

STUDENTS FROM OVERSEAS

For our classes 8, 9 and 10

WE WELCOME STUDENTS from Steiner (Waldorf) Schools in Europe and the rest of the world to attend our classes 8, 9 or 10 for one term, two terms or one year. We aim to have 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 school is next to farmland, 4 km from the little town of Totnes and 40 km from the old cathedral city of Exeter (300 km west of London).

We have about 300 pupils from Kindergarten to Class 10, in classes of 20-28. 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; our students improve their social and cultural awareness.

We are keen to make sure that our visitors improve their English, so for this reason we do not allow more than four new overseas students with the same mother-tongue in any one class. This sometimes means that although there are still spaces available, there will be a language restriction on some of them; this most often affects German speakers. If students stay for a second or further term, they are then classed as home students. The greatest demand is for places in Class 10 – if these are full, it is possible for someone in Class 10 in their own country to join our Class 9, if there are spaces available.

The classrooms for Classes 9 and 10 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 Brittany in France in June). In Class 10 there are three trips; a 2½ week Surveying Main Lesson in September, camping in a nearby ecological community, a 2-week History of Art trip to France and Germany in November, and 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 there is no financial support from the State for Steiner Schools in the United Kingdom. The School's

only income is from what parents can pay (fees) and funds they can raise, and from gifts.

Fees vary, depending on the length of the term and trips (See document called "20XX-XX Dates and Costs" for the year you are interested in)

ACCOMMODATION

Visiting students stay with families of our students at the South Devon 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, have a risk assessment done on their home, and undergo a police check themselves. If the student is under 16 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 those in the family but this is not always possible.

Host families may live in towns and villages close to the school or in the surrounding country areas. Visiting students are welcomed as part of the family and encouraged to join in the family activities, including those at the week-ends.

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 old clothes too!

Costs: Board and lodging, including food, laundry and transport to and from school - £130 per week.

Payment: Directly to the host family on the day of arrival (or as arranged in advance). 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.

YOUR ENROLMENT

To enrol 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 and 10 (especially Class 10), so we recommend applying early (applications for the next school year are accepted from January of the previous school year).

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 **Parental Consent Form** to be signed by a parent.
3. The **Media 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 send you the following forms by email. They should be filled in and sent back to complete the enrolment process.

4. A short **Recommendation** from the class teacher, sponsor or English teacher, describing the social, academic and practical/artistic abilities of the student.
5. A **Health Form** for your doctor to fill in
6. The **Financial Agreement** for parents to fill in (this includes the bank details of where to send the deposit)

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 finally reserved when all of these we have been received.

We are looking forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions please contact:

Susanna Chapman

E-mail visit@steiner-south-devon.org

Tel: 0044 1803 897377 Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

(conversations are possible in English, German, French - and Italian on a good day!)