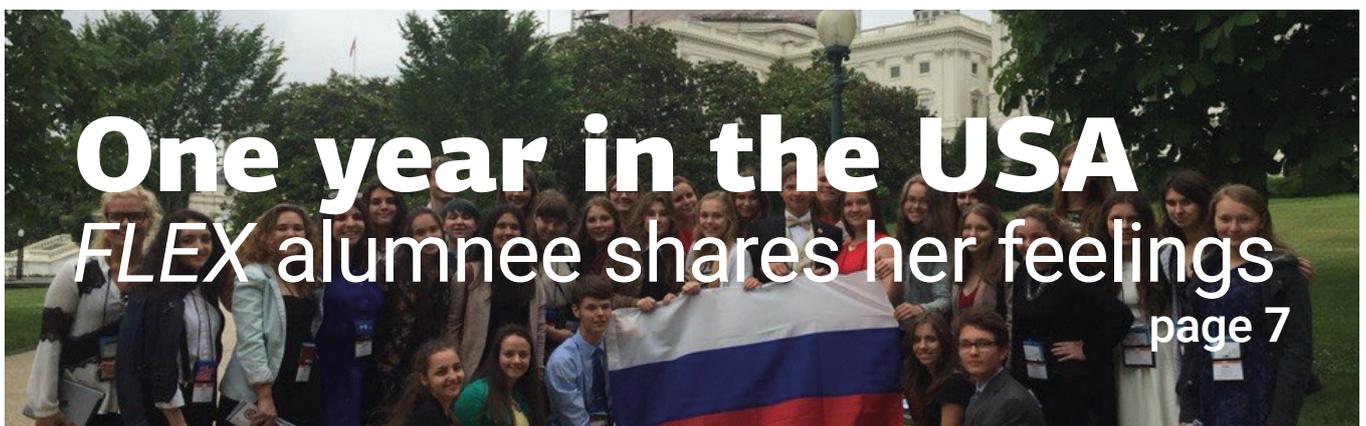
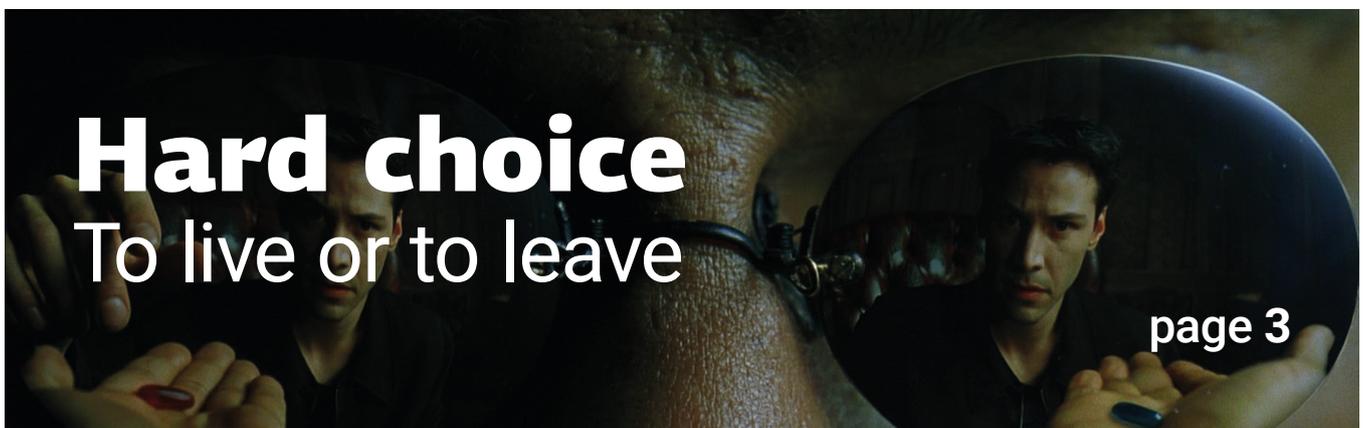


# SCHOOL TIMES

# 2  
October  
2015

made in  
Arkhangelsk

English language newspaper about school life, culture and international relationship made for Russian and American students



## Learn languages! Be in trend!

That was the motto of the Day of European languages, which took place in the *Dobrolubov Library* on 26th of September, conducted by centre *MIR*. Everyone, interested in learning languages, gathered for this event.

Ph.Doctor Alexander Polikarpov gave a sapid lecture about dictionaries and phrasebooks of 20th century, published in Arkhangelsk. Than all the participants could write a test and check their spelling in English, French and German, and about one hundred people decided to try.

Also the organizers started the *Book Exchange* campaign: the visitors could exchange their books, dictionaries, magazines and CDs.

Short lessons of Japanese, Chinese, French and Swedish were conducted by teachers from the *Nothern Arctic Federal University*.

— by *Sergey Bakin*,  
photo by *Svetlana Kovrizhnykh*



## Awards for the best

An annual awarding festival *The Blue Bird* was held in May by the *School # 21* at the *Centre of Children and Youth Creativity*.

The aim of the festival is to encourage the most talented, hardworking and successful people of our school, including students, teachers and parents.

The awards were given to 36 students, 6 teachers, 2 school intellectual games teams, 5 forms and 2 classrooms in 10 nominations.

This year the festival lasted for an hour and a half. Between the awardings, a lot of gifted students represented their mastery in singing, dancing, playing musical instruments and filmmaking.

*The Blue Bird* is an annual festival, it was started in 2001.

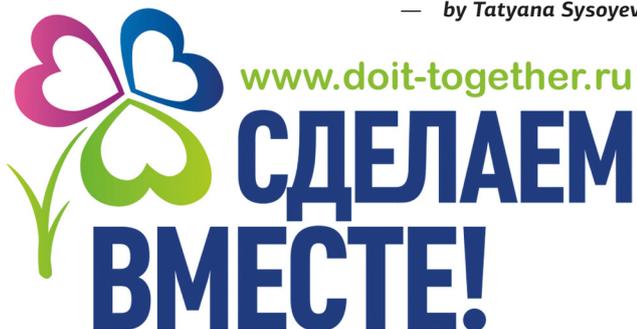
— by *Kirill Belov-Belikov*

## Do it together

At the beginning of October students of 6-8 forms had unusual Biology lessons. These lessons were devoted to urgent ecological problem of solid waste recycling. Students found out why dumping sites appear and what should be done to eliminate them.

They also learnt about the problems of long-term decomposition of plastic and other materials. Besides our students were taught how to handle with household waste and were acquainted with new methods of waste recycling. These lessons were held as part of All-Russian action *We'll do it together* and became the first step to our students' partaking in culture of consumption.

— by *Tatyana Sysoyeva*



**\*We'll do it together!**

## The School Council renovated

The first meeting of the student's council held on September 28 was attended by four new students from 5th grade. Julia Shelashskaya, the school social educator and main organizer of events, according to tradition, told them the history of the creation of student's *Council of Smart, Cheerful and Active* — *CSCA*. The members of the council summed up the results of the last year, named the competitions won by the school. Shelashskaya presented the plan of events for the year and the councilors discussed it. Finally, they "formed the government": the chairman of the council — Julia Anikieva, the chairman's assistant — Sergey Bakin, and secretary — Svetlana Feldt.

October, the 5th is an International Teacher's Day and *CSCA* supervised the preparation for this event — halls, stairs and corridors were originally decorated. The school organized and gave an excellent performance conducted by the students from junior and senior forms. It was dedicated to the teachers and their colleagues, veterans of labor. The most talented students showed their mastership in singing and dancing at that performance.

— by *Julia Anikiyeva*

**In this rubric we are going to let you express your own opinion no matter what it is about. You can email us your texts to [schooltimes@shagi29.ru](mailto:schooltimes@shagi29.ru). Do not forget about the laws forbidding appealing to extremism, excusing terrorism and war crimes.**



## The question is: whether to leave Arkhangelsk or to live in Arkhangelsk? *Our editor Gleb Nikonov dropped a line about our city and reasons to quit it*

Each citizen of Arkhangelsk knows history of our fellow countryman, Mikhail Lomonosov. Born in the fisher's family that lived at countryside near the sea, he managed to get to Moscow and become one of the greatest scientists, writers, poets and researchers in Russian history. His perseverance, hard work and strong desire of better life pushed him to get through a long way, more than one thousand and two hundred kilometers, from far north to Moscow. He was a self-made person and gave us a perfect example of hardwork and persistence. That is the answer, I think — if you are ready to work hard, strive and spend all your time on it, you'll get success and will be in demand not only in Moscow, but all over the world.

How can one live in a certain place all his life? The same streets, buildings, activities, neighborhood, nature and people are the shortest way to depression. The world is much more, than a city and even a country; there are so many things to do, places to visit and people to meet, that you don't have a minute to stay. One will say it is dangerous and risky to change your surroundings, because you can make a mistake or not settle down in a new place, but how could you know, if you don't try? Our life is a se-

ries of errors and efforts, black stripes are always followed by white stripes, a bright dawn comes after a dark night. We should spend our life on getting experience and knowledge and then share them with other people, and the only way to achieve this is to visit as many places as possible, get into different situations, communicate with various people, learn about foreign culture and living conditions.

To be more prosaic, there is only one university in Arkhangelsk which gives high standart of education, it is *NARFU* — *Nothern Arctic Federal University*. Even though it doesn't give enough for being in demand. The reality is that only two main cities, Moscow and Saint Petersburg can give a variety of opportunities to get a job. So if you want to get a well-paid "dream job", you'd better leave Arkhangelsk. Population of our region is getting smaller every year and if you don't have a person to connect your life with – you should move to a bigger city to have more chances. Definitely, there are many places in the world, which are more attractive for life and work than my native town.

If you are a weather-sensitive person, you'd better move south looking for milder and more constant climate – ours is

for seldom fans. Arkhangelsk has lots of snow five or six months in the year, it is often frosty, windy and cloudy in winter, summer is pretty cool, it often rains. In autumn and spring our town looks extremely dirty and damp and therefore uncomfortable for citizens and visitors. Arkhangelsk has poor infrastructure: broken roads full of pits, two dozens of shopping centres, which don't differ much, a lot of broken wooden buildings, dirty walls, rickety fences and tons of garbage on the streets.

To be honest, there are not only disadvantages in living in Arkhangelsk. We have things to be proud of: our history, people, born here, our river and downtown. Our city is one of the longest, it stretches for sixty kilometers along the Severnaya Dvina river. Arkhangelsk is the capital of a huge region, which is rich in nature, culture and places from the Novaya Zemlya archipelago to the Onega river. We have delicious cuisine and our pride is nothern fish, berries and mushrooms. If you are a lover of such stuff, you'll find living in Arkhangelsk pleasant and exciting.

Should a person leave Arkhangelsk or live in it? Much depends upon the person. That's for you to decide.

— by **Gleb Nikonov**

# Final thoughts about

**Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX) was established in 1992 and all over the world an opportunity to go to America for a year: to live in culture and improve language skills. Unfortunately due to “patriotic” of the last Russians who entered the program. She spent one unforge**

What do I feel about my exchange year in the USA? Absolute happiness. Even though these 9 months were not easy, they definitely brought new sense to my life.

Being a FLEX finalist is a blessing. It's not only an honor though, but it's also a difficult task, as you have to be some kind of an ambassador, a representative of your country. It bothers, though it feels

like nothing in comparison with all the affection and support an exchange student gets living in a host-family, being a student in the high school and a part of the community.

Besides living in a family and being treated like a daughter, my favorite part was also going to school every day! Can you imagine: 7.00 am, you're going through the parking lot towards the

school, you're still sleepy, but you know that four great inspiring teachers are going to give you useful knowledge. The main difference between Russian and American education is that in Russian schools you get the best fundamental knowledge, while American education provides you with skills and information that are incredibly useful in an everyday life. It means that, for instance, in the Economics class you won't only learn what stock exchange is, but how to buy stock to get profit. So the idea of practical knowledge and experience is present in every class. In my opinion, if Russian and American educational systems were mixed together, it would be an ultimate role-model.

American school is a unique place where everyone can feel at ease. Every student has a locker — a metal cupboard, where he can leave all heavy books and personal belongings. Moreover, students have only eight classes throughout the year, which they can choose. So you can really stay focused on the classes you really need and are interested in. It means that it is required to have certain amount of credits to get a school diploma, for example 5 years of English, 3 years of science and some others. So once you have all your credits you can choose classes you like and classes you need to get into a college or university.

What is more, some classes in American high school may seem quite unusual. For example: Bible History, Band, Student Success, Creative Writing, History of Rock, Yoga. My favorite class was Business Management, because we had to write our own Business Plan based on the imaginary company we created. Furthermore, another great thing about American High schools is that almost all the students are involved in various sports: football (American football), soccer (the game that is called football in the rest of the world besides the USA), softball, baseball, swimming, tennis, cross-country, track, wrestling, basketball, cheerleading



**Liza, her friend Janie, exchange student from Pakistan Rukhsar, Liza's host sister Savannah and exchange student Julia from Brazil on a bridge in Chattanooga, TN**

# t my year in the USA

*It is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. It gives many students an American host family, to attend American school, to learn American and political decisions of Russian government, Liza Tomilova was one remarkable year and wants to share her feelings with everyone.*

and so on and so forth. You can really feel the school spirit during the football games!

But I personally believe that the best thing about American high school is that you get to meet many different people, and they are unique both inside and outside. For example, besides true Americans you can meet African-American, Mexican, Indian students, some other exchange students like me. So all of them have different ideas and backgrounds, belong to

they want to do in their life. In general, students have to take ACT or SAT exams during their 10th and 11th grades, so based on their score and GPA they apply to the university. Since tuition and all the fees in the American universities are extremely high, most of the students also apply for scholarships. I respect the way Americans feel about colleges. They say that life wouldn't end if you didn't get into college or you don't like the whole idea of

she goes to this church a couple times per week, he/she gets a chance to get to know all other members of this church. As the result they make friends. And it is so wonderful how supportive they all are to each other - they share all their ups and downs trying to back each other. It helps people overcome their problems and even survive while struggling with awful illnesses. The whole idea of the community is so awesome because you know that you are



*Liza, her friend Janie and host sister Savannah. Christmas time.*

different nationalities and religions. All of these features bring diversity to the society. What is more, all the students have their own various ambitions. Some are very good at sports, so they are trying to make universities pay attention to them and give a scholarship to study there. Some do their best to have 5.0 GPA and get a high score on their exam to get into a prestigious college. Some decide to get a school diploma and go to get a job just to look around and decide, what

studying there. It is alright for them to go working in order to decide what their passion in life is because life is too short to do the things you dislike.

What makes a life of a typical American complete besides family, school and work? It is a community. To be exact, the power of community, all the support it gives to its members. Usually when we talk about community in the USA we mean church. Every religious person is a member of some church, in most cases. So since he/

not alone and there are people, who care about you, who can help if you are going through some difficulties in your life.

It would probably take hundreds of pages to describe my entire exchange year. To cut a long story short I should admit that family, school and community were the main beneficial aspects of my American experience. The year in America gave me so much to think about, it made me change and become better.

— by **Elizabeth Tomilova**

# Greetings from Westbrook

***Our friend Hanna Shibles from Westbrook wanted to tell us some words about her new school year. We're going to let her do it right here.***

The beginning of the 2015-2016 school year has brought about many changes at *Westbrook High School*. Instead of our usual seven period schedule, we now have four eighty-five minutes classes per day. We also recently gained multiple new staff members. The most exciting current event, however, is our homecoming dance and our upcoming spirit week.

This year, our homecoming is earlier than usual, October 3rd. Homecoming is always the highlight of autumn, and I am sure this year will be no different. The week after homecoming is *Westbrook High School's Spirit Week*. The first day is Marvel Monday where students will dress up as their favorite superheroes. My friends and I will be dressing up as the Avengers, and I will be Captain America. The next day

is Twin Tuesday where students dress up the same as someone else. On that day, the entire senior class is going to wear all black. Wednesday is school spirit day and also our annual Pep-Rally. Everyone will be dressed in our school colors (blue and white) and we will all spend the day in the gym playing games and cheering. Thursday, our last day because we have Friday off of school to celebrate Columbus Day, is decades day. Each class is assigned a decade to dress up as. It is tradition that the senior class dresses up like the 80's. That mean bright colors and foot warmers!

*Westbrook High School* cannot wait to meet new travelers from Archangel. We hope that you all are enjoying the start of a new school year just as we are!

— **by Hanna Shibles**



## Graduates

# My first steps into students' life

***The purpose of primary education is the development of your weak characteristics; the purpose of University education is the development of your strong.***

— **Nevin Feeneman**



This year I have become the student of *St. Petersburg State University* and I should admit it's not the same as to be a pupil.

To my mind, the most outstanding difference between education at school and at university is responsibility. At school each class has its own class supervisor, the main person who is the source of information on which you can always rely. At university this thing is completely different. Despite the fact that every group of students has a monitor, you should be attentive and ready to play on your own.

At school when you are late and suddenly come across the teacher or the headmaster you usually get nervous, because you

understand, that you're in trouble. If this happens at the university, nobody will tell you a word: it's your own choice whether to attend classes or not. As usual, the very first examinations make the lazy students leave the university at once.

Another difference is the amount of homework. I seem to be a lucky girl, who managed to avoid the piles of homework, which are usually the main reason of insomnia for the students of the medical department. Frankly speaking, our home task reminds me the iceberg. The greatest part of the books, articles and monographs isn't on the so-called "must to do list". But can you become a professional diplomat without having read dozens of political analysis? Sure, you can't, you won't be qualified enough. So home task is out of the question for me.

I heard a lot of people say: "The first thing you'll be told after entering the university is to forget everything you've learned at school". Fortunately, I can't agree with this statement, because now I can understand and appreciate the amount of knowledge that I was given at school. University makes you realize the importance of education and we should take the opportunity to learn as more things as possible. At the university I've understood that I can make my dreams come true. We should work very-very hard, but everything is possible for a willing heart.

In conclusion, I want to cheer up the students of the 11th form. I believe that you will pass your exams successfully and enter the university you desire. You can do a thing.

— **by Ekaterina Kharchyk, 2015 year graduate**

# Why Cambridge English?

*In September Arkhangelsk teachers and students could attend lectures and seminars conducted by the methodist of Cambridge English exams University Department Elena Bogolubova. The topic of her seminars was the system of Cambridge exams for teachers and students who learned why to take these exams and how to prepare for them.*

Exam	CEFR Level	Test format	Exam length
Young Learners	A1: Beginner	Computer-based	
Key for schools (KET)	A2: Pre-Intermediate	Computer or paper-based	2 hours
Preliminary for schools (PET)	B1: Intermediate	Computer or paper-based	2 hours and 20 minutes
First for schools (FCE)	B2: Upper-Intermediate	Computer or paper-based	3 hours and 30 minutes

## How to choose the exam?

The *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)* is an international standard for describing language ability. It is used around the world to describe learners' language skills.

**Young learners** is a series of **fun, motivating English language tests**, aimed at children in primary and lower-secondary education. There are three activity-based tests – Starters, Movers and Flyers. This gives students a clear path to improve in English.

**Key (KET) for Schools** qualification shows that a student can

- use English to communicate in simple situations;
- understand and use basic phrases and expressions;
- understand simple written English;
- introduce himself and answer basic questions about himself;
- interact with English speakers at a basic level.

**Preliminary (PET) for Schools** qualification shows that a student

- has mastered the basics of English and now has practical language skills for everyday use;
- can read simple textbooks and articles in English;
- can write letters and emails on everyday subjects;
- can understand factual information;

— can show awareness of opinion and mood in spoken and written English.

**First (FCE) for Schools** qualification shows that a student — has the language skills he need to communicate in an English-speaking environment;

— can communicate effectively from face to face, expressing opinions and giving arguments;

— can write clear detailed English, expressing opinions and explaining advantages and disadvantages of different points of view;

— can follow the news;

— can write letters, reports, stories and lots of other types of texts.

If you have a desire to take Cambridge Exams you don't have to go to Moscow or St.Petersburg. You can do it in Arkhangelsk exam centre in June.

More information can be found here here: +7 (8182) 66-05-66, examcenter@narfu.ru, vk.com/examcenter, cambridgeenglish.org.

— by *Olga Pravilova*



**CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH**  
Language Assessment  
Part of the University of Cambridge

## Five reasons why you should choose Cambridge English

### 1. Develop real-life English skills

— Cambridge English exams are designed to assess how learners use English to communicate in real-life situations.

### 2. Exams for a range of levels and uses

— All exams are aligned with the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)* – the international standard for describing language ability.

### 3. Accepted for work, immigration and study globally

— 20,000 universities, employers and governments around the world accept Cambridge English exams.

— Exams open doors to higher education, improve employment opportunities, and increase choice for study or work.

### 4. Fully supported by a range of learning and teaching resources

— A wide variety of resources including Official Cambridge English preparation materials, videos, social media and games to help learners practise and improve their English effectively.

### 5. Secure, reliable and fair

— Cambridge English exams are designed to be fair to all test takers, whatever their age, gender, nationality, first language or ethnic background.

# HSE to schools

**This year School # 21 joined the programme “HSE to Schools” by Higher School of Economics. We tried to answer the question: “What for?”.**

Have you already chosen the university you are going to enter? That is the question students of 9th – 11th forms are constantly asked. We usually dismiss the subject answering: “I don’t know, I have a year or two to think about it”. But we shouldn’t forget that our future begins today and it largely depends on what we are doing now. The paradox is in the fact that we are inactive. Of course, it is quite clear: endless homework, different hobby groups and clubs: we have no time to think about our future. Besides, we always hope for our Russian avos’ (good luck) — somehow I will pass the exam or I will enter somewhere. But let’s wake up and smell the coffee: it is possible to make our entering to the university easier right now

*Higher School of Economics* is a university opened for those who long for getting modern knowledge in the fields of Economy, Government, Social science and Humanities, Mathematics, Computer Technologies and Linguistics. Every year more than 9 thousand teenagers from different parts of our country and from abroad try to enter *Higher School of Economics*. But a limited number of budgetary places, high pass mark, cost of education make the students give up their dreams and turn aside from the way of entering *HSE*. That is why the main aim the creators of the project *HSE to Schools*



tried to achieve is making common informative space of vocational guidance and as a consequence — preparing competent university entrants who are capable to study at *Higher School of Economics* successfully. *The Higher Test* and *The Competition of Youth* are created for the same purpose. It should be noted that the winners of these contests will have priority in entering *Higher School of Economics*. I think we can make a conclusion that we shouldn’t ignore such activities.

Maybe they will turn out to be “the happy card” to the adult life.

All in all, it is worth taking a chance. Participate in every possible competition, Olympiad. Sooner or later you will benefit from it for sure. And it doesn’t depend on your results. Dare, make your own mistakes, learn from them and remember: those, who make no mistakes — do nothing.

— by **Nastya Yakovleva**,  
photo by **HSE Press Service**

## We need your feedback

Found a mistake? Can’t agree with author?  
Want to offer your help or propose an idea?

Email us:

[schooltimes@shagi29.ru](mailto:schooltimes@shagi29.ru)  
[panov.s@facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/panov.s)

[pravilovaolga@mail.ru](mailto:pravilovaolga@mail.ru)  
[hachpurionelove@gmail.com](mailto:hachpurionelove@gmail.com)

Mail us:

9 Uritskiy St, Arkhangelsk 163002, Russia