

# MEET OUR STUDENT



KSENIIA, 18 YEARS OLD, DONETSK-  
MARIUPOL, JOINED SVITLO IN  
SUMMER 2023

## MY SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

I'm currently studying international law in Vienna. I could not finish the school in Ukraine since **my hometown was completely bombed**, leaving my house and school in ruins. I've moved first to Germany and then to Austria for university.

## ABOUT THE WAR



The war took everything that felt stable and safe—my home **twice**, my sense of security, and the ability to live without constantly adapting to new realities. It **took away my carefree childhood**, replacing it with responsibilities and worries no one should have at that age. It separated my family, **scattering us** across different parts of the country and beyond, making reunions rare. Some relatives I haven't seen in years, and I don't know when I will again. It took away the feeling of belonging to one place. Instead of growing up with childhood friends in a familiar neighborhood, I had to start over again and again. **It took away certainty**—the ability to plan ahead, to dream without the fear that everything could be shattered in an instant.

But more than anything, it took away time—time I should have spent just being a kid, not thinking about war, displacement, or loss.

## ABOUT SVITLO



Svitlo is truly **my second home**. It's not just a school but a community that has **shaped** me in so many ways. When I joined, I found more than just a place to learn—I found friends, support, and a sense of belonging. During difficult times, Yulia and Daria and all the volunteers were always there, offering **encouragement and reminding me that I wasn't alone**. Their dedication has made Svito a place where I always **feel safe**, motivated, and inspired. What I love most is the constant opportunity to grow. Svito has helped me improve my English, explore different subjects, and think beyond textbooks. Every lesson opens new perspectives and keeps me curious. But what brings me even more joy is teaching. I've led German classes, a debate club, and now international law, and seeing my students become more confident and engaged is incredibly fulfilling. Svito has given me friendships, skills, and a purpose. It's a place where I feel valued, where I can give back, and where I continue to learn every day. It's not just a school—it's **a family** and place I will always carry with me.

## TO ALL SVITLO SUPPORTERS

Svitlo gave me something war tried to take away—a sense of **home, no matter where I am. It's a place where I don't feel like a refugee** or just someone who had to start over; here, I am simply me, growing, learning, and helping others do the same. And I'm beyond happy to have found Svito which is now an independent part of my life.

# MEET OUR STUDENT



ALINA, 17 YEARS OLD, ROMNY,  
JOINED SVITLO IN SEPTEMBER 2022

## MY SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

When the war started, I moved to Poland, and my school switched to online learning. At first, it felt like we were all in the same situation, but my classmates soon returned to offline classes, while I stayed in Poland, struggling with online studies.

In reality, **I wasn't really learning**. Teachers often forgot about me, the internet would cut out, and I couldn't see anything on Zoom. It felt more like being **a passive observer** than a student, and only a few teachers ever reached out, making it even more isolating.

## ABOUT THE WAR



The war took so much from me—people, stability, and a sense of belonging. It **shattered the normalcy** I once knew.

It took people—friends and family who left, some never to return. It took support—feeling forgotten at school and disconnected from classmates.

It took my home—Poland felt unfamiliar, and I didn't belong.

It took my routine—everything I once knew was disrupted, and **I had to rebuild my life**.

Most of all, **it took time**—time that should've been spent growing and learning, but instead was spent surviving.



## ABOUT SVITLO

Svitlo was **a lifeline** when I felt **completely isolated**. When my education in Ukraine became nearly impossible due to constant disconnections and a lack of engagement, Svitlo gave me **structure, support**, and a sense of belonging. What stands out most is that Svitlo isn't just about academics—it's a **caring** community. Teachers and mentors don't just teach; they guide and encourage, seeing students as individuals, not just names on a list. For the first time, I felt like my **education mattered**, and I wasn't left behind because of my situation. The program's flexibility allowed me to study at my own pace, something I'd always needed. Svitlo also **boosted my confidence**, showing me I'm capable of more than I realized. It opened doors to mentorship, global projects, and leadership roles, helping me rediscover my motivation to grow both academically and personally.

## TO ALL SVITLO SUPPORTERS

Thank you for being the reason so many of us can continue our education, even when everything else feels uncertain. Svitlo has been more than just a school for me—it has been **a place where I found support**, opportunities, and a sense of belonging when I needed it most. Because of Svitlo, I didn't feel forgotten. I had teachers who cared, a community that understood, and the chance to grow despite the challenges the war brought into my life. It gave me not only knowledge but also confidence in my future. Your support isn't just helping students study—it's helping us rebuild our lives, **giving us hope**, and showing us that even in the hardest times, there are people who **believe** in us. And that means everything.

Thank you for making a difference.



# MEET OUR STUDENT



ANASTASIIA, 17 YEARS OLD, ZAPORIZHZHIA,  
JOINED SVITLO IN MARCH 2022

## MY SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

To be honest, I can hardly remember what my school looks like — since the pandemic, I have been **studying remotely**. However, I discovered the world beyond the familiar — a world where technology became a bridge to endless knowledge, not mere entertainment. By 2023, **I was studying at three schools** at once, something I once thought impossible. The greatest lesson I gained was the art of **adaptation**: the ability to move forward despite exhaustion, doubt, or pain. When your goals align with your true needs, there is no room for hesitation or regret. As one of my favorite sayings goes: "See the goal, not the obstacles."

## ABOUT THE WAR



When **rockets fell on my neighborhood**, I saw three homes around mine, turn to dust, and a child I once knew - **disappear forever**. In that moment, I realized that survival is not about bravery or calm — sometimes, fate simply chooses for you. Nobody knows who'd be the next. So, I no longer waste time on fear or overthinking; instead, **I build myself stronger** every day, knowing that life is too precious to live it asleep.



## ABOUT SVITLO

Svitlo entered my life like a quiet light, gently showing me **who I really am** and what I'm meant to do. While my formal education gave me academic knowledge — facts, theories, and marks — Svitulo gave me **life knowledge**: how to lead, speak with purpose, manage real tasks, and take initiative when no one tells you what to do. I became **more independent** — not just from parents, friends, teachers or my own expectations, but from fear — and through this journey, I found a passion for **psychology and politics**, started dream bigger and take some steps for it, even if it'd take for me 20 attempts to do, I know, more failures I'll get, more stronger I'll become. And most importantly, I found someone I can truly call a **close friend**. That's something I never expected, but it will stay with me for life.

## TO ALL SVITLO SUPPORTERS

To everyone who supported me — I want to say this from the bottom of my heart: thank you. Thank you for creating a space where I could grow without fear, and for giving me **the chance to meet the version of myself I've never known**. Every piece of encouragement, every shared moment, every lesson — **it built the foundation I now stand on**. I carry this support with me in everything I do, and I will never forget it. You didn't just help me grow — you helped me believe, and for that, I'll always be deeply, sincerely grateful.



# MEET OUR STUDENT



ANNA, 17 YEARS OLD, KYIV, JOINED SVITLO IN AUGUST 2023

## MY SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

In my school, education suffers a lot as fewer teachers contribute to making the process of learning better. Usually not many care about how the students turn in their assignments. My experience with teachers at my school often starts with a strong desire to learn an amazing subject, but that enthusiasm fades over time due to their teaching methods. Low grades from a teacher's whim also **do not give any encouragement**. Other than that, some teachers give additional tests for us, in final year, to test ourselves before the finals and know our abilities, for free, for which I'm really grateful.

## ABOUT THE WAR

The only thing that war took from me was the need for taking my finals in my music school at that time, as I was in my last grade and was obliged to do that to graduate. But other than that I'm very grateful that everything and everyone I love stayed and now I'm in Svitlo, despite having the war as the reason for its creation.



## ABOUT SVITLO

Svitlo is **my second family** for sure. Most of my close friends are from Svitlo, and sometimes I even feel that we are just separated siblings, just like in *The Parent Trap*. All the lessons that I have been to are simply wonderful! What I especially enjoy about Svitlo is the absence of homework. It is just a relief when you can just turn up to a lesson, speak to a **wonderful teacher** and the group, learn something without worrying about the regular school stuff from which you ran away earlier that day and have an amazing time. Of course, preparing something for the lesson is always encouraged, but you are not obliged to do it and you certainly won't be punished verbally or with a low grade for that.

## TO ALL SVITLO SUPPORTERS



Svitlo is not just any regular school—it doesn't only help children but also supports everyone who contributes to Svitlo. This includes the **teachers, who truly bring light** into our lives every single day with their kindness, help, love, support, and their knowledge of English—and, of course, their light. **I really don't know what I did to deserve Svitlo coming into my life—maybe it was destiny—but Svitlo School** has brought me so much happiness that I can't imagine my life without it. It has become an enormous part of who I am, and I am so grateful to be part of our lovely family. Thank you to everyone who is part of our big family and who makes each day of our lives **brighter and happier!**



# MEET OUR STUDENT



SASHA, 18 YEARS OLD, ODESA,  
JOINED SVITLO IN THE END OF AUGUST 2022

## MY SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

The first months of the war were filled with sorrow and there was **no motivation** for studying. I just tried to do my homework as fast as possible and have more time to do anything else. However, in August, where my summer holidays were about to finish I found Svitlo. And now - **Svitlo became my main motivation** of studying and self-development! The chance to study at **Pearson Online Academy**, Svitlo gave me, enhanced my overall knowledge and mastered my English skill as I started using much more English in my daily life. A few years before the war I had not even imagined how may I improve my English just because of one lovely school that appeared in my life!

## ABOUT THE WAR

Fortunately, none of my relatives and friends suffered much due to this devastating period of our lives. Nevertheless, the war took the **"love of my life"** - dancing. My coaches were forced to leave their hometown due to war and as a consequence I couldn't dance anymore. I want to come back in dancing because it's is one of my motivations to live, although I cannot, since I don't want to leave my lovely dancing club or change it to another.

## ABOUT SVITLO

Since the war started, my life seemed to stop, **everything was as if in a fog**, but when I joined to Svitlo School my life "filled with **colors**"! My primary reason why I joined Svitlo was the opportunity to speak with native speakers, and it's a honour to have this wonderful opportunity communicating with them not only online, but also face-to-face!

Svitlo gave me **everything that I've dreamt** throughout my childhood, although I haven't assumed that it may happen so soon! My two biggest achievements in Svitlo are studying in Pearson Online Academy and my journey to **the summer school** in the Great Britain!

I am going to repeat numerous times how grateful I am to this wonderful school, and even though I'm already **18**, **I am going to stay with Svitlo School as I cannot leave my sweet second home!**

## TO ALL SVITLO SUPPORTERS

All the people I've met, the lessons I've learned, and the opportunities I've encountered have **transformed me into a new person** thanks to Svitlo School. I realised that it's highly essential to dream and set goals, but even more crucial is to **achieve those goals** with unwavering determination and passion throughout your life!!!



# MEET OUR STUDENT



DARIANA, 18 YEARS OLD, MYKOLAIV,  
JOINED SVITLO IN SEPTEMBER 2023

## MY SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

School has always been a very important part of my life. In my Ukrainian school, we not only studied but also organized competitions, celebrations, and concerts. I loved the bright and eventful school life, but unfortunately, it ended too abruptly. This transition turned out to be very stressful for me, and I **lost all motivation** to study. I continued to complete assignments, but without any enthusiasm or desire.

In September 2023, I **joined Svitlo**, and I **felt at home** again. The teachers are very attentive to the students, and because of this, the distance of thousands of kilometers is not felt at all. Now **studying is interesting** again, not just a duty.

## ABOUT THE WAR



The war turned my life upside down, just like it did for all other Ukrainians. I spent the first three weeks in my hometown, which was heavily shelled, before leaving for Germany. For the first two years, most of my family remained in Ukraine, and I felt **cut off from them and deprived of any joy**, especially during family celebrations. My friends also stayed in my hometown, which made integrating into a new country even more difficult.

## ABOUT SVITLO

I could say that Svitlo is just a school where the teachers are native English speakers. But that wouldn't be true. Svitlo is a place where, despite the distance and time difference, **you will always be heard**.

Students support each other both during and outside of lessons. **Teachers genuinely care** about how their students are doing, always listen attentively, and give meaningful advice.

At Svitlo, you forget about all the problems waiting for you outside the school. You dive into fascinating lessons in history, literature, or art and constantly discover something new.

Of course, improving your English is one of the main goals of the school, but beyond that, **you become a better version of yourself** — with loyal friends who understand you and share your drive for personal growth.



## TO ALL SVITLO SUPPORTERS

Svitlo gives me not only academic development but also something much more meaningful — it helps me **grow as a person**. Here, I've learned to listen to others, take responsibility, work as part of a team, and build real friendships.

Svitlo is not just about excellent education — it's also about **connection, empathy, and support**. We stand by each other when things get difficult, whether it's power outages at home or moments of loneliness. This school truly feels like a second home, where you are guided and heard.

I'm sincerely grateful to fate for leading me to Svitlo and to everyone who makes it what it is — our wonderful Yuliia and Daria, the dedicated organizers, inspiring teachers, and all the amazing students.



# MEET OUR STUDENT



YELIZAVIETA, 18 YEARS OLD, BRATSLAV,  
JOINED SVITLO IN OCTOBER 2022

## MY SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

My school years are a **special story of warmth, friendship and development**. I had an incredible class, with whom we remain close even despite the distance. We always supported each other, participated in competitions, contests, webinars together - we were active and inspired. I have always been an active student, and every moment at school filled me with new strength and faith in myself. I am immensely grateful to everyone - teachers and classmates - for making my school life so sincere, bright and unforgettable.



## ABOUT THE WAR

Life before the war and life during it are two different worlds. What used to seem familiar has become desirable, what was mundane is now the most valuable. Every day I wake up with hope. I think about those who defend our land. About those who stay awake so that I can study almost all my 12 years. About those who are no longer here, and it makes my heart ache. My relatives are also soldiers, and **I really hope that they will return home alive and healthy**.

## ABOUT SVITLO

Sometimes life unexpectedly gives you a place that becomes something more than just a life stage. For me, Svitlo School was such a gift. It burst into my life when I needed it most and lit up every corner of it. Everyone here is a sun that shines in their own way. Teachers are like sources of knowledge that not only teach but also **fill the whole day with joy and inspiration**.

I am so happy to be here. This is not the first time I have said that Svitlo has become my second **family**. It would not be an exaggeration to say that everyone here is so positive, sincere, friendly, funny, cool, smiling, beautiful, incredible, eager to develop and always ready to help and support. **They shine - and I shine with them**.

This place will stay with me forever. Even when I'm over 80, I will still say with a smile, as I always do in a class I teach: 'Hello guys! What news do you have?' Because Svitlo is not just a school, it is a big family! I am grateful to God that I am here.

## TO ALL SVITLO SUPPORTERS

Dear volunteers, it is thanks to you that all this is possible. You are the ones who sincerely and with an open heart create a space for us to live, learn and dream. You are incredible. You are the foundation of this light. You are the ones who, while staying behind the scenes, fill our days with joy, opportunities and self-belief. Thank you for every minute of your time, for every action, for your care, for the opportunity to be a part of such a large, warm community. Thanks to you, I have **found friends**, tried **new things**, **discovered myself**, and felt **real support**. I recall each of your names along with your memories. I shine with you. And may this light never fade away.