

Please read these 'Notes' and the 'Notes for Parents' carefully. You must KNOW them before you arrive. If you have difficulty understanding them, please ask your English teacher to help you.

S'il vous plaît, voulez-vous lire avec attention ces 'Notes' et les 'Notes for Parents'. Il vous faut les comprendre avant que vous arriviez. Si vous avez des difficultés de compréhension, demandez à votre professeur d'anglais de vous aider.

Bitte lese diese 'Notes' und die 'Notes for Parents' sorgfältig. Du müsst sie verstehen bevor du ankommst. Wenn du Schwierigkeiten hast, sie zu verstehen, frage bitte deinen Lehrer daß er dir hilft.

Per piacere leggete questi 'Notes' e anche 'Notes for Parents' con grande attenzione! Devono essere bene assimilate prima di arrivare qui. Se avete qualche problema nel capirle, per piacere chiedete al vostro insegnante di Inglese di aiutarvi.

Por favor lee estas 'Notes' y las 'Notes for Parents' cuidadosamente. Debes entenderlas antes de llegar. Si tienes dificultad para entenderlas, por favor pide a tu profesor de ingles que tu ayude.

Here are our assumptions:

- You want to come on the Course because you want to speak and learn English
- You want to meet people from other countries
- You enjoy participating in sports and other activities.

This is why we have accepted your application. We want you to have a good time and benefit from your stay with us. We also want to enjoy your company, so it is a good idea to mention our expectations.

We have created a multinational environment with many activities and plenty of interesting people to meet. The only language you all have in common is English.

We expect you to make contact with the many other nationalities. Do not waste this opportunity by using your own language with friends from your own country. For you to make international friends, you must use English. We have a 'House' system to encourage you to use English with everyone. 'House Points' are awarded for many activities. Occasional 'Treats' are given to the House with the most points at any time. Students sit in 'Houses' for one meal each day. We also reward you with 'VacStuds' (currency which can be exchanged for treats.)

We expect you to work at your English in the classroom. We award a prize for academic excellence. We also expect you to join in with the activities. This will help you get to know everybody and use English with the other students. If you have a talent or interest, you may wish to perform in the 'Folies Bergères'. If you need equipment or costume (guitar, ballet costume, etc.), bring it. We can store your possessions safely in the Office. Try not to bring valuable items and don't keep them in the dormitory. All items must be named. We cannot be responsible for any items not handed in our safe. We disclaim liability for all un-named items.

You will have to be tolerant and co-operative. Living in a community necessitates certain compromises. One cannot always do as one wants - for many good reasons. Our rules are designed to ensure that everybody is happy, that people's feelings are respected and that the buildings and equipment are looked after. We also consider your welfare. You can imagine what most of our rules are. Some are listed below. Please make sure you understand them. We shall assume you do.

Before you come

- 1 Meet other students through www.vacstuds.com and our Facebook page.
- 2 Ask me any questions at vacstuds@vacstuds.com.

At the Airport

- 1 Wear your identity badge. After Customs, look for our representative carrying a 'Vacational Studies' sign. If you cannot see him/her, read (3) below.
- 3 Make sure you keep your luggage with you.
- 3 If you get lost, go to 'Information' and say 'Page the Vacational Studies representative' or phone the School number or my mobile phone 07717 007 007.

When you arrive at the School

- 1 The staff will tell you what to do. Bring to the Office your pocket money, any non-British money, the 'Valuable Possessions' form, the 'Theatre Visits' form and the wallet containing your passport, ticket and spare suitcase key. We keep these for you. Hand in anything you wish us to keep (camera, stereo, etc.) We assume non-British money is for you to use when you return. We cannot give it to you to change it during the Course. If you want it in £, change it at the Airport.
- 2 You must give ALL medicines to Matron for safe keeping.
- 3 If you wish, a student who has been with us before can show you around the School. Your 'student guide' can answer your questions.
- 4 On the day after you arrive, there will be a meeting at 09.00 at which you will be placed in an 'assessment group' so the teachers can see what your English is like. There will also be a short test. A combination of the results of this and the teachers' observations will decide whether or not you are moved to another group. These groups become classes after a few days.

Around the school

- 1 Speak English with the other nationalities. This is why you are here.

- 2 You are responsible for keeping the School tidy. Don't drop litter. If you damage something accidentally, tell the Course Manager.
- 3 Food, drink and equipment may not be taken out of the dining room.
- 4 We expect students to make their own beds.
- 5 The front stairs, fire escapes and balconies are not for normal use by students.
- 6 You may receive calls on the 'Telephone Days' listed. With the Course Manager's permission, students can make calls on the School payphone any day after the first three days between 21.00 and 22.00 English time. If a mobile phone is brought, this is to be kept in the Office, used outdoors and charged only by us. We publish the payphone number. Students may answer this. Staff do not.

A typical day

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

- 2 Transport and supervision on excursions are included in the Course Fee. Entrance charges are not. Intended excursions (subject to change) are:- a sightseeing trip to London; a trip to Oxford, Windsor, Winchester or a similar city of historical importance or to a designer shopping outlet; 'Sports Day'. We do not provide lunch on excursions, but we do provide a buffet dinner on Sports Day.
- 3 There are one or two optional shopping afternoons. These are in Newbury or another town near the School. If you wish to go, we shall arrange the coach, but the fare will be deducted from pocket money.
- 4 For the sports programme (and for everything else), look at the notice board, or ask the staff.

Behaviour

- 1 We have chosen to accept you as a student. Show by your good behaviour that you justify your place.
- 2 If your behaviour causes problems for us, we shall take action to help you to improve it. We shall, of course, talk to you about your behavioural problem. We may also remove some privileges from you, partly to reinforce our message and partly so you will appreciate the privileges more when they are restored to you. Unacceptable behaviour includes rudeness, verbal bullying and any form of hitting.
- 3 If you show signs of anti-social attitudes, we may ask you to do things for the community to help you understand how it functions.
- 4 Legally, we have a 'duty of care' to look after you as a 'prudent parent' would in accordance with English Law. If we do not exercise our 'duty of care', we are negligent and liable to legal penalties. We will do our best to fulfil our 'duty of care' under English law based on good will and the trust established by your and your parents' agreement to the 'rules' as evidenced by the signed 'Agreement and Travel Details' form. If your attitude or behaviour is such that we find that we cannot exercise the control required to fulfil our 'duty of care', we shall pass responsibility for control to your parents either by requesting their presence or by telephone contact with you. If this fails and we decide you are beyond control, we shall expel you.
- 5 We do not allow you to have a knife, any other form of 'weapon', cigarettes or any other tobacco product, matches, a lighter, snuff, 'snus', any kind of drug or alcohol or be with anyone with these. We have sanctions against these. We also do not allow chewing gum. It gets dropped and damages floors, furnishings and clothes. Anyone possessing or chewing gum will be 'fined' £10. This goes to the charity 'Childline'.
- 6 Buying, selling or exchanging of any goods over £5 in value must be done through a member of staff.

- 7 We do not allow you to be out of bed after lights-out (except for a visit to the toilet). We do not allow boys in the girls' dormitory area at any time, nor girls in the boys' dormitory area. If we think this rule is being broken, we shall arrange an all-night patrol by a security firm for your and our security. There will be no warning about this and the cost will be paid by a general levy from pocket money. We hope this will discourage students from moving about at night.
- 8 In general, our students are well-behaved, but we must have sanctions for everyone's benefit. In the case of rule-breaking or bad behaviour, generally we place students on a 3-day suspended expulsion. It is designed to be unpleasant. The student is removed from all Course activities, put on a report and behaviour is closely watched for the next three days. The student may be moved to another of our schools or to my house. We try to contact parents at the start to inform them what has happened and to ask them to contact us in three days' time. If there has been an improvement, the suspended expulsion is lifted. If not, we ask parents to remove the student. Any subsequent rule-breaking will result in immediate expulsion. We require a signed understanding of this. Our rules apply at all times during the Course, including visits outside the School.
- 9 All staff are instructed to ensure your safety at all times. We expect you to think of the consequences of dangerous and foolish behaviour. You are expressly forbidden from endangering your own well-being or the well-being of others or being in any locked area of the School or on any roof, balcony or fire escape.

Expulsion

- 1 Subject to my discretion, we expel immediately in certain cases. Examples of causes for immediate expulsion with no 'second chance' are listed here:-
 - Theft (e.g. shoplifting) or any other crime
 - Smoking in or in the immediate vicinity of the School or on a trip, or possessing cigarettes or smoking material or any drug
 - Unauthorised use of the roof or fire-escapes
 - Buying or attempting to buy or drinking or possessing alcohol or being in a pub
 - Bullying
 - Behaviour that we consider is a danger to others, or to ourselves, or to property for which we are responsible.

At my discretion, the writer of the original 'letter of recommendation' is informed of expulsion. We assume that anyone with a person breaking a rule is also breaking that rule.

Personal matters

- 1 If you feel ill, or hurt yourself, see Matron. She oversees domestic arrangements.
- 2 Toilets must be used with care and thought for the person who will use it after you. Only lavatory paper may be flushed down the toilet. Sanitary towel disposal bags are provided for girls. Ask Matron.
- 3 You will do plenty of exercise and need to wash often.
- 4 Living in a community means that you have less privacy than at home. This is, of course, part of the fun.
- 5 We launder your clothes, if they are named, at your risk. Matron will tell you where to put your laundry, when the laundry days are and how much is taken. If your clothes are not named, you must wash your clothes yourself. Matron will tell you where. You must wash non-machine washable/dryable/delicate items yourself.
- 6 We have asked your parents to provide you with a check list so you know what you have. This will help you not to leave things behind when you go.
- 7 You may not change your hairstyle or colour while you are with us. Whatever hairstyle and colour you come with will be the style and colour you leave with - on the basis that this is acceptable to your parents. You may not decide to change your appearance - for example, by having your ears pierced.
- 8 If you find the behaviour of the other students in the dorm unacceptable, you can request a change of dorm without giving a reason. This will tell us a 'problem' (such as bullying) exists without putting you in compromising position.
- 9 If you are at all unhappy, please see a member of staff. I try to visit every School every day and you can certainly come and see me if you have a problem, even if the problem is with my organisation. I can normally find a solution. Sometimes students tell their parents the problem first, then they tell me and I deal with it. This takes time which can be saved if you come to me direct in the first place. I will not criticise you or patronise you by taking the line that we cannot be wrong.

Outside the School

- 1 You are not allowed out of the School grounds or out-of-sight of the main building without the permission of the Course Manager.
- 2 Unaccompanied shopping (if you have parental permission and if we agree to this) is allowed in groups of no fewer than three on specified shopping days. Inform the duty teacher whenever you go out of the School. Outside School, you must always have on you a copy of these 'Notes'. If you are lost, show the 'HELP' square on this page to a police officer or someone in uniform.
- 3 We look into shopping bags and open all bottles on your return to stop illicit goods being brought in.
- 4 All students are to be in the School after dark.
- 5 All the rules apply when you are outside School.

Sports/social programme

- 1 We arrange the organised sports/social programme on the assumption that you will participate. By coming, you agree to join in.
- 2 You are allowed in or near the swimming pool only when a teacher is present.
- 3 Diving and physical contact in and on the side of the pool are not permitted. We do not allow people to be thrown in, or to be wearing other than conventional swimming costumes. When a whistle blows, you must remain still and silent. Specific rules for the use of the swimming pool are published on the notice board.
- 4 You are allowed in the gym or sports hall only when a teacher is present.
- 5 Tennis lessons have priority over other activities. Lists are on the notice board.
- 6 Sports Day is scheduled for Monday 2 August. Depending on the weather forecast, it may be earlier or later than this.

Pocket money & possessions

- 1 We deduct from pocket money, the cost of tennis lessons and theatre visits, if you are taking these. We also deduct £8 as a subscription to the 'Club' for CDs, decorations and for board games.
- 2 Pocket money is given out daily, normally from 13.20 to 13.45 and from 14.15 to 14.45. Hand in to the Office any money you do not spend on trips, valuables and anything you wish us to keep for you (such as your camera or i-pod.)
- 3 Collect pocket money (and camera, stereo, etc.) when you need it. Except on trips, do not have more than £5 on you. Do not keep money or valuables (or camera, i-pod, etc.) in your dormitory. We cannot be responsible for them.
- 4 The money in your pocket money account is not all spending money. Some may be needed if you are taking a taxi to the Airport at the end of the Course, for example. It may be needed in an emergency, if you have to take a taxi to the doctor, or for damages.
- 5 At least £20 must remain in your account until the last day. It will then be returned to you less deductions for unattributable damages (if any.) Wherever possible, we attribute damage to whoever did it.
- 6 Remaining pocket money is returned to you on the last day just before you leave for the Airport. Passports, tickets and any non-British money we are holding for you will be returned at the Airport, normally after check-in.

School colours

Students like to wear their School's colours on Sports Day. These are:-

Mary Hare - Blue

Cheam - Red

Please bring some clothes (a T-shirt, for example) in the appropriate colour.

Telephone days (14.00-18.00 and 18.30-20.00 English time)

Mary Hare - Sunday 18 July and Sunday 25 July

on +44 1635 244221 or 244261

Cheam - Sunday 25 July and Sunday 1 August

on +44 1635 267814 or 268225

School addresses

The Mary Hare School Newbury Berkshire RG14 3BQ

Cheam School Headley Newbury Berkshire RG19 8LD

Bring these Notes with you. You must have this paper with you every time you leave the School. Do not lose it!

If there is anything you are unsure about, or if there is anything about the Course that you are not happy with, tell me. I shall not be offended. I want this to be a really positive experience for you and can only know that something is wrong if you tell me. Whatever you say to me will be as confidential as you wish it to be. If there is something you wish to see on the programme, please feel that you can suggest it to me. If there is somewhere special you would like to go, tell the Course Manager who may be able to arrange for staff to accompany a group.

Now please read again and know by heart these 'Notes' and then sign the slip!

HELP

I am a foreign student with Vacational Studies.

Please telephone them on:

The Mary Hare School (Tel: (01635) 244221)

Newbury Berkshire RG14 3BQ

Cheam School (Tel: (01635) 267814)

Headley Newbury Berkshire RG19 8LD

Please write your telephone number on this paper. Vacational Studies will pay all your expenses. The Head Office number is 01635 523333 or 07717 007 007.