



*Cheam*

## INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to present the Vacational Studies English Language Course programme for Summer 1975. Vacational Studies Course Organizer-Ian Mucklejohn-has welcomed boys and girls from 19 nations in 4 continents since 1970 and over the years has developed the programme to provide an enjoyable balance between 'vacation' and 'study'.

Vacational Studies aims to create a Course that is as international as possible and avoids taking large groups from any one country. Thus 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 that our students will realise better its importance and value. We have found that when children must use English to make friends, the element of self-motivation to learn greatly increases their fluency.

This emphasis on the practical use of English is combined with a full sports and social programme designed to introduce children to the English way of life.

The Course is fully residential. The children eat, sleep and receive classes in the School.

## THE CHILDREN

This Course is an important stage in a young person's social development. We accept at both Schools boys and girls aged 11-16-those just starting English and more advanced students.

## THE SCHOOLS AND THEIR SURROUNDINGS

For 1975 the Course will be held at two centres-Crookham Court School and Cheam School. Both are located near Newbury which is pleasantly situated amid the rolling hills of the Berkshire Downs in an area famous for race-horse training. It is centrally positioned 70 km. west of London and 45 km. south of Oxford.

## CROOKHAM COURT SCHOOL

Crookham Court School is an imposing mid-nineteenth century manor house with large, bright rooms and spacious planning. The grounds extend to 20 acres and include three large playing fields, lawns, gardens and woods. Although the School has accommodation for 85 children, only 65 are accepted in the summer.

## CHEAM SCHOOL

Cheam School is an elegant late-nineteenth century mansion with impressive interior designing on a grand scale. The School's extensive grounds include several large playing fields, lawns, gardens and woods. The School has accommodation for 110

## THE TEACHING

4 classes, each of 45 minutes, are given every day except Sunday by a staff of fully-qualified, professional teachers, experienced in the teaching of English as a foreign language. Classes are graded according to age and ability and numbers are kept small so that each child will receive a high degree of individual attention. The teacher-pupil ratio is approximately 1:12. All books and teaching materials are provided and audio-visual aids are used. We encourage the use of 'direct-method' teaching and the incorporation of conversation practice into the lessons. There is a total of 18 hours formal teaching and conversation each week.

## SPORTS

Sport forms an important part of the Course. All sports activities are under the overall control of a qualified physical education specialist teacher who arranges a regular programme including football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, tennis, table tennis, croquet, swimming, etc. Competitions for prizes are held.

The full sports programme is included in the Course Fee, but there has been such a great demand for professional coaching in various sports that we are offering the services of expert instructors-at extra cost-in the following:- tennis, golf, archery, judo and horse-riding. As each instructor can take only a limited number of pupils, these must be requested in advance on the Application Form. We suggest that this is a good opportunity for your child to become proficient in one or two of these sports. If tennis or golf are selected, the child must bring his own tennis racquet or golf clubs.

We emphasise that the regular sports programme is available at no extra charge and that the Sports Organizer is available at all times to offer advice and assistance. For reasons of safety, a teacher supervises children in the swimming pool at all times.

## SOCIAL LIFE



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## BOTH SCHOOLS HAVE:

- large, open air swimming pool
- hard and grass tennis courts
- basketball and volleyball courts
- croquet lawns
- table tennis
- comfortable dormitory accommodation
- hot and cold baths and showers
- well-stocked libraries
- television

## CHOICE OF COURSE

Crookham Court and Cheam are similar and near to each other. To assist parents, we offer a choice of dates and duration of Course:

### COURSE A CROOKHAM COURT

6 weeks THURSDAY 17 JULY-THURSDAY 28 AUGUST 1975

### COURSE B CROOKHAM COURT

4 weeks THURSDAY 17 JULY-THURSDAY 14 AUGUST 1975

### COURSE C CHEAM

4 weeks THURSDAY 31 JULY-THURSDAY 28 AUGUST 1975

Children should arrive in the afternoon of the first day stated and leave in the afternoon of the last day stated.

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## SOCIAL LIFE

We regard the children at each school as a family who live, work and play together. For many of them this is their first time away from home with other children so we aim to provide a relaxed atmosphere in which they may make friends and form social contacts. We arrange country walks, parties, discotheques, film shows, folk-singing and games.





*Crookham Court*

As Newbury is an easy bus ride away and is a quiet town, we allow children to go there on unaccompanied shopping expeditions in groups of no less than three. This, we feel, helps them to achieve a measure of independence, but if any parent does not wish his child to be allowed into Newbury unaccompanied, he is asked to inform us accordingly.

#### EXCURSIONS

Newbury is well situated as a centre for excursions to various places of interest. As so many children come to us more than once, we have largely revised the excursion programme for 1975. Trips include a 'day of pre-historic Britain' including Silbury Hill—the largest man-made mound in Europe, the West Kennet Barrows, Beacon Hill and Stonehenge. Visits are also made to London, Windsor Castle and the Safari Park, Winchester, Portsmouth (an important naval town, including Admiral Nelson's ship 'Victory'), Bath

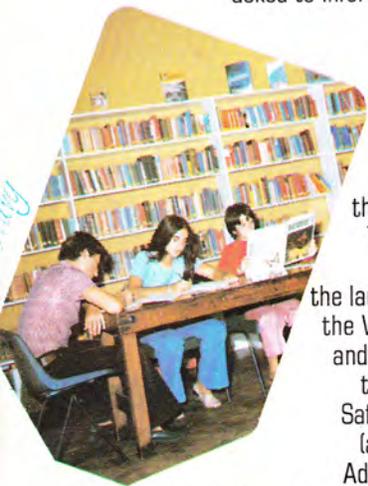
—a famous Roman town also containing a large Museum of Costume—and the famous Cheddar Caves. A journey by boat along the River Thames is also being arranged. Members of the staff accompany the children on all excursions which are made by private coach. There is one excursion each week: The above excursion programme applies to the 6-week Course and is amended for the 4-week Course to include four of the most important visits.

#### MEALS

Three good meals a day are provided. Catering is under the supervision of a trained chef experienced in the preparation of both traditional English and International cuisine. There is a plentiful supply of fresh fruit and vegetables. Cold fruit juice is available at all times.

#### LIVING ACCOMMODATION

At both Crookham Court and



#### A TYPICAL DAY

- 08.30 Breakfast
- 09.15 First class
- 10.00 Break
- 10.15 Second class
- 11.00 Break
- 11.30 Third class
- 12.15 Break . Collect pocket money for the day
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.00 Fourth class
- 14.45 Organized sports and games
- 18.00 Supper
- 18.30 Written 'homework' followed by games, film etc.
- 21.00 Hot chocolate and biscuit.
- 21.30 Bedtime juniors (Seniors have their own 'Club')
- 22.30 Bedtime seniors

There is no afternoon class on Saturdays and no classes at all on Sundays.

#### CARE AND SUPERVISION

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 1:6 ensures that the children are well looked-after.

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

#### DISCIPLINE

We regard the Course as an international community and have, therefore, some straightforward rules designed to ensure that every member of the community is happy. We expect children to respect the buildings, equipment and the feelings of other people, and to show good manners on all occasions.

It is important that, before a child is enrolled for the Course, he has the proper motivation for it—the desire to learn English, to be a member of a happy, multi-national society and the willingness to participate in the extra-curricular activities.

If a child is correctly motivated, there should be no disciplinary problems, but if they should arise, we reserve the right to contact

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### LIVING ACCOMMODATION

At both Crookham Court and Cheam School, the children sleep in dormitories—the girls in one part of the house, the boys in another. The accommodation is comfortable and roomy. Bed linen is provided by us.

### HEALTH

Minor illnesses are treated by our own staff and there is a Matron with a special surgery/sickroom in each School. We also use the services of several doctors in the locality. All our students are entitled to free medical treatment under the British National Health Service.

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It is important that, before a child is enrolled for the Course, he has the proper motivation for it—the desire to learn English, to be a member of a happy, multi-national society and the willingness to participate in the extra-curricular activities.

If a child is correctly motivated, there should be no disciplinary problems, but if they should arise, we reserve the right to contact parents and, if necessary, request the child to be taken home.

To ensure the success of the Course for everybody, we are unable to accept applications without a teacher's report including attitude to study and general social behaviour. (This does not apply to students already known to us.)

### IN GENERAL

Vacational Studies has, over the years, built up an excellent reputation with parents and children all over the world. Many boys and girls spend more than one summer with us and return from year to year renewing old friendships and making new ones. A large number of children come to us on personal recommendation.

As well as formal study, we concentrate on the holiday aspect of the Course. We feel that the children should feel free to enjoy themselves out of class. There is always something to do, but if a child prefers to read or be with friends, we naturally respect his wishes. The numbers on the Course are deliberately kept small so that the staff can get to know everybody and treat each child as an individual. The students will meet and form close friendships with children from many lands. We aim to promote a truly international spirit.

The Course is interdenominational. If parents so wish, we shall arrange for the children to attend an appropriate place of worship. Please indicate this on the Application Form. There is, of course, no charge for this service.

# Vacational Studies ...English the English way



## THE SCHOOLS' ADDRESSES AND HOW TO FIND THEM

### Crookham Court School (Courses A and B)

From London, follow M4 to Exit 12 (Theale). Leave M4 and follow A4 to Thatcham. In Thatcham, turn left after

Little Chef restaurant, then left again, straight on past Thatcham Station, up the hill and Crookham Court is at the top of the hill on the left.

Address for childrens' letters:

Crookham Court,  
Vacational Studies English Language Course,  
Newbury,  
Berkshire RG15 8DQ,  
England.

Telephone (mornings only, if possible): Thatcham 64800

### Cheam School (Course C)

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

Address for childrens' letters:

Cheam School,  
Vacational Studies English Language Course,  
Headley,  
Newbury,  
Berkshire RG15 8LD,  
England.

Telephone (mornings only, if possible): Headley 242

(These telephone numbers are special and can only be obtained during the Course.)

There is also a frequent train service from Paddington Station, London, to Newbury Station. It is then an easy taxi journey to either School.

During the rest of the year, please use our Office address and telephone number:

Vacational Studies,  
Crookham Court School,  
Newbury, Berkshire RG15 8DQ,  
England.

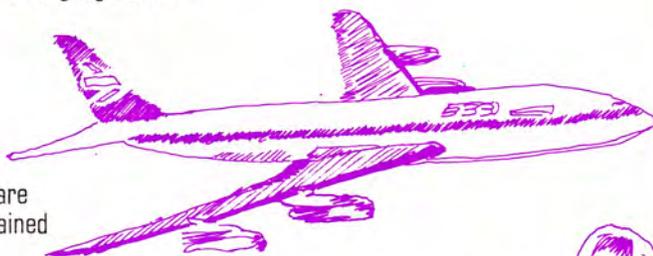
## FINALLY

We have tried to describe the Courses fully and hope that this brochure contains all the information you need to make your choice. 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.

THE 1974 COURSE WAS FULLY BOOKED MONTHS IN ADVANCE. WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU APPLY AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE FOR THIS YEAR'S COURSE.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Ian Mucklejohn—who as the Course Organizer co-ordinates both Schools—is a Londoner by birth, but has lived most of his life in Newbury. He graduated from the University of London with an Honours Degree in English and is an Associate of the College of Preceptors. He has had many years of experience in organizing Language courses and in teaching as the Head of the English Department at a private school.



#### WHAT THE COURSE FEE INCLUDES

For details of the Course Fees, please see the enclosed slip.

The Course Fee includes:

- residence at the School
- all meals
- tuition
- the sports programme
- the use of facilities
- excursions and entrance fees to places of interest
- the laundering of clothes

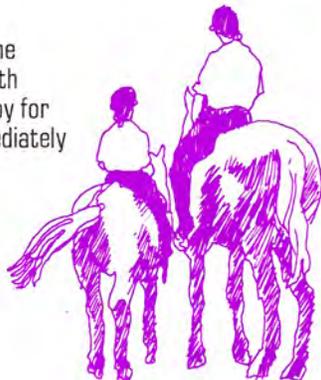
There are NO EXTRA CHARGES except for optional professional coaching in certain sports, if required. This coaching must be requested, in advance, on the Application Form. To avoid disrupting the regular sports programme, parents are asked not to choose professional coaching in more than two sports.

The Fee does NOT include:

- travel to and from England
- collection from Heathrow Airport, London at the beginning of the Course and return there at the end. (This is available at a small extra charge to cover expenses. Please see enclosed slip.)
- pocket money.

#### HOW TO APPLY

Answer all the questions on the Application Form and return it with a teacher's report. Keep your copy for reference. We shall tell you immediately if the application is acceptable.



#### 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. We shall also request flight details. It is quite safe for young people to fly alone as all airlines make special arrangements for 'Unaccompanied Minors'. Please consult your travel agent. They are carefully looked-after and will be met by a Vacational Studies representative at Heathrow Airport. Before the Course, we shall send your child a special identifying sticker to wear and this will ensure quick recognition. Our representative will also wear a sticker and will meet your child as soon as he/she has been cleared through Customs formalities.

It will assist our transport arrangements if children arrive during the AFTERNOON of the first day of the Course (17 or 31 July) and leave during the AFTERNOON of the last day of the Course (14 or 28 August). This applies also if the child is arriving at the School by car.

#### WHAT TO BRING

Pocket money can either be brought by your child or sent in advance to:- 'Vacational Studies Pocket Money Account' Number 65400100 at The National Westminster Bank, 30 Market Place, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5AJ. We suggest that no more than £8 pocket money per week should be brought.

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

Parents are asked not to pack an excessive amount of clothes. Casual clothes are normally worn. We specially ask for the following to be included:

- warm pullovers
- an anorak or raincoat
- bedroom slippers
- sports shoes

