

before you open the coursebook

Dear fellow Teacher,

We are delighted to learn that *Success* Elementary, Pre-Intermediate, Intermediate and Upper-Intermediate have gained approval for use in Czech secondary schools. Before you open the book, we'd like to explain briefly our concept behind the book, which we believe makes it unique among courses for teenagers.

One of the reasons why we chose to write *Success* was the frustration we ourselves had while teaching teenagers that even those textbooks that were targeted at students in their late teens tended to work to the assumption that students are carefree, affluent and obsessed with celebrities and other trivia. Our students, already grappling with mature intellectual ideas in their other school subjects, found this patronising and alienating. Therefore, with *Success*, we wanted to move away from this and produce a series of books which are fun to use, but also thought-provoking and aspirational. We feel this basic concept pervades the course from Beginner to Advanced level.

Success also reflects the fact that late adolescence is a period of self-discovery. Students discover which learning styles suit them the best and what type of personality they have. We were also keen to get students to consider their lives in the future, after school (the 'aspirational' aspect) so a lot of the material deals with exams, university entry, leaving home for the first time and future career or educational choices.

At the same time, we have tried very hard not to make the book stuffy or old-fashioned. In our own experience, students from Central Europe are extremely computer-literate and may already be using their English to

communicate on internet forums and other web-sites. They are also keen to keep abreast of what's going on in the world of arts and technology. We therefore have devoted much of the book to these topic areas.

We feel *Success* also give students the chance to engage with some exciting literature, including some classic short stories and extracts from acclaimed contemporary novels such as *The Shadow Of The Wind* and *Friends, Lovers, Chocolate*. Culture Corners at the end of each book present students with a lot of information about British culture and, perhaps more importantly, ask students to draw parallels with their own culture.

Last but not least, the book you are about to open has been written to closely follow the Common European Framework of Reference. This should make it easy to use the book and prepare the students for any skill-based European or local exams such as Maturita.

To conclude, we feel that *Success* has a unique balance of thought-provoking topics, aspirational content, literature and culture whilst remaining fresh and up-to-date and exam-oriented, thus encouraging students to participate in every lesson and helping them to achieve *Success* in their exams and beyond. We hope you and your students will enjoy the course as much as we enjoyed writing it.

With very best wishes,

Stuart McKinlay

On behalf of the author team

