Terminals 1 and 2 and return students for 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 will return students to Heathrow in the morning of the last day. If flights arrive earlier than 12.00, students can wait for our staff near the Information Desk.

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. We can make special taxi or minibus arrangements on your behalf. We do not charge for making these arrangements. (As a guide, a one-way taxi for one person to Heathrow is about £45 and to Gatwick about £60. For two people, the cost is shared). Special requirements should be indicated on the Application Form and details sent separately. Alternatively, a RailAir bus runs every hour to and from Reading Station. Douai is a taxi journey from Reading Station.

AT THE AIRPORT

Before travelling, we send luggage tags to ensure quick recognition. Our representatives will carry blue 'Vacational Studies' folders and will meet students at the entrance to the Arrivals Hall after leaving the Customs Hall.

IF YOU COME BY CAR

Road directions are given after the Schools' addresses. Car parking is available at no charge.

PERSONAL MONEY

Personal money can either be brought (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. Optional tennis coaching fees should be added (if applicable). We also have a Girobank account for personal money. The number is 255 7444.

CLOTHES AND POSSESSIONS

Advice on what to bring and other information will be sent in advance.

ON ARRIVAL AT THE SCHOOL

Rooms are lockable, but all money should be handed in at the Office for safe keeping. We can keep passports and tickets safely. We cannot accept responsibility for money or valuables not handed to us.

ADDRESSES AND DIRECTIONS

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. Continue for 0.5km. Turn right at 'Main Entrance' sign and then immediately left.

Address for students' letters:

Douai School
Woolhampton, Reading RG7 5TH
Telephone (to contact Course Manager):
National: 01734 715262
International: +44 1734 715262
Telephone (to contact students):
National: 01734 712319
International: +44 1734 712319

During the rest of the year, please use our Newbury Office address and telephone numbers.

DIRECTIONS BY RAIL

By train from London, leave from Paddington Station. Arrive at Reading Station where there are always taxis. There is a rail service to Midgham Station from where Douai is a short (but uphill) walk. There are no taxis at Midgham Station.

VISITS TO THE SCHOOLS

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

Scottish Dancing at Mary Hare



AND FINALLY...

Please see 'More Vacational Studies' in the 'News Section' concerning the experimental nature of this Course.