

# **SHIPLAKE COLLEGE**

## **FACTS**

Answers to the most frequently asked questions  
about Shiplake College

Prepared for Staff, Parents and Old Boys to give to  
anyone interested

Second Edition  
1987

## Introduction

We planned this booklet in 1985 to keep our Old Boys up to date but we circulated it to everyone interested in Shiplake College. This aroused nation-wide interest and was described in the national press as, "Far superior to the usual glossy prospectus." As a result a number of schools asked permission to copy the idea.

A simple list emphasises how much we have been able to do in our first twenty eight years.

H. E. Wells-Furby  
(Editor)

## **CORPORATE FACTS**

1. Registered by the D.E.S. as efficient.
2. (a) The Headmaster belongs to the Society of Headmasters of Independent Schools (S.H.M.I.S.).  
(b) The Bursar belongs to the Independent Schools Bursars Association (I.S.B.A.).  
(c) The College doctor belongs to the Medical Officers of Schools Association (M.O.S.A.).
3. Shiplake College belongs to the following Associations:
  - (a) The Governing Bodies Association (G.B.A.).
  - (b) Independent Schools Joint Council (I.S.J.C).
  - (c) Independent Schools Information Service (I.S.I.S.).
  - (d) Independent Schools Careers Organisation (I.S.C.O.).
4. The College is managed by a Board of Governors as set forth in Articles of Association dated 1959.
5. The College is registered as an Educational Trust with the Charity Commissioners.

## **COLLEGE FACTS**

6. The College is small enough for the Headmaster to know every boy.
7. There are an average of 340 boys on the roll aged 13 to 18 (280 boarders and 60 day boys).
8. We offer tuition up to G.C.S.E. and 'A' levels.

9. We employ 37 full time teaching staff and one part-time member of staff.
10. This means that there is one member of teaching staff to every 9 boys.

### **ADMISSION FACTS**

11. About 70 boys enter Shiplake College each year and prospective parents are always shown round the School by a boy.
12. Most are accepted on the basis of the Common Entrance Examination.
13. Several boys are accepted each year from State Schools. They complete English and Mathematics exams.
14. Approximately 5 boys each year are accepted at 6th Form level.
15. 16 places are reserved each year for dyslexic boys. They pass a very thorough interview with the Remedial English Department and a test in Mathematics. **THESE PLACES ARE BOOKED WELL IN ADVANCE.**
16. (a) 191 different Prep. schools have sent boys to Shiplake.  
(b) Since 1975 the Prep. schools that sent us boys regularly are as follows: (number of boys in brackets) Crosfields (51), Stubbington House (36), Ashfold (23), Edgeborough (19), Moultsford (17), St. Andrew's, Pangbourne (16), Papplewick (14),

- 16cont. St.Piran's (13), Northaw (12), Sunningdale (12). In addition, 17 boys have transferred from Gillott's and 8 from Chiltern Edge.
17. A small number of Entrance Scholarships are awarded annually.
18. There are 16 sons of serving members of the Armed Forces in the College. There are 61 boys who live abroad, including 25 boys who hold foreign passports.
19. Shiplake College is a Church of England School, but we welcome members of any creed or race.

### **FACTS ABOUT OUR HISTORY**

20. Founded in 1959 by Alec Everett and Eunice Richardson as a school for 120 boys.
21. Demand for places led the College to expand to a school of four boarding houses and one complete day boy house.
22. Over 1,600 boys have come to Shiplake in the first 28 years.
23. The first History of the College 'Wish and Fulfilment' (by H. E. Wells-Furby) was published in 1984.
24. Shiplake College is one of Britain's very few successful post war Independent Schools.
25. Selected by "The Times" in 1986 as one of the top twenty senior boys' schools.

## **INDEPENDENT FACTS**

- 26. We receive no government grants for education.
- 27. We maintain an option for parents who choose the right to select their sons' schooling.
- 28. We answer a boarding need.
- 29. We are funded largely by fees with supplements from appeals and other enterprises.

## **PHILOSOPHICAL AND PASTORAL**

- 30. We stress character development as well as academic achievement.
- 31. We believe that a child's education thrives when he is happy.
- 32. Our aim is to achieve the maximum results with the minimum of fuss.
- 33. We emphasise the old fashioned virtues of honesty, leadership and good manners.
- 34. We are convinced that every boy has something to offer. We try to find it.
- 35. Day by day care is provided by resident housemasters, assisted by house tutors.
- 36. Orchard House, for day boys, provides the same facilities as for boarders, excepting beds.

37. The resident Chaplain is a full-time member of staff and is always available. He prepares boys for the annual Confirmation Service.
38. Boys participate in the conduct of weekly and Sunday chapel services.
39. A resident Nurse is in charge of the Medical Wing. During term time a SRN is always in attendance

## FACTS ABOUT FACILITIES

40. The original grounds and five buildings were bought for £17,500. This property comprised:
  - (a) Tudor Cottage, the oldest building in the area.
  - (b) The stable block, converted to classrooms in 1960.
  - (c) The Lodge, now junior boys' accommodation for Welsh House.
  - (d) A gardener's bungalow.
  - (e) Shiplake Court, a forty room mansion now housing Skipwith House, the College library, all administrative offices and the catering.
41. Other residential accommodation: Everett House built in 1961, extended 1977. Welsh House, opened 1965, extended 1978 and redeveloped 1987. Burr House, purchased 1970, extended 1984. Orchard House opened 1975, extended 1982. Plowden Cottage, purchased 1980. Meadow Keep, purchased 1982.
42. Teaching accommodation, the maths block (1972), art block (1978), computer room (1980), replacement science laboratories (1981), music school (1982).



43. Other facilities: sick wing opened 1963, extended 1974, laundry 1974, John Eggar Hall (sports' complex) 1979, Tithe Barn theatre (1980) modernised 1986, Jubilee Building (shop, J.C.R., offices, staff residences) 1984, boat houses 1963 and 1971, landing stage 1980, cricket pavilion 1965, swimming pool 1968.
44. College buildings are now insured for a total of £6,115,000.

### EDUCATION FACTS

45. We believe in small classes. There are very few sets larger than 16 up to G.C.S.E., and few over 8 at 'A' level.
46. We offer 17 subjects up to G.C.S.E. and 14 subjects at 'A' level.
47. (a) There is an equal divide between art and science at 'A' level. Some combination of arts and sciences is possible at 'A' level.  
(b) Since 1976 the annual number of G.C.S.E. and 'A' level passes has more than doubled.
48. Boys in the middle school all attend courses in "Learning to Live" and there is a "Preparation for Adult Life" Course (P.A.L.) in the Sixth Form.
49. The College has pioneered a "Learning to Learn" foundation course for all new boys.
50. Most boys have a week's work experience after their G.C.S.E. level exams finish.



51. A five day careers course, including interviewing techniques and mock officer selection, is held in the Lower Sixth.
52. We believe that boys should be involved in public service. Normally they are expected to spend nine terms in one of the three sections of the CCF. This receives Establishment and Training grants. In the last two years five ex-cadets have been selected by the Regular Commissions Board.

## ECONOMIC FACTS 1985/6

53. We employ 102 people.
54. The annual pay roll was over £800,000, most of which buys food, shelter, clothing, cars and so forth in the Henley/Reading area.
55. We spent £155,000 locally on food.
56. We spent £115,000 locally on other goods and services.
57. We spent £10,000 locally on books.
58. The College spent £31,000 with local firms on coach hire, mini bus operations, fuel and vehicle repairs.
59. Our annual budget will exceed £1,750,000 in 1987 and excess income is ploughed back into educational improvements. There are no profits.

60. Since 1979 the College has spent a yearly average of £118,700 on new buildings - thus making a useful contribution to local employment and business.

### **RECENT FACTS**

61. Between 1981 and 1986, 18 former members of the College Boat Club have rowed in international events.
62. In December 1986 the 1st XV won the Oxfordshire U.18 Cup. An average of 5 boys a year represent Oxfordshire Schools in U18 Rugby matches.
63. College Squash Teams have been defeated only 4 times in the last 50 fixtures.
64. By the end of 1985 parents and friends had donated over £250,000 to the Jubilee/Burr Appeal.
65. The College has always welcomed regular inspections. The most recent was in 1986 by a team appointed by I.S.J.C.

### **SHIPLAKE AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

66. Members of staff serve in local government, conduct services in local parishes and contribute to local musical activities. They also belong to charity committees, Rotary, local dramatic societies and Henley Rugby Club.
67. Through the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, boys do community service.

68. The John Eggar Hall is let on a regular basis to Foster Wheeler Energy Limited.
69. The John Eggar Hall was used for Shiplake's first parish supper in a history of 900 years.
70. College kitchens each week serve 30 lunches for the Meals on Wheels Service.
71. The Shiplake Lunch Club, Ladies "keep fit", Henley Symphony Orchestra, the Langtree Orchestra workshop, the English Schools' Cricket Association and local squash and badminton players regularly use the College facilities.
72. N.A.D.F.A.S. lectures are held regularly in the Tithe Barn.

## HOLIDAY FACTS

73. Masters arrange expeditions on a regular basis during the holidays.
  - (a) Academic Tours are led by members of the Art, French and Geography Departments. Participation is essential to the progress of students.
  - (b) The annual Lake District expedition in the Easter holiday has been established for over 20 years. Expeditions have also gone to Norway and the Hebrides.
74. There have been three expeditions to the Himalayas since 1984.
75. The CCF Annual Camp is at the start of the Summer Holiday.

76. There is an Alpine "ski trip" each January.
77. Since 1981, senior boys have been regularly selected for International youth and junior regattas.
78. Holiday courses are offered in cricket and racquet sports.
79. The annual Summer Ball is regularly attended by 750 guests. Since 1975 it has raised £37,565. This money has been spent on buying equipment for the Sports Hall (approx. £10,000) and the remainder on the Tithe Barn Project (stage lighting, sound system, lowered ceiling, projectionist/control box, rising/falling stage, new access).  
Early booking for the Ball is essential.
80. Shiplake Enterprises offer facilities for functions during the holidays.

### **COVENANTING FACTS**

81. Gifts to Shiplake College are deductible for income tax purposes.
82. All gifts are greatly appreciated. Being a young school, Shiplake needs outside financial support.