



Friday 18th December 2020

Dear Upper and Senior School families,

Happy Holidays. I usually say this at the end of each term, however I feel it goes without saying that this is the most well deserved break the students and teachers have had at Brookes. Yet, looking back over the term, I am incredibly proud of the achievements of the students despite having several restrictions to deal with.

We opened on August 31st like we said we would, and despite a few year groups having to isolate due to cases, we have been able to accommodate the students learning in school right up until 11th December. I hope that many of you are able to avail of the schools move to Distance Learning and it has allowed family members to be together more or for families to travel over the New Year break and still be able to quarantine.

2020 has been an incredibly hard year throughout the world. To hit us in only our second year of operation could have potentially seriously damaged the Brookes School and the students education but thanks to a collective effort and very hard work, the staff, students and parents from Brookes Moscow have enabled us to get to this point still in tact and able to celebrate academic and personal achievements from our students.

As much as many of us are welcoming 2021 coming, the COVID 19 situation will not simply just disappear on January 1st, therefore we have to remain vigilant in the new year. One way that we can do this, is by letting us know if students are travelling out of Russia during the new year, following all quarantine guidelines, notifying our Doctor of any potential cases and being very cautious before sending students into school, ensuring that they are in full health before coming in.

As 2020 and Term 1 draw to a close, it is with sadness that we say goodbye to many students and teachers. This week we say goodbye to the entire Le Prou family. I cannot even imagine how different our school will be without banging and drilling coming from Mr Le Prou's room, the friendly helpful assistance our students have always been greeted with in the library from Mrs Le Prou, and Ms Camille Le Prou tying everything MYP together to ensure the students education is of a high standard, not to mention the Art lessons.

Beau and Denise Le Prou are returning to their home in New Zealand after two and a half years of living abroad in Russia. Words can not express the impact that this family has had on our school from our very conception in 2018. Many of you who have been on tours of our school will notice that Mr Le Prou's room is a stop on every single tour, and even luckier if Mr Le Prou is there. Beau Le Prou has taught and cared for the students in Brookes Moscow in a way that I have never seen before and all our students who were lucky enough to have Mr Le Prou as a teacher can look back fondly on learning from a truly inspiring man. So much so that we have named the Product Design room after him. We wish the Le Prou's the best of luck and health back in New Zealand.





Camille Le Prou, our MYP Coordinator, guided our school through our authorisation and oversaw our first ever cohort of MYP students achieving their MYP certificates. She guided the way for students and teachers, not to mention the iBrookes sessions for parents to help new parents become more educated about the MYP and IB in general. This is on top of seeing our Year 11 students through their Art portfolios and at one time or another, having taught Art to every student in Upper School. Camille is also returning to New Zealand but excitingly has landed her dream job in Queen Margaret College in Wellington New Zealand, as their MYP coordinator. This is an incredible achievement for Camille to work in such an important job in an established IB school with such a wonderful opportunity. We wish her the very best of luck and are certain that she will have a wonderful impact on and move forward the MYP program at Queen Margaret College, just as she has done at Brookes Moscow.

As sad as it is saying goodbye to students and teachers, we take great joy in welcoming new students and teachers to Brookes in January. We have many students joining on 11th January, both coming from local schools and also international students who were delayed by border closures. We also are constantly adding teachers to our school in order to replace those who have left, and also to bring the students new and more exciting opportunities. I will write again early in January to give you details of our new Upper School teachers and introduce you to them and tell you which classes they will be teaching.

**You're braver than you believe and
stronger and smarter than you think.**

Winnie-the-Pooh

All that remains for me to do now is wish all of you a very Happy and Safe New Year. If 2020 has taught us anything, it's that health is so important and should never be taken for granted and also to quote the Winnie the Pooh quote on the wall outside our Performance Theatre 'You are braver than you believe and stronger and smarter than you think'. We have all shown this in 2020 and our students especially have shown incredible resilience and endeavour in overcoming all challenges that they faced. So I have no doubt they are going into 2021, braver, stronger and smarter than they



were at this time last year. We as a school are very excited about welcoming them back into school on 18th January to continue to help them develop this even more.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh,

John Downey

Upper and Senior School Principal

