



Brookhouse International School

the **weekly**
BULLETIN

Bulletin Number 4

6th February 2012

ADMIN NOTES

TELEPHONE LINES

Please use the following numbers to contact the school:

Wireless lines

020 243 0260
020 243 0261-3
020 243 0265
020 243 0266

Mobile lines

0722 204 413
0733 6027 97

Ms Clara Mwangi,
Administrative Manager

REPORTS AVAILABLE ON-LINE

In order to facilitate further communication with our parents, Brookhouse has established an online portal on our school website (www.brookhouse.ac.ke).

This gives parents an opportunity to access their child's records, including current academic reports and transcripts, securely over the internet.

To ensure full privacy and confidentiality of records, access is password protected and parents can only view the records of their own child/children. In order to access this facility, please register by sending your name, child/children names and class to online@brookhouse.ac.ke

From The Director...

NOTES FOR THE WEEK

- **The Council of International Schools** (or CIS) recently informed us that Brookhouse has met all the requirements for full reaccreditation after our 10-year cycle visit last November. I am extremely grateful to all the staff for their hard work in ensuring we attained the highest rating in international standards for our educational delivery. It is no mean feat for any school to get this stamp of approval and I offer the entire Brookhouse community my thanks and congratulations.
- **Last Week:** was a busy week for Careers Education, with the annual A-level Choices Evening well attended by Year 11 students and their parents; my thanks to all the staff involved for their contributions, and to Ms Sue Hopkinson from the University of Kent for sharing her expertise. Equally, the annual IFY NCUK Universities Day was very productive, and I am grateful to Mr Gopal, Mrs Sehmi, Mr Treacher and our guests from the NCUK partner universities. With the UK university visitors in town, we again hosted the post-graduate evening at the Serena Hotel; my thanks to all the staff volunteers and to Mr Mutiso for the impressive organisation; finally, our senior students attended the UK Fair on Friday morning, hosted at Premier Academy, another excellent careers education forum.



Aston University delegates handed certificates to our Year 10 and 11 students

- **Last Friday** we welcomed professors from Aston University who presented our Middle School pupils with certificates for their participation in a microbiology workshop last term.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- **Academic extension** activities last week included the Mathematics Challenge, organised by Mr Raj. My thanks to him for ensuring this activity went smoothly.
- **Assembly** last week focused on the trips undertaken by Trophy (to Cambodia), Lukonde (to India) and our delegation to Jordan. What an amazing reflection on the international focus that Round Square brings to our school, and what great ambassadors our students have become for responsible leadership in 21st Century Africa. Our assembly was also graced with a superb rendition of the National Anthem, and revealed what budding marketing executives we have as they 'demonstrated' the joys of owning a Brookhouse flash disk.
- **Sport:** congratulations to the Girls U16 football team on their big win in the annual Brookhouse-hosted tournament on Saturday 4th February 2012. Well done girls! My thanks to the PE department staff for a very well organised event.
- **Inter-House events:** coming up in the Prep is the inter-house Art Competition, whilst in the Secondary the fiercely contested inter-house Debating Competition kicks off soon.
- With IGCSE Mock results now in hand, Year 11 students are well aware of the need for **serious study** in the lead up to their examinations in May/June. Many of the staff have kindly volunteered to mentor individual pupils on the path toward achieving strong IGCSE results, and revision timetables are already in place.
- As a child I remember my grandmother used to go off to the hairdresser and come back with hair that looked to me to be blue. It didn't look very natural but the so-called 'blue rinse' was the fashion for elderly ladies at the time. Why mention this? Because the Brookhouse guidelines on hair for our students are very straight forward: **natural hair colour only**. Recently we have had a few of the girls incorporating blue, purple or other colour braids in their hair, and parents are asked to ensure these are removed. They are not suitable for school.
- As listed in the calendar, **half term** is five days, from Wednesday 15th February to Sunday 19th February 2012, inclusive; and Term Two concludes on Friday 23rd March 2012.
- If any parents have not yet organised to access **grades** online through the website they should contact the ICT department to make the necessary arrangements.
- **Subject clinics** continue and arrangement details are available from Mr Omasire, Headteacher – Boarding.
- **Round Square trips:** this term we participate in the annual Service Summit, Junior Conference and our first Young Round Square Conference. Letters detailing these trips are available from Mr Ng'ang'a at the Round Square office and those interested should sign up quickly, as places are limited.
- **Round Square conference:** staff and students are busy with final preparations for hosting of the 2012 Round Square international conference in April. Many parents have already expressed their willingness to assist with our home stay programme, and details are included in this bulletin.

With kind regards,

Mr John O'Connor

Director

EXAMINATIONS UPDATE FEBRUARY 2012

All candidates for IGCSE, AS level and A-level CIE examinations must confirm that their entry details are correct with the Examination Office immediately. They must use correct full names, date of birth, subjects and subject components. Please note that any changes made after Monday 6th February 2012 may attract a penalty fee. The AS/A2 Mock Examinations start this Wednesday 8th February 2012. All candidates are reminded of the need to adhere to school rules and regulations. There is no study leave and all students are required to attend school for both morning and afternoon sessions even if they do not have a paper.

We invite parents to consult us on examination issues at exams@brookhouse.ac.ke.

Mr Mulindi & Mr Songe,
Examination Officers

News from the Secondary School

Important Dates

FEBRUARY 2012

WEEK 5

Monday 6th

U14 Boys Basketball v RVA (away)

Tuesday 7th

Prefects Assembly-Period 1
U17 Girls Football League v
Braeburn (home)

Wednesday 8th

**8th – 24th AS AND A2 MOCK
EXAMINATIONS**

Thursday 9th

Book Club meeting
Year 9 Performance Evening
U17 Boys Hockey v Rosslyn
friendly @ City Park

Saturday 11th

**Inter-School Verse Speaking @
Nairobi Academy**

11th – 12th NASA Swimming 'AAA' @
Aga Khan

Term Calendars

Parents are reminded to consult the term calendar for dates and times of school events. Email reminders will be sent to parents about important events, but this is usually done only a few days in advance. If you prefer longer-term planning, please use your calendars.

From The Headteacher – Secondary ...

Another amazing week here at the Secondary School with lots going on.

Our International Foundation Students got a visit on Wednesday from a number of the UK Universities that they may attend at the end of their course. They were spoken to by the visitors about the different locations and courses and it was lovely to see so many parents in attendance. In the evening we started the process of moving our Year 11 into the Sixth Form. The various A-level and BTEC subject teachers set up stands to discuss the courses with the students and their parents. There was also a presentation answering FAQ.

The Intermediate Maths Challenge took place very successfully during the week as well as the on-going inter-house chess. Well done to our Maths department for supporting these events.

Our sports teams had a very busy week last week. Special mention goes to our girls football team who won the Brookhouse Under 16 Tournament on Saturday. It was an excellent event as our staff and students did us proud again.

I hope you all have a successful and productive week ahead.

**Mr Philip Treacher,
Headteacher – Secondary**

ROUND SQUARE CONFERENCE – APRIL 2012

Brookhouse is hosting the International Round Square Conference between Monday 2nd and Sunday 8th April 2012. The Round Square adult delegates and some Heads of School will stay in boarding. We are expecting about 300 students delegates aged 16-18 years from 50 schools around the world and we hope to place them with host families for the duration of the conference. We would like each family to host two or three students, either all boys or all girls. Many of the students will be visiting Africa for the first time and we thought this would be a good experience for the students to stay with families. We shall be sending more details as the conference draws closer. If you are interested in being a host parent, please send an email to rsc.homestay@brookhouse.ac.ke

**Ms Clara Mwangi,
Administrative Manager**

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM TWO

Please note the following:

- **Term 2 commenced**
On Monday 9th January 2012.
- **AS/A2 Mock examinations**
Are held from 8th – 24th February, inclusive.
- **Model United Nations**
Takes place from 13th – 17th February, inclusive.
- **Year 8 Mock examinations**
Are held from 20th – 24th February, inclusive.
- **HALF TERM**
Is five days, from Wednesday 15th February to Sunday 19th February 2012, inclusive.
- **Australian Universities Fair**
Is hosted at Brookhouse on 1st and 2nd March 2012.
- **Young Round Square Conference**
Hosted in Cape Town, is from 14th – 17th March 2012.
- **Year 9 Choices Evening**
Is on Monday 19th March 2012.
- **Inter-House Debate Finals**
Take place on Tuesday afternoon, 20th March 2012.
- **Term 2 concludes**
On Friday 23rd March 2012 at lunchtime.
- **Round Square International Conference**
Is hosted at Brookhouse from 2nd – 8th April 2012, during the Easter break.

ATTENDANCE DURING MOCK EXAMS FOR YEAR 12 AND 13

Students are required to be in school every day of the week during the Mock Examinations period. This is due to a number of reasons:

- To avoid missing any examination papers
- To avoid driving into school as students are **not allowed** to do so
- So that students will be able to consult with their teachers as the need arises
- To remain focused on the task at hand

Kindly note that in regard to the above, students must arrive at school at the normal time in the morning and leave at the end of school day as usual. No student will be allowed to leave school early, even though they may not be having any examination on that day. Students have been issued with the Mock Examination timetables which they must use to guide their revision.

Kindly get in touch with myself or Mrs Ayodo in case you need any clarification on the issues raised in this bulletin.

**Mr Milafu Otieno,
Head of Sixth Form**

ROUND SQUARE CONFERENCE UPDATE

This will be a busy term for Brookhouse students with a range of Round Square activities:

1. The annual junior conference will be held at Dainfern College in Johannesburg, South Africa from 18th- 22nd February 2012. Mr Omasire and Ms Odera will take a group of six students.
2. The Global Issues Service Summit (GISS) will be at the American International School of Johannesburg (AISJ) from 24th- 26th March 2012. Ten students will be accompanied by Mr Ogadhoh and Ms Moraa.
3. The African region will have two Young Round Square (YRS) conferences this year; the first of the two will be at St. Cyprian's School in Cape Town, South Africa from 14th- 17th March 2012. There are a limited ten spaces. Interested students should see Mr Ng'ang'a or Ms Bidali for relevant details.
4. The main gathering of all Round Square Schools will be at Brookhouse School during the annual Round Square International Conference (RSIC). This will be a split conference between two different countries. We will host it from 2nd- 8th April 2012 and Penryn College in late September.

Exchanges:

Karina Van Hoek will be leaving for St. Cyprian's in Cape Town, South Africa for three weeks on an exchange programme. We will also be receiving Erika Hairston from Hotchkiss School, USA for four weeks.

**Mr Willie Ng'ang'a,
Round Square Representative**

YEAR 9 PERFORMANCE EVENING

This is a reminder to all our Year 9 parents that on 9th February 2012, the three Year 9 English teaching sets will be presenting three short plays that they have been working on this half of the term. The programme dubbed 'From Page to Stage' gives all the students an opportunity to put into practice all the skills acquired in the drama lessons so far. Please come along and support these budding thespians.

**Mrs Sabina Okech,
Head of Drama**

News from the Prep School

Term 2 February 2012

WEEK 5

Year Group Tutor Meetings
Mid-Year Assessments (AWW)

Monday 6th February

Prefects Assembly (WK) - P1
Pre-School Trip (KP/BM)
HoY + CMT - Secondary Staff Rm - P9
U11 Girls Football League v Nairobi
Academy (away)
U13 Girls Football League v Nairobi
Academy (home)

Tuesday 7th February

Up-Country Swimming Gala @ Turi (ZE)
U11 Boys & Girls Hockey v Braeburn Garden
Estate (away)

Wednesday 8th February

BCMT Meeting (GO) - P9
U13 Boys & Girls Hockey v Braeside (home)

Saturday 11th February

Brookhouse Hockey Tourmaent (DL)
Inter-Schools Verse Speaking @ Nairobi
Academy

11th - 12th February

Provincial 'AAA' Swimming @Aga Khan (ZE)

WEEK 6

Monday 13th February

House Assemblies (CG) - P1
U9 Swimming Gala @ Peponi (ZE)

Tuesday 14th February

Reception Food Day (NR)
Yr.4 Trip to Mt. Longonot (CG/MSO)
Half Term Starts - 3.30pm

Wednesday 15 - 19th February

HALF TERM



From The Headteacher Prep...

Assessing pupil progress is an essential part of the work that we do as educators in order to monitor pupils development and improve our teaching. Our mid-year assessments are useful as a tool to check that pupils are continuing to make progress. In the Junior Prep, they are conducted during the pupil's lessons to minimise stress and maximise performance.

The Year 8 Mocks after half term are conducted in a more formal manner to begin to develop the study skills and organisation required for success in the external examinations. Clearly we want the students to take them seriously but don't want them to be experiencing anxiety issues. Students need to keep the Mocks in perspective and not be too pressured.

Ms Michelle Forsyth,
Headteacher - Prep School



COMMUNITY SERVICE – PAIRED READING

Year 7s Community Service Project this term is 'paired reading'. They join Year 2 and help them to develop their reading skills and love of books. It is an excellent project and beneficial to both parties as you can see from Hedda and Staicy's report.

When I read for Emily, I feel that I help her to understand, but I like when she reads for me because I can help her with the words she doesn't pronounce right and the words she does not understand. Yesterday, she asked me "*what does curious mean*", and I told her "*you want to know something*". I feel good and helpful when I read, and I would like to help this girl to be better in reading. For every picture in the book she says something about what she thinks. I think that is a good start for Emily.

Hedda Andersen,
Year 7BB.

I think this term has been enjoyable reading for the Year 2s. Listening to them read, and reading to them is an exciting thing. I remember when I was still learning to read, and all the people who helped me. Every Year 7 student has had the chance to read with a child. We brought books from home or picked a really nice story book from the library. This is a great way of showing our leadership skills.

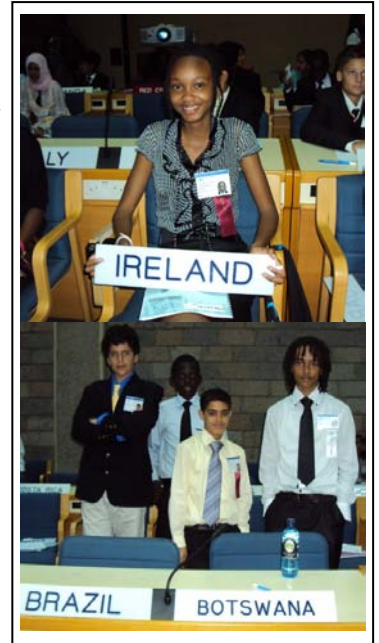
Staicy Wairimu,
Year 7BB

MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

On Tuesday 24th January 2012, 20 middle school students (Year 7, 8 & 9) attended the Middle School Model United Nations (MSMUN) conference held at the United Nations Headquarters in Gigiri. The 20 students were split into 5 groups of 4 (1 ambassador and 3 delegates), each group representing a country. Our four countries were Jordan, Botswana, Georgia and South Korea. On the morning of 24th, we all attended our normal lessons with a heavy knowledge of the fact that this would be the last morning of freedom in school before we were dipped head on into the confusing world of formality, diplomacy and politics for four solid days. When the call went out at quarter to ten we trudged to the bus, bracing ourselves for what lay ahead. When we got to the UN headquarters we realised it was lobbying day, where all the delegates met and asked each other to vote for their resolution which had different topics such as 'Child Labour' or 'Poaching'. We marched into the massive complex, and were greeted by a welcoming speech. We were then placed into our various committees and introduced to the leaders. We started the debates with delegates arguing over fractions of money. Later we had an hour to ask as many delegates as possible to vote for our resolutions.

For the next three days, we had to wake up as early as possible and drive to our designated pick up points. Welcoming speeches, arguing, resolutions all jumbled up into one. On the second day, we had a surprise visit from the Director General of UNON, and on the third day we experienced a UN "crisis situation". The 'funniest' time in the whole conference was the disco held at the French School. They managed to get the most awesome modern music and it was surprising to see people whom you had been arguing with for a week break dancing their legs off. It was a brilliant experience and I recommend all who enjoy arguing and being stubborn to try MUN.

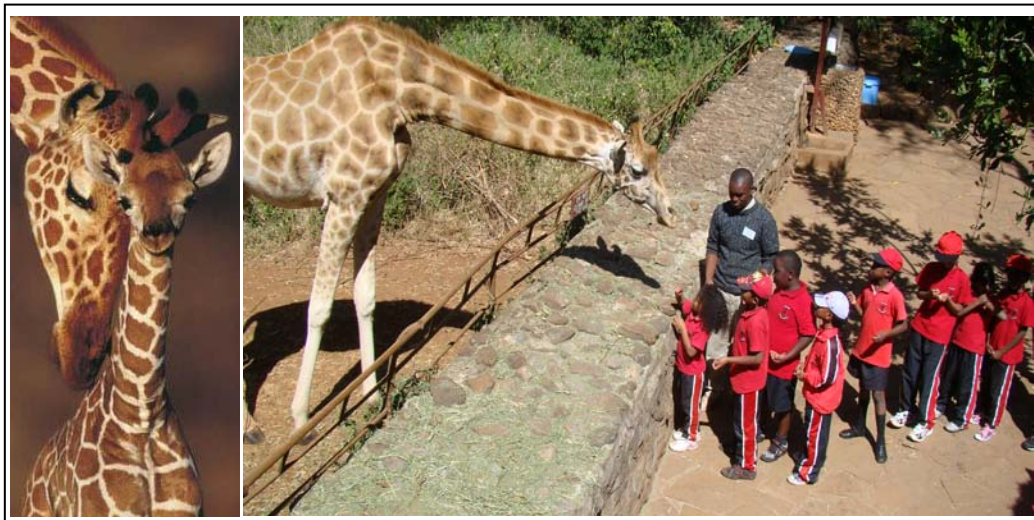
**Callum Macintyre,
Year 7GA**



YEAR THREE TRIP TO THE GIRAFFE CENTRE

A hundred years ago, Karen area looked very different from today. There was a big forest with lots of animals. There were trees, bushes, rivers, grass, bugs and lots of tracks. You could hear birds and it was so peaceful you could have a picnic. Today we could not go into the jungle because a lion was missing, but we had lots of fun. We fed the giraffes pellets. Some of them were scared so they did not come. Some of them that were being fed, ran away because some of us were a bit noisy. Karen today does not have lot of forests. It has much more buildings and shops. People have lots of pets and better houses and good money. They have trees that have fruits.

**Lily Ashtiba,
Year 3HB**



SWIMMING GALA – NASA ‘A’

Last weekend 28th and 29th of January, Brookhouse School was represented by nine girls from the Preparatory School and 1 boy from IFY.

It was an excellent outing for the swimmers as Brookhouse managed to win nine Gold medals, six Silver medals and seven Bronze medals. Sarah Harawa won three Gold medals and 2 Silver medals and emerged the victor in her age group that she conquered all the girls in 10/11. Henry Kibocha won three Gold medals and qualified for both the ‘AA’ and ‘AAA’ Galas.

The 12 and 13 year old girls won two Gold medals in both the relays and Anoushka Towler won a Gold medal in backstroke. The girls were third overall out of twenty six teams and clubs from all over Nairobi. They were awarded a trophy.

Please join me in congratulating the successful team of Bethany Treacher, Shiru Kabage, Brenda Lugwe, Brigit Lugwe, Annabelle Somers, Lauren Somers, and Delaney McCaw. Our next challenge is the NASA ‘AA’ this coming weekend.

**Mr Zeff Ekumbo,
Swimming Coach**

SPORTS REPORT - HOCKEY

Under 9 Boy’s v Kenton and Braeburn

This was the boy’s first game. After a slow start they showed improvement in the second half before losing 3-1. In their match versus Braeburn they had a very close game losing 3-2 with Zeb and Farhan in goal playing very well.

Under 11 Boys v Braeburn

This match was played on the Astro Turf at City Park. The boys played well and at half time drew 0-0. In the second half there were some tired legs and they conceded 4 goals.

Under 13 Boys and Girls v Braeburn Garden Estate and Braeburn

The Under 13 Boys and Girls played at home versus Garden Estate. The girls won 6-0 and the boys won 4-0. The boys’ first team played Braeburn first at City Park stadium. They dominated for most of the game and were unfortunate to concede in the final minute. Final score was a 3-3 draw. Moses Chitonya had an outstanding game. The girls played Braeburn at home and in a close match lost 1-0.

Under 11 Girls v Braeburn School

The match was very exciting. Both teams had several opportunities to go ahead. The Braeburn team was stopped by the Brookhouse defense, consisting of Hannah, Amanda and Siobhan. Talya and Chloe played very hard up front and were unlucky not to score. The game ended 0-0 and the girls should be congratulated for their effort.

Under 9 Girls v Braeburn

They were all excited about this match and it showed in the game. Shirleen and Meenakshi were excellent at defense and did not give Braeburn a chance to score. Lily, Alexa and Rayanna were very strong up front, raiding the goal several times leading to a 3-0 victory.

Well done to all our teams.

**Mr Dave Lowe,
Head of Prep PE**

Boarding News

Important Dates

Half Term

Starts: Tuesday 14th February at 3.30pm
Return: Sunday 19th February by 5.30pm

2nd Exeat

Starts: Friday 9th March at 3.30pm
Return: Sunday 11th March by 5.30pm

Telephone contacts

+254 020 2430260-2
+254 020 2430263/5/6
+254 722204413
+254 733602797

Prep parents can reach their children on the Prep boarding mobile line
+254704830055

Boarding parents may also communicate with the boarding office using the following email address:
boarding@brookhouse.ac.ke

Term Calendars

Parents are reminded to consult the term calendar for dates and times of school events. Email reminders will be sent to parents about important events, but this is usually done only a few days in advance. If you prefer longer-term planning, please use your calendars.

From the Headteacher – Boarding...

Mock examinations for Year 12 and 13 begin this week. It is pleasing to see the candidates busy preparing for them. We wish them all the best.

HALF TERM BREAK

The half term break will begin on Tuesday 14th February 3:30pm. All students are expected to go for half-term, apart from those who have paid for the Mombasa trip. They will be leaving school on Wednesday morning 15th February. Parents are requested to collect their children between 3.30pm-5.30pm. Parents and guardians of our international students are reminded to book their children's tickets as soon as possible and forward details to boarding@brookhouse.ac.ke. The school will provide transport to the airport at the following times and we encourage parents to book flights within these timings:

Airport drop off on Tuesday 14th February 2012

1st Escort 5.00am
2nd Escort 9.30am
3rd Escort 2.00pm

NOTE: All boarders will be expected to report back on Sunday 19th February, before 5.30pm.

Parents intending to have their children use school transport from the airport are advised to organise so that their children's return tickets correspond with the timings below:

Airport pickup timing on Sunday 19th February 2012

1st pick up 11.00am -12.30pm
2nd pick up 1.00pm - 2.30pm
3rd pick up 3.30pm - 5.00pm

HALF TERM MOMBASA TRIP

Half term will begin on Wednesday 15th February to Sunday 19th February 2012. The boarding house has organised a trip for boarding students who are not able to travel home during the half-term break. The trip will be to Mombasa and the students will be staying at the Voyager Beach Hotel. Activities will include a day at Wild Waters and a day at the marine park (snorkelling/goggling). The cost of this trip will be Ksh 36,500 which is all-inclusive of accommodation for four nights and travel to and from Mombasa. Any parents who wish their children to participate are reminded to confirm with payment so as to facilitate the planning.

**Mr Graham Omasire,
Headteacher - Boarding**