

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

There have been a lot of discussions all around Slovakia about experiment approaching to its end. Experiment carries the name: bilingual grammar schools This essay competition offers a possibility to express ideas presented by students from the epicentre of these types of school. In this essay I will focus firstly on positive aspects of Sucany grammar school like: relationships between students and teachers, freedom of choice and support of individuality. In the second, a bit critical part I will focus on low level of interviews for new employees and low motivation for teachers to improve.

Firstly, as we all know, Sucany grammar school is not another brick in the wall among other grammar schools within Slovakia. One of the biggest advantages in studying here is that relationships between students and teachers are very close. Thus students are motivated to learn more, due to the fact of feeling that someone cares about them and is willing to spend their free time with them. This leads to more enthusiastic approach towards studies, what finally leads to students, who choose their future carrier paths according to their heart and feelings. To conclude this paragraph I would like to stress out the positive aspects of closer relationships between students and teachers which are willingness to actually attend school, positive approach towards studies and successful future carrier paths.

Secondly, our grammar school offers a great freedom of choice and freedom of speech. The first freedom is strongly supported by variety of subjects our students choose to the fourth and fifth year. Although our ministry of education tries to limit this freedom we believe that we will keep it because it supports our students in choosing the faculty at universities they will enjoy. Preparation for the university exams also plays an important role in selection of subjects for the last two years of studies. Long-term preparation for examinations for the universities tremendously increases the possibility of being successful in examinations process. The second freedom I mentioned was freedom of speech. This important and vital possibility is supported in lessons, when students have no restrictions in expressing their opinions on literary works or political and economic disputes in the country. What is more, students can express their opinions without any directive during occasional Speakers' corners or during the Students' council sessions. Freedom is one of the most important rights a mankind has. Sucany grammar school not only supports this freedom but also strives to develop and enhance this liberty.

Thirdly, I will try to describe shortly the situation in many grammar schools in Slovakia. There are many excellent students all around our country who posses great knowledge and a great variety of extra-curricular activities on their CVs. Sucany grammar school is not an exception and teachers as well as students themselves work very hard to not only gain this knowledge and free time activities but they also strive to learn the way to be successful. This means to gain important acquaintances or improve speaking skills. These important skills are recuperated in lessons or during their free time activities, when students express their opinions and form their own personalities. The most inspiring activities that strike my mind are Dreams&Teams project as well as Student's Council. These traditional activities which have been in practice at our school for ages now put a strain on students presenting skills, time management skills and improve their teamwork abilities. Our grammar school not only offers a top-class education in native and foreign language, it also strives to teach students how to become a successful and significant person for the whole society.

Lastly, we need to balance the analysis of our school and as I wrote about positives, this essay will now discuss some negatives present at our grammar school. The biggest problem concerning our school is low level of interviews for new employees. We have a huge problem to find teachers who are not only well educated in their subject, like economy, chemistry or biology but also have fluent English. What bothers me a lot, is

that even though the deputy management knows, that the school is about to lose some teacher, they always employ someone without a long-term admissions and employ a first applicant who applies for a job. I am aware of the fact, that we would have a lot of covering during that time, but it would be a way more positive to wait than to gain someone who is badly qualified. It is a wrong move to stick with the short-term solutions. That is what I believe our deputy management is doing, employing someone as quickly as possible not considering how much 'damage' that newly employed person will cause. The second complaints about our school are low wages and thus low motivation for teachers to improve. This is more of a general problem of Slovak educational system. Anyway I would say that our school should be an exception. Teachers present at our school not only have an educational degree in their specialization they also have fluent English. This is the reason why the government should increase the wages at least for teachers working at bilingual grammar schools. The criticism of our school comes down to low-level admissions and lack of motivation for our teachers.

Sucany grammar school is a unique institution and everyone who has had an opportunity to feel the atmosphere just for a second tries to work hard to maintain the general level of education here. Taking students point of view into consideration I would try to focus more on admissions process and I would try to motivate teachers more, who would subsequently motivate their students. Even though as I mentioned earlier Sucany grammar school is not only another brick in the wall and we should work as hard as possible to allow this school to grow and improve.

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