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**Практико-ориентированный проект**

**School magazine as a means of developing students' cognitive interest in learning English**

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**INTRODUCTION**

Mass media play an important part in the life of society. They inform, educate and entertain people. But the aim of mass information is not only to inform the people of everything that is going on both in their own country and abroad but also to help them to understand and correctly interpret the events. Mass media influence the way people look at the world and make them change their views. "After all", say American media men, "news is not what happens – it is what you see or read about in mass media". In other words, mass media is public opinion.

## The aim of the project is making the school English magazine.

## We tried to answer the questions: What role does the school magazine play in students’ life? Is the school English magazine able to help students to improve their language and to become a cultural and educational centre of school?

**The objectives of the work** are:

## to develop skills of research work and their application to the solution of actual practical tasks;

* to study the literature on the topic that is available on the internet and in the libraries and summarize the valuable information;
* to conduct a survey on the necessity and the supposed content and framework of the school magazine and to discuss the results of our research paper at the school conference;
* to give some advice how to make the school magazine and to work out the plan for making the school magazine.

**The object** of the investigation is students' project and research work.

**The subject** of the project is the process of making school English magazine.

School № 1 is the youngest school of Sysert. It opened its doors four years ago. Our children and teachers take an active part in school and municipal contests, festivals, Olympiads, sports competitions. We are happy to welcome guests from other educational institutions and public organizations. Such a dynamic life requires reflection in an accessible source of information. At the meeting of the school asset it was proposed to create a source of information – school magazine, which would tell everybody about school life, achievements, and discuss important problems. A survey was conducted among the participants of the educational process, its results were analyzed. It was decided to create a school magazine.

I think, the participation of students in creating school media is one of the most important areas of educational work. Creating school magazine students learn to be friends and help each other, to be hardworking and responsible. Our magazine is an effective means of forming students' tolerance and patriotism.

All the students of our school (from 3 to 11 grades) learn English, many of them are engaged in extracurricular activities in English, working on projects in English (["My native land in P.Bazhov's tales"](http://uchportfolio.ru/public_files/975290254.pdf) ; ["Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll: extraordinary](http://uchportfolio.ru/public_files/967645911.pdf) [world of the fairy tale"](http://uchportfolio.ru/public_files/1020780940.pdf) ; ["We are for healthy way of life!"](http://uchportfolio.ru/public_files/1002218322.pdf) etc.) So, our teacher offered us to create an English magazine. Making magazine students have a chance to improve their knowledge of English and journalism.

## I. MASS MEDIA IN OUR LIFE.

## There are different ways of getting information about our world. They are: travelling and going sightseeing, meeting interesting people, reading books. But one of the best ways of getting new information is mass media. They play an important role in our everyday life. They are television, Internet, newspapers and magazines.

## Can you imagine your life without computers and the Internet? There is no doubt they are of a great importance nowadays. The Internet informs us of what is going on in this world and gives us wonderful possibilities for education and entertainment. The Internet can be used in different ways. It also helps to do homework for my friends and me. We are given a lot of homework to do, that’s why it is very easy to get necessary information. Jobs which took weeks to do in the past are now carried out in minutes thanks to the greatest technological inventions – computers – and the Internet. Using them we have a chance to make new friends, chat with them on the Internet, to receive lots of information. In my point of view, computers have changed people’s life for the better. Sometimes it seems to me that computers and science are going to control everything.

## I am sure it is also impossible to imagine our life without newspapers and magazines. What I really like about them is that they are oriented towards people of all ages and contain the experience of many generations. There are lots of articles which cover sport news, fashion and beauty, famous people’s private life, articles about travelling and wildlife. It is very interesting to know that newspapers also express political opinion, report on the latest events, most newspapers contain detailed articles on home and international affairs, reviews of books, art and TV shows. You can also read useful advice, horoscopes, weather forecasts, jokes, do crossword puzzles for a change. It is really very interesting and good fun! As you probably know there are lots of different newspapers and we have a chance to choose the most interesting one. The most popular newspapers in Russia are: "Argumenti i facty", "Komsomolskaya Pravda", "Moskovskiy komsomolets "Sovershenno secretno", "Sport express", etc. But teenagers of our generation like reading magazines with beautiful pictures and glossy pages. Maybe because their main interests are clothes, sport, music and fashion. I have got a lot of friends and it was very interesting to know about their favourite magazines. I found out that "Glamour", "Oops!" and "Cosmopolitan" are the most favourite magazines among my friends. In my point of view every copy of it is interesting to read, contains lots of curious and useful information. As the proverb says: "There is no accounting for tastes".

Radio and television provide the public with information. I like watching TV. I find it very interesting and exciting to watch programmes about travelling. I would like to say that it is special world full of adventures and joy. It is interesting to get something for nothing. I honestly believe that programmes like "Neputevye zametki", "Vokrug Sveta" are really worth watching. Because you can learn more about life and traditions of people from different countries; have a chance to visit other countries without wasting money. It is fantastic! Speaking of radio I would like to say that you can listen to your favourite songs while doing something. "Love radio", "Hit FM" are quite popular radio stations in Russia. Listeners can enjoy listening to different kinds of music: pop, rock, R’n’B music, get news over radio.

## We can't imagine our life without mass media.

**II. INVESTIGATION INTO THE PROBLEM.**

We tried to analyze the present situation in our school and held the investigation. According to the results of the questionnaire, a lot of teachers regularly read newspapers and magazines. It’s normal because they want to know what happens in the world, what news are in fashion, sports, music, politics, etc. Only about 40% of teachers sometimes read newspapers and magazines. I think they are so busy for it. 60 per cent read them regularly. These results prove that people can’t live without mass media. XXI century is the era of information and people must get information every day. 100% of teachers think that school newspapers or magazines are necessary. It means that teachers are very interested in school life.

Informative newspapers and magazines are the most popular among 60% of teachers. 50% prefer entertainment mass media, because they want to relax and read some anecdotes. 40% of teachers prefer sport, political and social information. To my mind this information is interesting for people who are keen on it. Only 10% choose other types, they are popular or scientific.

100% of teachers would like to find out information about school events. Teachers are the part of the school body and they want to know about all the events ant to take part in it. 90% want to learn news and problems of education in our country and abroad. It isn’t surprising, because it's their job. They must have an opportunity to get information about news, problems and comments from their colleagues and different sources of information. 60% of teachers would like to read about projects and investigations. This group of teachers is interested in science and information technologies. 40% would like find out at your leisure. 40% would like to know where they can relax after hard-working day. 30% are interested in youth life and travelling around the world. 10% of teachers want to read information about preparing for exams. Perhaps they believe in their pupils' knowledge.

Many people think that magazines or newspapers should not be published every day. 50% of teachers think that magazine should be issued once a month, but the other half would like it will be issued once a term.

It's well known that a magazine is a result of a hard work of a big group of people. Editor-in-chief, photographers, designers, reporters, correspondents, readers – everybody is important and indispensable. About 70% of teachers want to be readers. 40% want to be correspondents, because it’s the most interesting work in magazine (in my opinion). You communicate with people, take interviews, come to unusual places, etc. 10% haven’t free time at all and they don’t want to do anything.

In contrast to teachers students have more free time and consequently they are more interested in mass media. 52% of students regularly read newspapers and magazines. It’s good – students show interest for the life of society. 38% sometimes read them. And 10% don’t read newspapers and magazines at all. So, we can say that teenagers really like to get interesting information.

In our days, teenagers don’t like to read about politics. Almost 61% of our students prefer entertainment magazines and newspapers. 45% of students are more interested in informative newspapers. About 19% enjoy social and political magazines and newspapers. It’s so little! About 16% prefer to read about sport.

All the teachers think that newspapers and magazines are necessary, and 96% teenagers think so. 4% of students consider that newspapers and magazines aren’t necessary. May be these students get all the interesting and important information from the Internet.

55% of students would like to find out information about news and problems of education in school magazine. This is good statistics, because teenagers want to know how to resolve problems with getting education to keep the track of events. 48% of them are interested only in school events and teacher’s comments. 42% like travelling, so they want to get information about travelling around the world. 35% of students are more curios, they want to read about youth life in our country and abroad. 19% would like to read about leisure. Students want to have free time and relax, too. 10% are interested in projects and investigations.

About 77% of students think that the best option for getting a new number of a magazine is once a month. But 16% think of once a term. And 7% would like to get it once a half a year. This period is so long to my mind. People can forget about the existence of a school magazine.

The most number of teachers and students would like to be readers of the school magazine – 61%. 26% would like to be photographers. It's very popular hobby among my schoolmates. 16% want to be correspondents. 10% like creative work, they would like to be designers. In my opinion, it is really good as the process of editing the newspaper requires a large number of these particular people.

**III. MAKING THE MAGAZINE.**

So, do we need mass media in our school? I think, we do. Because, as you can see from the results of the questionnaire, the most number of our teachers and schoolmates would like to have it.

Nowadays school leavers are supposed to be active members of the society, to possess certain amount of knowledge, take the initiative, and acquire the ability to make decisions. The school life should be organized in such a way as to give the pupils the opportunity to apply the received knowledge to practice. It is especially important for teenagers as they are trying to take an active part in the adult life due to their age peculiarities. So there is a real necessity to involve teenagers into the adult life. There are various ways to manage to perceive the amount of information. The organization of young correspondents’ groups is one of the ways. They can’t obviously compete with the modern mass media on speed of reaction and quality of presentations. They are not of the concern. One of the possibilities is a school magazine. The magazine is a way of association of children of different ages. It helps to form public opinion at school, serves a means of development of child’s personality, and promotes a sense of collectiveness. Youth press is becoming a common phenomenon in our life.

The idea of creating the newspaper at school is not new. In many educational establishments there are their own periodicals and radio stations.

It should be remembered that each urgent issue must be unique. Bright colours, eye-catching heading, and unusual even shocking pictures or photographs are quite OK here. An urgent issue shouldn’t hang for a long time. And the most important thing, it shouldn’t be edited on some insignificant events.

I think creating magazine is very important, because it helps a teenager to solve problems and undertake such actions which would allow the person to find his or her own place in the adult world. It makes it possible to produce something new. It is teenager’s action that enables him to express his own point of view. It is the sphere of pupils’ activity connected with research, solving problems, composing. It is participation of schoolchildren in applied activities.

Making magazine schoolchildren develop the following personal abilities:

- to make a choice and take a decision;

- to be responsible for these decisions, for oneself and for one’s doings;

- to be independent.

When we began our work we decided that the most active students would be the editor-in-chief, correspondents, designers, photographers. Our magazine contains information written in English, and of course it is rather difficult not only to compose it but also to write it in English correctly. So our authors are the pupils who really love English and have fluency in it, and of course our English teachers who always help us.

The editor-in-chief should be a leader and a good organizer. His duty is to unite different pupils and inspire them to run collective business. His main responsibility is to manage the newspaper and to make it possible to edit the issue in any circumstances. He solves all the problems concerning the contents, photos, headlines of the issue, he arranges the articles and pictures on the papers, shortens some materials and decides about the print. He makes a model of the issue together with the editor and other pupils.

Correspondents or journalists are the pupils who find interesting information, collect and analyze it. Then they write articles, interviews and other items. Tastes differ. That is why some pupils write about sport, others are interested in ecological issues, etc.

The designer creates the lay-out of the issue, the cover of the newspaper, makes illustrations to the texts, and works out new styles of a newspaper design. He is supposed to work in different computer programmes.

The photographer is a person who takes photos to illustrate the newspaper articles. He can write his own articles, too.

To be popular among the readers the magazine should have fresh ideas, new interpretation of old themes, and new original topics. The magazine should provide its readers with unusual, creative unexpected information, give the ideas to think over and discuss with friends, relatives and teachers. It should be connected with its readers. They should have an opportunity to write to the magazine, to come here with their problems and be sure that the magazine will be able to help them. So the newspaper is successful only if it has close relations with its readers.

Our magazine contains information and materials written in English, and of course it is rather difficult not only to compose it but also to write it in English correctly. So our authors are the pupils who really love English and have fluency in it, and of course our English teachers who always help us. But many students who don't have fluency in English yet (among them the pupils of Primary school), want to become correspondents of school magazine. So, without any doubts, they have to do all their best to improve their English. They have to work hard to learn English grammar and increase their vocabulary. They often read books in English, write compositions and sketches, translate texts from English into Russian and from Russian into English. *So, making English magazine we develop our cognitive interest in learning English and improve our English.*

We made ten issues of our school magazine "Friendship". The main headings in "Friendship" are:

- School life;

- Travelling around the world;

- Our guests;

- It is interesting to know;

- Projects. Investigations;

- Our achievements;

- At the lesson;

- At your leisure, etc.

The main topics of the "Friendship" issues in 2016-2018:

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| *"Friendship" № 1*  *(October, 2016)* | "Let's get acquainted!"  "Travelling is the best way to learn the world"  "Sysert is my home town" |
| *"Friendship" № 2*  *(December, 2016)* | "My dear, dear mummy!"  "Ural is my native land" |
| *"Friendship" № 3*  *(March, 2017)* | "Our Hobbies"  "We are for healthy lifestyle" |
| *"Friendship" № 4*  *(May, 2017)* | "72nd anniversary of the great Victory"  "Our countryman Pavel Bazhov" |
| *"Friendship" № 5*  *(October, 2017)* | " Sysert is 285!"  "Summer trips" |
| *"Friendship" № 6*  *(December, 2017)* | "My favorite teacher"  "Prevention of bad habits" |
| *"Friendship" № 7*  *(March, 2018)* | "Defender of the Fatherland Day"  "Student's portfolio" (You can see students' works  "My Portfolio" on the school website.) |
| *"Friendship" № 8*  *(May, 2018)* | "We remember! We are proud! A letter to a soldier "  "The Day of Spring and Labour "  "Birds’ Day Competition " |
| *"Friendship" № 9*  *(October, 2018)* | "Leader of the year - 2018 "  "Journey from Lake Placid to Sysert"  "My native land. We like going on hikes" |
| *"Friendship" № 10*  *(December, 2018)* | "School contests "My dear, dear mummy!"  "Reading is a ticket to everywhere"  "Some monuments of Sysert"  "New Year's Day of my dreams" |

The main topics for each issue are discussed and selected by the teachers and students. These topics are related to the state holidays of Russia (Victory Day, Mother's Day, Defender of the Fatherland Day), important events in the life of our native town (285th anniversary of Sysert), stories about our famous countrymen (P.P.Bazhov and his works), interesting places, holidays, festivals, traditions and customs of the peoples of the Urals. The most interesting school events are widely covered, creative works of students are published.

*"Travelling around the world"* is one of the most interesting headings. Teachers and students write about their visits to interesting places of Russia and abroad.

Mikhail Zhilin told how to combine a rest and studies. He got a lot of impressions and experience. Mikhail wrote in his article "My trip to China":

*"This summer I was lucky enough to go to China. China is a very interesting country, there are a lot of features in the field of nature, food, culture, traditions. I lived in the city of Guangzhou, this is a very interesting and modern city. There I visited a huge museum, many different places, temples, parks, even I could ride along the river on a tourist ship. There are a lot of skyscrapers in Guangzhou, some of them are 100-120 stories high, and a lot of shopping streets where you can buy anything (foreigners like to buy there a variety of tea).*

*I traveled to the city of Guilin, which is known as a tourist city. We were accommodated in a good hotel in the heart of the city. In the province where this city is located, there are a lot of beautiful mountains and rivers. In Guilin I visited a shopping district and a local circus. In addition to entertainment, I studied Chinese language, as well as Chinese culture.*

Larisa V. Cherkasova wrote in her article "English Opens the World":

*"It goes without saying that educational trip to the English-speaking country may be considered not only as a lucky chance to see the world but also a great motivation for the further language improvement. This summer has become for our Sysert teenagers a brilliant opportunity to see the sights of the capital of the UK and polish up their communicational skills speaking with native teachers as well. Besides, talking with children from different countries at everyday lessons of English was also a great experience.*

*During our two-week staying in London we managed to see all must-to-see places there. We’ve been to Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament. We enjoyed The Original tours around London on Hop-on & Hop-off double-decker bus and River Cruise on Thames river. We were amazed by the beautiful architecture of Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral. The ride on London Eye, visits to the fantastic museums of Science and Natural History Museums and, of course, gorgeous Madame Tussaud’s were also included in our program. On Sundays we went by bus to Brighton, a sea resort, and to well-known Oxford.*

*The campus of East London University in Docklands, located very close to London tube station (DLR line) with all-facilities rooms and tasty meals in the student canteen made our stay on London comfortable, exciting and absolutely fantastic. It was AWESOME!"*

Saida Abdulhakova told about her trip to Tajikistan:

*"Summer is a wonderful time. I love summer because we have big holidays. In summer we can travel abroad or spend free time with our relatives.*

*In summer I traveled to Tajikistan. I was at the wedding party of my elder brother Shodroz. I spent 25 days there. I met my friends and relatives there. We went around my native land. I saw a lot of high mountains and crystal rivers. I'd like to visit this beautiful country next year."*

Igor Voronin shared his impressions of his travels around the Urals and Europe:

*"My summer was wonderful! In June and in August I was in Yekaterinburg. I had a very good time with my friends there. In July I traveled to Europe. I went to Prague with my parents. Prague is a beautiful city. It has many brilliant squares and parks, castles and ancient buildings, bridges and museums. Then we went to Germany, Munich by car. By the way, the roads in Europe are very flat. Munich differs from Prague, but it is very nice, too. Germany is a very tidy country. People we met abroad were kind and hospitable. My summer gave me a lot of positive emotions! I love travelling!"*

One of my schoolmates said: "English lesson isn’t an ordinary lesson. We should learn English, if we want to be influential and significant people in the society. We shouldn’t study English for teachers and marks at school, we should and we must study English for us. It’s our future. And they’re connected with each other." I think it is true.

There is a special part for teachers in our magazine – *"Teacher’s comments".* In this heading teachers tell students about their life experiences. They give advice their pupils how to work to improve the English language, how to prepare for exams, what to do to be able to communicate in English, etc.

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| --- |
| **Some Advice on How to Learn English**   * We acquire 10% of information when we read.   We acquire 20% of information when we listen.  We acquire 30% when we see.  We acquire 90% when we teach others.   * It is necessary to repeat the material you’ve learnt every three days.   If you do not repeat the material within three days most of the  information vanishes as if you never learnt it.   * It’s best to memorize material before you go to bed.   You’ll memorize it more quickly.   * It’s very useful to listen to the material you are learning.   There are a lot of words in English which are not pronounced  according to the rules of reading. |

In the heading *"School life"* we showed the photos of our school life: different events and activities.

On the 9th of October, 2018, in our school there was a meeting to welcome a US citizen Bruce Bertrand. Bruce told about his native town Lake Placid, about its history and sights, about the Olympic Games and the peculiarities of the English language. He shared his impressions of Russia and of Yekaterinburg and Sysert in particular with all the audience. And the pupils present asked him a lot of questions. The members of "Friendship" editorial board told him about their work on the magazine making and presented the guest with the fresh issue of the magazine. Children had a chance to recite some poems in English for him. After that B. Bertrand attended several classes of English. And our schoolmates and teachers made a tour of the school for him.

The column *"Projects. Investigations"* includesmaterials about surveys, research works, and contests.

In the heading *"It’s interesting to know"* we tell about things which are interesting for the most number of the students. The heading *"At your leisure"* contains information about where you can relax, what you can read, crosswords and others.

The 10th issue of "Friendship" is devoted to Christmas and New Year. Here you can read about how these holidays are celebrated abroad. The students write about how they usually see the New Year in, what presents they like to give and to get.

You can read "Friendship" in our school library, in all the English studies, on the school site and a stand.

Read our magazine and keep up to date!

**IV. "FRIENDSHIP" № 10.**

**SCHOOL LIFE IN THE SCHOOL MAGAZINE.**

The tenth issue of our school magazine "Friendship" has been published! Among the main topics of the issue are "My dear, dear Mummy!", "School Chess Tournament "White Rook", "Interesting facts about Christmas", "Amazing Animals", "We love reading!".

Our school life is widely described. Mom's day was celebrated in a wonderful way! During the holiday School Photography Contest "Mom in Profession", Recitation Contest "My dear, dear mummy", as well as the celebratory concert gathered young artists, spectators, relatives and teachers of our school. They sang, danced and recited poems. Everything was imbued with passion, love of art and the joy of revealing the future stars. The concert allowed its participants to express their love to the dearest mothers as well as their fiction, imagination, creativity.

By the way, our school talents have achieved brilliant success in the competition of vocal skills "Asterisk", which was held on November, 1 in the village of Shchelkun. Young singers from schools of Sysert, Schelkun, Bolshoi Istok, Patrushi, Nikolskoe, Oktyabrsky took part in the contest. All our girls became winners and prize-winners of the contest in their age groups: Arina Prosvirnina took the 1st place, Vera Starikova – 2nd place, Olga Konovalova and Yana Timerbaeva – 3rd place.

The first School Chess Tournament "White Rook" was held on December 2, 2018. 16 young chess players fought for the victory in four groups. Anastasia Vyatkina, Ivan Lonin, Evgeniy Minin, Dmitriy Permyakov became the winners. They will take part in all-the-Russia's online chess tournament. We wish them every success!

Our guys often go on excursions and visit theaters. They share their impressions on the pages of the magazine. In the article "Amazing Creatures", Arina Prosvirnina, 7B, told the readers about her class's trip to the Zoo of the Country Club "White Horse". Brilliant photos of her classmate Polina Abrosimova cause an irresistible desire to communicate with these lovely animals, too!

In the article "Our Trip to the Musical Comedy Theatre", Alexandra Fabrikant, 6A, wrote about her class's visit to the theatre. The guys watched the play "Scarlet Sails". Alexandra wrote: "After the performance everyone was delighted! On the way home everybody discussed the beautiful voices of artists and their expressiveness. It was magical !!!"

In the column "Traveling around the world", students of the 7th grade Danil Chermyaninov, Sofia Rogozhina, Valery Bayankina prepared interesting materials about the sights and holidays of Wales and Scotland.

In the winter issue of the magazine, of course, Christmas and New year's holiday is widely described. Vasilina Starkova, 6C, told about interesting and, for many readers, unknown traditions and customs of Christmas celebration in different countries. Kirill Khvoshch, Olesya Kolyasnikova and Elizaveta Yatsenko wrote about how their families usually prepared and spent those magical days, and also shared their dreams of meeting the new year abroad.

In the part "Reading is a ticket to everywhere", the fifth-graders Ivan Fedotenko, Nikita Yatsenko, Maria Cucheryavaya, Polina Permyakova, Vasilina Starkova told about their favourite books of famous English writers "Gulliver's Travels", "Heather Ale," "Bridge to Terabithia". One of the main goals of our magazine is to make our students enjoy reading!

In the column "Our Guests", Bruce Bertrand (Lake-Placid, USA) shared his impressions of his October trip to our hometown. In his article "Some Monuments of Sysert", he wrote: "*During my recent visit to Sysert I spent hours exploring the city. I took many pictures of things that interested me. Among these were Sysert's* monuments. I would like to share some of the pictures and what I've learned about the monuments."

Everyone can see his wonderful photos of Great Patriotic War Monument, Fallen Policemen Monument, UGM’s 250 Anniversary Monument, Pavel Bazhov Monument, Mistress of Copper Mountain in Tsentralny Park of Sysert. Bruce Bertrand is a professional photographer and inquisitive researcher. He has been studying the history and sights of Russia for many years.

In the magazine you can also see photos of our teachers and schoolmates who became the winners of different contests and Olympiads. We are proud of them and wish them every success!

Read "Friendship" and be aware of school events!

**CONCLUSION**

The idea of editing the school magazine is interesting for us and we are going to take an active part in it. We are sure it will help to reveal the active, cute and gifted pupils and teachers, will unite people of different age, not indifferent to school problems. Besides making the school magazine should contribute to the development of positive traditions in school life. And of course it helps us to improve our English.

We held the investigation. The process of the research and the ideas of the realization of the project were discussed with our English teachers. We conducted a survey on the necessity and the supposed content and framework of the school magazine. It showed that the greatest part of the participants of the school educational process is interested in informative, reliable and useful editions based on local issues. More than a half of senior pupils and almost all teachers answered, that the school magazine is necessary for us. In their opinion the magazine should carry information mostly about the events of school life. They are ready to take part in its editing and do various jobs. They are to participate in the process as consultants on the most complicated issues. We'll continue our work and try to do our best to make it interesting, useful and unforgettable.

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**Appendix 1**

**Making school magazine**

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| C:\Users\Aдминистратор\Desktop\15.jpg |  |
|  | C:\Users\Aдминистратор\Desktop\14.jpg |
| C:\Users\Aдминистратор\Desktop\5(1).jpg | C:\Users\Aдминистратор\Desktop\IMG_20180212_094951.jpg |