

# SCE Drawdown Newsletter

December 2011

## Provision of Secondary Education in Rhine Garrison post September 2012

Under Programme **BORONA** Windsor School, Rheindahlen, will close in July 2013.

As a relatively small number of secondary age students are likely to remain within the Rhine Garrison catchment area<sup>1</sup> until 2015, HQ SCE staff, in conjunction with HQ UKSC, European Support Group (ESG) HQ Rhine Garrison and the Headteachers of Windsor and King's schools, have been studying a number of options in order to provide parents with a clear statement about the provision of secondary education beyond the summer of 2012.

The group considered all aspects of secondary provision for students studying at Windsor school including those from ESG areas such as Ramstein, AFNORTH and SHAPE.

### As part of the study the group examined:

- Termly<sup>2</sup> boarding at King's school, Gütersloh
- using spare capacity at Prince Rupert School, Rinteln
- extended weekly boarding<sup>3</sup> at King's school
- combining GCSE courses at King's and Windsor Schools - enabling students to start their course at Windsor and continue at King's upon the closure of JHQ
- the use of private secondary schooling in Aachen, Brussels, Duisburg and Neustadt

The option of termly boarding was eventually discounted. The headteacher and his senior leadership team felt that the limited facilities available for students at **Mansergh Barracks** in Gütersloh and the very nature of a "working" barracks would not produce a particularly favourable environment for students away from home at weekends.

As the military footprint in BFG has changed over the years, spare boarding capacity at **Prince Rupert School** (PRS) in Rinteln has emerged. Given, however, the journey time of approximately four hours between Rhine Garrison and PRS, SCE has concluded that it is not appropriate for students to make that journey twice each week.

As SDSR and rebasing gathers pace **Gütersloh Garrison** will come under increasing pressure to provide accommodation for a range of incomers. Potentially high numbers of secondary age students means that SCE is unable to offer boarding at King's school from September 2012 for any **Rhine Garrison** students other than the small number following A Level courses.

There is a project underway to extend boarding provision at King's school; however, in the current financial climate, no guarantee can be given at this point in time that any additional provision will be available for September 2012.

Once **Münster Station** closes in the summer of 2013, the pressure on King's school will lessen – possibly allowing other options to emerge for schooling post August 2013.

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*The January newsletter will contain information about the Münster Station drawdown, VERS arrangements and data retention ...*

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**Windsor School** therefore remains the default option for all students in years 7, 8 and 9 and students embarking on GCSE courses in September 2012 will have a measure of additional options available to them to assist with continuity of education. This is outlined in more detail below.

## Secondary education following the closure of Windsor School in July 2013

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*Should you have any queries in respect of the drawdown of schools, please contact a member of the SCE Drawdown Team in the first instance.*

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From September 2013, students from **Ramstein** who currently board at Windsor will attend **Neustadt** International School as day pupils. MMA will be authorised for parents who will be expected to transport students daily.

From September 2013, students from **SHAPE** who currently board at Windsor will attend The **British School of Brussels** (BSB) as day pupils. BSB will be the secondary education provider to all resident dependant children of personnel serving at SHAPE from 2012-13. Bussing will be provided from SFA in Mons to the school, which should take around an hour in each direction.

From September 2013, students from **AFNORTH** will have the option to attend **St George's School at Aachen** as day students or to weekly board at King's school. Official transport<sup>4</sup> - either a coach or rail warrant - will be provided for students attending King's school. MMA will be authorised for parents who decide to utilise St George's School at Aachen: parents will be expected to transport students daily. **KS 3 Pupils** will also have the option to attend the US / Canadian High School at AFNORTH.

Parents of children posted to **ESG** units should direct all queries to the appropriate **UK JSU** (at JFC Brunssum, Ramstein or SHAPE).

From September 2013 students of families based at **Elmpt** Station will have the option to attend the International School at **Duisburg** as day students or to weekly board at **King's** school. Official transport - either a coach or rail warrant - will be provided for students attending King's school. MMA will be authorised for parents who decide to utilise the International School at Duisburg: parents will be expected to transport students daily.



As a result of the current, limited, boarding capacity at King's School, there is no provision for Rhine Garrison catchment area students, starting Year 10 in September 2012, to board at King's school. **King's** and **Windsor** schools are therefore working closely to offer identical **GCSE** courses for those students who start Year 10 in Sept 2012 and to ensure that student wellbeing is uppermost in their minds. Students will therefore be able to embark on Year 10 at Windsor school before transferring to King's school in September 2013 to complete Year 11.

Regrettably, the nature of **A Level courses** doesn't lend itself to this approach and both headteachers recommend weekly boarding at King's schools for the very small number of students involved. Students starting Year 12 in September 2012 will therefore be able to board weekly at King's school. Provision will be made at King's school for students to arrive on a Sunday evening, returning home on a Friday afternoon and official transport - either a coach or rail warrant - will be provided.

### Continuity of Education Allowance / Boarding School Allowance

Parents considering returning their children to the **UK** to board as an alternative to the options outlined above are advised to contact the UK-based **Children's Education Advisory Service** - Email: [enquiries@ceas.detsa.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ceas.detsa.co.uk) . CEAS is part of the MoD Directorate of Children and Young People.

Questions about **SCE** provision should in the first instance be sent to [info@scschools.com](mailto:info@scschools.com)

#### Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this newsletter, Rhine Garrison catchment area includes Ramstein, AFNORTH, Elmpt, JHQ and SHAPE.

<sup>2</sup> Termly boarding – students spend most weekends during term-time at school.

<sup>3</sup> Extended weekly boarding – students leave school Friday afternoon and return to school Sunday evening.

<sup>4</sup> Students from AFNORTH who make use of official transport to King's School will be picked up at Elmpt.