



4 September 2020

Dear Parents,

It has been an exciting week at Brookes Moscow and Saint Petersburg as we started the 2020/21 school year on Monday. As the new Academic Dean of both campuses, it is my pleasure to welcome all students, parent's and staff back for another great academic year. Like every new school year, Monday and the whole week has been filled with the excitement of returning to classes and seeing familiar faces as well as new ones. This year, we will strive to continue to provide quality education based on the International Baccalaureate and bring creativity to the forefront of all lessons. Here are some academic highlights from the past week at Brookes Moscow & Saint Petersburg.

Primary Years Programme (PYP)

We've started the school year with a bang in Early Years. Beginning each morning exploring out on the playground from 8:00 means children are able to greet one another and their teachers with joy before we continue our learning in our classrooms from 8:45.

This first week has seen each class working on making 'agreements' that students have promised to follow to help one another learn and grow together. Rather than rules laid down by a teacher, agreements that children suggest and agree upon help to ensure everyone is responsible for their learning space and allows children to self-regulate their behaviour - even from a very young age.

We've loved seeing the students again, both online and in school. This year in Early Years will provide so much laughter, fun and growth as we celebrate the success of the youngest students in Brookes Moscow each and every day.

Students in Years 3-6 were delighted to return to school. We had an excellent first week filled with enthusiasm. Each class has started reading a class novel; during these reading sessions, students explore language features, characters, plot, settings, and make predictions on what they think may happen next. See the photo of Year 6 enjoying the sunshine while they complete their individual reading tasks.

In Saint Petersburg, students greeted their new teachers and classmates and we had a very enthusiastic response to our distance learning programme. The students were excited to return to school and we are delighted to have them back.

- We began the week with an online assembly with almost all of our school community present. On Friday, we had a celebration assembly and nominated our first ever 'Stella Award' winners for Brookes Saint Petersburg.



- After an extended period of distance learning, followed by a long holiday, our teachers have been assessing where our students are with their English (spelling, reading & writing) and Mathematics this week. Next week, we'll be launching our first unit of inquiry for each class - always a very exciting time.
- Students and teachers are all very excited for this year's House Competition and we have four magnificent castles displayed in our hallway to represent each house. This will serve as a league table to see which house is on top each week.



Middle Years Programme (MYP)

Students in the MYP have been reintegrating back into the routine and structure of school and enjoying spending time with their friends outside at break times and getting to know their new teachers. In Saint Petersburg, the students demonstrated active engagement in their distance learning by diving into their new units and by collaborating



with their year groups. We are looking forward to welcoming them all back into the building soon.

In Moscow, the first units kicked off from Monday across all subject groups. Among multiple units per Year group, the students have been working hard:

- Year 7's are inquiring into how advertisements run the world in Language and literature through the key concept of communication.
- Year 8's are inquiring about how globalisation has shaped the world in Individuals and societies classes.
- Year 9's are inquiring in how we can use art to celebrate real-life superheroes through the global context of fairness and development.
- Year 10's are inquiring into the interaction of waves in open-and-close systems and how that affects the way we perceive the world in their Physics class.
- Year 11's are inquiring into fractions and exponents in Mathematics and preparing for diagnostic testing to determine standard and extended class levels. They have also been musing over their topics for their Personal Projects and selecting appropriate supervisors in preparation for the Personal Project evening at the end of the First Term.





Diploma Programme (DP)

One of the most exciting aspects of the new school year is the welcoming of our first DP cohort, the Class of 2022. We have 23 Year 12 students beginning their journey through the two-year programme prior to heading off to university. This week the students have spent time going to classes and figuring out which six classes best suit them on this journey. Changes have occurred in their timetable and class selection as we want to be sure the students are in the classes they will have the most success in.

It has been great seeing our veteran student's who were with us last year and also an influx of ten new student's to our school. The mixture has created a unique experience for all of the student's, combined with the addition of seven new DP trained teachers.

Our high school students in Saint Petersburg have been involved in our successful Distance Learning Programme and we look forward to welcoming them back as soon as possible.



We are committed, at Brookes Moscow and Saint Petersburg, to continue to give quality education to all of our year groups and make our school the best in Moscow. Through our pillars of **Character**, **Creativity**, and **Connectivity** we will continue to grow and create globally-minded students who are life-long learners.



Be Brookes.

Best Regards,

Rick Lewis

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