



Fortnightly Reflections

Highlights from the past two weeks across our school community.

Upper & Senior School

As we move through a busy and inspiring term, our students continue to grow through a range of academic, creative, and co-curricular experiences. Here are highlights of some key upcoming events, recent assemblies, and ongoing initiatives that reflect our commitment to fostering both academic excellence and personal well-being across the school community.

Assessment Week

Upper School will conduct Assessment Week to evaluate students' understanding and academic progress.

- **Year 7–10:** Nov 24th to Nov 28th, (Assessment week schedule will be sent out on Monday, 17th, Nov)
- **Year 11 and Year 12:** Dec 1st to Dec 5th (Assessment week schedule will be sent out on Monday, 24th, Nov)

These assessments are an important part of our academic programme, helping teachers identify learning progress and areas for improvement. Parents are kindly requested to take note of the dates and support their children in preparing for these assessments to maintain academic rigour and consistency in learning.

LSW Assembly

As part of Mindfulness Week, the school Psychologist led a "Public Speaking Challenges" Assembly that transformed the hall into a space for growth and courage. Students embraced the realities of public speaking — from nervousness



to confidence — through interactive exercises and impromptu challenges. The event reminded everyone that communication is a skill built through persistence, reflection, and practice.

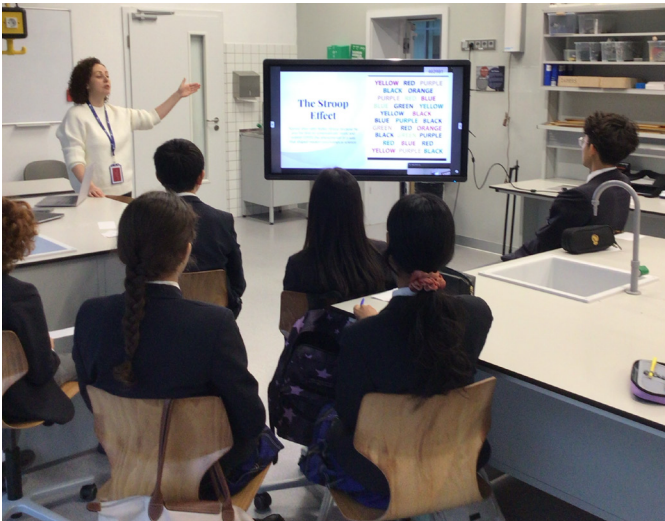
The following week the PHE Department led an inspiring Upper and Senior School assembly on relaxation and stress management. Guided by our student volunteers, students learned how small, mindful moments can make a big difference in daily life. Special guests — Ms. Olesia Oleinik (School Psychologist), Mr. Dmitrenko (professional drifter), and Mr. Djurica Djurica (Special Olympics gold medallist) — shared powerful messages on resilience, focus, and calm under pressure. A special thanks to Kinda, Nikolay and Tamatea for contributing to such a meaningful session.





Homeroom sessions with our School Psychologist

The psychology home room sessions have become a usual part of school life, with the US/SS psychologist meeting a different class almost every day. Regular home room time is used for talks, giving students a chance to learn something new and discuss interesting topics in a comfortable setting. Such short psychological lessons cover a whole range of topics—how attention and memory work, how emotions affect decisions, and how peer pressure or social media can influence us. Students also talk about their friendships, dreams, and self-confidence while sharing ideas and experiences. These sessions help everyone understand themselves a little better and learn practical ways to stay positive and focused, both in and out of class.



Upcoming Events

Sports Events at Brookes Moscow

We are excited to announce, Brookes is preparing to host its first-ever Interschool 3v3 Basketball Tournament, featuring Boys' and Girls' U17 competitions, along with special shooting contests. To help students prepare, the PHE Department is running lunchtime training sessions twice a week — strengthening both skills and team spirit.

Our U14 Girls and U13 Boys basketball teams are also ready to represent Brookes at the upcoming ISM tournaments on November 14 and November 21, showcasing their hard work, teamwork, and determination.

Looking ahead, the Badminton Singles Tournament for U13 and U15 Boys and Girls will take place on December 5 (1:00–5:00 p.m.), continuing our tradition of fostering focus, sportsmanship, and perseverance.

Parents are warmly invited to attend these events. Please register using your ID details, when the forms are shared with you.

Brookes Prepares for a Theatrical Adventure!

Brookes is gearing up for an exciting theatrical performance of *Don Quixote de la Mancha*! Students are actively auditioning for this timeless spirit of Cervantes' classic tale. We look forward to an evening filled with theatrical charm and artistic excellence, as our young performers transport the audience into the whimsical world of Don Quixote's adventures.



Archive photo: *The Odyssey* (2024)



Archive photo: MUN Trip to Istanbul (Feb 2024)

Brookes Delegation Heads to MUN Thailand!

Next week, Brookes students are preparing to take part in the upcoming Model United Nations (MUN) Conference in Thailand, representing our school on an international stage. We wish our MUN team the very best as they embark on this inspiring journey of dialogue and discovery!



Primary School

Y3/4 Games Club

I am delighted to announce that we are now offering a Games Club for early arrivers to school, all thanks to the proactivity of an Upper School student, Marek Moenke (9B), who approached the Primary leadership team with this wonderful idea. Community offerings such as these really add a lovely touch to the school and our Year 3 & 4 students who participated had a great time this week.

Ready to Read & Write it Right

During both our Early Years & Lower School assemblies this week, our English Coordinator, Ms Ashley Johnston, launched two directives aimed at getting students excited about developing their reading and writing skills, namely 'Ready to Read' and 'Write it Right'! We look forward to sharing success stories and more details about this throughout the year.

Table Football 2025/26 Championship

With the colder weather now approaching, we have brought back the hugely popular Table Football Championship this week, with students who wish to participate spending part of their lunchtime competing against each other. We kicked this all off in our Lower School assembly last week, with some very creative names for each pairing. Good luck to all of our teams for the rest of the championship!



Brookes.Rus

Since the beginning of the academic year, Brookes.RUS Grades 1-4 (Y3-Y6) students have been following the FSES curriculum with great interest, attention and diligence. Last week, they began their interim assessments in Russian Language and Mathematics. Next, they will take diagnostic tests in the World Around Us and English Language. We are confident that our students will achieve excellent results and wish them every success.

The children's activity, creativity and vivid imagination help them make significant academic progress. For example, Grade 1 (Y3) completed a creative project on the topic 'Circle', transforming plain cotton pads into toys. Using natural materials, the students made autumn-themed cut-outs and had great fun creating mosaic patterns.

Our Grade 2 (Y4) students learned to convey the poetic mood, comparing how different authors, such as F. Tyutchev, A. Nekrasov, S. Yesenin and A. Fet, describe the same season.





Grade 3 (Y5) students are already capable of tackling complex issues such as the administrative and territorial division of Russia. They can locate the constituent entities of the Russian Federation on a map and identify the capitals of the regions.

Our Grade 4 (Y6) students completed a 'Russia is our Motherland' creative project, using outline maps.

Participating in various maths competitions and quizzes has become a cherished tradition for the children. The recent intellectual game, 'Mystery of the Multi-Digit Number,' was also exciting and engaging.

The youngest Brookes.RUS students, the pre-school group (Y2), made shadow hand puppets, an activity that helps develop fine motor skills. They also explored celestial bodies such as the Sun, Earth and Moon.

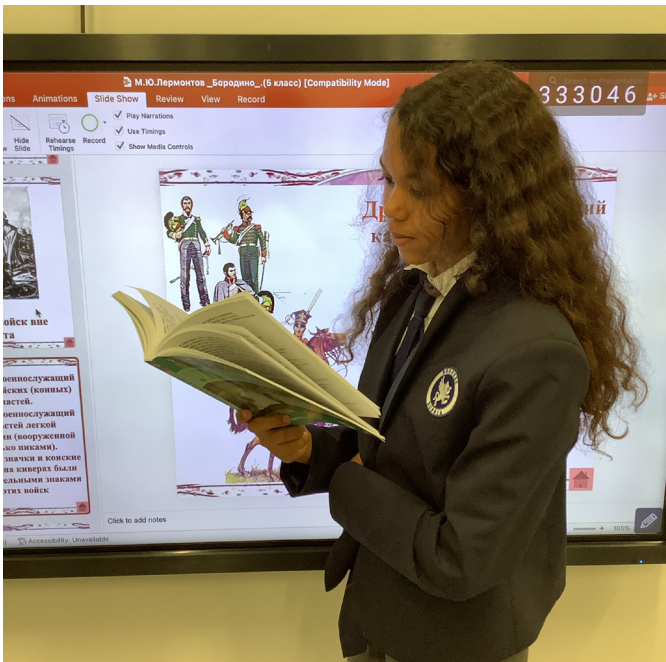
Interestingly, the stellar theme also captures the imagination of our oldest students in Grade 6 (Y8). In their maths lessons, they completed their study of 'Ratios, Proportions and Scale' with a hands-on project of a model of the Solar System. The students analysed the actual distances from the Sun to the planets and their diameters, converted



the data into convenient units of measurement and discussed how to fit all the objects on a sheet of paper. They came to an important conclusion: to make the model both accurate and illustrative, they would need two different scales – one for the planets' sizes and another for the distances between them. It is worth noting that Julia Artamonova, a Visual Arts teacher from our international programme, is going to assist us in developing the visual part of the project.

Grade 5 (Y7) tried their hand at completing the computer-based diagnostic assessment of the Moscow Centre for Quality Education (MCQE). This assessment helps determine the level of functional literacy, including reading, science and maths. The children successfully mapped out a route to their destination, calculated the time it would take to travel using different modes of transport and determined the average temperature





based on the input data. Our Grade 5 did an excellent job with both the practical and theoretical tasks.

In Literature, the students made a journey to the Borodino battlefield and were introduced to Mikhail Lermontov's 'Borodino' poem. They learned a lot of interesting facts about the events of the Patriotic War of 1812 and even discovered the meaning of such rare words as 'canister shot', 'redoubt' and 'bivouac'.

Grade 6 (Y8) continued their study of 'Dubrovsky', a novel by Alexander Pushkin. In their literature lessons, Grade 6 students immersed themselves in the world of the 19th-century nobility, learning about the lives of landowners and peasants through Alexander Pushkin's work.

During their biology lesson, our Grade 5 (Y7) students made a cell model, going from textbook theory to a 3D model! Using air-dry clay, our young biologists assembled an animal cell piece by piece, while Grade 6 (Y8) students planted onion sets and watched them sprout. Young biologists at work! In class, they examined the development of plants, and in practice, they observed the growth of the root system and onion leaves.

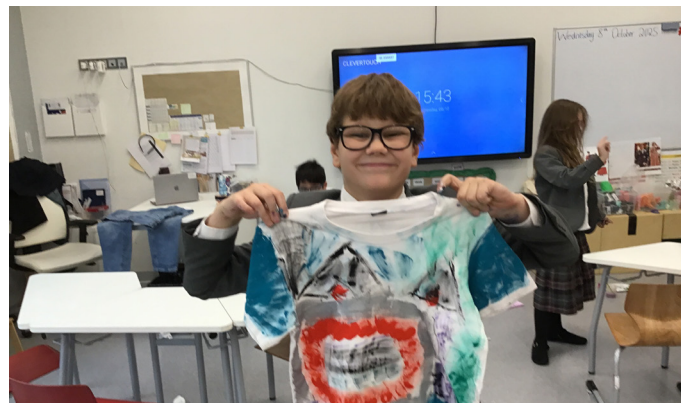
We also have an important 'historical' announcement. Our students have a new history teacher, Mr. Sergey Alferov, an experienced educator and a graduate of Lomonosov Moscow State University. Mr. Alferov has been teaching history in our school's international programme for many years, and he is delighted to share his knowledge with the students of the Russian programme.



Key Centre

The Key Centre is guided by the school's ethos of 'Unlocking Student Potential.' It's not only about learning English faster or doing better in tests, but about building well-rounded students that use their strengths in their day-to-day school life. We are delighted to have the support of our wider faculty that embrace students' individual talents, providing greater access to the Arts and Sports in particular. These opportunities go a long way to 'Unlock Student Potential.'

Staff within the Key Centre play a vital role in promoting student wellbeing. Last week, our Upper/Senior School Psychologist, Ms Olesia Oleinik, delivered an assembly to the students on public speaking. Such a skill will be necessary for the vast majority of our students in the future. By sharing her expertise and knowledge, Ms Oleinik demonstrated our emphasis on supporting our students holistically, not only academically.



The word 'progress' is quite the buzzword in the Key Centre. Our teachers love to say it because it is the aim of every lesson. When thinking about what they think or feel when their students make progress, Ms Olga Shuvaeva said, "I feel proud and driven when I see my students make progress." Ms Victoria Kremneva remarked, "My students' progress motivates me to provide the best education possible". I couldn't agree more.



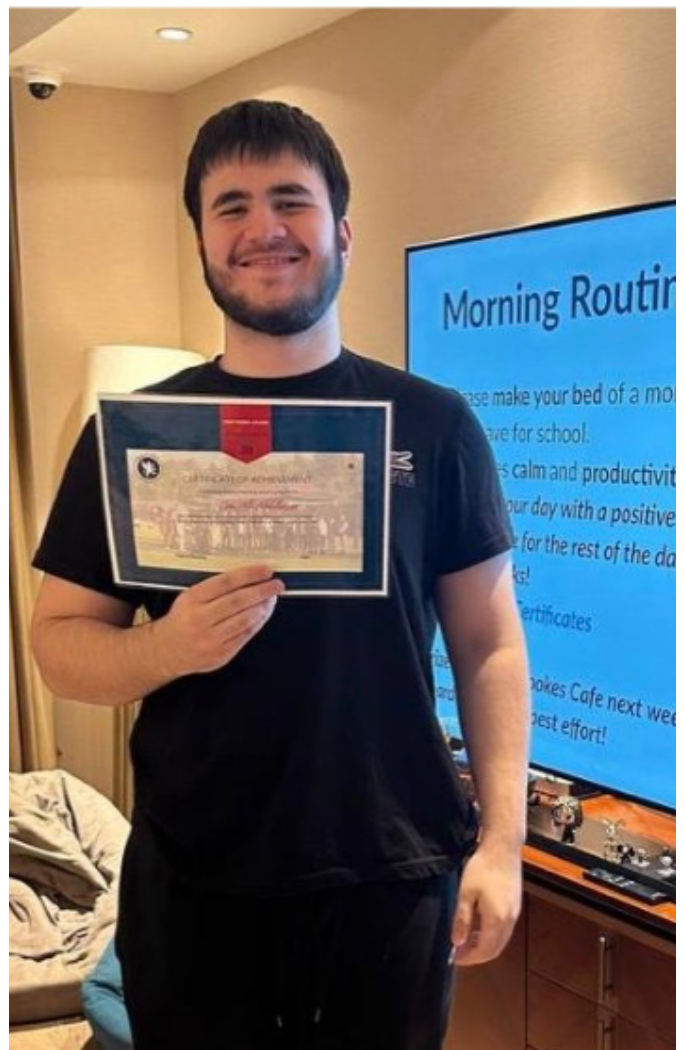
Boarding

Greetings from the Brookes Moscow boarding house! After a relaxing Mid-Term break, boarders are settling back into their house routines. After Prep time and dinner in the evenings, boarders have been unpacking their belongings and spending time with their dormmates. It is lovely to hear our boarders chatting and laughing together again in the boarding house. This term brings with it the added excitement of New Year celebrations. Boarders, and of course, our boarding team, are very much looking forward to Secret Santa and decorating the house with festive ornaments and garlands. But before all of that, there is plenty of studying and homework to be getting into the swing of again.

After classes have finished in the evening, boarders have prep time in school. The word prep is part of the lexicon of boarding schools and includes homework, assessment tasks, projects, spelling, reading and writing, and revision for exams. This is an important part of any boarder's day, and with the support of boarding and academic staff, ensures that our pupils stay focused on their learning and

academic goals outside of the classroom.

We started the school week with our traditional boarding House Meeting in the evening. All of our boarders gather together as a community to hear about all important boarding and school notices and plans for residential life in the upcoming half-term. We also take the opportunity to celebrate our boarders' achievements and reward them for their hard work in the boarding house. This week we awarded Tidy Dorm certificates and prizes. These are given to boarders who consistently demonstrate high standards in terms of tidiness in their dorm.



We are always pleased and proud to reward boarders that exemplify independence and taking pride in their house chores.

Since the weather in Moscow has gotten a little colder and crisper, we started this half-term with a fun and cozy evening of baking. Boarders got the chance to make delicious Cinnamon Rolls under the supervision of our Brookes Moscow boarding team. We began by washing our hands before rolling the dough out into a big rectangle and spreading the cinnamon-sugar mixture all over. Next, we carefully rolled the dough into a log and sliced it into even pieces. Placing the slices into our baking dish, boarders safely placed them into the oven until they were all puffy and golden brown. The delicious smell of Cinnamon filled the entire boarding house for the entire evening. Afterwards, boarders enjoyed soft, warm Cinnamon rolls, perfect for sharing and enjoying together.

