

Focus on Reading

1 *Work with a partner and discuss the following items.*

✦ If you ask students about school, their first reaction is usually very different. Why is that so?

✦ Can you imagine life without school? Why / why not?

2 *Read a student's essay about school on pages 64-65 quickly and match the questions below (1-6) to the paragraphs of the text (A-F).*

1 Why do some students like going to school, while others don't?

2 Does school deal only with class activities on different subjects?

3 What way does school provide students with knowledge?

4 Where do we spend considerable time with our friends?

5 What's the difference between the Internet and school?

6 What other skills does school develop beside learning subjects?

"There's more information on the Internet than in a million schools and in all the teachers and schools books in the world," some of us say, "so, why go to school?". In my opinion, there's more education in school than just acquiring information. While the Internet provides information schools can provide knowledge.

Knowledge is not just information but the organisation and interpretation of information, which can be achieved through a good schools curriculum. Besides, the group work, teamwork and games in class can help students define themselves and the way they relate to others. It means that schools, unlike the Internet, provide young people with knowledge, critical thinking skills and social skills.

A

BC

D

E

F

It is obvious, that some students like school, others think they hate it. For students who are doing well, school is an attractive place. But those, who are not successful with their grades, and are always pressed by teachers and their parents, consider school boring and uninteresting.

School is not only a place of formal education, it is a place where students can develop their skills in social relationships, and increase their tolerance and mutual respect for each other.

It is school where we can enjoy different cultural and confidence-building activities and, at the same time, realise and demonstrate our individual talents. Everybody has an opportunity to take part in dramatic and musical performances at a school or class party, or in school or interschool sports competitions. Now, many of the activities are organised through clubs. They provide a variety to the main educational programs and can also be enjoyed away from school and outside regular school hours.

School is an important social environment for young people.

At school we make out best friends, with whom we spend considerable² time going together to excursions, concerts, parties and discos.

a curriculum [k39rikj3l3m]

an opportunity [0Ap39tju:n3tl]

particular [p39tikj3l3]

mutual [9mju:tSu3l]

to acquire [39kwai3]

to provide [pr39vaid]

to realise [9rl:3laix]

✦ **It is obviously**

WORDS

FOR YOU

¹ a grade [greid] — (мym) оцінка ² considerable [k3n9sid3r3bl] — значний

- 3 If you have an interest in going on to higher education you will find school as an interesting place.
- 4 School is the place of formal education.
- 5 □chool provides with opportunities to develop students' talents.
- 6 Friends are people with whom we spend considerable time going to school.
- 7 □verybody should realise that school is one of the main social environments for young people.

4 **Match the words with the definitions.**

- 1 a curriculum
- 2 a knowledge
- 3 a skill
- 4 successful
- 5 particular
- 6 to acquire
- 7 a respect
- a** to learn or develop knowledge, skills by your own efforts
- b** the subjects that are taught by a school or the things that are studied in a particular subject
- c** the facts, skills and understanding that you have gained through learning or experience
- d** being the one that you are talking about, and not any other
- e** admiration for someone, especially because of their personal qualities, knowledge or skill
- f** an ability to do something well, especially because you have learned and practised it
- g** having very good effect or result

5 **Work in pairs. Take turns asking and answering the questions.**

- 1 Do you like school?
- 2 Do you know anybody who hates school? Why does he/she hate it?
- 3 In what subjects are you doing well?
- 4 Are you pressed by your parents and teachers?
- 5 How many friends do you have among your classmates?

6 What grades do they get in most subjects? In English?

7 Do you use the Internet? What for?