

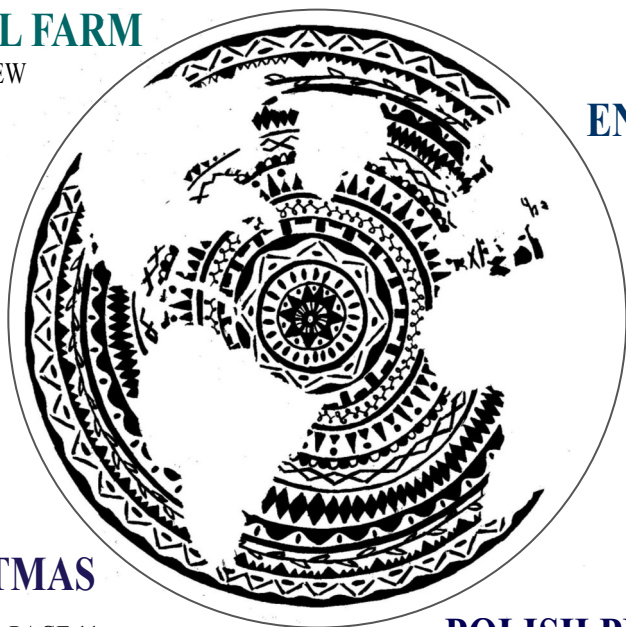
# THE MOZART TIMES

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ISSUE IX

## ANIMAL FARM

BOOK REVIEW  
PAGE 4



## ENGLAND

PAGE 5

## CHRISTMAS

CAROL PAGE 11

## A LONDONER FOR TWO WEEKS

PAGE 6

## POLISH PROJECT

PAGE 8

## FASHION INSPIRATION

PAGE 10

## GET TO KNOW YOUR TEACHER

INTERVIEW, PAGE 2

dear you,

I truly hope you will enjoy reading this issue simply because our TMT team (with the generous help of Mrs. Lensmith) has worked really hard to deliver it to you and a positive response is always rewarding.

This issue is mostly about traveling, about foreign countries and as for our main task, well, that would be basically to show you that hitting the road on your own shouldn't cause you any worries. If we could have made it, so can you!

To find out more about our adventures read pages 5, 6 and 8.

As always there is also an interview with one of our teachers attached.

This time you can learn more about Mrs. Lensmith on the next page.

As long as I am the editor of this magazine, a book report probably won't be missing. This time you can read about Orwell's Animal farm on page 3 and maybe get inspired and read it for yourself, which would come in handy, since the book is in our maturita list.

Feel free to contribute to TMT when ever, we definitely appreciate your help with gratitude.

Andrea Malá and the TMT staff

Contents:	Page:
Get to know your teacher (interview)	2 - 3
Animal Farm (book report)	3 - 4
England (travelling)	5
A Londoner for two weeks (travelling)	6 - 7
Polish project	8
Invitation to English club	9
Fashion inspiration	10
Christmas carol (short story by Ch. Dickens)	11

Students who contributed to this issue: Tereзка Brancuská, Kryštof Šimek, Andrea Malá, Nikol Eisová, Lucka Lydie Peterová,

# get to know your teacher

We see them every day, they teach us, they give us tests, but what are they really like? Next up is Mrs. Lensmith, who kindly agreed to answer a few questions so we could get to know her a bit better. So here we go!

Where did you grow up?

In and near Pardubice.

Have you always wanted to be a teacher?

No. No way. Perhaps, the more I enjoy it now because I decided to join the profession after careful deliberation.

What are your memories of high school?

To be honest, I did not like high school too much. Moreover, when I started university I was taught by the true authorities in their field. Our teachers were all real professionals and great people. When I looked back at the four years spent at high school I realized that they were years of drill, orders, and forced respect for teachers who often did not deserve it. Well, maybe it's because I did not study at Mozart. I hope our students like their school and are proud of being part of it.

Rumor has it you spent some time living abroad. What would you say are the main differences of living here and living in the U.S.?

I spent quite some time in the US but I also worked on a long-term project that made me travel to Belgium and the Netherlands a lot. What I always liked about the USA was the positive attitude of the people, the quality of services, the ability to get recognized if you work hard and are good at something. Most Americans are not judgmental – they accept you for who you are. Czechs, in my opinion, judge anyone who is different. I also liked driving in the US – Americans are well-behaved drivers and gasoline is pretty cheap compared to the Czech Republic. I do love proper American steaks and home-made burgers. Of course, there are many more things I like about the US, which is not to say that there are not things I disagree with or dislike – for instance, the startling differences between rich and poor neighborhoods. One of the things that need changing is the US system of health care. Getting seriously sick in the US is usually an incredibly expensive thing..

What is the hardest part of being a teacher? And what are the perks?

If one really teaches well, is dedicated to their work and students, it is an ongoing mission that takes a lot of time and energy. Frankly, when students are not responsi-

ve, do not do what they are told, or waste their talent, it is frustrating. Yet, I try to keep my cool and find new methods or activities. On the other hand, if students show their interest, ask questions, think, come up with ideas, and engage in discussion, I do feel a sense of accomplishment. If we have a good laugh during a lesson, its priceless - money won't buy it.

During your teaching experience have you noticed the attitude of students change over the years?

I'd say they become physically mature at an earlier age, but they are often quite childish, dependent on their parents (However rebellious they try to be.), and cannot accept responsibility. This affects, among others, their attitude to school.

Lastly, I have a few quick questions for you:

Favorite color? Green and all warm fall shades.

Favorite food? All kinds of Italian pasta. Italian is the operative word here.

Favorite book? The Oxford Learner's Dictionary I got for Christmas when I was eleven.

Favorite season? Warm spring and fall. Moderate winter and summer.

Favorite musician? Leonard Cohen. But it's difficult to pick just one.

Biggest fear? I do fear the consequences of the ignorance shown by politicians.

Thank you so much for all your answers!

And now it is YOUR turn - who would you like to see get interviewed next? Let us know!

Terezka Brancuská, 4.B

## animal farm

It is an allegoric and satiric novel by George Orwell. It describes politic situation during the communist era. But it is not a boring book. No way! Orwell describes society by using an animal farm and animals.

Everything starts when animals are not happy with the owner of the farm Mr. Jones. They decide to expel Mr. Jones from the farm and they are successful! But who will be the leader now? This question starts a true fight!

Major (an allegory with Karl Marx) tells his visions about good leadership (an allegory with the communist ideology). Snowball (an allegory with Leo Trotsky) and Napoleon (an allegory with Joseph Stalin) like this vision! Snowball becomes the first leader of the farm. But he represents the better part of the communist party. Then, one day, Snowball is expelled by Napoleon and his minister of propaganda Squealer.

Other animals think that they will live a happier and healthier life. At the beginning, it looks it will be good, but the truth is not so happy.

The animals' plan to build a windmill is realized and many animals work really hard! However, the windmill is not too stable and people think so too. Strong wind is coming and the windmill is broken! But Napoleon says: "It does not matter, comrades! We will build another one!"

Boxer, a horse, who works very, very hard is not so happy, but he thinks of his future. The animals build a new windmill.



One day, there is a battle between animals and people. Some animals die, but Napoleon says: "Comrades, it does not matter, we will be stronger!" Animals have a table with commandments which should be kept. But it is changing every week, every day. It is changed by Squealer, the minister of propaganda. And the communists are getting stronger and more influential. At the end, Boxer, the most hard-working horse and animal at the animal farm dies. Pigs (the communists) break the laws and

they behave as people did. And this is the end of the revolution!

I really liked this book. I suppose this is the best book I have ever read. George Orwell is the real master of writing and the best novelist I know. Yes, you have to understand what the book is about, but when you know some facts and some history, you cannot stop reading!

I would like to recommend it to many people. The Animal Farm could be part of maturita at all schools!

Kryštof Šimek, 2.B

## england

At the very end of March I received so far the most terrific news of my life - I was given a scholarship for a two weeks' language course in England. Right away I ran into my mother's arms, tears of happiness running down my face. I was screaming how unbelievably lucky I felt. In the next few weeks England must have become the most annoying topic for my friends, since it was all I excitedly babbled about. Honestly, I have lost the count of how many years I had wished for this to happen. And there it was...

First of all, if you are a tall person and ever decide to travel to England, do not even think about taking the bus! It was the most grueling experience of my life, there was no place to stretch my legs or lay my head and what was worse, I had barely closed my eyes during the whole 24-hour journey, probably due to the excitement running through my veins. Anyway, after arriving in London, I switched to a coach going to my final location any enjoyed the travel with my eyes occasionally opened.

Bournemouth is indeed a splendid, phenomenal city situated at the very bottom of England, on the south shore. It is always busy with students from all around the world and it is excellently adjusted to it. Every day after six hours of classes we had an opportunity to wander around the city. For instance, on every Wednesday there is an event called Candlelight Night. It is held in Lower Gardens where people celebrate the visit of Princess Eugenie of France in 1896, when her route through the gardens was lit by candlelight. Local folks and tourists all join together in lighting up the park and all at once the atmosphere becomes magical.

Also, as mentioned before, every weekday we attended English lessons. Each class consisted of many different nationalities. For instance, I had a chance to get to know efficient, hard-working Italians as well as the slackers who only came for fun. The first week was practically controlled by the French who didn't bother speaking English whilst during the second one we were mostly surrounded by Asians who barely *knew* how to speak English.





One of our teachers works as a lawyer and she always looked goofy staring at us through the frames of her glasses. Probably, something she does to appear fierce at the court room. Hopefully, she can do better there, since it is sure it didn't work on us. At least, it didn't after a few lessons. However, I consider her classes to be the most significant in improving our language skills. In other words, she forced us to talk up until the moment when it wasn't necessary anymore. Our restraints and personal inhibitions slipped away and by the end of the second week we were willingly



discussing controversial topics such as the approval of death penalty or playing roles in different scenes from a regular life.

To sum up this trip, all I can say is: "Go for it!" Whether you are thinking of taking a gap year in college or even planning on studying in a different country, basically there is nothing that could set your career [right](#) on track more easily. I wish you the best of luck!

Andrea Malá, 3.B

## a Londoner for two weeks

I was eleven when I first started to discover my interest in English (which later grew into obsession with languages in general) and I found out about such a thing as a trip to London where I would go to school and live with a family for some time. Since that time I have been putting all my energy into persuading my parents to let me go. Four years later, when they gave up and finally decided that I was old enough to go, I was the happiest person in the whole universe. The biggest dream of mine finally came true and I finally went to London!

When I met my host family for the first time I had this strange feeling that I had met them before and I soon felt at home in their house. I couldn't wish for a better family than the Liannanens! I have to say that I really admire them because with three won-

derful children they still have space in their house and hearts to host five more girls in the summer time.

On the first day of school (In the middle of a summer break!) I was excited to meet so many new people from all over the world. We were divided into classes with the same level of English.

Every day of the week we had four classes. But if you think that it was a regular British school, I will disappoint you. I would compare it to a regular language school which we have here in the Czech Republic.

In the afternoons we always went to the centre of London to

explore. Each day we had a beautiful program. For me, it was wonderful to see something different each day. This is the beauty of London, I had been there twice before, but there was always something new, I hadn't seen yet.

At the end of these two weeks I was not ready to leave my home and return back to the Czech Republic. During this time in London I was happier than ever before. The



best thing out of all was that I met friends for life from all over the world! I am very proud to say that I have friends in Poland, Russia, Spain, Italy, Reunion Island, Madagascar, China, Austria and a very good one in Holland, who I plan to visit soon!

The fact that I actually had to travel alone and take care of myself all the time made me more independent and my family says that I came back a different person

in general. If you are not too sure if you should go for a trip similar to mine, anywhere in the world, my only advice is DO IT!

Nikol Eisová, 1.A

## polish project

Our school got an opportunity to work on an international project dealing with history, namely the time during Communism. We worked on the project with our neighbors from Poland. Polish and Czech students have worked on the project since April 2015 and we still keep working on it.

Polish students came here to the Czech Republic in the middle of November and spent five days at the homes of our students.

On the first day we introduced ourselves and we all visited the Regional Authority Office in Pardubice and had a guided tour of the castle. After that the host students took their guests to their homes. On the second day we started with the official opening of the student conference. Two Czech and two Polish students showed presentations on the topic Communism. In the evening we went bowling and had fun together. We all went to Litomyšl on Saturday morning and had a guided tour of the city in English. After lunch we returned to Pardubice and we went shopping. We went on a day-trip to Prague on Sunday and then visited a tea room in Pardubice in the evening. On



Monday, i.e. the last day, there was an official opening of a composite exhibition of our works - Polish and Czech everydayness during normalization. After that we watched the movie "Burning Bush" by Agnieszka Holland and then we had to say goodbye to our new Polish friends.

The project meant a lot for all of us. New friends, skills, experiences and memories we will remember. It was nice to realize how much the Polish students were amazed with our places, culture and especially our food - mainly with Student-ská pečť. My guests (Maciej and Maciej) bought about 20 pieces of it! I am glad I can be part of this event. And I am sure that we all are looking forward to our visit in Wroclaw in April 2016.

Lucie Lydie Peterová, 3.A

## english club

If you are actually reading this and aren't simply scrolling through the pictures, you are most likely to be at least slightly interested in English. And no matter how good you already are, there are always things to improve. I'm giving you a chance to get even better. Keep reading!

When? - At 5 PM every 2nd and 4th Monday in month

Where? - Archa church, Polabiny

Why? - To improve your language skills, to meet some bloody cool Americans, to have fun and all that for FREE

More info: To find out more and join our humble little group visit page **Pardubice English Club** on facebook!

The Americans (the tallest ones in the picture below) are Abby and Jobi Wall who are here for the basketball season because Jobi plays for the Pardubice team. They are both very kind, funny, generous and they have travelled a lot, therefore have tons of experience and stories to share.

Also if you are worried that the event takes place in a church, don't be. We don't talk about religion at any times.

Join Nikol Eisová, Kuba Vondrouš, Andrea Malá, or Tereзка Brancuská!!





# fashion inspiration

For those of you who might be looking for some fashion inspiration for the upcoming fall/winter days I've created two outfits - both completely different and both including clothes suited for this time of the year. Now I know that most of these items are more on the pricy side. No worries there, you can always substitute all the pieces with a cheaper option (in slang 'steal') from your local store.



This first outfit is more on the casual, every-day-look side. Even though heels (vagabond) are included, thanks to the platform and the thickness of the heel these might even be the comfiest boots you have ever worn. And what shouts 'grunge' more loudly than a checked flannel shirt (h&m) paired with distressed, oversized denim jacket (zara). To finish off this look, wrap your favourite infinity scarf (zara) around your neck and put on a pair of watch (komono) and you are good to go!

If you are looking for something more stylish and girly, this might just be the look for you.

Some of you might have noticed turtlenecks (river island) are a big hit of this season. To brighten it up, I paired it off with a faux ('fake') fur vest (only) and a simple pair of skinny jeans (h&m). To style it up some more and not drown in the fur put on some heels (aldo) and never forget a classic pair of watch (daniel wellington). Now hit the streets and be fabulous!



# christmas carol

by Charles Dickens

Ebenezer Scrooge was a rich, old man. He had a lot of money but no friends. He was very mean, he hated spending money and he hated Christmas.

It was Christmas Eve and everyone was shopping. They bought decorations for the Christmas tree, presents and food.

Scrooge was in his office with Bob Cratchit, who worked for him for very little money. Cratchit was a very nice person. He was poor and had a big family. At six o'clock Cratchit went to Mr. Scrooge and said: *'Excuse me, sir. Tomorrow is Christmas Day, can I stay at home with my children?'*

Scrooge was angry and he said *'I don't pay you to stay at home! Christmas, everybody talks about Christmas! I hate Christmas!'*

After work Scrooge went home. It was dark and snowing. He took his key out of his pocket to open the door, and stopped! On the door was a face. It was Marley's face - the man who worked with him and now was dead.

Scrooge was scared. Marley's ghost had chains on his feet and on his arms. The ghost said: *'Three Spirits will visit you tonight.'* and went out of the window.

At one o'clock the first Spirit came. Scrooge was very frightened and said: *'Who are you? What do you want?'* The ghost answered: *'I am the Spirit of Christmas Past.'*

The Spirit showed Scrooge the time when he was a young boy.

At three o'clock the second Spirit came. It was the Spirit of Christmas Present. The Spirit took Scrooge to Bob Cratchit's house. The family was very poor, they had very little food and one little boy was ill. The Spirit said: *'The boy will die because they haven't got enough money to pay a doctor.'* Scrooge was sad. The spirit took him to many houses - rich and poor families - but in every house the people were happy. *'Stop. Stop!'* cried Scrooge. *'I'm tired, I want to go to bed.'*

*I promise I will think about Christmas next year. Please, take me home now. Spirit, Spirit, where are you?'* But the Spirit wasn't there. It was dark and Scrooge was alone.

He saw a man dressed in black. *'Are you the Spirit of Christmas to come?'* asked Scrooge. The Spirit didn't speak. He showed Scrooge a grave. There were no flowers and no people there. *'Who is it?'* asked Scrooge. On the grave were the words: **'EBENEZER SCROOGE'**.

In the morning Scrooge woke up in his bed. *'I am alive, I am alive, I am so happy!'* He jumped out of bed singing and dancing. *'What a beautiful day it is. I love Christmas. I love everybody!'*

He bought a big turkey for Mr. Cratchit's family. From that Christmas Scrooge was a new man. He helped the poor and was kind to everyone. Bob Cratchit's son didn't die. Scrooge paid for the doctors. Scrooge was a happy man and everybody loved him.

The End

suggested by Mrs. Lensmith