

THE FORESTRY TECHNICAL COLLEGE PIATRA-NEAMT
67, Ștefan cel Mare street, Piatra-Neamț



FTC

School magazine

Issue no.85

November-December, 2016



ISSN 2284 – 7529
ISSN-L = 2284 – 7529



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The Benefits of Travelling

Travelling has been considered by many one of the best ways to meet new people and explore new cultures. Travelling is good for your heart and for your brain, too. It relaxes you and it makes you more perceptive in the same time. This issue of the school magazine deals with the benefits of travelling in a series of articles written by our 12 graders. But you

will also read their opinions about sports, favourite museums, etc.

The United Kingdom and London are also present in this issue of our school magazine because we want you to know as many things as possible if you ever plan to spend your vacation there, visiting as much as you can but also brushing up your English speaking skills.

We have also included some tourist

attractions from our country which we are so proud of and which make Romania a perfect tourist destination.

Read us and explore some famous Romanian and British sights! Read us and enjoy what your colleagues have written and why not, try to improve your English writing skills with articles for our next issue!

Star's Editorial Team

Things you need to know about London

London has a lot of landmarks.

Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace are well-known around the world, and you'll probably recognise the black taxis and red telephone boxes.

London's skyscraper nicknames explained

The Shard

If you're lucky enough to fly into Heathrow from the east, or Gatwick from the west, this will be the standout structure you will see on the London skyline. The Shard is also one of the newest landmarks in London (it was completed in 2012, and in 2013 opened a dizzying public viewing gallery on floors 69 to 72!), and it's named the Shard because... well, it resembles a glass shard.

The Gherkin

One of the most popular buildings on the London skyline, located at 30 St Mary Axe in London's financial district (an area called the City of London), is the Gherkin. Unimaginatively, '30 St Mary Axe' is its official name - but the London public unofficially named it the Gherkin because of its uncanny resemblance to the pickled vegetable. With 744 panes of glass, the equivalent of 5 football pitches, the Gherkin takes a team of 9 window cleaners ten days to clean.

The Walkie-Scorchie

20 Fenchurch Street might just be the most dangerous building in London. It was known as 'the Walkie-Talkie' because of its unique design, but quickly earned another, more infamous nickname. In the sunny summer of 2013, the glass building started focusing sunlight on the street below, creating temperatures up to a 'scorching' 91°C, melting cars and starting fires in nearby shops! The building's developers

have since fixed the problem with a system of sun shades.

The Cheesegrater

The Leadenhall Building at 122 Leadenhall Street, also known as 'the Cheesegrater', is another new London landmark. Despite (unofficially) bearing the name of a culinary tool, the Cheesegrater is not a restaurant specialising in fine cheese dishes - 122 Leadenhall Street is an office building in the City of London, with the only connection to an actual cheesegrater being its shape.

England - Did you know?

*English people drink more tea (per capita) than anywhere else in the world.

*French was England's official language from 1066 to 1362.

*The first modern Olympic Games were held in Much Wenlock, Shropshire, in 1850.

*Windsor Castle is the oldest and biggest royal residence that is still in use.

*The oldest zoo in the world opened in London in 1828.

*London is the biggest financial centre in the world.

* During medieval times, animals could be tried and convicted in court. The fines were payable by the animal's owner.

*Hot chocolate originated in England by a Frenchman. The first store to sell it opened in about 1600.

* Big Ben is not the name of the clock tower next to the Houses of Parliament but of the bell inside it.

* England is famous for its English breakfasts, which comprise scrambled eggs, black pudding, sausage, bacon, mushrooms, baked beans, hash browns and tomato.

* England is the largest country in the United Kingdom (which also includes Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) and over 80% of the UK population lives in this country.

*England is only 35 kilometres from France.

Things you didn't know about Buckingham Palace

* The name comes from a Tory Politician.

John Sheffield became the Duke of Buckingham in 1703, and he built Buckingham House as a place to stay during his visits to London. It was given the ultimate makeover and transformed into a palace in 1820 by architect John Nash - who was subsequently fired for going over his budget!

* The house passed into Royal hands in 1761 George III paid £21,000 (£3m now) to buy it for his wife Queen Charlotte, who gave birth to all but one of their 15 children there. However, Queen Victoria was the first monarch to name it as her official residence when she moved there after her coronation in 1837.

*The palace is not just home to royalty Over 800 members of staff live there, including a flagman, fendersmith and clockmaker. The

latter must keep busy, as the palace contains 350 clocks and watches! They're wound up every week by two horological conservators, who work full-time to keep them ticking along.

***The grand Ballroom is the palace's pride**

It's the largest room, at 36.6m long, 18m wide and 13.5m high. The first event held there was a celebration marking the end of the Crimean War in 1856. It's not all ballrooms and banquet halls, though: there's also a post office, police station, doctor's surgery, cinema and pool.

*It's easy to tell if the Queen is home Just look at the flag! The palace flies the Union Flag when the Queen is not in, and the Royal Standard when she is. You might also spot that latter one fluttering from Victoria Tower at the Palace of Westminster: this signifies the Queen is in Parliament.

Did you know the oldest word in the English language is "town"

STUDENTS' CORNER

What are the benefits of travelling?

In my opinion, travelling plays a very important part in developing our personality. Travelling is one of the most enjoyable and easiest way to stimulate creativity.

In the first place, one benefit of travelling is the opportunity to meet new people, to see new places and new traditions.

In the second place, travelling is an opportunity to relax and enjoy your free time.

In conclusion, travelling is an experience that can help you grow

personally and be more open to what is new.

Silviu Manciu- XII C

I think that trips are a unique stimulus for your brain as well as a good supplement for brain health. The effect is produced due to new experiences and situations that people are exposed to.

Travelling changes our perceptions and it gives us new perspectives on humanity.

**Petruț Petrescu -
XII C**

Travelling has both positive and negative aspects. I consider that it is boring to travel single but if you are together with a few friends or some members of your

family, it can become a good journey. You can visit a museum, go to a football match or somewhere else. Time passes easily when you are with friends and family, it is fun to be with them and you can do a lot of things together like going to the mall or visiting various places.

If you travel by car or by bus you are able to admire the scenery on the way; you can take photos and show them to your friends.

The negative aspect is that you can get lost in a place you don't know; but if you know the language you can talk to people to guide you.

In conclusion, it is great to travel to other countries, to see

new people. It is a treatment that calms you and makes you forget about all the stressful things.

Alexandru Țăranu - XII C

The benefits of travelling are; you can learn other languages, you can meet people who can teach you about their culture which may be very different from yours. Other advantage is that you can visit amazing places which cannot be found in your country.

Vlad- Alexandru Manole -XII C

**Hey you,
Do you like English?**

What are the benefits of practising a sport?

In my opinion, participating in various sport activities can improve your healthy in many ways.

Sport brings people together, people from different communities. Most of the time, the kind of friendship created on the sport field continues outside of it.

Practising a sport teaches us to organise our time better so that we can do various activities.

In conclusion, find your favourite sport and practise it whenever you can. If you have not found a favourite sport, make sure you do not skip the

Physical Education classes.

Silviu Manciu- XII C

In my opinion, sports help you get rid of anxiety and stress, they increase your self- confidence and they help you become more organised and more focussed. In this way, the quality of your lifestyle will increase and you will feel much better.

You can even become smarter because when you practise a sport, you develop some skills like analysing, planning and anticipating.

In conclusion, practising a sport means having a "sound mind in a sound body".

Petruț Petrescu - XII C

What museum has impressed you so far?

A museum I visited and which impressed me a lot was the Museum Reina Sofia in Madrid. It is called like this from Queen Sofia of Spain. The museum is mainly dedicated to Spanish Art and it includes excellent collections. My favourite painting is Guernica by Pablo Picasso and which depicts the Spanish Civil War.

Vlad- Alexandru
Manole- XII C



The National Museum of the Romanian Peasant is one of the most beautiful museums in Romania. It is located in Bucharest, on Kiseleff Boulevard near Victoria Square. The building was designed by architect N. Ghica-Budești. The museum contains collections of ceramics, old peasant costumes, furniture, hardware and rugs. In the museum courtyard from Ion Mihalache boulevard a historic monument, wooden church from the 18th century was moved here in 1992,
Silviu Manciu- XII C



"Everything has beauty but not everyone can see it "
Beauty can be not only external but also internal. In my opinion, the inner beauty is the most beautiful thing. The external beauty is what we can perceive with our senses; but I think that inner beauty has more value and it helps us have a valid opinion on something or somebody.

Alexandru Țăranu -
XII C

Established in 1973 the Museum of History and Archaeology Piatra Neamț is one of the most prestigious institutions of this kind in Romania. It has very valuable artefacts from Antiquity till modern times and it attracts

many visitors every year.

**Petruț Petrescu –
XII C**



BEST F.R.I.E.N.D.S

Fight for you
Respect you
I nclude you
Encourage you
Need you
Deserve you
Stand by you

Symbols of Christmas

Christmas is the festival which is celebrated world-wide. Apart from traditions, rituals and customs, there are symbols as well which are popularly associated with the celebration of this particular festival. In fact, these symbols have become so common with the masses that through these symbols people come to know that Christmas has actually arrived.

Candy Canes

The Christmas Candy Cane is originally from Germany about two and a half centuries ago. They began as white, straight sticks of sugar. A choirmaster wanted to remind children of Christmas so he moulded them into a 'J' shape like a shepherd's cane, to make them remember the shepherds that came to visit the baby Jesus at the first Christmas..



Mistletoe

Mistletoe is rarely used in churches because it comes from the ancient Druid ceremony celebrating winter solstice. This once pagan tradition started when a girl would stand beneath the hanging plant and a boy would walk up, pick a berry and then kiss her.



Jingle Bells!

One of the most famous American Christmas songs, 'Jingle Bells' was originally written by a minister called James Pierpoint for Thanksgiving in 1857 for the children of his Boston Sunday School. Later, it came to be

associated with Christmas and the jingling bells became synonymous with the arrival of Father Christmas or Santa Claus!



Christmas Tree

The tradition of the Christmas tree comes from Germany. The very first trees were oak, the same tree used for the Yule Log. Trees have been a symbol of good luck since the Middle Ages.



Carolling

The custom of singing Christmas carols is said to have come from 13th century Italy where a man named St. Francis of Assisi led songs of praise. It is very bad luck to send carollers away empty handed. It is customary to offer food, drink or even money.



Santa Claus

Santa has been around since the 4th century. Originally known as Saint Nicholas, the patron of children and sailors, the bishop was immortalized because of his generous and loving nature towards children.



Romania - Did You Know ?

** Romania may not be as well-known in North America as the Western European countries, but that doesn't mean it is an insignificant part of the world. Here are some facts of significance you might not have known about or have associated with Romania:*

The name "Romania" comes from the Latin word "Romanus" which means "citizen of the Roman Empire."

*Trajan's Column one of the most distinctive monumental sculptures to

have survived the fall of Rome, represents a visual history of the wars between the Romans and the Dacians, with Trajan as the hero and Decebalus, the Dacian king, as his worthy opponent.

Completed in 113, the column has stood for more than 1,900 years. Trajan's war on the Dacians, a civilization in what is now Romania, was the defining event of his 19-year rule.

* The Roman capital of Dacia, Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa, was built during the time of Roman Emperor Trajan, some 25 miles away.

*The people who inhabited the area of modern Romania were called "Getae" (Geti) by the Greeks, and Dacians (Daci) by the Romans.

* Ancient Tomis (present-day Constanta) has been associated with the legend of Jason and the Argonauts who embarked on a long voyage from Greece to Kolchis (Georgia) on the Black Sea coast in search of the Golden Fleece.

*With an area of 238,391 square kilometres, Romania is the largest country in south-eastern Europe. It is roughly the same size as the United Kingdom and slightly smaller than the U.S. state of Oregon.

*The Carpathian Mountains are home to one of the largest undisturbed forests in Europe.
400 unique species of mammals, including the Carpathian chamois, call the Carpathian Mountains home.
60% of European brown bear population lives in the Carpathian Mountains.

*Some 1,350 floral species have been recorded in Romania's Carpathian Mountains, including the yellow poppy, Transylvanian columbine, saxifrage and edelweiss.

*The Carpathian Chamois - indigenous to Carpathian Mountains of Romania - is the largest of the species.

* Inside the old Turda Salt Mines (Salina Turda) located in Transylvania, Romania, stands the world's largest salt mine museum.

* The Danube Delta is a wildlife enthusiast's paradise (especially a bird watcher's). It is home to the world's largest reed bed and hosts rare species of plants and animals, including endangered sturgeon, otters, wildcats and European mink.

* The Iron Gates (or the Gate of Trajan) - a natural river channel between the Carpathian and Balkan mountains - are the Danube River's narrowest point.

*The name of the Romanian currency "Leu" (lion in English) and the U.S. currency "Dollar" share the same origin: the Dutch coin "löwentaler".

The Romanian Leu (plural Lei) got its name after the roaring lion (löwen) engraved on the tail of

the löwentaler while the US Dollar was named after the second part of the Dutch coin 'taler' (pronounced *daler* and meaning silver coin).

Romania's collection of castles and fortresses perhaps best illustrates the rich medieval heritage of the country. The most popular include the 14th century Corvin Castle, built on the site of a former Roman camp, the elegant 19th century Peles Castle with its 160 rooms filled with priceless European art and, of course, the Bran Castle, built in the mid-1300s

The Bicz Gorges are famous for their 1000 ft. limestone rocks towering over narrow roads and passes.

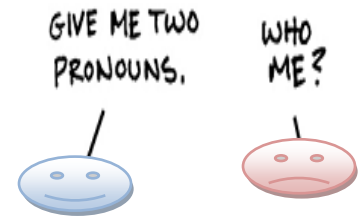
The road that slices through the Bicz Gorges (Cheile Biczului) is among Romania's most stunning and spectacular.

The park's main attraction is the Red Lake (Lacul Rosu), created in 1837 after a major natural landslide.

Teacher: If "can't" is short for "cannot", then what is "don't" short for?

Pupil: Doughnut.

The Bicz Gorges offer a unique view of the Ceahlau Mountain



English
humour



Anecdotes
and funny
stories

"I know that you believe you understand what you think I said, but I'm not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant." Robert McCloskey

Teacher : "Make a sentence using the word "I"

Student: "I is.."

Teacher: "No that is not correct, you should say I am"

Student: "Ok. I am the ninth letter in the Alphabet!"

TEACHER: Wade, give me an example of a double negative.

WADE: I don't know none.

TEACHER: Excellent!



These are photos from the Christmas Celebration



**WE WISH YOU A
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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Vlad Manole

COORDINATING TEACHER:

IRINA VREMIR



You will find interesting
things about your school and
your town;
this is the place for you to
express your opinions, to find
out interesting facts from all
around the world.

Do you like English humour?

*Do you want to know the secrets of
the world?*

READ US!

Do You have many ideas and nobody
wants to hear them?

WE DO!

Nobody is paying attention to you?

WE ARE!

English!
IS YOUR FRIEND

20 Ways to Say "Hello" in English

Formal

Hello, (name).

Hello!

How are you?

How are you doing?

Good morning.

Good afternoon.

Good evening.

Nice to meet you!

Greeting an old friend

Longtime, no see.

How have you been?

Nice to see you again!

What have you been up to?

What's new?

Informal

Hey!

What's up?

What's new?

What's going on?

Hi, (name)!

How are ya?

Howdy!



Really Learn English!

10 Ways to Say

Run in English

sprint
race
dash
scamper
charge
scurry
dart
zoom
rush
hasten



Really Learn
English!



When I was a kid, my
English teacher looked
my way and said,
"Name two pronouns."
I said, "Who, me?"



grammarly

Other Ways To Say I'm Ready

1. All set.
2. I'm done.
3. I'm prepared.
4. I'm through.
5. I'm all set.
6. Ready!
7. I'm finished.
8. I'm ready Freddy.

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OTHER WAYS TO SAY "I DON'T KNOW"

- I have no idea.
- I don't have a clue.
- Beats me.
- I'm not sure.
- Search me
- That's a good question.
- Hmm.
(interjection)
- I'm unsure.



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Other Ways To say I Don't Like IT

1. That's not for me.
2. I'm not into it.
3. I pass.
4. I'm not fond of it.
5. I dislike it.
6. I'm not crazy about it.
7. I don't appreciate that.
8. I've had enough.
9. I'm impartial about that.
10. I'm not a big fan of it.

10 Ways to Say Sad in English

unhappy
sorrowful
melancholy
depressed
miserable
down
heartbroken
blue
gloomy
wretched



Really Learn English!