

## **GAPPER POSITION**

Summer Fields is one of the leading boarding and day preparatory schools in England. Situated in 70 acres of grounds just over a mile from Oxford city centre, the School offers an exceptional education for boys aged 7 to 13. There are excellent sporting facilities including squash, fives and tennis courts, indoor and outdoor swimming pools and a nine-hole golf course. The boys spend most of the day in the main School, but they sleep in seven Lodges which are organised according to age. The Lodges are run by House Parents who are responsible for the boys' welfare from the end of the school day until first thing in the morning.

Traditionally, Summer Fields has appointed a total of nine Gappers who work for a year from January to December. Gappers play an integral part in the community of Summer Fields and they have a special position as a link between pupils and staff. The essential qualities required of Gappers are adaptability, reliability, initiative, enthusiasm and a positive approach.

Gappers are given a wide variety of duties and responsibilities such as helping out in the classrooms, particularly in Music, Art, PE and Swimming lessons. Although there are certain routine jobs that have to be done, there is also some leeway to allow for individual strengths and interests. Male Gappers will work on the games field and in the sports hall. A Gapper Matron will be attached to one of the Lodges working closely with the House Parents. Lodge duties include helping to look after the boys in the morning and at bedtime, and organising the boys' laundry and clothes. Being so far from home it is important to be busy. The most successful Gappers are those who throw themselves wholeheartedly into the life of the School.

As a Gapper you will receive full board and accommodation during term time, together with a wage or an allowance depending on your type of visa. You will be free during exeat and half-terms, but you will need to be in School for a few days before and after the end of each term to prepare for, and clear up after, the boys. In special circumstances it is sometimes also possible, by arrangement, to use your accommodation for part of the holidays. However, the Gap year does provide a fantastic opportunity for you to use your holiday time as much as possible to travel around Britain and Europe.

Work at Summer Fields has proved for many Gappers an ideal year between school and university. Gappers have the opportunity to work with a small team of other international students of their own age in a close community of staff and pupils. They also have the chance to experience the city of Oxford famous the world over for its University and place in history.