



# Fortnightly Reflections

*Highlights from the past two weeks across our school community.*

## Upper & Senior School

It has been an eventful and inspiring week at Brookes Moscow, with students engaged in assessments, leadership opportunities, and personal development activities that reflect our commitment to academic excellence and holistic growth.

### Assessment Week

Our Year 7 to 10 students have been actively participating in their assessments, while Years 11 to 12 are preparing for theirs in the coming week. We commend all students for their dedication and focus during this busy period.



### Brookes MUN Delegates

We are also delighted to share that our MUN students have brought remarkable accolades to Brookes Moscow. From 21st to 24th November, a delegation of 13 students from Years 9 to 12 represented the school at the AYIMUN (Asia Youth International Model United Nations) Conference in Bangkok, Thailand. Accompanied by Ms. Oduor and Mr. Jones-Parry, our students engaged in committees such as UNHRC, WHO, UNICEF, and INTERPOL,



participating in debates, drafting resolutions, and collaborating with peers from around the world. We are proud to announce that our delegation returned with five awards:

- **Best Delegate** – Anna S (Year 10)
- **Best Position Paper** – Kinda S (Year 12)
- **Verbal Commendations** – Mikhail S, David T and Sultana P (Year 12's)

These achievements highlight the students' preparation, commitment, and exemplary engagement throughout the conference. They represented Brookes Moscow with confidence, maturity, and a strong spirit of international-mindedness.





In addition, we are delighted to announce that David T. and Sultana P. have been appointed Head Boy and Head Girl, respectively. We extend our warmest congratulations to them and look forward to their leadership as they continue to strengthen and inspire the Brookes community. Looking ahead, David and Sultana will be hosting our weekly assembly that will take place on Wednesday, 10th December.



### LSW Assembly

This week, our secondary students took part in two inspiring assemblies focused on personal growth and perseverance. Students in Years 7–9 explored “The Power of Yet,” learning how a growth mindset can transform challenges into opportunities through practical strategies such as breaking goals into small steps, learning from mistakes, and seeking support when needed. Meanwhile, students in Years 10–12 attended a powerful session on resilience and overcoming setbacks, where they reflected on how to respond positively to failure, manage pressure, and

rebuild confidence after difficulties. Both assemblies encouraged students to view obstacles as part of the learning journey and to take confident, proactive steps toward continuous improvement.

### Homeroom sessions with our School Psychologist

To compliment these assemblies, our Homeroom sessions with the School Psychologist have continued to deepen students’ personal development and self-awareness. These sessions create a safe space for learners to explore the questions they often carry but may hesitate to voice.

Last week, students engaged with thought-provoking topics such as What type of learner am I? How do I stay committed to my goals? What motivates me—intrinsically and extrinsically? Through guided reflection and real-life examples, students examined their habits, uncovered what drives them, and explored new strategies for approaching their studies, goals, and personal growth.

We are proud of our students’ achievements and engagement across academic, leadership, and personal development spheres, and we look forward to witnessing their continued growth and contributions to the Brookes Moscow community. Our interschool badminton tournament will take place on Tuesday, 2nd December from 13:00 at the sports hall.







## Primary School

Across our Primary classes, the response to our literacy-focused schemes, 'Ready to Read' and 'Write it Right' has been simply fabulous! As part of our weekly Early Years & Lower School assemblies, our English Coordinator, Ms Ashley Johnston, has been celebrating students who have been going the extra mile with their reading and writing over the last couple of weeks. As a reward for their hard work, our budding readers have been given a token to select a book of their choice, whereas the penmanship of our writers will be celebrated with a bespoke creative writing kit!

Another new feature of our weekly assemblies has been the Life Skills & Well-Being focus, led by the coordinator, Ms Tania Grobbelaar. The focus for this half-term has been mindfulness, with students

### What an amazing start to our writing journey so far!



exploring their environment using all of the senses to take a moment, pause, and notice what is happening around us. We also did a very refreshing box-breathing activity, aimed at giving our bodies and mind a boost with a few inhales and exhailes, accompanied by some quiet time - simple ideas for our students and staff to add to their well-being toolbox!

With our upcoming Jingle Brookes to look forward to, a raft of educational visits to enjoy, and all the usual favourites, it promises to be a very positive end to this first term!



## Brookes.Rus

It seems like only yesterday we returned to school after the summer holidays, and now it is the last days of autumn. Brookes.RUS students have learned a lot over these three months.

Preschoolers continue to improve their reading skills, practise pronouncing syllables and letter combinations on syllable tables, following, in particular, the well-known and highly effective method developed by educator Nadezhda Zhukova, and they are already making great progress.

Over these two weeks, all primary school students (Y3-Y6) worked on topic-based tests covering the first term of the 2025-2026 academic year.



Our Grade 1 students (Y3) have successfully completed their very first tests.

High academic results have been achieved by students in Grades 3 and 4 (Y5-Y6), while our Grade 2 (Y4) students have not received a single grade below a 'C' in any subject.

It is worth noting that only Brookes.RUS has been delivering the FSES curriculum to Y4 students, who are successfully mastering both the Russian and international educational programmes, confirming the effectiveness of this approach.

New Year's Eve is just around the corner, and all the children at Brookes.RUS primary and basic education school are learning New Year poems and songs, and making New Year crafts and decorations.

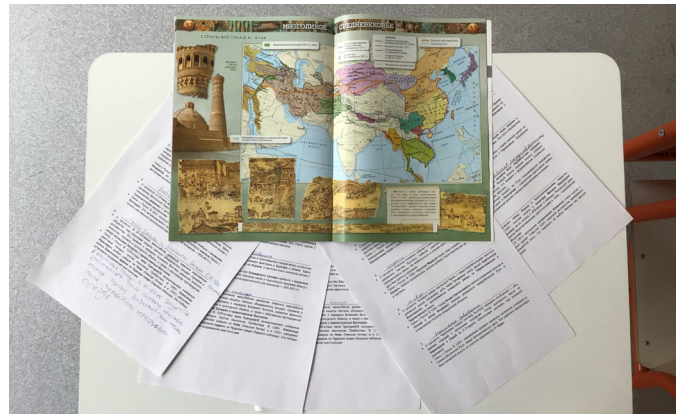


For example, when working with the dictionary, our students drew on the lyrics of traditional Russian winter songs. This has helped them not only expand their vocabulary, but also prepare creative class performances for the New Year show on 1 December – 'The Nutcracker in Brookes'.

All Brookes.RUS students are eagerly awaiting this celebration and will be delighted to perform in front of their classmates from the international programme, parents and guests.

Our Grade 4 (Y6) is already getting used to the specifics and modes of learning in the basic education school. Miss Ekaterina, biology teacher for Brookes.RUS Grades 5-6 (Y7-Y8), conducted serious laboratory work on the 'Properties of Water'. The children were excited to carry out real scientific experiments. 'We didn't just conduct experiments. We came to the main conclusion: each property of water is part of a great miracle that makes life on our planet possible,' said the young researchers.

Grade 6 (Y8) really enjoys lessons that use gamification techniques. The children participated in a game project where they developed their own plant protection strategy.



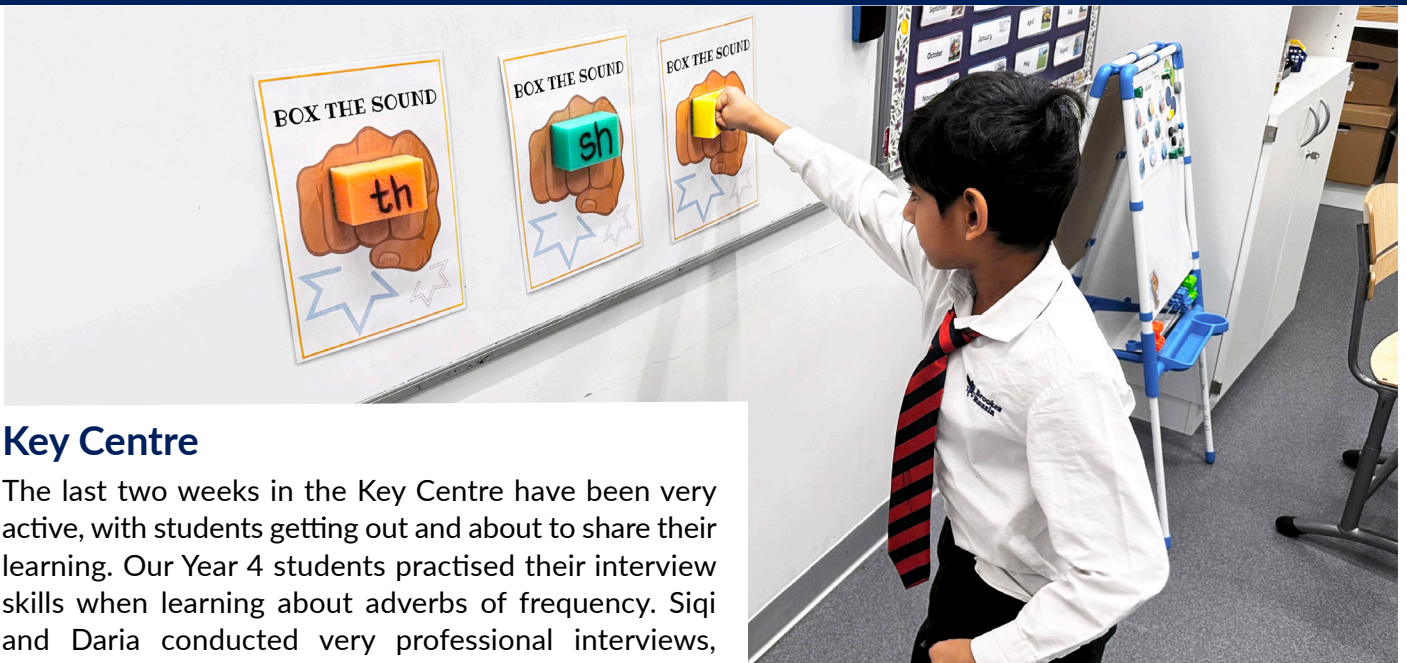
In Ancient World History lessons, Grade 5 (Y7) students delved into the world of Sumerian-Akkadian civilisation by completing crossword puzzles featuring key names and terms from the history and culture of Ancient Mesopotamia. This has fostered the children's curiosity and helped them develop attention to detail as well as their skills in working with texts and videos in Russian.

Grade 6 students (Y8) demonstrated a new level of proficiency in exploring historical texts and maps by successfully identifying topics that connect world and Russian medieval history. This meticulous and high-quality work will be very helpful to the students in the next term when studying Rus' early history.

Students in Grades 5-6 (Y7-Y8) have been actively involved in maths projects. Their model of the Solar System is nearly complete, and they will soon present an exhibition version of it for the entire school to see.







## Key Centre

The last two weeks in the Key Centre have been very active, with students getting out and about to share their learning. Our Year 4 students practised their interview skills when learning about adverbs of frequency. Siqi and Daria conducted very professional interviews, asking tough questions that required a lot of thought! It certainly made us question how often we did things such as eating sweets! For sure, Siqi made me think carefully about that!

In Early Years, Ms Varentseva has led some very active phonics lessons. We are keen to provide opportunities for the students to use a variety of styles of learning, as this caters for students' individual needs and sparks greater engagement in learning. The joy of learning is key to all successful learning experiences. Thankfully, only these sponges were affected by this lesson!

We have also been preparing for the upcoming Year 11 iGCSE examinations. Through specialised assessment, we support our students by applying for accommodations that suit their normal way of working in class. A number of our students have already completed these assessments and we hope to receive positive news about the applications in the coming weeks.







## Boarding

Greetings from the Brookes Moscow boarding house! Our boarders are now fully back into the swing of residential life. This half-term has so far been filled with wonderful examples of growth, learning, and spending time together as a close-knit boarding family.

Our first weekend in boarding this half-term saw the Brookes Moscow full boarders take a trip to experience the thrill of professional Karting. The track became their classroom for the day where they discovered the excitement of motorsports. Boarders had an excellent opportunity to step outside of their comfort zones, learn about controlling the Karts and comprehend racing strategy. They raced around the track to the sound of cheers and applause from their housemates, shared top-tips for maneuvering around tricky corners, and celebrated record time laps around the circuit. After the Karting races had ended, we gathered for a celebratory boarding dinner. The stories and laughter around the table showed just how much these experiences mean to our boarding community.





Back in the Brookes Moscow boarding house, we started the school week with our usual Monday night House Meeting. After all of the important house information had been discussed, it was time for the return of our boarding house games night. Boarders split into two teams and readied themselves for a General Knowledge quiz hosted by the boarding team. The “Dorm Dynamos” shot to victory, answering several Football themed questions correctly and winning them several points. The “Common Room Crew” had a last minute comeback with some excellent answers on the topics of Science and Geography, but it was not quite enough to clinch the win. In the spirit of boarding house camaraderie, all of our boarders agreed to all share the prize of delicious Pizza at the end of the school week.

Boarders have also been continuing with the now weekly tradition of baking in boarding. One of our younger boarders requested that we try Croutons, a favourite dish of his from back home that his Mother likes to cook. The smell of freshly toasted bread wafted through the boarding house corridor and with a dollop of mayonnaise and slice of Ham, it was the perfect evening snack.

While we do very much enjoy our tasty cooking in the boarding house and think that such life lessons are incredibly valuable for boarders, it is equally important to stay active and healthy. Since the colder weather has appeared in Moscow, boarders are enjoying Sunday sports indoors supervised by the boarding and academic team and our school Nurse. Sunday sport allows boarders an opportunity to develop good fitness habits, participate in fun sport activities that emphasise teamwork and collaboration, and as a means to reduce stress.





As we head towards the weekend, boarders distributed names for Secret Santa and dusted off the Christmas and New Year decorations for the boarding house. Boarders had a wonderful evening of listening to festive songs, decorating the New Year tree, and icing our very own gingerbread boarding house. We look forward to more holiday themed activities and evenings in the boarding house as we get ever closer to New Year and Christmas.

