

Reactions to the Summer of 2025

'First of all, I would like to thank you again for giving me once more, the opportunity of having the best summer of my life.

This past month, as you know, has been my first time being part of the Sports and Social team and I don't have words to describe how incredible it has been. This summer, my dream of being a member of the staff at Mary Hare has become true. I didn't have expectations before this month, because I wasn't sure about how everything was going to happen, but after all I have experienced, I would never change a single thing about it. I had the chance to organize events, work as a team with the rest of my team-mates, help the kids to have a great time, build up new friendships and get to know incredible people.

This is why I would like to apply again to be an assistant next summer. I consider that I worked hard during the whole month in order to make things go well and I would love to have the opportunity to live this experience next year again. I really enjoyed taking part in the social media of Vacational Studies with Adriana, and if I have the chance to work at VacStuds next summer again I would like to keep doing this role.' (A Spanish staff member)

'Our son returned home with a big smile and a quick decision to apply for next year's course - what I have happily done right now. The magic of VacStuds is still there...' (A German parent and former student)

'T thoroughly enjoyed her time this summer at Vacational Studies and formed many new friendships.' (A Norwegian parent and former student)

'We just wanted to express our sincerest thank you for H at VacStuds this summer. He came home with so much excitement about everything he had experienced: new friends, meeting old friends, all the activities, trips to London and Newbury, the friendly and fun staff, and the beauty of just spending time with people from all over the world.

Thank you so much for all your efforts in organising everything from start to end in a seamless manner and for providing an environment for such growth, fun, and unforgettable memories. Life changing experiences! We are so grateful - thank you!' (A Norwegian parent and former student)

'When I was on my way to vacstuds I didn't know what to expect. On the plane trip to the UK I was worried, nervous and uncertain. I was immediately greeted with a warm welcome when I arrived at the airport in London. She introduced me to some of the students that had been before. Suddenly a friendly looking person came and greeted me. He asked my name and asked how old I was. So I answered.

The person I met was a young man from Angola. Then while waiting for the bus I met another young man from Slovakia. Never in my life had I imagined meeting people from such countries. The bus arrived and we then drove to VacStuds. When we arrived there were people who were waiting to welcome us. As I stepped out of the bus I lost this feeling of nervousness and the worries in my mind and I was filled with excitement and curiosity. I was excited to see what the coming month had to offer. I met wonderful people from a number of countries.

Now I am sitting at home and all I can think about is what a month I have had. My English has improved a lot. I have met a lot of new people. And I have learnt a lot of new life skills.' (A Faroese student)

'Once again, thank you for inviting us to be part of the Vacstuds Family :) It means a lot to all of us. I am particularly happy about the change N. has undergone since she first came to Mary Hare :) But she was not the only one who was transformed by the experience. I certainly feel that being able to join the young, enthusiastic and creative young people every

year makes me happy and younger at heart.' (A Polish parent and teacher)

'What I want to say is that the four weeks are about more than just learning English; bonds are formed, special friendships develop between people from different cultures and countries, and that is simply brilliant. L enjoyed his time there again, and he asked me if he could go a third time.' (A Belgian parent)

'N came back depressed from having to leave the camp! He enjoyed himself so much and misses all of his new friends. Thank you for the amazing organization, it is indeed a remarkable experience.' (An Israeli parent)

'We wanted to thank you for all the care and affection that you and your team have given to J. Please extend our thanks to Paddy, Tom and all the staff. It has been an amazing experience.' (A Spanish parent)

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'I just wanted to thank all of you for giving G such a wonderful month. He came back home very happy and eager to return next year. Thanks again for everything you've done.' (An Italian parent)