

Russian Seminar Tackles Heritage Preservation

'Preservation of the Russian Heritage Among the British-Based Russian Community' was the theme of a mid-November seminar at the Russian-British Cultural Centre 'Rubric', the main theme of discussion being the encouragement of children from bilingual families to maintain fluency in Russian despite their living day-to-day in an English language environment.

Specialists from the Language Faculty of Moscow's National Research University visited CTC Kingshurst Academy in Birmingham to give a workshop for the teachers of the Russian School 'Rubric'. The Academy was chosen to host the seminar thanks to the collaboration, lasting more than a decade, of its teachers Victoria Morris and Tatiana Webber with Russian British Cultural Centre 'Rubric' in Birmingham.

Students of Russian from Kingshurst were also happy to attend, participating in language competition alongside native Russian speakers, the visiting Professor Anastasia Bonch-Osmolovskaya and Valentina Apresyan co-ordinating. Liam Barrett emerged victorious, his Russian vocabulary was a pleasant surprise for all. Liam and his classmates later decided to volunteer to work with children at Rubric's Birmingham Russian school.

Next came the methodological workshop, with a very lively discussion of methods of studying Russian as a foreign language. The Moscow specialists shared their knowledge of interesting linguistic games and web-based teaching resources. In attendance were teachers from Rubric's Russian schools in Nottingham, Derby, Birmingham and Worcester.

The seminar concluded with introductions to the Head of Kingshurst Academy Anna Jones, who stressed the importance of foreign language teaching at the Academy and the contribution made by visitors such as the Moscow academics who hosted the successful seminar.

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