

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, Clifford Chance, GlobalFund for Children, Globus International, Linklaters, Nestle, TVAllianceMediaGroup, Art of Kindness, 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 and numerous private sponsors for their help and support of the Step Up Orphan Opportunity Centre.

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Mathematics – the Imaginary Catalogue



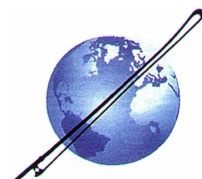
Photo by Yuliya Naumova

Thanks to our academic director, Nadejda Fedoerovna, and the support of the German embassy, on the April the 14th Step-Up students visited the exhibition "Mathematics – the Imaginary Catalogue" at the poli-technical museum. Students were able to try out the exhibition's simulator program which enables the creation of 3-dimensional models on the basis of a mathematical equation. A series of objects such as Citrus fruit, a sea-horse and a heart were simulated by the program on the basis of an equation and students were able to see at first hand how the shape of the figure changes as the elements of the formula are changed. They also tested a sensorial simulator which creates symmetrical models on the basis of a word.

For example, the Russian word Вверх written many times in a symmetrical pattern is shown in this picture. After the unique experience of using the simulator, students had the opportunity to visit the rest of the museum where they learned about the development of the technical world, space exploration, oil drilling and many other interesting topics.



Dear Friends!



We have great pleasure in inviting you to the **charity concert "Moscow greets her friends"**, to be held at **St. Andrews's Anglican church on Vosnesenskiy Pereulok 8 on Monday the 28th of May at 19.00.**

The concert will be performed by the scholars of the famed Valdimir Spivakov foundation and will include pieces by Rakhmaninov, Bach, Chopin, Rimsky-Korsikov and Chaykovskiy.

All proceeds from the sale of tickets will go to the Russian orphans' charity Step-Up www.vverh.su.

For tickets please call +7 495 621-5117 or email info@vverh.su.

Thank you for your support!

Many thanks to the **German embassy** in Moscow for inviting the students of Step-Up to the exhibition "Mathematics – the Imaginary Catalogue" which took place in the poli-technical museum.

We are most grateful for your support!

Easter celebration



Photo by Anna Ulyanova

On the 16th of April Step Up celebrated Orthodox Easter day. Easter is traditionally the most colorful holiday which we celebrate together. Students, teachers and volunteers brought painted eggs as well as the traditional "Kylichi" cakes. Father Peotor who has supported Step-Up since its inception, opened the celebration with a prayer. This year was blessed with good weather allowing the Easter celebration to take place in the garden of St. Andrew's church where Step-Up has been based for many years.



Photo by Anna Ulyanova

Thank you to Father Peotor for the tasty Kylichi cakes which he baked himself! Also a big thank-you to all those students, teachers and volunteers who brought also brought Kulichi for the rest of us!

Learn to dance at the modern dance studio QEX



Photo by Anna Ulyanova

Productive academic learning should always be accompanied by regular sport and physical activity. Thanks to Daria Viktorovna, Step-Up students are now able to visit the dance studio QEX free of charge every Saturday. Starting in March, lessons take place almost every Saturday when students have the chance to practice with qualified instructors who teach them the basic elements of modern dance, a discipline which combines balance, rhythm and the use of the entire body.

We would like to thank QEX and their instructors for the lessons and hope that we can count on their continued support!



Photo by Anna Ulyanova



Conference "Get to know Germany"



Photo by Anna Ulyanova

On May the 20th, Step-Up organized the next conference in the series "Get to know a country". This year's conference was dedicated to Germany and was the result of many hours of work by both students and teachers alike. Given the vast range of material to present to listeners, the students did a great job of summarizing the highlights of Germany's diverse culture, people, industry and geography. An unusual presentation by Group 1 evoked the works of the Brothers Grimm and recounted the latter's tale of the straw, the coal and the bean. At the end of the presentation everyone in the audience understood why all beans have a seam. Thanks to students from Group 5-1, we were then transported to Berlin's museum island, the centre of Germany's world-reknowned museum culture. Of course, no conference on Germany would be complete without a mention of the country's great composers and poets – Schubert, Beethoven, Bach, Wagner and Goethe – and Group 5-2 rounded off the tour of Germany's cultural landscape with an overview of the great classical works and the story of their creation. The country's flora & fauna, as well as its geographical location, were covered by Group 6-2, while student Maxim M. showed a film he had produced himself about the famous BMW car factory – cool! Finally, Group 7 revealed many of the secrets of German aviation in WWII including flying saucers and even a flying wing.

The content and creativity with which the presentations were made testifies to a new level of competence amongst our students and their determination to master new topics. The conferences are not a competition, but an opportunity to share new knowledge on interesting topics with both students and teachers alike in a supportive environment.



It was good to see former students of Step Up return to support current students presenting at this year's conference. A fascinating presentation on the works of Goethe by Polina was an excellent conclusion to the day's events and despite the nervousness of some students, the conference turned out to be a great success. The next, by no means less interesting, task is to select the next country in the series "Get to know a new country".

We would like to extend our special thanks to the conference centre Pokrovskie Vorota for the use of their conference building. Our students felt like real explorers of a new land in the specially-equipped conference room!:)

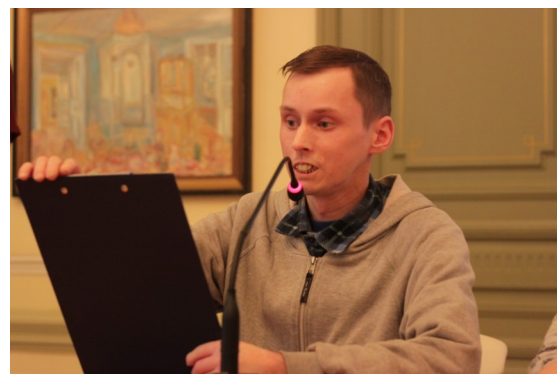


Photo by Anna Ulyanova

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!