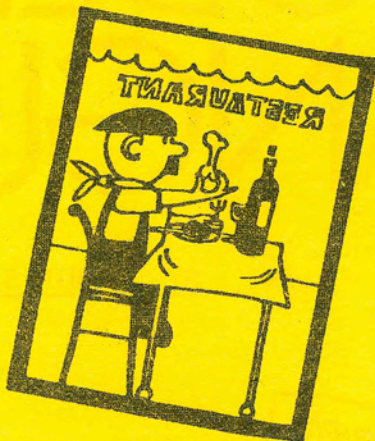


MODERN LANGUAGES

At ST. ELPHIN'S SCHOOL



MAY 1989



FRENCH and GERMAN at ST. ELPHIN'S

Take a difficult situation. A car-theft whilst on holiday in France? Perhaps we just ate too-many cream-cakes in Germany, and felt awful next day?

Next follows a short sequence of recorded film on video. Here we are, at the Doctor's in Germany - poor Bärbel looks really ill today. What's the matter with her? Sometimes we rewind and review parts of the film, time and again. We pause to note down useful vocabulary. Now there's no sound at all, and we provide the missing German....difficult.

Some of us are happier when the words are there, so next we turn to the relevant chapter of the text book. There's usually a cassette-tape to listen to as well, so even a regional accent doesn't completely baffle us. Sometimes there are multiple-choice questions to do while we're listening - just to keep us wide awake.

Then the fun starts. No books, no notes. Confrontation, face to face, on the spot. I'm the German doctor, and you're the patient. Tell me what's wrong then - but don't laugh!

We've practiced that several times - so now to record ourselves. Can that be me?

Prep. tonight? what's to do? Decipher the instructions on the medicine bottle. Read the information about the chemist shops. Where will we find one open late tonight? Filling in a long official form stating exactly what has been taken from that car in France.

We listen then speak. We read and then write. Sometimes we go there, just to see if it all really works. This October we shall stay with French families in the Loire Valley.

Last year our G.C.S.E. results were good. We hope that this year they'll be even better.

NOTE: All girls study French for the G.C.S.E. All girls take German as a second foreign Language in the UIV. German is an optional subject for G.C.S.E.