

### **History and tradition of Houses at The Grove**

Houses were introduced to the Grove for the first time in the academic year 1899-1900 by the then Headmaster, Dr Vinter. He did this partly to introduce more effective pastoral care and partly to produce a more competitive spirit amongst the boys (the Grove was a boy's school then). At this time there were four Houses, based on dormitories; North, South, East and West.

Inter-house cricket was played for the first time in 1901, rugby followed in the autumn of 1902 and both lacrosse and athletics took place in the spring of the same year. The winners of each event held a House Supper to celebrate their success.

In 1915 the number of boys in the school was somewhere in the region of 100. However, by 1919 this had risen to 180 and as a result, in the school year 1918-1919, a fifth House, Tower House was created. Within the next six years, in 1924-1925 and at the request of the boys themselves, a day-boy House was introduced for the first time with the highly imaginative title of New House.

July 1926 saw a major reorganisation of the House system with the use of names with which we are familiar today. West and South joined forces to form Findlay House, named after the Reverend Dr. George Gillanders Findlay. East and part of North House called Old North joined to form Southern House, named after Alfred Bastow Southern. Tower House and the remainder of North House, called New North amalgamated to form Vinter House, named after the previously mentioned former Headmaster Dr. Arthur Vinter. New House kept its status as the only day-boy House, but changed its name to Stephenson House in honour of Sir William Haswell Stephenson.

No further changes occurred in the House system until 1941-1942 when, once again as a result of rising numbers, a second day-boy House was introduced and named after Charles J. Fearnside Atkinson. Day-boys who lived south of the river Aire were placed in Atkinson House, whilst those day-boys who lived north of the river were placed in Stephenson House.

The youngest of the Houses, Towlson House, named after Clifford W. Towlson, was formed as a day-boy House in 1976, once again as the result of an increasing roll.

In 1978 girls were admitted to the Sixth Form and they were allocated across the Houses, a process which was repeated when girls were admitted throughout the school in 1985.

In 1994 Findlay House changed its status from being a purely boarding House to one with a mixture of day-pupils and boarders. Southern and Vinter Houses soon followed suit to give us the arrangement we have today: - six Houses each with a mixture of boarders and day-pupils.