

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How much does the Course cost?

Course options and fees can be found [here](#).

What clothes should I bring?

Pack all your essential clothing and be sure to include:

- Clothes you don't mind getting wet or covered in paint
- A fancy dress costume
- A swimming costume
- Formal wear for events
- Sportswear

For more details, see the 'What to bring' section of the [Notes for Parents](#).

Do I need to bring a towel?

Yes, please bring a towel. However, bed linen will be provided and washed weekly, so there is no need to bring your own.

How many people will I share a bedroom with?

- Ages 10-13: Usually share with three others
- Ages 14-16: Usually share with one or two others
- Ages 16+: Usually share with one other or have a private room with a shared bathroom

For more details see [Accommodation](#).

If you wish to change your room, you can do so without giving a reason.

Will my clothes be laundered?

Yes! No need to bring clothes for 4 weeks. Clothes are washed by the Mary Hare staff approximately three times a week. Please ensure that all clothing is:

- Clearly named
- Washable at 40°C
- Suitable for bulk washing and drying

What is the food like?

The kitchen is run by Nick Heath, who has previously managed top London restaurants. There are always 3-4 hot meal options, alongside a salad bar with bread, cold meats, salad, and more. The kitchen caters to all dietary requirements, including vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free.

The kitchen is also open to suggestions.

For more details see [Food](#).

What should I be concerned about?

Nothing at all! The Course has been running for 52 years, and the programme has been carefully refined and developed to ensure it is both engaging and enjoyable for everyone involved.

Everyone who joins us is eager to make friends and make the most of the experience, so if it's your first time, you won't feel alone for long. The best way to prepare is to read the [Notes for Students](#) and [Notes for Parents](#), so you arrive well-prepared and with an open mind.

Those who want to get the most out of the Course should fully participate in all activities and be open to new experiences. There are also opportunities for [Student Progression](#) for those looking to take on additional responsibilities.

How will classes be chosen?

Class sizes range from 10-14 students. On the first day, students take an assessment and are then placed into classes based on age and ability. Classes are mixed by nationality to encourage consistent English use.

Will I have my phone?

Students will not have access to their phones for most of the course, except on trips, Telephone Sundays, or if a specific call home is required. When surveyed at the end of the Course, 95% of our students said they did not miss their phones at all.

Do I need to bring my own medicine?

You should bring any prescribed medication you require. These will be kept safely with the matron and administered as needed. However, there is no need to bring general medicines such as ibuprofen or paracetamol, as these can be provided by the Matron if necessary.

I have allergies/dietary requirements, who do I tell?

You must inform us by emailing vacstuds@vacstuds of any allergies or dietary requirements before the Course. This will be passed over to the Matron the kitchen and other relevant staff.

How do I get to the school?

You will need to book your own flights within our designated timeframes to be eligible for our airport transfer service. You must also complete and send an [Agreement & Travel Details Form](#).

If you have opted for the Lite Course and arrive or depart outside these times, we will arrange a taxi service, the cost of which will be deducted from your pocket money.

For more details see [Travel](#).

How do I pay for optional extras?

The cost of optional extras such as trips, Trinity, VacStuds hoodies etc are all deducted from pocket money. Pocket money can be sent to the pocket money accounts or by bringing cash and topping up your account on the first day. Any pocket money remaining is for students to spend on trips or at the tuck shop.

For more details about pocket money, see the 'Pocket Money' section in the [Notes for Parents](#).