

Getting Settled Guide

Your new life in England



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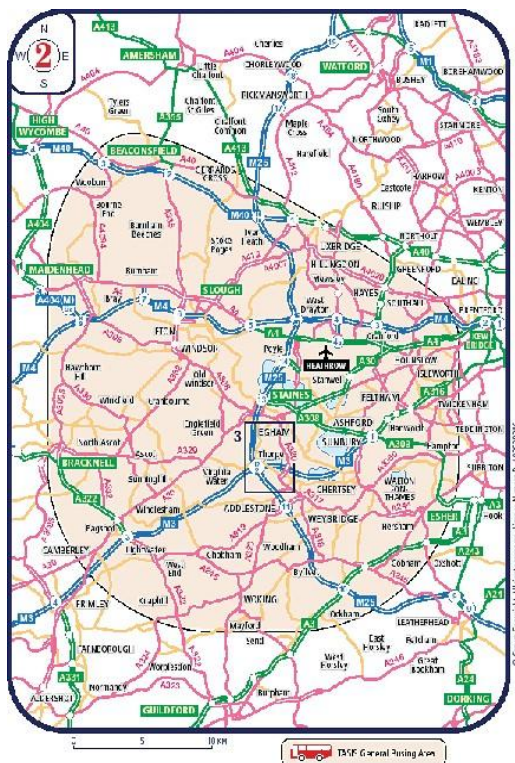
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YOUR NEW LIFE IN THE TASIS ENGLAND AREA

All information and links contained here were current at the time this document was compiled. TASIS The American School in England cannot endorse specific businesses or individuals.

The options are listed to augment and facilitate your own investigations. Please consider all options carefully before making important decisions based on this limited information. If you find that any information listed here is in error, please contact communications@tasisengland.org.

TOP TASIS TOWNS



Virginia Water
Weybridge
Ascot
Walton-on-Thames
Egham
Sunningdale
Richmond
Englefield Green
Windsor
Woking
Sunninghill
Windlesham

These are the most popular towns among TASIS families because of their locations. Information about each town can be found in the Top Tasis Towns section, beginning on page 10.

I. FINDING A HOME

The following websites provide listings of properties, including descriptions and prices, available within a particular town or postcode. Typically, you can narrow your search by number of bedrooms, price range, etc. These websites are not affiliated with a particular estate agency:

www.onthemarket.com

www.rightmove.co.uk

www.primelocation.com

www.zoopla.co.uk

ESTATE AGENTS

Rental properties are referred to as “lets,” and agents with rentals are “letting agents.” There is no multi-listing of available properties in England. The websites noted above do show listings for several agencies, but the information is not always the most current. Each estate agent shows its own properties and negotiates the highest possible rent to benefit the landlords or owners. You will need to contact each agency individually to learn about its properties. Lettings agencies may also list properties in nearby towns (e.g., Weybridge/Walton-on-Thames; Sunningdale/Windlesham; Ascot/Sunninghill).

LETTINGS AGENTS IN THE TOP TASIC TOWNS

Virginia Water

Barton Wyatt	01344 843000	www.bartonwyatt.co.uk
Buckingham	01344 845050	www.buckingham.com
Carr’s Lettings	01344 842876	www.carrslettings.com
Chancellors	01344 876487	www.chancellors.co.uk

Weybridge

APW Exclusively Lettings	01932 645520	www.apwproperty.com
Curchods	01932 823625	www.curchods.com
Grants Independent	01932 841020	www.grantshomes.co.uk
Hamptons International	01932 645388	www.hamptons.co.uk
Jackson-Stops & Staff	01932 859355	www.jackson-stops.co.uk
John D Wood	01932 645122	www.johndwood.co.uk

Leaders	01932 850030	www.leaders.co.uk
Martin Flashman & Co	01932 857711	www.martinflashman.co.uk
Savills	01932 838020	www.savills.co.uk
Winkworth	01932 854400	www.winkworth.co.uk

Ascot

Carr Williams	01344 876666	www.carr.co.uk
Chancellors	01344 872909	www.chancellors.co.uk
Knight Frank	01344 624732	www.knightfrank.co.uk
Strutt & Parker	01344 371555	www.struttandparker.com

Walton-on-Thames

Curchods	01932 221122	www.curchods.com
Gascoigne-Pees (Esher)	01372 390442	www.gpees.co.uk
Leaders	01932 242442	www.leaders.co.uk
Martin Flashman & Co	01932 227788	www.martinflashman.co.uk

Egham

Hodders	01784 770461	www.hodders.net
Nevin & Wells	01784 437437	www.nevinandwells.co.uk
Townends	01784 773320	www.townends.co.uk
Your Move	01784 431226	www.your-move.co.uk

Sunningdale

Chancellors	01344 876487	www.chancellors.co.uk
Hamptons International	01344 568150	www.hamptons.co.uk
Romans	01344 404718	www.romans.co.uk
Savills	01344 626162	www.savills.co.uk
Townends	01784 434304	www.townends.co.uk
Winkworth	01344 291639	www.winkworth.co.uk

Richmond

Chancellors	0208 940 2255	www.chancellors.co.uk
Fine & Country	0208 334 4778	www.fineandcountry.com
Gascoigne-Pees	0203 369 4310	www.gpees.co.uk
Hamptons International	0203 369 4516	www.hamptons.co.uk
Jackson-Stops & Staff	0208 940 0066	www.jackson-stops.co.uk
John D Wood	0203 151 5480	www.johndwood.co.uk
Knight Frank	0208 023 6504	www.knightfrank.co.uk
Savills	0208 614 9100	www.savills.co.uk

Englefield Green

Aspen	01784 433696	www.aspenestateagents.co.uk
Fine & Country	01784 438951	www.fineandcountry.com

Windsor

Fine & Country	01752 255555	www.fineandcountry.com
Hamptons International	01753 415266	www.hamptons.co.uk
Marshall's Property Services	01753 794606	www.marshall'sproperty.co.uk
Romans	01753 847222	www.romans.co.uk
Savills	01753 834600	www.savills.co.uk

Woking

Chancellors	01483 770701	www.chancellors.co.uk
Fine & Country	01483 668199	www.fineandcountry.com
Foxtons Woking	01483 434445	www.foxtons.co.uk
Grants Independent	01483 776977	www.grantshomes.co.uk
Leaders	01483 883900	www.leaders.co.uk
Martin & Co	01483 727757	www.martinco.com

Sunninghill

Beverley Williams & Associates	01344 874300	www.beverleywilliams.co.uk
Sapphire Estates	01344 870100	www.sapphire-estates.com

Windlesham

Newton Rowe	01276 585007	www.newtonrowe.co.uk
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Some letting agents offer corporate home search services and relocation support. The following agents cover the Greater London area, including Berkshire and Surrey:

Hamptons International	020 7758 8499	www.hamptons.co.uk
Knight Frank	020 7629 8171	www.knightfrank.co.uk
Savills	0207 016 3751	www.savills.co.uk
Winkworth	020 3764 1464	www.winkworth.co.uk

RELOCATION COMPANIES

If your company does not provide the services of a relocation agent, you might consider hiring one yourself. Local relocation firms are more familiar with the area and may provide more personalized service. If you choose a larger, London-based company that can

offer a broader range of services, ask for an agent who can provide Surrey/Berkshire specific knowledge.

The Association of Relocation Professionals (ARP) is the professional body for the relocation industry in the United Kingdom and Ireland. A directory of relocation providers, as well as firms offering specialist relocation services, can be found on their website: www.arp-relocation.com. Some of the agencies that TASIS families and their companies have used include:

LOCAL (BERKSHIRE) COMPANIES

Clearview Relocation (Newbury)	01635 239040	www.clearviewrelocation.com
Relocation Support Services (Maidenhead)	01628 631111	www.relocationsupport.co.uk
Sterling Lexicon (Newbury)	01635 271271	www.sterlinglexicon.com
The Relocation Consultancy (Reading)	01189 470029	www.therelocationconsultancy.com
TTA Relocation Management Consulting (Ascot)	01344 627247	www.relocation-uk.com
TTH-Curzon Relocation (Reading)	01491 874322	www.tthcurzonrelo.co.uk

LONDON-BASED COMPANIES

Brookfield Global Relocation Services	0207 920 3700	www.brookfieldgrs.com
Citrus Relocation	0203 303 3208	www.citrusrelocation.com
Crown Relocations Limited	0203 697 8484	www.crownrelo.com
Hampton Relocation	07960 113376	www.hamptonrelocation.co.uk
SIRVA Relocation	0208 784 0100	www.sirva.com
Sterling Lexicon	0208 841 7000	www.sterlinglexicon.com

COMPANIES BASED IN OTHER AREAS

SIRVA Relocation (Swindon, Wiltshire)	01793 606500	www.sirva.com
Spencer How Relocation (Great Missenden, Bucks)	01494 867500	www.spencerhow.co.uk
The Relocation Bureau (High Wycombe, Bucks)	01494 816650	www.reloburo.com

II. INTERIM LIVING

LOCAL HOTELS

Anchor Hotel (Shepperton)	01932 242748	www.anchorhotel.co.uk
The Bridge Hotel (Chertsey)	01932 565644	www.bridgehotelchertsey.com
Brooklands Hotel (Weybridge)	01932 335710	www.brooklandshotelsurrey.com
Coworth Park (Ascot)	01344 876600	www.coworthpark.com
The Crown Hotel (Chertsey)	01932 564657	www.crownchertsey.co.uk
De Vere Beaumont Estate (Old Windsor)	01753 640000	www.devere.co.uk
Foxhills Country Club & Resort (Ottershaw)	01932 704500	www.foxhills.co.uk
Great Fosters (Egham)	01784 433822	www.alexanderhotels.co.uk
Doubletree by Hilton (Woking)	01483 221000	www.doubletree3.hilton.com
Macdonald Berystede Hotel & Spa (Ascot)	01344 623311	www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk
Macdonald Windsor Hotel	03448 799101	www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk
Mercure London Staines upon Thames Hotel	01784 334800	www.mercure.com
Oatlands Park Hotel (Weybridge)	01932 847242	www.oatlandsparkhotel.com
Royal Berkshire (Sunninghill)	01344 623322	www.exclusive.co.uk
The Runnymede on Thames (Egham)	01784 220600	www.runnymedehotel.com
Ship Hotel (Weybridge)	01932 848364	www.shiphotel.co.uk
The Swan Hotel (Staines)	01784 452494	www.swanstaines.co.uk
Warren Lodge (Shepperton)	01932 242972	www.warrenlodgehotel.co.uk

LOCAL BED AND BREAKFASTS

The Oatlands Chaser (Weybridge)	08451 551551	www.theoatlandschaser.co.uk
The Royal Standard (Virginia Water)	01344 841837	www.theroyalstandard.co.uk
Thorpe Accommodation (Staines)	01932 560629	www.bedandbreakfastdirect.co.uk

LOCAL SHORT TERM APARTMENT RENTALS

Clarendon Wraysbury Hall Apartments (Staines)	01784 489200	www.clarendonlondon.com
Egham Apartments	01784 473939	www.eghamapartments.co.uk
Finchlea Estates Limited (Ascot/Sunninghill/Windsor)	01753 591559	www.finchleaestates.com
Room Space (Bracknell/Staines)	0208 944 3662	www.roomspace.com
The Apartment Network (Chertsey/Staines/Sunninghill/ Weybridge/Windsor/Woking)	0203 7437336	www.apartmentnetwork.co.uk

FURNITURE RENTAL

Furniture rental companies provide a convenient solution while you wait for your furniture and housewares to arrive or take your time shopping for new pieces. Many companies offer short- and long-term rental options.

Fully Furnished Group (Ascot)	01784 449988	www.fullyfurnished.com
Roomservice by CORT (Chessington)	0208 131 5324	www.roomservicebycort.com

CONCIERGE SERVICE

Ardagh Consulting	07867 387485	www.ardaghuk.com
Greycoat Lumleys	0207 233 9950	www.greycoatlumleys.co.uk
The Homemover Specialists Ltd		www.thehomemover.co.uk
- Berkshire	01344 723292	
- Surrey	01483 255895	

LOCAL MOVING COMPANIES

Paul's Removals	0800 054 9996	www.pauls-removals.com
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III. GETTING AROUND

1. TAXIS

Some train stations have taxis available when you arrive. If not, you can book a taxi from one of these local companies.

TIP: If you need to accommodate more than three or four passengers and/or large pieces of luggage, inform the taxi company at the time of booking.

Egham:

Airport Taxi Service	01784 461444	www.knightanddaytaxi.com
Crown Cars	01784 611400	
Egham Cars	01784 434484	www.eghamcarslimited.co.uk
Luna Cars	01784 558119	www.lunacarsegham.co.uk

Sunningdale/Ascot:

Ascot/Sunningdale Airport Taxis	01344 206373	www.ascottaxi.co.uk
Ascot Cars	01344 297297	www.ascot-cars.com
Atlas Cars	01344 874874	www.atlascarsltd.com
Sunningdale Taxis	Online booking	www.sunningdaletaxis.co.uk

Virginia Water:

Virginia Water Taxis	01344 534154	www.virginiawatertaxis.co.uk
Wentworth Cars	01344 874888	www.wentworthcars.com

Walton-on-Thames:

A1 Walton Taxis	01932 222212	www.waltontaxi.org
Swan Cars	01932 230830	www.swan-cars.com
Walton Taxi Service	01932 222224	www.taxiwaltononthames.co.uk

Weybridge:

AGM Cars, Weybridge Station	01932 858585	www.agmcars.co.uk
A1 & EdenCars	01932 830830	www.a1andedencars.co.uk
Airport Taxis Weybridge	01932 848484	www.taxiweybridge.co.uk

2. EXECUTIVE CAR SERVICE/CHAUFFEUR

AGM Cars	01932 820160	www.agmcars.co.uk
DriveChauffeur	01483 725155	www.drivechauffeur.co.uk
Surrey Chauffeur Travel	01483 600443	www.surreychauffeurtravel.co.uk
Virginia Water Cars	01344 842500	www.vwcuk.com

3. CAR RENTAL (HIRE)

TIPS:

- You must specifically ask for an automatic car, otherwise you may be given one with a manual transmission.
- You may be able to rent a car with GPS, which will tell you exactly where to turn and drive while you become accustomed to the area and driving on the left-hand side of the road. Alternatively, consider using the Waze app.

4. CAR PURCHASE/LEASE

If your company does not provide a car for your family's use, carefully consider your options for acquiring a car in England. You might be quite accustomed to driving large cars in other countries, but they can have a number of drawbacks in the UK. These include higher insurance rates, significant fuel costs, and difficulty in parking, as most car parks (parking lots) have small spaces and narrow lanes for maneuvering.

If you are on an expat assignment for only a few years and you are interested in a new car, you might consider leasing as opposed to purchasing outright. This has a number of benefits, including the ability to turn the vehicle in at the end of your assignment without having the hassle of selling it yourself.

Many other families find used cars to be viable options:

A. Used Car Listings

Auto Trader Magazine available at newsagents and online:
www.autotrader.co.uk

B. Used Car Dealers:

Alexander David Motor Co Ltd (Chobham)	07721 666910	www.alexanderdavid.co.uk
Carcraft (multi-dealer listings)	Online only	www.carcraft.co.uk
MJA Car Sales (Walton-on-Thames)	01932 509949	www.mja-cars.co.uk

C. Used Car Brokers:

Jerry Wagstaff	01276 855552	
Carcraft (multi-dealer listings)	Online only	www.carcraft.co.uk
webuyanycar.com	Online only	www.webuyanycar.com

TOP TASIS TOWNS

In this section, there is general information on a number of the small towns and villages in the TASIS area. The towns are arranged in order of “popularity,” with the first having the largest contingent of current TASIS families. The order may vary slightly from year to year.

Virginia Water
Weybridge
Ascot
Walton-on-Thames
Egham
Sunningdale
Richmond
Englefield Green
Windsor
Woking
Sunninghill
Windlesham

Please Note:

On the following Top TASIS Towns pages, TASIS England bus services run door-to-door and times are approximate. Pick-up time depends on traffic and whether you are the first, middle, or last pick-up on the route. Afternoon departures from school are 3:20 p.m. daily and 5:15 p.m. on Monday to Thursday (no late bus on Friday). Time of drop-off depends on traffic and where your home is on the route.

In addition, train times within the Top TASIS Towns section are as published by Southwest Trains (southwesttrains.co.uk).

VIRGINIA WATER

www.virginiawater.co.uk

COUNTY: SURREY

Approximate Travel Times:

Bus to TESIS 10-25 minutes

Train to London Waterloo 45-55 minutes

Drive time to TESIS 5-8 minutes

BEST FEATURES:

Closest town to TESIS

Large international community with TESIS friends

Large parks nearby: Virginia Water Park, Windsor Great Park, etc.

Secure, gated communities with leisure facilities

Close to golf and tennis clubs

SMALL MARKETS:

Budgens

SUPERMARKETS (nearby):

Sainsbury's (Staines and Chertsey)

Waitrose (Egham and Sunningdale)

Tesco (Egham)

Aldi (Chertsey)

Lidl (Staines)

DOCTORS' OFFICES (SURGERIES):

Packers Surgery 01344 842951

DENTAL OFFICES:

Langley's Dental Centre 01344 842953

Glebe House Dental Care 01344 844507

Harewood Dental 01344 842476

SPORTS FACILITIES:

Foxhills (Ottershaw) [Gala Sponsor](#) www.foxhills.co.uk

Golf, Tennis, Fitness, Swimming, Squash, Dining, Spa, Hotel, Youth Club

Wentworth Club
Golf, Tennis, Fitness, Swimming, Dining

www.wentworthclub.com

NEARBY:

Egham Orbit Leisure Centre
Fitness, Tennis, Squash, Kids Zone

www.achievelifestyle.co.uk

The Runnymede on Thames (Egham)
Fitness, Tennis, Swimming, Spa, Dining, Hotel

www.runnymedehotel.com

WEYBRIDGE

www.allaboutweybridge.co.uk

COUNTY: SURREY

Approximate Travel Times:

Bus to TASIS 35-55 minutes

Train to London Waterloo 29-40 minutes

Drive time to TASIS 15-25 minutes

BEST FEATURES:

Fast train commute to London (2 fast trains per hour. 2 local trains)

Large international community with TASIS friends

Close to A3/M25 – easy access to many places, bigger shopping towns

Close to supermarkets

SMALL MARKETS:

Crockford Bridge Farm Shop

SUPERMARKETS:

Waitrose

Tesco Superstore (Brooklands & Addlestone)

Marks & Spencer (Brooklands) Sainsbury's (Walton and Cobham)

Morrison's

DOCTORS' OFFICES (SURGERIES):

Rowan Tree Practice. 01932 828200

Church Street Practice 01932 504450

Prime Health 01932 504999

DENTAL OFFICES:

Portmore Dental Practice 01932 855011

G.W.T. Bryant 01932 857585

Weybridge Dental Practice 01932 853556

Laurence J. Lando 01932 858686

The White Dental Company 01932 846115

Weybridge Orthodontics. 01932 831825

SPORTS FACILITIES:

David Lloyd (Brooklands) www.davidlloyd.co.uk/clubs/veybridge-brooklands

Fitness, Squash, Swimming, Spa

St. George's Hill Golf Club www.stgeorghillgolfclub.co.uk
Golf, Pro Shop, Dining

St. George's Hill Lawn Tennis Club www.stghltc.co.uk
Tennis (lawn, indoor, and outdoor), Squash, Fitness, Swimming, Spa, Dining

Weybridge Lawn Tennis Club www.veybridgeltc.com
Small, friendly tennis club for players of all standards and ages; coaching for adults and juniors

The Weybridge Health Club & Spa www.theweybridgeclub.com
Fitness, Swimming, Tennis, Spa, Café

NEARBY:

Foxhills (Ottershaw) [Gala Sponsor](#) www.foxhills.co.uk
Golf, Tennis, Fitness, Swimming, Squash, Dining, Spa, Hotel, Youth Club

River Bourne Health Club (Chertsey) www.rbhealthclub.co.uk
Fitness, Swimming, Spa, Café

Hersham Golf Club (Walton-on-Thames) www.hershamgolf.com
Golf, Academy, Pro Shop, Dining

The Wisley (Woking) www.thewisley.com
Private, shareholder-member golf club

COUNTY: BERKSHIRE

Approximate Travel Times:

Bus to TESIS	30-35 minutes
Train to London Waterloo	54-61 minutes
Drive time to TESIS	15-25 minutes

BEST FEATURES:

Small town with many amenities on the High Street
Nearby cinema (Bracknell)
Close to Windsor Great Park
Excitement of famous Ascot horse racing
Odeon cinema
Easy walk into town

SMALL MARKETS:

Budgens
Tesco Express

SUPERMARKETS:

Tesco (Martin's Heron)
Waitrose (Sunningdale)
Sainsbury's (Bracknell)

DOCTORS' OFFICES (SURGERIES)

Ascot Medical Centre & Radnor House Surgery	01344 874011
Green Meadows Surgery	01344 621628
Kings Corner (Sunninghill)	01344 623181

DENTAL OFFICES

Frankel Dental Care	01344 297001
Ascot Dental Surgery	01344 885797

SPORTS FACILITIES:

Ascot United Football Club www.ascotunited.net
Players of all ages (from age five) and all levels of ability welcome

Lavender Park Golf Centre www.lavenderparkgolf.co.uk
Golf (nine hole, informal), Bar, Snooker

Mill Ride Golf & Country <i>Golf, Pro Shop, Dining</i>	www.mill-ride.com
Royal Ascot Golf Club <i>Golf, Academy, Pro Shop, Dining</i>	www.royalascotgolfclub.co.uk
The Fitness Space <i>Fitness, Sports Therapy, Rehabilitation</i>	www.thefitnessspace.com
NEARBY:	
Berystede Hotel and Spa Health Club (Sunninghill) <i>Fitness, Swimming, Spa</i>	www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk
Egham Orbit Leisure Centre <i>Fitness, Tennis, Squash, Kids Zone</i>	www.achievelifestyle.co.uk
Foxhills (Ottershaw) Gala Sponsor <i>Golf, Tennis, Fitness, Swimming, Squash, Dining, Spa, Hotel, Youth Club</i>	www.foxhills.co.uk
Royal Berkshire Health & Racquets Club (Bracknell) <i>Tennis, Squash, Fitness, Swimming, Spa</i>	www.virginactive.co.uk
Wentworth Club (Virginia Water) <i>Golf, Tennis, Fitness, Swimming, Dining</i>	www.wentworthclub.com

WALTON-ON-THAMES

www.walton-on-thames.org

COUNTY: SURREY

Approximate Travel Times:

Bus to TESIS 35-55 minutes

Train to London Waterloo 25-36 minutes

Drive time to TESIS 15-30 minutes

BEST FEATURES:

Centrally located between London, Leatherhead, and TESIS with fast, direct trains to Waterloo

Newly developed shopping area with a good selection of restaurants for families; beautiful riverside walks and tow path trail

Many neighborhoods with TESIS families

Easy access to large shopping towns (Woking, Guildford, Kingston)
Cinema

SUPERMARKETS:

Sainsbury's Aldi Waitrose

Tesco Superstore (Brooklands)

Marks & Spencer (Brooklands)

DOCTORS' OFFICES (SURGERIES):

Ashley Medical Practice 01932 252425

Fort House Surgery 01932 253055

Walton Health Centre 01932 228999

DENTAL OFFICES:

Ashley Road Dental Surgery 01932 220111

Meads Dental Practice (Esher) 01372 464929

Walton Dental Surgery 01932 225748

Walton Park Dental Practice 01932 220449

SPORTS FACILITIES:

Burhill Golf Club

www.burhillgolf-club.co.uk

Golf, Academy, Pro Shop, Dining

Elmbridge Xcel Leisure Complex www.placesforpeopleleisure.org
Fitness, Swimming

Hersham Golf Club (Walton-
on-Thames) www.hershamgolfclub.com
Golf, Academy, Pro Shop, Dining

Walton on Thames Lawn www.waltontennis.org.uk
Tennis Club
Volunteer-run club with indoor and outdoor courts and LTA endorsed programs; children and adults welcome

Walton & Hersham Football Club www.waltonandhershamfc.org.uk
Home of semi-professional football team; also offers youth programs

NEARBY:

Foxhills (Ottershaw) [Gala Sponsor](#) www.foxhills.co.uk
Golf, Tennis, Fitness, Swimming, Squash, Dining, Spa, Hotel, Youth Club

St. George's Hill Golf Club www.stgeorghillgolfclub.co.uk
(Weybridge)
Golf, Pro Shop, Dining

St. George's Hill Lawn Tennis www.stghlts.co.uk
Club (Weybridge)
Tennis (lawn, indoor, and outdoor), Squash, Fitness, Swimming, Spa, Dining

The Weybridge Health Club & Spa www.theweybridgeclub.com
Fitness, Swimming, Tennis, Spa, Café

David Lloyd (Brooklands) www.davidlloyd.co.uk/clubs/weybridge-brooklands
Fitness, Squash, Swimming, Spa

The Wisley (Woking): www.thewisley.com
Private, shareholder-member golf club

EGHAM & ENGLEFIELD GREEN

www.egham.org.uk

www.inglefieldgreen.org.uk

COUNTY: SURREY

Approximate Travel Times:

Bus to TESIS 25-40 minutes

Train to London Waterloo:

(via Virginia Water) 45-55 minutes,

(via Egham) 41-59 minutes

Drive time to TESIS 5-15 minutes

BEST FEATURES:

Close to TESIS

Close to Windsor Great Park and the town of Windsor

Located just off the A30 and easy access to the M25

SMALL MARKETS:

Spar & Budgens (Egham)

SUPERMARKETS:

Tesco (Egham)

Sainsbury's (Staines)

Waitrose (Staines and Egham)

DOCTORS' OFFICES (SURGERIES):

The Health Centre 01784 437671

Dr. Seyedi 01784 433380

Grove Medical Center 01784 432191

DENTAL OFFICES:

Egham Dental Care 01784 472444

www.eghamdentalcare.co.uk

See Virginia Water for additional dental offices

SPORTS FACILITIES:

Egham Orbit Leisure Centre
Fitness, Tennis, Squash, Kids Zone

www.achievelifestyle.co.uk

Royal Holloway Sports Centre

www.royalholloway.ac.uk/sports

Spelthorne Leisure Center Staines

www.everyoneactive.com/centre/spelthorne-leisure-centre

NEARBY:

The Runnymede on Thames (Egham)

www.runnymedehotel.com

Fitness, Tennis, Swimming, Spa, Dining, Hotel

Foxhills (Ottershaw) [Gala Sponsor](#)

www.foxhills.co.uk

Golf, Tennis, Fitness, Swimming, Squash, Dining, Spa, Hotel, Youth Club

Wentworth Club (Virginia Water)

www.wentworthclub.com

Golf, Tennis, Fitness, Swimming, Dining

Windsor Leisure Centre (Windsor)

www.leisurecentre.com/windsor-leisure-centre

Fitness, Swimming, Indoor Water Park, Youth Sports

SUNNINGDALE

www.sunningdale.org.uk

COUNTY: BERKSHIRE

Approximate Travel Times:

Bus to TESIS 20-35 minutes

Train to London Waterloo 54-58 minutes

Drive time to TESIS 15-20 minutes

BEST FEATURES:

Close to TESIS

Large international community with TESIS friends, Virginia Water Park/Windsor Great Park nearby

A30, wide roads for easy driving and access to shopping

SUPERMARKETS:

Waitrose (Sunningdale & Bagshot)

Sainsbury's (Bracknell)

Tesco (Martin's Heron, Camberley, Ascot)

Marks & Spencer (Camberley)

DOCTORS' OFFICES (SURGERIES):

Magnolia House 01344 637800

Kings Corner (Sunninghill) 01344 623181

Ascot Medical Centre 01344 874011

DENTAL OFFICES:

Sunningdale Dental Practice 01344 620526

Sunninghill Dental 01344 291744

SPORTS FACILITIES:

Sunningdale Golf Club www.sunningdale-golfclub.co.uk
Golf, Pro Shop, Dining

Sunningdale Ladies Golf Club www.sunningdaleladies.co.uk
Golf, Pro Shop, Dining, Gentlemen accepted as associate members

NEARBY:

Berystede Hotel and Spa Health Club (Sunninghill) www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk
Fitness, Swimming, Spa

Egham Orbit Leisure Centre www.achievelifestyle.co.uk
Fitness, Tennis, Squash, Kids Zone

Foxhills (Ottershaw) www.foxhills.co.uk **Gala Sponsor**
Golf, Tennis, Fitness, Swimming, Squash, Dining, Spa, Hotel, Youth Club

Royal Berkshire Health & Racquets Club (Bracknell) www.virginactive.co.uk
Tennis, Squash, Fitness, Swimming, Spa

The Runnymede on Thames (Egham) www.runnymedehotel.com
Fitness, Tennis, Swimming, Spa, Dining, Hotel

The Fitness Space (Ascot) www.thefitnessspace.com
Fitness, Sports Therapy, Rehabilitation

Wentworth Club (Virginia Water) www.wentworthclub.com
Golf, Tennis, Fitness, Swimming, Dining

Windlesham Golf Club (Bagshot) www.windleshamgolf.com
Golf, Academy, Pro Shop, Dining

RICHMOND

www.richmond.gov.uk

COUNTY: A LONDON BOROUGH

Approximate Travel Times:

Bus to TASIS	55-60 minutes
Train to London Waterloo	19-30 minutes
Drive time to TASIS	30 minutes

BEST FEATURES:

Close to the center of London, Hampton Court, Kew Gardens

Large number of parks and open spaces, including Richmond park, the largest of London's Royal parks

Many up-market shops, restaurants, cinemas, museums, galleries, and theatres

Attractive, small-scale, city-feel

SMALL MARKETS:

Richmond Farmers' Market, Saturdays in Heron's Square

Tesco Metro

Marks & Spencer Simply Food (train station)

Waitrose Mini

SUPERMARKETS

Sainsbury's

Waitrose

Asda

Marks & Spencer

Whole Foods

MEDICAL CARE:

Teddington NHS Walk-in Centre	02087 144004
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Fulham NHS Urgent Care Walk-in Centre	02033 133833
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The Vineyard Surgery	02089 480404
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Seymour House Surgery	02089 403228
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DENTAL OFFICES

Perfect Smile	02089 405006
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The Park Dental Clinic (East Sheen)	02088 765088
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SPORTS FACILITIES

Richmond Hill Health Club

www.richmondhillhealthclub.co.uk

Fitness, Squash

NEARBY:

Lensbury Club (Teddington)

www.lensbury.com/leisure

Fitness, Swimming, Racquet Sports, Watersports Centre

(offering a variety of craft: culling boats, kayaks, canoes, and a choice of sailing dinghies, Clubhouse, Gardens, and Entertainment)

Twickenham Fitness & Wellbeing Centre –Nuffield Health

(Twickenham)

www.nuffieldhealth.com/gyms/twickenham

Fitness, Swimming, Café

Virgin Active (Twickenham)

www.virginactive.co.uk/clubs/twickenham

Fitness, Climbing Wall, Swimming, Lounge

WINDSOR

www.windsor.gov.uk

COUNTY: BERKSHIRE

Approximate Travel Times:

Bus to TASIS	30-45 minutes
Train to London Paddington	29-44 minutes (from Central Station)
Train to Waterloo	60 minutes (from Riverside Station)
Drive time to TASIS	20-30 minutes

BEST FEATURES:

Rich in history
Close to Windsor Castle and Windsor Great Park
Pedestrian area with many shops and restaurants
Close to the Thames, Eton, and Legoland
Several gardens and parks, ideal for family activities
Easy commute to Waterloo, Paddington, Reading, and Slough

SMALL MARKETS:

Windsor Farm Shop
Multiple corner markets

SUPERMARKETS:

Sainsbury's (Maidenhead, Slough)
Tesco (Windsor and Slough)
Waitrose (Windsor)

DOCTORS' OFFICES (SURGERIES):

Clarence Medical Centre	01753 865773
Sheet Street Practice	01753 860334

DENTAL OFFICES:

Dr. Kneebone (Orthodontist)	01753 868754
Windsor Road Dental Practice	01753 536619

SPORTS FACILITIES:

Windsor Leisure Centre www.leisurecentre.com/windsor-leisure-centre

Fitness, Swimming, Indoor Water Park, Youth Sports

Windsor Lawn Tennis Club www.wltc.co.uk
Tennis, Lounge, Physiotherapy

The Windsor Club www.thewindsorclub.co.uk
Health, Fitness, Squash

WOKING

www.woking.gov.uk

COUNTY: SURREY

Approximate Travel Times:

Bus to TASIS	40-55 minutes
Train to London Waterloo	24-50 minutes
Drive time to TASIS	20-30 minutes

BEST FEATURES:

Regular non-stop trains to and from London Large shopping areas with indoor mall Newly renovated town center

Performing arts theatre featuring major productions, including many West End performances; arts and heritage center; multiplex cinema; largest public library in Surrey— newly renovated and updated Royal Horticultural Society world-class gardens at Wisley

SMALL MARKETS:

Sainsbury's mini-store in town center mall

Open market in town center for fresh produce

SUPERMARKETS:

Morrisons

Sainsbury's (Knaphill)

Waitrose (Goldsworth Park)

DOCTORS' OFFICES (SURGERIES):

Walk-in Centre at Woking Community Hospital	01483 846209
York House Medical Centre	01483 760014
Hillview Medical Centre	01483 766333
Sunny Mead Surgery	01483 766699
Southview Surgery	01483 766609
Greenfields Surgery	01483 771171

DENTAL OFFICES:

The Retreat	01483 761777
Mrs. Mackie, Orthodontist	01483 726488

SPORTS FACILITIES:

David Lloyd www.davidlloyd.co.uk/clubs/woking
Largest indoor tennis club in Surrey, Fitness, Swimming

Hoebriidge Golf Centre www.hoebridgегc.co.uk
Golf (public), Fitness, Dining

Woking Football Club www.wokingfc.co.uk
Local football team and sports stadium with children's soccer schools

Woking Leisure Centre www.freedom-leisure.co.uk
Fitness, Squash, Spa, Café

The Wisley www.thewisley.com
Private, shareholder-member golf club

NEARBY:

Foxhills (Ottershaw) [Gala Sponsor](#) www.foxhills.co.uk
Golf, Tennis, Fitness, Swimming, Squash, Dining, Spa, Hotel, Youth Club

SUNNINGHILL

www.sunninghill.org.uk

COUNTY: BERKSHIRE

Approximate Travel Times:

Bus to TASI	25-35 minutes
Train to London Waterloo	54-58 minutes (from Sunningdale)
Drive time to TASI	15-25 minutes

BEST FEATURES:

Close to Ascot and Windsor

Small village with shops, restaurants, and pubs

Local theatre with amateur drama company The Quince Players

Walking distance to Windsor Great Park

SMALL MARKETS:

Londis

Budgens (Ascot)

Tesco Express (Ascot)

SUPERMARKETS:

Waitrose (Sunningdale, Bagshot)

Sainsbury's (Bracknell)

Tesco (Camberley)

Marks & Spencer (Camberley)

DOCTORS' OFFICES (SURGERIES):

King's Corner 01344 623181

Magnolia House (Sunningdale) 01344 673800

Radnor House (Ascot) 01344 874011

DENTAL OFFICES:

Sunninghill Dental 01344 291744

Sunningdale Dental Practice 01344 620526

SPORTS FACILITIES:

Berystede Hotel and Spa

www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk

Health Club Fitness, Swimming, Spa

NEARBY:

Ascot United Football Club (Ascot) www.ascotunited.net
Players of all ages (from age five) and all levels of ability welcome

Foxhills (Ottershaw) [Gala Sponsor foxhills.co.uk](http://foxhills.co.uk)
Golf, Tennis, Fitness, Swimming, Squash, Dining, Spa, Hotel, Youth Club

Royal Ascot Golf Club www.royalascotgolfclub.co.uk
Golf, Academy, Pro Shop, Dining

Sunningdale Golf Club (Sunningdale)
www.sunningdale-golfclub.co.uk
Golf, Pro Shop, Dining

Sunningdale Ladies Golf Club (Sunningdale)
www.sunningdaleladies.co.uk
Golf, Pro Shop, Dining, Gentlemen accepted as associate members

The Fitness Space (Ascot) www.thefitnessspace.com
Fitness, Sports Therapy, Rehabilitation

Wentworth Club (Virginia Water) www.wentworthclub.com
Golf, Tennis, Fitness, Swimming, Dining

Windlesham Golf Club www.windleshamgolf.com
Golf, Academy, Pro Shop, Dining

WINDLESHAM

COUNTY: SURREY

Approximate Travel Times:

Bus to TESIS	25-35 minutes
Train to London Waterloo (via Sunningdale)	54-58 minutes
Drive time to TESIS	12-15 minutes

BEST FEATURES:

Easy drive to TESIS
Small village with an active community
Easy access to the A30, M3

SUPERMARKETS:

Waitrose (Sunningdale, Bagshot)

DOCTORS' OFFICES (SURGERIES):

King's Corner	01344 623181
Magnolia House (Sunningdale)	01344 673800
Radnor House (Ascot)	01344 874011

DENTAL OFFICES:

Orchard Cottage Dental Surgery (Lightwater)	01276 474702
Sunninghill Dental	01344 291744
Sunningdale Dental Practice	01344 620526

SPORTS FACILITIES:

Windle Valley Runners www.windlevalley.com
Welcomes members of all abilities to join in training runs and social events

Windlesham Golf Club www.windleshamgolf.com
Golf, Academy, Pro Shop, Dining

NEARBY:

Berystede Hotel and Spa Health www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk
Club (Sunninghill)
Fitness, Swimming, Spa

Foxhills (Ottershaw) www.foxhills.co.uk
Gala Sponsor
Golf, Tennis, Fitness, Swimming, Squash, Dining, Spa, Youth Club, Hotel

Lightwater Leisure Centre (Lightwater) www.lifestylefitness.co.uk
Fitness, Tennis, Football

Pennyhill Park www.exclusive.co.uk/pennyhill-park
Spa, Fitness, Tennis, Hotel, Dining

Wentworth Club (Virginia Water) www.wentworthclub.com
Golf, Tennis, Fitness, Swimming, Dining

ASSISTANCE WITH SETTLING: THE EMOTIONAL AND PRACTICAL SIDES OF RELOCATION

The TASIS community of staff and families is very supportive and understanding of the transitions that students and their families are making. Many have appreciated the support and “soft landing” provided to families who are joining our community.

TASIS PARENTS ASSOCIATION (TPA)

The TPA is a group of parent volunteers established to promote the goals and objectives of TASIS; help maintain close relationships within the TASIS community; and facilitate communications among the parents, students, faculty, and staff of TASIS. Every parent of a current TASIS student is automatically a member of TPA.

Once your children are enrolled, you will be assigned a “Buddy Family” by our TPA Buddy Family Coordinator. Your Buddy Family will aim to assist you in many ways to ease your adjustment to life in England and school life at TASIS.

The TPA coordinates several key programs and events throughout the year such as the August Back-to-School Welcome Picnic, seasonal celebrations, and parent socials. For further information, contact TPAPresident@tasisengland.org

PARENTS’ INFORMATION AND RESOURCE COMMITTEE (PIRC)

PIRC is a group of volunteer parents from all three sections of the School who provide support to TASIS England parents, faculty, and administration as we cope with the emotional, social, and practical issues inherent in the transitions of expatriate life and/or changing schools. Throughout the year, PIRC will host various opportunities to help your family transition to TASIS and to life in England. At the beginning of the school year, our main aim is to help you make connections with other families, share experiences, and provide you with a warm welcome as you join our TASIS England community. PIRC hosts the following seminars, coffees, and walks throughout the school year:

Transition & Adjustment addresses the transition stages of an international move, effects of culture shock, stress responses, and suggestions to help every family member make a successful adjustment.

Refreshed and Recharged - Welcome Back for Returning Parents celebrates the accomplishments and explores the challenges that returning families face each school year.

Survive and Thrive provides practical information and recommendations regarding life in the TASIS England area.

Driving in the UK Seminar gives parents an opportunity to learn from a qualified driving instructor about what it takes to drive comfortably in the UK and how to begin the process of getting your UK license.

Mid-year Orientation for New Families offers parents joining the TASIS England community mid-year the same resources provided in our fall settling-in seminars in a condensed version.

Navigating the University Application Process – Upper School parents are invited to a session with a parent panel to learn more about the college application process from a TASIS parents' perspective. The panel of parents will share their experiences regarding university visits, application strategies, and other personal advice.

Moving On! Staying Here! & Somewhere in Between offers helpful advice to guide families through difficult situations such as coping with your fast-approaching next move, or helping you or your child deal with the departure of a best friend.

Parent Peer Group Coffees are grade-level “meet and greets” giving parents another opportunity to connect with other parents of children who are the same age, share concerns about parenting, adjustment, and development issues, and discuss successes and solutions.



PIRC RESOURCES

The following information has been compiled by PIRC. All information and links are subject to change.

Please note that PIRC does not endorse any of the services listed. They are suggestions of potential resources, many of which have been used and/or suggested by our community.

Please investigate the options yourself before making any important decisions. Further information will be provided at the PIRC Survive and Thrive meeting in the autumn.

PREPARING FOR AN INTERNATIONAL MOVE

Relocating to a new country can be exciting, but also overwhelming and stressful. PIRC and the TASIS community know exactly what you're going through - sometimes you laugh, sometimes you cry, and sometimes you just shake your head. Accepting that things may be different and coming with an open mind and positive attitude will go a long way in helping you prepare for your move and settling in once you arrive.

1. **INTERNATIONAL APPLIANCES**

In England the standard voltage is 230 V and the frequency is 50 Hz. You can use your electric appliances in England if the standard voltage in your country is in between 220 - 240 V (as it is in the UK, Europe, Australia, and most of Asia and Africa). Appliances with different voltage may be used if the proper transformer and/or adapter is used. Transformers can be expensive, so you should consider buying some UK appliances upon arrival instead of trying to bring everything with you. Appliances with synchronized motors such as hair dryers, and curling/ flat irons that do not have the same voltage, should not be used because of the difference in frequency.

Generally, if a device from another voltage has been designed to create heat, it will require an expensive transformer (e.g., toasters, griddles). Stereo and television electronics do not require particularly expensive transformers. Other light electronics such as power tools and electric mixers are usually not a problem either.

To determine the correct size transformer needed, check the power rating of an appliance. Power ratings on electric appliances are indicated in "watts" or kilowatts: 1 kilowatt is equal to 1,000 watts. On some appliances, amperes are used instead of watts. To find the power rating in watts, multiply the number of amperes by the voltage of the appliance. For instance, an appliance marked 3 amperes, 110 volts, has a power rating of 330 watts. Use a transformer rated at least 10% higher than the wattage of your

appliance. For example, a 1,000-watt transformer powers a 750-watt appliance.

Transformers are available at tlc-direct.co.uk and at many local electrical shops. TESIS families may be able to purchase used transformers, as well as many small British appliances, via the TESIS TPA Facebook page where items can be listed to buy or sell.

Lamps need a plug adapter and will require UK light bulbs. Gas grills can be used with adapters that are available from local garden center shops, like Longacres or Wyevale.

2. WHAT SHOULD I STOCK UP ON BEFORE I LEAVE HOME?

Shops in England now carry many products familiar to other nationalities. There are some things you might want to bring that will make your transition smoother and surroundings more familiar. Home leaves, business trips back home, and visitors from home are good sources for products, but it is nice to have a supply for the start.

FOOD

Bring some of your family's favorite non-perishable food items, spices, and seasonings. Foods that taste familiar can help reassure everyone while you acquire new tastes and favorites. Local shops that carry International foods are: Longacres (Bagshot); Costco (Reading, Farnborough, or Sunbury). There are many other international food shops that our community would love to share with you - just ask about what you're looking for on the TPA Facebook page.

BEDDING

If you bring your beds, you may need to bring all your bedding and linens as well. Bed sizes can be different in the UK from other countries such as the U.S.

TIP: Houses, staircases, and bedrooms can be much smaller in English homes than in other countries. When choosing your new

home in the UK, be sure to confirm that your beds will fit up the staircase and/or in the room if bringing them from abroad. Headboards and frames may also not fit in secondary bedrooms.

MEDICINES

You may want to consider bringing some over-the-counter medicines that you are familiar with from home for the first few weeks after arrival (e.g., Tylenol, Advil, children's medicine) and/or a surplus of prescription medications or vitamins from your home country as it's not always possible to find the same medications or strength of vitamins (such as vitamin D, iron, etc.). You will soon adapt to what is offered in England, but taking this concern away for the first few weeks after arrival may make the transition easier.

CLOTHING

School uniform items are available from the TASIS Student Centre (www.tasisuniforms.co.uk). Clothing in the UK may fit differently from what you are accustomed to, and sizes may be different. Consult your Sectional Handbook and consider stocking up on basics from your home country before you leave, especially underwear, socks, pajamas, shoes, backpacks, trousers, skirts, etc. You will quickly learn where to go for these items locally and everything can be found here, but having some staples to start with may help ease your transition.

3. WHAT SHOULD I NOT BRING?

School supplies! Because paper size is different in the UK, papers, notebooks, and binders from other countries may not be compatible.

The Lower School distributes all necessary school supplies to students.

The Middle and Upper Schools will notify students of supplies needed. Plan to buy these materials once you arrive in the UK. See the Shopping section of this guide for suggestions.

4. **HOW DO I ARRANGE TO BRING MY PETS TO THE UK?**

Rules vary depending on the type of animal and the country or territory where the pet originates. Many pets will need to be micro-chipped and vaccinated. Please consult the following website for detailed information: www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad

5. **SUMMER ACTIVITIES**

For families arriving during the summer, camps, summer programs, and clubs can be a good way for you and your children to meet others while participating in fun activities. TASIS England typically offers the following:

Summer Day Camp (Ages 5-13) – August

Enrichment and academic courses (Ages 11-17) – 3 or 6 weeks, June through August

Les Tapies Art & Architecture Program (South of France)
(Ages 13-18) – 2 weeks, July through August

More information can be found at: www.tasisengland.org/Summer

LOCAL EXPAT ORGANIZATIONS



AWBS International Women's Club Celebrating Inclusiveness and Friendship

AWBS International Women's Club is a sisterhood of international and local women living in Berkshire and Surrey, who come together to enhance their UK experience through fun and fulfilling volunteer-run activities. They offer their members cultural, social, learning, business, and philanthropic activities and events. With over 300 members, 32 monthly activities, and 80+ volunteers, they keep their members active, engaged, and connected. AWBS has had a strong relationship with TASIS for decades. Join the club and see how much fun living in England can be! To find out more, visit www.AWBS.org.uk – your "go-to" tool for information and membership!



American Women of Surrey International Women's Group Proudly celebrating our 45th Anniversary

AWS International Women's Group is an organization of like-minded women from around the world, who have settled for a short time in the Cobham area and who seek to make purposeful connections with each other while also providing philanthropic support to both local and global charities. We provide a warm, inclusive, and inviting environment that values kindness and respect. We empower and support new, established, and alumni Expat women through an action-packed social calendar filled with fun and informative events and opportunities. Philanthropy is the core of AWS International Women's Group and our sustained support makes a meaningful difference in the lives of local families. To find out more, visit www.awsurrey.org.

LAND AND PEOPLE

The UK is situated north-west of the European continent between the Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea. It has a total area of 244,100 square kilometers, of which nearly 99% are land and the remainder inland water. From north to south it is about 1,000 kilometers long.



The UK is part of Europe but exited from the European Union (EU) on January 31, 2020. At the time of printing, the UK is still in a period of transition and more information can be found at:
www.gov.uk/transition

The official name of the UK is the "**United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.**" The name refers to the union of what were once four separate nations: England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland. Before 1922, the UK included Ireland in the definition, but when the Irish Free State ceased to be part of the Union, the title changed to "Northern Ireland." Ireland is now independent. Only Northern Ireland is still part of the UK.

The United Kingdom is made up of the following nations:

- England The capital is London.
- Scotland The capital is Edinburgh.
- Wales The capital is Cardiff.
- Northern Ireland The capital is Belfast.

Great Britain is made of up the following nations:

- England
- Scotland
- Wales

The United Kingdom (UK) was formed on January 1, 1801 and constitutes the greater part of the British Isles. People in the UK are called British although they have different nationalities.



The Union Flag, popularly known as the Union Jack, is the British flag and symbolizes the union of the countries of the UK. It is made up of the individual flags of three countries in the Kingdom – England, Scotland, and Ireland. The Welsh dragon, however, does not appear on the flag – when the first Union Flag was created in 1606, Wales was already united with England since the 13th century, and therefore considered a Principality instead of a Kingdom.



The flag of St. George, representing the country of England, will also be seen, particularly around major sporting events. Some care around not attributing the Union Jack to England alone will avoid any unintentional offense to those from the other countries in the UK.

Note: To find out more, see www.projectbritain.com

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Dial 999 for any emergency (Police, Fire, and Ambulance)

Works from landlines and from locked, local mobile phones

Dial 112 for any emergency in the UK and abroad

Works from all mobile phones

Dial 111 for Non-emergency NHS Medical Help - A registered nurse will answer your call

For Non-Emergency Police Reports or Information Dial 101

Surrey Police (for Surrey residents) www.surrey.police.uk

Thames Valley Police (for Berkshire Residents)

www.thamesvalley.police.uk

TASIS The American School in England www.tasisengland.org

Main Number	01932 565252	
Health Centre/ Nurse	01932 582353	nurse@tasisengland.org
Lower School	01932 582427	lsoffice@tasisengland.org
Middle School	01932 582336	msoffice@tasisengland.org
Upper School	01932 565252	usoffice@tasisengland.org
Upper School Attendance	01932 582311	attendance@tasisengland.org
Security Office - Mobile	01932 582339 07768 947201	security@tasisengland.org

MEDICAL CARE

You may sign up with the National Health Service (NHS) as well as keeping private insurance as a back-up option. The following websites may help you find a surgery (doctor's office) or a consultant (specialist) :

National Health Service	www.nhs.uk
Directory of Consultants and GPs	www.specialistinfo.com

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (NHS)

- Available to everyone who is a resident in the UK (and tourists on an emergency call basis only.)
- You should register with your local NHS clinic even if you choose private healthcare as well. Your NHS GP (General Practitioner) and your private GP must be separate, and you can utilize both services. Check www.nhs.com for available NHS clinics near you and then phone them to enquire if you are in their catchment area and if they are accepting new patients.
- Registration of new NHS patients varies by clinic/surgery. Call ahead. Ask what they require for paper work. They usually require the entire family to come in, to register in person, and often require identification and proof of residence.
- Funded through tax dollars, the NHS Provides free healthcare services such as doctor appointments, some vaccinations, eye exams and glasses for children, hospital stays, home visits, maternity care, lab tests, and X-rays.
- Prescriptions are free to children under 16 years, women over 60, and men over 65 and subsidized and inexpensive for everyone else.
- Under the NHS, the GP is the only one with the authority to refer a patient to a consultant (specialist).
- Visit www.livi.co.uk OR the livi app for medical advice, GP appointments, and referrals.

PRIVATE HEALTH CARE

- Many expats have private health care available through their employers. Check the policy; sometimes a specialist consultant

treatment is only covered if referred by a GP, other policies do not require that.

- You can also arrange for private health care on your own. There are a number of companies that provide private health insurance (e.g., Bupa, AXA PPP).
- Check also for international private health insurance, which you are entitled to as an international expat. This might give you certain advantages. Check for topics such as pre-existing conditions, emergency evacuation, outpatient treatment, or preventative medicine.
- Most doctors (known as GPs) and specialists take both NHS and private patients. The biggest difference is TIME. You can often jump to the front of the queue if being seen privately and have a better choice of when you get an appointment and choice of consultant.

PHARMACIES/CHEMISTS

- Generally, most towns or larger villages have a pharmacy. Check your local parade of shops. Many large supermarkets also have pharmacies located within their stores.
- Your local chemist can often offer medical advice and provide other services such as flu jabs, blood pressure checks, etc.
- The following brand equivalents are often available over the counter, or even at the supermarkets, but sometimes you may need to ask the pharmacist:
 - Ibuprofen = Nurofen, Cuprofen, Brofen
 - Acetaminophen / Paracetamol = Panadol, Disprol, Ticymol, Calpol
 - Band-aid = Plaster

DENTAL CARE

- Find a dentist:
www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/dentists/how-to-find-an-nhs-dentist/
www.bda.org/findapractice
- Some dentists provide NHS care and some do not.
- You are automatically entitled to free dental care from an NHS

dentist if you are under 18 or pregnant when the dentist accepted you for treatment.

- Dental cleanings, fluoride treatments, fillings, crowns, etc. are not free under the NHS.
- When you make an appointment with a dentist, he or she will only examine your teeth. Further services, such as dental cleanings, will require a separate appointment with a technician/hygienist. Try to book dental appointments and cleanings back-to-back.
- Water is not fluoridated in the UK, but fluoride tablets are available at any chemist.

FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

- Dial 999 for emergency assistance, in cases of major trauma, accidents, or life-threatening situations.
- Emergency departments at hospitals are referred to as A&E (Accident & Emergency). Not all hospitals have A&E departments (emergency rooms). Locate your nearest hospital with an A&E upon arrival just in case it's needed.
- There are both NHS and Private hospitals. Many private hospitals are not as well equipped for life-threatening emergencies off the streets. For these, you should use the nearest NHS hospital with an A&E.

Local hospitals with 24-hour A&E departments:

St. Peter's Hospital, Guildford Road, Chertsey KT16 0PZ
01932 872 000

Frimley Park Hospital, Portsmouth Road, Camberley GU16 7UJ
01276 604 604

The Royal Berkshire Hospital, London Road, Reading RG1 5AN
01183 225 111

Wexham Park Hospital, Wexham Street, Slough SL2 4HL
01753 633 000

Royal Surrey County Hospital, Egerton Road, Guildford GU2 7XX
01483 571 122

NHS Urgent Care / Walk-in Centers (WICs) - No appointment needed

Bracknell Urgent Care Center, Eastern Gate, Brants Bridge,
RG12 9BG

Slough Walk-in Center, Albert Street, SL1 2BJ

Ashford Walk-in Center, London Road, Stanwell, Ashford, TW15 3FE

Woking Walk-in Center, Heathside Road, GU22 7HS

BANKING

Try to open bank accounts on your initial visit to the UK as it takes time to establish accounts and credit cards, order checks, arrange to transfer money, and set up payroll deposits.

If your company provides assistance opening a bank account, it may be possible to have it open before you move into your new home. It is often easier to open an account with the same bank your employer uses. A letter from your employer to the bank will facilitate opening the account.

If opening an account on your own, you will need a passport, proof of local address (such as a utility bill in your name), and recent bank statements or other proof of solvency.

Major banks with multiple local branches are:

Barclays	www.barclays.co.uk
HSBC	www.hsbc.co.uk
Lloyds	www.lloydsbank.com
Nat West	www.natwest.com
Santander	www.santander.co.uk

Banks with specific expatriate support for individuals include:

Barclays International Banking	01624 684444	www.internationalbanking.barclays.com
Citibank International	02075 001992	www.citibank.co.uk
Metro Bank	03450 808500	www.metrobankonline.co.uk
NatWest Expatriate Banking	01245 355628	www.natwestinternational.com

TIPS:

- When setting up a joint account, you can specify that a non-salaried spouse should also have access to account information and the ability to authorize transactions. This facilitates banking when a salaried spouse is out of town or unavailable at work.
- Most families keep a bank account in their home country. For quick access to money on arrival, you can withdraw money from your home account using your ATM/debit/cashpoint card from that account. Exchange rates and bank fees are often lower than at other currency exchange locations. However, there is a limit to how much you may withdraw on one day.
- Obtain credit cards in your home country and/or the UK in your own name to establish your own credit rating. American Express does issue cards to existing account holders in good standing in pounds or euros. These cards may be tied to rewards programs like Nectar. Call American Express customer services to ask about specific programs, but be aware that not everyone in the UK accepts American Express.
- Call your home country credit card companies and inform them where you are now living and also when you travel to other countries. They may deny you credit if they think your card has been stolen.

TELEPHONE, MOBILE PHONE, INTERNET SERVICE, AND TELEVISION

Selecting a phone, mobile, television, and Internet service provider can be a daunting activity since information and rate plans change frequently.

Upon arrival, you may wish to buy a calling card (available widely) to make international phone calls.

Before or once you are in your home, you will need to arrange to activate your phone line, broadband, and television connection. When you establish service, you can sign up for long distance

packages with inexpensive international rates. Skype, Vonage, and other such services offer the least expensive long distance communication options. Apps such as WhatsApp and Viber allow you to make free international calls.

There are a number of websites that review the best plans for phone, mobile, broadband, and television services, if purchased separately or as a package. For example:

broadbandchoices.co.uk

comparethemarket.com/broadband-phone-tv/

THE MOST COMMON SERVICE PROVIDERS

BT	0800 100 400	www.bt.co.uk
Sky Talk	0800 151 2427	www.sky.com
Virgin Media	0800 052 0422	www.virginmedia.com
TalkTalk	0800 049 1375	www.talktalk.co.uk
Vonage	0800 608 5590	www.vonage.com

To make a call within the UK dial:

Area Code (usually starts with 01 or 02) + phone number. For example, to call TASIS, dial 01932 565 252.

To make an international call from the UK, dial:

00 + Country Code+ phone number. For example:

USA 00 + 1 + area code + 7-digit number

France 00 + 33 + 9-digit number

TIP

Many service providers will only speak with the account holder, therefore, you may want to ensure both spouses/partners are named on the accounts. When this isn't possible, consider opening accounts under the non-salaried spouse's name or the partner who is likely to be making the most enquiries. The person listed on the bills will be the only one who can call to enquire or make changes to services.

Additionally, the non-salaried spouse will need his/her name on at least one utility bill to sign up at many locations such as the library or Costco warehouse store.

MOBILE (CELL) PHONE

To get a new mobile (cell) phone, there are three things to consider: the handset (e.g., would you like a smart phone or a more basic model?), the tariff (the payment plan), and mobile range and strength which varies in each area.

There are two types of mobile phone tariffs:

Contract (Pay Monthly) – allows you to make one monthly payment (most easily made by direct debit) and usually includes a set amount of minutes, texts, and data. You are invoiced for any usage overages. SIM-only contracts may be less expensive and more flexible than contracts tied to mobile phone deals. Most Pay Monthly plans require you to use a UK credit card and to show proof of a UK address where you have lived for a period of time. Such plans can be hard to establish when you first arrive.

Pay-As-You-Go – allows you to “top up” your phone with credit in advance and then use your phone until that prepaid credit runs out. You can top up with a credit card, debit card, or voucher purchased at a store or post office. Many people will start with a pay-as-you-go tariff, when they first arrive in the UK. This option is also good for mobiles for children and visiting guests.

Mobile Service Providers (requires a UK credit card)

O2	www.o2.co.uk
Three	www.three.co.uk
EE	www.ee.co.uk
Orange	www.orange.co.uk
T-mobile	www.t-mobile.co.uk
Vodafone	www.vodafone.co.uk
TalkTalk	www.talktalk.co.uk

Tri- or quad-band GSM phones (which most current ones are) from other countries may work in the UK if unlocked, but you will need a new SIM card. UK tri-band phones do not work in Central and South America.

COMPUTERS AND INTERNET

Most computers and monitors are dual voltage, meaning there is a switch for either 220/240V or 120V, and they can easily be used in the UK using only a plug adapter. **Be sure to change the switch to the proper voltage!**

Printers often require the use of a transformer. You will also need a UK surge protector. The standard UK paper is A4 size (210 x 297mm, 8.3 x 11.7 inch), so check to ensure this size will fit in your printer if bringing it from abroad. Be sure to reset your default paper print size also. Printer cartridges may be different, so you may have trouble purchasing replacement cartridges for printers brought from abroad.

It can take a long time to have your internet provider turn on the service at your property (it is not unusual for it to take 4-5 weeks) so you may want to make it a priority to put in your request immediately upon moving. Most internet service is provided through BT Openreach, though you can purchase your package through other companies such as SKY and Virgin Media. It is often less expensive to bundle TV, broadband, and phone line services.

TIP

- If you need Internet access prior to getting it set up at home try your local library, coffee shop, or the TESIS England parking lot or the reception room at Security.
- “Dongles” allow portable Internet access that can be a temporary fix until you have home access. All mobile phone companies offer them, so it might be easiest to use the same company who handles your mobile phone service.
- You can also create a “hotspot” from your mobile phone or iPad.

TELEVISION AND TV/SCREEN LICENSE

It is not advisable to bring a non-UK television without first ensuring that it meets the voltage and wattage requirements in the UK. The standard electrical current in the UK is 220/240V. Televisions from some countries, such as the US, will not work without electrical transformers. Without a multi-system or universal television, foreign

televisions will not pick up British stations because of the difference in English television broadcasting standards.

As of 2012, television services in the UK are completely digital. If you purchase a television, be sure it is digital. Curry's and John Lewis offer a wide range of electronics and appliances. Amazon.co.uk will deliver the electronics to your door.

DVD players from countries not on 220/240V (such as the US) must run through a transformer. Also, DVDs are encrypted differently in the UK than in some other countries. The UK format is PAL (not NTSC) and the DVD region is Region 2. Players from your country will only be able to play DVDs from your region/format. Universal players will play your DVDs as well as those you rent or buy in the UK. If you buy a British DVD player, choose a multi-region DVD to play media from both countries.

Many families also enjoy the flexibility of Apple TV, Netflix, and Amazon.

Many TESIS families sell electronics and other items when they are moving through the TESIS TPA Facebook page.

UK Television License

If you watch or record programs on a TV, computer, or other device or download/watch BBC programs on iPlayer, you must purchase an annual television license. More information and applications can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/tv-licence>

The TV License is not optional. It is the British Government's way of funding the BBC, which accepts no advertising. Be aware that inspectors do travel neighborhoods and impose heavy fines if a license cannot be produced. Ignorance of the law will not be accepted as an excuse.

UTILITIES

Your electricity, gas, and water providers may give you an opportunity to report your meter readings online. If so, take

advantage of it and report in a timely fashion. If you do not report your meter readings online, your utility company may bill you based on estimated usage. If/when you move out, there will be a final meter reading to settle your account. It is wise to make sure the readings have been reported accurately during your tenancy or you could get a nasty surprise when your final bill arrives.

You can compare utility providers online:

www.comparethemarket.com/utilities/

www.uswitch.com/gas-electricity/journey/home

DRIVING

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ABOUT DRIVING IN THE UK, PLEASE VISIT: WWW.GOV.UK/GOVERNMENT/ORGANISATIONS/DRIVER-AND-VEHICLE-STANDARDS-AGENCY

DRIVING LICENSE

You are permitted to drive legally on your non-UK driver's license for one year from your arrival. People from some countries will be allowed to exchange their valid driving license from their home country for a UK driving license. Others will need to take a theory test and then a practical driving test within a year of arrival in order to obtain a UK driving license. This process can take 8-12 weeks, so please plan accordingly.

NOTE: If you do not have a UK license after one year, the insurance on your car may not be valid if you are in an accident (check with your insurance carrier).

DRIVING LESSONS

Consider taking driving lessons upon arrival in the UK to learn the rules of the roads and to feel more comfortable driving. Driving instructors that TESIS families have used in the past include:

- Barry Thomas (automatic only) – 07956 801375 or 0208 224 9911
- Max with ACT Driving School (manual in his car or automatic in yours) – 07970 778444

- Anne Lenton – 01784 469139
- Surrey Driving Force (Debbie, Neil, Steve, David) – 07904 503649 or www.surreydrivingforce.co.uk/
- Carolyn Collins (manual only) – 07984 131831
- Lose the L with Mel – 07956 248899

INSURANCE

Begin by asking your insurance company in your home country if they underwrite policies in the UK. USAA (www.usaa.com) and GEICO (www.geico.com) are two companies that have done this in the past. Others that people have had success with locally are:

Automobile Association	www.theaa.com
AVIVA	www.aviva.co.uk
Direct Line	www.directline.com
Tesco	www.tesco.com

You may also ask your car dealer or broker for recommendations. Please note that you must show proof of car insurance before a dealer will hand a car over to you.

UK insurance companies often offer “no claims bonuses.” If you have not made a claim on your insurance policy in your home country in the past five years or more, have your insurance company write a letter that states you have a clean record (for a specific amount of time.) Your new insurance company should offer you a significant discount.

Be aware that car insurance in the UK is more limited than in some other countries. It links a specific driver to a specific car. You cannot buy car insurance until you have purchased a car, as you will be asked to provide the car make, model, and registration number to the insurance company. Once you have insurance, it will then cover you and any nominated drivers (such as a spouse or a licensed child aged 17 or over). You must inform your insurer of any nominated drivers when you take out the policy. (Drivers can usually be added later at an additional cost.) These individuals will then be listed on your Certificate of Insurance. Only those drivers will be covered by your insurance; you can’t lend your car to anyone else. If you do, and they have an accident, your insurance company will not pay.

In many cases, your insurance policy will not cover you if you rent a car in the UK or in any other country, and it will not cover you driving a friend's car in the UK either. If you take your own car to the continent, you may need to take out an additional short-term policy for the period while you're away.

BREAKDOWN ASSISTANCE COVERAGE

The Automobile Association www.theaa.com

Royal Automobile Club www.rac.co.uk

CAR TAX

A road tax is levied on automobiles each year. If you buy a new car from a dealer, they will usually make sure that it is paid for the first year. If you buy a used car, you can negotiate to have them pay at least six months of the tax. Otherwise, application forms are available from the Post office or online: www.gov.uk/vehicle-tax

MOT

Once your car is three years old, it must pass a road worthiness test each year. This examination certificate will be required when you renew your car tax. Most garages will carry out the inspection for you. Many families use this company which is located near TASIS: Motortec Ltd – Unit 2A, Crabtree Road, Egham TW20 8RN
Telephone: 01784 477153

PARKING

Many car parks use the PAY & DISPLAY system to pay for parking. After you have parked your car, you must purchase a parking ticket from a machine based on the amount of time you will be parked there. Display the ticket on the driver's side of the car, affixed to a window or in plain sight on the dashboard. Variations of the Pay & Display system include taking a ticket that is automatically produced at the barrier upon entering. Take the ticket with you and use it to pay at a machine before departing (usually found near the pedestrian entrance to the parking lot). Some parking lots now use registration number (license number) recognition systems. You will have to enter your number at the payment machine so it is a good idea to memorize or keep a note of it.

TIPS

- Carry a coin purse at all times and make sure you have a variety of coins in your possession, as some parking machines do not take cards and many do not give change.
- It is also handy to always have £1 coins for supermarket shopping carts (known as trolleys).
- You may sometimes pay for parking with apps such as Ringo (instructions can be found on the parking meters) or in advance through websites such as www.justpark.com

LONDON CONGESTION CHARGE

This scheme requires drivers to pay a fee per day when driving in Central London during certain hours. More information may be found at: www.tfl.gov.uk/roadusers/congestioncharging

More information about driving in the UK and how to apply for a UK Driver's License will be given at the following PIRC seminars in the fall: "Survive & Thrive" and "Driving in the UK."

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

RAIL

Train services into London and throughout the UK are convenient from the towns close to TASIS. Your local train station can provide you with a timetable and the most up-to-date information, or you can find information online or via the National Rail app. Train schedules can change throughout the year, and rail maintenance is often conducted, so it is best to double-check the website or app before your trip.

Useful Rail Travel Websites:

www.nationalrail.co.uk

www.southwesternrailway.com

www.tfl.gov.uk

www.thetrainline.com

www.mytrains.co.uk

General Information

- A **single** is a one-way ticket.
- A **return** is a round-trip ticket.
- A return to “London Terminals” rather than London Waterloo includes free train (not tube) transfer to Charing Cross (for Trafalgar Square, Buckingham Palace) or London Bridge (for Borough Market, Tower Bridge).
- A return with **travel card** gives you a round-trip ticket to London/Waterloo and unlimited travel on most of London’s buses, underground trains, and Docklands Light Rail (depending on the zones purchased). Purchase it at train stations any time or after 9 am for “off-peak” (and therefore cheaper) prices.
- There are no express trains on Sundays.
- Enquire about **Group Save** discounts on qualifying train journeys when three or more people travel together during off-peak times (for savings of 1/3 off).

Railcards

These cards must be purchased annually from a train station or on-line, but offer significant savings for regular travel. Information can be found at station ticket offices and online: www.railcard.co.uk

Commuter Train Passes

Weekly, monthly, or annual passes are available and will save you money if you are making the same journey three or more times in a week.

www.nationalrail.co.uk/times_fares/ticket_types/season_tickets.aspx

www.commuterclub.co.uk/nationalrail

LONDON UNDERGROUND (TUBE) AND BUSES

- No cash is accepted on buses. You must use an oyster card (see below), contactless debit card, or Apple pay for each bus journey.
- You can purchase single tickets/travel cards for the underground, but it is more economical to use an oyster card (see below), contactless debit card, or Apple pay.
- Children under 11 travel free.

Useful websites:

www.tubeplanner.com

www.tfl.gov.uk

www.toptiplondon.com/transport/getting-around-london/buses

Oyster Card www.tfl.gov.uk/oyster

- This card works like a pay-as-you-go debit card in place of purchasing individual tickets and provides discounts on buses, underground trains, and some trains in London.
- Alternatively, use your contactless debit card or Apple pay instead (all of which have daily and weekly price caps that make them better options than purchasing individual journeys or travel cards.)

HOUSEHOLD

RENTING YOUR HOME

Even though your company may have signed your lease, it pays to read the contract thoroughly. ASAP, check the inventory and formally contact your rental agent if there is a discrepancy. Document any repairs, complaints, and incidents that arise during your tenure. Be sure to take photographs. Most leases limit the number of weeks the house can remain empty (think summer holidays). Read carefully, as you may need a house sitter to cover additional week(s).

Call your real estate agent/landlord with any issues such as plumbing, electrical, pest control, gardener issues, and security. Try to email as well as call in order to have a paper trail should any issues arise in the future or towards the end of your tenancy.

DRY CLEANERS/LAUNDRY/CLEANING

- **Levenson's** – Weybridge/Walton (pickup & deliver)
- **Village Dry Cleaners** – Queen's Road, Weybridge
- **Harringtons** – Sunningdale/Virginia Water
- **Eco 7 and Playhouse Cleaners** – Sunninghill
- **Johnsons Cleaners** – Staines/Ascot

- **Launder and Press** – Trumps Green Road, Virginia Water
- **Dry Clean & Fit** – 33 Church Street, Weybridge
- **American Dry Cleaning Company** – Virginia Water
- **IHatelroning.com** – dry cleaning and laundry delivery service. Collect, clean, and deliver directly from and to your door.
- **Iron Easy** – they pick up and deliver your ironing. Be sure to indicate if you want the shirts washed and ironed, or just ironed. 01344 427070

If you have large items such as sheets, towels, and duvets that won't fit in your washing machine, it is very convenient to drop them off at a laundromat where they will wash and dry them for you.

- **Launderama**
71 High Street, Egham, 01784 435 541
Laundromat that can also do shirts, alterations, repairs, duvets, and curtains.
- **Launder & Press** (Laundromat)
8 The Parade, Trumps Green Rd., Virginia Water, 01344 844 339
You can either drop off your laundry, and they will wash and dry it; or you can do it yourself. They have large washer and dryers - great for duvets and sleeping bags.
- **Villager Dry Cleaners and Launderette**
127 Queens Road, Weybridge, 01932 848 478

HOME DELIVERY SERVICES

Organic vegetable deliveries: www.abelandcole.co.uk
Organic food delivery (including meat): www.riverford.co.uk
Fresh milk and groceries: www.milkandmore.co.uk

RESTAURANT TAKEAWAY/DELIVERY

Many restaurants offer takeaway menus and some will even deliver to your home. Depending on your area, you may be able to order from delivery services such as Deliveroo or UBER Eats.

RUBBISH COLLECTION/RECYCLING CENTERS

Rubbish collection is once a week (or every other week, depending

on where you live) at the curbside. You will receive a separate container for recycling, household trash, food trash, and garden waste. Check your council website which items are currently recyclable. The charges for rubbish collection are included in your council tax bill; garden waste may incur a separate charge. Each council has specific rules, days for collection, and fees.

There is no charge for disposing of most household waste or recyclables at recycling centers but you must use your borough's center.

CHILDCARE

Due to safeguarding regulations, PIRC cannot offer babysitting recommendations. However, you may ask for recommendations on our TESIS Parents Facebook page. (Upper School day students are often eager to earn pocket money!)

There are also numerous agencies in the area that can be found through an Internet search.

KENNELS/CATTERIES

There are various kennels and catteries in the area that will board your pets while you are away. It is recommended to book early for the holiday season, as well as October, February, and spring breaks. In addition, you may want to check with the TPA FB page for locally-recommended vets, kennels, and catteries

- Pampered Pets, Walton-on-Thames - for dog grooming, bath and nails
- Royvon Boarding and Dog Training Kennels, www.royvon.co.uk
For long-term boarding they will transport your pet to their larger facility in Wales.
- Wey Farm Boarding Kennels & Cattery, Guildford Road, Ottershaw, Surrey KT16 0QW www.veyfarm.co.uk
- Barking Mad, www.barkingmad.uk.com and Home from Home, www.homefromhomedogboarding.com
will board your pet at someone else's house while you go away

- Holidays 4 Dogs, www.holidays4dogs.co.uk
- Forest House Veterinary Group, www.foresthousevets.com

Branches in:

- Windsor 01753 8858577
- Egham 01784 434675
- Ascot 01344 624557
- 24/7 Emergency 01753 865669

POSTAL SERVICES

Royal Mail (www.royalmail.com) delivers the mail, while **The Post Office** (www.postoffice.co.uk) is the retail company where you can buy stamps and mail letters. Larger packages can be sent from The Post Office through **Parcel Force** (www.parcelforce.com).

HOURS

- Main Post Offices are usually open from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on Monday to Friday and 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Saturdays.
- Local “mini” or sub-Post Offices are located in newsagents and the hours of operation vary.

SERVICES

- Utilities, borough taxes, and television license fees may be paid at Post Offices. You may also make cash withdrawals (like an ATM).
- Car registration applications, private box rentals, and driving license applications are also available.
- At larger Post Offices, you may obtain foreign currency with no commission at a competitive rate; some offices require that you order one or more days in advance. You may find more information and order online at: www.postoffice.co.uk/travel-money

DELIVERY

- A first class stamp costs 76p for local mail (standard letter up to

100g), with next day delivery. Second class postage is 65p (for a standard letter up to 100g) with three-day delivery.

- International Air Mail stamps start at £1.42, but cost depends on the weight of the letter, so you should probably have your letters weighed and stamped at a Post Office.
- If you expect to be away for an extended period of time, mail can be held at the local sorting office for up to 100 days:
www.royalmail.com/receiving/keepsafe

PACKAGES

- Mark your packages sent back home as Unsolicited Gifts or No Commercial Value (“NCV”) and have your friends and family do the same for packages sent here. Check online or at the Post Office for more information about customs and duty fees and regulations.
- For information on sending letters and parcels abroad, visit www.postoffice.co.uk/mail/international-standard. Packages over 2 kg need to be sent via Parcelforce Worldwide.
- For package delivery in the UK, if you are not home when a package arrives, it may be left on your doorstep or with a neighbor, or the postman will drop a note in your box telling you where the items may be collected (typically your local sorting office).

SHOPPING

The following section gives a quick overview of shopping in the UK, and some options in your area (these suggestions are by no means exhaustive). Should you wish to spend an afternoon or a day visiting shops for all your initial needs, head to one of the nearest towns with large shopping areas. Closest to TASIS (ranging from 10-35 minutes) are Camberley, Guildford, Kingston, Reading, Richmond, Staines, Windsor, and Woking.

Alternatively, these indoor malls are within easy driving distance: Peacocks in Woking, The Oracle in Reading, Westfield in Shepherd’s Bush (London), or The Bentall Centre in Kingston.

FOOD SHOPPING

Waitrose, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda, and Morrison's are the primary supermarkets, with **Aldi and Lidl** gaining in popularity over the last few years. A quick Google search will direct you to your closest store, which is certain to be within a comfortable distance of where you plan to live.

Most major grocery stores offer delivery as well. Another popular option is **Ocado**, an online grocery retailer that delivers straight from its warehouses without any store presence. In any case you will need to create an online account and they will deliver to your door.

Furthermore, **Spar, Budgens, Londis, and Simply Local**, located on the High Street in many towns, offer convenient grocery shopping for essentials.

Large grocery stores sell an extensive variety of fruits, vegetables, and meats. However, you may also want to try a different shopping experience, the farm shop! The closest one to TASIS is **The Farm Shop in Lyne**, the most quintessentially British one is probably **The Royal Farms Windsor Farm Shop**.

Costco Wholesale has a large presence in the UK and works the same way as in the US. It is membership only, and you can join as an individual member for an annual fee. If you are a member in another country, you may use your card here.

Please note that most supermarkets charge for parking, and they do so in a variety of ways. It is best to always have a few coins in the car as this is the default payment method at the machines. However, they usually also accept card payments and pay by phone or mobile apps (RingGo, ParkMobile, and JustPark are the most common ones).

CLOTHING

Many of the clothing stores you know from back home can be found here in the UK. They will likely have a store presence in London or one of the larger towns in the area (Guildford, Kingston, Reading, Richmond, Windsor). Note that clothes and shoe sizes are different to the US and also the rest of Europe.

You will be able to shop for TESIS uniforms online before you arrive or once you get here. For basics (such as skirts and trousers) head to Marks & Spencer, John Lewis, or The Gap. Try Clarks for high quality school shoes.

DIY (DO IT YOURSELF) / HOME IMPROVEMENT

Homebase is the largest retailer in this market (the nearest one to TESIS is in Staines) but there are many others, from larger retailers such as B&Q, ScrewFix, and Homesense, to smaller ironmongers on local high streets, such as Morley Hardware in Virginia Water and Chapmans Ironmonger in Sunninghill. They will gladly offer advice on topics such as hanging pictures in your new home (often not as straightforward due to hard surface walls), and the multitude of different light bulbs on display.

ELECTRONICS, COMPUTER, AND SCHOOL/OFFICE SUPPLIES

As its name suggests, Currys PC World (with locations in Staines, Slough, Woking, Weybridge, Farnborough, Reading, and Bracknell) offers a wide range of desktop PCs, tablets, and laptops, but also TVs, washing machines, kitchen appliances, and more. Or you may want to head to John Lewis, Argos (all online as well as in various retail locations), or Amazon.co.uk.

For school and office supplies, the most popular options are WHSmith, Staples, Ryman, and Paperchase.

If you are unsure about what to purchase in the UK, you may want to read the reviews on www.which.co.uk (expert testing, reviews, and advice on a large selection of consumer goods).

Important Note: Remember when shopping for electrical products that the current may be different to your previous location. Make sure you use the correct plug adapter and/or step-up step-down transformer and that light bulbs (screw cap or bayonet) fit your international appliances. If you need to replace light bulbs in your home, take the burnt-out bulb to the store with you. The electrical voltage in the UK is 240V.

MEDICINES AND PRESCRIPTIONS

Boots, Lloyd's, Jays Pharmacy, and superstores (**Tesco**) are sources for medicines, bath, and beauty products. Pharmacists are usually very knowledgeable and helpful.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Ryman in Staines, Windsor, etc. - Office supplies & stationery
www.ryman.co.uk
- Staples in Slough, Reading, Epsom, etc. - www.staples.co.uk

BOOKS

- Foyle's - www.foyles.co.uk (Biggest book store in London)
- Waterstones, multiple branches
- WHSmith, multiple branches
- Daunt Books - www.dauntbooks.co.uk (The one in Marylebone is very famous)
- The Alligators Mouth, Richmond (children's books)
www.thealligatorsmouth.co.uk

SPORTING GOODS

There are a variety of shops that sell sporting goods. You will find at least one of the following in any larger shopping area: Decathlon, SportsDirect, Cotswold Outdoor, Trespass, or JJB Sports. There is also an extensive list of specialist stores that you will be able to access online upon arrival.

FURNITURE

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| • John Lewis | www.johnlewis.com |
| • OKA, Sunninghill | www.okadirect.com |
| • Neptune, Weybridge | www.neptune.com |
| • BoConcept | www.boconcept.com |
| • Conran Shop | www.conranshop.co.uk |
| • Habitat | www.habitat.co.uk/furniture |
| • IKEA | www.ikea.co.uk |
| • Argos | www.argos.co.uk |

MOBILITY

Clearwell Mobility in Staines and Woking is a supplier of mobility and home healthcare equipment in the UK.

www.clearwellmobility.co.uk/showroom/staines/

FAITH COMMUNITIES IN THE TASIS AREA

This is a limited list of places of worship in the general TASIS area that many TASIS families attend. Check your Yellow Pages (under “PLACES OF WORSHIP”) for your local faith community.

INTER-DENOMINATIONAL

- **International Community Church (ICC)**

Sunday church services:

10:30 a.m. at Chertsey Hall, Heriot Road, Chertsey KT16 9DR

6 p.m. services at St. Mary's Church Hall (within Parkside School), Stoke D'Abernon, Cobham KT11 3PX

ICC activities include a youth program and Bible studies.

Creche available.

01932 571820 www.icc-uk.org/

CATHOLIC

- **Assumption of Our Lady RC Church**

91 Harvest Road, Englefield Green, Surrey TW20 0QR

01784 434 280

- **Sacred Heart Church**

25 Between Streets, Cobham, Surrey KT11 1AA

01932 862 518

- **Christ the King**

Guildford Road, Bagshot, Surrey GU19 5LE

01276 473 525

- **Christ the Prince of Peace**

Portmore Way, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 8JD

01932 842 643

- **St. Francis of Assisi**
Coronation Road, South Ascot, Berkshire SL5 9HG
01344 620 591
- **Sacred Heart Church**
London Road, Sunningdale, Berkshire SL5 0JY
01344 621 238

PROTESTANT (The Church of England is Anglican, i.e., Episcopalian)

- **Christ Church of Virginia Water**
Christ Church Road, Virginia Water, Surrey GU25 4PT
01344 844 946
- **St. Mary's of Thorpe**
Church Approach, Thorpe, Surrey TW20 8TQ
01932 565 986
- **St. Lawrence**
High Street, Chobham, Surrey GU24 8AA
01276 858 197
- **St. John's Egham**
Manor Farm Road, Egham, Surrey TW20
01784 430 964 www.stjohnsegham.com

JEWISH

- **North West Surrey Synagogue (Reform/Conservative Judaism)**
Horvath Close, Rosslyn Park Oatlands Drive, Weybridge, Surrey
KT13 9QZ
01932 855 400
- **Maidenhead Synagogue (Reform/Conservative Judaism)**
9 Boyn Hill Avenue, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 4ET
01628 673 012

MUSLIM

- **Shah Jahan Mosque**
149 Oriental Road, Woking, Surrey GU22 7BA
01483 760 679

- **Ma Al Kharafi Islamic Centre**
282 London Rd, Camberley GU15 3J
01932 571820 www.camberleymosque.co.uk

HINDU

- **ISKCON Temple** www.krishnatemple.com/home/
- **Swaminarayan Temple** www.londonmandir.baps.org/

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Young Life International**
 - Middle School (Wyldlife Club) meets most Tuesdays during the school year, 5:30–6:45 p.m. at Christ Church, Virginia Water
 - For information on Upper School Young Life events and service trips, please email the Area Director, Kerry Guikema, at kguikema@ylinternational.org
- **Grapevine** (Inter-denominational Women's Bible Study)
The Bible Study group meets Wednesday mornings, in a member's home, following the school schedule. For more details contact Angela at angela.dijksman@btinternet.com or on 07779 151 770
- **Moms in Prayer International**
For more information, please contact Tara Perkins at hkperks@gmail.com

FAMILY FUN

Even though you may be busy unpacking and feel you need to make your new house a home as soon as possible, you should still take some time off to explore your new surroundings. There is so much to see and do, and it is worth getting out there!

A good place to start your research are the websites for English Heritage (www.english-heritage.org.uk) and the National Trust

(www.nationaltrust.org.uk) which will give you a great overview of cultural and natural attractions in your area and beyond. For days out in London, TimeOut London (www.timeout.com/london) and Visit London (<https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/family-activities>) are good resources. A more comprehensive list will be available on the PIRC website once you arrive.

SAMPLE LOCAL ACTIVITIES/DAYS OUT

Theme Parks, Leisure Centers, and Play Areas

- Chessington World of Adventures, Chessington
- Thorpe Park, Chertsey
- Legoland, Windsor
- Check out the annual Merlin Pass for theme parks and other popular attractions: www.merlinannualpass.co.uk
- Indoor trampoline parks: Gravity Force, Camberley; Air Hop, Guildford; Jump In, Slough
- Top Golf, Chertsey

Castles and Museums

- Brooklands Museum, Weybridge
- The Lightbox, Woking
- Hampton Court Palace, Richmond
- Windsor Castle & Eton, Windsor
- Buckingham Palace, London
- Leeds Castle, Maidstone
- Blenheim Palace, Oxford
- Warwick Castle, Warwick
- Dover Castle, Dover
- Highclere Castle, Hampshire - for the fans of Downton Abbey
- Free London museums: British Museum, National Gallery, Tate Modern, Science Museum, Natural History Museum, V&A Museum

Playgrounds and animal parks

- Lammas playground: Wraysbury Road, Staines TW18 4XZ
- Broomhall Park, Sunningdale:
www.sunningdale-pc.org.uk/recreation-ground/
- Brooklands Community Park, Weybridge
- For Walton/Weybridge/Cobham/Esher Parks & Recreation:
www.elmbridge.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/parks-and-play-areas/
- Look Out Discovery Center, Bracknell
- Go Ape, Bracknell
- Chobham Adventure Park
- Savill Gardens & Virginia Water Lake, Virginia Water
- Bocketts Farm Park, Fetcham
- Kew Gardens, Richmond
- Marwell Zoo, Winchester
- London Zoo, London
- Garson's Farm, Esher
- Longleat Safari Park
- Woburn Safari Park

Venues and Cinemas

- O2 New Millennium Center in London – lots of concerts
- The SSE Arena, Wembley
- West End theaters & theater tours
- New Wimbledon Theater, New Victoria Theater Woking, Windsor Royal Theater
- IMAX near Waterloo
- Vue Cinemas (Staines, Camberley), Ambassadors Cinemas (Woking), Odeon (Bracknell, Esher), Light Cinema (Addlestone), Cineworld (Bracknell)

SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Local Teams/Leagues

- TASIS England intramurals, Ascot United Football, Lyne Football Club, Abbey Rangers Football Club, other football/soccer, Windsor Rugby Club, Windsor Cricket Club, London Youth Baseball League, Chobham Rugby, American Flag Football (www.eteamz.com/iys), local cricket teams, Windsor Swim Club

for competitive swimmers, Richmond Volleyball Club, and more...

- Parkrun - free timed 5k runs held at 9 a.m. every Saturday morning (register once at www.parkrun.org.uk and then run at any of the many events in Surrey). Some parkruns also have 2k runs on Sunday mornings for little children
- Walk at Chobham Common, Bracknell Forest, Windsor Great Park (includes Virginia Water Lake, Savill Gardens, The Long Walk, etc.), Box Hill, Burnham Beeches, other walks:
www.fancyfreewalks.org

Matches and Stadiums

- Football (Soccer) - Ascot United, Premier League, and Manchester United
- Cricket (Various)
- Rugby - Twickenham Stadium; Harlequins (nearest premier league club team)
- Horse Racing - Ascot and Windsor Racecourse
- Polo (Various)
- British Rowing Clubs (Various)
- NFL Football Games at Wembley Stadium
- Wimbledon Tennis

Golf

- Foxhills Golf Club
- Wentworth Golf Club (Home of the European PGA / BMW Championship)
- Sunningdale Golf Club
- Gleneagles, Scotland (Home of the 2014 Ryder Cup Tournament)
- www.top100golfcourses.co.uk
- www.teeofftimes.co.uk



ENGLAND

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