

English
internationally...



Vacational
Studies®



RESIDENTIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSES

Vacational Studies Courses have been running for 19 years and we have tried in this time to develop a programme to provide an enjoyable balance between 'vacation' and 'study'. Here is our programme for Summer 1991.

RECOGNISED BY THE BRITISH COUNCIL

Vacational Studies is 'Recognised for the teaching of English by the British Council' and is a member of ARELS-FELCO (The Association for Recognised English Language Teaching Establishments in Britain) — a professional body, membership of which is granted only after thorough inspection and 3-yearly re-inspections.

WHAT WE TRY TO DO

Vacational Studies tries to create a totally international Course with students from as many different countries as possible. We avoid accepting a large number of students from any particular country. In this way we try to ensure that English is the main medium of communication among the students. By using English not just as a school subject, but as a living language, we hope our students will realise better its importance and value. When children must use English to make friends, the element of self-motivation greatly increases their fluency.

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

RESIDENCE

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

THE STUDENTS

We accept boys and girls aged 11 to 16 — near-beginners, intermediate and more advanced students. We also accept a small number of students at 17 — normally only if they have been with us before. Beginners are not accepted.

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

THE SCHOOLS AND SURROUNDINGS

For 1991 our Courses are at five Schools near Newbury. Douai School, The Mary Hare School, Elstree School, Cheam School and Hawtreys. Newbury is in a pleasant part of southern England amid the hills of the Berkshire Downs in a rural area well known for race-horse training. Newbury is a small market town 70km. west of London and +5km. south of Oxford. Our five School buildings are among the finest in the area.

DOUAI SCHOOL

Douai School dates from the mid-nineteenth century. It is beautifully set, next to the famous Douai Abbey, in 80 acres of its own grounds and woodlands with extensive playing fields which adjoin Elstree School. It has a large indoor swimming pool, a gymnasium and a 'multi-gym'. A planned maximum of 85 students will be accepted.

THE MARY HARE SCHOOL

The Mary Hare School is a large mid-nineteenth century manor house. There are formal gardens and extensive grounds which include several large playing fields, a range of tennis courts, a gymnasium and a large indoor swimming pool. A planned maximum of 95 students will be accepted.

ELSTREE SCHOOL

Elstree School is a splendid, large eighteenth century country house, attractively set in 40 acres of grounds with large playing fields, gardens and woods. It has a modern well-equipped gymnasium. A planned maximum of 85 students will be accepted.

CHEAM SCHOOL

Cheam School is an elegant late-nineteenth century mansion with impressive interior designing on a grand scale. A particular feature is the sunken formal garden. There is an excellent multi-purpose sports hall/gymnasium. The School's large grounds include several playing fields, lawns and woods. A planned maximum of 95 students will be accepted.

HAWTREYS

Hawtreys is an impressive mid-nineteenth century stately home owned by the Marquess of Ailesbury, set in 55 acres of grounds with playing fields, gardens, woodland and open spaces. The classrooms are contained within the main building. A planned maximum of 85 students will be accepted.

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

CHOICE OF COURSE

The Courses are all of 4 weeks duration. They have the same format. The only differences are location and date. 1991 dates are:-

Douai		
8 July	—	5 August 1991
Mary Hare		
11 July	—	8 August 1991
Elstree		
14 July	—	11 August 1991
Cheam		
16 July	—	13 August 1991
Hawtreys		
19 July	—	16 August 1991



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Douai

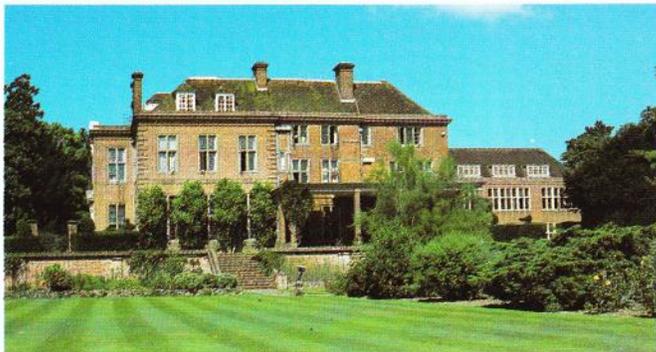


Elstree

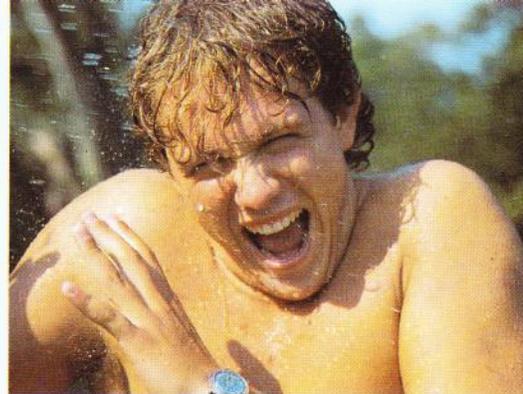


Hawtreys

Part of Mary Hare - The Manor House



Cheam



THE TEACHING

A staff of qualified, professional teachers, experienced in the teaching of English as a foreign language give 4 classes, each of 45 minutes, every day except Sunday and the weekly excursion day. In addition, there is a supervised 30 minute study period each afternoon. Classes are graded according to age and ability in English. Students are placed first in an 'assessment group', then in what we consider to be the correct teaching group. Class placements are constantly reviewed and students may be moved to more or less advanced classes, according to their performance. The teacher:student ratio is approximately 1:13. Maximum class size is 16. We provide all books and teaching materials. The teaching is by 'direct method'. Both oral and written English are taught and there is an emphasis on conversation practice.



Rosemarie (Spain), Marius (Norway) and Oliver (Germany) in class with Vanessa

SPORTS

Sport is an important part of the Course. Our Sports/Entertainments Organiser arranges a regular programme including football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, tennis, table-tennis, swimming, etc. Competitions run throughout the Course. There is also a 5-School 'Sports Day' when the Courses meet for friendly competitions in the major sports.

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

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

We try to create a relaxed and friendly 'family' atmosphere in which children will feel 'at home' quickly and make good social contacts. There is a variety of activities on the programme — discotheques, films, barbecues, folk-singing, concerts, games, optional theatre visits, etc. The programme is a full one. There is always something to do and children are encouraged to participate.

THEATRE VISITS - 'CATS'/'LES MISERABLES'/'PHANTOM OF THE OPERA' (Optional Extras)

All these 'smash-hit' West End musicals are booked out months in advance. We have requested tickets for them and will be allocated a limited number. We shall allocate tickets so that students who wish to go to the theatre can see at least one show and a maximum of two shows. The cost for each (ticket + transport) will be £16.00. Requests can be made on the Application Form. £16.00 or £32.00 should be added to pocket money. In our opinion, 'Cats' is suitable for all ages. 'Les Misérables' and 'Phantom of the Opera' are more suitable for those aged 14 or over. This is a great chance to see world-famous shows for which most visitors to London have to pay inflated ticket prices.

TENNIS LESSONS (Optional Extra)

Children may play tennis at any time, but we can arrange professional lessons, if required. These are available for beginners or near-beginners only. 6 one-hour lessons are given in groups of no more than four and must be requested in advance on the Application Form. If tennis lessons are taken, a tennis racquet must be brought.

As these lessons are pre-arranged, it is not possible to refund the cost of lessons booked, but not taken, so parents are asked to make sure their children really want them.

MEALS

Food is an important part of the Course. Meals are prepared by professional caterers to a high standard following a menu plan we provide. Our specification includes instructions in presentation to encourage children to eat. Aware of the importance of healthy eating, we stipulate that fresh produce be used wherever possible. There is a wide choice and students can come back for more.

Breakfast:

- Choice of cereal
- Choice of various breads, meats, cheese, jam, marmalade
- Tea, coffee, milk, fresh orange juice

Lunch:

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

Dinner:

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

Before bedtime:

- Hot chocolate and biscuits

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

At times throughout the Course the menu will be varied to include: 'English breakfast' (scrambled egg and bacon with grilled tomato, or similar); 'English tea' (choice of different kinds of bread, jam, fruit

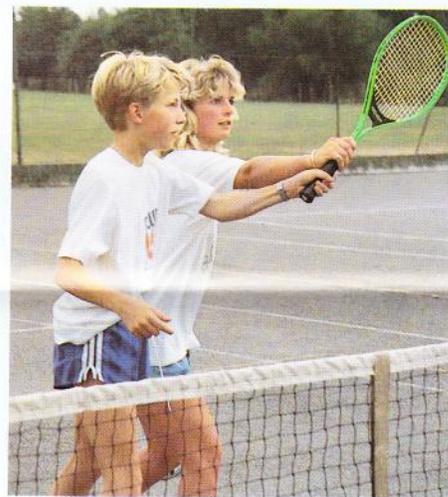
RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

At all Schools the children sleep in dormitories. The girls are in one part of the house, the boys in another. Bed linen is provided by us.

A TYPICAL DAY

08.30	Breakfast
09.00	First class
09.45	Break
09.55	Second class
10.40	Break
11.10	Third class
11.55	Break
12.05	Fourth class
12.50	Break
13.00	Lunch
13.45	Supervised Study
14.15	Break
14.45	Organised sports and games
18.00	Evening meal
19.00	Games, films, etc.
21.00	Hot chocolate and biscuits
21.30	'Club'
22.30	Bedtime (may be put back to 22.45)

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



Clare teaching Øystein tennis

HEALTH

Minor illnesses are treated by our own staff. There is a Matron with a special surgery/sick room in each School. We also use the services of doctors in the locality. We ask parents to give us full health information on the Application Form.

INSURANCE

Every student is now covered by a special Insurance Policy. Full details are on the enclosed information



Rosemarie (Spain), Marius (Norway) and Oliver (Germany) in class with Vanessa

SPORTS

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EXCURSIONS

There are four excursions. Two are to London. One is principally for sightseeing. The other is for shopping or sightseeing or a combination of both. The students go in small groups, each accompanied by a member of staff. As far as possible, the students choose what they wish to see and do. The third excursion is optional and the destination is decided by the students and staff. Newbury is centrally located in the South of England and several interesting towns are within easy reach. The fourth excursion is the grand 'Sports Day'. All the excursions are included in the Course Fee.

SHOPPING AFTERNOONS (Optional Extra)

In addition to the organised excursions above (which are included in the Course Fee), there are three optional shopping afternoons (not included in the Course Fee), two in Newbury and one in a town near the School. We think it is safe for children to shop in these towns unaccompanied by staff, if parents have indicated their agreement to this on the Application Form. This helps children to achieve a measure of independence. Children can be accompanied by staff if parents or we so wish and there will be several staff in the towns while the children are shopping. Travel is by private coach from the School, payable by students if they wish to go. The cost of transport is in the range from £1.00 to £2.00.

Application Form. If tennis lessons are taken, a tennis racquet must be brought.

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- Choice of cereal
- Choice of various breads, meats, cheese, jam, marmalade
- Tea, coffee, milk, fresh orange juice

Lunch:

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

Dinner:

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

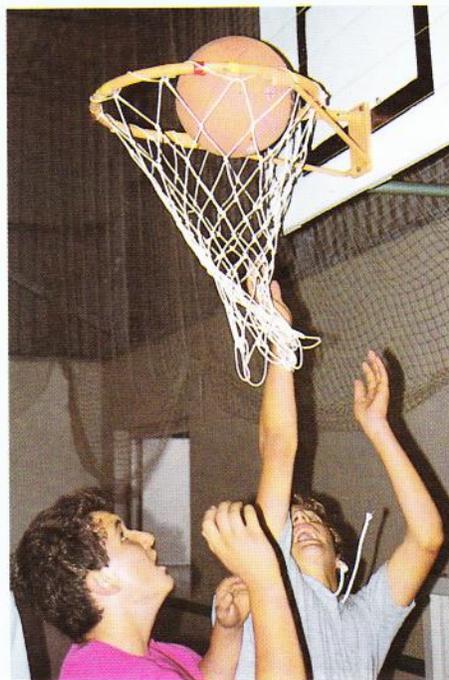
Before bedtime:

- Hot chocolate and biscuits

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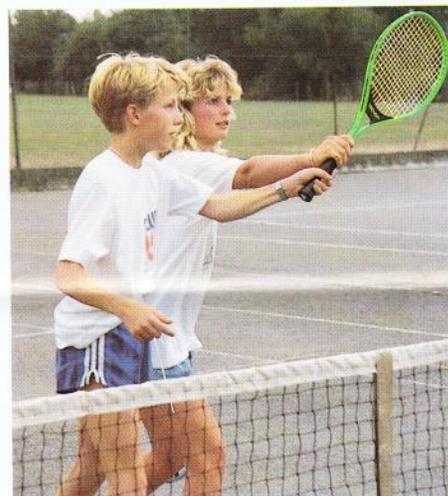
At times throughout the Course the menu will be varied to include: 'English breakfast' (scrambled egg and bacon with grilled tomato, or similar); 'English tea' (choice of different kinds of bread, choice of spreads, cakes and buns) and barbecued meals (spare rib, sausage roll, jacket potatoes, coleslaw dip, crisps, ice-cream, etc.) There will also be 'national meals'. Students of each nationality will be invited to help the kitchen staff prepare and serve a meal consisting of dishes from their own country.

Basketball in Cheam's Sports Hall



22.30 Bedtime (may be put back to 22.45)

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



Clare teaching Øystein tennis

HEALTH

Minor illnesses are treated by our own staff. There is a Matron with a special surgery/sick room in each School. We also use the services of doctors in the locality. We ask parents to give us full health information on the Application Form.

INSURANCE

Every student is now covered by a special Insurance Policy. Full details are on the enclosed information sheet. Briefly, the Insurance includes refund of full Course Fees if certified serious illness or accident during the month before the Course prevents attendance on the Course; private medical treatment to the value of £2,500; personal possessions and luggage cover to the value of £400; personal money cover to the value of £150; return air fare to the value of £300 if an APEX reservation is lost because of delayed or advanced departure through illness or accident while the student is with us.

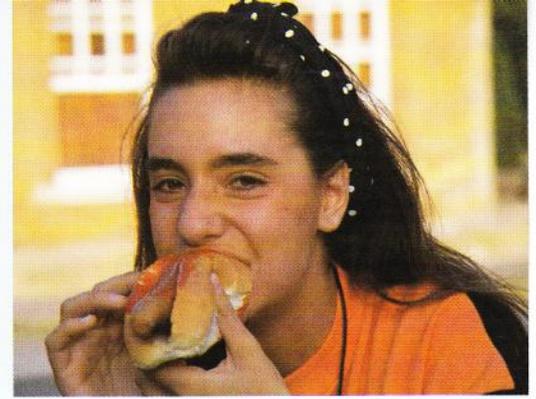
There is **no extra charge** for this Insurance. Every student is automatically covered (subject to the enclosed conditions) when the application is accepted.

HOW WE LOOK AFTER CHILDREN

We understand the concern felt by parents when their children are away from home. They are under constant supervision, as far as is practicable, both in the School and on excursions. Our total staff:student ratio of about 1:8 ensures that the children are well looked after.

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

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



IF THERE IS A PROBLEM

We shall contact you. 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 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 children to respect the buildings, equipment and the feelings of other people and show good manners.

If a child is correctly motivated (see section on 'Children who will benefit') there should be no discipline problems, but if any should arise, we reserve the right to contact parents and, if we consider it necessary, require that the child be taken home at the parents' expense without refund of Fees.

CHILDREN WHO WILL BENEFIT

Please make sure that our Course is suitable for your child and that he/she wants to come. The children who will benefit and we enjoy having with us will be internationally-minded, interested in English, outgoing and gregarious. They will also be willing to accept the constraints of community living. We consider it so important that our standards and expectations are understood and accepted that we ask parents to confirm that they and their child have read and agree with our rules. A slip sent with the rules is provided for this purpose.

Nifty footwork at Mary Hare



HOW WE ENCOURAGE THE USE OF ENGLISH

On each Course there are students from many different countries. We try to ensure a mixture of nationalities in classes and dormitories. We aim to stimulate the speaking of English socially in various ways. Members of staff constantly encourage English-speaking around the School; some also sit on children's tables at meals. Some meals have internationally mixed seating plans, although for most meals students may sit wherever they wish.

Another 'encouragement' to speak English is the 'English Only Raffle' with a valuable prize for the winner — "Trivial Pursuit", or similar. Every student is entitled to one raffle ticket each week if he or she has spoken English much more than his/her own language during the week. Throughout the Course there will also be 'English Only Bonus' days. If a student is noticeably using English and is not caught more than once using any language other than English on that day, he or she will gain an extra ticket — a 'bonus'. At the end of the Course there will be a draw for the lucky ticket. The more tickets, the greater the chance of winning the prize. We hope that the prize will be a positive inducement for students to use English.



Screaming for Hawthreys

RELIGION

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

THE JÖRG WEISE MEMORIAL TROPHY & SCHOLARSHIP

This is awarded occasionally for 'an outstanding contribution to the ideals of the Course'. The Trophy was presented to Vacational Studies in 1980 by Professor Dr. Eberhard Weise, formerly of Bayer A.G. in Leverkusen, Germany, in memory of his son Jörg (1958-1979) who was a student of ours in 1971. For us Jörg Weise embodies the finest qualities of endeavour and achievement with a completely international outlook.

We are also proud to be associated with the Jörg Weise Memorial Scholarship. The Scholarship is a

THE COURSE FEE INCLUDES:-

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

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

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

³ (As described in the 'Insurance Slip')

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

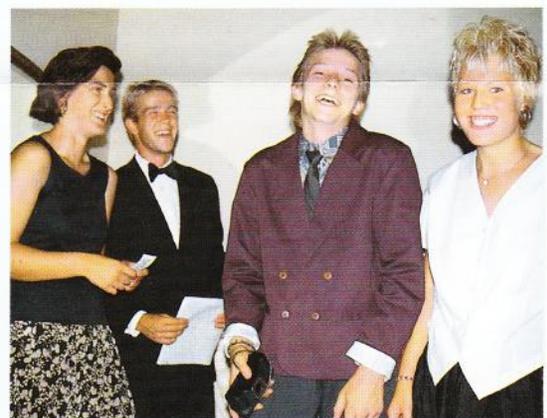
There are **no extra charges** except for optional church, theatre or shopping visits and professional tennis lessons. A small (£1) deduction is made from pocket money to provide indoor board games and records for the 'club'

THE COURSE FEE DOES NOT INCLUDE:-

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

HOW TO APPLY

Answer all the questions on the Application Form and (if we do not know your child) return it with a letter of recommendation from the school on attitude to study and behaviour. 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.



Gjertrud (Norway) and Mads (Denmark) being presented at the Cheam 'Casino'



How Mary Hare achieved success at the 'egg-and-spoon' race....

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Shopping by double-decker bus from Douai

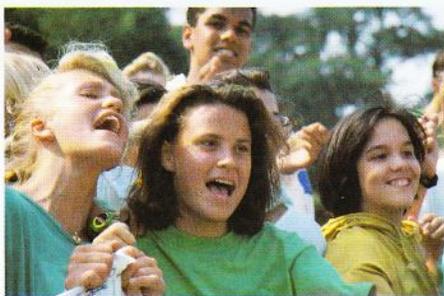
HOW THEY WILL BENEFIT

We hope that our students will learn a great deal of English, make good friendships and develop a positive international feeling. As well as formal study, we concentrate on the holiday aspect of the Course. While we try to involve students in all activities, we naturally respect the wishes of those who like to read quietly or be with friends. Over the years, we have built up an excellent reputation with parents and children all over the world. Many boys and girls spend several summers with us renewing old friendships and making new ones. Most children come to us on personal recommendation. The numbers on the Courses are deliberately kept small so that the staff can get to know everybody and treat each child as an individual.

TEACHER'S REPORT

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

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Preparing for the International Meal

Alex, Federico, Adriaan, Suzanne, Marc, Rallou, Albertine, Bart, Pierre and Alma

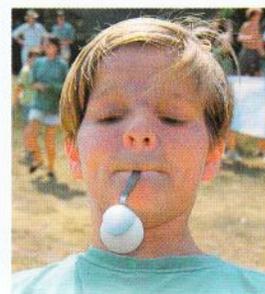
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- travel to and from England

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How Mary Hare achieved success at the 'egg-and-spoon' race....

WHEN THE APPLICATION IS ACCEPTED

We shall write to inform you of this and include our Invoice for the Course Fees. The Invoice can be settled in full immediately or 50% can be paid immediately and the balance by the date shown on the Invoice. (Please note — in some countries we understand tax relief is allowed on all or part of the Fees.) The place is confirmed when the full Course Fees have been received by us. We shall also request travel details.

HOW TO PAY

Please see "Course Fees 1991" slip.





TRAVEL

It is quite usual for children to fly alone. For very young children, airlines operate an 'Unaccompanied Young Persons' service and look after them. There are many cut-price air-ticket offers — for early booking, for young people, or for travel on particular flights. We operate a collection and return transport service between Heathrow Airport and the Schools on arrival and departure at no charge, subject to the conditions on our 'Travel Details' form. Our staff can meet students arriving at Heathrow Terminals 1 and 2 and check-in students on outgoing flights from Heathrow Terminals 1 and 2 on the stated dates. Our staff are at Heathrow from 12.00-16.00 on arrival days and from 09.30-13.00 on departure days. If flights arrive earlier than 12.00, students must wait for our representative near the 'Information' desk. If flights leave after 13.00, we explain the procedure and take students to wait in the correct area. For arrivals or departures outside our requested times, parents are asked to indicate on our 'Travel Details' form their agreement to children being at Heathrow without our staff. This is absolutely straightforward and safe.

If your child must arrive later or leave earlier than our stated dates or times, or if the flight is via Gatwick Airport, our standard service cannot be used. We can make special taxi or minibus arrangements on your behalf. We do not charge for making these arrangements, but the cost of the taxi or minibus is payable by students. (As a guide, a one-way taxi for one person to Heathrow is about £40 and to Gatwick £50. For two people, the cost can be shared). Special requirements should be indicated on the Application Form and details sent separately.

AT THE AIRPORT

Before travelling, we send an identity badge and luggage tags to ensure quick recognition. Our representative will be carrying a large 'Vacational Studies' sign and will meet your child at the entrance to the Arrivals Hall after leaving the Customs Hall.

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

IF YOU COME BY CAR

Road directions are given by the Schools' addresses. Parents bringing their children to the School are asked to come between 12.30 and 14.30. Parents collecting children from the Schools on the last day are asked to come before 11.00.



CLOTHES AND POSSESSIONS

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

ON ARRIVAL AT THE SCHOOL

All money is handed in at the Office for safe-keeping and the student can then withdraw money from his/her account daily. We keep passports and tickets safely. We cannot accept responsibility for pocket money or valuables not handed to us.

ON THE FIRST DAY

On request, new students will be allocated to a returning student who will act as a 'guide' explaining the layout of the building, the way the Course runs and answering any questions.



Spot the Ball in the pool at Elstree

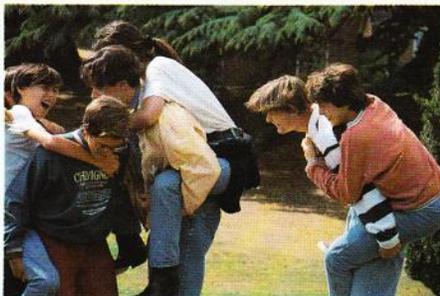
SCHOOLS' ADDRESSES AND DIRECTIONS

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 1/2km. Turn right at 'Main Entrance' sign and immediately left.

Address for students' letters:

Douai School
Woolhampton Reading RG7 5TH.
Telephone (to contact Course Manager only):
Woolhampton 713805 (STD code 0734)
(Mornings, please).



Piggy-back joust

HAWTREYS

From London, follow M4 to Exit 14 (Hungerford/Wantage). Take A338 to Hungerford, then turn right onto A4, through Hungerford and through Froxfield, 5km. past Froxfield, turn left at signpost 'Burbage 5'. Follow this road for 5km. and turn right at signpost 'Savernake/Burbage'. Continue for 2km. and turn left over cattle grid at sign 'Tottenham House'. Hawtreys is at the end of the drive.

Address for students' letters:

Hawtreys
Savernake Forest
Marlborough Wiltshire SN8 3BA.
Telephone (to contact Course Manager only):
Marlborough 870331 (STD code 0672)
(Mornings, please).

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. For Hawtreys, arrive at Pewsey Station. There are normally taxis at Newbury Station. If not, there are taxi numbers in the phone box near the Station. There are always taxis at Reading Station. There are no taxis at Midgham Station. Walk to A4, then follow road directions. At Pewsey Station, telephone for a taxi.

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

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

FINALLY...

We have tried to describe the Courses fully and frankly. Please also see the section 'Unrealisable expectations' in the 'News-Sheet'. We hope this brochure contains all the information you need to make your choice. Any further details you may require can be obtained from the parents of our past students (the addresses of some of these are on the enclosed list) and the Director. We suggest that you contact our parental references as they may offer useful advice.

Our Courses are designed with the benefit of years of experience and we are confident that we can

parents are asked to make arrangements for their agreement to children being at Heathrow without our staff. This is absolutely straightforward and safe.

If your child must arrive later or leave earlier than our stated dates or times, or if the flight is via Gatwick Airport, our standard service cannot be used. We can make special taxi or minibus arrangements on your behalf. We do not charge for making these arrangements, but the cost of the taxi or minibus is payable by students. (As a guide, a one-way taxi for one person to Heathrow is about £40 and to Gatwick £50. For two people, the cost can be shared). Special requirements should be indicated on the Application Form and details sent separately.

AT THE AIRPORT

Before travelling, we send an identity badge and luggage tags to ensure quick recognition. Our representative will be carrying a large 'Vacational Studies' sign and will meet your child at the entrance to the Arrivals Hall after leaving the Customs Hall.

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

IF YOU COME BY CAR

Road directions are given by the Schools' addresses. Parents bringing their children to the School are asked to come between 12.30 and 14.30. Parents collecting children from the Schools on the last day are asked to come before 11.00.



Practising the Spanish entry for the 'Eurovision Song Contest'

POCKET MONEY

Pocket money can either be brought by your child (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 recommend at least £175.00. Optional tennis coaching fees and the cost of theatre visit(s) should be added (if applicable). Do not send more money during the Course.



Spot the Ball in the pool at Elstree

SCHOOLS' ADDRESSES AND DIRECTIONS

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Douai School
Woolhampton Reading RG7 5TH.
Telephone (to contact Course Manager only):
Woolhampton 713805 (STD code 0734)
(Mornings, please).



Piggy-back joust

THE MARY HARE SCHOOL

From London follow M4 to Exit 13 (Newbury). Leave M4 and follow signs 'A34 Newbury'. After 1km. take slip road on left signposted 'Curridge/Winterbourne/Donnington', then left signposted 'Donnington'. The Mary Hare School is first on the right.

Address for students' letters:

The Mary Hare School
Newbury Berkshire RG16 9BQ.
Telephone (to contact Course Manager only):
Chieveley 248464 (STD code 0635)
(Mornings, please).

ELSTREE SCHOOL

See directions to Douai.

Address for students' letters:

Elstree School
Woolhampton Reading RG7 5TD.
Telephone (to contact Course Manager only):
Woolhampton 712725 (STD code 0734)
(Mornings, please).

CHEAM SCHOOL

Take the A339 road from Newbury (signposted 'Basingstoke') for 10km. Cheam School is signposted on the right.

Address for students' letters:

Cheam School
Headley Newbury Berkshire RG15 8LD.
Telephone (to contact Course Manager only):
Headley 268803 (STD code 0635)
(Mornings, please).

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. For Hawtreys, arrive at Pewsey Station. There are normally taxis at Newbury Station. If not, there are taxi numbers in the phone box near the Station. There are always taxis at Reading Station. There are no taxis at Midgham Station. Walk to A4, then follow road directions. At Pewsey Station, telephone for a taxi.

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Our Courses are designed with the benefit of years of experience and we are confident that we can combine the learning of good written and spoken English with an unforgettable and enjoyable holiday for your child.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Ian Mucklejohn — who, as the Director, co-ordinates the Schools — was born in London, but has lived mostly in Newbury. He is a Graduate of the University of London with an Honours Degree in English Language and Literature and is an Associate of the College of Preceptors. He has had many years experience in organising Language Courses and in teaching as Head of an English Department.



Vacational Studies®

Pepys' Oak
Tydehams
Newbury
Berkshire RG14 6JT
England

Telephone

National
Newbury 41867 & 35711
(Code 0635)

International

+44 635 41867 & 35711

Telex

846999 VACS G

Telegrams

Vacstud Newbury

Facsimile

National
Newbury 523999
(Code 0635)

International

+44 635 523999



Vacational Studies®



FAX

This is increasingly used. Some machines and some lines do not transmit our applications forms well, however. The tinted boxes can become black and photographs can look like something from a horror movie. If you fax anything other than a straightforward letter, please photocopy it first.

THEATRE TICKETS

Even though I apply for tickets 11 months in advance (the moment booking opens), my allocations are likely to be scaled down. I have applied for tickets for 'Cats' and 'Les Misérables' again as these were so very popular and also for 'The Phantom of the Opera'. Tickets will be allocated as fairly as possible so that those who wish to go can see at least one of the shows.

JUNIOR BEDTIME

This disappears - as an experiment - in 1991.

THE 3-WEEK COURSES

These also disappear for the time being.

TENNIS

Lessons were given by Clare Abbot, Liz Fidler and Ivor Meacher. With so many other activities on offer, some coaches found it hard to fit 8 lessons in. We shall reduce the number to 6.

UNREALISABLE EXPECTATIONS

If you are reading this before sending a child to us, this paragraph is specially for you. We do what we can to encourage children to learn and to 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. We help students as far as possible, but they must help themselves, too. Students will find others who speak their language, so they may be tempted to do so. We cannot keep friends apart. They must decide to mix and use English. Parents may make requests, but we reserve the right to place children 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. Our schools become co-educational only in the summer, so bathrooms may be away from dormitories and boy/girl rolys for their use are sometimes needed. Closets storage space may be limited. All sorts of compromises have to be made, but they often become part of the fun. 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.

AFTER THE COURSE

Please feel you can contact me for advice or information - especially if you are thinking of having your child educated full-time in Britain. No charge. I see contact and communication across frontiers as an extension of what the Courses are about. Education, in various forms, is my field.

MY THANKS

...to the vast majority of parents, students and staff who make my work a pleasure. Most parents prepare their children well for the experience and most children come with a good idea of what to expect and how to benefit. I shall not dwell on the few who send their children without pocket money, write to them at the wrong school, change their return arrangements without letting me in on the secret.... I could go on.

To those who have placed their trust in me and to those who have assumed responsibility on my behalf, I give my thanks.

Ian G. Mucklejohn - Autumn 1990

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Printed in England

THE REUNION IN NICE - EASTER 1991

In 1986 to enable our students to keep in contact with the on the Courses and also to enable anyone who wants acts to have them. It is so easy to slip out of touch - and such a made can be useful later on. Giotto was named after the ative venture to send a probe to Halley's Comet. Our to has produced two book, in 1987 and 1989, listing members es and interests. The original intention was that Giotto should be ntry, but this was optimistic. It is now run from Britain and the ublished, using our new desk-top publishing software and laser 1991.

union took place last Easter in Nice. We had 40 former students as the mid-'70s. It was organised by former students, Franck and ne writes. It was five wonderful days with sunshine, surrounded fun. It's now your turn to join in Giotto, too, and to come second reunion which will again be in Nice'. Diederik has added:- last from the evening of 29 March until 3 April. Detailed

be sent out in November to everyone who gave his or her address do not receive this information, or if you have any questions, e obtained by phoning Stéphane in Monaco (on +33 93 50 36 e the Netherlands (on +31 703 52 50 76). You can, of course,

AS, THE JÖRG WEISE ASSOCIATION AND THE

ps were awarded. Two were given to Americans. I wanted to have makers among the students to encourage the use of English. It had enormous help from American Airlines who generously as-London-Dallas tickets at no charge and so enabled this idea oughed by this success. I plan to have more native English- from around the world in the future. I hope other airlines will be s American Airlines have been. Other Scholarship recipients came and Bulgaria. Everyone made good use of the opportunity and we the right criteria for awarding Scholarships.

as well as my own have agreed to award Scholarships to the tion. The first recipient, a girl from Barcelona, went to the Oxford summer at the invitation of Carol and George Philip. If anyone more about the Jörg Weise Association, an information card can be Hon. Secretary, Clare van Beek, at Ansbalduslaan 29, 5581 CV

wered by the Association to award the Jörg Weise Trophy for an ntribution to the ideals of the Course in 1990 to Marco Bonetti, Marc ourlis, Alma Pisapia and Suzanne van Moorsel.

S or 1991, 1992 and 1993 should contact me now.

ROUGH THE BANK

ow take a 'cut' just for accepting payment of over £100 from o-bank transfer. This even applies to children's pocket money. this is, there is not much we can do. I would ask anyone sending bank transfer to tell their bank to debit all charges, including to the remitter, not the beneficiary. Alternatively, get your bank drawn on a British bank (not a 'Eurocheque') direct to our office er. Please note that we are now asking for children to bring heque, not in cash. It is safer (and does not need to be counted



The Staff Helpers changed at half time. At Cheam 1 we had two André Philipp and Marco Bonetti - who proved to be quite outstanding. At Cheam 2, Pierre Lefebvre returned once more and Alma Pisapia - enthusiasm and a genuine love for the Course. Her rendition of the will rings in my ears. Matron, Janet Flann, mothered the students and the twists of the Course more than the turns. Helen Wilmshurst, her indefatigable in spite of everything. Teaching we had Simon Ham, Jonathan Rowland, Yasmin Ahmad, Kathryn Hodgson, Debbie snowdon. They enjoyed the Course and each other's company. They to leave.

Hare. The students were a very positive bunch and, although some boys learned where the boundary of good taste is by stepping over it, I Staff Helpers-in-the-making there. John Skepper, now in his second was in charge and ran the Course with a businesslike efficiency and n. David Alexander was the able Assistant Course Manager and excellent and reliable Carolyn and Patrick Cronin returned as teachers. side, Marc Gerigk's several years' experience as SH and student was knew what worked and what did not. His shrewd understanding of the Course kept it moving. In her first year as SH, Rallou told me she had the time of her life. Sports/Social Organiser Julian d a great deal about putting theories into practice and eventually the side of practicability. Simon Flann had the job as his assistant. or staff appreciated the steady, no-nonsense approach of Matron, and her assistant, Katy Aury. It will not be the same without them.



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excellent new Course. Chris FitzGerald deserted Cheam and had no rt in establishing the Course at Douai was an enormous one. Indeed, comes more substantial each year. Douai is a monastery and we on the unfailing support and guidance we received from the general and Father Dermot in particular. The staff were exceptionally al of them - ACM Richard Wijeratne, Clare Higgins, Joe Caslin and - were experienced in boarding. Completing the team were Kate san Millar. Phil Kefford was the tremendously popular, successful and

able assistant to David Owen, the SSO. Albertine Kronenberg admirably took on the SH role again with Adriaan de Vries as the eager new recruit to this exalted position. We had a lovely Matron. Albertine wrote in her now traditional post-Course letter. We did indeed. Yvonne Burgess did a splendid job. She had a lovely assistant too - Maria Jenkins. Students at Douai had more on the programme than they had anticipated. I agreed that Walt Disney Productions should use part of the School for the making of the follow-up to 'Three Men and a Baby' - 'Three Men and a little Lady'. None of us had seen a film being made before and it was a revelation. Some of the students will have fun explaining to their friends how postcards were sent to them signed by Tom Selleck and Steve Guttenberg.



Douai '90

Elstree resembled a building site - and, indeed, it was. All sorts of improvements are underway and the benefits will be seen in 1991. We lost our dining room to the builders and had a 'dinning gym' instead. The inconvenience was minimal and the famous Elstree spirit shone through. 'But if that's all....' as the song goes. George O'Brien was at the helm again for the third time as Course Manager with Vanessa Illett teaching and his ACM now in her eighth year. Both are to be congratulated on their new posts. George is now at King's College, Madrid and Vanessa is at the Folkuniversitetet in Uppsala, Sweden as Head of English. Almost all the other teaching staff were 'old hands' - John Benkhebab, Steve Warriner, Anette Chapman, Norlene Conway and Jane Scott. Ever reliable Beany Beanlands, late of Cheam for the past two years, was Matron and, although the burden of the laundry was lifted from her shoulders by the excellent Mrs Hunt, I have the feeling she missed doing it. The Sports and Social side was strong with Peter Flann a stalwart SSO. Both he and Beany were helped most capably by Emily Salvesen. Both SHs were new, although they were so in tune with the Course that it was not noticeable. I have only praise for the work Bart Pereboom and Frederico Sanavio did. It is not often a SH gets a standing ovation at a final dinner. With such an experienced staff, it is not surprising that the students had a good Course. Nevertheless, it has become clear that a number of older students were creating their own clandestine entertainment and abusing our trust. Their departure will be permanent.



Elstree '90



Hawtreys '90

Chris Gallen (now an eleven year Vastuds veteran) took charge at Hawtreys once more. The staff was one of the strongest teams ever. Judith Rigney was again ACM and Matron, ably assisted by Catherine Iley. David Delaney, Richard Ross and Sarah Pawley were back teaching, joined by Rachel Bridgeman, Sarah Kennedy and Andrew Davidson. The sports and entertainments were effectively run by a hard-working 'gang of three', Robin Mortimer (Assistant SSO), Suzanne van Moorsel and Alex koth (SHs). They took over the rôle of Sports/Social Organiser and did a splendid job. One of their innovations was the 'Garden Fete', the multi-activity format of which will be included in the new 'Notes for Entertainments Organisers', so that the many new ideas which emerge each year can be passed on. At present this is an oral tradition, but the collected wisdom is now so substantial that it should be inscribed. The vast majority of our students were positive and took advantage of the many possibilities for linguistic and social enrichment. I have no words for the few older ones whose flagrant disregard of our country's laws and the norms of our society is beneath contempt. The staff deserved better.

The teaching on all the Courses was overseen once again by Director of Studies, Fred Good. He supervised the placement of students into graded teaching groups and offered advice and guidance to the teachers. The 'Programme of Work' which he devised for 1990 will be expanded for 1991. The progress report will be redesigned so that teachers can tick alternative boxes. In this way, we can communicate more information to parents more quickly. As he travels from school to school, Fred is able to compare and contrast Courses. His observations and sound, balanced judgement on academic and other matters continue to be influential in the development of the Courses.

Also a traveller from school to school was Stuart Keys, my 'mobile sports assistant'. He helped to start off the extra-curricular programmes at all the schools and thereafter slotted in wherever he was needed. With his self-confidence and ability to put people at their ease, he was ideal for this job.

The other person to make his presence felt at all the schools was my PA, Richard Dawson, alias 'Prince Charming', as he was playfully dubbed. There was a 'Spit the Dummy Award' (Australian slang for what a baby does when he has a tantrum) at Cheam. Richard won this coveted prize.

SPORTS DAY

Friday 3 August 1990 was not only Sports Day, but the hottest day ever recorded in Britain, beating the previous record which had stood since 1911. Rain has been my constant worry each year, but this time I had to guard against heat exhaustion. Two hoses were connected in readiness, but fortunately were not needed even though the temperature nudged 40°C. The old familiar chants were heard again, along with a few new ones - 'We will, we will, thrash you, thrash you' - to the tune of Queen's 'School competitions in boys' football, girls' football, volleyball and basketball. 'We will rock you' - caught on immediately. In addition to the hard-fought inter-Silly Games' reached new heights (or maybe depths would be more appropriate) of silliness with the egg and spoon race - Mary Hare attaching the egg to the spoon with Blutate and carrying it upside down to the chant of 'You are cheating'. It was all part of the fun and a wonderful 'photo-opportunity' for me.

'So many pictures of that month with their coloured frames will remain in my mind. The statement 'Come to Vocational Studies and change your life' is surely not so far from the truth - and not only for myself. The month was undoubtedly one of the most enjoyable, rewarding and satisfying periods of my life. I thoroughly enjoyed everything about the Course - the staff, the students and the programme itself. I wish it could have continued for longer'. I don't know what it is, but I only cry once a year and that is at VacStuds. What are you doing to me? When the Course finishes, I get the feeling there is nothing else. I am looking forward to it the whole year and suddenly it is over'. She hasn't stopped talking about her experiences since she got home. She even talked and laughed during her sleep! You have given her so much joy and so many wonderful memories. They will last a lifetime'. The best holiday I've ever had. No this is not an over-exaggeration. I made so many new friends, I found the opportunity to use my English and to improve it. I found out real self'. I see clearly now what a fine thing your school is and how excellent it is for young people to meet in this international environment'. He radiated with happiness after he returned home. We thought he had been in love with somebody, but soon we came to the conclusion that he had fallen in love with his friends, school, teachers, England and..... everything!

Just a few extracts from letters that are coming in as I write. The above are, in order, from a Staff Helper, an Assistant Sports/Social Organiser, another Staff Helper, a mother, a student, a father and another mother. I could fill this 'News-Sheet' with similar comments - but I am far from too modest to do so....

SUMMER '90 REMEMBERED

Sitting at my desk in a golden September with all the reports written and the detritus of the Course cleared away, my thoughts return to July and August, two months of long, sunny days and humid nights, unremitting heat in which the grass cooked brown and our students returned more tanned than when they came.

It was the first year with six Courses and the last, at least for the time being, I had the feeling that a few students were not our 'type', so I shall reduce our capacity and become rather more selective.



Cheam 1 '90

The chemistry worked well at Cheam. The staff were the same on both the Courses. The Course Manager changed with the students. Richard Turner, a veteran of several years teaching at Mary Hare, took charge of Cheam 1 and Francis Melvor, formerly CM at Mary Hare and teacher at Elstree and Hawtreys, almost completed the circuit by running Cheam 2. Cheam 1 was by far our largest Course. Even so, with a great deal of goodwill from the students and staff who worked well as a team, the Course gelled from day one. A tremendous asset was Sports/Social Organiser Jerome Griffin. An Aussie accent was de rigueur to fit in and I can't imagine how many European children have gone home thinking we greet each other with 'G'day' and bid farewell with 'No worries'. The campfire singalong in Cheam's outback was introduced by Jerome. 'Waltzing Matilda' didn't quite catch on with the students. Tim Colman - a Sports/Social Organiser-in-waiting - assisted with the sports with an energy undiminished by the tightness of his cycling shorts. One of the Cheam residents, Steve Gersowsky, from South Africa helped too, making the sports side on both Cheam Courses thoroughly intercontinental, let alone



Cheam 2 '90

international. The Staff Helpers changed at half time. At Cheam 1 we had two newcomers, André Philipp and Marco Bonetti - who proved to be quite outstanding as a new SH. At Cheam 2, Pierre Lefebvre returned once more and Alma Pispapia debuted with enthusiasm and a genuine love for the Course. Her rendition of the Cheam song still rings in my ears. Matron, Janet Flann, mothered the students and put up with the twists of the Course more than the turns. Helen Wilmshurst, her assistant, remained indefatigable in spite of everything. Teaching we had Simon Forecast, Ian Lam, Jonathan Rowland, Yasmin Ahmad, Kathryn Hodgson, Debbie Moss and Liz Snowdon. They enjoyed the Course and each other's company. They found it hard to leave.

Not so at Mary Hare. The students were a very positive bunch and, although some of the older boys learned where the boundary of good taste is by stepping over it, I observed several Staff Helpers-in-the-making there. John Skepper, now in his second year with us, was in charge and ran the Course with a businesslike efficiency and professionalism. David Alexander was the able Assistant Course Manager and teacher. The excellent and reliable Carolyn and Patrick Cronin returned as teachers. On the sports side, Marc Gernig's several years' experience as SH and student was invaluable. He knew what worked and what did not. His shrewd understanding of the dynamics of the Course kept it moving. In her first year as SH, Rallou Kyriacopoulou told me she had the time of her life. Sports/Social Organiser Julian Baggini learned a great deal about putting theories into practice and eventually came down on the side of practicability. Simon Flann had the job as his assistant. Few students or staff appreciated the steely, no-nonsense approach of Matron, Lynda Elvin, and her assistant, Katy Aury. It will not be the same without them.



Mary Hare '90

Donau was an excellent new Course. Chris FitzGerald deserted Cheam and had no regrets. His part in establishing the Course at Donau was an enormous one. Indeed, his presence becomes more substantial each year. Donau is a monastery and we relied heavily on the unfailing support and guidance we received from the community in general and Father Dermot in particular. The staff were exceptionally talented. Several of them - ACM Richard Wijeratne, Clare Higgins, Joe Caslin and David Johnson - were experienced in boarding. Completing the team were Kate Hudson and Susan Millar. Phil Kefford was the tremendously popular, successful and

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Elstree '90