

What do I like about this grammar school and what would I change or improve?

As the history has shown, Slovaks are typical for their extreme adaptability and ability to withstand almost any situation that they have been thrown into. And so it is with youth. We – students of BGMH, or to be more understandable, as some still keep on calling us in nowadays already unofficial way - students of GBAS have been given an unconditional opportunity to overtake our ex-mates by attending a school which some still call „experimental“; or otherwords – our beloved „GBAS“. Throughout the very first weeks spent in this unconventional environment we have learn how to survive and how to overcome our own traditions built over years spent with, no matter how bad it sounds it is not meant to sound so, with the average. Now, this system is alike the university one, so we have overtaken our peers by at least 5 years. And that's a great advantage! Nevertheless, It is said that one is almost never satisfied with a recent situation, which I am excluded from because I am mostly satisfied, however, there are always things that can be improved; people just have to be openminded and willing to change things. There is something on my mind concerning the usage of a gym, the after-school activities happening in the school building and the „ZRPŠ“ policy. So let me share some ideas.

Firstly, there is important to say that over last decade, especially last few years lots of architectural improvements have been done, including new classes on the third and fourth floor, enlargement of gym, IT room, new canteen, newly equiped classes, new shelter at the entry, new garden, new roof and relatively fresh paint building. That all would be even better if we – students – could fully and freely use all this stuff. I am thinking especially about the gym - the place where we can use and improve our physical shells. This recently very well equiped room gives us the opportunities to play football, basketball, volleyball, floorball, and what's more, there is also a climbing wall! However, there is a problem. The access for entry is a subject to the presence of the P.E. teacher. Thus, if a student wants to play a game or to use a climbing wall, one has to either join some sport club at the school or wake up for the zero lesson. On one hand I understand that while playing a game or climbing a wall we risk some injury and thus the teachers presence is beneficial but on the other hand, what a joy it would be if we could spend our free lessons by developing ourselves in this healthy way! That's why I think that gym should be opened during the timetable for every student

Secondly, there is a problem with planning the after – school activities. In my opinion, there are two main reasons that block these activities: the necessity of teachers presence while after-school activities happening in the school building and the fact that everyone's daily timetable ends at different time. The first one possibly results from bad experience in past which has afterwards resulted in the necessity of the presence of a teacher during the after – school program, no matter what sort of activity it is. And again, on one hand I understand that the supervision is beneficial for several reasons, but on the other hand it sometimes complicates clubs functioning. Simply, students from time to time want to gather and discuss no matter what, they just want to be together in the school environment where they feel free enough to stay at and enjoy just being together as they are. Instead, they do it anyway, they have just changed the environment from the school one to the pub one. Then some wonder why - starting with some fourteen years old first years and finishing with exstudents randomly visiting Sučany – students, who are leaving school after sixth lesson while coming to the dormitory at six, are spending almost more time in the pub than in the school. The second thing is that the timetable of a Y1 student and Y5 student almost never ends at the same time (except for the school-council day). Thus lots of the after-school activities have to be postponed on after-ninth-lesson time, which is favourable for everyone in a way. So, in my opinion, being more openminded towards the after-school activities and clubs with having at least 2 or 3 days when the whole school would end up at the same time would be beneficial for both sides.

Thirdly, there have already been couple debates – especially amongst students - concerning

paying of ZRPŠ. The reason is simple: Why shall one pay for something that does not directly affect him? How does one feel that he has supported something that will afterwards return to him in another beneficial way? What is the difference between the payer and the non-payer? Thus the group of non-payer has risen. The reason is simple – if I pay ZRPŠ, I (or my family) „supports“ school by 100€ every year (this year risen to 130€) I get all books, all concerts for free, I can get discount for CAE exam, and if they find myself as a five-years-on-time payer with excellent results I can get some price or money at the end of my „quinquenniad“. However, if I do not pay ZRPŠ, I have to pay all the concerts – which is 2€ for a concert and considering all three to five concerts that we go to it gives me up to ten euros – and no access to the books bought from these ZRPŠ money or being not awarded at the end of the school year for the excellent results is the reward and the destiny of a non-payer. Nevertheless, I do not think that all these things are worth 100€, however, while thinking about some families which can not afford it, I do not think that it is the right policy. What's more, the fact is that ZRPŠ is not obligatory, and the other fact is that school should give to student the best education it can, including the best books the school has – if there are enough, and also to reward student for his results no matter whether one is or is not the ZRPŠ payer. Thus I think that our school should change its ZRPŠ policy to be more sensitive and less directive.

In conclusion I would like to mention that I am a year five student, which is giving me enough experience to see over the rainbow. I know that being a GBAS or BGMH student is giving me the best opportunity to prepare for the university life, however, there are couple things that should be changed. Basically, our school should be much openminded towards needs of students community, including the less limited access to the classes and especially to the gym, the openmindedness while thinking of the after – school clubs and free activities and finally the wisdom while dividing students into ZRPŠ payers and ZRPŠ non-payers and the limitation of the free and the best education that we all can be given by this school.