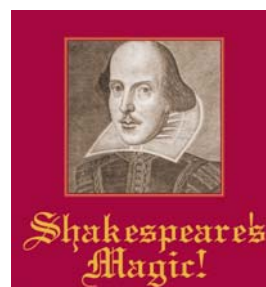


# Shakespeare Encounter

## *An Authentic Experience in Learning English Language and Culture*



Learn English where it takes its fullest form and learn from Shakespeare, who contributed most to it. Learn English in class, on stage, at Shakespeare's birthplace, and by the beautiful River Avon in the heart of England.

- Learn English, learn good English, learn to speak and to write with style.
- Discover the art of the English language through experiencing, exploring and performing Shakespeare's plays and sonnets, under the guidance of world Shakespeare experts.
- Understand stagecraft with the Royal Shakespeare Company.
- Appreciate British culture by living with a British family; becoming independent and gaining respect for new people and a new culture.

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## **A. A Fruitful Course**

### **Learning English, Learning Shakespeare in Stratford**

"Words, words, words." (Hamlet) Learning English and speaking Shakespeare's words can be fun! In Stratford-upon-Avon you will be in the perfect place to improve your language skills and acquire language arts in a friendly and supportive environment.

- ◆ Within two weeks you will be able to speak a Shakespearian sonnet and play a role in a Shakespearian scene.
- ◆ Through regular classes and workshops we will help you to discover Shakespeare's genius and the magic of the stage; you will learn and laugh at the same time.
- ◆ As well as speaking Shakespeare yourself, you will get to see some of the finest Shakespearian actors perform his plays at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, and you will also have the chance to hear actors talk about what Shakespeare means to them.
- ◆ While in Stratford, you will visit the houses in which Shakespeare lived, see the church in which he is buried, and even walk among the flowers that Shakespeare refers to in his works!

This voyage of discovery will open your eyes to the worlds of drama and theatre, and will leave you with a love of Shakespeare that will stay with you forever.

### **Discovering the art of the English language**

Students will receive close guidance on how to appreciate and speak Shakespeare's lines from teachers with the Shakespeare Institute. The programme includes seminars on language skills for Shakespeare's plays, voice workshops, performance workshops, a sonnet workshop, etc. This is a recognised shortcut to the best of the art of English language.

## Understanding stagecraft with the RSC

Students will learn stagecraft with the world-acclaimed Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) through visits to theatres, to the Wigs and Makeup Department, and backstage; Q & A sessions with actors; and talks given by directors. They will experience the magic of the stage and the power of the art of language by studying and performing a play by Shakespeare.

### \* Plays to watch (for the tour arranged for 15<sup>th</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2006)

Romeo and Juliet \*

Julius Caesar \*

Anthony and Cleopatra \*

Much ado About Nothing

Henry VI

King John

The Tempest \*

Garden Play: The Merchant of Venice \*

\* Students will watch four plays together (those with a \*). However, students can also watch other plays by themselves, with parents' permission. Schools and students can also suggest the plays that they want to watch before the tour. Full information can be obtained at <http://www.rsc.org.uk/buyonline/booktickets/calendar/index.aspx?monthDropDown=2006:8:12&location=Stratford&productionid=%20All>

## Learning Good English

Oxford House College (formerly Stratford-upon-Avon School of English), accredited by the British Council and a full member of English UK, offers tour participants an intensive English Course lasting 2 weeks (3 hours per day). The College provides a truly international environment and is renowned for its international student body and communicative teaching methods.

The course will cover:

- pronunciation and intonation,
- public speaking and general speaking skills,
- introductory classes in English literature,
- writing skills.

## Touring like a local

Visits to all Shakespeare sites, Oxford, the Globe Theatre and other landmarks in London and Bath will be organised and guided by experts.

## B. Reputable Organisers

### 1. Oxford House College (formerly Stratford-upon-Avon School of English) <http://www.stratfordschool.com/index.html>

Oxford House College, Stratford-upon-Avon (the College) opened in 1973. The College overlooks the River Avon; it is 400 metres from the town centre and near the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. The College building is very attractive and set in large, tree-lined gardens, including a riverside garden. Students from many countries study at the College, so there is a truly international atmosphere. The atmosphere is informal and friendly, providing an excellent environment for study.

Students participating in Shakespeare Encounter will receive 30 hours of training in English in the mornings, provided by the College. The classes cover general speaking skills, public speaking skills, introductory courses on English literature and writing skills.

**Communicative teaching methods will be used in teaching and a friendly international environment makes learning English a pleasurable and enriching experience. Small groups (8 students on average, maximum 12) mean that teachers can diagnose each student's needs and ensure optimum progress.**

On arrival, students will take a test to measure their ability in English and will then be placed in a group at the appropriate level.

### 2. The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC)

The Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) is one of the best-known theatre companies in the world, operating under its present name since 1961. It is the authority on bringing Shakespeare back to the stage. The RSC will provide workshops and talks by directors for students with Shakespeare Encounter. Students will also have the rare opportunity to visit the Wigs and Makeup Department of the RSC as well as going backstage. They will be able to attend four performances by the RSC.

### **3. Nebula Group Limited (Shakespeare i-Learner)**

<http://www.i-learner.com.hk/shakespeare>

Nebula Group Limited, with its strong team of former university lecturers and school English teachers, is committed to promoting Shakespeare in Hong Kong.

### **4. Forceten Limited (HK travel agent licence no. 351195)**

<http://www.forceten.com.hk>

Forceten has developed its expertise and reputation through its 16 years of serving a demanding international clientele. Its focus is on creating and proposing tailor-made itineraries for travel worldwide.

It has extensive experience in organising group tours. It has hosted student group tour for the School of Design of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and company tour for Nestle Co Ltd, etc.

## C. Professional Guides and Mentors

Ms Clare Smout, Dr Pete Orford, Mr Jeremy Bull, the teaching staff of Oxford House College, and Ms Mandy Chan will be in charge of the workshops and seminars for Shakespeare Encounter, 2006.

### A One to Eight Ratio

Each group of 16 students will be closely guided by two professionals. These professionals have tour guide certification as well as experience in teaching English. These professional tutors and mentors will accompany participants full-time throughout the tour.

**Ms Clare Smout**, BA (Oxon) is the coordinating tutor for this tour. A first honours graduate from Oxford, Clare continues her love of literature and theatre at the Shakespeare Institute and her own theatre company, where she is artistic director. Clare also teaches Shakespeare and organises workshops for international students at Birmingham University. Her wish is to promote Shakespeare to the general public as well as people from around the globe.

### **Dr. Pete Orford**, MA, PhD (Shakespeare Institute)

Dr Pete Orford is an experienced content writer for students learning English as a second language. He is also a young Shakespearian who is keen on promoting Shakespeare to students from different cultures.

### **Ms Mandy Chan**, B. Soc. Sci. MSc. (University of Hong Kong)

Mandy has several years' teaching experience in tertiary institutions in Hong Kong. She has also organised several large-scale events for school students.

# Host Family Arrangements

Stratford-upon-Avon is popular with many students because it is a safe town in which to live.

Oxford House College (the College) has built a reputation for the high quality of its home stay accommodation. It is accredited by the British Council. This means it is regularly inspected by the British Council, and meets the strict criteria required for accreditation. One of the main areas of inspection is Student Welfare, which includes accommodation arrangements.

Students will stay with carefully selected home stay families, who will provide accommodation and breakfast and dinner. There, students will feel very much at home and will be able to practise their English in friendly surroundings, where they will learn more about the English way of life.

There are more than 100 families in the register of home stay providers from which our participants can choose. This host family register has accumulated gradually over the last 30 years, and many of these families have been having students as guests in their homes for many years. They are used to welcoming students from different parts of the world, including students from the Far East. All these families are local and live within walking distance of the language school. **Students do not need to use buses or other public transport to get to school or theatre.**

The College inspects the families and all students fill in a home stay feedback form at the end of their course, building up a picture of how students feel about their home stay. Feedback is almost always very good.

The College's Accommodation Secretary, Shirley Betteridge, is very experienced and is in regular contact with our home stay families. She matches students with the most suitable home stay, according to their indicated preferences. Shirley has been working for the College for 8 years, and knows all the families well.

# Other Support Services

## Pre-tour

### 1. Briefing session

Students who have confirmed that they are joining the tour by the end of April will be given an introduction to Shakespeare's language and to the four plays that they will watch in Stratford. They will also meet their course leaders at the briefing session. A booklet with details about the course, the town of Stratford-upon-Avon, and the host family; a 24-hour emergency telephone number; and all necessary notes relating to the tour is provided to the students. The proposed date for the briefing session is 2 weeks before the tour.

### 2. Packing checklist

A packing checklist will be given to students who join the tour. It will give guidance on packing for their summer stay in Stratford and for their courses there. They will be reminded of the deadlines for applications for passports or visas.

### 3. Air tickets

The flight will be direct to London. Students will receive their air tickets in June. There will be one free ticket and free accommodation for a teacher who joins the tour.

### 4. Accommodation

Students can indicate their accommodation preferences. If no preferences are indicated, students will be assigned to stay with local families in pairs. All of the families are within three to ten minutes' walk from the College, theatre and town centre. Parents will receive the addresses and telephone numbers of the families two weeks before the tour. Students are advised to learn to cook at least one Chinese dish and to take one gift representing Chinese culture so that they can exchange cultures with their host families.

### 5. One week before the tour

Students will be phoned individually by our ambassadors on the preparations for the tour. Our ambassadors will also confirm the 24-hour emergency telephone number with parents.

## 6. On the first day of the tour

Our course leaders meet the students at Hong Kong International Airport and the journey is about to start.

## During the Tour

### 1. Airport Transfer

On arrival at Heathrow International Airport in London, a private coach will take the students and course leaders directly to Oxford House College. Students will then be accompanied to their host families individually.

### 2. Transport

Students do not need to take any transport during their stay in Stratford. The theatres are within walking distance. A private coach will be provided for all excursions.

### 3. Meals

Students have breakfast and dinner with their host families. Students need to inform the course leaders of any special requirements for meals and food. Students are encouraged to have the British breakfasts and dinners with their host families, and to share our Chinese cooking and culture with their hosts.

Students will have their lunch in the little bustling town of Stratford, and in so doing will have the chance to immerse themselves in the local culture. The cost for a lunch is about 2 to 5 pounds.

### 4. Telephoning

Students will telephone their families in Hong Kong on their arrival in Stratford. They will receive a 5-pound phone card with which to phone home occasionally. Parents can call our 24-hour hotline which is provided in the booklet and will be confirmed one week before the tour.

### 5. Course Materials

Students do not need to prepare any course materials except for necessary stationery. They may wish to buy copies of the plays that they are going to watch in the evenings if they want to know the plays better. Each play costs about 4 pounds. Cheaper copies can be obtained from second-hand bookstores.

## 6. Libraries and Internet Services

Students will be able to get a free library card for the community library. They can borrow books and tapes from the library. They can also use the Internet services in the library as well as at the language school. Students also have access to the valuable library at the Shakespeare Centre.

## 7. Lessons and Workshops

Students who are under 16 will join the International Camp and mix with students from other countries. Students aged 16 or above will join the international classes and mix with young people from other countries. In other words, students will not mix with their schoolmates from Hong Kong during the morning lessons.

Students will join together in the Shakespeare workshops. Together, they need to give a performance of an excerpt of a play by Shakespeare. The course leader will accompany the students during the day.

## 8. Theatres

Students will spend four evenings at the theatre watching plays during their stay in Stratford. Director's talks and pre- and post-play discussions will be organised so that students can become experienced theatregoers.

## 9. Safety

Stratford-upon-Avon is a safe town. Its size and its concentration of facilities make it very safe for students to attend the theatre in the evenings. The long summer evenings in England add to the security. Host families will report any case of a student not arriving back at the expected time to the course leaders, who will take immediate follow-up action.

## 10. Excursions

All the excursions will take place during the day after students have breakfasted. Students will be back at their host families' homes for dinner. They will have their lunch with the course leaders during the excursions.

## 11. Fees

The price of the tour is inclusive of most expenses. Students need only pay for their lunches. All other fees, e.g. transport, tickets, snacks, course materials, are included in the price. The fee is inclusive of:

1. 2-week intensive English Course
2. 2 weeks of Shakespeare and theatre workshops

3. Tickets and theatre workshops (4 shows)
4. Home stay (breakfast and dinner included)
5. Air tickets (British Airways, direct flight Hong Kong-London-Hong Kong)
6. Excursions to London and Oxford/Bath and airport transfer
7. Long-distance phone card (one hour)
8. Tax and insurance

## 12. Sickness and Accidents

Parents will be informed of any sickness or accidents immediately. Students will be sent to a hospital or clinic nearby.

## Post-tour

1. Parents can pick up their children at the Hong Kong International Airport at the set time.
2. If parents choose to join their children in England, they are invited to pick them up in London or in Stratford on the last day of the tour. The air tickets can be extended.
3. Students will be invited to give performances for their schoolmates and at events open to all schools. They will be invited to join our Shakespeare programmes, which include public performances, sonnet and essay competitions, quizzes, "Shakespeare ambassadors", etc.

Tentative arrangements for activities are as follows (all students from participant schools are welcome, priority will be given to tour members):

September 2006: A video show and mini-exhibition about students' experiences in the UK is held at school and students share their experiences in the UK with their schoolmates.

September-November 2006: Play reading and workshops (about 2 sessions and can cater for about 15 students) by the Shakespeare Society of Hong Kong.

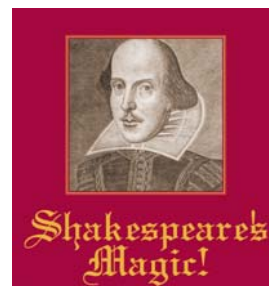
September-October 2006: Sonnet and Essay Competition (for all students in Hong Kong), organised by the Shakespeare Society of Hong Kong.

November 2006: 5-8 Shakespeare ambassadors are selected to promote Shakespeare in Macao. These ambassadors are automatically included in the list of candidates for the Shakespeare Scholarship, sponsored by Nebula Group Limited.

December 2006 (optional, needs school's support): a public performance.

# Shakespeare Encounter

Summer 2007



## REGISTRATION FORM

### Personal Information

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Passport Information

Passport No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Full name as it appears on passport: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

### Emergency Contact Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (day): \_\_\_\_\_ (evening): \_\_\_\_\_

### Home Stay (You can tick more than one.)

Without pets  Vegetarian  Single room  
 Without male family members  Others \_\_\_\_\_

### Special Attention

stay-behind \_\_\_\_\_  special medical attention \_\_\_\_\_  
 special diet attention \_\_\_\_\_  other issues worth attention \_\_\_\_\_

### Signatures

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- 
- Please return the completed form to Miss Trinky Chan by post or in person. The address is: **4A Capri Building, 130 Austin Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong**. You should also enclose the following:
    - 3 recent photographs (passport size)
    - a copy of the student's valid travel document
    - Registration fee of HK\$1,000 – a crossed cheque or a copy of the deposit/transfer receipt (The registration fee will be returned if the application is unsuccessful. If the application is successful, the registration fee will count towards the course fee.)
  - Methods of Payment:
    - a crossed cheque made payable to **Nebula Group Limited**
    - deposit or transfer to the account of Nebula Group Limited:  
Hong Kong Bank account No.: **636-474702-001**

**Nebula Group Limited (i-Learner)**  
4A Capri Building, 130 Austin Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong  
3113 8815 (Hong Kong hotline); 646 1513 (Macau hotline); [trinky@i-learner.com.hk](mailto:trinky@i-learner.com.hk)

# Shakespeare Encounter

## 邂逅莎士比亞

Summer 2007

### 團員及家長關注問題解答

#### 1. 英國七八月時的天氣好嗎？

英國天氣最好的時候便是夏天了 – 有點像香港的秋天，氣溫大概是 20 度左右，乾燥，日照長，天色到 8 時左右才會暗下來。學生要準備夏天的衣物的同時，也要準備保暖的外套。英國的教室和家庭一般沒有冷氣設備。

#### 2. 到了英國之後，我的孩子會住在那裡？安全嗎？

學生將住宿本地家庭。這些家庭都有長期照顧不同文化的學生的經驗，而且一直信譽良好。如果學生對住宿家庭有特別要求，可以在報名時提出，我們會盡力照顧學生的需要。

出發前，我們將會與當地住宿家庭聯絡妥當，而家長會收到學生將會入住的家庭的聯絡電話和地址。到埗後，隨團導師會隔天探訪各家庭，務求令到各同學可以住得開心和得到適當的照顧。

#### 3. 師生比例是多少？

每個老師會照顧最多 8 個學生。而上課的時候，每個老師會照顧大概 8 至 12 個學生。

#### 4. 到達英國後，膳食和洗衣等會如何安排？

到英國後，學生會被安排入住當地的家庭，當地的家庭會為學生提供早餐和晚餐，膳食以西式為主。學生能在住宿家庭中一起分享中西不同的飲食文化。但均衡營養和學生的個別情況也是我們要求當地的家庭安排膳食之考慮因素。午飯則由學生在鎮中心自由購買。

住宿家庭的家長會教學生如何洗衣和乾衣。學生可自由使用住宿家庭的洗衣機及燙斗。

#### 5. 學生要帶多少零用錢？

一般來說，每天的午餐大概用 2 至 4 鎊，加上其他的，例如明信片郵票等，100 英鎊便足夠了。學生如有其他的需要，家長可以為學生自備適當的金錢。

## 6. 晚上的治安有多好？

Stratford 是一個很細小很安全的小鎮。我們在當地晚上主要的活動是看莎士比亞歌劇。在 Stratford-upon-Avon 看莎劇，比在香港到文化中心看話劇更安全。無論住宿在那個家庭，學生只要步行五至十分鐘，便可到達劇院。而看劇的人很多，學生也會結伴出入。住宿的家庭照顧學生的出入情況。

## 7. 家長如何聯絡子女？

每個學生于抵埗後，會獲發一張儲值電話咭，以致電回家報平安。學生可以在住宿家庭（需先徵得同意）選擇使用電話咭或對方付款方式致電回港。家長如須聯絡輔導員或子女，可致電住宿家庭或我們的緊急電話。緊急電話號碼會於出發前通知家長。但正常情況下，本中心並不鼓勵家長經常與子女通電話，以免影響孩子投入遊學旅程。

## 8. 如何照顧有特別醫療需要的子女？

學生如須服用某種醫生處方藥物（如哮喘藥），請于報名時詳細列明病歷，方便老師及當地學校及家庭加以照顧。家長必須為子女準備足夠整個行程之藥物用量，並帶備病歷副本。隨團導師將會帶備急救藥品，但學生亦應帶備醫生處方的適當藥物。所有個人常用或備用之藥物，必須清楚寫上藥物之正確名稱、用量、有效期以及使用方法，以便當地醫護人員跟進。倘若學生發生任何意外或疾病，老師將立刻通知家長或監護人，以作出適當之協助。

## 9. 在完成所有的課程之後，我的孩子會有任何的證書證明嗎？

學生在完成所有的課程之後，將會分別收到由 Oxford House College 及香港 I-Learner 發出的課程證書。表現優異的還會獲頒優異證書。

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### 主辦機構

a) Oxford House College

<http://www.stratfordschool.com/index.html>

b) Nebula Group Limited (i-learner project)

<http://www.i-learner.com.hk/shakespeare>

c) Forceten Limited (Hong Kong Travel Agent Licence No. 351195)