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Exam Results

There are three senior classes at Step Up — groups 9, 10 and 11. Like at any other educational establishment, Step Up students also take exams. At the end of the first term students from groups 9 and 11 sat examinations in Russian, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Geography.

The students from group 9 passed all their exams and will be allowed to take their final examinations. Their success was due



Russian in Group 9

in no small part to the discussions that were had on all aspects of the exams. For many young people successfully passing exams is a brilliant incentive for further active exam preparation.

Group 11 is now on the home straight. Four students out of five passed their exams and will continue to work hard in order to pass their Unified State Examinations at the end of the second term.



Chemistry in Group 11

We are always delighted to see how many students shoulder the responsibility for their exam preparation themselves and are aware of what they can achieve.

Our congratulations to all Step Up students on passing their exams successfully and continuing to move forward!



Step Up's theatre studio is looking for **amateur actors** to take part in a charitable performance!

We are inviting young people to take part in an adaptation of "Diary of a *Madman*" by Nikolai Gogol.

We need 5 male actors who are ready to work hard during rehearsals (there are at least two rehearsals per week). The opening night is planned for the end of April. All funds raised will be used in support of our educational programmes.

It is not our students' first independent performance and the process is guided by Step Up graduate and university student Vikenty.

Over the last 3 last years theatre studio members have performed 4 shows – "A Hero of Our Time", "Cinderella", "Evenings on a Farm Near *Dikanka*" and "On the Film Set" (twice).

The last performance of "On the Film Set" raised 40, 000 roubles for Step Up!

If you wish to take part please contact

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e-mail (Dasha):
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info@vverh.su.

Thank you in advance!



Students as Experts...



In January our students took part in the final stages of a competition for volunteers and charitable organisations "Volunteer 2011". On the initiative of Sergey Guzev, director of the charity "City of Dreams", our students acted as an expert group in the competition. In Sergey's opinion no one can evaluate charity work more objectively than young people who have been on the receiving end of it.

Our young experts presented to the judging panel a charitable organisation using the information they had heard. Each student described contestants' activities, what impact they had had and their further plans — and then offered their opinion.

The candidates were ultimately evaluated on the following criteria:

- 1) the public prominence of their work;
- 2) the effectiveness of their methods;
- 3) their results and their sustainability;
- 4) the possibility of replication.

Our students' opinions and comments were also taken into consideration. In such a way our young experts presented 15 participants. As it turned out their judgements fully coincided with the senior experts' ones.

Our students greatly enjoyed this event which made them feel that their opinion was valued in such a significant decision-making process.

We are grateful to Sergey Guzev for the event. Many thanks to all the Step Up students who participated and for their interesting comments and ideas!



Step Up has Visitors

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On Christmas Eve the chaplain of St. Andrew's Anglican Church Father Simon and Bishop David paid a visit to Step Up. Father Simon and the administration of St. Andrew's have granted us the rooms we use for our studies and parties for many years. The meeting with the students and teachers took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Everyone enjoyed the informal chats and a cup of tea. The students didn't only tell our guests about what goes on in our Center, but also about their plans for the future and the problems of young people in general. They also shared their opinions on the situation in the country at the moment.

We hope you also enjoyed your visit and we would be delighted to see you again soon!



Master Class "A Chest of Perfume"

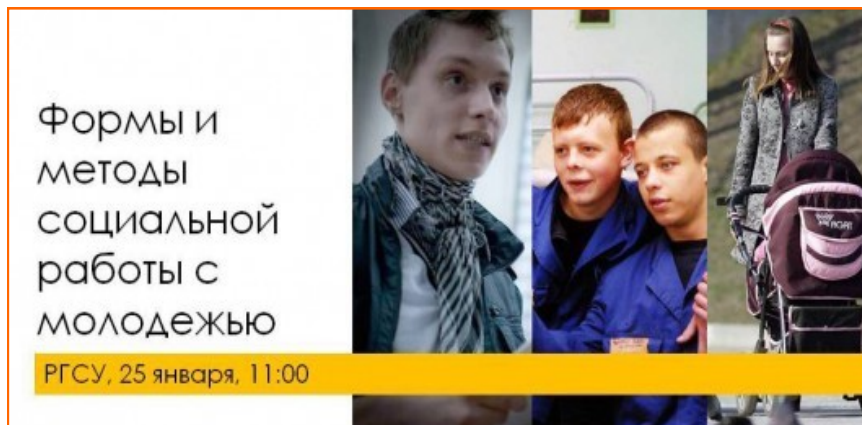


The Christmas holidays at Step Up were marked by a wonderful event — we were transported to a world of incredible fragrances and fascinating stories about perfume. Our guide was Olga Kovalyova, a Gestalt-psychologist, who says that a *fragrance* is *more than just an aroma* — it is the "extension of our personality". The audience was enchanted as Olga told us about the various different types of perfume, the role fragrances play in our everyday life and offered us the opportunity to discover ourselves through aroma. We greatly enjoyed the master class!

Many thanks to Olga Kovalyova!

Please, visit the *Проект "Парфюмерный гардероб"* on Facebook for more information on the project and information on other master classes.

"Techniques of Youth Social Work" Seminar



On January 25th the seminar "Techniques of Youth Social Work" was held at RSSU as a part of the 10th international Educational Christmas Readings Conference.

We were delighted to be given the opportunity to participate in this event. In our daily work at Step Up, finding the right approach to each student is a ticket for success and the key to moving forward.

It was quite an unusual seminar - more like an open field for the discussion of the most important issues of youth social work in modern society and in an Orthodox Christian context. Orthodox representatives shared their experience of working with orphans including those who still live in the orphanages. There were discussions about post-orphanage support, helping orphanage graduates as well as ways of raising the profile of such social work.

Step Up was represented by our psychologist, Anna Ulyanova. She spoke about the work with those orphans who received a diagnosis — a label that they are stuck with — that is more often than not a result of over-diagnosis rather than a reflection of true psychological problems. Step Up's education programs help these young people to achieve academic progress alongside an atmosphere of trust and dialogue that helps to overcome psychological positions.

We were delighted that all the seminar participants, notwithstanding their own experiences and a similar understanding of social work's objectives, were ready for discussion and highly interested in new approaches.

We are very grateful to the Social Projects Studio 2GA and to Alexey Gazaryan for the invitation and the opportunity to participate in this essential dialogue.

We are grateful to our friends from *Deloitte & Touche* CIS for the stationery and whiteboards!

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We are thankful to Olga and our friends from FBK and Servistorg for the chairs for our Center!

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Many thanks to the volunteers who take our students back to their orphanages after their classes at Step Up are over!

You are more than welcome to attend the numerous fascinating events that will take place at Step Up in February — Pancake day celebrations, trips out, the Literature and Cross-Cultural Clubs, and many others.

Keep up with our mailings and pop by!

Step Up would like to thank the GlobalGiving Foundation for giving it the chance to receive online donations. Many thanks to everyone who has supported us at:

<http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/giving-russian-orphans-an-equal-start-in-life/>

With your support we have collected the required amount of donations from 50 donors, which means that we can become regular members of the GlobalGiving international charitable network and can continue receiving your support online.

You can support our work online through GlobalGiving or via a bank transfer. For more information, please visit "Support Us" on www.vverh.su. Thank you!