

Prefectship – History and Notes

History

Prefectship was introduced in the Summer of 2012 with one Prefect who had been with us for many years and in the last two had belatedly realised what VacStuds had to offer to someone who was prepared to change her language, mix across frontiers and embrace the international ethos that is what Vacational Studies is all about.

At 18, she was given certain responsibilities and privileges. The experiment was a success. She felt fulfilled. Younger students benefited from her presence. She set a splendid example.

A number of Prefects were appointed in the Summer of 2013. They went from class to class at the direction of the Academic Manager as classroom assistants. If there was a child who would benefit from special attention to help that child make progress with English or with integration, they were given specific responsibility for that child.

For their own development, they were given access to the Sports Crew room and 'snug', allowed the privilege of a later bedtime and other freedoms appropriate to their age.

They decided that Prefects returning for a second year should be Senior Prefects with responsibility for overseeing new Prefects. Senior Prefects would be invited to Board Meetings with students.

The concept of Prefectship proved popular with the students and many saw it as a position to aim for. Importantly, it would stand out on a CV as proof that a privileged position had been obtained at a young age and that responsibility over others had been exercised.

Conditions for awarding the privilege of Prefectship were strengthened thereafter so:

- Only those under 18 who have already proved themselves as students will be considered.
- Only those who have developed appropriately in the year between applying for Prefectship and coming on the Course will be appointed.
- Prefectship is applied for, not booked, so it is not possible to make application dependent on the award of the position of Prefect.

A Head Prefect may or may not be appointed. A Head Prefect will have the usual Prefectorial responsibilities and privileges and will also be expected to attend Board Meetings, arrange and chair other meetings with Prefects, UK Reps and the Student Council, assume overall responsibility for the 'Club' and supervise House Captains.

Notes

- Prefectship is to be seen as a responsibility and a privilege.
- Prefects are responsible to the Course Manager, the Director of Studies and the Senior Sports/Social Organiser and will accept directions from all of these.
- It is expected that Prefects are will assist with classes, the sports/social activities and the students and they have chosen this role to be of use to the Course.
- The work of all Prefects will be assessed at the end of the first week to determine if we (or they) wish the Prefectship to be continued.