



ALTERNATIVES

2001

The American School in London
One Waverly Place
London NW8 0NP

Home-Based Alternatives

1. WRITING THE COLLEGE ESSAY

Dr. Linick
17-19 October
18 Students

Mr. McKinley
Cost: None

The college essay remains one of the most difficult hurdles for seniors who are working on the college admissions process. Selection of the right topic or the right response to topics proposed by colleges can be very difficult - as can choice of tone, diction, and all those other matters of essay writing strategy that distinguish an outstanding paper from a mediocre one. To make matters worse, the writing of such essays, for the most part, has to be undertaken by seniors in the midst of all their other exam and class commitments. This, then, brings us to the purpose of this Alternative - an intensive three-day session in the English Writing Lab in which the instructors can bring students through all the stages of the college essay process, with plenty of opportunities for getting individual feedback and for sharing drafts with other students.

2. FILM AND FOOD

Miss Barry
17-19 October
18 Students

Mrs. Harada
Cost: £100

This London-based Alternative combines two of life's essentials, film and food. We will watch films from around the world and follow with a meal on the same theme. We will watch *Like Water for Chocolate*, for example, and after a private viewing on the large screen in the Annenberg Theater, we will enjoy a meal at a Mexican restaurant while discussing the film we have watched. Our viewing choices will be varied and among the films and cuisine we will sample: *Eat Drink, Man, Woman* (China), *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* (USA), and others to be announced.

3. PHOTOGRAPHY IN LONDON

Mrs. McKeen
17-19 October
10 Students

Cost: £90

Join this small group of students and spend a morning learning about photography and an afternoon taking pictures along the Thames. Your black and white film will be developed overnight to be ready for you to learn the techniques and tricks of printing photographs. We will spend Thursday and Friday in the ASL darkroom making prints from your negatives. You must have a camera, but film, filters, paper and lunch! will be provided.

4. KILBURN PARK PROJECT

Ms. Anderson
17-19 October
15 Students

Mr. Blanch
Mr. Higgins
Cost: None

If you have a lot of energy and want to work with children aged 7-11, this Alternative will give you the opportunity to make an impact on students at the Kilburn Park School by creating a program of activities outside their daily routine. Participants will provide assistance in activities such as arts and crafts, drama, music, indoor and outdoor games and cooking. As a role model for these children you are likely to benefit from this Alternative as much as the children you will meet. **A high level of commitment is necessary on your part if you elect this Alternative; absenteeism or half-heartedness lets the children down.**

5. THE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO YOGA

Mrs. Higgins
17-19 October
15 Students

Ms. Hamadache
Cost: £100

Supervised by skilled instructors at London-based Sivananda Vedanta Yoga Centre, participants in this Alternative will have the opportunity to practice some of the basic yoga exercises for posture, breathing, relaxation, diet and meditation, while learning about the spiritual aspects of this discipline. A vegetarian lunch will be prepared at the center in accordance with strict nutritional standards. After lunch the group will practice breathing, relaxation and meditation techniques. Our day will begin at 9:30 am and we will finish at 3 pm. Participants must bring appropriate loose clothing to wear.

6. MODEL UNITED NATIONS IN CROYDON (MUN 2001)

Mr. Corrigan
19 -22 October
18 Students

Mr. Wilson
Cost: £106

The Model United Nations in Croydon is a four day experience which gives students an opportunity to play the role of a diplomat from one of 138 nations represented in the UN. Students will develop skills in parliamentary procedure, debate, current events as well as gain a better understanding of how the United Nations operates. Between sessions participants will be able to meet and discuss international issues with students from various countries who attend the Conference. This experience is one of the few activities which is automatically entered on student's transcript when applying for colleges.

PLEASE NOTE: In order to learn more about the country they will represent and to practice the basics of parliamentary procedure and debate, students are expected to attend meetings twice a week after school. The meetings will begin in September and finish just before the Conference.

Away-Based Alternatives

7. MAJORCA MOUNTAIN MARATHON

Ms. Ruff
17-21 October
14 Students

Mr. McAdam
Cost: £450

Tired of the city and a hypermediated existence? Keen to hike outdoors all day, facing the rigors of the only mountains in the Balearic Islands? We'll hike a different area each day through the mountains of Majorca and experience the unmediated beauty of the natural environment. This unique island rewards those who walk its varied paths with views of rocky cliffs overlooking the Mediterranean, migrating birds, and some sunshine, if we are lucky, as well as an opportunity to experience the quiet of the self. Based in Soller, we will stay in a hotel (with shared bathrooms) and hike straight from our door. Each of us will keep a journal and share with one another what we discover about the environment, each other, and, most importantly, ourselves.

8. GREDOS: OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES IN SPAIN

Ms. Shaw
16-20 October
25 Students

Mr. Pedelty
Mr. Buck
Cost: £450

This marks our second expedition to the Gredos Centre, which is located on the northern side of the Sierra de Gredos. A well-organized sports and adventure program gives students the opportunity to enjoy a choice of supervised activities, which - time allowing - could include hiking, abseiling, canoeing, mountain biking, horseback riding and a trip to the historic village of Ávila. Our party will leave on Tuesday from ASL, fly to Madrid and transfer by coach to the Centre, where we will stay in comfortable, purpose-built accommodation. Students will have access to tennis and basketball courts on the grounds for use in their free time and there will be planned evening activities at the Centre's Discotheque. Students will return to London on Saturday afternoon.

9. SEVILLA!

Ms. Chinchilla
16-19 October
18 Students

Mr. Fleming
Cost: £450

Sevilla, the capital of Andalusia in southern Spain, is a vibrant city that marvellously combines a wealth of Spanish history with a post-Franco modern Spanish lifestyle. Our hotel is in the center of the city, where all the monuments, sights and activities can be easily accessed without the need for further travel. The Moorish history of this part of Spain is wonderfully reflected in the Giralda and the Alcazar. These are just two of the monuments we will visit in a city full of monuments. The Cathedral, arguably the most beautiful of all the Spanish cathedrals, is the largest church in the world. It is a must for anyone interested in Gothic architecture. The fine arts museum, another stop on our trip, is second only in importance within Spain to the Prado in Madrid. Sevilla is undeniably best known for its spirit and theatricality, its joy of life. In the evenings a flamenco performance is as enjoyable as it is unavoidable.

10. BILBAO: PAINTERS & 'PINTXOS' IN NORTHERN SPAIN

Señor Sinreich
17-19 October
18 Students

Madame Cooke
Cost: £450

This is a unique opportunity for culture vultures to tour the stunning Guggenheim Museum of Modern Art designed by Frank Gehry. Film buffs are in for a treat, when we visit the site where the James Bond movie *The World is Not Enough* was filmed. We will stay in a hotel overlooking the lovely River Nervión and take the opportunity to explore the nearby charming Old Town of Bilbao. In addition, we will visit the hippest city in Northern Spain, San Sebastián. We will take a spin on a Victorian carousel, have a go at the Basque language - and find out what 'pintxos' are!

11. ART AND ARCHITECTURE IN CASTILLE

Ms. Kisor
16-19 October
14 Students

Mr. Rees
Cost: £450

This will be an intensive study of art and architecture in the Castilian region of Spain. We will be staying in Madrid, the capital of Spain, a city dating back to the Moors. In addition to the rich architecture of this wonderful city, the group will study the masterpieces of Renaissance, Baroque and Romantic art at the Prado, the national museum of Spain, while also studying modern Spanish art at the Reina Sofia and the Thyssen museums. There will be day trips to the Roman town of Segovia, including its aqueduct; the medieval town of Toledo; and Phillip II's castle, El Escorial. Adequate footwear is necessary for this trip, and a basic working knowledge of Spanish is encouraged but not required. Ideally a student on this trip will have a love of art and architectural history, Spanish history and/or the Spanish language.

12. DISCOVERING ANCIENT GREECE

Mr. Kurty
17-21 October
20 Students

Ms. Cato
Cost: 500*

Home to the ancient civilization that shaped our contemporary society, the Greek peninsula offers much to study and experience. On this Alternative we will be based in Athens, giving us the chance to visit the Acropolis and many other sites of interest. We will also explore Delphi and Epidaurus with local guides. This Alternative will be an invaluable experience for students interested in art, history and mythology and relates to the materials studied in several ASL courses: Western Civilization, Greek Mythology, Ancient World Literature and Art History. Oh, and don't forget the food and the sunshine.

***There is a £50 supplement for this trip. Families will be billed separately by the Accounts Office.**

13. WATER SPORTS IN GREECE

Mr. Waite
17-21 October
20 Students

Ms. Hendricks
Cost: £500*

After arrival at the new "Eleftherios Venizeos" airport, we will transfer to the Marathon Beach Hotel in Nea Makri, a little fishing village on the northern coast of Greece. The beach-front hotel has a swimming pool and tennis courts. Our first two days will be spent at the Karavi watersports complex in Schinias, the location of aquatic activities for the 2004 Olympics. Karavi is one of the leading windsurfing, wakeboarding and sailing centers in Greece. The facility also offers beach volleyball and beach soccer. Although students will experience several activities, the main focus will be on windsurfing. Starting with theory and using a simulator on dry land, students will quickly progress onto the water to practice under the supervision of instructors. Our final day will involve a guided tour to the Historical Museum of Marathon and to many of the historical sites in Athens such as the Plaka and the Acropolis.

14. SCUBA DIVING IN SARDINIA

Mr. Partridge
16-21 October
25 Students

Ms. Fox
Mr. Stone
Cost: £500*

The aim of this challenging Alternative is to train students for the PADI Scuba Diving Certifications. Novices will train for the PADI Open Water Diver certification; certified divers will take the PADI Advanced Diver Course, or do supervised diving expeditions depending on previous training and qualifications. Our intensive training will be supervised in the warm waters of Sardinia by the Haven SCUBA team, with whom we have worked for the last two years on Alternatives and which has a 100% safety rating. Students will study basic theory, practice diving and learn safety and rescue procedures. Successful completion of the course will qualify participants to dive at SCUBA centers almost anywhere in the world. Participants must be strong enough swimmers to swim unassisted for 100 meters, be willing to swim in a wet suit and pass a medical examination certifying fitness for diving.

***There is a £50 supplement for this trip. Families will be billed separately by the Accounts Office.**

15. BELLA VENEZIA

Mr. Wilkinson
16-19 October
20 Students

Herr Claus
Cost: £450

Explore the culture, art treasures and architectural masterpieces of the most beautiful city in Europe. We will experience all that Venice has to offer, from Titian's Renaissance masterpieces, to Tintoretto's *Last Supper* at San Giorgio Maggiore, to Peggy Guggenheim's collection of modern art. We will also view the many cultural offerings of Venice, from the Byzantine architecture at San Marco, along with the body of Saint Mark, to the Jewish Ghetto with a tour of its synagogues. A boat trip will also be made to the island of Murano to see the wonderful craftsmanship of their glass artisans. The city will be explored mainly by foot, so adequate foot wear is necessary. We will stay in a comfortable pensione.

16. ROMA: PAST AND PRESENT

Mr. Herron
16-20 October
24 Students

"Roma T'aspetta per gior con te"

Ms. Shafqat
Mr. Poggioli
Cost: £500*

The glory that was Rome awaits the visitor to this ancient city, as well as the opportunity to experience the modern pace of life in this dynamic European capital. Our group will stay in a hotel at the base of the Spanish Steps and visit the Colosseum, the Forum Romano, the Pantheon, the Piazza Navona and the Trevi Fountain. Students will view the art treasures in St. Peter's, including a visit to the Sistine Chapel to see the ceiling by Michaelangelo. Modern Rome will be experienced with visits to restaurants in picturesque piazzas.

*There is a £50 supplement for this trip. Families will be billed separately by the Accounts Office.

17. TOURING TUSCANY: FLORENCE, SIENA AND PISA

Mr. Gladis
17-21 October
18 Students

Ms. Leiken
Mr. Conaty
Cost: £450

We will explore three of Tuscany's best-known and most beautiful locations. We will fly to Pisa, and visit the famous Torre Pendente or Leaning Tower. We then go by train to Florence, birthplace of the Renaissance, a city full of architectural landmarks, and home to Michelangelo, da Vinci, Dante, Machiavelli and Galileo. We will visit the Uffizi Museum and cross the Ponte Vecchio. We will then visit Siena, a medieval city of spectacular beauty. We will be staying in a Youth Center and walking a lot, but we will eat delicious food, see an historic area of Europe - and have a fine time in one another's company. Students on this Alternative must complete a short research paper prior to departure.

18. MUNICH: TECHNOLOGY AND TRADITION

Mrs. Brouwer
17-20 October
25 Students

Mr. Montgomery
Ms. Davies
Cost: £450

Participants on this Alternative spend four days in beautiful and historic Bavaria, based in historic Munich in a hotel near Beethoven Platz. The trip starts with an introduction to the German language, then we explore Deutsches Museum (housing the first Benz car) and factory to see the BMW Series 5 and 7, visit the Bavarian Motor Works (BMW) Museum and ride the fastest elevator in Europe in the Olympic Stadium. We will go on walking tours of this magnificent city, explore open markets and sample the Bavarian cuisine, accompanied by the famous oompa bands. This is an excellent opportunity to combine an interest in architecture, scenery and technology.

19. LITERATURE AND MUSIC IN DUBLIN

Dr. Boehnen
16-19 October
18 Students

Mrs. Wasley
Cost: £450

"A dull yellow light brooded over the houses . . . and, across the river, the palace of the Four Courts stood out menacingly against the heavy sky," ("The Dead"). We too will "brood" on the banks of the River Liffey, tracing by foot the literary haunts of Joyce, Swift, Wilde and Bram Stoker, creator of Dracula. We'll attend a performance at the famous Abbey Theatre, founded by W. B. Yeats, and we'll uncover what he called the "terrible beauty" of the Irish past -- from the stunning beauty of the Book of Kells to the bloody Easter Uprising of 1916. With no shortage of "good craic" (Irish wit and energy), we'll enjoy an evening of traditional music and dance in seaside Monkstown. We'll tour rural Glendalough, hike through St. Kevin's windswept monastery, and shop at the Avoca Handweavers, famed for their woolen sweaters. Our comfortable Dublin Hotel lies blocks from the house of our ghostly inspiration, James Joyce.

20. BIMBLING ON THE BEARA PENNINSULA

Mr. Kenney
16-20 October
12 Students

Ms. Coats
Cost: £350

Come with us and bingle along the ancient turf roads and byways of the Beara Peninsula on the southwest coast of Ireland. We will explore this region of standing stones, prehistoric tombs and ring forts on foot in a series of day hikes. The Beara Peninsula was home to the O'Sullivan Beare clan from the 11th century to 1601, when they were ousted by Cromwell. After flying into Cork, we will travel by bus to the local hostel where we will base ourselves; students will be involved in all aspects of life in the hostel including meal preparation. Leaving on Tuesday evening, we will hike for three days and return on Saturday. Our hikes will include portions of the Beara Way and, weather permitting, Hungry Hill, the highest summit on the peninsula. Waterproofs and appropriate footwear are required.

21. PRAGUE PERSPECTIVES

Mrs. Bing
16-19 October
18 Students

Mr. Bing
Cost: £450

From Wenceslas Square and the historic Old Town, to the darker experiences of the Old Jewish Town and Terezin Concentration Camp, Prague has a wealth of historical sights which have survived centuries of conflict. Bring your walking shoes as we stroll through this lovely city which preserves medieval, baroque and art nouveau architecture and history. The group will explore Prague Castle and stroll across the Charles Bridge. We will experience the transition of a central European culture under-going dramatic changes as it transforms itself from its communist past. We will spend an evening at the fabled Laterna Magica and stay at a comfortable, centrally located hotel, returning to London on Friday evening.

22. A BREAK IN BRUSSELS & BRUGES

Ms. Williams
17-19 October
18 Students

Mr. Dunmore
Cost: £450

We will travel via Eurostar to Brussels and stay in a hotel located near the Grande Place. Our time will be spent walking around the lovely city, visiting the African Museum in Tervuren, the fascinating Comic Strip Museum, attending the world famous puppet show at Theatre de Toone and, weather permitting, touring the historical battleground and museum at Waterloo. We will take a canal ride through medieval Bruges and tour this exquisite city on foot to get the benefit of this superb, unspoiled little town. Brussels and Bruges are famous for food, including the best pommes frites in the world and chocolate, chocolate and more chocolate. We will allow for a little shopping time before returning to London.