

The Story of the School

Our school was founded as Reálné gymnázium in Chotěboř in the year 1913 and was the only secondary school in town. At first, classes used to be held in a private apartment until the school building construction was completed. (Originally, the building was designed as a home for children in need of special attention). The first school-leaving examinations were taken festively in spring 1920.

Gymnázium had become one of the centers of public cultural and educational activities in Chotěboř area. The school used to give "akademie" (sort of soirées), theatrical performances, exhibits, lectures, literary recitals, and also sports actions. Following World War II the school was transformed into so called "dvanáctiletka" (Secondary Twelve-Year-school), later into the 4-year -course gymnázium, in which there were given parallel courses both in the subjects of natural science and humanities.

The school at present

Gymnázium, Chotěboř, Jiráskova 637, established by the Vysočina Region under the IZO 102 006 920 identification number, is a state school with the legal status 'run financially as the contributory organization'. The legal status of gymnázium as it is at present has been in force as of 1st July 1991, the foundation charter being issued on 20th December 1991. The decision of the school network classification was issued by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Czech Republic (MEYS CR) under the Ref. number of 14402/96-60-05 on 19th June 1996, coming into force on 1st September 1996.

Following are the branches of study that have been introduced at the school:

7941K401 Gymnázium (general) - a 4-year course

7941K801 Gymnázium (general) - an 8-year course

Both are full-time courses. There are 12 classes at our school in the academic year 2014/2015, in which there are 361 students enrolled.

Our school provides students with complete secondary education, after the successful finishing of which the student sits the school-leaving exam, in keeping with No442/91 Sb. Decree of MEYS CR. The objective of the educational program of our school is forming the pattern of the universally cultivated school-leaver, individually specialized in subjects, which could be applied during their college- or other forms of further education. The individual inclinations of the students are met through the whole range of electives within the course of the last two grades of studying. Only a very few school-leavers do not continue their studies at colleges or universities but start their first jobs.

The school has one class in each year of both the eight-year course and four-year course. There are students from all social classes including students from the local Vietnamese minority and students with light learning disabilities. All of them study English as the first foreign language from the beginning of their studies and German as the second foreign language from the third year in the 8-year course and from the first year of the 4-year course. The school also prepares candidates for international language exams First Certificate in English and Goethe Zertifikat.

A lot of students participate in various competitions and have achieved leading positions in district or even national rounds, e.g. in geography, biology, Czech language, English, Mathematics e.t.c.

There is a European Club whose students take part in international school exchanges (France, Sweden, Germany, Poland). Some students work actively in European Students' Parliament for young people in Prague. Those ones who are interested in biology and environmental issues work in Eko-Club, some others act in a school theatre or sing in a school choir. Traditionally on the Students' Day students from last but one year perform two dramas. There are always performances for other classes, for other schools and then for public. Sometimes the best drama is performed at Students' Theatre Festival in district town Jihlava where some of our performances have already been awarded.

In terms of teaching English there are a lot of activities. Every year there is a trip to a professional English theatre in Pardubice or Prague. Students themselves also play an English drama for parents and younger applicants. Every second year they can take part in trips to English speaking countries (England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland) or practise their English in students' exchanges in Sweden or France. See <http://www.gch.cz/o-gymnaziu/svedsko> and <http://www.gch.cz/o-gymnaziu/francie> . Sometimes native speakers come to our school. A few times we have welcomed Taylor Lighthouse Team from Taylor University in the USA and we have very positive experience with an American language assistant. In other subjects, especially chemistry in 8-year course, students face English in CLIL (content and language integrated learning) method. English competitions such as English Olympics, Basiclingua or National Literary Award For Young Writers are very popular. For more information see <http://www.gch.cz/studium/anglictina> .

Town of Chotěboř

History

No precise details have been known about the foundation of Chotěboř, however, the first settlement is supposed to be found here as early as in the 12th century. It is Smil z Lichtenburka in 1265 who is mentioned as the first proprietor of the local silver mines. These were the real cause of Jan Lucemburský's purchase of Chotěboř in about 1329. He granted the municipality the borough privileges of Jihlava type, promoting thus Chotěboř to town. In the reign of Karel IV, Chotěboř was proclaimed a dowry town of the Bohemian Queens. In 1421 the town was seized by Petr Hromádka z Jistebnice, a Hussite military leader, and his troops. Later in 15th century, Chotěboř became the property of Mikuláš Trčka z Lípy jr, becoming thus a subjected town. The House of Trčka then made Chotěboř flourish, especially in the sphere of farm production. During the Thirty-Year War the town was severely damaged and recatholicized.

Vilém Leopold Kinský, who was in possession of Chotěboř in 1683, had a Baroque-style manor house built. In 1808 the demesne was gained by Josef Vančura z Řehnic, and in the years following 1836, it is the House of Dobrzenský z Dobrzenic who became the owners. The character of the town changed considerably after numerous fires in 19th century when a great number of sights were destroyed. Chotěboř became a county administrative and judicial center in 1850. In 1871 the Pardubice-Havlíčkův Brod railway track was completed.

Geographical features

Chotěboř is situated at the foot of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands, in the close vicinity of the CHKO Železné hory (the Iron Mts. Protected Landscape Area), at the altitude of some 520 meters. The 92- hectare nature reserve of Údolí Doubravky (the river Doubravka valley) is to be found here, too. With its 10,000 people of inhabitants Chotěboř is the second largest town of

Havlíčkův Brod county. It is since 1991 that the villages of Bílek, Dobkov, Klouzovy, Marieves, Počátky, Rankov, Střížov and Svinný have been parts of Chotěboř.

Sights of Chotěboř

Manor house

Church of St. James's the Great

Chapel of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Chapel of St. Anne

Chotěboř notables

Chotěboř is the birthplace of Ignát Herrmann, a Czech writer; of Karel Ninger, a journalist; of František Sláma, a Silesian "awakener"; of Zdeněk Rykr, a painter; and of František Buttula, a composer, teacher and Bedřich Smetana's friend.

Industry

The all-county traditional branch of industry is food processing, specialized in potato growing line. At Chotěboř itself, the most important is engineering industry followed by wood-processing industry. The main engineering centre here was the Chotěbořské strojírný (Chotěboř engineering works), which was established in 1906, when a small textile plant sprang into being. In it, owing to Mr Eckhardt's efforts, the production was set of gas-mask filters, valves, and of welding and cutting machines. Later on, the complete food-industry investment units used to be made here. In 1945 the plant was nationalized. Currently, Chotěboř engineering works has got disintegrated into several independent companies: the TENEZ, the NATE, the GCE(Autogen). There are some other enterprises of importance, such as the Interlignum, the Ferroplast, the Roboterm and Chotěboř brewery.