

CAMP END MANOR

London, England

MAKE THE BRITISH PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM WORK FOR YOUR FAMILY

Former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan said, “Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.”

The value of a good education can never be underestimated and it is probably true to say Britain leads the field in private schools. No fewer than 57 current world leaders and monarchs have been educated in Great Britain and over half of Britain’s CEOs were educated privately in the UK.

South Eastern England has over 100 educational establishments, having the highest concentration of top performing schools in Britain. Property prices reflect this – a property with a number of good schools within easy reach will increase in value faster than those further away. Lucian Cook, Head of Savills Residential Research, backs this statement in his report dated September 2016: “Homes in the vicinity of the top performing independent schools command a 25% premium over the average for their region.”

A house such as Camp End Manor, which is located in St George’s Hill, Surrey, is within easy driving distance of some of Britain’s most prestigious private schools, such as Eton College, Harrow School, Charterhouse and, for girls, Woldingham and St Mary’s Ascot. Families buying property in Surrey can be certain they will be ideally located for mixed and single sex education of the highest standard.

Giving one’s children the best possible education is something most parents strive for, but some may not realise the value of starting this education young, ideally from the age of 5 and 6. Charles Bonas, Co-Founder of leading International tutoring & education specialist Bonas Macfarlane says, “The UK’s top private senior schools (Public Schools) interview children when they are 10 or 11. A child with the benefit of 5-6 years in the British education system will, of course speak fluent English, but more than that they will have been through the preparatory processes and understand the culture, team spirit and the feeling of belonging.”

Bonas continues, “It is hard for a child to be dropped into a public school at 13 if they haven’t had any experience of the system at all. One compromise several of our client families have made is to move to the UK every year from April to August in order for their children (aged 5-13) to join Prep (Preparatory) Schools for the summer term. In one term, and with the benefit of living in the UK for

months at a stretch, children will develop competent English language skills. To continue this process for a few years, making England a family's home for 5 months each summer, means children can take advantage not only of school term-time, but also take part in summer schools and camps."

In Surrey, for example, Charterhouse School offers two summer courses for Chinese students every year, while numerous residential summer programmes are operated at other British public schools such as Radley, Shrewsbury, Winchester Uppingham, and Woldingham by companies such as discoverysummer.co.uk and summerboardingcourses.co.uk. These courses offer multiple activities, English language tuition, and the opportunity for children to explore and develop their skills and to make friends for life.

Parents are wise to look ahead, as far as university, even when their children are fairly young, says Charles Bonas: "Entrance to the top universities, whether in the UK, USA or elsewhere, requires all round skills, not just academic excellence. Universities are looking for people who have genuine long-held interests, even passions. Music, drama, and sport often capture a child's interest when young, but prep (preparatory) and public schools have so much on offer there really is something for everyone. CV building is the key to success; the top universities want all-rounders, not just academics."

It is interesting to note that four of the top ten ranked universities in the world are within two hours of St George's Hill: Oxford, Cambridge, UCL and Imperial. Also, the multiple campuses of the University of the Arts in London probably have the broadest offering in the world for art, design and fashion-related courses.

Choosing a school for children can be a complicated process so it makes sense to consult an education specialist such as Bonas Macfarlane. Charles Bonas first helped Chinese children enrol in British private schools 18 years ago, and has unparalleled experience in advising parents on school selection. Tutoring, consultancy and mentoring are available for parents and children in order to find the perfect school for each child. He says, "The location of the school is important too – London schools are academic but relatively cramped compared to those outside the city; schools in the country have large open spaces and excellent facilities offering a broad range of activities."

Buying a house, such as Camp End Manor on St George's Hill, which is close to a multitude of excellent private Prep and Public Schools, is a sound investment in many ways. The house is close to London, yet surrounded by the rolling English countryside, and has one of the UK's top sports and country clubs on the doorstep. St George's Hill is a cosmopolitan enclave, with families from all over the world living here. Whether living in the UK full-time while children are being educated, or using it as a UK base, Camp End Manor could not be more perfectly located.