

ENGLISH INTERNATIONALLY...



*“I have never experienced anything like **Vacational Studies**. Nothing else even comes close. I can honestly say I made better friends in those four weeks than I have in sixteen years.”*

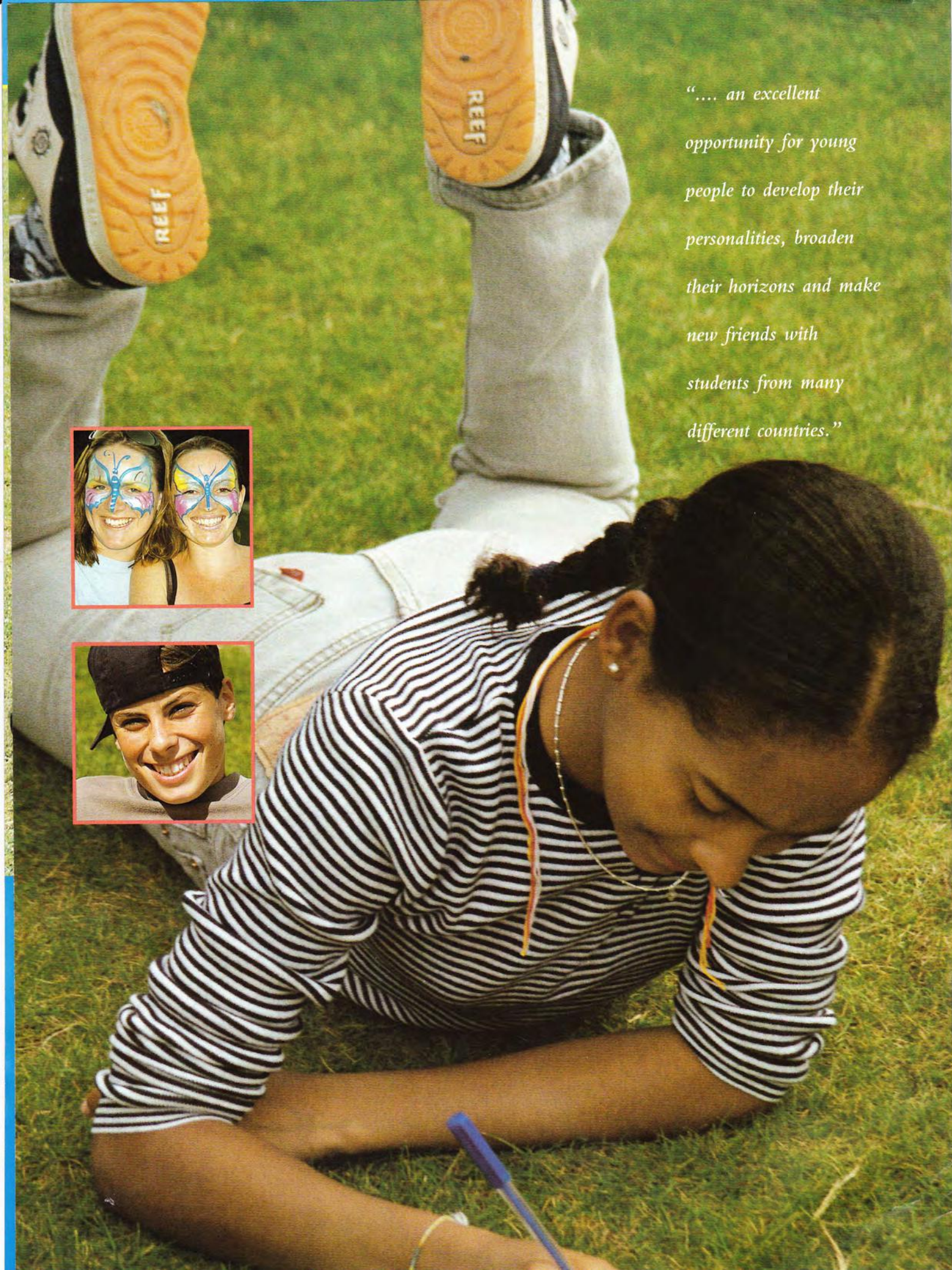


www.vacational-studies.co.uk

**Vacational
Studies®**

**11-17 YEARS
SUMMER 1999**

*".... an excellent
opportunity for young
people to develop their
personalities, broaden
their horizons and make
new friends with
students from many
different countries."*



THE COURSES

RESIDENTIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSES

Vacational Studies Courses have been running for 26 years. We have tried in this time to develop an enjoyable balance between 'vacation' and 'study'. Here is our programme for Summer 1999.



WHAT WE TRY TO DO

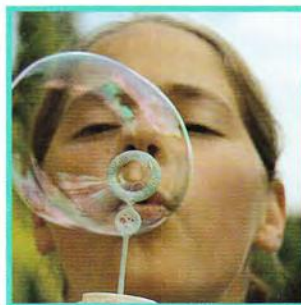
Vacational Studies tries to create a totally international Course with students from as many different countries as possible. We avoid accepting a large number of students from any particular country. In this way we try to ensure that English is the main medium of communication among the students. By 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....'

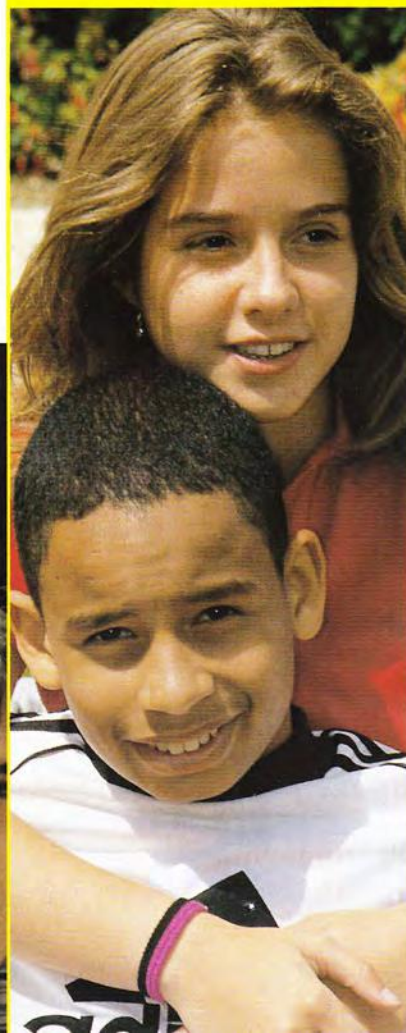
But it is more than this....

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 1996.



*The experience has
changed me forever
and I have a lot of
great memories.*



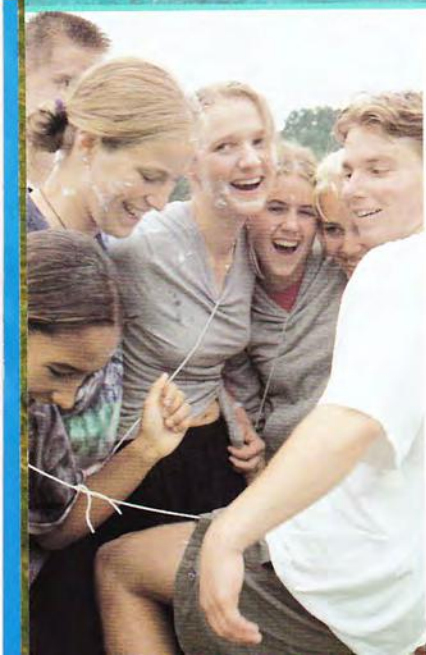


ABOUT THIS BROCHURE

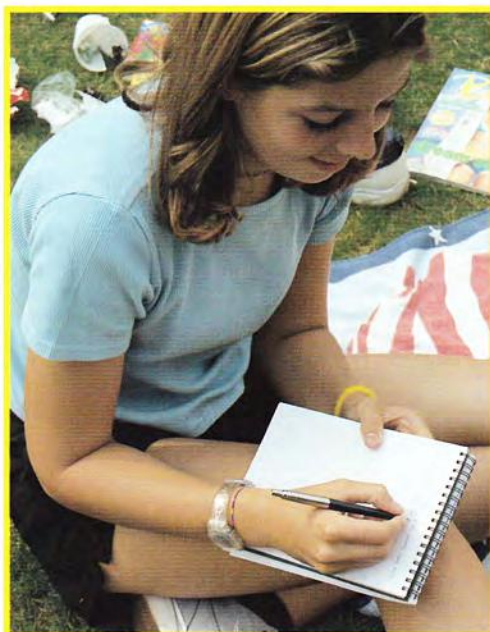
This is an Information Book. The first section gives you a factual overview of the work we do, so you can decide if we are right for your child. The second part ('News 1998-9') is written in a different style so you have an idea of my personality which necessarily influences the atmosphere on the Courses. It gives a more detailed rationale of the 1999 Courses and what has shaped them, so you and your son or daughter will be



fully informed and can prepare for the experience. If your application is accepted, both sections are essential reading. 'Unrealisable Expectations' in the second section deals with fundamental issues.



THE COURSES



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, gregarious and able to function independently. 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.

CHOICE OF COURSE

The Courses all have the same format. The only differences are location and dates. 1999 dates are:-

DOUAI

7 July – 4 August 1999

MARY HARE

11 July – 8 August 1999

CHEAM

13 July – 10 August 1999

ELSTREE

15 July – 12 August 1999



THE SCHOOLS

THE SCHOOLS AND SURROUNDINGS

For 1999 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

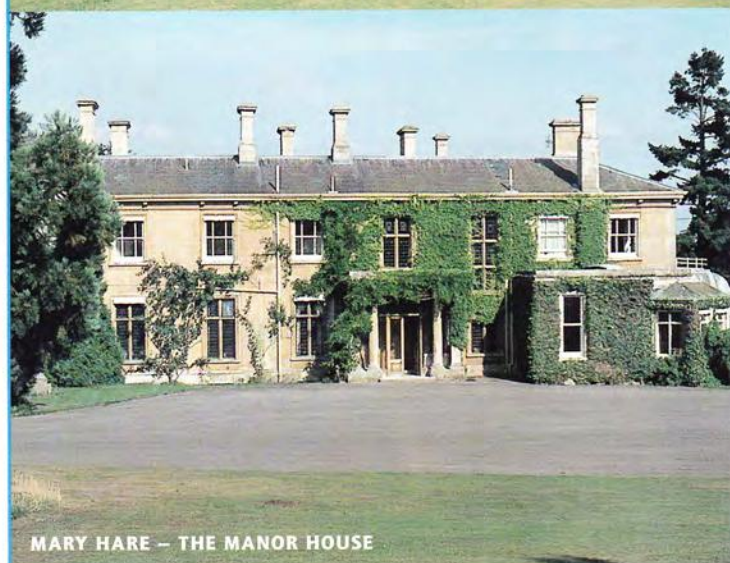
Douai School dates from the mid-nineteenth century with many later additions. It is set next to Douai Abbey in 80 acres of its own grounds and woodlands. It has extensive playing fields which adjoin Elstree School and a range of tennis courts. It has a large indoor swimming pool, a gymnasium and a 'multi-gym'. Some dormitories were rebuilt in 1996. A planned maximum of 90 students will be accepted.

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



PART OF DOUAI



MARY HARE – THE MANOR HOUSE



CHEAM



ELSTREE

courts, a gymnasium and a large indoor swimming pool. A planned maximum of 85 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 a recently built sports hall/gymnasium and a range of tennis courts. It has an open-air swimming pool. A planned maximum of 70 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 80 students will be accepted.

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

THE PROGRAMME



This was definitely the best summer in my life. Thanks for giving us the opportunity of spending a month in a beautiful school with the best people on earth.



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 'Cutting Edge', 'Over to You', 'Upper Intermediate' and 'Intermediate Matters' and

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 and task-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. They will be expected to complete certain tasks. 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.





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.

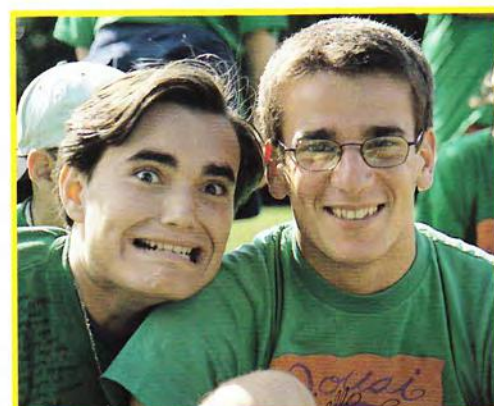
We take all practicable safety precautions – for example, students using the swimming pool are always supervised by a teacher.

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

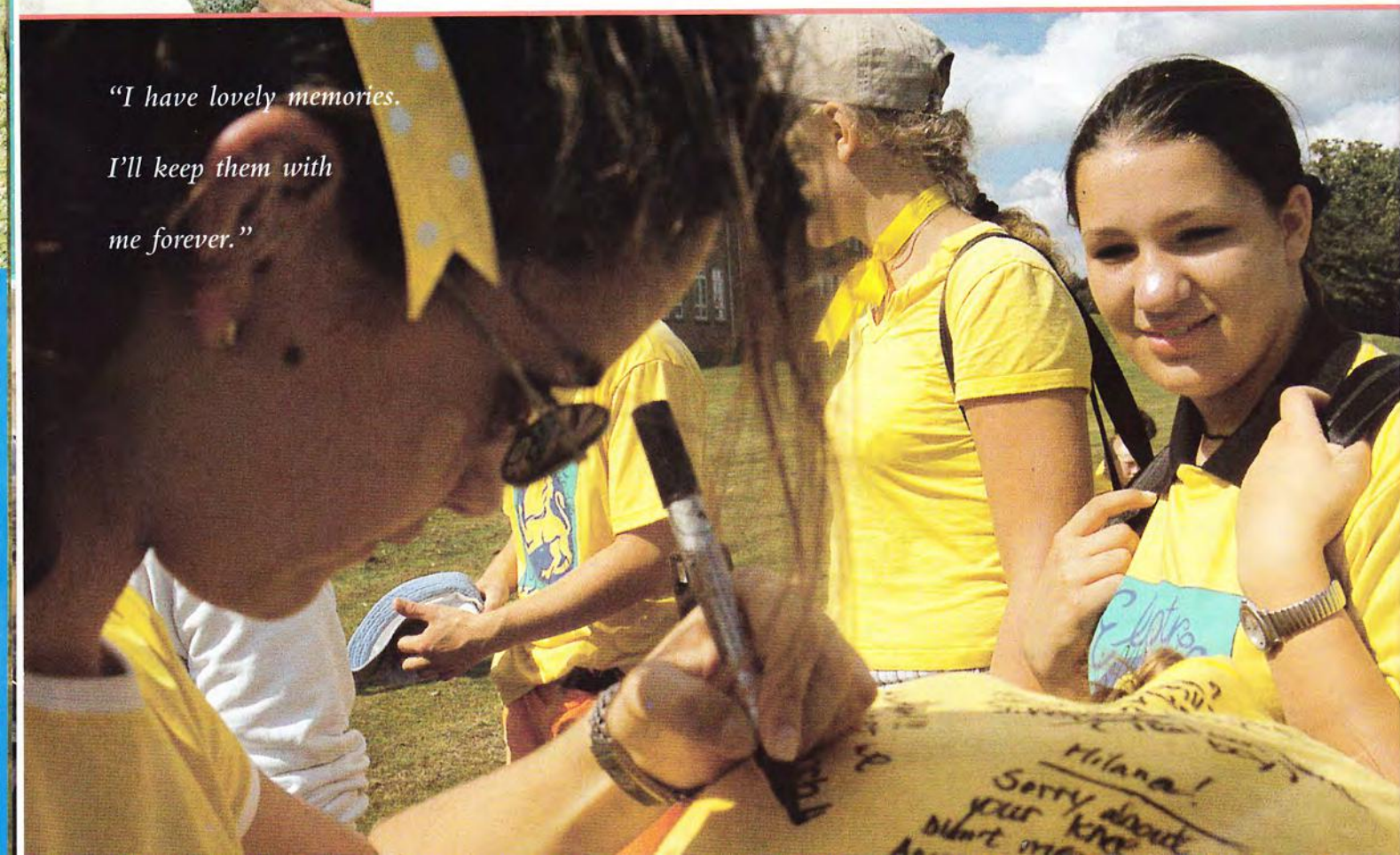
There are four days out. One is a sightseeing tour of London, followed by shopping; the second is a visit to Bath and, optionally, to the Roman Baths; the destination for the third excursion will be Oxford, Southampton, Winchester or another visit to London or a similar city of historical importance; the fourth excursion is to 'Sports Day'. Travel and staff supervision on these excursions are included in the Course Fee.



"I have lovely memories.

I'll keep them with

me forever."



THE PROGRAMME



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 them 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 £1.50 to £3.00.

THEATRE VISITS (OPTIONAL EXTRA)

'Cats', 'Phantom of the Opera', 'Saturday Night Fever' 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 £30–40. Parents are asked to indicate the number of shows requested and inform the child of this. £35 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.



INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTS SHORT COURSES EXAMINATION (OPTIONAL EXTRA)

The Institute of Linguists has been recognised by the British Government as examiners since 1910. Specially for us, they have devised an Examination in Spoken English which will be externally marked by their examiners. This examination will be on 4 levels, according to the ability of the student. Level 1 is 'Near-Beginner'; Level 4 is 'Advanced'. At each level, the procedure will be:- (1) a general conversation with the examiner during which the student is giving information and (2) a structured task in which the student is requesting information. Including preparation time, the examination will last about 20 minutes. It will be held in each school at the end of the Course. The Certificate in English as a Spoken Language for Short Courses is an officially validated qualification awarded in each level at one of three grades – Pass, Merit, Distinction. The cost is £30.00.

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.

FOOD SAFETY

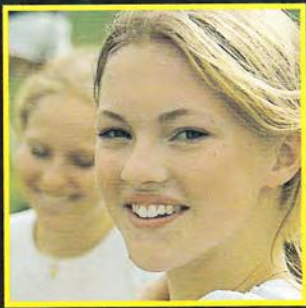
Vacational Studies policy is not to serve any food that is banned in any country or about which there is any concern for any reason. We serve only what we believe parents would feel safe to serve their own children in their own homes.

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.
21.00	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.





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
Buffet-style 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

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 they want and can return for another choice as 'seconds'. If they cannot find anything they like, they can ask us to ask the caterer to prepare something special.

There is always a vegetarian option. Other 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.

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.

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

THE PROGRAMME



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. We request that children with food allergies come with a 1ml. Adrenalin (Epinephrine) 1:1000 injection pen – an 'EpiPen'.

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.

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

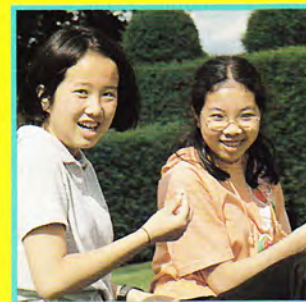
During the Course, progress reports are sent to all parents describing performance in class and also social behaviour. At the end of the Course, all parents are sent a final report and leaving certificate together with a report from the Director on the student's general progress and behaviour.

IF THERE IS A PROBLEM

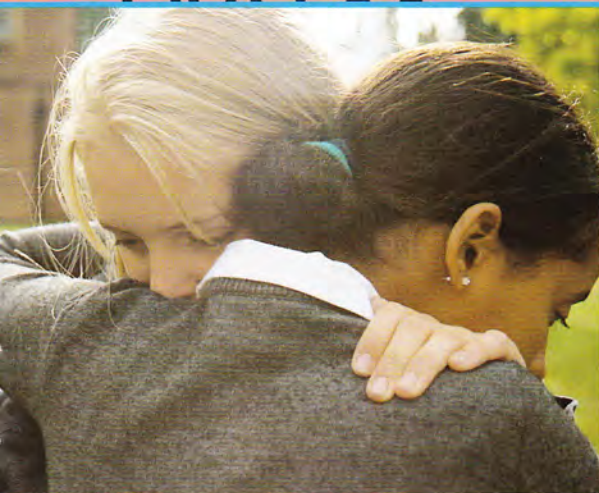
We shall contact you. Parents must ensure that we have a telephone number through which they can always be reached. If it is an emergency and we cannot reach you, we shall contact the person named in section 8 (our 'emergency contact') on the Application Form. If we cannot contact either of you, we shall 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. Students must read and know the rules before they come.

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.

*Every year I think
that this year was the
best, but when
another VacStuds
month has ended,
I have to admit that
that one was even
better than the
ones before.*



TRAVEL



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

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 500m. 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: (0118) 971 5262

International: +44 118 971 5262

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'. Turn right over A34, 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) 244231

International: +44 1635 244231

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 RG19 8LD.

Telephone (to contact Course Manager):

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: (0118) 971 2725

International: +44 118 971 2725

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 on the back cover.

DIRECTIONS BY RAIL

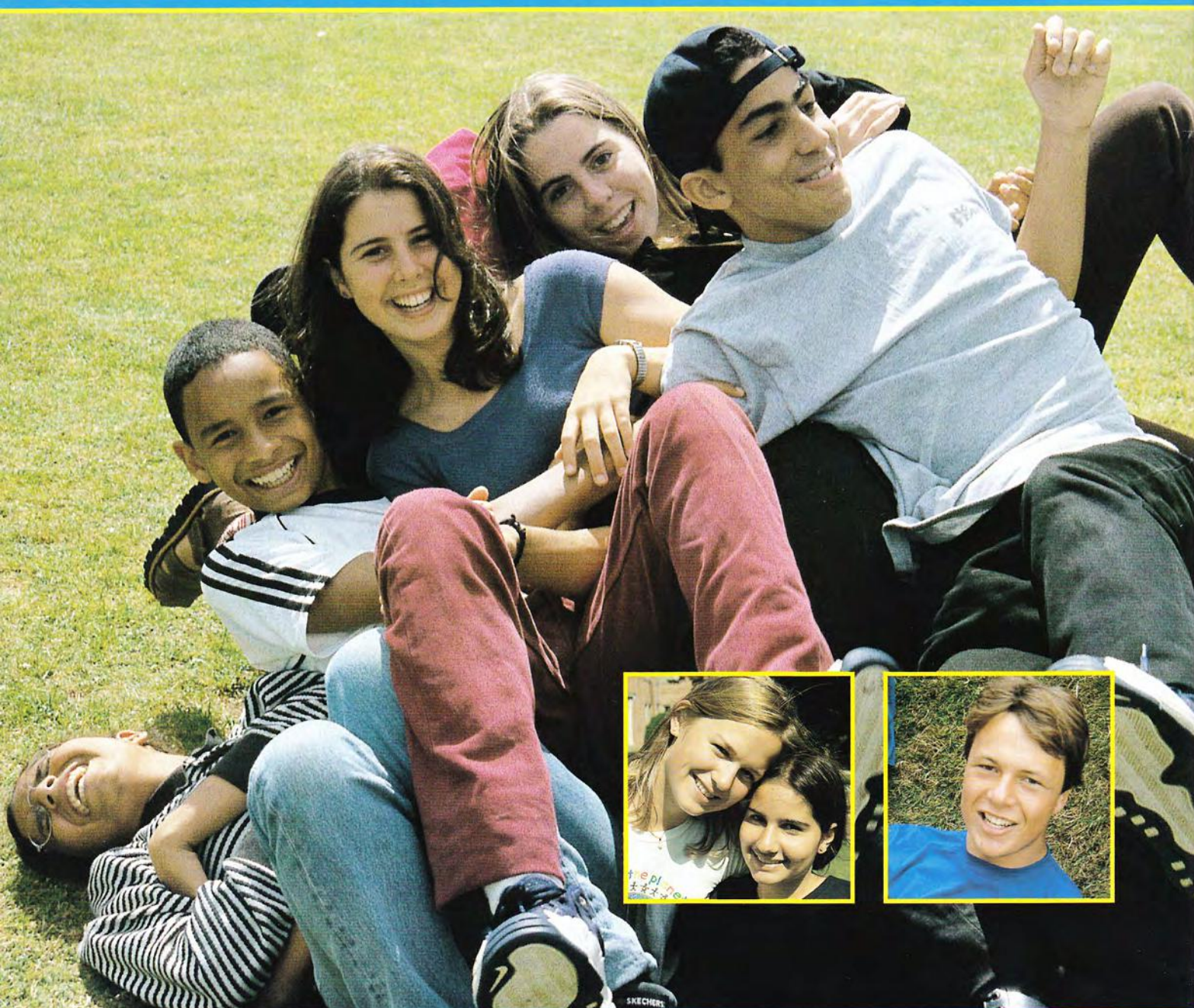
By train from London, leave from Paddington Station. For Mary Hare and Cheam, arrive at Newbury Station. For Douai and Elstree arrive at Reading Station or Midgham Station. There are normally taxis at Newbury Station. If not, there are taxi numbers in the phone box near the Station. There are always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

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. It is essential reading for the parents of 1999 Course participants and is not only a résumé of the previous summer. 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 and past students themselves (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.





Vacational Studies®

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non-bleached paper from
farmed sources
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Designed by Lillington Green
Written by IGM

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, is an Associate of the College of Preceptors and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He has had many years experience in teaching. He is the founder of Vacational Studies.

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vacstuds@vacational-studies.co.uk

WEB SITE

<http://www.vacational-studies.co.uk>



TRAVEL

It is quite usual for our students to fly alone. 90% of our students arrive and depart in this way. 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 (only) and check-in students on outgoing flights from Heathrow Terminals 1 and 2 (only) 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.

For young children (under 12), airlines operate an 'Unaccompanied Young Persons (UYP)' or 'Unaccompanied Minors (UM)' service on request and look after them. As airlines insist on a named person meeting and returning a child and that the person remains until the flight has departed, parents should note that if they request UYP or UM service, all UYP or UM arrivals and departures must be by taxi at cost. The driver is known to us and has been working with us for many years. He will meet students and check them in personally. It is normally unnecessary for students to be booked to fly UYP or UM. Airlines (especially British Airways) are very helpful with young passengers at any age.

Our free standard service cannot be used when arrival is later or departure is earlier than our

stated dates or times, or if the flight is via Gatwick Airport, or if a student is booked UYP or UM, or is on a flight which arrives at or departs from Terminal 3 or 4, or is outside our requested times. 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 £50 and to Gatwick about £70. For two people, the cost is shared). Special requirements should be indicated on the Application Form and details sent separately.

AT THE AIRPORT

Before travelling, we send an identity badge and luggage tags to ensure quick recognition. Our 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.

VISITS TO THE SCHOOLS

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

HOW TO APPLY



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 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 1999' slip.

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. We also have a Girobank account for personal money. The number is 255 7444. Students will tend to bring about £250. 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.

THE COURSE FEE

INCLUDES:-

- residence at the School
- travel Heathrow-School/School-Heathrow¹
- all meals²
- tuition
- the sports programme
- the use of facilities
- excursions³
- insurance⁴
- the laundering of clothes⁵

¹ At specified times and terminals – see 'Travel'

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

³ Travel and supervision, not entrance fees

⁴ As described in the 'Insurance' slip

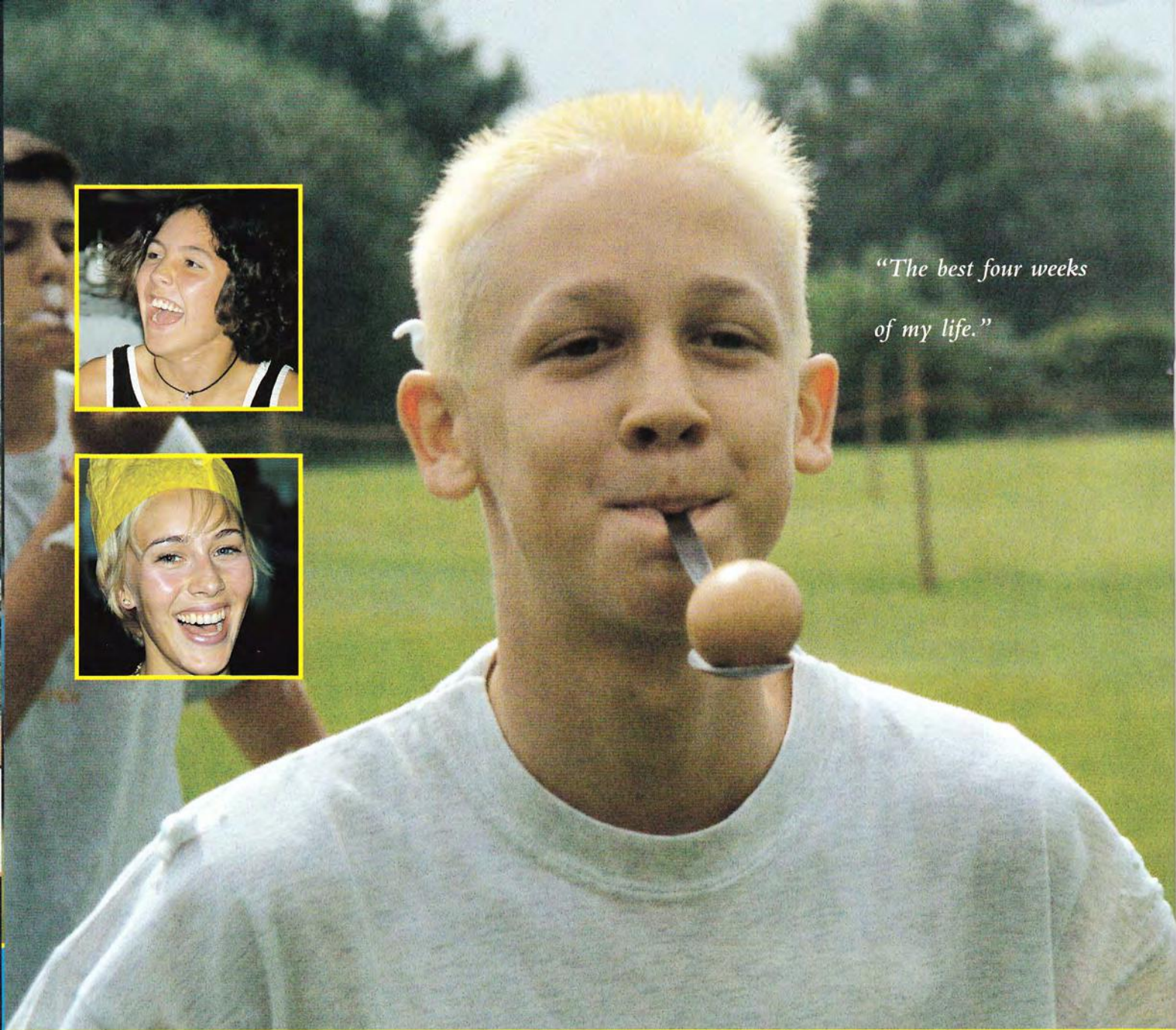
⁵ If not sensitive to bulk washing/drying and at your own risk

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





*"The best four weeks
of my life."*



*Vacational
Studies®*



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victories were won, friends from other schools met up and the spirit of friendly rivalry that makes Sports Day so special prevailed. There were even some new songs. 'We're gonna score one more than YOU!' was shrieked at full volume. As ever, it was a photo-opportunity and the brochure shows the fun it all was. So fantastic were the four Spectaculars that the videos contain them all, not just the one appropriate to that school. These whole-school extravaganzas give every student the chance to perform and are a tremendous unifying force. Just a few bars of 'You can keep your hat on' was enough at Douai to bring out the whole school for a rehearsal before Sports Day. In the three weeks Elstree had after Sports Day, their 'Vindaloo' was performed several times, culminating in a special performance on the last day for my camcorder, filmed from the roof. I wonder who had the original idea for 'Spectaculars'...? In 1999, as this year, three days towards the end of July will be





THE JÖRG WEISE SCHOLARSHIP

We continue 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 1999 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 JWA.

GIOTTO - ITS HISTORY

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 huge. 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.

GIOTTO PAGES

The 1999 'Giotto Book' (now published only on our Internet site as it has become so heavy to post, so I shall say 'Giotto Pages') will be its 13th Edition and will contain over 2300 names. This suggests to me that the concept is succeeding. Listing in Giotto 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 Pages will include many more interesting and useful people in various fields who are willing to be contacted. There is already an 'International Work Experience' section in the 1999 Giotto Pages. I know that various contacts have been made via Giotto. For reasons of security, full addresses are not provided. It is ideal for E-mail contact.

GIOTTO TOURS

For those who wish for a more personal social contact, Giotto Tours was created by a group of students in 1992 to arrange holidays and get-togethers for its members. It fell into desuetude. Chris Noll (Heidestraße 23, D-60316 Frankfurt/Main, Germany. Tel: +49 69495408; Fax: +49 69-447024) bravely attempted to revive the concept by arranging a meeting during Easter 1998 in Berlin. It did not happen because there was insufficient interest. There are several messages on the Interactive Forum within our Internet site about a get-together. Anyone willing to organise this can post a message (<http://www.vacational-studies.co.uk> and click on 'Interactive Forum').



THE 'CHEWING-GUM' CHECK GOES TO CHILDLINE MARCH 1998

INTERNET SITE

This has now become our 'shop window' and the main source of information about us. The entire brochure and also this 'news section' are on our web site. Application for places on our Courses can be made electronically Giotto exists only on the site. My research indicates that the vast majority of students have access to a computer and the majority of these have access to the Internet. For those who do not, I can only apologise that a great deal of the information we put out will not be available to them. Nevertheless, the Internet is now firmly established, widely used and understood, and we must assume that parents and students have moved with the times.



INTERACTIVE FORUM

This has been a huge success since it was launched at the beginning of this year. People connected with Vacational Studies use it all the time to communicate with each other. If you have not yet used it, please visit it on our Internet pages.

MY THANKS

To all those who entrust us with their children. You are making the best possible investment for your children's future – their education and development. We shall continue to justify your confidence in us by providing our students with the best possible linguistic and social experience.

Ian G. Mucklejohn – Autumn 1998

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VACSTUDS 1986.
MARRIED JUNE 1998

victories were won, friends from other schools met up and the spirit of friendly rivalry that makes Sports Day so special prevailed. There were even some new songs. 'We're gonna score one more than YOU!' was shrieked at full volume. As ever, it was a photo-opportunity and the brochure shows the fun it all was. So fantastic were the four Spectaculars that the videos contain them all, not just the one appropriate to that school. These whole-school extravaganzas give every student the chance to perform and are a tremendous unifying force. Just a few bars of 'You can keep your hat on' was enough at Douai to bring out the whole school for a rehearsal before Sports Day. In the three weeks Elstree had after Sports Day, their 'Vindaloo' was performed several times, culminating in a special performance on the last day for my camcorder, filmed from the roof. I wonder who had the original idea for 'Spectaculars'...? In 1999, as this year, three days towards the end of July will be





set aside as possible Sports Days. The first fine day will become Sports Day. No dry day = no Sports Day.

CATERING

Again, this was in the capable hands of Mrs Jean Monger at Mary Hare (whose talents were sampled by everyone at Sports Day) and arranged at Cheam and Elstree by Graham Troughton of Gardner Merchant. On Elstree's catering staff we had a former student, Oscar de la Torre (Spain). At Douai, Ray Chapman of Harrison Catering was in charge. A combination of past experience, day-to-day contact with Course Managers and feedback from Food Committees ensured that standards were generally maintained. All students and staff were invited to complete a 'food questionnaire', anonymously if they wished. Quite a number of questionnaires were complimentary. Some were odd and have been disregarded. One clearly told me that a choice of 3 hot main dishes + 4 cooked vegetables + 14 different cold dishes + 1 hot dessert + 5 cold desserts = no food at all for any meal. He seemed to be tucking in quite happily to this non-existent food whenever I saw him... In general, those in the east of Europe gave the highest marks. Those from the south gave the lowest. The overall average satisfaction rates (combining 19 different questions) are as follows:— Douai 60%; Mary Hare 70%; Cheam 71%;

Elstree 65%. Compared to last year, Douai has dropped 3% and this will be addressed; Mary Hare is up a creditable 8%; Cheam and Elstree are the same. The answers given were subjective, sometimes contradictory and can indicate only a general perception of standards. The caterers have been given the forms and a breakdown of the results applying to the various aspects of the catering from breakfast to barbecues. They have been asked to take note of the comments. By and large they indicate that young people are conservative in their tastes, hard to please, that there is no substitute for home-cooking. Nevertheless, some think our catering is 'great' and most find it at least acceptable. Once again, we served no beef from any country. Our policy remains that if we consider a parent would decide, for any reason, to consider a food item unsafe, we shall not serve that item. We shall err on the side of caution in this as in every other regard.

TALENT

The lead-up to the 'Folies Bergères' at each school is as important as the preparation for Sports Day. The Folies Committee uses English as its natural and essential communicative medium. Every student is able to play a part, whether as a performer, an organiser or a helper. The richness of talent present among the students can be brought out. And what talents we have seen! Juggling, tap-dancing, singing, piano playing, conjuring, gymnastics, acting are just a few. Again this year the Elstree 'Folies' was definitive. The audience sat at tables at the 'Folies Café'. Student-waiters

served drinks; an artist was sketching in a corner; 'bouncers' were on hand, one even escorted me back to my seat. It's all captured on film and should be essential viewing for the Sports/Social staff at all the schools who can provide ideas where these may be lacking and steer students away from including material more appropriate for the 'Revue' or any in dubious taste.

EXCELLENCE

Just as we are able with our talented students to produce shows of high quality, so we encourage excellence in the academic sphere. Winners of the Prize for Academic Excellence were: Ingunn Lindbach (Norway) at Douai; Lorena Mendioroz (Spain) at Mary Hare; Marta Casasús (Spain) at Cheam; Manuela Magliulo (Italy) at Elstree.

ESSAY COMPETITION

The Jörg Weise Association held another Essay Writing Competition this year. As an experiment, I left it to the Staff Helpers at Douai to make the arrangements. There were a total of three entrants. The winner had been the winner at Mary Hare last year. The staff took over the competition at the other schools. There was an almost 100% response. The topic chosen was 'Where does the magic of VacStuds lie?' The essays were revelatory, not just because they showed the deep impression that our work has on the young people who come to us, but because it made me aware of what elements combine to make us so special. More on this later. As my work is an extension of my self, I found the students' words profoundly touching. It made me wonder if VacStuds as it is could continue without me. But that's a topic for another day. As I was quite unable to judge the essays with any objectivity, marking was by teams of teachers, some from other schools, who produced a short list which was then considered by staff from the candidates' own school. Winners of the JWA/Vacational Studies Essay Writing Competitions were: Andrés Arnaldos (Spain) at Douai; Joao Henriques (Mozambique) at Mary Hare; Djamilia Pisoeiro (Angola) at Cheam; Cathrin Alber (Germany) at Elstree.



RAFFLE

Tickets awarded on English Only Days were drawn at the Final Dinner. The lucky winners of a VacStuds watch with our splendid logo, were: Tinna Osk Oskarsdóttir (Iceland) at Douai; Zsuzi Vincze (Hungary) at Mary Hare; Rob Zontjens (Netherlands) at Cheam; Belén Zato (Spain) at Elstree.

IOI EXAMINATION

The Institute of Linguists' examiner for the 'Certificate in Spoken English for Short Courses' telephoned me to compliment us on the quality of the candidates we were presenting for their Examination. Some students gained the maximum marks possible – a quite exceptional achievement. The Examination was first offered in 1997 and was refined for 1998. It is an Examination in conversation, the majority of which is directly related to the activities on our Courses. The IoL examiners have read the brochure and news-section, seen the videos and several have visited the schools. This is a real externally certificated qualification. It is unique to us. No one else offers it. It is enjoyable and without pressure. At most schools most students took it and were awarded their certificates at the final dinner.

NEW IOI GRADE 4 IN 1999

Because of the exceptional ability of some of our students and as so many wish to take the Examination again, the IoL is offering a new level above the 'advanced' Level 3. It will be a 'proficiency' Level 4.

TRIPS

My idea of a trip to Wales was a mixed success. Those schools that took up my suggestion of a visit to the Big Pit and went down a coal mine enjoyed the experience. At under two hours each way, the journey was not unbearably long. Nevertheless, it was felt that it was too far for an hour spent underground. The distance from there to Cardiff left little time to do the all-important shopping. Those who visited that part of Cardiff touted as the 'Millennium Experience' found a building site unlike the description in the tourist information sheet.

For 1999, there will be the usual London trip – sightseeing and shopping. The second trip will be to Bath with an optional visit to the Roman Baths there. The third trip will be optional and may be another visit to London. The fourth trip will be Sports Day. There will be two additional shopping afternoons locally. We shall try to accommodate individual preferences rather than expect our young people to conform to our (or their parents') expectation of what they will like. There is no point in expecting every student to be interested in the same things. We shall arrange for students to be informed about what is possible at each of the venues and they can decide what they would like to do. What we shall include is transport and supervision. We shall obtain group booking rates where possible, but all entrances will be payable from pocket money. If students wish to go somewhere else, or do something special, we shall try to make the arrangements. The trip to Chessington World of Adventure, for example, has become an Elstree tradition. Most schools now arrange a bowling trip and a visit to a new release at the cinema. If a large enough group wishes to go somewhere, we shall make the arrangements and send accompanying staff. Whether or not we allow children on excursions to be unaccompanied is subject to our discretion as well as the parents'. A student (and sometimes a parent) may have a view on supervision which is more relaxed than ours. Our view must, of course, prevail as we have to take the responsibility.

THEATRE VISITS

These proved as popular as ever. The choice system adopted in 1996 was used again. Students are asked to choose which shows they wish to see in the order of preference on a form which shows the Invoice number. I try to give each student the chance to go once, if possible to the first choice, if not to the second choice and so on. For those who wish to go to a second show, I look at the forms again in Invoice number order. Those who book early and have low Invoice numbers stand most chance of a second or even third visit. There are always more students wishing to go to the theatre than there are tickets available. Parents are asked to specify how many theatre visits they wish their children to have. Whether or not that wish is possible depends on the Invoice number. 1999 Invoice numbers start at 10559. For 1999, I am replacing some of the old favourites with new choices. A 'Theatre Visits' choice list will be sent out in March.

PROPERTY

Once again, we asked that items over £40 in value be listed on the 'Valuable Possessions' form. At the end of the Courses, we sent back every item of property left behind that was named. Un-named items were also returned if we had a good idea to whom they belonged.

VACSTUDS VIDEO

This has been edited and sent to those requesting it. Each school has its own E-180 'VacStuds '98 All Over Again'. For those students wishing to relive the summer and for those parents trying to find what made it 'the best summer of my life', here is instant nostalgia, tangible atmosphere, the





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.

magic weaving its spell. Parents of 1999 students who would like a preview can request a copy. It is absolutely not a promotional video. It is a collection of the events I saw as I went from school to school over the summer. If something does not appear, it is because the SSO either did not remind me when it was on, or arranged it so it clashed with another school's event.

SOME OBSERVATIONS

Over the last quarter of a century, I have made some observations based on the thousands of young children who have been entrusted to my care. I pass them on in the hope that parents may benefit from my experience.

MOBILE PHONES

This is a recent phenomenon. Parents who give their children a mobile phone generally do so in case of homesickness. Very few children are, in fact, homesick. If it happens, it happens and we deal with it. In time, the feeling goes away. As it represents a permanent and physical link with home, the presence of a mobile phone can make homesickness more likely and extend its duration. The two homesick children we had in 1998 each came with a mobile phone.

PARENTAL CONTACT

Our advice is to make contact on the 'Telephone Day' only. Some parents insist on phoning their children regularly to see if they are 'all right'. Such close and often repeated questioning generally results in an admission that an indefinable something

may be wrong. The worried parents then contact us and ask us to question a perfectly happy child about something that may be wrong, making the child worried about the parents being worried. For those parents who have never before sent their child away into the care of others, I would say please do not feel guilty. You are exercising your parental duty by letting your child have a great time and be independent.

CONTACT IN GENERAL

I welcome it. Feedback is important. Compliments are also encouraging. It may be because parental expectations are higher and the service we provide is second-to-none, but there is less contact now than there used to be. For example, my PA and I spend days returning clothes, money, property, everything that has been left behind in the emotion of the end. Some items are valuable; some are heavy and expensive to post. So far, only one parent has written to thank us.

HOW WE COMPARE...

As I am rather busy in the summer, I never have the chance to see how other organisations operate. Some of the staff do, though. I thought it might be interesting to print in its entirety a letter from a member of staff (new to us this year) who was at Mary Hare:- *'Just a quick note to let you know what struck me when I left Newbury to teach at another summer school.'*

The staff:student ratio at Vacation Studies is ideal. We had the opportunity to get to know every student individually at quite an early stage





which makes for a happy and secure environment. Because students don't come and go throughout the Course, they also form much stronger bonds between themselves. More importantly from a teacher's perspective, after a few days of testing and experimenting to form viable groups, these groups remain together for the month. The resulting strong group dynamic can be harnessed by the teacher to try to get the best out of every student. It also makes extended project work a realistic possibility.

The school I went to after Vocational Studies promised all these great things, but its commercial approach made them impossible. A production line of children came and went even in the short space of time that I was there. Every day I'd lost a few faces and gained a few faces in my class so that it was impossible to pitch my lessons correctly. I think the students found this as demoralising as I did. Since I was teaching for six hours a day, I never got to know any of them socially.

I'm sure the difference at Vocational Studies is that you manage to avoid the 'facelessness' of some other organisations by putting in so much work over the year and by being around while the Courses run. I think students appreciate being treated as individuals and from my two very different summer school experiences, I can tell you that staff appreciate it as well.

Obviously you know all this, but I guess it's good to know that other people realise it, too. All the best, Sandy Steele.'

BEFORE AND DURING THE COURSE

Parents are welcome to contact me on any matter. In July and August I tend to be at my desk from 08.00 (English time) until 10.00 and then I travel around the schools. For practical reasons, therefore, it is best to make contact with me during the Courses via the Course Manager. Just before the Course, I send each parent 'last minute' information with my GSM phone number. This mobile phone never leaves me, so I can almost always be reached – sometimes in surprising places. If there is a problem, I can take immediate action – as long as I know about it. Mobile phone reception in Woolhampton is awful, so if there is no response, please assume I am at Douai or Elstree and try later. 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. If parents could telephone children only on the two specific Telephone Days mentioned in the 'Notes for Parents', this would be appreciated.

PRICING AND THE £

Please see the Fees information sheet. If the effect of the ups and downs of our floating currency seems likely to compromise the all-important international mix of our students, we shall respond by combining Courses and advise parents before mid-February. Information about this will also be given on our Internet site.

STAFF HELPERS

Traditionally, we have two former students on each Course as unpaid helpers, providing a link between staff and students. They tend to be 18–21 and to have left a gap of one summer after being a student. SHs are chosen at the end of the year. Potential SHs should contact me in November. If we use the expression 'leadership potential' or similar, in the report, this is the clue that an application may be fruitful. Occasionally SHs may graduate to Assistant status and more, but this is not generally the case as we look for native English-speaking staff.

AFTER THE COURSE

Please feel you can contact me about anything 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! In the four weeks between the end of the Courses and writing these lines two students are being educated in England. As one of my correspondents writes: 'Vocational Studies has certainly changed my life – very much for the better.' Many will testify that this is no exaggeration. We have even had our first student marriage. Nanou Fève (France) and Tilman Ehret (Germany) married in Longué on 27 June 1998. I had the honour of being Best Man. Both were with us in the 1980s.

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, died 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 (JWA) was born. It is now a charitable Foundation, registered in Germany, for the advancement of international understanding. It meets annually and has a well-organised social programme. For those who would like to know more, the Chairman is Ed Bergsma (Krabbendijk 14, 7591 AX Denekamp, Netherlands. Tel: +31 541 355780; Fax: +31 541 351929.) The next JWA Meeting will be in Belgium at Easter 1999. The Jörg Weise Trophy is no longer awarded annually as it tended to promote too competitive a spirit, but has been awarded occasionally for 'an outstanding contribution to the international ideals of the Course'.



THE JÖRG WEISE SCHOLARSHIP

We continue 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 1999 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 JWA.

GIOTTO - ITS HISTORY

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 huge. 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.

GIOTTO PAGES

The 1999 'Giotto Book' (now published only on our Internet site as it has become so heavy to post, so I shall say 'Giotto Pages') will be its 13th Edition and will contain over 2300 names. This suggests to me that the concept is succeeding. Listing in Giotto 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 Pages will include many more interesting and useful people in various fields who are willing to be contacted. There is already an 'International Work Experience' section in the 1999 Giotto Pages. I know that various contacts have been made via Giotto. For reasons of security, full addresses are not provided. It is ideal for E-mail contact.

GIOTTO TOURS

For those who wish for a more personal social contact, Giotto Tours was created by a group of students in 1992 to arrange holidays and get-togethers for its members. It fell into desuetude. Chris Noll (Heidestraße 23, D-60316 Frankfurt/Main, Germany. Tel: +49 69495408; Fax: +49 69-447024) bravely attempted to revive the concept by arranging a meeting during Easter 1998 in Berlin. It did not happen because there was insufficient interest. There are several messages on the Interactive Forum within our Internet site about a get-together. Anyone willing to organise this can post a message (<http://www.vacational-studies.co.uk> and click on 'Interactive Forum').



THE 'CHEWING-GUM' CHECK GOES TO CHILDLINE MARCH 1998

INTERNET SITE

This has now become our 'shop window' and the main source of information about us. The entire brochure and also this 'news section' are on our web site. Application for places on our Courses can be made electronically Giotto exists only on the site. My research indicates that the vast majority of students have access to a computer and the majority of these have access to the Internet. For those who do not, I can only apologise that a great deal of the information we put out will not be available to them. Nevertheless, the Internet is now firmly established, widely used and understood, and we must assume that parents and students have moved with the times.



INTERACTIVE FORUM

This has been a huge success since it was launched at the beginning of this year. People connected with Vacational Studies use it all the time to communicate with each other. If you have not yet used it, please visit it on our Internet pages.

MY THANKS

To all those who entrust us with their children. You are making the best possible investment for your children's future – their education and development. We shall continue to justify your confidence in us by providing our students with the best possible linguistic and social experience.

Ian G. Mucklejohn – Autumn 1998