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STUDENTS FROM OVERSEAS

in our classes 8, 9, 10 and 11

WE WELCOME STUDENTS from Steiner (Waldorf) Schools in Europe and the rest of the world to attend our classes 8, 9, 10 and 11 for one term, two terms or one year. We aim at gathering an international group of overseas students here and often have students from Germany, Switzerland, France, Holland or Scandinavia.

Our School is in a beautiful **rural setting** in the South West of England between the sea and Dartmoor National Park. The South Devon Steiner School is situated next to farmland, 4 km from the little market town of Totnes and 40 km from the old cathedral city of Exeter (300 km west of London).

We have about 250 pupils from Kindergarten to Class 12, in classes of 10-28. Visiting students often remark on the 'family like' nature of our school, where most students know most teachers and vice versa. Our school is more informal than many schools abroad; everyone is known by their first name, including all teachers and other staff. Visiting students will experience daily life in England and improve their English whilst our own students improve their social and cultural awareness.

The classrooms for Classes 9, 10, 11 and 12 are separate from the Lower School buildings but all pupils share the large grounds. Most students come to school by car or bus and some by bicycle. Visiting students usually go home during the holidays, but not the half-term break.

TEACHING

Main Lessons in the Upper School follow the usual Steiner School Curriculum used world-wide. We are particularly proud of our use of the "Outdoor classroom" and the way Arts and Crafts is an integrated part of the total curriculum. Overseas students are fully integrated into the class and have the same timetable as our English students. However, they are helped along by teachers, students and host families, especially at the beginning of their stay.

The **Arts and Crafts** programme in the afternoon includes green wood turning, carpentry, forging, ceramics, photography, spinning, dyeing, felt-making, dressmaking and basketry; all activities are in blocks, normally of half a term.

Trips are another strength of our school; These are not holidays, but form part of Main Lessons, and are opportunities to deepen understanding of the curriculum outside of the school setting. There are two trips in Class 9 (the Agriculture practical at Botton Village, a Camphill community in Yorkshire for 10 days in September, and a 2-week cycling trip to France in June). In Class 10 there are two trips; a History of Art trip, often to London, as well as a 2-week Ecology trip to Cornwall in April.

A Report is issued at the end of every overseas student's stay.

Tuition Costs: Unlike most continental Waldorf schools, Waldorf schools in the United Kingdom receive no financial support from the state. The school's only income derives from what parents can pay (fees) and funds they can raise as well as from gifts.

Fees vary, depending on the length of the term and trips (See document called 'Dates and Costs' for the term you are interested in)

ACCOMMODATION

Visiting students stay with families of our students at the South Devon Steiner School. There are complicated laws for the protection of children in the UK, so all families who wish to host have to register with the Overseas Students Office at school, a risk assessment has to be completed on their home and they have to undergo a police check. If the visiting student is under 16 years of age, the family will also need to register with Social Services and the student will be visited by a social worker every six weeks – this is now the law in the UK.

We try to find a host family we think we try to match the age of the visiting student with that of the children in the family but this is not always possible.

Host families may live in towns and villages close to the school or in the wider surrounding area. Visiting students are welcomed as part of the family and encouraged to join in the family activities, including those at the weekends.

If the visiting student has any special hobby (for example music or sport) we shall try to make it possible for this to be pursued. Clothing should be suitable for all weathers and for country life – bring **outdoor and waterproof clothing**, too!

Costs: Board and lodging, including food, laundry and transport to and from school - £135 per week.

Payment: Fees for board and lodgings are paid directly to the school prior to arrival alongside the tuition fees. Students will also need some pocket money for their own entertainment, (e.g. cinema) and for bus or train fares if they want to go out and about with friends (if they have to take the bus to school, the host family will pay for this).

ENROLMENT

To enroll for this programme, please follow the procedure on our website.

There is always a great demand (especially if you are a German-speaker) for the few places in Classes 8, 9, 10 and 11 (especially Class 9 and 10), so we recommend applying early (applications for the next school year open every January).

You will need to send the following forms first (they are on the website to download)

1. The **Enrolment Form**, to be signed by the student and a parent.
2. The **Annual Consent Form** to be signed by a parent.

After we have received these forms and offered you a place (if one is available), we will ask for the following documents (these should be sent back as soon as possible to complete the enrolment process):

3. Two short **recommendations** from the class teacher/sponsor **and** one from the English teacher, describing the social, academic and practical/artistic abilities of the student.
4. A **Health Certificate** from your doctor
5. **The Financial Agreement** for parents to sign (this includes the school's bank details). We also need a deposit of £250 to secure the place, and a copy of the student's passport or identity card (the travel document they will use to come to England).

Important: A place will only be reserved when all necessary documents have been received.

We are looking forward to hearing from you.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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(Conversations are possible in English and German)