



The
Devon
School of
English.

Learning English in Devon



Friendly, personal and highly effective teaching in the heart of the English Riviera



The Hawthorne family

“The quality of education and the care of the students are excellent, maintaining the positive ethos upon which the founders built the school”

ISI Monitoring Visit Report, 2013

Welcome to the Devon School



We started the school in 1972 and have run it ever since. What makes us different? We are personally involved in the School at every level. Our methods are the best there are for learning English quickly and effectively with lasting results. Our staff and teachers will help make your stay at the Devon School an experience to remember - one that will prove invaluable for your future. We look forward to meeting you soon!

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The Devon School

The school is just half a kilometre from the beach and the town centre

The Devon School occupies two bright, spacious Victorian buildings with large private gardens in a quiet residential area of Paignton. Both buildings have been lovingly adapted for use as a school, and together provide what we feel is the ideal setting for learning English. Our two buildings are only 100 metres apart. Together they have 20 classrooms.

There are two student common rooms with daily newspapers where students relax between lessons. There is free internet access and free wi-fi access throughout both buildings. We have two coffee bars and sun patios where students can sit outside and make the most of the wonderful climate the English Riviera has to offer. Our school chef prepares fresh lunches to order every day, including a hot option.

If you wish to do further private study after classes, our self-access room has a library stocked with books for all levels and tastes and a range of DVDs. The school is just half a kilometre from the beach and the town centre. It is ideally placed for local shops, parks and sports facilities.





The Devon School is a family-run school where everybody is treated as an individual. Nowhere is this more true than when it comes to teaching. From the very start in 1972, the school quickly acquired an international reputation for the very highest standards in serious and stimulating tuition. The staff of qualified, professional teachers have been carefully selected for their ability to make the learning experience as effective and enjoyable as possible. English can be fun even if you are an adult! A flexible approach is the key to successful learning. Our methods incorporate the very best of communicative methodology, without neglecting a solid grammar base.

The emphasis during the lessons is on increasing fluency, accuracy and confidence when speaking and on improving and developing listening skills. Students acquire the vocabulary, expressions and strategies needed to cope effectively in the most important everyday situations. At higher levels, discussions and debates enable students to extend their insight into British culture and society. Reading skills are developed using a wide range of authentic texts. The writing syllabus, based on the classroom activities, provides the basis for homework and important consolidation.

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Teachers and Teaching

“Without exception students would recommend the school to others”

ISI Report, 2012

Accommodation



Homestays

During their course, most students prefer to stay with an English homestay so that they can get the greatest benefit from their stay in England. All our homestays are carefully selected by our accommodation team and then checked for comfort, friendliness and suitable study facilities. All of our homestays are located within walking distance of the school, with a maximum distance of approximately 20 minutes (30 with peak times). Students are placed using the information received on their enrolment form about special diets or preferences. You can choose full-board, where students have breakfast and dinner at home and are given a picnic lunch every day; or half-board with no weekday lunches. Students stay in single rooms. In the summer, students can also choose to share with another student of a different nationality/mother tongue, although single rooms are available on payment of a small supplement. All of our homestays offer a light laundry service. We will do everything to ensure that your stay is as pleasant and enjoyable as possible.

Hotels and Bed & Breakfast

We run our own booking service for those who prefer to stay in hotel accommodation. A wide range of Bed and Breakfast accommodation is also available in the town. Brochures and prices are available on request.

Apartments

It is also possible to rent holiday apartments. Once again we provide an information and reservation service. (Please note it is necessary to book well in advance).





Paignton enjoys a sub-tropical climate thanks to the Gulf Stream.



The South-West of England (Devon and Cornwall) is an area of outstanding natural beauty. It has spectacular coastlines, wind-swept moorland and country villages, unchanged in centuries, and is an inspiration to artists and writers.

Paignton, in the county of Devon, offers a wonderful opportunity for study and relaxation. It is 350 kilometres from London and has a population of 45,000. It is a seaside town lying at the centre of a spectacular bay - Torbay - otherwise known as the English Riviera. It is one of England's most popular tourist destinations and attracts tourists from all over the world. Torbay is famous for its wonderful coastline with over 30 kilometres of beaches. Thanks to the Gulf Stream, it enjoys a sub-tropical climate and is one of the only places in England where palm trees and other exotic flowers flourish all year round. The English Riviera holds the record for the warmest and sunniest days in the United Kingdom. The area is a paradise for sports lovers.

Paignton has the main leisure centre of the bay, with a large swimming pool, sports halls, sauna, gym and squash courts and a velodrome. The area is renowned for water sports (surfing, sailing and windsurfing) and its magnificent coastal golf courses. In, Paignton has a theatre and a 9-screen multiplex cinema. There is a spectacular water park and also England's third largest zoo, as well as a wonderful steam railway to nearby Dartmouth. Torbay was the favourite holiday destination of Queen Victoria, Disraeli and Oscar Wilde. Paignton was home to Isaac Singer, the inventor of the sewing machine. Agatha Christie, the world-famous crime writer, was also born and lived in Torbay and her home at Greenway is open to the public.

Paignton, Devon



Torbay is famous for its wonderful coastline with over 30 kilometres of beaches.

“The quality of the curriculum, teaching and learners’ achievements is excellent”

*ISI Monitoring
Visit Report, 2013*





Everything to help you learn.

At the Devon School we look after all of your needs. We have our own full-time chef who works each day to create exciting and healthy choices for your lunch. You can choose from a special hot meal that changes each day, hot paninis, baguettes or sandwiches with a filling of your choice. All are reasonably priced and made to order – you just give us your order at morning coffee break and your food is ready and waiting for you at lunchtime. We also offer a range of freshly-made healthy boxed salads as a more healthy option. So you can relax and just concentrate on learning English!

The School organizes an optional activity programme all year round for all our students. Leisure is an important part of learning. The trips and sports activities give you the chance to meet your fellow students and once again practise your English. Some of these activities are free of charge and we always try to keep the cost of others as low as possible. All of the trips are accompanied by School guides. Outside the summer, there are organized evening activities with a full-day trip at weekends and a half-day trip on Friday afternoons.

There are visits to the beautiful coast and countryside of the county of Cornwall, as well as to cities of historic interest such as Exeter or Bath. The region is a paradise for walkers. Explore mysterious Dartmoor, setting of the famous Sherlock Holmes story - 'The Hound of the Baskervilles', or visit King Arthur's Castle at Tintagel, or St Ives, with its beautiful beaches and Tate Gallery.

Evening activities include summer barbecues and visits to our fascinating country pubs (some of which are over 800 years old). The School also organizes regular international parties throughout the year, where you have the chance to cook for your fellow students.



Social Programme



Intensive Courses

General English 23

- Elementary to Advanced
- 23 lessons 60 minutes per week
- Maximum 12 students per class
- Minimum age 16
- All year round - minimum 2 weeks

Intensive courses are for students who want to devote as much time as possible to their English studies and maximize their progress during their time in England. Students are placed in classes after an Entrance Test and a brief interview with the Director of Studies or their class teacher. Homework is given daily and students' progress is tested weekly. At the end of the course students receive the Course Certificate and also Recommendations for Future study. Maximum class size is 12 students but outside the summer months the average class size is 5.

Courses can be started on any Monday throughout the year. Lessons are from 9.00 to 12.30 and from 13.30 to 15.30. There are no lessons on Friday afternoons when a half-day excursion is organized. Please note that we close on all UK Bank Holidays, and lessons missed are made up on the other 4 days of the week. Optional trips can be booked on these holidays. When afternoon lessons are over, students wishing to do further private studies can use the self-access room. Students who want to talk about their progress and their study can arrange a counselling meeting with the Director of Studies.

Afternoon Options

It is also possible, given sufficient notice, to combine the 15 morning hours of General English with 8 afternoon hours dedicated to a chosen specialization or sport. Such afternoon options include: business, golf, tourism and tennis, horticulture, sailing or aromatherapy. Please contact the school if you require further details.

Long Stay Courses and Academic Year Programme

For students who intend to follow an intensive course for 12 weeks or longer, significant discounts are offered.

General English 15

- Elementary to Advanced
- Maximum 12 students per class
- All year round - minimum 2 weeks
- 15 lessons of 60 minutes per week
- Minimum age 16

This course is for those who have already started to learn English and want to practise and improve. This is a less intensive courses, which means the students have more free time to play sport, explore the region or just relax! These courses allow you to take best advantage of our varied activities programme.

The course concentrates primarily on speaking and listening, although homework is given to develop writing and reading skills. These courses are most popular during the summer months but are also offered all year round. As with all our courses, the self-access room is always available after classes (15.45) for private study.

Teenager Courses

See our separate Teenager English Courses brochure for vacation courses for 13 to 17 year-olds.

Vacation Courses





Examination Courses

Intermediate to Advanced

- 23 lessons of 60 minutes per week
- Minimum age 16
- Maximum 12 students per class

Exams Prepared:

We prepare students for the following Cambridge Exams:

- IELTS
- Cambridge English: Key (KET)
- Cambridge English: Preliminary (PET)
- Cambridge English: First (FCE)
- Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)
- Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE)

Cambridge English: First and Advanced courses generally commence 12 or 9 weeks before the date of the exam. You will follow a syllabus which has been carefully designed to take you step-by-step up to the required level. You will be carefully monitored through tests and tutorials by your class teacher and the Director of Studies and you will receive homework daily.

IELTS:

Over 6,000 universities and institutions around the world now demand an IELTS score. It has become the world's leading "high stakes test", a test that changes people's lives. A good IELTS score can open the door to a whole new future, and the best preparation can make all the difference. An IELTS course at the Devon School of English will give you the best possible chance of achieving the score you need.

Courses are available throughout the year. Each 4-week course consists of 32 hours of afternoon tuition. The price includes materials plus access to counselling and advice as well as assistance with test entries and university applications.

There are 3 test centres in the area, (Torquay, Exeter, Plymouth) offering test dates all year round. To find the latest test dates visit the IELTS website.

Golf Courses

South Devon is rich in Golf courses. Of these we have chosen: Dainton Park, an 18-hole a 6,200 yard par 71 course. Elevated tees offer stunning views over the surrounding countryside, and wide, inviting fairways follow the natural contours of the landscape; and Dartmouth Golf and Country Club, designed to challenge even the most proficient golfer with its spectacular views over Torbay and the beautiful South Devon Countryside.

- Elementary to Advanced
- Vacation English Course
- Afternoon Golf Package

1. Beginners' Package

Suitable for: Beginners at golf

Golf Programme: An individual package of '1 to 1' lessons, driving range practice and rounds of golf appropriate to the level of the student.

2. Pre-Handicap & Handicap Packages

Suitable for: Those trying to get a handicap and handicap players.

Golf Programme: An individual package of 1 – 1 lessons, driving range practice and playing lessons at Dartmouth Golf and Country Club, weather permitting. The two Devon golf courses at the Dartmouth Golf & Country Club present a challenging contrast;

the 18-hole Championship golf course voted within the top 80 golf courses in Great Britain & Ireland is a test for any golfer, whilst the 9 hole Dartmouth course is one not to be missed.

Please note: the above programmes are for your guidance only. Your golf package will be personally designed around your individual needs assessed when you are here, and will be subject to availability of tee times and instructors

Please note: transport to the golf club can be arranged if you do not have a car (which you can pay for on the day). Golf clubs can be hired from the school. On all of the courses, normal golfing dress is required and golf shoes must be worn.

To book or enquire on any of the English & Golf programmes visit www.devonschool.co.uk

English & Golf





Explore the wonderful
South West of England.

Devon and Cornwall

Paignton is at the heart of the English Riviera.



*“An outstanding
and varied activity
programme is a
highlight for students”*

ISI Report, 2012



English for Business

Tailor-made Courses

The team of teachers are all highly qualified and each has a wealth of knowledge in his/ her chosen field. This enables us to produce the best in “tailor made” courses no matter what the specifications requested - most popular in the last year have been engineering, human resources and marketing. Please ask for any specific area that you wish to study with us.

VIP Courses

- Any level.
- 1, 2 or 3 weeks.
- Flexible Timetable - minimum of 20, maximum of 45 hours of individual lessons per week.
- Social Programme Included.

These are ‘1 to 1’ courses for Senior Managers and Top Executives with little time to spare or important deadlines to meet. Qualified language tutors who are also experts in their professional business field are used on our VIP courses.

Combination Courses

- Intermediate to Advanced
- 28 hours of group lessons per week
(15 hours General + 8 hours Business English + 5 hours ‘1 to 1’).

The flexible approach of these courses is particularly suited to clients who want to maximise their general progress in a short time, whilst also devoting time to specific language areas (e.g. Technical English).

The course gives a balance of study which allows students to practise their English communication skills in a class environment and yet, at the same time, be able to focus on individual difficulties quickly and effectively. General English + Business is also available as a separate course. Additional ‘1 to 1’ hours can be added to all courses if required.

General English and Business

- Intermediate to Advanced
- Minimum age 20
- 23 lessons of 60 minutes per week (15 hours General English + 8 hours Business English)
- Maximum 6 students per class off-peak (8 peak)
- All year round - minimum 2 weeks

This course consists of general classes in the mornings, with special classes that deal with the language of business in the afternoons. The average business class size is 5 outside the summer. At the end of the course, the student receives, in addition to the normal course certificate, a special Business Certificate listing the areas studied during the course.

Business study areas include:

- The Language of International Banking
- Business idioms
- Company Finance
- Skyping & telephoning
- External visits
- Personnel and Selection
- Case Studies
- The Stock Market
- Customer Relations
- Company Organization and Management Structure
- Current economic/financial news items
- Describing graphs and trends
- Import and Export
- Making presentations
- Meetings
- Marketing and Sales
- Customer relations

Topics for business lessons are arranged according to the needs of the individuals in the class. Extra private lessons can be added to cover specific areas of interest.

Teachers' Courses

We run 2-week Courses for Teachers in January, February, April, June and August each year. The content of these group courses depends to a large extent on the requests expressed in the needs analyses forms of the participants. A typical lesson mix would be: language lessons in the morning to develop the teachers' confidence in dealing with questions about English structure, phonology and use, followed by methodological sessions in the afternoon where different approaches, materials and teaching techniques are introduced and practised. Comenius grant funding may be available to some EU teachers for these courses. Please consult your National Agency for details.



How to get to Paignton



Getting to Paignton is easy

We offer a complete travel advisory service that will help you organize your journey. We can book your bus or train tickets, provide timetables or arrange to have a representative meet you on arrival at the airport.

1. National Express Coaches run a direct service from Heathrow, approx. 4.5 hours, with connections to Gatwick and Stansted airports.
2. The Devon School organises an accompanied transfer service to and from London Heathrow airport (the most convenient airport for students travelling to Paignton) on Sundays during the summer. This must be booked in advance.
3. There are fast trains from London (Paddington) to Paignton, journey time approx. 3.5 hours.
4. We can offer a private chauffeur transfer from any of the airports.
5. There are an increasing number of flights to Exeter and Bristol airports - please ask for details of transferring from these regional airports to Paignton.
6. Ferry services operate from France and Spain to Plymouth.

All students, once we have been notified of the arrival time, will be met in Paignton by either the host family or a member of our staff. We make a small administration charge for some services.



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