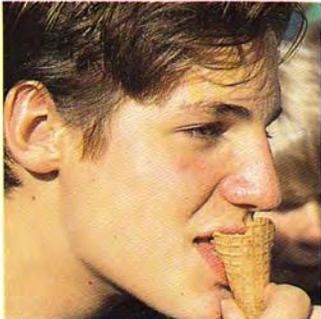


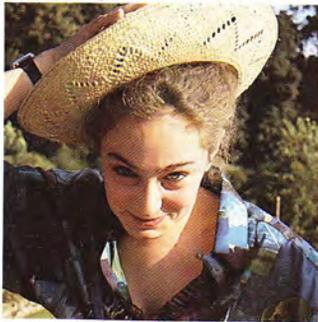


Vacational Studies®





Half-time for the Elstree team at Sports Day



Emilie (France) in the wind

RESIDENTIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE COURSES

Vacational Studies Courses have been running for 20 years. We have tried in this time to develop an enjoyable balance between 'vacation' and 'study'. Here is our programme for Summer 1993.

WHAT WE TRY TO DO

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

This emphasis on the practical use of English is combined with a full sports, entertainments and excursion



Pinnacle of the pyramid

programme helping young people to learn 'English internationally....'

RECOGNISED BY THE BRITISH COUNCIL

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

RESIDENCE

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

THE STUDENTS

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

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

STUDENTS WHO WILL BENEFIT

Please make sure that our Course is

suitable for your child and that he/she wants to come. Those who will benefit and we enjoy having with us will be internationally-minded, interested in English, outgoing and gregarious. They will also be willing

to accept the constraints of community living. We consider it so important that our standards and expectations are understood and accepted that we ask parents to confirm that they and their children have read the rules and that they agree to abide by them. A slip sent with the rules is provided for this purpose.

HOW THEY WILL BENEFIT

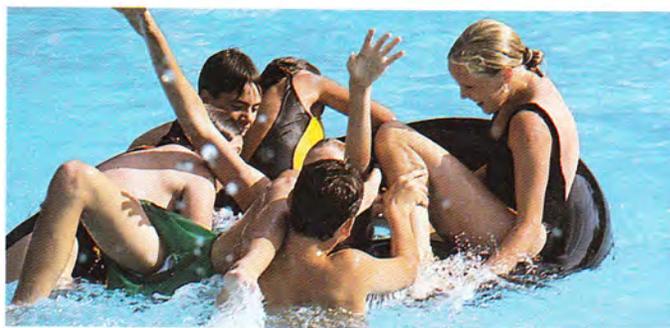
We hope that our students will learn a great deal of English, make good friendships and develop a positive international feeling. As well as formal study, we concentrate on the holiday



Ice is nice

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.



Getting tired in the pool at Cheam



Caribbean barbecue at Cheam



Gys and Gys (Netherlands) in 'The Importance of Being Earnest' at Douai



Mari (Norway) pulling Natalie's (Israel) leg



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

THE SCHOOLS AND SURROUNDINGS

For 1993 we have four Courses at Schools near Newbury - Cheam School, The Mary Hare School, Douai 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.



Elstree

CHEAM SCHOOL

Cheam School is a late nineteenth century mansion. A particular feature is the sunken formal garden. The School's large grounds with playing fields, lawns and woods, back onto Watership Down. There is recently built sports hall/gymnasium and a range of tennis courts. It has an open-air swimming pool. A planned maximum of 95 students will be accepted.



Cheam

THE MARY HARE SCHOOL

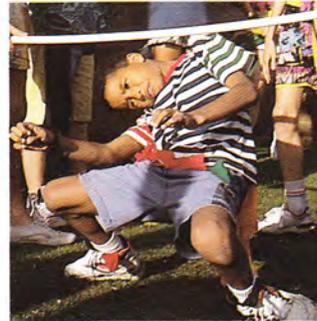
The Mary Hare School is a large mid-nineteenth century manor house with many later additions. There are formal gardens and woodland and extensive grounds which include several playing fields, a range of tennis courts, a gymnasium and a large indoor swimming pool. A planned maximum of 95 students will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



Part of The Mary Hare - The Manor House



Part of Douai



Limbo at Cheam



DOUAI SCHOOL

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

ELSTREE SCHOOL

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

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

RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

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

CHOICE OF COURSE

The Courses all have the same format. The only differences are location and dates. 1993 dates are:-

Cheam

6 July - 3 August 1993 (4 weeks)

Mary Hare

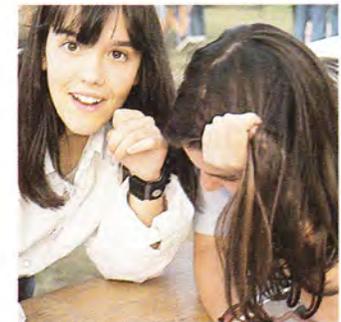
8 July - 5 August 1993 (4 weeks)

Douai

12 July - 9 August 1993 (4 weeks)

Elstree

14 July - 11 August 1993 (4 weeks)



'X' marks the spot on the treasure map at Mary Hare's Fête



Cheering for Douai



Dominic (PA) - 'Give the man a coconut' - at Mary Hare's Fête

provide at no charge, enabling the international contacts that are made on our Courses to be maintained over the years. Almost everyone who has been a student of ours is in Giotto. It is not exclusively for former students. Many staff are in Giotto, too. I should also like to see parents' names. (Disclosure of date of birth is optional - 'well over 21' is an acceptable alternative....)

STAFF HELPERS

Anyone wishing to be considered in 1993 or 1994 should contact me now. This year's SHs were excellent and many will re-apply. There will be a few vacancies, however. There will be two at each school. I am particularly interested in receiving applications from those who are 19+.

PARENTS' COURSE

This was a non-event. Rather than send out a questionnaire, as I suggested in last year's 'News Section', I offered a pilot Course at cost. The take-up was very small and, although several parents have expressed interest for 1993, I shall not be pursuing the idea in that form - for the time being, at any rate. I do, however, have another idea for parents (and other adults) and may be sending out details later.

COURSES AT OTHER TIMES?

Feedback on this idea would be useful. Also how about a Course specifically for 17-19s?

FOUR 4-WEEK COURSES

'Please don't make Elstree the 3-week Course next year!' begged one young correspondent. She need not worry. It is clear that 4-weeks is the most popular duration for parents and students. All our 1993 Courses will be for 4-weeks. We decided not to run Hawtreys in 1992 and will not run it in 1993 either. We are offering only four Courses in 1993.

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



VacStuds on legs - Tim (Mary Hare, sports our flag)

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. What we permit and the parameters of what we permit are in our literature. We act on the

assumption that parents and students read it all.

BEFORE AND DURING THE COURSE

Parents are welcome to contact me on any matter. In July and August I tend to be at my desk from 08.00 (English time) until 11.00 and then I travel around the schools. If there is a problem, I can take immediate action. I shall probably not be able to reply to letters during July and August.

AFTER THE COURSE

Feel free to contact me on any matter connected with Britain. Parents often ask for my advice on continuing their children's education in Britain, for example. I am happy to help. No charge! I see this as a natural extension of my work with young people.

MY THANKS

....to almost everyone.

I very much appreciate the work parents do in making the preparations for their child's visit to us - the complicated form they have to complete, the travel plans they have to make within tight parameters, the deadlines they have to meet for settling invoices and detailing travel plans, the 'Notes' they have to read and, most of all, for separating themselves from their child for quite some time. For some, this is the most difficult part. All

this effort is worthwhile and it is good to know that almost all parents recognise this. I doubt if the few who do not have read this far. And it is all in English! After all, it is the world's language. We do not aim at a particular 'market', but like to see as much as possible of the world represented on our Courses.

My thanks also to the staff whose loyalty and commitment to the aims of the Course are unquestioned. It is all a matter of trust. Parents trust me to look after their children. Students trust me to arrange for them to have a great time with people their age. Both trust me to ensure that the staff to whom I delegate this responsibility are suitable and professional people. I have not been disappointed.

Overall, this has been the best year ever. Parents, students, staff, caterers, schools and our suppliers have worked together to achieve a real international experience.

Ian G. Mucklejohn - Autumn 1992

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

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



Pepys' Oak
Tydehams
Newbury
Berkshire RG14 6JT
England

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National
Newbury 41867 & 35711
(Code 0635)
International
+44 635 41867 & 35711

Fax
National
Newbury 523999
(Code 0635)
International
+44 635 523999

Telegrams
Vacstuds, Newbury

E-Mail
Compuserve: 100113,1357
Internet: 100113.1357@Compuserve.Com

the National Westminster Bank, makes a charge for accepting bank-to-bank transfers from overseas. It is important that the transferring bank understands this and adds the charge to its transfer. Alternatively, it is cheaper for the cheque (in £ Sterling and drawn on a British bank) to be sent to us direct by post. There are no charges at this end if this procedure is followed. Revised instructions are on our 'Course Fees 1993' slip.



Cheam Cheerleaders

EUROCHEQUES

Another way to make the transfer is by Eurocheque (cheques with 'EC' on them.) Eurocheques over £700.00 are subject to heavy charges. Eurocheques for £700.00 or less are subject to no charges. We can accept these. We cannot accept a single Eurocheque for £750.00, for example, but we can accept one for £700.00 and one for £50.00. All rather bizarre, but these are the rules, so we shall take advantage of them. We cannot accept non-British personal cheques with the foreign currency crossed out and £ Sterling inserted.

POCKET MONEY

Each School now has a super new Midi-System for the Club. We raised the Club 'subscription' to £3.00 in 1992. This allowed the Staff Helpers (who run the Club and organise its budget) to buy the latest CDs. The subscription will remain at £3.00 for 1993. Since 1991, we have asked parents either to send pocket money in advance, or send it with their child by cheque, not in cash. About 40% of parents complied with our request in 1992, double the number in 1991. The problem with cash is that it is not safe for young people to be carrying such large sums of money. Also, we have to bank it and we do not feel safe taking thousands of pounds in cash to the bank. There are still a few parents who must imagine that we put each student's money in a drawer and give out £5 a day. It is quite an embarrassment for the student who comes with £180.00 in £5 notes which

we have to count laboriously while the other students wait in the queue. We suggest that only one £5 note be brought in cash. We keep safely any non-British money which is brought on the assumption that it is for use when the student returns home. We do not see it as a sum of money to be held in reserve in case it is needed. We lock the foreign currency away with the passports and tickets until the end of the Course and it is just not possible

for us to get it out and change it. We know that some parents top up their children's pocket money by sending £ Sterling notes direct to them by post. The problem with this is that we then find that a student has more pocket money than has been taken out of the account. This leads to suspicion about where the money has come from. To avoid such a situation, students tend to keep in their dormitory money sent by parents and do not hand it in. To have money floating around the dorms can be a temptation to theft; a theft that the student concerned will not report. We



Elstree Cheerleaders

ask that parents send in advance or by cheque all the pocket money that is needed. We suggest £45.00 per week pocket money + the cost of the theatre visit(s) + the cost of tennis lessons (if taken.) If parents wish to send more than this, they can, but we think students have more to do while they are with us than spend money. All we ask is that no more money is sent. We would also ask that, if money is sent before the Course begins, it is sent in plenty of time. For a student to arrive and to find he or she has no pocket

money at all is not a good way to begin. While we will always lend the money, we do not think we should be put in this position. At least two weeks should be allowed for money to reach us.

TRAVELLING BY PLANE

Some airlines are becoming strict about 'UM'/UYP' ('Unaccompanied Minor'/Unaccompanied Young Person') rules. They will now not release a UM passenger unless we collect that passenger in person. In the case of arrivals at Terminal 3 or Terminal 4, we are, of course, not there to make the collection. We have had considerable problems about this, especially with SAS. In future, if a student is booked UM to arrive at or depart from Terminal 3 or 4 or outside our requested times, our collection/return service will not apply and we shall make the arrangements on the parent's behalf with our taxi driver (at cost.) I should mention that all the drivers we use are known to us.

PROBLEMS WE CAN DO WITHOUT

There were not many this year who gave us these. I have to say that, when our lives are made difficult, it is almost always parents and generally because they are not following our 'Notes' (= 'Rules'). A few parents wrote to their children at my office address rather than at the school address. A few also sent faxes on my office machine. Whenever we request parents not to do certain things, the reasons are

practical. Letters for children arriving at my office have to be taken to the schools. If I am not going to a particular school that day, the letter is delayed, or I have to re-address it. With so many other things to remember, I can easily put the letter in the car and forget to deliver it. The same with faxes. The most difficult faxes are those which arrive on a child's birthday. We do not have fax machines at the schools, so such a fax has to be delivered personally. The alternative is a disappointed child who

thinks that the parents have forgotten the birthday. Some parents ask us to fax that a child has arrived. I am at the school receiving students when they arrive, so I cannot go back to the office to send a fax. All these points are covered in the 'Notes for Parents' - and translated into several languages. I can only ask that the 'Notes' are read. One additional point I would make is that if a child receives bad news (like the death of a pet) by letter or over the phone, the distance makes the grieving worse. Such news is best kept until the child is home.

THE TELEPHONE

Most parents are content to phone on the 'Telephone Sundays' and use letter contact the rest of the time. We do not think that, in our particular situation, free access to the school payphones is desirable. Students tend to use public payphones on trips if they must make calls. Exceptionally, use of the school payphones will continue to be allowed between 21.00 and 22.00 with the Course Manager's permission only. Except on 'Telephone Sundays', incoming calls for students will be through the Course Manager and only in emergencies. The Course Manager should be informed of the nature of the emergency.

JWA/GIOTTO IN NICE - EASTER 1992

The joint meeting with the Jörg Weise Association and Giotto attracted about 40 people. It saw the formation of Giotto Tours (for those aged 18 and over only). All Giotto members will be circulated with information about Giotto Tours and can join when they are old enough. Giotto Tours is entirely self-financing and run by students. Katrin Escher of Oststraße 40, D-5600 Wuppertal, Germany is currently in charge. The next Jörg Weise Association Meeting is in Budapest during Easter 1993. Anyone wishing to join the JWA should contact the Honorary Secretary, Antine Hartman, Gr. Hoefijzerlaan 39, NL-2244 GE Wassenaar, Netherlands. Giotto Tours will be arranging a holiday in Budapest during Easter 1993 for its members, so there will again be the chance for a joint get-together.

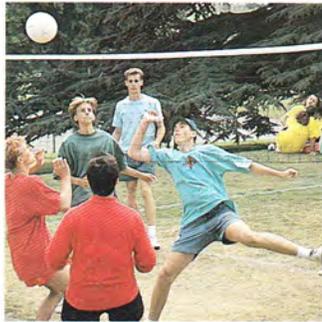
The 1993 Giotto Book will be published at the beginning of 1993. It should contain over 1000 names. May I remind those who have not sent me the update form (in the 1992 Book) to do so now. Giotto is a service we

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.



Mattias (Sweden) loves eating doughnuts the hard way



Volley-ballet

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

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

WHEN THE APPLICATION IS ACCEPTED

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

date shown on the Invoice. The place is confirmed when the full Course Fees have been received by us. We shall also request details.

HOW TO PAY

Please see the 'Course Fees 1993' slip.

THE COURSE FEE INCLUDES:-

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

¹At specified times and terminals - see 'Travel'

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

³As described in the 'Insurance' slip

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

There are NO EXTRA CHARGES except for optional church, theatre or shopping visits and professional tennis lessons. A small (£3) deduction is made from pocket money to provide indoor board games and records, tapes and CDs for the 'Club'.

THE COURSE FEE DOES NOT INCLUDE

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



Laurence (Switzerland) on top of the world (Maarten, Netherlands)

POCKET MONEY

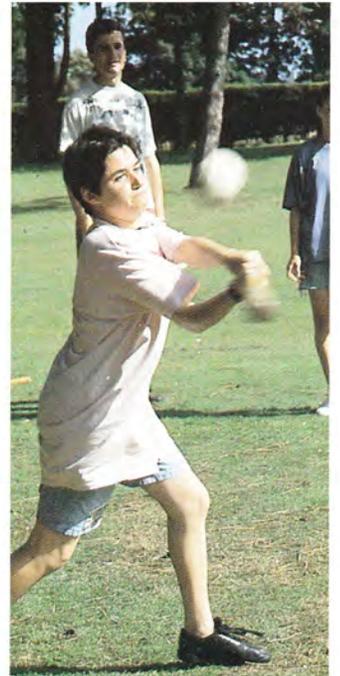
Pocket money can either be brought by students (as a £ Eurocheque under £700 in value, or as a £ cheque drawn on a British bank, payable to 'Vacational Studies Pocket Money A/C') or sent in advance to the National Westminster Bank, 30 Market Place, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5AJ for Vacational Studies Pocket Money A/C 65400100. We recommend at least £45 per week. 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.



Conspiracy at Mary Hare



Natalie (Israel) slams it at Softball



'It's mine' says Kristoffer (Norway)



Memory book time at Elstree



Cheering for Elstree

TRAVEL

It is quite usual for our students to fly alone. For young children, airlines operate an 'Unaccompanied Young Persons' service and look after them. There are many cut-price air ticket offers - for early booking, for young people, or for travel on particular flights. We operate a collection and return transport service between Heathrow Airport and the Schools on arrival and departure at no charge, subject to the conditions on our 'Travel Details' form. Our staff can meet students arriving at Heathrow Terminals 1 and 2 and check-in students on outgoing flights from Heathrow Terminals 1 and 2 on the stated dates. Our staff are at Heathrow from 12.00-16.00 on arrival days and from 09.30-13.00 on departure days. If flights arrive earlier than 12.00, students wait for our staff near the Information Desk. If flights leave after 13.00, we explain the procedure and take students to wait in the correct area.



Bully-off at Elstree

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

AT THE AIRPORT

Before travelling, we send an identity badge and luggage tags to ensure quick recognition. Our representatives will carry a large Vocational Studies sign and will meet students at the

entrance to the Arrivals Hall after leaving the Customs Hall.

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

IF YOU COME BY CAR

Road directions are given after the Schools' addresses. Parents bringing students are asked to arrive at between 12.30 and 14.30. Parents collecting students on the last day are asked to arrive before 11.00.

ON ARRIVAL AT THE SCHOOL

All money is handed in at the Office for safe keeping. Students can withdraw money every day. We keep passports and tickets safely. We cannot accept responsibility for pocket money or valuables not handed to us.

ON THE FIRST DAY

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

SCHOOLS' ADDRESSES AND DIRECTIONS**CHEAM SCHOOL**

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

Address for students' letters:

Cheam School
Headley Newbury Berkshire
RG15 8LD.
Telephone (to contact Course
Manager):
Headley 268803 (Code 0635)

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):
Chieveley 248464 (Code 0635)

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):
Woolhampton 713805 (Code 0734)



'Bye-bye' from Douai's double-decker

ELSTREE SCHOOL

See directions to Douai.

Address for students' letters:

Elstree School
Woolhampton Reading RG7 5TD.
Telephone (to contact Course
Manager):
Woolhampton 712725 (Code 0734)

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 of this brochure.

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.



Cheering for Mary Hare at Sports Day

VISITS TO THE SCHOOLS

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

FINALLY....

We have tried to describe the Courses fully and frankly. Please also see the sections 'Unrealisable Expectations' in the News Section. We hope this brochure contains all the information you need to make your choice. Any further details you may require can be



'Time's up!' at Douai's telephone day

obtained from the parents of our past students (the addresses of some of these are on the enclosed list) and the Director. We suggest you contact our parental references as they may offer useful advice.

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

The enormous advantage our parents give their children is the chance to see themselves as part of a culture wider than their own. We make no pretence that our international environment provides the opportunity to understand British culture in particular. This can come later. What is important is that many of the major cultures are represented on our Courses - this year from Norway to Hong Kong. By working, playing, laughing and just being together, youngsters can enjoy each other as friends, not as members of this or that nationality, but as people who appreciate each other. The world of adult reality would be enhanced if it could embrace the fun and friendship these young people have for a month in the summer. As the future leaders of the world, let's hope that their horizons will be permanently broadened.



Douai 1 '92

Once again, the letters from parents, students and staff tell me about the great times. From a student - 'the greatest month in my whole life' and from another - 'a marvellous month with lots of new friends and experiences'. From a parent - 'We had heard so much that was positive through friends that we expected a lot - and we were not disappointed. We feel they have both gained a great deal from the stay. They have many new friends and keep writing and getting letters from all over the world.' From another parent - 'He has made great progress and made many contacts which will be valuable in years to come. The atmosphere you create in the schools is very special and unique.' From yet another parent - 'We have now had both our children twice at Vacational Studies. We would not have done this if we had not received happy and motivated children after the Course and known that their security was taken care of. They have both made friends for life from all over the world. I see it in our mailbox!' From a Staff Helper - 'It doesn't matter what status you have in

Vacational Studies, you can always have fun, you always meet fantastic people and you always learn and improve your English. I don't know how you manage it, but congratulations. It's great.' From another Staff Helper - 'Everything was magic there'. From a Member of Staff - 'It has been a privilege.... Once again, I have been fortunate to work with good professionals and great people.' From a Course Manager - 'What a fantastic time I've had - and what marvellous students they all were! The spirit of it all was so strong. A vintage summer.' As regular readers of this section will know, I am too modest to continue in a similar vein....

I also have no intention of becoming complacent. We shall continue to try to improve the service we provide to students and parents and to learn from our experiences. 1992 has been yet

another learning experience for us. Please read on....

SUMMER 1992 REMEMBERED

I usually write these words during a golden September that makes me wish we had re-scheduled our Courses to take advantage of it. This time, the rain started the day the last Course finished and has continued on a daily basis through to the time of writing. After an exceptionally hot and dry May and June, we had expected the worst for the rest of the summer. A few damp days in early July tested the ingenuity of the sports departments at Douai and Mary Hare, but at least kept the grass green for the duration of the rest of

the Courses, when we were blessed with fine days. What else were we blessed with?

We liked Douai so much in 1990 and 1991 that we decided to have even more of it in 1992. My decision to have two three-week Courses was not popular with those students who had been to Douai before. Many preferred a four-week stint and opted for the other Schools. Nevertheless, we had our largest number ever on the first Course, many of them being new to Vacational Studies. At times, Douai '92 felt like a building site - which it was. We shall benefit from the work in 1993. With six weeks ahead of them and no escape from the hurly-burly of activity - teaching, sporting and building - the staff needed to be strong. They were. Under the mighty leadership of Chris FitzGerald, undiminished after seven years with us, they formed a first-rate team. Mirroring the international students, several English-speaking countries were represented - Eire by Clare Higgins, still stalwart and now promoted to Assistant Course Manager after six years with us; Tania Meridew joined us from Canada, but had a great attachment to Britain; Rozanne Rendell-Dunn, also a debutante, spent many years in Peru; Callum Robertson in his second year now enjoys the benefits of being domiciled in Denmark; Dominic Robinson in his second year came to us after teaching in Sudan and Ian Lain in his third year had been teaching in Spain. Martin Fraser in his second year came all the way from Reading. Matron, Judith Rigney, now in her seventh year with us, kept her finger on the student pulse and realised 'The Importance of Being Earnest'. Sports Organiser and Essex boy, Stuart Keys, had an excellent third year with us, arranging an active and varied programme, ably assisted by Phil Kefford, another three year veteran, graduate and friend to all. Also assisting was Maria Jenkins, again for the third year. Her nimble fingers were much in demand. Staff



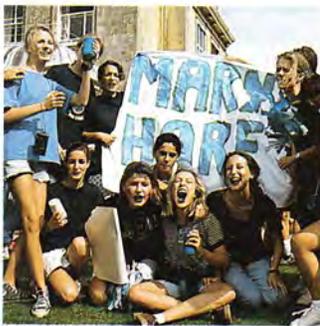
Mary Hare '92

Helpers Daniel (call me Danny) Auriel - an all-American Belgian and first-timer - and Silvia Abello (whose accent remains resolutely Spanish no matter how much her colloquialisms have broadened in her three years SHing) completed the team. Paul Leverton and his staff from Fairfield Catering produced a menu which usually included something for every taste and always in ample portions. Chris made particularly complimentary remarks about the students at the final dinners for both Douai 1 and Douai 2. Considering the limited time they had, the students adjusted well and the community spirit emerged early. By the end, the Essex jokes had all been cracked and the tears were flowing - and that is how it ought to be. Moving into a school building and coming to terms with its peculiarities as well as those displayed by our students, can be daunting. At Douai, our passage is made as smooth as can be by the Community. In particular, Father Dermott, the Bursar, and Graham Smith, have done all they can to make us welcome and give us the practical help we need.

Traditionally, our Course at Mary Hare has had a geriatric element. This year was no exception. That the students were particularly adept at organising themselves showed in such events as their Folies Bergères, now a hardy annual. The trip to the Michael Jackson concert was also instigated by students. The arrangements went well, except that the man himself did not turn up. But that's another story.... As to the Course itself, this was a good year with as pleasant a staff room and student body as could be wished for. 'The Crew' worked until the early hours of the morning planning activities (and having fun). In the lead and supercharged with energy was the indefatigable Tim Colman now in his fourth year with us. Poppy Sutton and Federico Sanavio came back as excellent and experienced Assistants. Sylvia Haltermann SHed once again with her customary determination and Yohhei Morimoto had a smashing time. It was good to have Matron, Barbara Sykes, back eventually. All the best things are worth waiting for. Francis McIvor - whose wit, wisdom and capacity for badinage in adversity can now be seen on videotape - was Course Manager again, completing an eighth summer with us. No need for a questionnaire to tell me how reliable Richard Rawlins was as his ACM. On the teaching side, Joe Caslin returned,

as did Alastair Luxton, Alison Payton and John Iveson. Debutantes, Catrin Thomas and Rebekah Knott, were assets to a very sound team. Catering was again in the capable hands of Mrs Jean Monger. In one way or another, there was always something happening at The Mary Hare. The range of activities and events was second-to-none - on and off the programme.

Traditionally, Cheam has been one of our earliest Courses (and will be so again), but its later dates in 1992 caused it to be a rather smaller Course than previously. Many of the students were new to us and it took a while for the community spirit to emerge. Much of the 'atmosphere' of a Course - that indefinable but so important ingredient - is engendered by the Sports and Entertainments department. They create an ethos of involvement and, by example, stimulate students and staff. With Marco Bonetti back again assisting, wholehearted enthusiasm was assured. His experiences with us for nearly a decade as student, SH and Assistant have taught him what works. With such returning veterans and luminaries as Chess Grandmaster David Delaney, the astute Julie Griffiths, the unflappable Lesley Pitman and the genial Jonathan Rowland, we could be sure that the



Mary Hare Cheerleaders

fun and games would take off and that the traditional events would happen. First-timers, the active Liz Morris and the surprisingly active David Smith, caught the mood of the Course. I think they all had quite a time. David Johnson assumed the CM's mantle of responsibility, his prep school background providing invaluable experience in reassuring those parents who needed to be reassured and reprimanding those students whose walkabouts needed to be kept within bounds. His ACM was the redoubtable Beany Beanlands who had only the occasional break and gash to exercise her Matronly skills on this year. Staff

Helpers were the judicious Rosalie Troost from the Netherlands and the forceful Sergio Capdepon from Spain. Simon Pastiroff was Sports Organiser. From piano-playing to play-acting, the students showed their skills. They also showed their sensitivity and helpfulness. All-in-all an impressive group. Catering this year was entrusted to Gardner Merchant. Jeremy and



Cheam '92

Steve and their team provided an excellent service. For those of us who were peripatetic, Cheam tended to be a port-of-call at mealtimes.

Our Course at Elstree was under new management this year. With Douai 'next-door' being available only as a three-week Course and Hawthreys not running at all, a number of staff and students changed allegiance and came to Elstree. This gave us a student body that was familiar with our Course - always useful at the outset. Richard Wijeratne, having now risen through the ranks of teacher through Sports Organiser to Course Manager, was in charge of a thoroughly professional and motivated staff whose extra-curricular talents were put to good use. Back was Steve Warriner whose long-standing loyalty to the aims of the Course is unquestioned, as ACM and teacher. Back also on the teaching side were John Benkhebab, Howard Bowden, Helen Wilmshurst and the aerobic Liz Snowdon. Mary Golden, new this year and a valuable acquisition, completed the team. Another considerable presence was Matron, Helen Porter, a newcomer who wanted to be completely involved. Assistant, Emily Salvesen, back for the third time, did the work of two people, such was her commitment. SHs Chiara Filippi (Italy) and Albertine Kronenberg (Netherlands) were great assets to the Course and threw themselves into it. The Sports and Entertainments were entrusted to newcomer Richard Rees whose enthusiasm knew no bounds. From the Slave Auction to the Horse Race, he

packed every day full of events, refining the familiar, traditional ones and adding new delights. Catering was in the hands of Fairfield Catering, overseen by Paul Leverton and executed by Mo. With such a combination of great staff, students who joined with almost everything and fantastic weather, Elstree was a winner.

Since before the beginning of time (it seems) Mark Thatcher has been i/c discos. He knows how to get our students going and just when to pull out 'Viva España' or other long-dead hits of yesteryear that have a special appeal on our Courses. One has only to hum the first notes of 'Leaving on a Jet Plane' during the final week to reduce a whole school to floods of tears.

First aid instruction for all members of staff was provided at each school by Christine O'Callaghan of St John's Ambulance's First Aid at Work Unit. Tennis lessons were given by Clare Abbott on both the Douai Courses and by Liz Fidler at Mary Hare, Cheam and Elstree.

Based at Douai, but seen on squash courts everywhere, was our peripatetic Director of Studies, Fred Gooch. He masterminded the choice of new books for 1992 and the writing of a revised Programme of Work for teachers. Our 'old' textbooks were sent to the Ranfurley Library Service (who send books to teaching establishments in third world countries). These were published only four years ago, but we like to be at the forefront of EFL teaching with the latest publications and we know how important it is that our students have not 'done' in their own schools the books we use. Another innovation was the placement test at the start of each Course. It gave us an idea of how well students do at placement tests. It has other uses, however, and the idea may be retained. Students will continue to

be placed in assessment groups for the first few days before these become classes. This arrangement gives us the flexibility to move students to whichever teaching group we think best for them. At Fred's suggestion, we redesigned the folders. They became smaller and easier to keep tidy. Reversing the dark and light blue areas also made them less susceptible to graffiti. Neatness and presentation were the criteria used in judging the 'Best Presented Workfile' awards. Winners were Maria Torroba (Douai 1), Beatriz Alonso (Mary Hare), Elena Drexl-Schegg (Cheam), Verena Michelazzi (Elstree) and Caroline Friedländer (Douai 2). The standard of written work was impressive this year and the award will be continued. The 'Trivial Pursuit' as a prize for the 'English Only Raffle' will be changed, however. The wristwatches I had designed for us this summer for staff presentations caused a good deal of interest among the students. Our logo was incorporated on the face. A suggestion from the staff was that these would make splendid prizes. I may follow this up.

In addition to Fred and me, there is a third person who spends the summer going from school to school - my Personal Assistant. I have only praise for Dominic Floyd. Not only was he of invaluable help to me and willing to work round the clock, but he also allowed himself to be beaten by some of the staff at tennis, table-tennis and squash. Dominic and I shared five arrival days, five Courses, five farewell dinners, five tearful departures and the detritus of five schools to clear up at the end - and were still on speaking terms at the end of it all. He was also i/c the video. More on this later....

Several old students, even some from 10 years ago and more, returned to visit. The Lobono brothers, Oliver Thomas, George Houps, Adriaan de Vries, Lars Gogstad - and others. As they no doubt noticed - plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.

SPORTS DAY

When I decide on Sports Day in the depths of winter, my pencil hovers above all the possible dates in the diary and I try to will it to avoid the wet ones. Once again, it did. The weather forecasts all through the week leading to Saturday 1 August were predicting rain. Rain was forecast even up to the day before. I found, though,

that if I didn't like the forecast on one channel, I could change to other channels until I found one I liked. I did this and it was proved correct. Now that it is all on videotape, everyone can share with us the hype and hysteria that it is more the essence of Sports Day than any of the matches are. The burden of the arrangements falls on the Mary Hare staff, in particular this year Tim Colman as Sports Organiser and Jean Monger, Mary Hare's Caterer who once again prepared a feast. From the banner hanging from Mary Hare's roof announcing 'Vacational Studies Sports Day' to his 'VacStuds Uniform', Tim's planning and attention to detail were meticulous. The timetable was tightly constructed and the events went almost without a hitch. There was something for everyone. The sports, the shouting, the singing, the chance to meet friends, the fun and razzmatazz of it all have an allure for our students that is beyond analysis. 'I



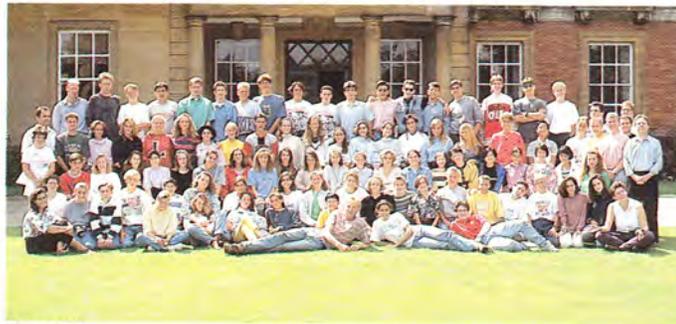
Douai Cheerleaders

never thought it would be anything like this' said Dominic - and that was just five minutes after the first coach arrived. Our designer, Stephen Green who is a qualified football referee too, took charge of the main football matches. He observed how much our students had learned from watching football on TV. Not the skills of the game, but the ability to over-act. The 'togetherness' that I see at each of the schools as I travel round them is painted in four vivid colours on the Day and is exemplified in the spontaneous chanting and dancing. There were one or two behavioural excesses, from staff as well as students, but maybe this is unavoidable in a highly-charged, emotional atmosphere. The Day, as ever, was a high-spot to remember.

THE CATERING

This was an all-round improvement on previous years. I sent a questionnaire to each student some months before the Course began asking for an idea of a favourite breakfast, lunch and dinner

and for any other suggestions. The results made interesting reading. I became aware that what our students were looking for was food they could recognise; simple meals with contents they could identify. All our Caterers tried to deliver what the students wanted. Feedback from the staff was favourable. Young people are harder to please. Just like last year, I sat at Douai 1's Farewell Dinner and



Elstree '92

watched a student prod with disdain his utterly delicious gourmet chilled yoghurt and cucumber soup - until I ate it myself. We cannot win - but we can keep on trying. I am sure that there was sufficient variety for every student to find something palatable at every meal.

THE VIDEOTAPE

Before publication of this brochure, all the 1992 students will have had the chance to order a copy of the videocassette we made. The Summer of '92 is preserved for posterity. The videotape comprises a brief overview of the Courses as a whole - what we aim to do, the school buildings, some of the classes, sports and activities - followed by more specific and I have to say personal reminiscences. Among many items, we have included large chunks of Sports Day, pieces of the 'Casino' at Cheam, the 'Folies' at Mary Hare, the 'Importance of Being Earnest' at Douai 1, the 'Horse Race' at Elstree and a pastiche of interviews with students on the last day at Douai 2. There are also interviews with staff, staff helpers and others connected with the Courses. I have the feeling that everyone connected with VacStuds '92 is on the tape somewhere or other. It is not a professional production, but it is not bad for a first attempt and will bring back memories. I thoroughly enjoyed watching the Courses after the rush was over. ±2 hours is VacStuds '92. The last 20+ minutes of the 3-hour cassette are of the 1992 Giotto/Jörg Weise Association joint meeting in Nice during Easter 1992.

BEHAVIOUR

This was generally good this year. The 'Notes' were made more specific and I stated what I would expel for. I realised that by doing this, I was leaving myself no room for manoeuvre, but I wanted to make our position clear on matters of concern, like the purchase of alcohol. It is far more freely available in High Street retail outlets than is common in many

other countries. We had very few problems in this regard. There was one case of a boy entering a pub. Not only is this against our rules, but it is against the law. He was expelled. The 'Notes' will remain specific. I think parents appreciate the security and we cannot run a Course properly if we condone such behaviour. All the students know where they stand before they come and have only themselves to blame if they transgress. One little addition this year prohibits students from having their ears pierced on shopping trips. Whatever next!

TRIPS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF BRITAIN

In 1992, we had our first 'structured' trip for some years - the visit to the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu,



Douai 2 '92

near Southampton. This involved the students being taken around the Museum by its own staff, given a course on the history of motoring and then a worksheet to complete. These were graded and certificates awarded. Almost all students completed the course successfully and the visit was well-received. We shall build on this

idea for 1993. There will be other 'workshop' experiences - including a structured visit to the Science Museum in London - and a trip which is specifically cultural, to Bath, Oxford, or Windsor. We shall include a tour of London. Now that shops are so similar whether it's Oxford, Oslo or Osnabrück, there is little justification for taking students to a famous city just for shopping - although this is what most of them want. The afternoon shopping trips locally will remain.

THEATRE TICKETS

These visits are certainly cultural and very popular. In 1992, I started the idea of asking parents to indicate a maximum number of shows, rather than specify the shows themselves. When they arrive, students choose which shows they wish to see from the range on offer. With some shows now booking nearly two years in advance, others allowing booking only six months ahead and always the possibility that my request will be scaled down, I do not know what tickets I shall be able to obtain for July and August at time we go to press. In 1992 I stated that the cost of the theatre trip (ticket + transport) would be about £20.00. In fact, most trips were £15.00. I shall keep the guide price at about £20.00, but in case I can obtain only higher-priced seats, I shall assume it will be acceptable for one £30.00 theatre visit to be included. We charge the actual cost of the ticket + the bus + the cost of accompanying duty staff tickets divided by the number of students. There is no 'mark up'. These theatre trips are a real bargain.

PAYMENTS THROUGH THE BANK

Very few banks are following the instructions on our Invoice. Parents making bank-to-bank transfers are asked to give our Invoice to their bank when they request the transfer. Clear instructions to the transferring bank are printed on the Invoice. Our bank,



After Douai's Crazy Games

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.

HOW WE ENCOURAGE THE USE OF ENGLISH

On each Course there are students from many different countries. We try to ensure a mixture of nationalities in classes and dormitories. We aim to stimulate the speaking of English socially in various ways. Members of staff constantly encourage English-speaking around the School. Some also sit on students' tables at meals.



'Cheers' at the Christmas Dinner

Another 'encouragement' to speak English is the 'English Only Raffle' with a valuable prize for the winner. Students who have spoken English much more than their own language are, at the end of each week, entitled

to one raffle ticket. Throughout the Course, there are also 'English Only' bonus days. If a student is noticeably using English and is not caught more than once using any language other than English on that day, an extra ticket is awarded - a 'bonus'. At the end of the Course there is a draw for the lucky ticket. The more tickets, the greater the chance of winning the prize. We hope that the prize will be a positive inducement for students to use English.

THE JÖRG WEISE TROPHY AND SCHOLARSHIP

The Jörg Weise Trophy 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.



Tennis teaching with Clare

We are also proud to be associated with the Jörg Weise Memorial Scholarship. The Scholarship is a place on any of our Courses, return air ticket from anywhere in the world, pocket money, theatre tickets and tennis lessons. The recipient of the Scholarship will be the sort of student outlined above who will benefit from attending the Course, but who is unable to apply for a place in the normal way for financial reasons. We welcome nominations for the Scholarship in 1994 which should be sent in confidence, and without informing the potential recipient, to Vacational Studies.

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.

INSURANCE

Every student is covered by a special Insurance Policy. 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 £2500; 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.

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.

HOW WE LOOK AFTER STUDENTS

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

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



Winning at Mary Hare's casino



Basketball at Cheam

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

IF THERE IS A PROBLEM

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

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



Morten (Norway) and Barbara (Macau) with John in class

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'. They are given a brief multiple-choice placement test the result of which is taken into consideration with the teacher's opinion. Students are moved to the 'assessment group' which we consider correct and, after two or three days, these become classes. Class placements are constantly reviewed and students may be moved to more or less advanced classes, according to their performance. The teacher: student ratio is approximately 1:13. Maximum class size is 16. We provide all books and teaching materials. Coursebooks include 'OK', 'Intermediate Matters', 'Compact' and 'Headway'. The teaching is by 'direct method'. Both oral and written English are taught and there is an emphasis on conversation practice. A prize is awarded for the best-presented workfile on each Course.



Aerobics at Cheam

SPORTS

Sport is an important part of the Course. Our Sports/Entertainments Organiser arranges a regular programme including football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, tennis, table-tennis, swimming, etc.

Competitions run throughout the Course. There is also a 4-School 'Sports Day' when the Schools meet for friendly competitions in the major sports.

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

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

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

EXCURSIONS

There are four excursions. One is to the Science Museum in Kensington combining a brief course with sightseeing in London; the second is to Beaulieu for a 'workshop' course (their 'Abbey Experience' - a hands-on approach to skills and crafts in English Mediaeval times) leading to their Certificate in English Language Museum Studies followed by a visit to the National Motor Museum, the car simulator and other activities; the destination for the third excursion will be Oxford, Windsor or Bath or a similar city of historical importance; the fourth excursion is to 'Sports Day'. All these excursions are included in the Course Fee.

SHOPPING AFTERNOONS

(Optional Extra)

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

THEATRE VISITS (Optional Extra)

'Cats', 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' 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 about £20. Parents are asked to indicate the number of shows required and an order of preference for these. £20 for each show requested should be added to pocket money. It is possible that tickets for 'Joseph' may be closer to £30. 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.

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.



Fedro and Pedro (or Pedro and Fedro (Portugal)) in check at Cheam

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.

MEALS

Food is an important part of the Course. Meals are prepared by professional caterers to a high standard. Our specification is for a choice of hot dishes at lunch at dinner and a salad bar comprising about ten different items. Students are encouraged to have as much as they want and if they cannot find anything

they like among all these choices, they can ask the caterer to prepare something special.

Here is a typical menu for guidance:-

Breakfast:

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

Lunch:

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

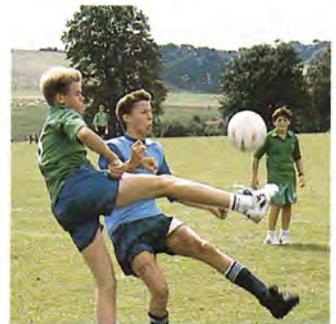
Dinner:

- 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 available at no charge. There is a small 'sweet shop'.



Douai v Mary Hare at Sports Day

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