



# Flash



## Good students or more than that?

One might wonder why it is that even though today's people can choose between public schooling and home schooling, they still opt for the first option.



Humans are social beings and in order to grow into a person who has well-developed social skills, people need to interact with others from a young age. Public schools offer children the opportunity to form social bonds with those around them whilst teaching them how to team-work at the same time. Furthermore, schools allow children with a wide range of cultural backgrounds in the community which means diversity is supported: every child can easily get in touch with someone who is a lot more different than them and that opens their minds.

As **Jean Piaget** once said, *“The goal of education is not to increase the amount of knowledge but to create the possibilities for a child to invent and discover, to create men who are capable of doing new things.”* That brings up another main advantage of public schooling: academic and extra-curricular opportunities. Children must spend their spare time doing things which allow them to work at their full potential while discovering something completely new to them and always broadening their perspectives so that they grow to know what they are most suitable for – knowing yourself is the key to succeeding in life.

All in all, schools strive for a lot more than developing good students. They strive for making us good people, and this is all that school life comes down to.



CICHI CARINA – XI E

## **Should exams be abolished?**

Nowadays students complain about exams saying that they are too hard, useless or stressful. They say that exams should be abolished. I am strongly opposed to this opinion.

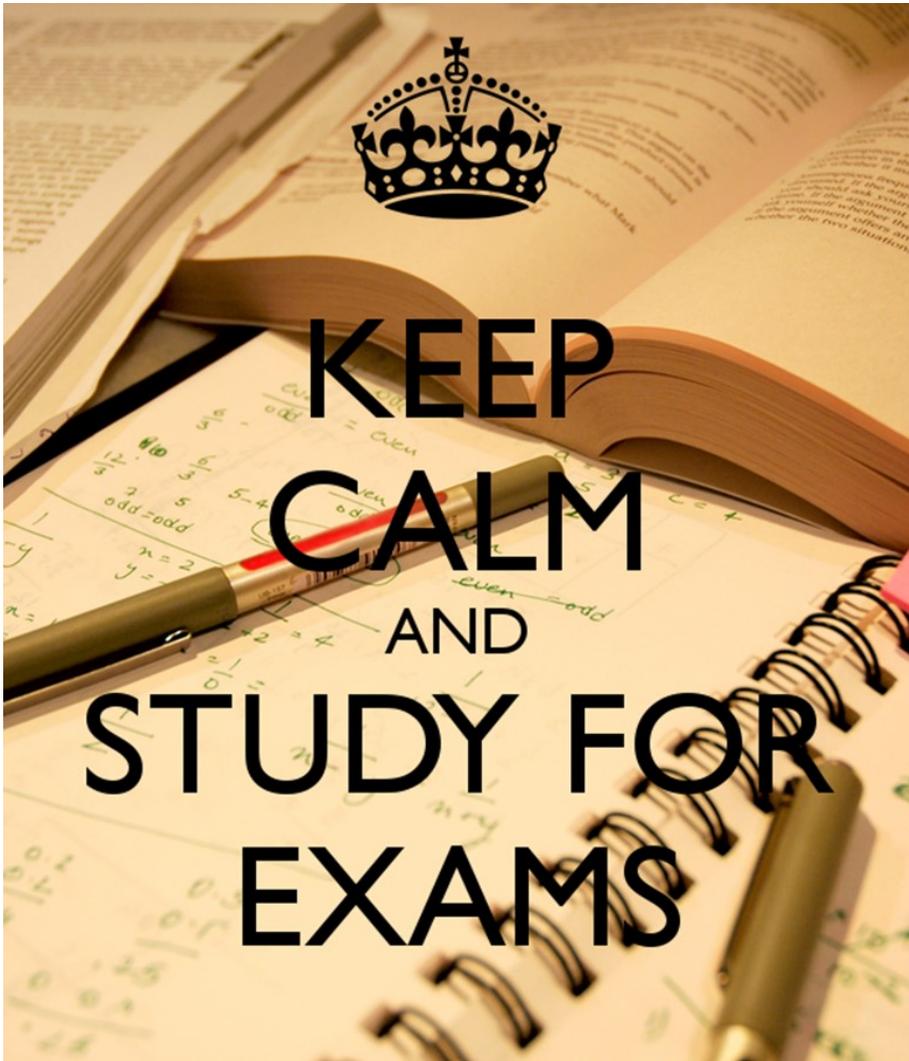
In the first place, if the exams are abolished, many students will have no reason to learn. Exams are a source of motivation for students to learn because they bear in mind that passing is important for their future. Not to mention that if you want to go to a specific university or to study in a foreign country, you need to take some exams to prove that you are ready for the future career or job that you have chosen.

In addition, without exams everyone could get what job they want even if they are not suited or prepared for it. The exams make a division between the students since they have begun the secondary school. The exam before high school helps them decide what path they would like to follow in the future.

Opponents of this say that exams should be abolished because they are too stressful for the students. Yes, they are stressful when you start learning for it when there is little time left and you start panicking. They also may say that they are hard or useless.

All in all, I believe that exams are important for the students' future. They should not be abolished because there will be bad consequences.

PATRICIA COGIANU - IX C



## **'Exams should be abolished'**

Nowadays, depression statistics are dangerously rising because of school and mostly because of exams.

To begin with, studies have recently showed that the stress before an exam can have a serious impact on the life of a teenager. One of the main reasons are the high standards stated not only by teachers, but parents. This is one, if not the most important, cause that leads to fear of failure - the student has to carry a lot of pressure on his shoulders. In my opinion, a possible failure will only lead to anxiety, uncertainty and in some cases even to depression. For me, this is a significant reason why exams should be abolished.

Furthermore, an exam emphasizes the student's obedience. It only tests your memory and the ability to remember certain things, that will probably not be ever used in the life of the future adult. For instance, let's pretend that our student is taking a history exam: it will only test his ability to relate as a story what he has learned. This is another major reason why exams should not exist.

All in all, you are just another brick in the wall, whose intelligence or rational way of thinking are not tested, but mechanic learning is highly promoted.

CHRISTIAN ZACH – IX C



## **Classical music, a school-aid**

Do you feel way too stressed and anxious about your homework, tests, essays and you don't have a solution to keep your concentration level high? 20 minutes of classical music should do the trick and also increase your happiness.

Why classical music? Its scientific reason stands in the melody and rhythm. Every time we see something we like, smell a delicious meal or hear a charming music, the brain releases a hormone called "serotonin", which is responsible for our joy. The more we have in our body, the more happy and relaxed we feel.

The frequency is the one which plays the big role in our focus and productivity. Classical music is usually tuned at 432 Hz compared to other types of music which have above 440. At this level, the studies show a positive effect on our inner ear, and therefore there is no tension and our mood is as good as it can get. Which artists are the most soothing? Some of the big names which fit in this category are Mozart, Bach, Chopin and Beethoven.

I am sure that everyone has heard of the great Albert Einstein, but did you know that he was so fond of these artists and their works of art? He even knew how to play the violin and admired Mozart's violin sonata, K.301. Now the question is, was his IQ influenced by his hobby or is it just a sheer coincidence?

Personally, I listen to classical music when I learn or do my homework and I can see an improvement. So why don't you give it a try? You have nothing to lose in the end.

GIULIA MARCONI – XI E

## Teachers Change Lives

Teachers really do change students' lives. We may not notice this fact in that very moment, but they have a major influence on our personality and behavior. Only the thought that we spend around 5 to 7 hours a day for almost 9 months together should make both sides realize that. Yet how does this happen and is it mostly a positive or a negative influence?

To begin with, teachers represent a source of inspiration. Being passionate about the



subject one is teaching and doing it with pleasure, will have a positive effect on the students. Excitement is contagious, thus, making them want to know more and eventually become as passionate about that particular field as the teacher. Moreover, this kind of teacher will gain a great deal of respect and appreciation from the students for its devotion, students who will presumably

also take him as a role model.

Equally important, the way in which a teacher behaves counts a lot. The teacher, who demonstrates respect towards its students and is open-minded, automatically wins in his turn respect and active learners. On the other hand, an offensive teacher will be seen as an enemy, causing the students to disrespect or disregard him and his subject likewise. The second situation could even lead to the point in which a student, who enjoyed a subject, will not do it

anymore because of the teacher's attitude, therefore determining him to change his/her interests.

All in all, teachers play a significant role in a student's life, preparing and shaping us for our future and future careers. Unfortunately, it is very much possible to have to deal with an offensive teacher throughout your student years; nevertheless you should focus on the ones who are willing to help you and are interested in your future.

JANINA RUSU – XI E

### **The lack of unity in diversity**

One of the things that both comforted and empowered me consists in the singularity that everyone is representing. And also in the fact that the mankind is simply a treasure widespread all over the world, waiting for someone to put it back together gem by gem and to enjoy its shining.

Is it possible that all this hate and envy to arise, just like the moon, out of obscurity? to resurface from the deepest insecurities and rooted beliefs and limitations? That is how I try to motivate the harmful atmosphere that the students themselves are creating and in which they have to live day by day for a couple of hours. Enough to affect them, considering that one second can change everything. I am referring to bullying: the phenomenon which can be easily found in high schools, reinventing the phrase *survival of the fittest*. Whether we focus on the physical aspect or on the psychological side, it still remains one of the most common forms of abuse among youth. I am assuming the fact that all this

controversial hatred represents a fact of life, but it has also been demonstrated that the adolescence is the most critical period for this age category.

In order to protect their bodies during a war, the soldiers reach out to the bulletproof vests. Well, the high school's hallways are not disposing of such equipment and, in the possibility that a student is being slapped or pushed or even punched, I think that he just needs to be brave enough to face the reality. Am I wrong? And in the case when the assault weapon is the denigration, then, my dear fellow, you are asked to be strong enough to build your own defensive wall around the soul with the remaining pieces of your dignity collected from the ground.



“The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life”. So let's respect each other then, let's celebrate the differences that may put us at opposite poles and at the same time could gather us into a harmonious communion that I would gladly call *community*. For years we are taught that our classmates represent our family. But, when you are blessed to be part of something so beautiful, you do not have the right to hurt the other members.

ALEXANDRA BENE- XI E

## *Atonement* – Review

*Atonement* written by Ian McEwan, is a British novel which tells the story of Cecilia and Robbie, two young lovers who cannot fulfill their love due to the circumstances. The book is divided in three parts that illustrate the beginning of their affair, the war and its impact on the whole society, and the outcome of the story.

Cecilia Tallis and Robbie Turner are two Cambridge graduates who grew up together and who share a mutual and unspoken love. After an incident that took place near a fountain and involved an antique vase, Robbie decides to write a letter letting her know about his feelings for her. He mistakenly hands an inappropriate draft to Briony and tells her to give the letter to her elder sister, Cecilia. Briony, who previously assisted to the fountain scene and who was too young to understand love and its many forms, read the draft and decided that Robbie was a sex maniac and wanted to hurt her sister.

Before dinner, she saw Cecilia and Robbie in the library and this encounter confirmed her suspicions about his vicious plans. Later that night, when a rape took place, Briony declared that it was Robbie who raped her cousin, Lola, even though she was not sure about that. Robbie was imprisoned and then sent to fight in World War Two, but their love remained strong.

I find the characters presented in this novel to be very complex and believable. The author described their feelings in a convincing way and gave them their own personality which is more or less likeable. The plot is gripping and thought-provoking. The part in which The War is presented is extremely detailed and gruesome.

To sum up, I recommend this book because it conveys a message which teaches you that sometimes your actions have irreversible consequences and can destroy someone's life.



## **The educational system and its issues**

Nowadays, one of the major problems in our educational system is the copious amount of school related work that students have to deal with. This matter puts pressure on them and causes a lot of stress which is not easy to overcome and which can even cause a series of health issues.

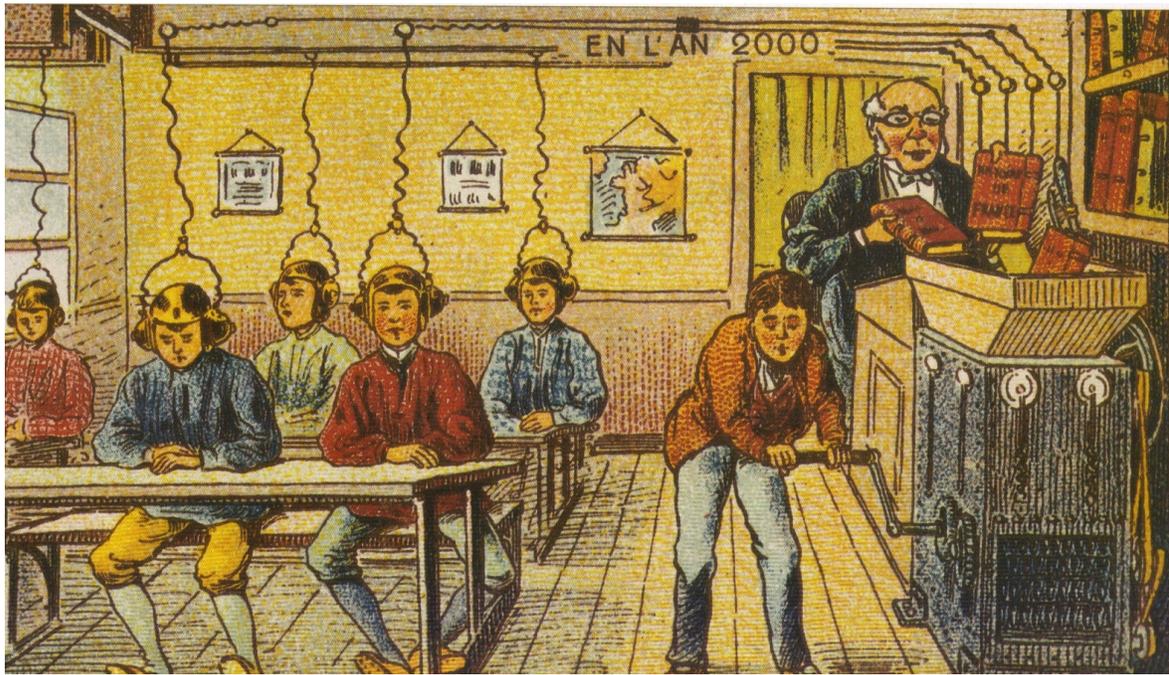
Firstly, the main stress factor in a student's life is the large quantity of homework they receive daily. Some days, it is physically impossible to conclude all the work they are presented with. What is more, many of them choose to stay awake until late hours at night in order to finish everything. This may lead to poor school performance due to tiredness and incapacity to learn something on that particular day. Sadly, the majority of teachers does not understand what students go through and burden them with generous amounts of work.

Secondly, the overcrowded schedule students have represents another stress agent. The chaotic pattern teenagers follow everyday has an enormous impact especially on their health. They can start to experience headaches, low energy level and even insomnia. Not to mention that, sleep deprivation can cause serious problems, like depression and anxiety and even have a big impact on the way you look and feel. Furthermore, this schedule may affect their social life as well and stop them from spending quality time with friends and family.

Although it is said that all of this comes from the students' inability to organize their time, I don't find it to be true. Many students spend all their time learning and working and still do not manage to finish everything. To put it differently, their leisure time is also used for school related work and they end up not having enough time to do what they like or relax.

In conclusion, academic pressure is a real problem in a teenager's life. Provided that it is quite impossible to overcome, stress becomes a regular thing that we struggle to deal with almost every day.

BIANCA POPA – XI E



## My hobby

My name is Ioniță Andrei and I am a student in 11th E grade. Apart from my school life, which involves going to classes, studying and doing homework, I practice a lot of leisure activities. I like to do that, because they give me an important sense of freedom and sometimes satisfaction. I am fed up with others saying: "I do not know what to do. I am so bored in my free time." I cannot understand this kind of people, because there are so many exciting and fascinating things they could do. They just do not live their life.

First of all, cycling is the passion I live with every day. I cycle almost every day for at least 50 kilometers if I have enough time. Sometimes, I go mountain biking on the hills nearby, sometimes I do some climbing or flat riding on my road bike. No matter which one I choose, all of them give me the same adrenaline, happiness and the satisfaction I want.



Every day, I try to improve my form so I can ride faster for longer periods of time. I get motivated by watching the biggest names in the world of cycling fighting for victory in

the most important races or by riding with cyclists who are better than me. Another thing which I enjoy about this sport is the scenery I get to see and the adventure of every ride.

In conclusion, I like to live my life and do what I love as much as I can. I would like to see that other students like me do the same, because the boredom they feel will ruin their mind and because time is short and if it is wasted, it will be gone forever.

ANDREI IONIȚĂ – XI E



## Tennis

My name is Scarlat Andrei and I am a student in 11th grade at Elena Ghiba Birta in Arad. Apart from being a student at school 6 or 7 hours a day, which include studying, attending classes and after school, 1 or 2 hours of doing homework and learning for the next day, I practice leisure activities which are way to relax after a stressful and hardworking day at school.

First of all, my favourite way to relax is by playing tennis. I like this sport because it gives me confidence, it relaxes me and it makes me more disciplined in other activities. I practice 2 times a week with a coach and 3 times a week with some friends, with whom I play single or doubles.

During weekends, I like to go to some tournaments in Arad or Timisoara. I work everyday and I try to improve my game and my physique. My motivation comes from seeing big players, such as Federer, Nadal or Djokovic and by thinking that some day, with a lot of work, I will be there, with them.

In conclusion, I like to practice a sport and I would love to see many students doing something like this, even if they did a sport just for fun or just to be fit.

ANDREI SCARLAT – XI E



## The Monotony Of School Life

Have you ever struggled with the monotony of school life? If your answer is no, then you are probably from a parallel world. If you don't know what monotony is or you haven't experienced it before, you should read this article.

Monotony is like one piece of music playing over and over until it gets to be unbearable. Waking up for school one hour earlier because you have to take the dog out, having breakfast at the same time every morning, except the days when you fall asleep because you had a lot of homework the previous day, then mentally preparing yourself for a full day of school. The worst part of this morning routine is when you actually have to take your courage in both hands and leave your comfortable and cozy house. Going to the tram station while dealing with the voices in your head, voices that you hear but you don't understand anything because it is obviously too much for you at that time of the day. Waiting for the tram seems like eternity, but you don't even complain about it because all you think about is why you even woke up. Getting into the tram, hearing people complaining about kids taking *their* seats or pushing in, the same complaints every day.



However, here comes the best part, arriving at school. Meeting your lovely classmates and then starts the party! Registration, first lesson, break, second lesson, break, third lesson,

break, fourth lesson, break, fifth lesson... and so on. The best part of this monotony is when the school is over and you go home, but it doesn't end here, the monotony continues. Doing your homework, learning for the test you have tomorrow, finishing the project for Geography, taking your dog out again, making conversations with people you meet and so it goes on and on. The monotony is a feeling of boredom caused by the fact that nothing different ever happens. It's almost the same day repeating over and over, like one tone of voice going on and on.

To sum up, following the same routine affects us, we start acting like zombies, being half-alive, stuck in our everyday routine. We shouldn't wonder why life has become a never-ending story of monotony, instead of wondering why in the first place we got there, we should try to change it, to live our life, not just to be alive.

MĂDĂLINA LAZEA – XI E

### **My trivial advice**

The importance of education is well supported by a speech made by Barack Obama. In his national address to students across the nation, he said: "Every single one of you has something that you're good at. Every single one of you has something to offer. And you have a responsibility to yourself to discover what that is. That's the opportunity an education can provide."

Although we are in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, there are countries where nothing has changed in terms of education. All over the world there are 58 millions of children who do not go to school. And it is not about a common cold, not even about truancy. Their education is sacrificed on the altar of poverty, wars, religious beliefs or prejudices.

Let's play a game! Close your eyes and imagine that you woke up being a child from The Third World. You will not go to school this morning because there is war in your country or because you are too poor to have clothes (I am not talking about brand-new ones). What if there are no schools in your country? Could you imagine that? How would you discover your abilities, your talents? I bet you would like to have a place where to study. Open your eyes now! It is not fiction what you have imagined. There are children who do not have this opportunity but you do have it. My advice is not to spend your school days overthinking the educational system because you cannot change anything, not as a student. You will end up realizing you went through school achieving nothing but frustration. Instead, take advantage of the education provided to you. Discover what you like and focus on the important things to you.

Finally, do not see school as a race! It is not important who finishes first but the ones who participate.

SIMINA MARTON – XI E

## **The Transition between High Schools**

Hi everyone, I'm Diana Avel, an ex-student of Elena Ghiba Birta. I moved to Melbourne, Australia after the Christmas holidays of year 9, more exactly in January 2015. I am now in year 12 at Brighton Secondary College.

The transition wasn't too hard even though things are quite different here. I had a choice of 5 subjects to study out of 30, so in year 11 I chose English, Mathematics level 2 (out of 3), Chemistry, Biology and Music performance. I was advised to do 1 year 12 subject, and fortunately, I had the option to do Romanian, in which I got 49.9 out of 50 on my final exam. In year 12, I decided to quit Chemistry and do Psychology instead, little did I know that this was the best decision I've ever made. So my current subjects are English, Mathematics, Psychology, Biology and Music Performance. In Australia, school starts in late January and ends in November, so I am half way through, with only 5 months to go until my exams.

The school's careers counsellor has scheduled interviews with every year 12 student, to help us with our further study decisions (university). He first gives you a test which is supposed to tell what type of industry you'd be best for, and then you have a 30-min conversation about your plans and goals. There are around 9 universities in Melbourne, but not everyone chooses to go to uni, a lot of people choose to do training courses instead, at institutions such as TAFE, where they get a certificate or a diploma. My aim is to do Psychology and Psychological sciences at Monash University, and become a clinical neuropsychologist.

I used to hate psychology with passion in year 11, but that was before I knew what it actually involves and how interesting it really is. My passion for psychology started when my friend signed me up for a seminar at Monash University, in which lecturers and students explained what studying psychology at University-level is like. I fell in love with psychology

and Monash University instantly, therefore I quit Chemistry to do Psychology instead. My initial goal was to become a vet because I wanted to save animals and I also enjoyed Biology at the time, but after I had a few conversations with veterinary students, I realised it wasn't for me. University admission is based on your ATAR, which is your overall score of all your subjects, a mix of exams results and school assessed- tests, compared to the rest of the state. For example, if your score is in the first 20% of all the scores around the state, your ATAR will be 80. Complicated, I know, rather unnecessary if you ask me but fair at the same time, as you can choose your own subjects.

If you're struggling with deciding what you want to study at university or even if your eyes are set on a specific course, my advice is to research and ask around about multiple fields and universities, because university Chemistry is different from high school chemistry, university Biology is different from high school biology. You can never assume that you'll like a field just because you like one of the subjects it involves, so before you choose, ask around, do your research.

DIANA AVEL – FORMER EGB STUDENT

## **Some conclusions about high school...a few years later**

I do believe that anybody can recall that day of September when they first set foot in the place they were going to spend 4 years of their lives, the most beautiful years, as many people like to glorify them. I remember the nervousness, the fear combined with excitement, the “what am I supposed to do now?”, on my mind. I even remember reading on the internet about the life in high school in order to know what to expect.

On that very first day, I had no idea what was going to come, I had no idea that one day this school will bring me some of my best friends, great role-models, a lot of memories, so many ups and downs and some of the most intense moments I would ever live. Seven years apart, I can still remember the boy who arrived there, with dreams and hopes, and left four years later, changed, mature but full of content.

Yes, high school is a place where students are supposed to grow up, to define their characters and personalities and get ready for “the real world”, but there is no pressure. We were fooled to believe that high school could be either very good, or really bad, and who you are during these years is going to follow you for the rest of your life. That is very false. The reality is much more complex than this. During my high school years, I’ve been through both very good and very bad times. I’ve been admired, I’ve been bullied, I’ve been praised but also made fun of, and this could be the case of each and every body. We all have good days and bad days. The bad times don’t define who you are unless you let them. Life does not become bad unless you choose to believe there is no good in it. It’s all about the perspective and the way you let those things affect you. After many years you will remember all the good times and make fun of the things you considered critical problems and... in the end it will not matter. Be strong, because this is all temporary. After graduation you will start fresh, whether you choose to go to the university or start working. That’s when the real life starts.

One thing I learned to value, during my high school, is moments. The first skipped class, the first failed test and the first 10 at that *impossible* teacher are things that even now, put a smile on my face. These simple things, the feelings, the excitement you get when you see your friends in the morning or your favorite teacher in class, that is what should matter because in these things stands joy and satisfaction. The whole life is actually about valuing every peaceful moment.

While gloriously living your first years of youth, do not forget why you are there, which is to learn. But do not learn for grades, they do not prove anything. Learn for yourself; learn in order to get educated, not to get good grades. At the end of high school what really matters is how much you've grown, the knowledge you have acquired and the way it shaped you. And trust me, I was not asked at any time what my grades in high school were like. Beside the cultural knowledge, which is very important, don't forget to learn to be human, to be kind, to be the best you can. Choose role-models to guide you, but be careful who you choose so you won't end up being deceived.

Be strong, be patient, be human, live life to the fullest, enjoy each and every moment, remember life is how you make it, learn, be open-minded and never lose hope in your dreams. Do not let anyone discourage you in achieving your goals, not friends, not colleagues, not teachers. Inspire the world to be a better place! This is what society needs, not robots with no feelings, programmed to memorize information in order to get some good grades. Be yourself, but be a better self!

ANDREI HIDIŞ – ALUMNI

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