**LET’S TALK ABOUT EDUCATION,**

**STUDYING AT SCHOOL, SCHOOL TRADITIONS**

A famous British scientist Francis Bacon said, “Knowledge is power”. Knowledge is blowing the mind and form our personality. While getting knowledge we understand ourselves better, learn moral values and understand new scientific ideas.

Education is a form of learning in which knowledge, skills and habits of a group of people are transferred from one generation to the next through teaching, training and research. However, systems of education differ from country to country.

In Britain education is compulsory from 5 to 16 years. Children start primary school at the age of 5 and continue until they are 11. They study reading, writing, and arithmetic.

Children are taught to sing, dance, play and draw. At 11 most pupils go to secondary school called comprehensives. Also pupils can go to boarding schools which are private schools. Children of wealthy or aristocratic families often go to private schools. At the age of 16 pupils take a national exam called GCSE and then they can leave school if they wish. It’s the end of compulsory education. Some 16-year-olds pass А-level exam and enter the universities, others choose a college for further education to study hairdressing, typing or mechanics. Most students graduate at 21 and are given their degree at a special graduation ceremony.

The main principles of the educational system in Belarus are the priority of human values and national culture. The country is reforming its system with the aim of creating an independent new traditional school. We can study at all stages: preschool, primary school, secondary school, vocational training and specialized secondary school and higher education. We also have different kinds of educational establishments: gymnasia, cum. experimental schools, private kindergartens, schools at home.

As you become older you realize that there are several essential things and places you always happy to come back to. They are your birthplace, your home and your school. Welcome to our gymnasium! We are one of the leading gymnasiums for boys and girls from 10 to 17. Our teachers believe that every child is an individual. Their aim is to help pupils find strengths. They try to develop our talents and abilities. Our school offers the best facilities for all pupils. Our Gymnasium encourages interest and enthusiasm both during and after classes.

Our school is famous for its tradition of HONESTY, FRIENDLINESS and EXCELLENCE. RESPECT for each other is the golden rule.

A school year is nine months long and it’s full of events! Many of them became traditions because they happen every year on the same dates. Some traditions are similar in all Belarusian schools, some are unique. The school year starts on September, 1. This day is special for everybody. It starts with the school gathering when all classes and teachers stand in front of the school and listen to the welcoming speeches.

Pupils look really nice in their new school uniforms! Everyone is excited to see their school friends and teachers after long summer holidays. After the school gathering teachers take their classes to their classrooms for the first lesson. When the lesson is over pupils may have a class event. The events on this day are usually the same every year but everyone waits for this day, likes it and remembers it.

I know that all the subjects are important and they all must be payed much attention to, but my favourite subject is English. I like it because I’m interested in foreign countries, their culture and people. I like to learn new words and to discuss interesting things, I think the best way to improve your language skills is to work at a language laboratory.

There is a great language laboratory at our school. I would like to have the foreign language centre. The foreign language centre is a language laboratory with multimedia computers and satellite TV in five languages. Here you can practice foreign languages and get help from experienced teachers. It’ll be helpful if you want to enrich your vocabulary and to get a good command of a foreign language.

We have the library at school, but it is not modern enough. The modern library has thousands of books, audio books, films, reference books and multimedia computers, which you’ll need for your projects and self-study. Here you can do your homework, search for the information on the Internet and relax reading a book.

Our Gymnasium has a wide range of out-of-class activities.

There is a number of school clubs and societies to meet the interests of each pupil. They offer opportunities to develop different talents and skills and test them in different school events.

I would like to tell you about some clubs.

Web design and more: Would you like to have your own web page? Join this club and make web pages with text, graphics, video and music. You’ll learn to make great photo albums using Photoshop and super Power Point presentation. You needn’t bring anything.

My school years have passed and I think they will remain in my memory as the happiest time of my life. Now when I am leaving school my heart is full of gratitude to our teachers for the knowledge they gave us and to my friends who made my school life so happy and enjoyable.

I would like to end my topic with a saying “Education brings a child the world”.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Do children have to go to school until they are five?
2. What kinds of schools are there in Britain/Belarus?
3. Do you agree that Belarusian secondary school provides a person with good knowledge?
4. Does your school have any traditions?
5. What kind of teachers do you like?
6. Does your school have any traditions?
7. Is your school well-equipped?
8. What are your favorite subjects?
9. Did you always do your homework?
10. What extra-class activities did you take part in?
11. What is your favourite school tradition?
12. How do pupils at your school celebrate different holidays (New Year)?
13. What school clubs would you advise your schoolmate to join?
14. What extra-class activities did you take part in?
15. What would you like to change at our gymnasium?