

Reading and speaking

Boarding school

- 1 What is a 'boarding school'? Are they usually private or state? (Strangely, top British 'private schools' are called 'public schools'.) What is your impression of the school in the photos?
- 2 Read the introduction to **Gordonstoun**. What is special about this school? Why do you think Prince Charles hated it?
- 3 Divide into two groups.

Group A Read about **the school's history**.

Group B Read about **the school today**.

Answer the questions with your group.

- 1 Which of these dates or numbers are from your text? What do they refer to?

1934	1972	1933	2	100	1940s	600	40	250
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- 2 What were/are living conditions for pupils like?
 - 3 Who were/are the pupils? Where did/do they come from?
 - 4 Was/Is the school sensitive to problems students face when boarding?
 - 5 What sports and outdoor activities were/are part of the school's curriculum?
 - 6 Why were/are sports and outdoor activities important to the school?
 - 7 Which other subjects or activities were/are important to the school? How?
- 4 Find someone from the other group. Ask and answer the questions together and compare the school today with the school as it used to be.
 - 5 Read the postscript. Why do you think so many rich and famous people send their children to Gordonstoun?

What do you think?

- Would you like to have been educated at this school? Why/Why not?
- Would you want to send your children there?
- Do you think an emphasis on outdoor activities and the arts is as important as academic success in education?
- A few children are sent to boarding school as young as seven. What could be the disadvantages of this for both parents and children? Could there be any advantages?

A language competition!

Work in two teams. There are 16 examples of verb patterns in the article. Which team can find them all first?

 **Watch** a video about what life is like for students at a stage school.



Gordonstoun

the school

Prince Charles

loathed!

Gordonstoun is a famous and very expensive boarding school in a remote part of Scotland. It has its own fire station, theatre, yacht, and Mountain Rescue Unit.

Wealthy parents from all over the world are eager to pay up to £35,000 a year for its special brand of 'character education'. It has many famous 'old boys', including four princes from the British royal family.

