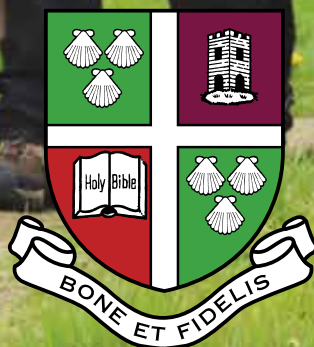


NEWS FROM THE Grove

The Newsletter of Woodhouse Grove School



Summer 2026



Known Before They Arrive: One Year as Head of Year 7

Ms Pearce on the care, the chaos and the confidence that defines Year 7 at Woodhouse Grove.

Starting secondary school is a huge milestone for any 11-year-old and, unsurprisingly, nerves are often the biggest challenge. Will I get lost? Will I make friends? Will I enjoy the new subjects? These are enormous questions when faced with the exciting unknown of senior school life.

Whether pupils are joining us from our Junior School or arriving completely new to the community, one thing quickly becomes clear: everyone feels the same mixture of excitement and apprehension.

That is why transition into Year 7 is planned with such care. We take time to learn about each child as an individual — their interests, personalities and passions — so that they feel known before they even arrive. We thoughtfully create form groups by bringing together pupils with shared interests and compatible personalities, and we encourage those who would benefit from an extra visit to come back and familiarise themselves with their new surroundings.

Very quickly, we begin to discover the wonderfully varied young people in our care: the pupils who spend every weekend dancing, the musicians balancing several instruments alongside Leeds United training sessions, and the budding filmmakers creating stop-motion masterpieces with their friends.

My biggest piece of advice to every new Year 7 is simple: get stuck in. This year group, in particular, has embraced that wholeheartedly, with 91% representing the school in at least one sport already and a large number taking to the McCarthy Theatre for performances.

My role as Head of Year 7 is to support pupils in finding their feet and having the confidence to try new things. Each morning, you will usually find me in the locker area before registration, helping to solve small worries before they become big ones, celebrating little triumphs, and reminding pupils that they always have someone to talk to, whether that is myself, their form tutor or Mr Ridley.

What matters most is that pupils move through their days knowing they are supported: encouraged to take opportunities, explore new interests and discover what genuinely makes them happy.

Breaktimes, lunchtimes and after-school sessions are filled with opportunities in music, drama, STEM and sport, allowing pupils to find their “tribe” and develop friendships beyond the classroom.

It never ceases to amaze me how capable children are when given both opportunity and encouragement. Part of growing in independence is learning to organise themselves, pack their own bags and occasionally navigate the odd mishap along the way. Sometimes that even involves cutting off a locker padlock, but the day starts again, the crisis passes remarkably quickly, and another valuable lesson has been learnt!

Safe Driving Initiative with West Yorkshire Police

Learning to drive is an important milestone and many of our Year 12 students are taking their first steps behind the wheel, or are already on the roads. Young drivers are disproportionately represented in fatal road traffic accidents compared to other age groups, so to encourage safe driving habits, West Yorkshire Police delivered an impactful road safety presentation to our Year 12 students to warn against the most harmful driving habits.



Wellbeing at the Heart of Grove Life

Head of Wellbeing Mrs Vernon on how wellbeing shapes everyday life at Woodhouse Grove



At Woodhouse Grove, wellbeing is woven into the fabric of everyday life. It is not something that sits on the edge of school life, but something we live and breathe as a community. As Head of Wellbeing, I feel incredibly fortunate to work alongside a team of colleagues and students who care deeply about ensuring every young person feels seen, supported and able to flourish.

One of the most joyful expressions of this spirit has been our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Week. It was a truly special moment in the school calendar, full of energy, creativity and togetherness. From henna art and music on the Quad to our "Love Not Hate" display and a wonderfully lively fashion show, the week was a celebration of who we are as individuals and as a community. What stood out most was not just the events themselves, but the pride our students took in championing inclusion and kindness – values that continue to shape daily life at The Grove long after the week has ended.

At the heart of our support sits the pastoral team, offering care that is both proactive and deeply personal. We take time to get to know our pupils, listening carefully and working closely with families so that every child feels understood. A particularly special part of this is The HUB – our welcoming drop-in space where students can pause, talk and be heard. Supported by trained Sixth Form volunteers, it offers something uniquely powerful: peer support that is compassionate, relatable and genuinely valued by younger students.

Mental Health Awareness Week provided another important opportunity to pause, reflect and connect. Across the week, students engaged in simple but meaningful activities that encouraged conversation, self-care and a reminder that looking after our mental health is something we all need to prioritise.

We are also proud to be growing our work with parents. This year, we introduced our first 'Grove Parenting Toolbox' workshop led by Ms Eames and I; this offered guidance and a space to explore the realities of raising teenagers today. The conversations covered everything from friendships and independence to navigating topics such as parties, alcohol, drugs and mental health. The positive feedback from parents was overwhelming, and many shared how much they valued both the guidance and the opportunity to connect with others.

The world our young people are growing up in is ever-changing, and with that come new challenges. At The Grove, we remain committed to listening, learning and evolving alongside them. Wellbeing is a shared journey. One built on trust, care and community and it is a journey we are proud to walk together every day.

Year 12s qualify for the Economics Olympiad final in London!



Two of our Sixth Formers, Connie and Will, are among the 50 students invited to the Economics Olympiad final in London. Having already succeeded in the Regional round, the National Final will see them compete to represent the UK at the International Final in Athens, Greece.

Rooted in Responsibility

Mrs Howard on how Woodhouse Grove is reducing its environmental footprint; one initiative, one student and one decision at a time.



As Sustainability & Energy Manager at Woodhouse Grove School, my role is to embed environmental responsibility into the fabric of school life, ensuring sustainability is both operationally effective and meaningful for our pupils. This academic year, we have made strong progress in rising to the challenge of climate change through practical action, education, and whole-school engagement.

A key focus has been improving energy efficiency across our estate. We are undertaking ongoing heating system upgrades, including replacing old pipework to improve flow and prevent losses through leakage, as well as lagging pipework to reduce heat loss. In addition, some of our residential flats have been upgraded with internal wall insulation, improving thermal performance and reducing energy demand. Our move away from fossil fuel reliance has also been strengthened through the introduction of electric equipment for the grounds team, including an electric buggy, lawnmower, and strimmer. Replacing end-of-life equipment with modern, efficient alternatives has reduced carbon emissions while also lowering noise levels, benefiting both staff and the environment.

One of our most impactful initiatives this year was a food waste survey piloted in the first term. By involving all students, we gathered valuable data and reduced plate waste by almost half. This enabled simple but effective changes in the dining hall, such as adjusting portion sizes and offering half jacket potatoes for those with smaller appetites. Importantly, the initiative also helped students recognise the value of food and the environmental consequences of waste.

We have also prioritised biodiversity. Through No Mow May, we are allowing areas of grass to grow naturally to support pollinators. In partnership with Bradford City Football Club, we planted 150 trees kindly donated by the Woodland Trust.

The Eco Committee has been particularly active this year, demonstrating the enthusiasm and leadership of our students. They planted 150 bluebell bulbs on the Mound, kindly donated by Old Grovian Roger Davy, which rewarded us this spring with a striking carpet of purple. Their creativity has extended to repurposing old Christmas cards for resale in support of charity, while a group of students attended an Eco Schools Conference at Leeds Civic Hall, bringing back valuable ideas and inspiration.

Encouragingly, a culture of reuse is becoming more prominent across the school. We are redistributing resources internally to optimise use, while donating items such as old textbooks and furniture to charities including the Gambian Trust and the British Heart Foundation.

These initiatives reflect our commitment to meaningful, lasting change, reducing our environmental impact while empowering students to become responsible, sustainability-minded citizens.

Visit from Director Dominic Leclerc



Old Grovian Dominic Leclerc (87-97), Director of *Shameless*, *Sex Education*, and *Skins*, visited The Grove in the Spring Term for a packed day of inspiration; a school tour, podcast recording, Directors' Workshop and Career Talk for Years 9-12. His message to our aspiring creatives was to 'follow your heart boldly, with confidence, joy and determination'.

Visit from Kathryn Leng



Former England Women's cricketer and Old Grovian Kathryn Leng (85-92) returned to Woodhouse Grove this term. After a full school tour, Kathryn hosted a Q&A with our Year 7 and 8 cricketers, who asked thoughtful questions about her career and experiences. The visit concluded with a guest appearance on the school podcast, Grovian Voices.

National Apprenticeships Week



We celebrated National Apprenticeship Week with a programme of talks from Old Grovians and external visitors, who shared their experiences of apprenticeships. The week reinforced our commitment to supporting every student in finding the right path beyond school, whether that is University, a degree apprenticeship or direct employment.



Jewish Welfare Board Visit

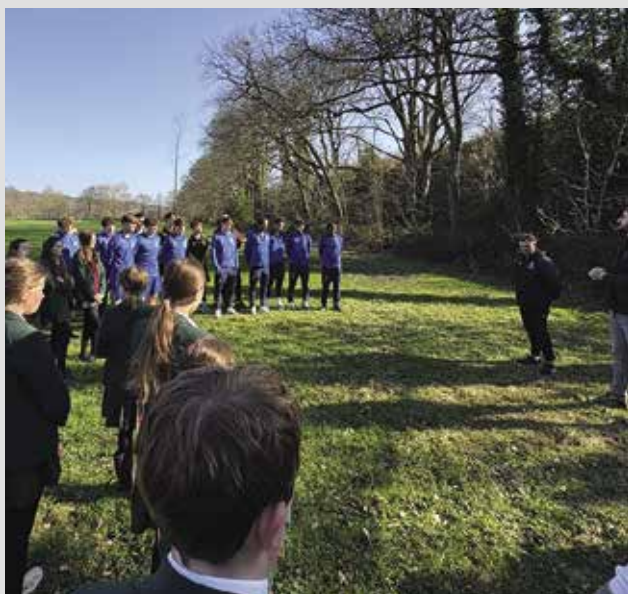
Year 10 students welcomed Alan Benstock from the Jewish Welfare Board this term for an informative and thought-provoking session on the Jewish community in Yorkshire, as part of their Religious Studies GCSE. As an Orthodox Jew, Alan spoke openly about his personal experiences and answered a wide range of questions from students with generosity and care.

Year 7 and 8 Maths Roadshow



Year 7 and Year 8 students took part in the Maths Roadshow last term, supported by Sixth Form volunteers who guided younger pupils through a series of challenging and engaging problems. The event was praised by the Acting Head of Maths, Mr Walker, who noted the exceptional enthusiasm of participants and the confidence and patience shown by the Sixth Formers in their role as mentors.

Eco-Committee plant trees with Bradford City FC

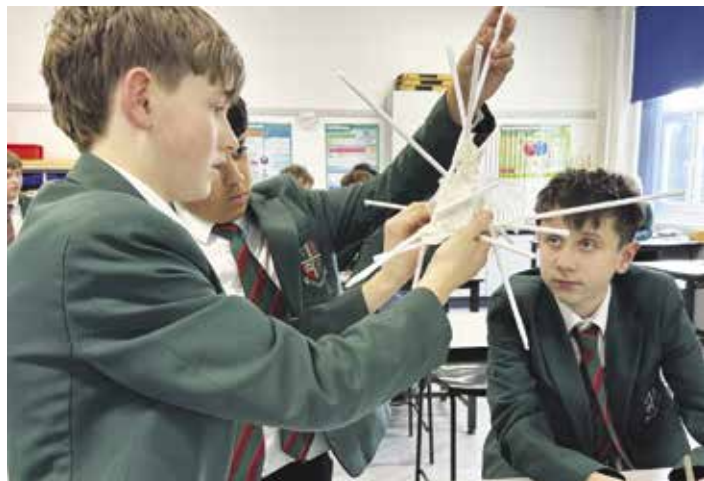


Students from the school's Eco-Committee joined Bradford City FC this term to plant tree saplings surrounding the Bradford City FC training pitch. The saplings were donated by the Woodland Trust, with British Wool supplying natural wool to aid healthy growth and suppress weeds.

University of Bradford Science Trip



Students visited the laboratories at University of Bradford this term for a hands-on chemistry experience, synthesising paracetamol using the original method developed by Boots the Chemists. Working with professional equipment including fume cupboards, melting point apparatus and IR spectroscopy, students were able to analyse the purity and structure of their compounds.



Science Week at the Grove

The Science Department marked British Science Week with a packed programme of practical experiments, year group assemblies and a visit to Bradford Museum. Year 6 pupils were welcomed to the Grove, giving prospective students a taste of senior school science.



Intermediate Maths Kangaroo Success

Woodhouse Grove students achieved strong results in this year's Intermediate Kangaroo Mathematics competition. In the Pink Kangaroo, a Year 10 student earned a Gold award with a score of 96, while a second Year 10 student received a Certificate of Participation. A Year 9 student also performed well in the Grey Kangaroo, earning a Certificate of Participation.

The UK Maths Trust's Kangaroo competitions are rigorous mathematic challenges, which students qualify for following an exceptional result in the Maths Challenge.

National Careers Week at The Grove



National Careers Week brought an impressive programme of speakers to Woodhouse Grove, offering students across all year groups valuable insight into a range of industries and career pathways. Highlights included Old Grovian Paola Nlemchi speaking to Sixth Formers about her Solicitor Apprenticeship with Shakespeare Martineau; creative director Rich Hayden addressing Years 10 and 11 on personal branding; pharmacist Erin Payne speaking candidly to Year 8; and Old Grovian Neha Kanda sharing her journey into law with Years 7 and 9!

Junior Maths Challenge



105 students recently took part in the Junior Mathematical Challenge, with 28 students awarded Bronze, 14 awarded Silver, and eight awarded Gold, reflecting their resilience and high-level mathematical thinking.

Well done to Joss Barnett in Year 7 who was our overall top performer.

Seven students have qualified for the prestigious next round, the Junior Kangaroo. We look forward to seeing them continue to thrive in this next challenge!



EDI Week

We celebrated our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Week this term with a varied programme of activities spanning creativity, culture and community. Students crafted henna-inspired bookmark designs with support from Sixth Form volunteers; a 'Love Not Hate' board, hand-crafted by the DT team, gathered hundreds of positive messages from students and staff; and the week culminated in a vibrant fashion show that showcased the rich cultural diversity of the school community.

New Golf Academy



Our new Head of Golf, Mr Stead, answers quick-fire questions about his golf journey and the upcoming Grove Golf Academy launching in September.

How did you get into golf, and what's led you to the Grove?

I played golf for the first time at age 13 when my football match was cancelled, my friend's dad played so I went with them and I just really enjoyed it. With a passion for teaching & being a Golf Professional for just over 25 years I jumped at the opportunity to become part of an amazing school renowned for its sporting prowess and be involved in creating a top golf academy.

Who or what has had the biggest influence on your golf journey?

I would say that I've been lucky enough to meet lots of inspirational people through golf with the first one being an old American golf pro who taught us golf at university called Bud Edmondson. He was a passed PGA tour player in the Trevino, Nicklaus era and his stories and old-fashioned teaching methods had us all hooked. After that I was lucky enough to be taught while doing my PGA qualification by John Jacobs who created the original ball flight laws. Then in 2010 I was lucky enough to play with Rory McIlroy at Carton House in Ireland who even back then was incredible.

What are you most looking forward to in developing the Grove Golf Academy?

What excites me the most about developing the Grove Golf Academy is creating an environment where young athletes can thrive both on & off the course, watching students gain confidence and reach their short-term and long-term goals.

Play in a Day – And Then There Were None



28 Year 9 and 10 students took on an ambitious creative challenge last term, devising and performing an original play within a single day. Inspired by Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*, students wrote their own dialogue, developed characters and staged the full production themselves; all within ten hours of rehearsal.



Drummers' Concert



Parents, staff and students gathered in May for a drumming showcase featuring performers from Year 7 through to the Upper Sixth. The event drew on the talents of students across the school, with a varied programme of rhythms and songs that kept the audience enthralled throughout!



Battle of the Bands

Woodhouse Grove's annual Battle of the Bands proved a highlight of the musical calendar, with student bands competing across an evening of live performance. Congratulations to ALIGN, who took the top prize with a standout set on the night. Beyond the competition itself, the event raised funds for Martin House Children's Hospice; a cause close to many in the school community.





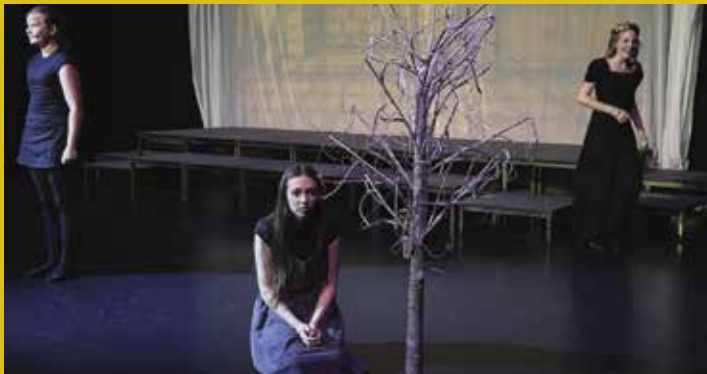
Leavers' Soiree

The Hastings-Long Gallery was the setting for a celebratory and emotional final performance evening for Year 13, marking the end of their time as performers at Woodhouse Grove. The programme featured musical performances of a high standard alongside witty and well-crafted speeches from students including Izzy, Nicole and Liam, whose presenting skills drew particular praise.



Grimm Tales

Our junior students took to the stage this term in a production of Grimm Tales, based on the celebrated stage adaptation of the classic Brothers Grimm stories. The production gave our younger performers the opportunity to engage with rich and imaginative source material, performing spooky renditions of Snow White, Hansel and Gretel, Ashputtel, and many more.



Leeds KS3 Dance Competition

Students from the Year 9 Games dance group represented Woodhouse Grove at the Leeds KS3 Dance Competition, performing with confidence and maturity. The group were awarded the Best Teamwork Trophy; a recognition that reflected both the quality of their choreography and the collaborative effort they brought to the process. It was a well-deserved result for a group who had worked hard in preparation for the event!

A-level History trip to Munich



Sixteen A-Level History students travelled to Munich during February half-term as part of an immersive study trip exploring Germany 1918–45. Students visited Munich's Old Town, the Hofbräu Keller and the BMW Museum before travelling to Nuremberg to walk the rally grounds and see the historic courtroom of the Nuremberg Trials. The trip also included the Munich Documentation Centre and a visit to Dachau concentration camp; a sobering and significant experience for all involved.

Year 8 Ski Trip



More than sixty students headed to Wagrain, Austria over the Easter break for the annual school ski trip. The group ranged from complete beginners taking to the slopes for the first time to more experienced skiers keen to develop their technique across the mountain. The trip offered students the opportunity to build confidence, resilience and camaraderie in an outdoor setting far beyond the usual school environment, with plenty of pizza too!

Battlefields Trip



50 Year 9 and 10 students undertook an intensive Battlefields trip spanning some of the Western Front's most significant sites. Sites included the Lochnagar Crater, Thiepval Memorial and Newfoundland Park on the Somme before moving on to Essex Farm Cemetery, the Memorial Museum Passchendaele and the Flanders Fields Museum in Belgium. Students attended the Menin Gate ceremony and laid a wreath on behalf of the school; a moment of particular significance. The trip concluded with time in Bruges before students returned home.



View all Trips and Tours photos on our Flickr!

Did you know we have a dedicated Flickr for all school trips, events, and tours? It's the best way to catch up with your child's trips, with even more photos and videos than our social media pages. Scan the QR code below to view.



Another Brilliant Year of Development

Our Head of Alumni Relations and Development, Mrs Corry, discusses the busy Spring and Summer Term.



This year marked 214 years since Woodhouse Grove first opened its doors in 1812. Celebrating the school's heritage remains central to Grove life, with the achievements and careers of Old

Grovians continuing to inspire current students to pursue their own ambitions and contribute to the school's ongoing legacy.

Our first Giving Week took place from 27 June to 3 July, raising funds in support of the 1812 Society bursary campaign. The full calendar of events offered something for everyone and what a spectacular week it was! The in-school House Tug of War competition especially showcased the friendly House rivalry amongst students, staff and, of course, Old Grovians! Every donation received, no matter the size, will make a difference and we are incredibly grateful for the generosity and shared spirit of our school community.

The celebrations continued on Sunday 28th June with Grovestonbury, the Old Grovian Annual Summer Reunion and Family Fun Day. Families enjoyed everything from Hook a Duck and ice creams to school tours, cricket and tennis fixtures, live music and a BBQ. The day was a fantastic reminder of the friendships, traditions and sense of belonging that make Woodhouse Grove so special.

We also enjoy showcasing items from the school archives whenever possible - from historic Prize Day programmes and schoolboy caps to Colours blazers, full school photographs, cricket scorebooks and pocket-sized term diaries from the days before digital calendars. These treasured artefacts help bring the story of Woodhouse Grove vividly to life for both current students and Old Grovians alike.

We would not be who we are without our history, traditions, and the Latin phrase on the school crest so fondly remembered by Old Grovians: Bone et Fidelis - "Good and Faithful" as well as the school song "Xaipete!", an Ancient Greek word meaning "rejoice", traditionally used as both a greeting and a farewell. By celebrating our past, we ensure the Grovian values that have shaped Woodhouse Grove for generations continue to thrive long into the future.

Grovian Voices Podcast

Grovian Voices celebrated its first anniversary this term; a year that has brought nearly 5,000 downloads and listeners in 408 cities across 45 countries. Guests this term included our Headmaster, Mr Lockwood, for a special anniversary episode, plus cricketer Kathryn Leng, Head of Year 9 Mrs Jennings, and presenter Richard Graves. It has been a remarkable first year for a podcast that has built a genuinely global Grovian audience.

Spring Coffee Morning

Our Spring Coffee Morning on 10th March welcomed 22 guests with entry years spanning 1935 to 1979. Highlights included the debut of our 2026 Selfie Frame and a colours blazer brought along by one guest dating back to 1957.



OG London Reunion



The Old Grovian London Reunion at De Hems in Soho on 30th April was the best-attended in the event's history, drawing Old Grovians from the 1960s through to the 2020s. The evening also marked 100 years of the reformed House System; a fitting backdrop for an occasion that saw generations of Grovians reconnecting.

Grove Giving Week

Woodhouse Grove launched its inaugural Giving Week at the end of term raising funds for the School Foundation Bursary Fund! Events across the week included the House Tug of War competitions, signing the Gratitude Wall, a Summer Concert, and our annual Summer Reunion, Grovestonbury!

Netball News

We've had some truly brilliant performances from our netballers this season.

The U14s reached the England Netball Regional Round this term, competing with real determination and earning considerable praise from coaching staff throughout!

The senior girls claimed the trophy at the Stonyhurst tournament this term; a well-deserved result that rounded off a strong period of results for the team.

Our U13A team dominated the St Peter's Festival, bringing home an undefeated win.

It has been great to see our 24/25 Netball Captain Grace Ross representing Leeds Rhinos Netball NXT Gen this season, and congratulations to Lucy for her selection to the 2026 Leeds Rhinos Netball U15 Long Squad.

We've also seen some excellent performances during our block fixtures this term. Well done to every member of our 21 netball teams for their dedication this season.



Summer Sports at the Grove



More than one hundred students took part in the annual House Cross-Country race this term; one of the most inclusive fixtures in the sporting calendar and a pleasing demonstration of the breadth of participation here at The Grove!

Four teams travelled to Thornes Park for the English Schools Athletics Competition, with great performances across the board in spite of difficult weather conditions.

We hosted our internal rounds of Play Your Way To Wimbledon over two weekends, with singles and double winners across four year groups. Well done to our singles winners Oscar Calvert and Sasha Pennington, and our Doubles winners Ethan May and George Bellamy, and Natalie Flynn and Ellie Beaini. We're looking forward to the upcoming County Round!



Cricket Success

Our cricket teams have had a great season, with fantastic performances across our 27 teams.

The U18A team reached the Northern semi-finals of the National T20 Cup this term, with three Woodhouse Grove students also featuring at the top of the national leaderboards for batting and bowling; a remarkable individual distinction.

The U13s brought home wins in their first matches of the WY Women and Girls Cricket League, with an impressive 73 and 51 run lead.

We've had strong results in fixtures across all our year groups, well done to everyone who shows up weekly to represent the school.



Rugby Round-Up

The 1st VII enjoyed an outstanding sevens season this term, retaining both the Scarborough College Seaside 7s and the Ampleforth 7s titles. Back-to-back tournament wins was a fine achievement and a testament to the quality and cohesion within the squad.

It was great to see so many of our senior students involved in the U18s Yorkshire Cup Final at Doncaster Knights RFC back in April – well done to everyone who played their part.

Our U16s attended Rosslyn Park 7s, the world's largest school rugby tournament. It's a prestigious event with high-level rugby all round, and an added bonus of rain, hail, and snow to contend with.

Well done to all the boys for their resilience and commitment.

Football Focus

The final afternoon of Spring half-term saw the Woodhouse Grove U12s host Brontë House U11s in two competitive fixtures refereed by Bradford City U18 scholars. The occasion was made more memorable by brothers Ollie and Jack lining up on opposite sides of the pitch.

The U13 Girls football team won the Ilkley Grammar 7s festival this term in fine fashion, with coaches noting the quality of play and team cohesion on display throughout the day.

Well done to the U15 and U13 footballers for reaching the ISFA Bowl Semi-Finals, and the U15 girls for reaching the ISFA Shield Semi-Finals also.

The U13 Boys made history this term as the first Woodhouse Grove side to reach a National Football Final, competing in the ISFA Bowl, wrapping up a season of real distinction, and a landmark moment for football at the school.



Individual Achievements

This term saw a number of Grovians earn recognition at national and international level. Kareem represented Jordan's National Ju-Jitsu Team and returned with gold; Ethan received his North of England Rugby cap and scored in the fixture against the Midlands; Alexandros competed as the sole Yorkshire and Humberside representative at the British Schools National Judo Championships; and Sam J represented Scotland U18s against Ireland, becoming the sixth Woodhouse Grove student to earn international rugby recognition in seven years. In netball, Bella earned her first Wales U17 cap in a 46-15 win over France; and Hettie marked her debut ISFA England appearance with a goal and an assist against Welsh Schools FA.



Boarding Update

This past year in boarding at Woodhouse Grove School has been full of energy, laughter, and the kind of experiences that remind us why we love being part of a boarding community. As part of the boarding team, we've had the privilege of being right in the middle of it all; supporting students, sharing experiences with them, and helping to create a place that feels like home, not just somewhere they stay during term time.

Looking back, the year has been packed with activities that brought the whole boarding family together. Our weekends have taken us everywhere from Blackpool Pleasure Beach to York, and from the Trafford Centre to the peaceful paths of Bolton Abbey... well, almost. When the rain washed out our Bolton Abbey plans, our last-minute switch to bowling turned into one of the most unexpectedly brilliant evenings of the year. Instances like that show how boarding life often shines brightest when plans change and everyone just embraces the fun.

Sporting trips have added their own excitement, too. Whether we were cheering at the Super League Basketball Cup Finals, exploring Old Trafford, or battling it out during footgolf, the students threw themselves into every experience. Watching them laugh, compete, and encourage each other has been one of the highlights of being on the boarding team.

We've also shared some lovely cultural and seasonal celebrations. The Easter egg hunt, with riddles that had students running all over the place, was a favourite, as were our Miller Night activities like origami making. Eid al-Fitr and Lunar New Year celebrations brought everyone together in a really special way, and welcoming the immersion students added a wonderful international flavour to the year. Seeing our boarders include them so naturally and warmly made us incredibly proud of the community we've built.

But it's not just the big trips and events that have made this year memorable. It's the everyday moments: chatting in the common room after prep, movie nights that turned into shared jokes, helping someone through a tough day, or celebrating small wins that meant a lot to them. Those quieter moments are where the real heart of boarding lives.

Being part of the boarding team this year has been rewarding, fun, and full of learning. We've loved watching students grow in confidence, independence, and friendship. Most of all, we're grateful to have been part of a community that feels like a family; one we're proud to support and excited to keep helping grow.

Mr Dobson, Mrs Bradburne, Ms Wood and Miss Winks



Miss Winks

Ms Wood



Mrs Bradburne



Mr Dobson



International Immersion Visits

Woodhouse Grove welcomed several immersion groups this term, including students from across the globe and two long-stay visitors from Thailand, Butter and Panna. Both threw themselves fully into boarding life; attending lessons, joining trips and becoming a valued part of the community during their time at the school. Saying goodbye at the end of each visit has become a mark of just how quickly immersion students find their place among the Grovian family. The programme continues to enrich the boarding community, bringing fresh perspectives and cross-cultural friendship to the houses.



Day Trips and Weekend Activities

Boarders enjoyed a varied programme of trips throughout the term taking in culture, sport and adventure in equal measure. Visits to the Royal Armouries Museum and the Super League Basketball Cup Finals sat alongside a day at Blackpool Pleasure Beach, crazy golf at Junkyard Golf in Leeds and a trip to the Trafford Centre and Old Trafford in Manchester. Closer to home, students tried footgolf and, when a planned visit to Bolton Abbey was rained off, an impromptu bowling trip more than made up for it. It was a term that offered boarders something for everyone.



Life in the Boarding Houses

The social calendar within school this term gave boarders plenty to enjoy. A Boarding Bake-Off saw students compete to produce the best chocolate muffins under the watchful eye of Chef Balu; congratulations to winners Luca, Cenan and Kakha. A willow crafting afternoon led by Wild Bloom Design offered something more contemplative, while a Burns Night celebration brought music and good humour to the boarding house courtesy of Mr Lambert on the bagpipes. These in-house events remain an important part of what makes boarding at Woodhouse Grove a genuinely communal experience.





Co-Curricular Life at Brontë

There is never a dull moment at Brontë, with our extensive co-curricular programme providing something for everyone. From before-school activities and lunchtime clubs to our exciting after-school programme, pupils have enjoyed countless opportunities to explore new interests, develop skills and spend time with friends.

With an incredible 58 after-school clubs on offer, our children are truly spoilt for choice. Whether it's sport, music, drama, art, STEM, cooking, chess and so much more, there is something to inspire every child. It has been wonderful to see so many pupils embracing new challenges, discovering hidden talents and having lots of fun along the way.

Our clubs continue to be a vibrant and valued part of school life, helping children build confidence and friendships beyond the classroom.



Science

This year has been a year of exciting firsts and growing opportunities in Science at Brontë House. Pupils celebrated curiosity, innovation, and achievement through a wide range of engaging STEM experiences. We held our first dedicated STEM Week, where the theme of Space inspired pupils to explore scientific concepts, technological skills, mathematical thinking, and engineering challenges through hands-on activities. During British Science Week, Year 6 pupils visited WGS and worked like real scientists to solve a fictional environmental mystery, strengthening links with the senior school and inspiring future scientific journeys. Pupils also celebrated the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, recognising the important contributions of women in STEM. For the first time, BH entered two teams into the National Science Awards Quiz, where Years 5 and 6 pupils demonstrated excellent scientific knowledge across a range of topics. Alongside this, children across KS1 and KS2 enthusiastically participated in dedicated extracurricular STEM clubs throughout the year.



Sport



Sport at Brontë has continued to flourish this year, with outstanding participation, development and success across a wide range of sports. It has been fantastic to see so many pupils representing the school with pride and enthusiasm.

Girls' football enjoyed another exceptional season. What began as a lunchtime club has grown into one of Brontë's key sports, with both the Year 4 and Year 6 teams remaining undefeated. The Year 6 girls also achieved remarkable success at the prestigious HMC tournament, winning the Cup competition and securing victory in a dramatic penalty shootout in the final against Dame Allan's.

Rugby players made an excellent start to the year, remaining unbeaten at the St Peter's, York Mini Festival and continuing to impress throughout the season. The Year 6 boys later enjoyed a memorable rugby 7s campaign, winning the HMC tournament at Hymers and becoming champions for only the third time in 25 years.

Netball was another highlight, with both Year 4 and Year 6 teams enjoying unbeaten seasons. The Year 6 girls qualified for the IAPS National Finals in Surrey, only the second Brontë team to achieve this, and performed superbly on the national stage.

Swimming success continued as Brontë remained unbeaten for a third consecutive year, with several pupils qualifying for national finals. Cross-country participation was also outstanding, with over 25 pupils reaching the West Yorkshire Finals and one Year 6 girl progressing to the national finals.

Cricket and athletics rounded off another hugely successful sporting year, reflecting the commitment, talent and enthusiasm of all our pupils.





Trips & Tours

At our school, educational visits begin at age 3, with local experiences that bring early learning to life. As children progress, our visits are carefully designed to enhance the curriculum and allow children to experience their learning first-hand, beyond the walls of the classroom.

From Year 3, children embark on a progressive programme of residential visits, growing in length and challenge year on year. These experiences build independence, resilience, and confidence - qualities that cannot be taught from a textbook. We believe firmly in starting this journey early, giving every child the time and space to grow.

Residentials

Year 3 - Carlton Lodge

Year 3 enjoyed an action-packed residential at Carlton Lodge, taking on canoeing, raft building and high ropes challenges. The children showed fantastic teamwork, resilience and confidence as they stepped outside their comfort zones.

Year 4 - Beverley Park

Year 4 made the most of the sunshine at Beverley Park, enjoying a range of exciting activities before rounding off the trip with a scenic walk through the Yorkshire Dales. They were a real credit to the school throughout.

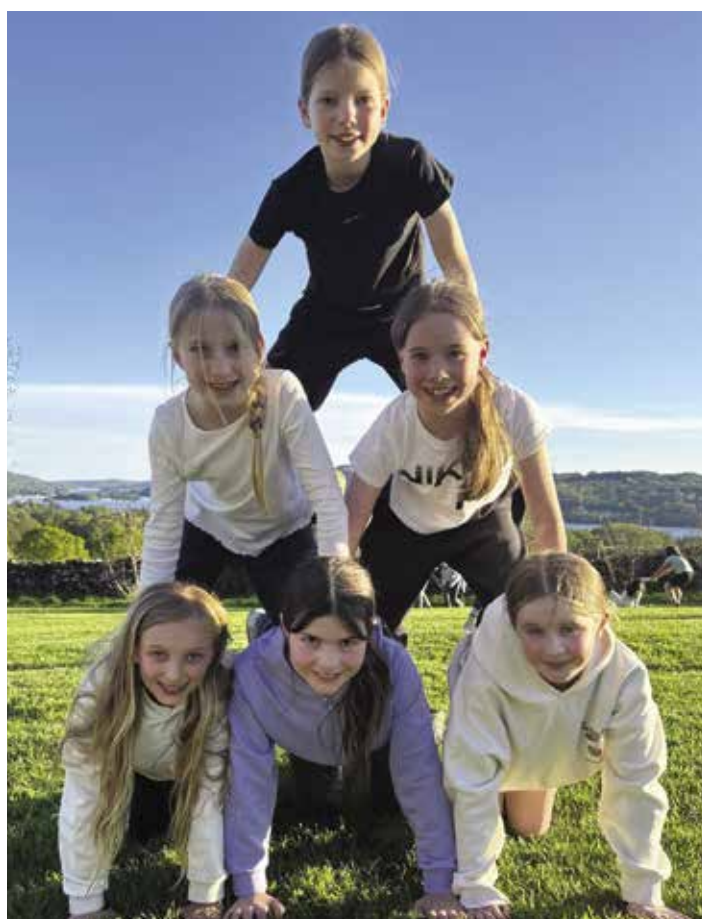
Year 5 - Windermere

Year 5 embraced the great outdoors in Windermere, hiking up Wansfell Pike, exploring the water and taking in stunning Lake District scenery. Their determination, teamwork and enthusiasm made for a memorable adventure.

Year 6 - North Wales

Year 6 experienced an unforgettable week in North Wales, with paddleboarding, climbing, coastal walks and visits to Conwy and Zip World. From underground caves to the Titan zip line, the children tackled every challenge with confidence and resilience.

Across all four residentials, our pupils demonstrated outstanding behaviour, teamwork and perseverance, creating memories that will last a lifetime and don't forget to visit Flickr to see all the photos.





Charity Fundraising Success

Alongside our sporting achievements, pupils have continued to support worthwhile causes throughout the year. Our Football Charity Day was a huge success, featuring a special visit from Steve Gray, a three-time Guinness World Record-holding football freestyler. Pupils from Pre-Nursery to Year 6 took part in workshops and a whole-school penalty shootout, raising sponsorship money while enjoying a fantastic day of football and fun. Thanks to the generosity of our school community, we have so far raised £1,513.25 for Living Paintings and £1,923.25 for Guide Dogs.



Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2026

Boarders Return

Wednesday 2nd September - from 4pm

Term Begins

8.30am Thursday 3rd September

Half term

4pm Friday 16th October to 8.30am Monday 2nd November
(boarders return Sunday 1st November from 6pm)

Term Ends

4pm Wednesday 16th December

Summer Term 2027

Boarders Return

Monday 4th January from 6pm

Term Begins

8.30am Tuesday 5th January

Half term

4pm Friday 12th February to 8.30am Monday 22nd February
(boarders return Sunday 21st February from 6pm)

Term Ends

4pm Thursday 25th March

