



Friday 13th November 2020

Dear Upper and Senior School families,

I hope you are all settling back into being in school for the start of the second half term. We have attendance growth this week in the Upper and Senior school and it is good to see so many students being able to get to school and interact with teachers and their peers.

We are all still faced with the threat of COVID-19 in Moscow and throughout the world and we as a school are doing all that we can to make sure that we are keeping students safe and keeping the school open where possible. While we are very proud of our Distance Learning program, nothing can replace the interactions students have with their friends at school.

In order to ensure that we maintain our high standards of safety, we ask for compliance with all that our medical team asks. Dr. Margarita has been very vigilant with checking on the health of all students, so I ask that you please cooperate with Dr Margarita and let her know when your child is returning to school. If you choose to allow your child to stay home for Distance Learning, we fully appreciate that, however we ask that you alert Dr Margarita to this and alert her when they come back to school in order for us to be sure that no students are coming into school undetected after an illness. Her email address is nurse@moscow.brookes.org.

We are very happy to offer Distance Learning or in school learning, however, we ask that students make a choice and do either for a prolonged period of time rather than a day on or day off system as this allows our Medical team to know the condition of each student and allows our teachers to plan effectively for all students. It is great to see that no matter what part of the world our students are in, that they are still able to join in with lessons everyday and once again our online students are showing wonderful discipline and resilience to be online.

As a school, we care greatly about making sure our students are in attendance in lessons and we want to make sure that all parents are informed of this. Up until this stage, we have relied on students being very responsible for attendance online, however moving forward, as it appears that we may have students online for a longer period of time than first expected, form tutors will begin to contact parents each week if a student has been absent online in classes. This will allow all of us to track the attendance of students and ensure that they are getting the full education experience out of their lessons.

As we move closer to Christmas, temperatures will continue to drop and therefore students need to be fully prepared for journeys to school and break and lunch times. In order to maintain our distancing rules in school, all students are still required to be outside at break and lunch times. Therefore all students need warm coats, hats, gloves and scarves etc...

We have learnt over the past few months, just how important devices are in our daily lives and our Distance Learning would not have functioned without students having laptops. I have had to remind several students however that laptops are given to them solely for educational purposes and not gaming, social media and YouTube. The school internet can block certain websites and apps however



our students need to learn how to be responsible for their own device use. I have asked form tutors to regularly check student laptops and ensure that students are using these appropriately and I encourage you to do the same at home. Should students decide to use their laptop irresponsibly then they risk losing this for a period of time. As usual, I always appreciate your support in helping our students to learn to use their devices responsibly.

During this week we had our first Parent, Pupil, Staff conferences. It was great to see so many parents availing of the opportunity to speak to teachers along with students and get some valuable feedback. The relationship between students, parents and teachers is very important in the educational process in Brookes and I encourage all of you to get in touch with form tutors and subject teachers if you have any questions as our teachers are always very happy to communicate and answer questions when necessary.

Lastly, I am delighted to say that this week we will be welcoming Mr Timothy Daley to Brookes Moscow. Mr Daley is the Drama teacher and form tutor for 9R. He has been teaching online from the beginning of the year and has done such a wonderful job keeping our students active and learning in Drama without even being in the room. Mr Daley is originally from the United States and will be in school in person this week after completing his quarantine period that accompanies arriving in Russia. We are all very excited to welcome Mr Daley and I am sure the students will be delighted to meet him in person.

Thank you once again for all your support and positive comments during the PPS conferences and throughout. If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact me at jdowney@moscow.brookes.org.

Yours Sincerely,

John Downey

Upper and Senior Schools Principal