



Friday 4th September

Dear Parents of Upper and Senior Schools,

I am writing to you at the end of a week that has probably felt like a month for you, the teachers and the students, but it was a week that we have waited nearly six months for. Despite a range of challenges we were able to open our school on August 31st like we always planned. This took a huge effort from our staff and a lot of flexibility and cooperation from you and the students and therefore I am so proud to be writing to you at the end of our first week of this new school year.



Whether you are in school, in Russia or anywhere else in the world, we have connected students and staff together in lessons this week. The students have been wonderful. They seem so glad to be back in school and we are certainly so happy to see them back. Their adaptability and creativity has been tested and developed over the past few months and this was very clear as students managed to navigate the range of in school/online lessons and changes in the school very calmly without fuss.

Our teachers also deserve a lot of credit for their creativity and innovation. We had Drama lessons from Scotland, Maths lessons from South Africa, Design lessons from Jordan and English lessons from the USA. All our staff in school have been working twice as hard teaching their own lessons while at the same time being in the classroom with the students during the online lessons.



Day one got off to a great start with students making new friends and old acquaintances. There was a positive atmosphere all around the school and this continued all week. Students have been adapting to being in base rooms, in line with the restrictions and we have been very lucky with the weather that has allowed students to be outside at break and lunch time.



We have many new teachers who have joined our staff this year. Some in school, some online in Moscow and some online all over the world.

- Ms Alena Esenkova joins our Language acquisition Russian team and will be teaching in the MYP.
- Mr Amer Abu-Houran teaches Computer Science in the DP and Digital Design in MYP. He is currently joining us online from Jordan.
- Ms Amy Johnson is from the United States of America and teaches DP English, Psychology and TOK while teaching MYP English. Ms Johnson is also the form tutor for 8R and is currently in school.
- Mr Christopher Kubrick is another member of staff from the United States who is teaching online from Florida. Mr Kubrick teaches English in both the MYP and DP while also teaching TOK.
- Ms Galina Kozelskaya is our newest member of the Performing Arts team and will be starting part-time on Monday teaching Music to years 7, 8 and 9.
- Ms Kerri-Lyn Brown teaches Mathematics in both the DP and MYP and joins us online from South Africa.
- Mr Kostas Mathioudakis comes originally from Greece but has been teaching in Moscow for 6 years. Mr Mathioudakis is teaching Mathematics in the DP and MYP.
- Dr Oliver Squires has joined us from Australia and is currently quarantining in Moscow. He is teaching online for now but will be joining us in school very soon.
- Mr Paul Jackson comes from England and joins our school to take on the exciting role of Director of Sport.
- Ms Tatiana Shalamova is our newest member of staff and will start teaching on Monday, Russian to students in the MYP.
- Mr Thomas Jones-Parry also comes from England and is also quarantining in Moscow. Mr Jones-Parry teaches Individuals and societies in the MYP and will be with us in school very soon.
- Mr Timothy Daley joins our school as the new Performing Arts teacher. Mr Daley is originally from the United States of America but is teaching online from Scotland.
- Ms Varvara Romashova is also a new member of the Russian team and will be teaching Russian in the DP and the MYP.

We have quite an extensive list of new staff in the Upper and Senior schools. All of our new staff have been able to teach full lessons this week, whether online or in person. We look forward to welcoming all of them in person to the school very soon.

One of the most exciting aspects of this academic year is the first ever class in the Diploma Program. We had many new year 12's start on Monday along with our MYP graduates and they have made a wonderful start in lessons with their teachers. With the beginning of DP we have also added new subjects to Brookes such as, Psychology, Business Studies and Computer Science.





Our ICT team is working hard updating and programming laptops for all our new students and we very much hope that every new student will have a device by the end of next week. Our new uniform link will also be sent to parents very soon so that you can start to order uniforms for the students. Please can I add that all students must be wearing black formal shoes as part of their uniform and these need to be bought separately.



It has been so wonderful meeting all the new students and families who have joined our school this week, while also being reunited with families who we have not seen since March. We are delighted to be open and delivering education right from the very beginning of the school year.

Next week will see swimming commence in the Upper School. I have attached a separate letter detailing what is needed for these lessons.

If you have any questions at all please contact your child's form tutor and of course I am always very happy to hear from you. Please feel free to contact me any time at jdowney@moscow.brookes.org. Thank you so much for your support, patience and trust as we return to education after the summer break. This week has been truly inspirational and has shown students and teachers at their best. It is great testament to endeavour and belief that even under the most difficult circumstances, students can apply themselves and still appreciate and love their learning.

We have much to look forward to in this academic year and I really look forward to being on this journey with all of you.

Yours Sincerely

John Downey

Upper and Senior Schools Principal

