



WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL

woodhousegrove.co.uk

07 July 2023

Dear Parents

I write to you after another immensely busy and rewarding Term. Our final weekend of the Academic Year provided the ideal opportunity to reflect and celebrate on another very successful year for The Grove. I hope that my own Prize Day reflections, combined with those of our Head Prefects, Isla Swarbrigg and Will Wood, and Senior Prefect, Chloe Cater, will have given those of you in attendance a feel for the breadth and variety of activity and progress made during the course of another action-packed Academic Year.

My heartfelt thanks to Old Grovian, Ellie Kildunne, our Prize Day Guest of Honour, who gave us an insight into the resilience, commitment and determination she has had to display on her journey to becoming an elite athlete and international rugby player. Her words chimed very nicely with our Grovian Values which teach us all how to live, work and play with others in society and of being part of a community. The Grove teaches and instils the confidence in our young people to believe that if they really want it enough, they can achieve anything they want to in life; their destiny is in their own hands and throughout life, no matter how old we are, we never stop learning and developing.

Woodhouse Grove's overarching aim is to provide an excellent all-round education with a strong academic core to allow every child to achieve their own personal bests. The School is ambitious for all its young people, all of whom are encouraged and challenged to make the very most of their talents and the huge opportunities available. The School offers a breadth of opportunity, second to none, much of which is regularly showcased in our fortnightly editions of **Newsflash** ([WGS Newsflash](#)) and the latest publication of **News From The Grove** ([News From The Grove Summer 2023](#)), issued last week, also give you a flavour of the many successful ventures and achievements of our students. I am delighted that a very large number of our young people have continued to participate in such a rich and varied programme of co-curricular activities.

As ever, this Term, the broad educational canvas has been painted with a considerable number of high-profile events. In the last three weeks alone, the calendar has been packed with Trips, DofE expeditions and events, such as: the excellent Junior Production of ***Alice in Wonderland***, performed in the McCarthy Theatre and on the Quad; a joyous Netball Presentation Evening; an excellent Prize Day, Sports Day, Leavers' Service and Family Fun Day and last night's uplifting Summer Concert.

By the time you read this letter, our Senior Cricketers will be midway through their tour to Barbados and St Lucia, having left on 03 July. They are playing five matches across both islands, as well as enjoying a number of exciting Caribbean excursions. Not to be outdone, on 21 July, twenty-seven Senior Netballers and four staff depart for South Africa to play three matches against local schools and compete in the two-day Cape Town Netball Festival, whilst also experiencing plenty of South African culture. The tour has a

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I am Grovian.



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very full itinerary – believe me, there is an awful lot to fit into the fourteen days! Meanwhile, a group of GCSE and A-level Historians departed from Manchester Airport at 3.15 am yesterday for their Trip to Poland to visit the Auschwitz Concentration Camp. Our students and accompanying staff will, I am sure, find the Trip a hugely moving, thought-provoking and reflective experience. Finally, the last Summer Trip is the extremely popular Year 7 Water Sports week in Dorset, which takes place at the end of July. Over 70 excited pupils will leave very early on 24 July to live under canvas for five nights and take part in a whole host of water-based activities. My thanks to all the staff who have given up their time to accompany our young people on these exciting, enriching and rewarding Trips.

Full Academic Reports are available via Firefly for all Year Groups. The vast majority of the reports are very good indeed and celebrate the many achievements and contributions of our students to the life of this busy School. A reminder for those of you with children who have taken Public Examinations this Summer that A-level results day is on Thursday 17 August 2023 and GCSE results day is on Thursday 24 August 2023. Full details of publication arrangements, and the support and advice that will be available during this time, will be published in the week preceding the publication of results.

As the Term draws to a close, we say farewell to a number of colleagues who have so enriched our community. Thank you to our Boarding Tutor and Graduate Sports Coach, Tom Steene, Economics and Business Teacher, Steven Ash, Teacher of Speech and Drama and Director of School Productions, Kimberley Baker, and Head of Drama, Charlotte Couper; all of whom have so enriched our School community. We wish them all every success and happiness beyond The Grove.

After 34 years at the Grove, Alan Jarvis retires at the end of Term. In recent years, Alan has worked part-time, teaching German and French and assisting with the administration of Examinations. However, during his enduring service, Alan has held a number of posts and has made a very fine all-round contribution to the life of this busy School. We wish Alan all the very best in retirement.

After an even more impressive 36 years, Mrs Fiona Hughes also retires from The Grove at the end of this Term. Fiona has been a fantastic Teacher, a role model and an inspirational mentor; someone to whom we have turned to for advice, someone who has offered such wisdom, such considered words of guidance, and has always given so generously and freely of her time. To me personally, Fiona has been all these things, including being my French Teacher – how she got me an A Grade is nothing short of a miracle! However, Fiona is never one to seek the personal limelight, or to want to take personal credit for the many, many successes she has achieved. Her sense of service to others has been such a defining feature and one which, ultimately, sets her apart. We thank Fiona for her years of outstanding service and wish her all the very best for a long, happy, peaceful, and very well deserved retirement.

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The new School year will see a number of new staff join the Grove. Please see below the list of new appointments, both external and internal, for September 2023:

External Appointments:

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| • Miss Grace Bond | Teacher of French |
| • Mr Chris Norris | Teacher of Maths and Science |
| • Mr Lorne McNeil | Teacher of Economics |
| • Mr Owen Tenant | PGCE Maths and Resident Tutor |
| • Mr Callum Hosty | Pastoral Lead |
| • Mr Adam Ridley | Pastoral Lead |
| • Miss Natasha Eames | Pastoral Lead |

Internal Appointments, include:

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|------------------------|---|
| • Mr Chris Softley | Assistant Head (Sixth Form & Futures) |
| • Mrs Anna Ingham | Head of Teaching and Learning |
| • Mrs Victoria Limbert | Assistant Head (Staff Development) |
| • Mrs Sami Harder | Head of Findlay House |
| • Mr Chris Jackson | Head of Stephenson House |
| • Mr Tom Walker | Resident Boarding Tutor, Brodwell House |

Our boarders return to School on Tuesday 05 September 2023; with School starting for day pupils at 8.30 am the following day, Wednesday 06 September 2023.

Whatever the Summer holds for you, I hope that you all have an enjoyable, relaxing and peaceful break.

With all my best wishes,

Yours sincerely

James Lockwood MA
Headmaster

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