



IB REVIEW



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HALFWAY THROUGH BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PRE-IB EXPERIENCE

We all know the recruitment conditions for the pre-IB and its benefits. How about relating them to a real experience?

First off, the language. The level of English among new students varies considerably, thus the six lessons of English per week and dividing the class into two groups, with a specific goal: raising the language ability of all attending, so that they are able to understand and express themselves fluently in most topics. Any subject a student is taking should be well-understood in English - the language is the medium for learning nearly everything. Sounds scary? It's not. The teachers whose subjects can be chosen in the IB gradually introduce various materials and forms of checking the knowledge in English, and try to adapt accordingly. Genuine work will show results as early as a couple of months into the school year.

Probably the second most-talked about thing is the workload. The few 'extras' pre-IB adds: more English assignments, quizzes, but also parts of tests in

other subjects in English take time and effort. Some teachers also require the knowledge of material from extended curriculum, what seems to be always backed by the fact that it is covered in the IB. Much attention is given to good academic performance so knowing how to learn and plan forward is necessary.

Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is a new course for most. In the pre-IB it is merely a glance at what we consider 'knowledge' and basics of philosophy. In one lesson per week it is not intensive and will mostly expand on the abilities of logical thinking students should possess at this level. There are also 20 hours of 'introductory' Creativity Action Service (CAS) – not much either, compared to 150 hours in the IB Diploma Programme (DP).

Asking the teacher or fellow peers for help is encouraged while struggling with some material. Speaking about classmates: there is no telling who you will meet in the pre-IB. Some will learn better, some worse, some will even leave, but almost certainly

everyone will be able to find support. One may spend more time with some of those people than with own family someday, so it is extremely important to be respectful of everyone and their opinions.

Although the workload is manageable, the expectations are high. The stress of the multitude of responsibilities may seem to be too much to handle. It is important to find something one likes to do, what calms and relaxes them, and then stick to it. The students should always try to find some time to put their feet up -- half an hour less at the PC screen might be a good idea.

All in all, what do I think about the pre-IB? It is hard work, but also a short course on thinking by oneself instead of always agreeing with the teacher or the book, doing research on one's own and meeting people ready to help and support. It's not for everyone and not everyone will like it, but there is always a way back.

Katarzyna Wrona



VS. CAMBRIDGE

IB DIPLOMA SENIOR YEAR STUDENT NO. 006264012

Lukasz Kulik is a student of the senior year of IB Diploma at our school. His time spent in the IB programme allowed him to get to know his strengths and weaknesses, so he could easily decide on his future. Thanks to this programme he got truly interested in continuing his education in the field of the Natural Sciences. The decision of applying for this course at the two top universities in the world was not a hard one to make, with nothing to lose he took steps that may result in a riveting adventure.

I went through the application process to Cambridge and MIT, hence I am able to familiarise you with its specificity.

To apply to Cambridge you should follow regular UCAS procedure (UCAS is UK university admissions system, your guidance counsellor will acquaint you with). The only difference is that you can choose either Oxford or Cambridge, so you cannot apply to both in the same year. What is more, you have to decide on a college to which you are going to send your application. If you are not convinced which one to choose, you can always send an 'Open Application' - UCAS will assign a college for you.

The deadline for Oxbridge applications is three months earlier i.e. 15 October. Until this day you also have to fill in Supplementary Action Questionnaire on Cambridge website. Apart from ordinary information, they ask you to write additional personal

statement (regarding reasons behind choosing their university and specific college), your career plans and the interest in the subject you have applied for. Since they also want to know who they are going to deal with - you need to supply a photograph.

If your application is convincing enough, Cambridge is going to invite you for an interview in England. The procedure varies from college to college, but most often consists of two to three parts i.e. a test, a general interview and a subject-specific interview. If you are into Physics and Chemistry you might be asked e.g. to gauge how much CO₂ is going to evolve if we burn whole 15cm high, 4cm wide candle (answer-<http://bit.ly/12C1svi>). Important things are: intuitive understanding of Mathematics, strong Calculus comprehension and good estimation skills. You can find more about (very academic) Cambridge interview in this video: <http://bit.ly/Y1yi0W>

On the other hand, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) tries to appear as a very easy-going and casual institution. This starkly contrasts with their admission rate, namely 3.75%. Their admission system is similar in general, but is more concerned with the fit between you and MIT mission and not as much with academic abilities.

Since universities in the USA mostly do not accept overseas qualifications, including International Baccalaureate Diploma, you will need to take two SAT

Subject Tests (from sciences) and TOEFL (or SAT Reasoning Test). Three of your teachers (guidance counsellor, science teacher and humanities teacher) will need to write you references, focusing on your interactions with students and teachers, team work skills, warmth of personality, sense of humour and integrity, as well as your academic achievements and potential.

Instead of personal statement MIT asks you to write a few short essays and will check your language skills, integrity and assess your personality in an interview. The latter is organised in your country and conducted by MIT alumni. Questions from the forms and interview can be found here: <http://bit.ly/V6VWMJ>

Meanwhile, between busying himself with applying to Cambridge and MIT and getting on with the school work, Lukasz also conducted a research that was chosen to be one of eight in Poland to be presented at the International Conference of Young Scientists (ICYS) which is held annually, each year in a different country, with Indonesia being this year's host (more information about ICYS in the next edition of IB Gliwice Review). This trivial rivalry is just another manifestation of the futile pursuit of meaning of life.

ol & ox

HOW NOT TO STUDY A LOT

Everyone would prefer to have some free time instead of learning all day long. The question, though is: how to achieve that? It is not as hard as it seems to be. We would like to provide you with some useful tips which will let you have more free time.

As we probably all know, the time spent on studying is not necessarily the time spent on learning. Sitting in front of your screen for four hours does not mean that we will get any good results. The most effective way for remembering facts is to use it in some written work. You can do an exercise or write an article. If you use gained knowledge in practice you will see the results in the test and it will take less time than learning by heart.

If you want to shorten the time of learning you have to do it effectively from the beginning up to the end. First of all, you should create a specific schedule connected with all your classes and activities. It will help you in planning your learning time. When you start to study, remember to take breaks. It will stimulate your brain and you will work more productively. After every 30 minutes of learning rest for 5-10 minutes. You will feel much more refreshed.

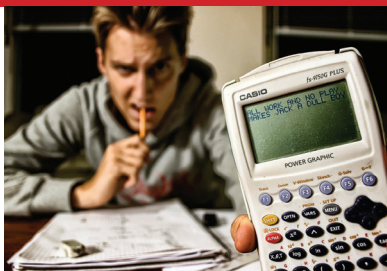
A good way for remembering things you have learned during classes is to rewrite the notes at home. It will refresh your memory and help you focus on most significant facts. It will help us concentrate on more important things, not just read the whole text and not remember it at all.

What is also important, make sure you will not be distracted while learning. You must stay focused on your task.

The tips above are just some of methods of learning, but we find them very useful.

- <http://zenhabits.net/how-to-learn-more-and-study-less/>
- <http://litemind.com/learn-anything/>
- <http://psychology.about.com/od/educationalpsychology/tp/effective-learning.htm>

Agnieszka & Paulina



HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR FRAME OF MIND

Not only ancient philosophers can advise you on how to improve your life. Nowadays, many of us suffer from insomnia, overwork, obesity or malaise. Some of them may even cause severe damage to our bodies. We live fast, we have high demands, high hopes, high expectations. However, if we don't change our lifestyle habits we may not have time to make it to our life targets. Luckily there are some improvements we can implement in our everyday lives. These fundamental tips will help you become immune to stress and diseases, make you sleep better and wake up with a great dose of energy every day.

1. Sleep more. Try to go to bed early even if it means missing your favorite movie on TV or less chatting on Facebook. Seems impossible? Your body needs sleep, and staying up late means you will have to give twice as much energy to everything than if you were relaxed. A good way to improve your sleeping is getting rid of all the electronics from your sleeping area and if possible from your bedroom. Putting your laptop in the bathroom seems crazy, but it has been proven scientifically that electronics such as mobile phones and tablets distract our brain, and even though we are sleeping we aren't really resting. Also keeping your bedroom clean and fresh should help you relax and fall into sleep calmly and without any distractions. If we let our body and brain rest at night we will have more energy during the day and preparing a healthy breakfast in the morning wouldn't be such a challenge anymore.

2. How to make winter mornings more bearable? Take some time to open your eyes, look through the window, stretch a little. Make yourself a delicious aromatic coffee with spices like cinnamon, or your favorite flavor of tasty tea (be careful with artificial additives!). Use shower gels or lotions which remind you of summer or anything you think is pleasant. Maybe sweet vanilla or chocolate aromatic cream won't make you jump out of bed every morning, but at least something lovely will be waiting for you if only you are brave enough to put the quilt away.

3. Probably you have already heard that 'you are what you eat' hundreds of times but there really is a

rational explanation. These are not just empty words. Do you put bad, unchecked gasoline into your car? Highly unlikely. It works the same way with the food we eat. It is our fuel. But how to select it? First of all, limit the intake of carbohydrates. Mostly those 'bad ones' which contain sugar are just empty calories which fill up our stomach for maybe an hour. It means no white bread, no cheap pasta made of low quality flour. What instead? How about a toast made from dark whole-wheat bread with mozzarella, olive oil and tomatoes? Or maybe you are more into sweets in the morning, in such case a whole-wheat slice of bread with some honey should make you full for the entire morning and help you avoid pre-midday sleepiness caused by the rapid decrease in the level of sugar in your blood. For those who really don't have time in the morning I recommend Nigella Lawson's morning banana milk-shake, but instead of cocoa with additives and sugar use some genuine cocoa and sweeten it up a little with honey. Of course we will have to forget about sweetened juices, candy bars and artificial food.

4. Read labels! There is no point in eating cancerogenic colorants which are obtained in ways you would rather not hear about.

If you have a sweet tooth, learn how to bake. It requires time, but you get to know what you eat. Oat cookies with cranberries, baked fruit, honey bran digestive cookies, why not try?

Some people say it is okay to eat everything but only with deliberation. Stick to this rule but with some improvements. No natural products will harm you so apply this thesis to everything that comes from nature and is served in a healthy way. Remove the rest from your menu and after a month you won't imagine going back to how you felt eating all the rubbish we see in commercials.

Don't eat too much before going to bed. It will only make your body have to work and digest, you will steal its rest time.

I also recommend drinking white and green tea. They

are full of antioxidants and if well prepared may be a very tasty beverage. Don't underestimate the power of fresh juice. A homemade smoothie will make you feel full, it tastes really good and you get the feeling you are doing something good for yourself.

5. Do sports! You don't need to run a marathon to stay in good physical and mental shape. If you are a dynamic person try to convince your friend, your beloved or one of your parents to jog or to have active walks every weekend. Swimming is also good for everyone. It works wonders for your spine, makes your muscles and lungs work. You may not be into sports, if so, consider yoga or pilates. It is great for flexibility, makes you feel relaxed but also makes your body work! You will feel more attractive and motivated to improve your social relations which are also the key to achieve a happy life balance. Look, so many benefits from only a few hours of movement!

6. Learn to love yourself. We tend to treat ourselves more rigorously than we would treat our worse enemy. Everybody needs rest and time for hobbies, leisure and time for themselves. Find some time to spend with the people you love, but don't sit and drink beer in a bar every single weekend. DO something together. Go to the theatre or a concert, organize a theme party, or just sit around and talk. Find time for: shopping, watching games on TV, reading, cooking or eating with those whom you love. Only through being active you can get to know yourself better, so try everything you can, because only knowing yourself will enable you to improve your life. So travel, learn, love, work, rest, eat and think.

Enjoy your life!

Zofia Pardela

LIVE FOR DEAR LIFE !

BY BUS AROUND THE WORLD

Have you ever wanted to 'make a difference'? Ever thought about helping the community or the environment? About proving somebody that you can do something extraordinary? Maybe you just wanted to be noticed or show that you can do something meaningful? What happened with your plans? There are people around the world who did things that seemed impossible. The idea and the courage to make it happen are everything that is necessary.

Krzysztof Rachwaniec is an ordinary citizen from Bielsko-Biala. He managed to set up a foundation *Zdrowa Ziemia* (Healthy Earth). Next year he is planning to run about 30 - 40 km daily to account for 620 km after a month. The aim of the effort is to raise money for the integration center to fight pathology, which he plans to build (originally the run was meant to take place this year, but Krzysztof didn't manage to find the sponsors in time). Mr. Rachwaniec is a living example of how much a single person can do. You don't like to run? You don't feel you could handle such a big action? This is not an excuse for inaction. Students in Concord, New Hampshire prove that people of all ages can make a difference. They hosted a 'hunger banquet' for their parents, who were expected to bring canned food that was later delivered to those in need. Everyone is capable of implementing action in his life and this can turn out to be a wonderful adventure.

In summer 2012 a group of students led by Zuzanna Lukasik decided to put the idea called "Baltica project" into practice in order to make people more aware of ecological concerns. They built a raft from recycling materials like plastic bottles and bags, and a chain-link fence. Then they swam it from Cracow to Gdansk. A similar event was the tournament in Bydgoszcz where only rafts from these constructing materials, were qualified to the competition. Those activities show that entertainment and concerns about the environment can go together. We need a handful of creativity and willingness. It's enough to experience the adventure of a lifetime that has some meaning to the community.

The awareness that you did something commonly believed to be impossible, must be a prodigious feeling. One of the men that possess this feeling is Jan Mela.

He is a young disabled man from Malbork in Poland with an amputated leg and forearm, who as a youngster managed to do a thing that seems to be beyond an ordinary man's grasp. He reached both North and South Pole in just one year, completely neglecting his disability. Proving things to yourself is awesome, especially when we talk about crazy challenges. Marek Minkus who lives near Gliwice decided to drive around Poland ... by his tractor. Undoubtedly, peculiar decision, but bearing precious fruits in a form of memories. Another challenge giving incredible remembrances is swimming across all four intercontinental channels, done by a quadruple amputee Philippe Croizon. Amazing stories, aren't they? This is it! These are never-to-be-forgotten moments of our lives.

Being creative, active and having the courage to act are very important character traits. The stories presented were chosen with the design to be an inspiration. The variety of them shows, there is a little something for everyone. Those little or big events make life more interesting, they develop the personality, they open up new horizons. They give opportunities by showing the commitment and engagement of an entity. A person with an adventure is a person that has a story to tell. No matter whether interesting or weird, designed to help the community or to prove something to oneself, whether done with some grandiloquent intentions or just for fun. People like listening to stories.

Majewsky



A 23-year-old bus, 31 countries and 32 states, 3 continents and the total of 48.000 km during 4 trips. How is it possible that Polish students proved that you can see the world for very little money.

Five years ago, five Polish students came up with an idea and despite the lack of money made their dream come true and travelled the world. Each of these students studying at a different Polish university, and the team before each journey usually consisting of different members. One regular participant in every expedition, and thus the founder and the organizer of the project is Karol Lewandowski – an Automation and Robotics engineer at Wrocław University of Technology. He is the editor of the official page of the project - busemprzezswiat.pl and the author of the book „Busem przez Świat” (By Bus Around The World). His brother- Wojciech Lewandowski is the author of the current videos and photos from “By Bus Around The World” trips.

So how did it all begin?

They bought an old bus (VW T3) for two thousand zlotys and converted it into a coloured camper on their own. The aim of their expeditions is to explore as much as it is possible, to see a number of countries, but without any luxuries.

The first of their trips was called “By bus around Europe 2010”. Their first goal was Gibraltar. In a month the team travelled over eight thousand km and visited twelve countries. In Barcelona, someone stole all their bags from the bus and the police in Gibraltar arrested them. They were on the Avenue of Stars in Cannes, they participated in corrida, saw monkeys in Gibraltar, dived in the Atlantic Ocean, and saw dozens of other places. They slept on the beaches, in a tent or on the bus and they ate mainly-canned food taken from Poland.

They gained the greatest fame thanks to the fourth expedition: “American Dream Trip 2012”. In three months they drove more than twenty five thousand km through Canada, the United States and Mexico. During this trip they visited many wonderful places which they previously knew only from the movies. Having only eight dollar per day, students toured around the continent experiencing dozens of adven-

tures along the way and getting to know hundreds of people. They met many famous people including Polish sportsmen -Robert Burneika and Krzysztof „Diablo” Włodarczyk. Their visit in the United States started from New York. The team were in Canada and saw the Niagara Falls. Among bison and grizzly bears, they traveled in Yellowstone. The team managed to reach the Wild West and the Pacific Ocean.

The resourceful students visited sunny California, met movie stars in Hollywood, and saw the Grand Canyon with their own eyes. They tried to beat the speed record on Salt Lake and had a great time in Las Vegas. Together with the Navajo Indians, they visited the Valley of Monuments in Arizona on horseback, met a UFO in Roswell and drove the famous Route 66. Despite being warned, they even succeeded in visiting Mexico. They had the opportunity to sit in the space shuttle in Houston and hunted crocodiles in the swamps of Florida.

Since September 2012, when the group returned from America Trip to Poland, they have been going to meetings all over Poland to talk about their experiences. The students demonstrate how easy it is to turn your dreams into reality and that money is not a limit. Do not miss this opportunity, do the same!

Now, the travellers from Świdnica are planning their next journey, 'Australia Trip 2013'.

More in this topic you can find on their website www.busemprzezswiat.pl.

Kajetan



How to prepare a good presentation?

Don't be surprised: the working language is German and we regard it as a good continuation of the co-operation started in 2009. The new project focuses on the important issue affecting many schools: the conflict between students, teachers and parents. Our purpose is to create an e-book containing many examples of how to avoid conflict situations. We have a plan to concentrate on the drama, film, and screenplays of the lessons. We would like to implement new technologies into the project.

An interdisciplinary meeting in Bayreuth took place between 10 and 16 March 2013. Our German partners presented one of the solutions: the school mediator. It is going to be a student chosen in a democratic way. The aim is to help in solving the conflicts between students which can take place at any time or geographical latitude. The importance of this solution is connected with the self-governing of the students in schools and encourages the youth to understand and respect the other point of view.

Visiting Bayreuth was the opportunity to meet new people and admire beautiful Bamberg, the city from the Middle Ages, modern Nürnberg where we visited the Centre for the Crimes of the German 3rd Reich. Looking back at the conflicts from the past gave us inspiration to seek the solutions for today, even in such a micro scale like the school. If we better get to know each other, understand our emotions, perhaps we can avoid problems which happened in the past.

We are planning to meet in Poland (September/October 2013), in Turkey (December 2013) and finally in Italy (April 2014). We hope to have other Comenius projects in our school in the future, and new prospective students are welcome to join.

WD

COMENIUS IN OUR SCHOOL

Zespół Szkół Ogólnokształcących nr 10 – I LO in Gliwice offers not only the IB Diploma Programme, but also creates the opportunity to develop the international cooperation. In the years 2009-2011 the students got involved in the project “Active student of today – active citizen of tomorrow” with the schools from Bayreuth (Germany) and La Spezia (Italy).

In 2012 we embarked on a new Comenius project “Konflikte clever lösen“ (To solve conflicts wisely) in cooperation with following partner schools from Europe.

- Richard Wagner Gymnasium z Bayreuth (Germany)
- I.ISS A.Fossati M.Da Passano z La Spezia (Italy)
- Araklı Anadolu Öğretmen Lisesi z Trabzon (Turkey)



In Bamberg

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE IN FRANCE

Although we are aware that the IB Programme we take part in embraces the whole world, I bet we barely give a second thought to how it really looks like outside our school and around the globe. While sharing united ideas, values and goals, surely IB has to differ, at least a little, between particular branches, which are placed in various cities, countries and cultures. To familiarize myself with another point of view on this unique educational programme, I interviewed my friend, Olga Kosno, who participates in a very similar course in France. In this article, I wanted to share my knowledge with you, in the most accessible and best way showing my interviewee's perspective.

Settling down in France

'I came to France because I won the scholarship in the Burgundian competition. Now I am living in the boarding school from Monday to Friday and with wonderful French families, who take care of me during the weekends.'

'The French people are a very tolerant and open-minded nation. Living in France gave me the opportunity of gaining the new experience and changing the way of thinking about the world and society.'

The French school

'I attend European High School Charles de Gaulle in Dijon (Lycee Europeen Charles de Gaulle), which is a form of secondary school, and so is comparable with Polish "liceum" and lasts 3 years as well. This high school is quite big, it is composed of 4 school buildings, 2 boarding schools and a 'gymnase', but it has to be like this, because every day more than 1100 students from 32 different classes spend here all their days.'

'It is really difficult to compare it [Polish and French school life] because of so many cultural and social differences existing not only at school, but even in the societies of those two countries.'

'The main principles of France are of course Equality, Freedom, Brotherhood. Especially the first one is really close to the whole French society. Already in high school, we (members of school self-government) need to be the guardians of students' equality by participating in numerous debates and discussions about the administration and the amelioration

of the high school students' lives.'

'I really love this culture, these people! The classes are really exhausting, but happily I have my multicultural friends and I can always count on them when it is needed.'

IBO - the International Option of the French Baccalaureate

'In my OIB class, we have got 22 students at the moment, each of them has a complicated cultural situation, but most of them are French students, and, naturally, some of them possess also English, Welsh, Scottish, Canadian, Polish, Spanish, German, Russian or Tahitian origins.'

'I feel really good in my class, with my crazy OIB friends, who are always kind to me and always try to find the way to make my life easier and more pleasant! I love them all!'

'All of my schoolmates chose OIB curses not only because they consider studying at Anglo-Saxon or American Universities to be able to work in some international companies in the future, but also because of their great interest in English and British culture.' 'This option [IBO] is quite hard, we spend at school the whole day (I have about 10 hours of classes daily), from Monday to Friday, sometimes even Saturday morning, but it is really rare. Our classes start at 8 o'clock and finish at 6 p.m. with a short break for lunch at 12.'

'We need to be really strong to survive, because we are doing the impossible. We have a lot of work and it is sometimes hard to achieve all the goals, all the ambitions we have imposed on ourselves.'

'The subjects that we learn are not something really original. I really regret that we cannot choose them, but they are chosen by the members of the government for all of us. Being a French student, you can only choose between three profiles: literature (L), economics (ES) and science (S). I've always been a scientific type of a person, so I chose the science option of baccalaureate, what means that I will pass my baccalaureate of French Language and Literature, Sports, Philosophy, Physics and Chemistry, Biology and Geology, Polish and Russian and also English Literature, History and Geography which are the only subjects taught in English, not French (except for languages). We have of course particular practice exercises in Physics and Chemistry, Biology



Olga Kosno

and Geology, when there are only 17 people in the classroom.'

'Our school laboratories are really well-prepared in comparison to, for instance, the laboratories I have seen in Polish schools. It is of course the effect of hard work of all the laboratory assistants, who are occupied by preparing and cleaning all the materials needed for our practical courses such as Physics and Chemistry or Biology and Geology.'

'As we all know every "normal student" hates us, the members of the international classes. The elitism of these highly selective courses is the fact in my high school, in yours, but even, for example, in best Turkish high schools (I have friends there). This is of course the consequence of the selection, which takes place at the beginning, but also during the time of studies, and the hard work we do to achieve our goals. It means that nobody from "outside" of the "sect" (how other students call us- OIB students, at school) can understand what is happening to us. It also builds more trust between us, which seems to be a kind of close community, too complicated for a normal human being.'

Interviewer: Malgorzata Roziewska

Interviewee: Olga Kosno

Author of the article: Malgorzata Roziewska

EU WITHOUT UK?

The European Union (EU). The body that was created over half a century ago as a commonwealth of the strongest and most powerful countries of Europe has already started the process of destruction. It is nothing new in the history of our area, balance of powers is changing but the power mainly stays in the same hands. As it was changing during hundreds of years, one country seemed to be more stable and more outered than others. The Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the country of aristocracy and the home of the conservatives. On one hand Britain always pretended to a role of a superpower, but on the other hand it had not been likely to face the problems of others. Recently, when the political situation has become more serious some wanted the UK to leave the structures of EU. All in all it has marked its separateness with moves such as using the Pound sterling instead of the Euro and rejecting the Fiscal Pact. David Cameron stopped the rules of Labour Party and became first tory prime minister since 1997. For European politics his rules are a sign of détente, especially in forming a closer union.

Many political commentators found the latest Prime Minister (PM) speech as one of the most important moments in his career. During such events like Tory rebellion, when 81 members of the Conservative party decided to isolate Cameron as it comes to EU referendum, he had to gain respect once again, because until his public speech he was rather shown as a friend of Nick Clegg (leader of Liberal Democrats). Nicholas Watt from 'The Guardian' had a good point of showing that this speech was 'two-level'. First, general, aimed to answer the most important question of the presence of the UK in the European Union. Second, partially hidden, pointed at rebels.

First of all, Cameron realised that the secession of the UK could be a problem, especially in so uncertain times he said that : „For an EU without Britain, without one of Europe’s strongest powers, a country which in many ways invented the single market, and which brings real heft to Europe’s influence on the world stage, which plays by the rules and which is a force for liberal economic reform, would be a very different kind of European Union. And it is hard to argue that the EU would not be greatly diminished by

Britain’s departure.”

Cameron has hesitated for a long time, trying to become neutral. In his speech he finally cleared his mind saying that he wants ,’clear in-out referendum”, what in fact was one of the rebel’s statements. Mark Pritchard, one of their leaders even tweeted that Prime Minister became a 82nd Tory rebel.

This particular event showed that David Cameron takes into account a possibility of non-arguable people’s decision, even if it would mean leaving EU on its own. For an average citizen of an European country the UK is just an island with the monarchy and tea. Unfortunately for them, it plays a great role in both, economical and political stability of our continent. If the UK in 2015 referendum say ,’no’, euro-citizens may be affected seriously. For example, for EU students it would mean that they will lose many privileges such as student loans, for poor regions it would mean lower dotations in agricultural sector, but for the British pound it would be a chance to break a connection with the Euro and return to the old economy with the Pound sterling as even more stable currency as it is now.

To conclude, the situation in EU is getting more and more serious. If British people decide to leave its structures we may face a big collapse which will be the beginning of the end for the union. We should not forget that Cameron has his own personal interest in this matter. He tries to convince people who would vote in favour of leaving EU to support him in next elections. After the moment of his centre-pointed ideas he’s moving back to his old, conservative position. The PM chose to strengthen his position on the right-wing part of the society instead of making a liberal attempt. For sure he’s aware of Clegg whose lib-dems are growing in power.

Kabaczek



BUILDING A UNITED EUROPE

On the 28th of February our school hosted a very important and unusual guest, professor Jerzy Buzek, who was the President of the European Parliament and the Prime Minister of Poland. He is an important person for our region, because he was a student at the Silesian University of Technology located in Gliwice. He was warmly welcomed by both teachers and students and began one hour long debate on „Is Common Europe Necessary?”.

During this meeting Mr. Jerzy Buzek told us about the European Union and how important it is to have a tight connection within the 28 member countries. „It is more than fascinating that over 20 countries were able to join together, negotiate and connect at first economically, later also politically.”

He was also very absorbed in persuading his audience to a positive thinking about Poland entering the Euro zone. He said: 'We shouldn't be scared, but well prepared to enter the Euro zone.'

After a 20 minute speech, students were able to ask professor Jerzy Buzek questions, which varied in topics, but all were related to the EU. One student asked the former PM about the amount of funds

reserved for Poland for the 2014-2020 budget. Mr Buzek informed that the results were satisfying for us, but not for the European Union „We shouldn't be happy about our own budget but also about the European budget”.

Another student asked about the political situation of Europe in case of North Korea's recent nuclear tests. Mr. Jerzy Buzek pointed out that there are more countries like North Korea that pose a threat to the rest of the world, quoting „Europe is an economic giant, but a political dwarf(...). That is another reason why we need to create a strong European community.”

To conclude, he urged us to appreciate the advantages of common Europe and its further development, calling us the ones who will benefit from it in the future. The lesson should convince us to reflect on the topic of our future as citizens of Poland and Europe. This event was certainly unique to our school, showing that even such important personalities as Jerzy Buzek are interested in our school and put in us their hopes for a better future.

Jasmin Demeh & Aleksander Kalisz



Mr. Buzek during his talk



The building of our school

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