

With thanks to St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Action for Russian Children (ARC), BKC-IH Moscow, Charity Aid Foundation (CAF), Vitol Charitable Foundation, World Childhood Foundation, GlobalGiving Foundation, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Ernst & Young, Clifford Chance, Global Fund for Children, Globus International, Linklaters, Nestle, TVAllianceMediaGroup, Centre for Philanthropy and "Cards of Kindness" project, the Future Actually Community of Translators, DeVere Group, Starbucks, Bulgakov House Museum-Theatre, Vladimir Spivakov Foundation, Pokrovskie Vorota Cultural Centre, Masterskaya Theatre and Club, Diell and numerous private sponsors for their help and support of the Step Up Orphan Opportunity Centre.

www.vverh.su



Graduation at Step Up

Another academic year has come to an end! As is traditional, we held our graduation in St. Andrew's Anglican Church. Father Simon and Father Pyotr were effusive in their congratulations.



Photo by Dmitry Markov

Graduation is the day when we meet, discuss our progress and achievements, make plans for the next academic year and, most important, congratulate those who are graduating.

This year we had **10 graduates** finishing Year 9 and Year 11 who received their **certificates of basic and general secondary education!**

Step Up's graduation isn't a farewell event as is common in most schools. The doors of our Centre are always open for our graduates who, when they begin college and university, often need advice, friendly support and a teacher's help, particularly when getting ready for exams. Step Up teachers care deeply about where their former students are studying and how they are getting on — and they are always ready to help.

This year two of our graduates have completed their university courses. A great achievement!

Our congratulations to Sergey S. and Natalya E. on graduating from university and receiving their diplomas!



Handing out graduation certificates
Photo by Dina Magnat

During graduation our students are presented with books in recognition of this important moment in their lives.

We are grateful to Witology and to Darya Suprunova for the books for our students and the organisation of their delivery !

*

Thanks also to Diell for the sweets and cakes that they provided for our students and guests at graduation! !



Our graduates (former Group 9)

**OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL STUDENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED THE ACADEMIC YEAR!
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES ON RECEIVING THEIR CERTIFICATES AND DIPLOMAS!**



History in Drawings Project



Presenting the History in Drawings album
Photo by Dina Magnat

There was one particularly important event that happened during graduation – the results of the first part of our project “History in Drawings” were revealed. Those of our students who live in psychoneurological institutions were given albums consisting of the sketches of historical events that they have done during their history lessons.

For a long time these drawings, done by history teacher Irina Ladygina’s students, hung on the walls of our history classroom. On Irina’s initiative, and thanks to our brilliant photographer Dina Magnat, all the drawings have been collected in one beautifully designed album.

Many thanks to [Irina Ladygina](#) for her initiative and to the wonderful [Dina Magnat](#) for the photographs!



Visiting the Theatre of Taste



Photo by Anna Ulyanova

Yulia Razumova invited us to visit the Theatre of Taste.

If you haven’t been there yet, you must get acquainted with this place, and, most importantly of all, with the people who fill it with special meaning, warmth and cosiness.

We all felt at ease there. We were welcomed at the entrance, asked to take our shoes off, led through all the rooms and offered some tea in the kitchen with the other guests. Our hosts were happy to tell us about themselves and their ideas that are implemented in that very kitchen — as well as the theatre in general. They were eager to answer all of our questions. Then we were invited to a small hall where, for about an hour, we watched The Clown-Sapience performance: sympathising with the clown's predicament, laughing and, from time to time, helping out.

After the performance we met the place's heart and soul – the director of the Theatre of Taste Yury Makeev. During our meeting Yury shared everything he considered important with us, generously, enthusiastically and, most importantly, sincerely. He conveyed what the Theatre was created for and why it exists and he told us about his past, his professional connections, his friends and shared his ambitious plans.

Our thanks to [Yulia Razumova](#) for inviting us to this wonderful place!



The Government Inspector by Nikolai Gogol



The dumb show at the end of The Government Inspector

At the beginning of June, Step Up students performed The Government Inspector by Nikolai Gogol! It was the result of many months of hard work, patience, responsibility and long rehearsals. The play was put on under the guidance of Russian Literature teacher Svetlana Sysoeva.

The first thing you would think watching the performance was how did young people manage to memorise such long scripts? It wasn't an easy task to remember all the lines but it was also hard to warm to the role and act so well, even professionally. The performance consisted of several scenes and reproduced most of Gogol's original text. Some actors even had to play two roles! Well-thought-out performances and costumes reflecting the style of that time helped our young actors re-create the masterpiece.

**Many thanks to Svetlana Sysoeva
for her patience and hard work.**

**We are grateful to our young actors
for their responsible approach, effort, patience and focus
that allowed them to put on such a great performance.**

**We are particularly grateful
to the **Masterskaya Theatre and Club**
for letting us use their stage!
Thank you!**



www.mstrsk.ru



British Embassy Football Tournament



Photo by Anna Ulyanova

On June 30th Step Up's football team took part in a 6-side tournament organised by the British Embassy where we played against a team from the British Embassy, a team of Russian and foreign journalists and the official team of Spartak's Fan Club. They were all very strong teams!

The tournament was closely fought between all the sides and Step Up didn't win this time. Our participation, however, was extremely important as it will help us improve our teamwork and push us to new efforts during our training sessions.

Step Up has recently begun regular weekly training sessions (as opposed to friendly kick-arounds) and we can only get better!

We are deeply grateful to the **British Embassy for the invitation to take part in the tournament and to the other teams that took part!**



Postcard Sale at the British Embassy

At the beginning of June, as part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, the British Embassy hosted a Postcards Anonymous event jointly in aid of Step Up and a British charity that also helps young people, West London Action for Children. Visitors and Embassy staff bought the postcards they liked and - only after buying - found out who had made the postcard, or taken the photograph! The postcards and photos were contributed by children, students and artists in Britain and Russia. The event was a great showcase for Step Up and the money raised will support Step Up's educational work. **Many thanks to the **British Embassy** and **Andrew Silander** for putting the exhibition together!**

Our Trip to the Muranovo Estate and to the Holy Trinity Monastery of St. Stephen of Makhra



Picnic in Makhra, Vladimir region

Every year our graduation is traditionally followed by a trip for students, graduates and teachers to beautiful towns and interesting museums around Moscow. Last summer we went to Kolomna. The end of this academic year, however, will be remembered for our trip to the Muranovo estate and the Holy Trinity monastery of St. Stephen of Makhra.

Our excursion program is always interesting — and intense. We usually visit several sites and our route is planned very thoroughly.

First, we visited the Muranovo estate named after Fyodor Tutchev. We learnt that Tutchev (*a Russian poet*) himself had never actually been to the estate but it was named after him because his son's family lived there. Tutchev's son brought his father's whole library and manuscripts to the estate. Another intriguing fact is that the Muranovo estate was built by Evgeny Baratynsky, a famous Russian poet of the 19th century, and a friend of Alexander Pushkin. The museum guides told us many interesting things about the estate and the noblemen who lived there and recited poems and fragments from letters and diaries.

On our way to St. Stephen of Makhra monastery we stopped at Radonezh and Father Pyotr showed us the boulders of the old city and the place where Saint Sergius of Radonezh was born. Then we enjoyed a delicious lunch at the refectory of St. Stephen of Makhra monastery. The monastery tour was devoted to the history of the place and the life of its founder, Saint Stephen of Makhra who founded the monastery in the 19th century. Father Pyotr told us about Saint Sergius of Radonezh who hid there from his brother's rage after becoming the first Russian abbot there.

Today it's a working female monastery. The Mother Superior guided us through the church of St. Stephen of Makhra, showed us the church of St. Sergius of Radonezh and the church of St. Peter and Paul.

Our day finished with a picnic in a pretty spot near a pond in Makhra, not far from the monastery.



Photo by Anna Ulyanova

**We are grateful to the nuns
from St. Stephen of Makhra
monastery
for the delicious lunch
and interesting excursion.**

**Many thanks to Father Pyotr
for being a wonderful guide!**

**We are thankful to all the sponsors
who supported this trip financially!**

**Our thanks go to our students
who helped to organise the picnic!**



Photo by Anna Ulyanova

Russia's First Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot



**On September 7th 2012
Russia's first charity clay pigeon shoot
in support of Step Up
will take place
at the Fox Lodge shooting club.**

Those who think that the only place to break plates is the kitchen are mistaken. The Russian word "tarelochka" does not only stand for "a plate", but also for "a clay pigeon" – a moving target thrown via a special machine, the trap, so that its trajectory imitates the flight of a pigeon...

It is the first time a charity clay pigeon shoot will take place in Russia. The event will be held in support of Step Up, which is wholly funded by charitable donations and helps correctional orphanage graduates and residents receive an education and integrate into society.

20 teams of 5 guns will be able to take part in the tournament. No prior shooting experience is needed. Each team will receive full instruction and have a chance to shoot 20 practice targets. Guns and cartridges will be provided, but the contestants also may bring their own guns if they wish.

Friends and colleagues are also welcome. In addition to spectating they can enjoy the facilities of the club such as the spa, children's play area and even helicopter rides.

For more information on the tournament programme, registration and sponsorship, please visit www.clayshoot.ru, or send e-mail to sponsorship@vverh.su

Amphibian Man Musical



At the beginning of June some of our students visited the Amphibian Man musical, which is based on the novel by science fiction writer Alexander Beliaev — justly named the Russian Jules Verne. Beliaev's works are not simply fiction and they always have a scientific basis.

The composer Victor Semenov wrote the music for the Amphibian Man novel for this staging.

**We are thankful to Zarina Khazieva
for the invitation
and organising the visit!**

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!