

# KSENIA'S JOURNEY

## We are safe but our prayers are always for our loved ones getting used to war

As Ukrainian teenager **KSENIA YAKUTINA** and her family continue to adjust to their new lives in Ashbourne, she concludes what has been a fascinating weekly column with her thoughts on the situation back in her home country, which she is staying constantly up to date with through the friends she has had to leave behind

SO many things are happening this week. First of all, my family started to learn English. I am so happy about that. Some of our friends help them with English and it is great.

Also this week we had to do so many things. Make a bank account, search for a job, visit school and find everything needed for it.

I am so grateful that so many people in this lovely town help us. And not only us - people here are so open, so nice and they help lots of other Ukrainians too.

As I already mentioned, we visited school, all four of us. It is really nice! Some of the subjects we do not have in Ukraine! Business, physiology for example. I am so excited to go to school now, because I am so keen on learning them and trying out what they are.

As to the emotional sphere - it's sometimes hard. I am sure all Ukrainians feel the same. When you are away from home, your friends and relatives are in danger and sadly the situation doesn't get better.

You feel at least scared for them and your country. So many British people help - it makes you feel better emotionally.

When you know that someone cares, when you see that people understand and support.

My best friend in Ukraine says that they get used to the war a little.

This is the worst that can happen. But I understand that - you must live your life and try to enjoy it, even if it



Now Ksenia and her family are looking for jobs



Talking with a friend from Ukraine online!



Little brother having an English lesson with really nice lady!



The family on the steps of QEGS after a tour of the school



Making Ukrainian friends

alerts a day. Sometimes more than two or three hours. They shot my city with some missiles, but that's nothing compared to what Russia has done to Mariupol, Bucha, Irpen and other cities.

Our city has been a safe spot for the refugees. Unfortunately, nowhere in Ukraine is safe.

I talk to my friends in Ukraine as much as possible, so I can support them, because it is really scary to live somewhere where it is not safe. At any time, bombardment can start.

We continue praying for Ukraine and helping in the ways we can.

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You must not live under the pressure all the time. That is what they are trying to do now. Study, work, go to church, help refugees. Sometimes it is hard.

They get more than nine air-raid