



an English summer

Excellent just got better

Why Thames Valley?

- For over 45 years, we've been helping young people from all over the world improve their English.
- During this time, more than 60,000 have spent their summers with us. Many of them returning for a second or even a third season.

So, what is it about our schools and our courses that has made them among the most consistently popular in the country? You don't have to look far to find the answers.

"First of all I want to thank all of you for the wonderful experience our kids enjoyed at your programme. They really had a blast. It was both the way that English was taught, as well as the interaction with kids from all over the world and the school staff- everything was even better than we had hoped for! And all organisational matters were handled so efficiently! And the pick-up at Heathrow worked well. And they loved the college..."

As parents, we were very happy to see our kids beam so much when we picked them up."

Dirk Lammerskötter, Germany



Better in every way

BETTER SCHOOLS

We work with only the most prestigious English boarding schools. Though they were founded hundreds of years ago, they're as up-to-date as any in the country.

Millions of pounds are spent on them every year to make sure they're constantly being developed.



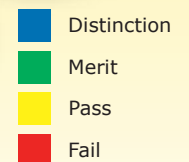
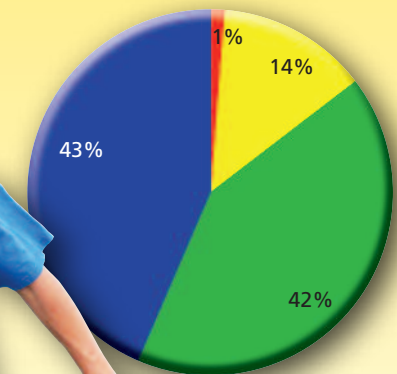
BETTER LOCATIONS

Our residential Summer Schools could hardly be better situated. All are within easy reach of London, Heathrow airport and some of England's most historic towns and cities.



BETTER RESULTS

Our courses are designed for students aged 8-17 and they're among the very few in the country to concentrate on the Trinity College examinations in spoken English. In 2019 our pass rate was 99%, with 85% achieving Merit or Distinction. We now also offer IELTS exam courses at Rugby.



Taking good care of you

From start to finish, we make sure your time with Thames Valley is worry-free.

COMING AND GOING

When you arrive at the airport, you'll be met by our staff and taken to your chosen centre by private coach. At the end of the course, we'll take you back to the airport and see you safely through check-in and passport control/security. If you'd prefer your own taxi transfer, this can be arranged at additional cost.



Checking-in at Heathrow

STAYING ON CAMPUS

All Young Learner centres are residential. A typical boarding house would have 35-50 students staying there and you'd sleep in a single or twin room, or in a larger room with 3-6 beds. Mixing and making friends in these surroundings comes very easily.

Accommodation is full board (breakfast, lunch and dinner) and there is a free laundry service for your machine-washable clothes.



“I really enjoyed the good relationship I had with the teachers in and outside the (boarding) house and how they looked after me.”

Eulàlia Marti Pallarès, Spain



SUPERVISION

Each boarding house is supervised by an experienced Housemaster or Housemistress who is responsible for your personal safety and welfare. They're on call 24 hours a day helping to organise every aspect of your visit; looking after your pocket money, flight details and passport; ready with support and encouragement whenever you need it. You won't have to worry about a thing.

On average, there's one adult in residence for every five students. It's reassuring to note too, that most of our senior staff work in UK boarding schools throughout the year. Many of them come back to work with us summer after summer.



Striking the right balance

Passing the Trinity Examination may be the main priority, but we make sure you enjoy yourself outside the classroom too.

AFTERNOONS AND EVENINGS

In the afternoons, teachers and specialist staff will organise a whole host of activities for you.

If you're keen on sport, there's volleyball, tennis, badminton, basketball, squash, table-tennis, football, softball, swimming and water polo. If you prefer to do something more creative, all our centres have classes in ICT, arts and crafts, aerobics and Zumba. At Ascot you can even learn to bake a cake!



GETTING OUT AND ABOUT

Our excursions are an important part of our teaching programme. We build language exercises around trips to many of the country's most famous landmarks. Places like Bath, Canterbury, Cambridge, Oxford, Brighton, Stratford-upon-Avon and Windsor are all on the itinerary – depending on your centre.



Canterbury Cathedral



View of Big Ben from London Eye

You'll also enjoy excursions into London. These usually include an educational tour of great museums (British, Natural History, Science or the National Gallery) combined with the opportunity to do some shopping in Oxford Street, Covent Garden or Regent Street.

Depending on your centre too, there'll be some splendid sightseeing with a ride on the London Eye, a cruise on the River Thames or the opportunity for a tour on an open top bus.



Natural History Museum, London

Getting results

Trinity College London has been assessing abilities in listening and speaking English for over fifty years. Its examinations are internationally recognised and we take great pride in our students' annual pass rate.

TAKING THE TRINITY EXAM

TRINITY COLLEGE LONDON All our Trinity courses prepare students for the examination.

At our Ascot and Leatherhead centres, you study for the examination at grades 1-9 (beginner to upper intermediate); at our Epsom and Rugby centres, we prepare students for grades 1-11. Grades are aligned to levels pre A1-C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).

Average size of classes is 13-14 students, maximum 15.

The examination is entirely based on your conversational ability and, from the word go, you'll be carefully coached towards achieving the required level.

You'll have 5 forty-minute lessons each morning, five days a week (16 hours and 40 minutes' contact time). In lessons 1-3, you'll focus on conversational and interactive language tasks. In lessons 4-5, the emphasis is on topics required by Trinity for their examination (subjects like global warming, fashion, festivals, music, shopping and travel).

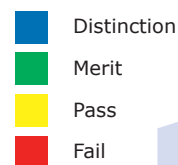
"I enjoyed talking with the teachers because, although I could be asking exam related questions, it doesn't feel like talking to my teacher but it felt like chatting to a really good friend of mine."

On Kiu Anku Cheung, Hong Kong

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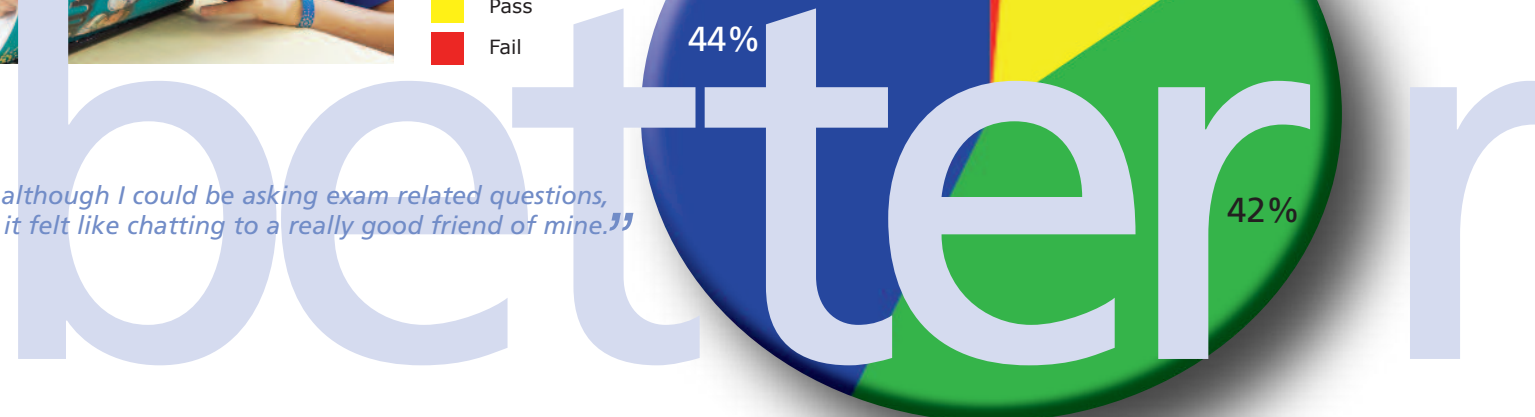
At all our centres, you'll practise one-to-one interviews so that, by the time the examination comes around, you'll be perfectly comfortable and confident.



THE RIGHT LEVEL

The level at which you'll prepare for the Trinity examination is determined on day one, when you take an oral test.

From here on, your progress will be monitored closely by your teachers and your Director of Studies. They'll do their best to make sure that, whatever the length of your course - 2, 3, or 4 weeks - you'll be ready to take the examination at the end of it.



A modern approach

All languages are constantly changing and English is no exception. With this in mind, we go to great lengths to make sure our courses are constantly being updated.

BETTER TEACHING

We're as selective about our teachers as we are about our schools. We insist on them being friendly, fun to work with and easy to relate to.

They're all native-level English speakers and are expected to hold internationally recognised teaching qualifications – as required by the British Council. Usually, they're in their twenties or early thirties and will already have had teaching experience in language schools abroad.

LIVING ENGLISH

We have a team of language experts with over fifty years' experience between them. Their task is to make sure that you learn the most current form of English. And that you learn it in the most stimulating and enjoyable way.

Computers, of course, are an essential part of the modern learning process. But over and above these, you'll have the help of the most up-to-date textbooks.

Course material is re-written on average every four years and it includes a Trinity Student Book that is unique to us.

Covering all sorts of up-to-the-minute topics like film, sport, music and technology, it also reinforces what you'll be seeing and doing on your excursions.



"Thames Valley Summer Schools has been the best English course I've ever been to. I would really like to come back and bring more friends with me."

Jorge Alonso Civantes, Spain



Thames Valley Summer Schools

Making English friends

Develop your confidence with English boys and girls throughout the day.

AN ENGLISH SCHOOL FRIEND

In each class you'll have the chance to make friends with English boys and girls of a similar age to yourself.

They'll be with you throughout the day: working with you in lessons, joining you for lunch, taking part in your afternoon activities and encouraging you to speak as much English as possible.

It's one of the advantages we enjoy over most other summer schools and it's a great way to develop confidence in your conversational ability.



“I like the English School Friends the most because they were helpful and nice, the English School Friend I hanged out most with was Oscar.”

Drake Tsang, Hong Kong





St George's School ASCOT

Founded in 1877

St George's School, Ascot, was founded in 1877 and one of its early pupils was Britain's famous wartime Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill.

It overlooks 12 hectares of fields and woods with stunning views across the rolling Berkshire hills yet is just a five-minute walk from Ascot High Street.

A great location

Ascot town centre is 5 minutes' walk. Windsor Castle - home of the Royal Family - is 10km away. Historic Runnymede, where the Magna Carta was signed in 1215, is nearby on the banks of the River Thames.

Fast and frequent trains take you into Central London (40km). Heathrow (17km) is a half-hour coach ride.



Nearby Windsor Castle

Spoilt for choice

Though the campus is safe and compact, it features every facility that you could possibly want.

There's a brand new languages and library centre equipped with multi-media and study areas. Alongside the state-of-the-art 350 seat theatre, there are separate drama, dance and art studios. On the sports front, you'll find a large sports hall, squash courts, extensive playing fields and eight tennis courts. There is also the Cookery School kitchen where you can learn to bake cakes.



Finger-licking baking session

Voted best school food

St George's recently won Tatler Magazine's award for Independent Schools (UK) best school food. Meals were described as "spectacular" and "a real highlight of the school day!".

Accommodation

Bedrooms are all bright and airy and range in size from single and twin to larger rooms with 3-6 beds.



Three bedded room



Choice of great food



Multi sports in the large sports hall

Aerial view of campus



EPSOM COLLEGE

Founded in 1853

Built on the slopes of Epsom Downs with stunning views over Central London, the college has been a popular choice with our language students for more than 20 years.

Its original Victorian buildings are still in evidence, blending skilfully with the outstanding new teaching facilities.



Main school buildings

Ideally placed

The College is just 22km from Central London and 15 minutes' walk from Epsom town centre – a lively, small town in the prosperous commuter belt of London.



Extensive grounds and playing fields

“I loved absolutely everything and would like to return for the 4th time.”

Erica Pillai, India

Lots to do

The campus may be relatively compact, but there is no shortage of facilities. There is a large sports centre with two sports halls, squash courts and a 25 metre indoor swimming pool. You'll also find 18 tennis courts, an indoor shooting range and extensive games fields in 32 hectares of magnificent grounds.



Performing arts centre

The school is justly proud of its new state-of-the-art studios for music, drama, film and dance. Lighting, sound and multi-media facilities here are up to the highest professional standards.





Forest boarding house 4 bed room

Accommodation

Most bedrooms on campus are twin or single. There are also some 2-4 bed rooms available.



For the leaders of the future, this course is for 13-17 year olds who want to develop the skills needed to become a confident, effective leader in whatever career they choose.

Future Leaders

NEW!

Centre	Epsom
Max class size	20
Minimum English level	B1
Duration	2 weeks
Lessons	25 x 40 minutes per week
Excursions	One half-day and one full-day per week
Recreation activities	5 afternoons per week
Social activities	7 evenings per week



In this conference style course, designed to develop leadership skills, students will enjoy a series of lectures, workshops and seminars as well as collaborating on practical projects.

This course:

- Integrates the four STEM strands (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).
- Draws inspiration from TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) talks and guest speakers.
- Improves English skills, fluency and confidence.

A typical day may include:

- Lesson 1 - TED talk / Guest speaker.
- Lesson 2 - Analysis / learning point.
- Lesson 3 - Preparation.
- Lesson 4 - Practical work / practice.
- Lesson 5 - Debate / presentation / project development.

Through this multi-disciplinary approach students will:

- Broaden their understanding of the role of a leader.
- Develop practical skills for effective leadership such as critical thinking, problem solving and decision making.
- Network with students from around the world.
- Enhance teamworking skills.
- Refine their skills in presenting, debating and public speaking.
- Appreciate the importance of multi-strand approaches and solutions.
- Develop their effective communication skills in English.

Students on this course will enhance their future leadership potential, whether their career is in business, economics, politics or any other field.

Whilst developing their skills, students on this course will also become more informed about and engaged with some of the most pressing issues of our time such as climate change, environmental issues, economic globalisation, conflict and gender equality.

We commit to carbon off-setting the flights taken by students who attend our Future Leaders course at Epsom.

This course does not include English language teaching and so is not covered by our British Council accreditation.



St John's School LEATHERHEAD

Founded in 1851

Like nearby Epsom College, St John's is a splendid mixture of the old and the new. Its main cloistered buildings date back to 1851 and sit happily alongside others that are distinctly 21st century.

The whole school forms a quadrangle around beautifully manicured lawns – a feature that gives it the feel of a traditional Oxbridge college.



“I enjoyed everything, especially the fun classes, activities, and excursions. I also think that the staff are very friendly and welcoming.”

Nino Bakradze, Georgia

A cosy campus

Inviting and friendly are the terms usually used to describe St. John's. This makes it particularly appealing to the younger age group studying for the Trinity Exam.

Close to London

Based in the bustling town of Leatherhead, St. John's is handily placed for your weekly, half-day excursions into London. A 5-minute walk takes you to the station. A 45-minute journey takes you to the heart of the capital. A trip to the coast is no more than an hour by road.



A creative, friendly environment



One of the three computer suites

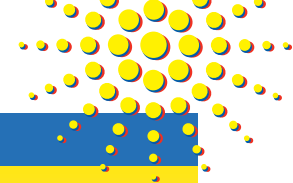
State-of-the-art classrooms

Our courses are held in the new, multi-million pound teaching complex. As advanced as any in the country, it has 19 classrooms, superbly equipped computer suites housing 68 workstations and purpose-designed art studios.



School Quad and main buildings





Central dining hall

“The teachers are friendly and always ready to help you. The classes helped me to improve my spoken language skills, I've learned many new words. I found here a lot of new friends, who I will miss a lot. I've also met English School Friends, who are very smiley and interesting to talk with.”

Valeriia Kim, Russia

25 hectares of campus

All your needs are met at St John's. It has outdoor playing fields, a 25 metre indoor swimming pool and a sports hall for basketball, volleyball and 5-side football. English School Friends (see page 8) are on hand throughout the day too, helping with your conversational English.



25 metre heated swimming pool



Food for everyone's taste in the magnificent dining hall



Drama and dancing afternoon activity



English School Friends encourage you to speak English as much as possible

Accommodation

Accommodation is first class with single, twin or 3-6 bedded rooms.



Multiple room in boarding house



RUGBY SCHOOL

Founded in 1567

Rugby is one of the oldest and most famous schools in England. It was founded during the reign of Elizabeth I and its splendid history is reflected in its stately buildings, classrooms and courtyards.

Here in 1823, one of the students, William Webb Ellis, picked up a soccer ball and ran with it. In the process, he created rugby – a game that has since been taken up around the world. Games are still played on the original pitch and visiting students are more than welcome to take part.



Main school buildings and original rugby pitch

A choice of courses

Having led the way in preparing students for the Trinity College exam, we now also offer a course dedicated to preparing for and taking the IELTS exam (see opposite page).

The very best facilities

Classes are held in one of the most recent additions to the school, the multi-million pound purpose-built Modern Languages Building, opened in 2012.



Modern Languages Building

You'll find state-of-the art classrooms, all equipped with the latest teaching aids. There are two ICT suites with a total of 36 computers.



ICT suite



Indoor 25 metre swimming pool

The nearby sports hall offers five-a-side football, basketball, badminton, aerobics and dodge ball. You'll also have access to the school's 25 metre, 6 lane swimming pool; soccer, rugby and rounders pitches; squash courts and all-weather floodlit tennis courts; a Design Centre for art/craft and a Social Centre for discos and other social events.

Accommodation is mostly in single rooms, with some twins available. For younger students, there are a few larger rooms with 3-6 beds. Meals in the central dining room are self-service.



Twin bedded room



School cloisters

...offer



Dining hall

A great location

The school takes its name from the historic market town of Rugby and is based in an area known as the Heart of England. Many historic landmarks are within easy reach. A short coach ride takes you to Stratford-Upon-Avon – Shakespeare's birthplace; to Warwick Castle, the finest medieval castle in the country; or to the famous university town of Oxford.

A 50-minute train trip takes you into central London, where you can go shopping in Oxford Street or Covent Garden, enjoy a river cruise or take in a visit to the London Eye/British Museum.

“I loved people of different nationalities, it was cool being with them. The teachers were amazing and their method of teaching is the best I ever experienced in my life. I will go back to my country and suggest to the Principal these cool methods of teaching.”

Naazneen Sandhu, India

ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC OPTION

We take great pride in our students' success rate in examinations. At Rugby we now offer the IELTS examination course. The course runs parallel to the Trinity course so that you'll have the opportunity to join in the afternoon and evening recreation programme.

IELTS examination

IELTS (International English Language Testing System) is one of the world's most popular English language proficiency tests. It is designed to assess the language ability of candidates who need to study or work where English is used as the language of communication. IELTS is required for entry to university in the UK and other countries and has a strong international reputation. Students on this course will take IELTS Academic which is aimed at people planning to study in higher education.



Centre	Rugby
Ages	12-17
Lessons/week	25
Class size	Maximum 15

Minimum level of English required:
B1 (Intermediate)

This course is designed to:

- Increase your chances of exam success.
- Expand your range of grammar and vocabulary.
- Develop your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills
- Give you a thorough understanding of exam format.
- Show you how to avoid common exam mistakes.
- Prepare you to take your exam at the end of the course.



Correct at time of printing. For full details go to our website: www.thamesvalleysummer.co.uk

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for the teaching
of English in the UK


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