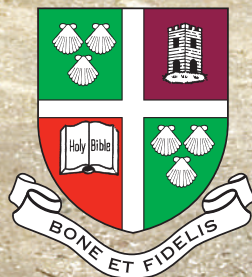
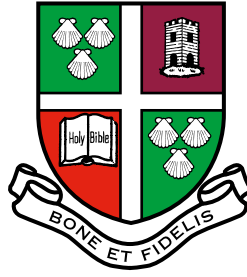


The Grovian

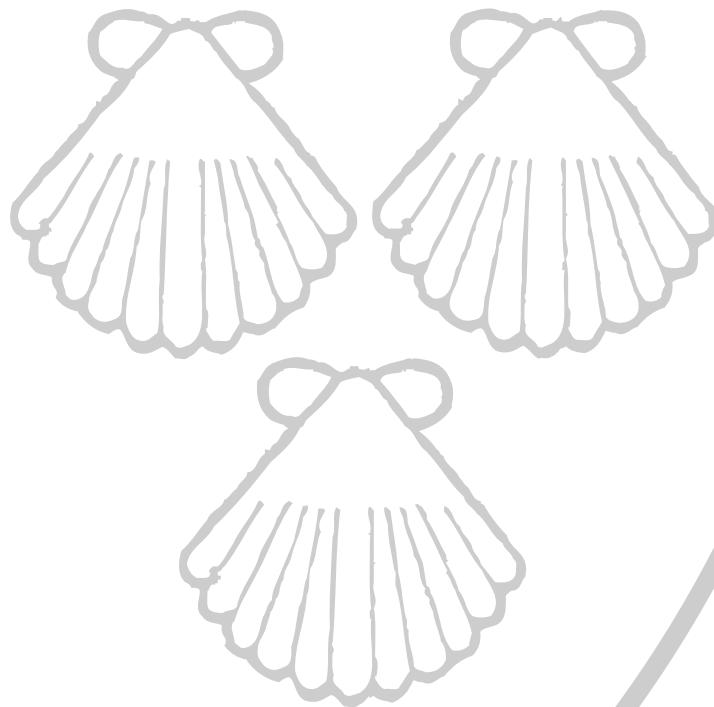
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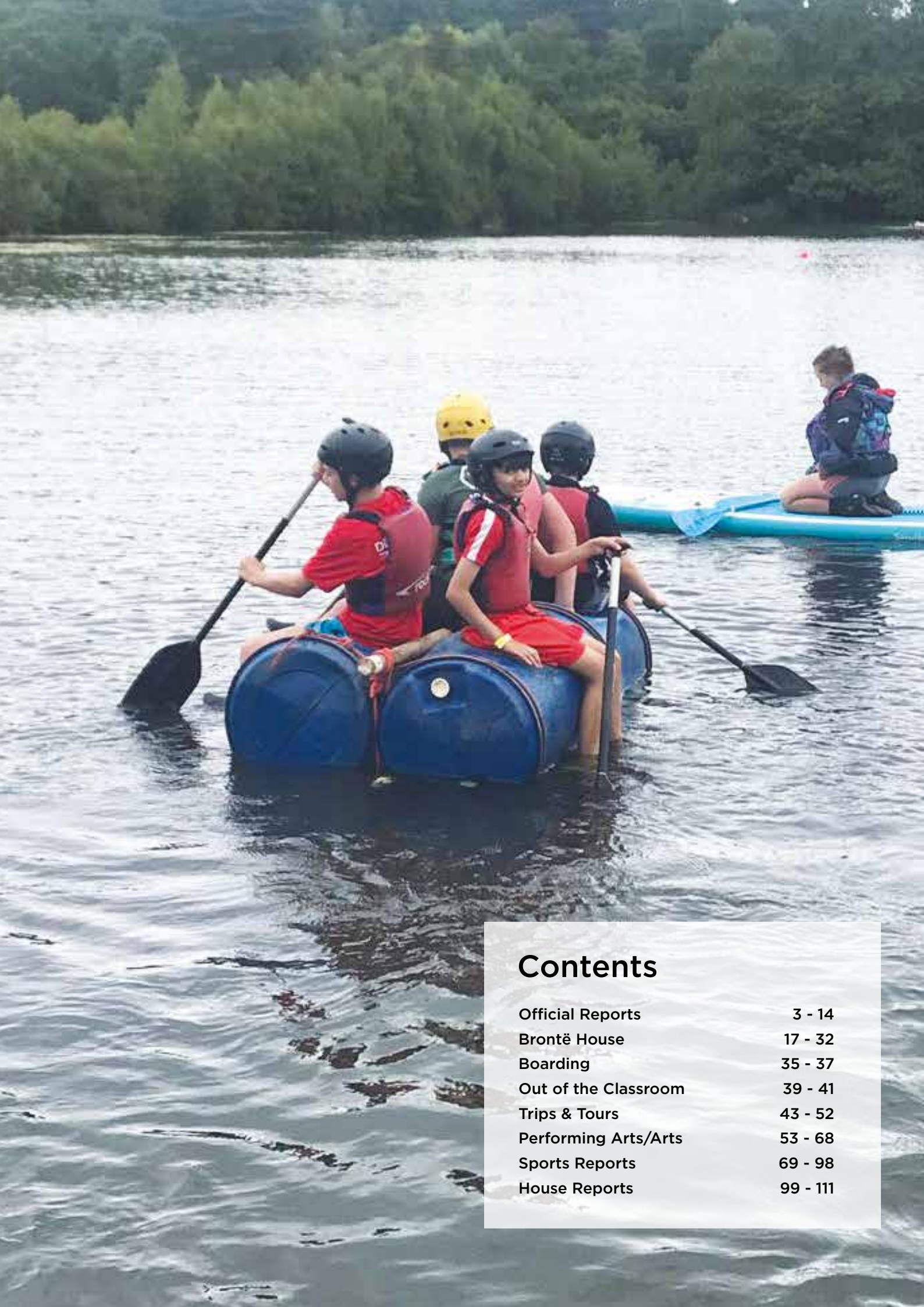




The Grovian

2022/23

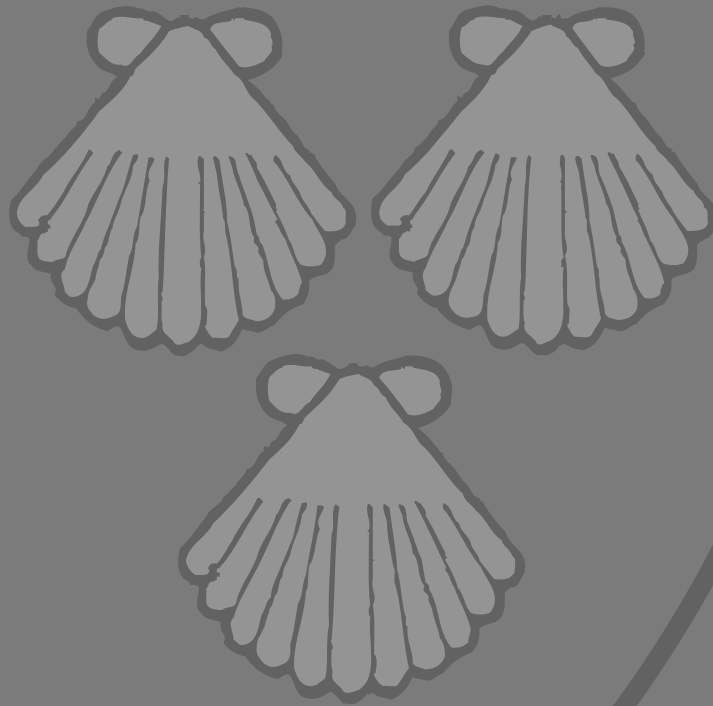




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Official Reports





Headmaster's Report

It was with a sense of great excitement and anticipation that we welcomed Old Grovian, Ellie Kildunne, as our Prize Day Guest of Honour. Ellie captivated all those present, from across the generations, with her insights into the resilience, commitment and determination that she has had to display on her journey to becoming an elite athlete and international rugby player.

Ellie's 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.

Our final weekend of the academic year provided an ideal opportunity to celebrate another very productive and successful year for The Grove, enriched by the thoughts of Ellie and our Chaplain, Revd. Drost, who spoke so eloquently at the Leavers' Service on the last Sunday of the Summer Term. Furthermore, 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.

The success of the School lies in Woodhouse Grove's overarching aim to provide an excellent all-round education with a strong academic core. The Grove is ambitious for its young people; all of whom are encouraged and challenged to make the very most of their talents and the huge opportunities available, ultimately to achieve their own personal best. A key measure of our success as a school is that we develop each student's capabilities and prepare them academically, culturally, socially and spiritually for life after Woodhouse Grove – giving them the very best chance of going on to lead happy and fulfilled lives.

It is my belief that this year's excellent edition of The Grovian magazine, like previous publications before it, provides a tangible reminder of how the school seeks to meet its ambitious aims, whilst also showcasing the school's broader academic curriculum and the breadth of sporting and performing arts opportunities, trips and co-curricular activities that Woodhouse Grove has to offer.

In the ever-changing political landscape, independent schools are facing unprecedented challenges. The nebulous uncertainty of government-driven initiatives; the continued implications of Brexit; a teacher recruitment and retention crisis; spiralling costs and higher wage demands; the likely loss of mandatory business

rate relief and the imposition of VAT on school fees; and the evermore demanding push and pull of inspection - all conspire to give Headteachers sleepless nights.

Thanks to Government intervention, the curriculum ebbs and flows. Yet it remains a privilege to be part of such a vibrant sector, to lead such a brilliant school, and to work alongside such energetic and talented staff; whose raison d'être is to serve those who really matter, our young people.

Leadership is often said to be about vision, strategy, courage, decisiveness, flexibility in mind, and determination. However, this set of qualities can be outward facing and not particularly people centred. Human beings are at the core of any organisation and unlocking their potential, nurturing their well-being and keeping them safe are critical to any leader's success. A successful leader must have the ability to assemble and inspire an effective team and to work with them; most importantly, without a talent for making them feel indispensable and totally committed, they will fail.

From my perspective, today's Grovians are a generation that is politically aware, socially responsible and engaged with the world. The vast majority of whom display authenticity, energy, creativity and a sense of purpose. At the Grove, we are shaping the leaders of tomorrow and the school's Grovian Values instil leadership qualities of which we can all be proud. True Grovians are in no doubt that leadership is a privileged responsibility; whose success hinges upon being good and faithful to your principles and doing the right thing.

At its heart, the business of Woodhouse Grove will always be rooted in the people that make up our community; the building of strong relationships forged between parents, staff and pupils; and the value placed on each individual.

Finally, I should like to record my thanks and gratitude to the team responsible for putting together another excellent edition of The Grovian.

Mr James Lockwood - Headmaster



THINKING OF HOLDING AN EVENT

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- Dancefloor
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Head Prefects' Report

Isla

Despite still being part of a generation of pupils whose education was transformed overnight by the spread of Covid-19, we feel very fortunate that we have not had the anxieties of wondering whether or not our final A-level examinations would take place, or whether Will and I would be able to address the school, in the traditional manner, on Prize Day.

Will

Although, I can't lie, it felt a little strange to be on the stage after spending so many years in uniform, sat in rows, in the heat of the marquee, waiting for sports day to begin.

For many of us, those days of online lessons and teaching in bubbles seems like a distant memory, and now perhaps is the time when we can begin to look forward to the promise of the future, whilst acknowledging the lessons of resilience that we have developed in past years.

Isla

This is a time of transition, and we, as a school community, have had to come to terms with and accept a big change in the very fabric of our lives...

Will

In the DNA of the school...

Isla

in our daily routines...

Will

the changing of the guard...

Isla

The announcement that after 36 years at the school, Mrs Hughes has decided to retire. The Queen of The Grove has hung-up her teaching handbag, but we're sure her legacy will remain for years to come.

Will

Aside from this abdication, there has been a historic national change this year - the death of her majesty Queen Elizabeth II, after 70 years of 'good and faithful' service, and the coronation of King Charles III. We can relate, in some ways, to the passing on of leadership responsibilities - not to mention a significant amount of wit and wisdom - to our successors.

Isla

Although this is neither a coronation, nor a state funeral, we thought that this constitutional change would be a topical way to reflect upon the advice our late Queen gave to King Charles ahead of this transition. We thought that it might inspire our parting messages that we wish to pass on to the next generation of Grovians.



Will

Unfortunately, we don't actually know what advice the Queen gave her eldest son, so we've decided to take it upon ourselves to use some of her Majesty's past words of wisdom to speculate what this advice may have looked like and generate some top tips.

Isla

Tip number one: as in previous years, it is imperative that the head girl should be at least a foot shorter than the head boy to make the Prize Day placement of microphones as awkward as possible for the school's Performing Arts Technician.

Will

Just kidding! The first piece of advice that we think Queen Elizabeth would have given to Charles is from her 2004 Christmas broadcast: "Everyone is our neighbour, no matter what race, creed or colour."

This celebration of diversity is one of the things that we have been most proud of during our time within this school community. The school's Equality and Diversity committee has worked hard this year to highlight key events and helped to continue to encourage the school's ethos of acceptance. The school prides itself on being an international community, and this is one of our strengths.

Isla

The idea of leaving school is daunting for many of us in Year 13, particularly a community like The Grove, which, for many of us, has become our second home. However, although we are leaving the school in a physical capacity – for now at least – we are comforted by the knowledge that we will be initiated into that special community of Old Grovians, many of whom remain connected with the school for the rest of their lives.

Will

Another saying of Queen Elizabeth, which is especially visible at the Grove, has informed our next tip - Tip Two: “Sport has a wonderful way of bringing together people and nations”.

This past year, life has truly returned back to pre-covid normality, and sport in the school is no different. The Grove has welcomed our new Director of Sport, Mr Bradburne, who, we eventually discovered, wasn't Andrew Strauss in disguise. We have had an astonishing 372 boys involved in rugby throughout the school, and competed in 102 fixtures of fifteens games and sevens tournaments, with the whole rugby programme scoring more points ‘for’ than ‘against’. Some of my special moments of the season with the First XV would have to be playing under lights at Grassington against Sedbergh and many heavy victories including putting 52 points up against Yorkshire rivals St. Peter's in the National Cup. However it's a shame that the last three fixtures were cancelled leaving playing time at the Grove cut short. In future, playing rugby will feel different without Mr Bedford's karaoke, or Mr Howard's signature motivation of always “working hard so that no one comes into your grandma's house and kicks the cat”. However, the gruelling fitness sessions will not be as missed. There have been ten first fifteen boys who have represented the school in rugby at the top level, with boys playing for Yorkshire Academy, signing contracts with Leeds Rhinos or even training with and representing England. Congratulations to all other boys playing age group representative rugby.

Isla

There have been 250 girls playing netball with 94 fixtures throughout the year. With the first 7 making it to the semi-finals of the Cup and all teams making it to Nationals. 24 girls are currently still representing the school in academy and district level netball. I am particularly grateful for two things – Number One: that Miss Thompson has been my netball coach for the last seven years. Number Two: that Miss Thompson has not been my driving instructor... ever. Over my time at the Grove, we've had parking tickets, a lost wing mirror and numerous enroute motion sickness experiences. I'm thankful for all the marvellous memories Grove netball has provided me with... but I'm equally thankful to be stood on this stage today still in one piece!

Will

Football has been no different to any other sports, with great team displays and tours to Shrewsbury for the first XI and Barcelona for the Year 10s. I'm sure you can get a tan as easily in Shrewsbury as in Barcelona! Along with players trialling and playing for our partners, Bradford City.

There have been many successes throughout the cricket season, including many boys playing for counties. This year the school has appointed a new cricket coach, Mr Gurman Rhandawa. It is safe to say that under new command, ‘HMS Gurm’, as we now refer to the first team, cricket has had a steady and successful start. Other sports have been successful with athletics, badminton, cross-country, tennis, climbing and countless others having their largest numbers of participation in recent years.

Thanks to all staff putting up with numerous types of sporting Grovians - from excitable Year 7s to moody, monosyllabic teenagers, and, of course, giving up their weekends to support all sports. Although being a PE teacher does come with its benefits, as I'm sure the coaches will appreciate when they are soaking up the sun in Barbados and St Lucia with the cricket tour or experiencing the vast safari and maybe riding the occasional elephant on the netball tour to South Africa.

And now for Tip Three: this is one of my personal favourite quotes that I found from the Queen, and it's all about a young person trying to define their place in the world.

Isla

I don't think you've shared this one with me, Will...?

Will

Oh, it was a last-minute addition last night.

Isla

Okay then – let's hear it...

Will

“Is this the real life? Is this just fantasy? Caught in a landslide. No escape from reality.”

Isla

Erm, Will?

Will

“Open your eyes – look up to the –“

Isla

WILL!

Will

What?!

Isla

That's the wrong Queen!

Will

Is it?!

Isla

You're quoting the band 'Queen' - not our former monarch. Don't beat yourself up - it's easily done... but I think you're probably best leaving the music to me.

Will

"I'm just a poor boy - I need no sympathy."

Isla

... before he starts on the chorus! - The Performing Arts department has been jam-packed as ever this year. In the Autumn Term, Mrs Baker and Ms Evers directed the senior play, 'Blue Stockings' - a hard-hitting examination of misogyny and class prejudice delivered by a cast whose stagecraft was some of the best we have seen at Woodhouse Grove. We have seen equal amounts of talent this year from the lower school. In the first term, a selection of talented students from Year 7 and 8 took to the stage of the Grove Theatre for the annual 'Into the Spotlight' show. It has been a pleasure to see so many of these performers, and more, take part in the fantastic open-air version of 'Alice in Wonderland' in this last half term - although only one performance was actually outside on the Holy Grass, due to the heavy rain. With such an array of talent at such a young age, it's fair to say that the future of Performing Arts at the Grove is in very safe hands! In the last school term, we have also seen 2 chamber concerts where students from Years 7 to 13 have been able to showcase their talent in an array of group and solo performances. The Year 9 to 11 performance of choice this year was School of Rock, where students were able to display their all-round talents in acting, singing, dancing and playing numerous instruments, to create a fun and lively musical.

The music department have not just supported the school's dramatic productions; the dream team - Tedd and Crawford - have also put together a number of sell-out concerts again this year.

Will

Tip Four: one of our favourite quotations from her Majesty was - "Don't take yourself too seriously." Although we've worked incredibly hard over our time at the school, it has also provided us with an environment to have fun and be ourselves.

Isla

Believe it or not, even though Will and I look like we have Woodhouse Grove coded into our genes, as exemplary figures of the community, we too have been victims of Ms Oakley's terrifying 'do not run down the English corridor' out-pourings of rage. Not widely known for her athletic talents, Ms Oakley suddenly develops the speed and agility of

Usain Bolt when she hears the thunder of tiny feet advancing down the corridor at the start of junior lunch, freezing an entire corridor of bodies with a single word...

Will

WALK!!! ... and not to mention our lower school experience of being completely mind-boggled and slightly petrified by Mr Davis' sarcastic jokes about living only off drinking 'double espressos and the tears of students'. This speech would have looked very different had we structured it around the quotations of Mr Davis instead of the Queen. Consider, for instance, his take on life: "Everyday, you get a little bit more tired, life gets a little bit harder, until you just get old and can't do anything." It is this type of 'optimism' that will be missed.

Isla

Although these stories may seem like we have all broken our poor teachers, in all seriousness, it is okay to make mistakes and to learn from them. Your journey through The Grove, as in life, will be filled with inevitable ups and downs - but it's the resilience you show and the lessons you learn in this time that will shape you into a better person.

Will

Something that we have realised over the course of our Grove journey is how much the school emphasises individual growth, achieving personal goals and just being yourself. I am sure that many of our fellow Year 13 leavers would agree that the school has allowed us to blossom into the best version of ourselves and become the people who we truly want to be.

Isla

Time moves so incredibly quickly and, as Year 13s coming to the end of our journey at The Grove, we find ourselves now wishing we had just had a little bit more time here. Our most important tip for younger Grovians is to fully enjoy and embrace the time you have here. Often you don't realise what you've got, until it's almost gone.

Will

But now is a time for us to focus on the positive - on friends made, achievements earned, memories forged and of the exciting future awaiting us all... We would like to close our speech today with one more quotation of wisdom from Queen Elizabeth II, as we felt it contained all the sentiment and advice we have been trying to convey throughout this speech.

Isla

"I believe that, young or old, we have as much to look forward to with confidence and hope, as we have to look back on with pride."

Isla Swarbrigg and Will Wood

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Chairman's Report

It was my pleasure, this summer, to offer a very warm welcome to our Prize Day Guest of Honour, Ellie Kildunne. Ellie is an Old Grovian who attended the School between 2011 and 2016. She is a member of the England women's national rugby union team and plays for Harlequins Women at club level. In May, Ellie was a member of the triumphant England Women's Six Nations Team and, back in October of last year, scored the first try in an unbelievably exciting and memorable Rugby World Cup Final against the hosts, New Zealand; a game that we all know was, finally and heartbreakingly, won by New Zealand. Ellie epitomises our Grovian Values of being Committed & Resilient – and is a shining example of what it means to be Grovian.

I am pleased to report that, in spite of current economic challenges, the popularity of Woodhouse Grove amongst parents seeking a place for their children continues to be very high at every level; from Year 7, all the way up to the Sixth Form. I cannot thank the entire Woodhouse Grove family – teachers, support staff, parents and pupils – enough for that being the case.

Just as we encourage our students to grow into the best versions of themselves, the School is also constantly striving to be the best it can be. This includes offering its young people the best facilities and I am delighted to report that, thanks to the financial support of MIST, work is now well underway on the construction of our new Sixth Form Centre. In addition to which, the installation of a cover over the existing Bolt Netball / Tennis Courts, adjacent to the Grainge 3G pitch, is underway.

Of course, a key strength of Woodhouse Grove School is the exceptional staff team. To the staff – both teaching and support – we cannot thank you enough for your dedication and hard work.

To those staff who left us this Summer, the Governors would like to thank you for your contribution to the Woodhouse Grove family and wish you every success in the future. I would like to particularly acknowledge the service of three longstanding members of staff.

Firstly, Fiona Hughes, who first joined the School on 1st September 1987 as a teacher of French. Since then, she has held a variety of posts, including: Head of Year, Head of Lower School, Senior Mistress and Assistant Head (Pupil Welfare). She has touched the hearts of generations of Grovians with her kindness and humanity. We thank her for her years of service – she will be greatly missed.

Next, Alan Jarvis, who joined The Grove as a teacher of German in September 1989 and has, since then, held a variety of posts, including: Assistant Head of Modern Foreign Languages, Exams Officer, Head of Year, Head of Squash and Head of Findlay House. An excellent all round school master, we thank him for his contribution to Woodhouse Grove and wish him the very best for the future.

I would also like to mention and thank Alison Humphreys, who will be retiring as Exam Officer after a 26 year affiliation with The Grove.

And finally, a fourth farewell, that we did not expect, and that has saddened the whole Grove community. Over the summer, the Grove family lost our friend, colleague and teacher, Andrew Crawford. Andrew's contribution to School life and the lives of those of us lucky enough to have known him has left a very special mark. Thank you Andrew.

Thank you to all my Governors for their considerable efforts, support and expertise, given willingly and freely, in order to enhance the School.

Finally, a very important Thank You. Thank you to all the Grove parents reading this report. As the cost of living adds pressure to family life, your commitment to, and prioritisation of, your child's education has never been more greatly appreciated. It is through the building of good relationships between pupils, parents and teaching staff that truly effective school communities are created. As parents, you are the bedrock of the Grove family and the Governors, staff – and, I'm sure, the students themselves – would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to you for your unstinting support over the years.

The School is in fantastic shape. At every level, our pupils are making what they will one day realise to be giant academic strides, as well as being involved in a whole host of co-curricular activities. Pupils across all age groups are enjoying success in countless ways and at many levels.

This is indeed a school that we should all be immensely proud of.

Alan Wintersgill BEM, FCA
Chairman of Governors

Chaplain's Report

"They say" – and I am never really sure who 'they' are, but 'they say, that time goes by quickly when you are having fun.' It is unbelievable that I have already seen my first full year through as Chaplain and, whilst it has not all been 'fun', I often leave school, and walk back to the house behind the Chapel at Woodhouse Grove, with a ridiculous smirk on my face – why? Because I am the Chaplain, and I still can't believe I am here.

And why am I here?

The school Chaplain is here primarily to offer spiritual support to those of faith, those exploring faith and those with none. This dovetails into being one of a number of staff who are available as a listening ear to anyone who needs space for a whole raft of differing needs. As well as being at Woodhouse Grove, I am also serving as chaplain in different ways at Brontë House, Ashdown/South Lodge and at Moorlands School.

At the Grove, seeing the whole school community coming through the Chapel doors each week is a real joy and privilege – being gifted a moment of time each week to bring something of God to such a beautifully diverse group is wonderful. I am grateful to the Senior staff who share in this, alongside our excellent Music department. We continue to grow our 'Prayer Space' for our Muslim students, and this is particularly well-used during holy festival times. We continue to explore how to support those staff and students who already are on a journey in the Christian faith, by looking at space and time for gatherings - called 'Grace Space'.

As well as the obvious 'religious' aspect of chaplaincy, I also have the joy of being part of two other teams. First is Boarding. Boys' Boarding has close to 40 pupils, covering all age groups and multiple nationalities. We offer co-curricular activities, space to chat and wind down, as well as formal Tutor conversations and support guided homework. The second is being part of the team who deliver PSHCE – which stands for Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education. As a subject, PSCHE aims to provide our students with the knowledge and skills to keep themselves happy, healthy and safe, as well as to prepare them for life and the world of work. With my youth worker hat firmly on my head, we share experiences alongside core curriculum material and journey with the pupils looking at issues which impact every part of life.

The school Chaplain must be able to turn their hand to any number of day-to-day life changing and life-impacting issues facing their school's



community. I am sure the sudden and unexpected death of Mr Andrew Crawford will be mentioned in greater detail elsewhere – and even though I only knew him briefly compared to many other staff, I miss that smile and cheeky banter, mixed in with wonderful music skills at the Chapel organ.

As my second year begins, I hope and pray that I can offer that space and a listening ear alongside the regular rhythm that is being a school Chaplain.

Rev Rob Drost
School Chaplain

Year 13 Results

Grade A* and A (or equivalent) passes are marked with an asterisk.

K Bardouille-Lewis	eng lit*, maths, phil	C Y Li	bus, chin, maths, ent*
M Barnes	bus*, econ, eng lang	Y Li	art, bus, chin, econ
K Barry	biol, chem, eng lit	D Loginov	bus**, fren*, russ*, fin*
E Berry	DT, pol	M Mackenzie	econ*, hist*, pol, fin*
R Bibi	bus, pol, fin	A Mangin	biol, comp, psych
S Binns	chem*, maths**, frth ma*, phys*	E Manogue	biol*, chem, eng lit
S Birdsall	bus, eng lang, psych, sport*	L Marshall	bus, eng lit, psych
E Burns	DT, eng lit, media	O McCann	biol, psych, sport*
D Burrows	comp, drama, hist*	N McCormack	biol, chem, sport**
C Cater	chem*, maths*, frth ma, phys	A Mian	biol, chem, eng lit
A Cavaliere	art**, eng lang**, span*	I Miles	chem*, comp*, maths**, frth ma*
H Chen	bus, chin, econ, maths	K Myers	media
J Chen	chin, maths**, frth ma, phys	A Newsome	eng lang, media, sport*
C L Cheung	chin, maths, phys, mus tech,	E Okpala	biol, DT*, sport**
D Clarkson	chem, maths**, phys	D Olubiyi	bus, media, sport*
D Coates	phys, pol, span	L Pang	biol, chem, maths
G Constantinou	geog*, phys, psych	L Peacock	biol, econ, sport*
C Darren	biol, eng lit, psych	R Penaser	biol, eng lit, psych
A Davison	biol, chem, phys	R Pickard	art, DT, geog
E Deall	biol*, chem**, maths*	H Pinkney	geog, maths, phys
A Durmekova	biol, chem, maths	C Popely	pol, ent, sport, fin
S Farndon	biol, chem, maths	C Potter	geog**, psych, sport**
M Fellows	art**, eng lit, phil	O Ranson	biol**, chem**, maths**
M Gledhill	eng lang	M Richardson	art**, bus**, eng lit**
D Gupta	bus*, econ*, maths, fin*	E Robins	drama, eng lit, phil
S Haley	eng lit*, hist, pol*	A Salvador Medina	econ, hist, pol
E Hamer	bus, eng lang, span	S Singh	bus, econ, pol
F Hartley	chem, geog, maths	P M Siu	biol, chem*, maths**
M Hassan	biol, psych, sport**	O Speed	econ*, hist*, maths
R Hawker	art**, biol, chem	C Stansfield	biol, chem, psych
O Helliwell	art*, DT, media	F Stubbs	econ*, hist*, pol*
K Huang	chem, maths**, frth ma*, phys	L Sugden	maths, phil, psych*
A Hudson	art, eng lit, phil	I Swarbrigg	biol*, chem*, eng lit
J Hunt	media, ent, fin	E Tang	media
I Idle	eng lit, hist*, pol	G Taylor	biol, econ, maths
A Iqbal	biol, chem, eng lit	T Tayyibah	biol, chem, psych*
S Jiao	art, bus, eng lang	K Tennant	biol, chem, maths
H Jones	eng lit, media, psych	S Townsend	phil, psych
R Kanda	biol*, bus, chem	Q V Tran	bus, chin*, ent*, fin
J Kaur	biol, eng lit	C N Tsang	art, chin, maths, ent
K Keune	econ*, geog*, ger**, phil	Y Wang	art, chin, maths, photo
H Khan	bus, econ, maths	J Wilde	eng lit, geog, phil
M Kiani	biol, chem, maths	O Wong	bus, chin, maths, ent
H King	biol, bus, sport*	W Wood	biol*, psych*, sport**
C Y Lau	bus, chin*, maths**, phys*	A Worrall	biol, bus, eng lit
J Lawson	biol, bus*, psych	L Worrall	bus, psych, sport
		A Wright	biol, chem, drama
		Y Yang	bus, chin*, econ, maths*
		Y Zhao	chin, econ, maths*, frth ma
		C Zhou	art, chin, maths, frth ma
		M Zuberi	maths, phys



GCSE Results

The number following the student's name represents the number of GCSEs attained at Pass grade or better.

J Archer	9	L Howard	8	A Smith	9
M Atkinson	2	O Howes	9	A Solaru	10
A Ayub	9	D Hurford	7	M Speed	9
I Bagshaw	9	V Jaques	8	L Spence	9
A Baker	8	A Jarvis	10	B Steere	10
M Barker	9	A Khan	8	J Strudwick	9
H Barton	9	J Kippax	9	S Swinney	9
H Bates	10	M Lawrence	8	Y Tang	1
S Bates	9	A Lawrenson	10	F Tartaglia	10
L Bennett	9	D Littlejohns	9	E Tattersall	9
G Bentley	8	L Lucas-Hooton	9	J Tattersall	7
O Binns	10	H Mak	9	R Toor	11
C Bojas	9	M Malik	8	V Toor	7
L Bostan	8	S Malik	7	E Treanor	10
E Burrows	9	I Manning	8	P Turner	9
L Cadman	9	C Marshall	10	D Varley	10
G Carrasco	9	E Marshall	4	C Watterston	9
C Collinson	9	N Melake	9	J Weir	9
O Constantinou	7	L Miller	9	R Wighton	8
A Cooper	10	E Molloy	9	C Wright	10
H Davison	10	D Morgan	10		
E Dawes	10	K Muchecheterere	9		
M Dentico	9	M Ng	10		
M Dobbins	5	C Nlemchi	9		
D Downs	3	I Parekh	9		
G Dutton	9	A Parsons	10		
E Edgley	8	D Patel	10		
L Edwards	10	Y Penaser	8		
T Farndon	6	A Pierson	9		
C Fay	9	H Preston	7		
T Fell	8	A Rai	9		
J Flynn	9	T Raj	9		
P Freeley	6	G Rayner	10		
K Grahamslaw	9	G Rhodes	9		
W Gray	9	J Richards	1		
F Hainsworth	8	E Robb	9		
J Hall	9	M Robb	9		
S Hall	10	M Roberts	10		
R Halliday	9	G Ross	9		
T Halliday	9	C Rutter	9		
E Hamer	9	B Saia	9		
L Hanson	10	J Salter	7		
A Hare	6	N Schoeman	8		
K Hawker	9	M Shahzad	9		
T Hirst	8	N Simpson	9		
L Horsley	10	J Slater	1		

Colours & Credit Awards

School Colours 2022/23 (*re-awards)

Academic

Y13

Samuel Binns*, Amy Cavaliere*, Elizabeth Deall*, Kaidong Huang, Kira Lana Keune, Max Mackenzie, Bella Miles, Emmanuela Okpala*, Olivia Ranson*, Andrew Salvador Medina*, Pok Mong (Samuel) Siu*, Lily Sugden*, Tasmia Tayyibah, Yujia (Loretta) Zhao

Y12

Mica Bardouille-Lewis, Oliver Defurey, Zaynah Farid, Nathan Flynn, Maya Griffiths, Nina Hawkshaw, Rory Henderson, Callum Hyland Dugbo, Jessica Jones, Harry Kerfoot, Abigail Lewis, Lena Plein, Nicola Trimby, Philip Wright

Creative Arts

Kadiatou Barry, Evie Burns, Daniel Burrows, Amy Cavaliere, Martha Fellows, Olivia Helliwell, Amelia Newsome, Winifred Offland, Emmanuela Okpala, Rupert Pickard, Catherine Potter, Molly Richardson, Finlay Robb, Emhir Robbins, William Wood, Philip Wright

Sports

Football

Edward Bywell, James Edgley, Rory Henderson, Callum Hyland Dugbo, Zakariya Khan, David Olubiyi*, Oscar Speck, William Tate, Kian Tennant*

Netball

Summer Anderson*, Scarlett Birdsall*, Chloe Cater*, Emily Greenwood, Evie Hamer*, Ruby Hawker*, Annabelle Hudson*, Harriet King*, Lucy Lund, Emmanuela Okpala*, Isla Swarbrigg*

Rugby

Sebastian Denson, Divit Gupta, Rufus Halliday, Max Hassan*, Archie Hurford, Callum Hyland Dugbo, Alfie Longstaff, Fergus McCormack, Ned McCormack*, Lewis Peacock, Charlie Popely, Archie Robinson, Thomas Rowe, Simeon Townsend, Sam Vernon, Louis Worrall*, William Wood

Cricket (2022)

Divit Gupta, Harry Pinkney, Charlie Popely, Kian Tennant, William Wood

Swimming

Evie Burns, Nina Hawkshaw, Jasper Hunt

Tennis (2022)

Olivia Speed, Frederick Stubbs

Grove Awards

Those in italics were awarded for the 2021/22 academic year.

Year 7

Moses Amezdro, *Gabriel Berry*, Joseph Besau, Seth Bird, Edward Burdett, Isabelle Burns, Charlie Cooper, Elizabeth Craig, Matilda Frazer, *Eddie Gough*, *Amelia Grimshaw*, Eesa Hamid, *Charlie Hannay*, Velvet Harrison, Jack Hughes, Eleanor Ighayere, Jean Jimoh, Amrita Johal, Harry Kirby, *Sophie Moffat*, Alma Monteverde-Amorim, Joshua Neale, Isabel Panditaratne, Noah Pennington, Samuel Peterson, *Charlotte Powell-Wiffen*, Meloney Smart, Benyamin Tariq, Shern Van Den Hof, Lucy Wainwright, Max Walker, James Walton, *Leisha Woo*, Jacob Zelikson

Year 8

Aaron Ahmed, *Rosalind Bayliss*, Matilda Couzens, Amelia Cross, Taylor Crowther, *Connie Dawes*, Alex Dawson, *Ellie Fisher*, Amelia Grimshaw, Thomas Howcroft, Caragh Jemmett, *Joshua Kendrick*, Sophie Moffat, Luca Nelson, Charlotte Powell-Wiffen, Poppy Richards, *Elizabeth Smith*, Bolutife Solaru, Josiah Stockill, Simeon Tedd

Year 9

Megan Atkins, Miranda Bayliss, Rosalind Bayliss, *Will Gough*, *Liam Matley*, Ned Waterhouse

Platinum Awards

Year 8

Aaron Ahmed, Deeya Basra, Ellie Beaini, Huzefa Bhajji, Sebastian Cadman, Manraj Chana, Matilda Couzens, Lander Crew, Milly Cross, Lily Davison-Monk, Alex Dawson, Charley Dibb, Jacob George, Adam Khan, Amber Khan, Isobel McKie, Sophie Moffat, Luca Nelson, William Nevill-Brady, Charlotte Powell-Wiffen, Charlie Rington, Toby Ryan, Adesh Sandhu, Oliver Simpson, Bolutife Solaru, Ruby Stansfield, Abigail Stirk, Josiah Stockill, Simeon Tedd, Isaac Tong, Leisha Woo, Zahra Yaseen

Year 7

Reuben Amezdro, George Ashby, Ben Baker, Eloise Baker, Scarlett Barnes, Mikael Bhatti, Seth Bird, Isabelle Burns, Elizabeth Craig, Sam Dowsland, Megan Fisher, Matilda Frazer, Cindy Gao, Molly Gifford, Tom Goodison, Giselle Haddad, Velvet Harrison, Isabelle Hastings, Henry Holt, James Howcroft, Jack Hughes, George Hyatt, Eleanor Ighayere, Ella Jackson, Jean Jimoh, Amrita Johal, Harry Kirby, Penelope Lofthouse, Phoebe Mitchell, Alma Monteverde-Amorim, Tommy Morgan, Oliver Nevill-Brady, Thomas Nulty, Isabel Panditaratne, Mya Parmar, Isabel Payne, Noah Pennington, Samuel Peterson, Alexa Pickard, Fabian Poor, Lily Richmond-Coggan, Antony Searle, Hettie Smith, Will Smith, Grace Tyldsley, Anya Verma, Lucy Wainwright, Hugo Webster, Eshana Zanjeer, Jacob Zelikson

Credits

Autumn 2022

Year 7

1st Eleanor Ighayere
2nd Eloise Baker
3rd Jacob Zelikson

Year 8

1st Simeon Tedd
2nd Zahra Yaseen
3rd Aaron Ahmed

Year 9

1st Grace Dunn
2nd Ilaria Walton
3rd William O'Toole

Year 10

1st Woody Ham
2nd Michaela Masiye
3rd Tise Onigbogi

Year 11

1st Jessica Weir
2nd James Flynn
3rd Alycia Ayub

Summer 2023

Year 7

1st Seth Bird
2nd George Hyatt
3rd Scarlett Barnes

Year 8

1st Charlotte Powell-Wiffen
2nd Ellie Beaini
3rd Luca Nelson

Year 9

1st Amarachi Nleme
2nd Miranda Bayliss
3rd George Ng

Year 10

1st Grace Huntington
2nd Sarah Rueger
3rd Noah Thirkill



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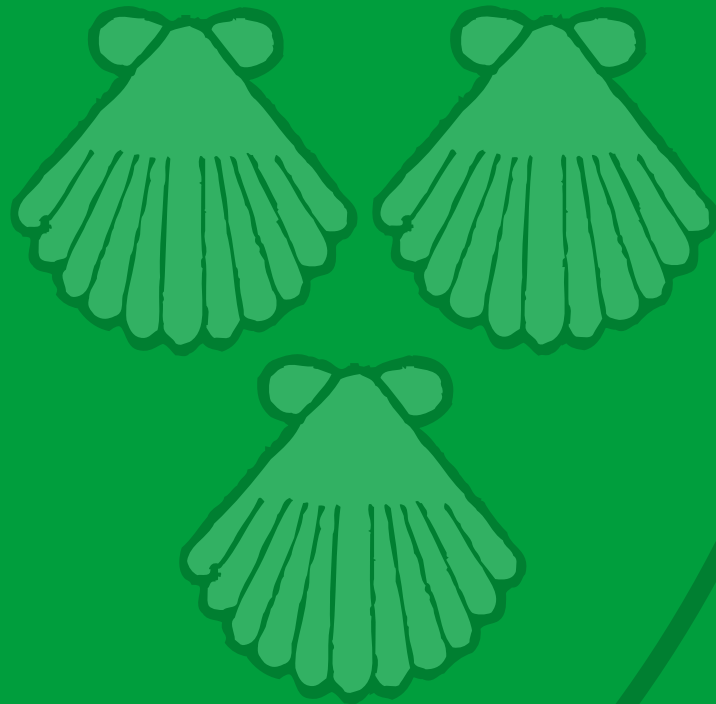
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Brontë House





Head's Report

Summarising a whole year of activities and events into one short report is always going to be a challenge at a school as busy as Brontë House. Below are just some of the highlights that we enjoyed in the last academic year.

At the beginning of the year, unusually, we welcomed three new members of staff to Brontë: Mrs Foster, our new Head of Early Years, with responsibility for Ashdown Lodge; Mrs Bolton joined us as a Year 4 teacher and Senior Practitioner for children with additional needs; and Mr Gallucci, Assistant Head (Operations) with responsibility for organisation, logistics and the smooth running of the School day. All three members of staff wasted no time in settling into their new roles and making an impact on Brontë life.

Soon after we returned to school, we received the very sad news of the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. As a mark of respect, all sports fixtures and special events were postponed and a special assembly was organised for the children to explain the significance of this very sad time.

The first event to take place following this, was our annual House Cross Country. This is my favourite House event of the academic year. Whilst running is not the first sport of many children, the dogged determination and desire to give of their best is truly an inspiration for the many parents that attend.

This was shortly followed by our 'Brontë Bonanza', the first event of the year organised by our ABA, the fantastic team of Brontë parents that give so willingly of their time to raise funds for the School. Due to the autumnal weather, the event was moved indoors at the last minute - I'm sure Brontë has never before hosted a bucking bronco amongst the antique wooden panelling of the Library! Further ABA events included the children's favourite, Pizza and Pyjama Parties, as well as our very first Singo Bingo event in the Summer Term. All events were extremely well-attended and great fun for all, with all funds raised going towards phase two of our playground development plan.



Regular sports fixtures commenced at a similar time, with a full range of opportunities to represent the school in sports such as rugby, netball, football, swimming and cross country, to name but a few. Whether an elite athlete or enthusiastic participator, the positive power of sport cannot be underestimated in developing friendships, building confidence and giving children a sense of pride in representing their school. Our highly skilled team of sports staff work tirelessly to provide such opportunities every week and we are extremely grateful for the enthusiasm they share with our children.

Staff continued to give their time to provide an extensive list of Co-curricular opportunities to children. At this stage, I must mention the ongoing work of Mr Lambert in the Brontë garden. When he joined us at the start of the year, I'm not sure that he fully realised the enormity of the task ahead! He has truly transformed our garden from a post-Covid jungle to the kitchen garden that it is today, bursting with fruits, vegetables and wild flowers. Gardening Club is one of our most popular after-school clubs and it is thanks to the time and commitment shown by Mr Lambert to our younger children, who love nothing more than weeding the soil and planting seeds.

Mrs O'Grady, one of our Teaching Assistants, also shares her love of knitting with the children each week. Followers of our Facebook page will recall regularly seeing our team of Brontë Knitwits showing off their latest creations. Whether it be poppies for Remembrance Day, red Valentine's hearts or knitted summer headbands – Mrs O'Grady's love of knitting has been infectious and spawned a new generation of knitters amongst the Brontë children.

Sticking with the Co-curricular theme, it was at this time that Climbing was introduced as a new activity to our programme. With three members of staff trained on the Grove's climbing wall, twelve children each half term have the opportunity to try their hand at bouldering and scaling the different walls. This proved an immediate hit with the children and is something we are keen to expand in the future.

With between 50 and 60 Co-curricular activities available each week, we are committed to ensuring that our children enjoy the broadest range of opportunities; providing the chance for them to find their niche and develop a skill or talent that was previously undiscovered.

We enjoyed a series of themed assemblies, often linked to national events. Odd Socks Day was recognised for Anti-bullying Week; Safer Internet Day was marked by a special assembly from our Online Safety Ambassadors; and World Book Day was celebrated with the usual array of character



costumes and a poetry competition judged by Mr Lockwood. Much time was spent instilling a sense of understanding of our Grovian Values and Year 4 did a fantastic job of bringing the theme of 'Honourable and Respectful' to life through their amazing assembly on 'the Respectables', a team of super-heroes, sent to remind the children of the importance of respect in all that they do.

The unexpected snow in the Spring Term delayed, but did not deter, our children from showcasing their performance skills in 'What's the Crime, Mr Wolf?' Parents were invited to the Grove Theatre to enjoy the acting, singing and dancing talents of Years 3 and 4. What a night, what a show! Mr Phenny and Miss Cook were delighted with the outcome of months of hard work and rehearsals and some new stars of the stage truly shone!

The Summer Term saw the start of the residential trips programme, with Year 5 journeying to Cumbria to enjoy an adventurous 3 nights on the shores of Lake Windermere. Shortly after, Year 4 went on the hunt for the elusive Boggle at Robin Hood's Bay and Year 6 enjoyed an amazing water sports trip to Plas Menai in Wales. Year 3 basked in 30 degree sunshine for their trip to Robinwood, perfect weather for kayaking and other outdoor activities.

In May, we marked the King's coronation with a street party lunch for all. At Brontë, we are truly spoilt by our amazing catering team, led by Mrs Howcroft. They did a fantastic job of providing us with a picnic fit for a King, that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

As the end of the year approached, so did the time for our oldest children to move on to The Grove. With Prize Giving, Prom and the Year 6 Production, we said our goodbyes in style to a fantastic cohort of children, many of whom had been here since they joined in Ashdown Lodge.

Another productive year was concluded, and we look forward to what academic year 2023/24 brings.

Mrs Sarah Chatterton - Head



Ashdown Lodge

This year has been a series of remarkable firsts for myself at Ashdown Lodge. Embracing my first year as the Head of Early Years, I have been privileged to oversee a multitude of accomplishments and witness the department go from strength to strength. Taking over after Mrs Hinchliffe's 27-year tenure was certainly a challenge, but the journey has been a wonderful experience with staff, children and parents welcoming me to the team.

One of our primary focuses for the academic year was the enhancement of our teaching and learning strategies for literacy. We have solidified our Pathways to Write programme, injecting a real sense of excitement into the children's writing lessons. The positive impact of this innovative scheme has not gone unnoticed, and the children have flourished, making exceptional progress.



Another area of development has been Phonics. By adopting a new scheme, we have successfully fostered consistency, engagement, and enjoyment in our children's reading journey. Fundamental skills like blending and segmenting words have positively impacted children's achievement and raised standards, whilst we have further developed our partnership with parents through the introduction of curriculum evenings on subjects such as 'Supporting Phonics Development at Home'.

The continued enhancement of the learning environment has played an instrumental role in nurturing purpose-driven play by empowering children to pursue their interests. Upstairs, our Reception class received an exciting makeover, complete with new furniture, flooring and upgraded bathroom facilities.

In the Summer Term, our children embarked on a host of adventurous trips. The Nursery class visited Hesketh Farm, immersing themselves in a hands-on farming experience day. Reception children enjoyed an enriching adventure at the Herd Farm Activity Centre, developing teamwork, problem-solving skills and resilience. Pre-Nursery children joined the rest of Ashdown for their inaugural attendance at Sports Day. It was truly a heartwarming sight as they participated in our first ever 2-year-old race!



We have seen a few staffing changes over the course of the year; we bid farewell to Miss Lee and Mrs Pearson, who embarked on new journeys of their own, replaced by Mrs Potter, who returned to the role of Nursery teacher with gusto!

As we conclude this remarkable year, that has been filled with precious memories, I look forward to the new year with a sense of excitement and anticipation.

Mrs H Foster, Head of Early Years



Performing Arts

Although the restrictions of Covid 19 now seem like a distant memory, the 2022-23 academic year was our first full year without any restrictions on our pupils' performances or their audiences.

We began with our traditional Harvest Festival Service in the school chapel and it was a delight to see all our pupils all together, performing songs and poems that were both humorous and poignant. The emphasis was very much on increasing the pupils' understanding of the 'haves' and the 'have nots.' The plethora of harvest gifts and the donations from the retiring collection were all gratefully received by the Bradford Food Bank.

After the half term break our thoughts soon turned to Christmas. Years 1 and 2 joined forces once again to produce 'A King is Born', while Nursery and Reception performed their traditional Nativity. Unlike the previous year's outdoor performance, audiences were pleased to be back in the warmth of the school hall.

The Year 5 and 6 Carol Service began with the beautiful solo voice of Ella Clark singing the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City'. What followed was a very upbeat service which featured parodies of well-known Christmas number ones such as Wham's 'Last Christmas' reworked into 'The First Christmas' and 'All I want for Christmas is You' reworked as 'And

the one God's Chosen is You', sung by the Angel Gabriel.

While the Nativities were going on, Years 3 and 4 were beginning rehearsals for their show - 'What's the Crime Mr Wolf'. The story was set in Fabletown's Forest Courtroom. Mr BB Wolf had been arrested to answer charges of impersonating an old lady, terrorising Red Riding Hood and vandalising the houses of the Three Pigs. The prosecutors, Mr Hugh Mann and his assistant, Justin Case, called a range of fairytale characters to give evidence but none of them were being entirely truthful. Although the performance dates were postponed due to a freak weekend of snow, audiences were amazed at the professionalism and comic timing of the performers.

The academic year ended with Year 6 performing 'I'm an 11 Year Old Get Me Out Of Here.' This was a hilarious parody of 'I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here'. The story told us that, due to budgetary constraints, the 'I'm A Celebrity' team have had to use a school instead of the jungle and, due to even further financial issues, they can't afford any celebrities! Instead, the production followed a group of Year 6 pupils as they tackled various 'Bush Tucker' style trials including; eating a 1970s style school dinner (liver and onions with lumpy

mashed potatoes and gravy), avoiding the hundreds of tiny critters that they encounter every day at school (Key Stage 1 pupils) and even how to deal with embarrassing parents. The song "It's All Happenin' in the Dunny" explained that the coolest place to hang out in school is the toilets. This place was like a night club. It even had its own bouncers, Bev and Nigel, and no-one got past this pair unless they had a really good reason to visit the dunny. The show really showcased the talents of our eldest pupils, with many of them displaying impeccable comic timing. The choreography was slick, and the songs were highly entertaining. Well done to everyone who made this show the huge success that it was.

As well as large scale productions, our pupils presented several 'curriculum inspired' assemblies to parents. One of the highlights was a Year 5 'World War Two' assembly which told the story of two evacuees and ended with a very emotional rendition of 'The White Cliffs of Dover'.



Covid 19 has had a somewhat detrimental effect on the numbers of pupils playing orchestral instruments but I'm delighted to report that there has been a marked increase in the number of pupils playing brass and woodwind instruments this year. Those pupils who have taken external music exams have done very well and many of them have passed with merits and distinctions. Particular mention must be made to all the pupils who took Speech and Drama exams at the end of the academic year, as every one of them passed with distinction. Well done to everyone and thank you to our team of peripatetic staff who work tirelessly to prepare our pupils for these exams.

Mr P Phenny

Year 5 Lake District Trip

After an immensely successful residential in Windermere in April 2022, this year's cohort of Year 5 adventurers were fortunate to have an extra night and full day of activities added to their stay in the glorious Lake District. What a treat it was to stay at Windermere's youth hostel - set in 4 acres of grounds, overlooking the lake and countryside! It affords the perfect location in which to pursue adventurous activities, and hopefully, initiate a life-long love of the great outdoors. This year's experiences included: gorge scrambling, canoeing, climbing, abseiling, team challenges and a mountain adventure day. Once again, the trip proved to be the children's highlight of the year.

Through our residential program at Brontë House we provide learning opportunities designed to help the children:

- Build friendships with others
- Enhance their health and wellbeing
- Participate in exciting adventurous activities with highly qualified, specialist staff
- Work cooperatively and support others in challenging situations
- Develop improved communication, problem solving and decision-making skills
- Improve self-confidence, overcome any fear and develop greater independence
- Connect with nature and the environment

and above all ... have fun!

Mrs N Rayner





Year 3 Trip to Robinwood

Year 3 were pioneers this year when they took part in the inaugural residential trip to Robinwood Activity Centre in Todmorden. In glorious June weather, the children experienced some amazing team building activities including: crate stacking, canoeing, raft building, archery, zip wire, giant swing, nightline and caving. It was very rewarding to see how every child grew in confidence and achieved things they did not think possible at the

start of the trip. The ethos of Robinwood is 'Challenge by Choice', and everybody chose to challenge themselves every day by pushing outside their 'comfort zone'. For some children, it was their first night away from home and they deserve so much credit for their maturity and determination to succeed. Well done to our Year 3 Robinwood pioneers!

Mr M Marshall



Year 6 Plas Menai Trip

In May, Year 6 went to Plas Menai, the National Outdoor Centre for Wales, which is situated on the banks of the Menai Strait in North Wales. It is also a recognised RYA and BCU training centre, owned and operated by Sport Wales. Its mission is to unleash the power of adventure, and it did exactly that.

The children had an amazing time, one of the highlights being a powerboat ride and the opportunity to learn new sailing skills leading up to racing in a J80 boat. The children enjoyed getting wet and having the opportunity to try new sports such as windsurfing and dinghy sailing. A mountain bike ride to Caernarfon for a well-deserved ice cream was also enjoyed by all.

In the evenings, the children worked together in teams to make a catapult and compete in an 'egg drop' and they enjoyed singing and toasting marshmallows around the campfire. They were introduced to archery and enjoyed many team games.

This was an action packed week! The children were pushed out of their comfort zone, displayed courage, resilience, teamwork and independence. It was a great opportunity to consolidate friendships and there will certainly be some long-lasting memories.

Mrs F Pearson





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Sports

Rugby U9s

What a fantastic season our Under 9s had this year! It is often a nervous start in Year 4, being the first year the children start to tackle, but we did well, proving to be too strong for Richmond House. Here, we got our first glimpse of the hard running of Alexander and Hisham, as well as the sheer pace with ball in hand of Jack who was, at times, untouchable!

Strong performances against Aysgarth and Moorlands quickly followed and the boys were clearly starting to find their groove, with the likes of Freddy M, Xander and Seth all starting to add the all-important element of physicality into their game.

We finished the short season off with games against GSAL and a second visit to Richmond House, where once again we held a great account of ourselves. I cannot wait to see how these young players continue to develop next season.

Mr T Waterhouse

Rugby U10s

The under 10s started their season as they meant to go on, with a brilliant triangular fixture against Richmond House and GSAL. Here, we saw glimpses of what was to come, with George bringing the hard carries and Kieron tackling as well as I have ever seen a 9 year old tackle. Of course, these sorts of players make those around them play to their full potential and soon we saw the likes of Fionn start to shine, running round defenders as if they weren't there. By the time we went to BGS for the annual HMC U10 Competition, we were finding our groove and both A and B teams played well, with special mention going to Sid and Ben, who were both finding their stride nicely.

Rare wins over St Peter's and QEGS came next, where Pippa was untouchable at times. We finished the season with strong performances against Yarm and Hill House.

Every child who represented the school did so with a smile on their face and collectively they made me very proud to have been part of their group.

Mr T Waterhouse

Rugby U11s

In Year 6 we are not blessed with large playing numbers, so it was always going to be a challenge when we faced some of the bigger schools.

The first game didn't go as we had hoped with a defeat to GSAL, it was a wakeup call for us all. We weren't the biggest of teams, so we needed to develop a game style that suited us, as we could no longer rely on one or two of the team running through everyone.

Thanks to our hard work and dedication, the results picked up and we felt more confident in how we played.

There were some fantastic performances - including beating GSAL at the QEGS tournament and a great win away to St Peter's in December. In terms of players, Jack C, the smallest member of the team, was fearless when tackling.

We had the hard running of George CT, as well as his outrageous dummies, just ask the QEGS team! Jamie T and Lucas L provided steel in midfield and were brilliant at the breakdown, recycling quick ball.

Ethan at scrum half provided good ball for the backs and this allowed the speedsters of Noah A and Benji to show their skills on the wings, both of whom enjoyed a great season.

JJ joined the team after October half term break and made a difference with his running and was tireless in defence, he scored a brilliant try against Birkdale School in November.

There were also notable contributions from Tom S who ran hard and linked play well, Henry S with his silky ball handling skills, Noah L who was immense in defence against St Peter's, and Noah D and Finley S contributed well.

Overall, it was an enjoyable season. We learnt a lot and progressed as a team and I'm looking forward to continuing our rugby journey together when we move to the Grove.

I would like to say a massive thanks to Mr Bedford from all the team for his coaching and from me personally for his help and advice throughout the season.

Also, to the parents who supported us in all sorts of conditions - I don't think we have ever been as cold as the 7s tournament at Aysgarth in January. I really enjoyed the experience of captaining the team.

Duncan White



Netball U9s

The focus this season for the U9 netball squad was the introduction of competitive match play. In training we concentrated on basic skills with the emphasis on transferring the skills into a competitive situation. The match play was mainly mini festivals which allowed all of our girls to be involved and represent Brontë House. The girls enjoyed the competitive side and throughout the season their game play and court awareness improved. Their understanding of positional play and working together as a team also shone through.

As we move to next season, the focus will be on longer, individual matches, which will help develop more tactical awareness. The girls have worked hard this season and it is a pleasure to see them represent Brontë House against other schools. I look forward to continuing our netball journey next season. Well done, girls.

Mrs C Couzens



Netball U10s

The U10 netball has been extremely strong this season. The teams have varied, as have the positions. The teams have had some fantastic successes and have worked hard on developing set play and understanding roles within the team.

The Under 10s have played in a lot of mini festivals, where the focus is on participation and changing positions, and also longer individual matches where they have developed their understanding of tactics and strategies.

They have worked hard on protecting the ball and keeping possession, which has shown in their match play.

Their commitment to training is a credit to them and I look forward to seeing what we can achieve in Year 6.

Mrs C Couzens



Netball U11s

The U11 netball teams have had a fantastic year. Every girl has represented the school and has been captained by Lucy Edgar. The selection for teams has been very fluid, balancing giving players opportunities, opposition strength and the number of teams playing. The standard has gone from strength to strength and there has been some great depth throughout the teams.

There has been a mixture of individual school fixtures, giving the opportunity to focus on strategies and tactics, and mini festivals of quick matches against lots of schools.

The results have been excellent and the commitment of all the players has been outstanding. The U11s finished the season in style with an excellent performance at the HMC Netball Festival at the Queen Margaret competition, which also included a cross country run.

Brontë House came away victorious in both the netball and the cross country, with Player of the Tournament awarded to Orlaith Curtis.

Mrs C Couzens



Cricket U9s

The U9 cricket season began to much expectation back in May with a fine victory against Aysgarth School at the Grove. The boys batted well, but it was clear they needed to practise their bowling for the next fixture.

At the U9 Prep Schools, held at the Grove, everyone's performance improved noticeably due to the 'quick fire' format of the competition. All players had clearly tightened up on their bowling.

The next match against a good GSAL team was close and went down to the final ball of the over with GSAL just winning, though this was the best performance of the season. It was closely followed by a super A and B team effort at Richmond House, where both teams fielded well and communicated effectively.

Well done to everyone who has represented us so superbly this year on the cricket pitch.

Mr M Marshall

Cricket U10s

We started this season with the wonderful annual trip up the A1 to Aysgarth School. The winter nets had clearly helped with our game play and we held our own against a very handy side. Edward's bowling was accurate and quick and Wilf made an early claim for the keeper's gloves with a brave and acrobatic performance. Next, we went to Bradford Grammar for a twilight match, where we were looking to continue last year's success. Despite some powerful performances from George, Sid and Keiron, we came away with a narrow defeat. Despite this, the boys

were really starting to work together as a team and they were making some thoughtful decisions around fielding positions.

Next, we hosted GSAL down at the beautiful Herbert Smith pitch at Woodhouse Grove. As ever, they proved to be worthy opponents and made us work hard for every run we scored. Rehan's batting was purposeful and he and Ben made an effective partnership, racking up some much needed runs.

All in all, the boys had a highly successful season. The foundation for next year is clearly there and we all look forward to seeing what they can achieve.

Mr T Waterhouse

Cricket U11s

Brontë House U11s have enjoyed an excellent season with some notable victories against some strong opposition. The team travelled up to Aysgarth for the 1st game of the season and managed to pull off a 5-wicket victory. This was only the 2nd win against Aysgarth in 10 years, chasing 83 in 20 overs to win. The boys then went across to Bradford Grammar School for a Monday night fixture and won by 8 wickets with strong batting performances again from Jamie Tattersall and captain Henry Swards. The first loss of the year came against a strong GSAL team, but the Brontë boys bounced back with a 7-run victory at Richmond House.

The HMC Cricket 6-a-side tournament hosted by the Grove was once again a huge success. 16 teams from across the North took part in fantastic conditions for cricket. The boys unfortunately lost in the semi-final of the plate competition and GSAL were the cup winners. The final game was against the Woodhouse Grove U12 B team. The inaugural 'junior varsity' match was played on the Herbert Smith ground and Brontë gained the bragging rights this year with a 7-run victory. Brontë scored 100-6 and WGS U12s replied with 93-4. A big thank you must go to Henry Swards for being a brilliant captain and to all the boys who represented the school superbly. Well done!

Mr J Bedford



Girls Cricket U11s

What a season our girls had! Whilst the scores from our five fixtures will soon become a distant memory, the experiences will forever live on. From Poppy's epic innings in House Cricket to Lucy's fast bowling against GSAL, the girls' confidence grew as fast as their skill levels did. Our opening fixture was at home against our old friends from Richmond House and, whilst we fell just short of an impressive run count, the girls batted and fielded well and we were all excited to see what we could achieve as the season went on. We then made a visit to BGS where we saw our first glimpse of the Year 5 girls working in perfect harmony with the Year 6s. Maya was knocking out fours for fun and Sophia was bowling better than ever. After a brilliant trip to GSAL, we finished with House Cricket and finally a game against the Year 7s at the Grove. All in all, a brilliant season for this talented group of girls.

Mr T Waterhouse

Athletics & Cross Country

It has been an incredibly successful season in both Athletics and Cross Country this year. At the HMC Athletics event in York, Kieran Jemmett came first in the 600 metres and second in the high jump. Jack Scargill was first in the 80 metres, Poppy Bedford was first in the 100 metres and Freddie Marshall finished first in the howler competition.

The Barlborough Hall HMC Cross Country was another magnificent day, with 30 children representing Brontë House. First home for their respective year groups were: Martha, Elijah, Florence, Kieran, Orlaith and Finley.

After a long season in the Leeds League Cross Country, Brontë House runners also finished high in the standings with the U9 boys in 5th place, the U11 boys in 6th place and the U11 girls in 4th place.

Well done to everyone who has represented Brontë House so superbly this year in Athletics and Cross Country.

Mr M Marshall



Swimming

The Brontë House swim squad have enjoyed a fantastic year, competing in a record number of galas.

Captained jointly this year by Maya Herar and Ben Thornhill, the squad has ranged from Years 4 to 6.

There have been some very impressive individual performances and the standard has been high for selection.

The mixture of home and away events has been a nice balance and the atmosphere with the supporters has been fantastic. The support and encouragement the children give to each other is a reflection of our Grovian Values. All the swimmers have competed in both individual events and relays. The results have been extremely close between the schools, with more wins than losses.

At the end of the season, we finished on a high when we competed in the HMC swimming, held at the John Charles Centre. The competition was extremely strong and all our swimmers performed well. A notable win by our U11 girls' relay team.

Mrs C Couzens



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Boarding





Boarding Review

The 2022-23 academic year will be a memorable year for me personally as it was a first for so many things. It was my first year as Head of Boarding and we also welcomed Mr Dobson as Head of Boys' Boarding and Mrs Bradburne as Head of Girls' Boarding. Our boarding community was made up of 60 students from 15 different nationalities, split across 2 boarding houses. The main aim of our boarding community is to provide each individual pupil with the stable environment within which they can develop academically, socially, and physically. We also aim to ensure that each individual pupil is actively encouraged to be involved as positively as possible in the school community; academically and outside the classroom. For this to be achieved, we believe that a caring, consistent, and tolerant environment must be sustained, so that all pupils will be able to express themselves freely.

Boarders flourish in the homely atmosphere of Brodwell (Boys) and Miller (Girls), receiving all the individual attention they need, whilst being given enough space to mature rapidly, form close friendships, take on responsibilities and discover new talents. Although each of the Houses is unique in character, they share certain values. A caring and secure environment is maintained by resident House staff and all boarders have their own personal House Tutor to whom they are able to turn for guidance and support. Each House also offers modern amenities, kitchens for snacks and drinks, well-appointed and recently refurbished bedrooms, and a relaxing common room.



A full and varied evening and weekend boarding activities programme is organised for all boarders, whilst senior boarders are given greater freedom to make their own weekend plans, although these must be approved and monitored by staff. Boarders can arrange leave to visit parents or friends with the Houseparent during any weekend. Visitors and overseas parents are always welcome at the Grove. We also offer a range of off-site activities, which are organised in conjunction with our boarders. Highlights included trips to Alton Towers, Filey seaside, bowling, cinema, paint balling, cultural visits etc. We also celebrated and hosted a number of events at the school for our international boarding community, with highlights including the Halloween party hosted by Miller, Christmas Boarders' Ball with dodgems, Boarding Prefect Dinner and Spring Festival, to name but a few.

Student voice and feedback is always a priority for us to ensure that the views and needs of our entire boarding community is listened to and that each boarder feels valued. We completed a student survey at the end of the year and were delighted with the comments. Some examples included: students felt safe and could access staff at any time of the day; boarders felt that staff listen to their pastoral concerns and help support them with academic work. All students commented on the wide range of activities and trips that were available to access and said that they would recommend boarding to their friends. Finally, it was great to hear that students really felt that the boarding community was a home away from home, where they had built really positive relationships with other students and staff.

Mr D King





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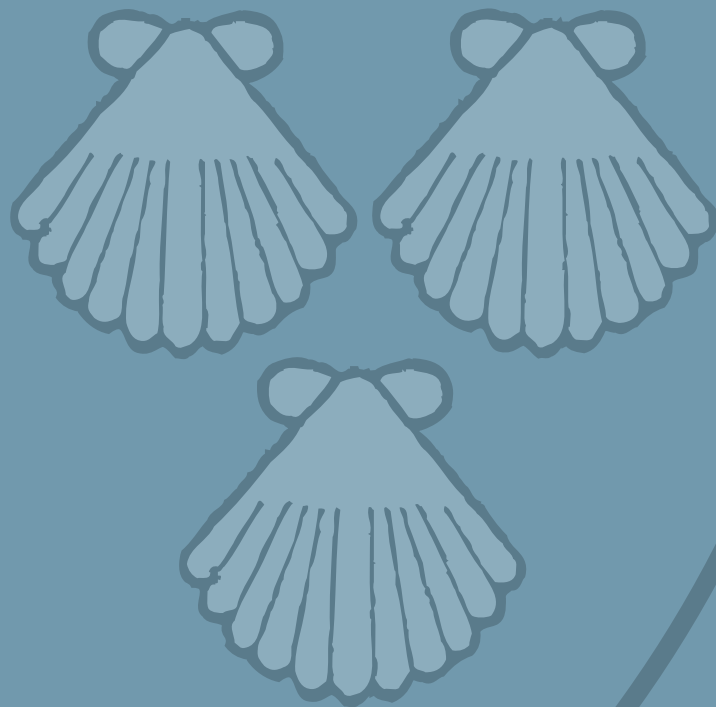
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Out of the Classroom



Duke of Edinburgh

The Grove's Duke of Edinburgh Award saw another year of record numbers this year, with 94 students signing up to complete their Bronze Award, 25 signing up for Gold and over 60 students completing the final expedition section allowing them to be awarded their certificate.

Students dedicated an amazing total of over 1,200 hours of their time to support a broad variety of volunteering schemes from litter picking to hedgehog care to acrobatics coaching and it's been a rewarding experience for many, increasing their confidence and communication in the wider community. Although cooking/baking remains by far the most popular skill learnt over the year, some learnt a new language and others spent time perfecting their musical or dramatic skills.

Without doubt, many find the best part of the Award to be the expedition section, with students coping well with losing their phones for two days as they journey across the Yorkshire countryside, carrying everything they need with them for the 2 days. Some even commented on how much they'd enjoyed being away from their phones! It is undoubtedly a challenge though, especially in the hot weather we had in June! To carry a heavy pack for six hours a day, up and down some fairly steep hills, undoubtedly requires a determined spirit, and working as a team to find their way and pitch their tents proved challenging for some at times, but the sense of achievement gained by completing the activity was a reward in itself. Many congratulations to all those who've completed their Bronze Award!

Mrs K England



LEAP

This year we were pleased to enter our pupil founded company 'The Canine Confectionery Company' into the LEAP programme.

The Canine Confectionery Company made and sold delicious and nutritious artisan dog treats at an affordable price. The dog treats were handmade, using only the finest ingredients, the main one being olive oil. 10% of their profits went to support the work of The Dogs Trust. To promote this, they came up with the very catchy strapline - 'Give a dog a bone to give a dog a home'.

Being part of the LEAP programme enabled our pupils to set up and run their own company for a full school year. Throughout their enterprising journey it was clear that they all developed a wide range of valuable skills.

A quote from Alex Baker, the MD of the company: 'From this experience we have developed as young entrepreneurs, we have learnt that teamwork really does make the dream work. There have been several valuable lessons learnt along the way and we have gained many skills in setting up our enterprise.'

We have developed a range of entrepreneurial skills for life, such as creativity, innovation, problem-solving, risk-taking, decision-making,

and for me, leadership. We truly believe that these skills will be useful in many aspects of life, including employment and personal relationships.'

The programme has certainly helped our pupils to gain the skills and confidence that have helped them to be better prepared for, not only university life, but also future employment.

The Canine Confectionery Company received an award for innovation at the awards ceremony in May.

The students involved in the LEAP programme were:

Alex Baker - Managing Director

Francesca Arrandale - Head of Sales, IT and Social Media

Dhilan Patel - Joint Head of Finance

Maya Griffiths - Head of HR and Administration

Charlie Rutter - Assistant Head of Sales and Head of Customer Service

Isabel Burnett - Joint Head of Production

Sienna Haddad - Joint Head of Production

Joe Consterdine - Head of Marketing

Ayomide Solaru - Joint Head of Finance

"I have always been good at maths but now I appreciate what business maths is all about, maybe I will end up being an accountant in the future, I am certainly more financially aware now!"

Mrs L Watmough



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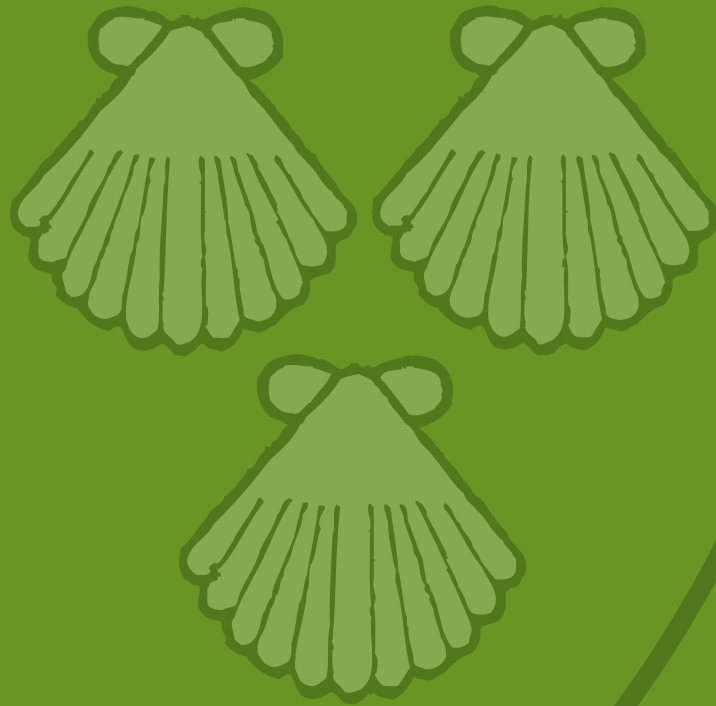
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Trips & Tours



Battlefields Tour

The Battlefields Tour of France and Belgium has always been a highlight of the History calendar. Expanding their curriculum knowledge, the Year 9 experienced the horror of the First World War Battlefields.

The tour was around two major battlefield areas: the Somme region, where the British and French fought the Germans; and Belgium on the Ypres salient, which has become infamous for the 'Flanders mud'.

After a ferry crossing to France, the Somme was the first battlefield we visited. Here students saw the depth and magnitude of the Lochnagar crater, where the British set off a huge mine, eviscerating the German soldiers above. We then continued to the fields where the Leeds and Bradford pals were killed on the first day of the Somme. Students reflected on how this terrible loss would have affected our community over a hundred years ago. After visiting British graves, we stopped off at Vimy Ridge where a shower created a beautiful rainbow, which looked spectacular over the huge monument.

Our second full day of the battlefields was in Ypres. The students really enjoyed the museum in Flanders Fields and visiting the medical centres. Ted Cooper explained how this would be 'really useful for my studies at GCSE because there is a unit of work on medicine in the First World War'. Ypres also saw probably the most moving aspect of the trip, which was laying a wreath on the Menin Gate at the Last Post ceremony, which happens every day at 8pm as a way of the Belgians thanking the British for protecting them against terrible German fire. Louis Turner and Archie Wallace did themselves and the school proud, with a faultless display when laying the wreath.

Ypres also had some lighter moments where the pupils could visit the local chocolate shop and get a 'good deal' from the owners. We also enjoyed a meal in a restaurant on the square at Ypres, as well as a student birthday to lighten the atmosphere.

The final day, we took the opportunity to visit Bruges. This was for a cultural visit of a beautiful city. Walking along the canals in bright sunshine brought this amazing city to life. Students had a final opportunity to buy some chocolate, which Belgium is so famous for. The other famous product of Belgium is the beer, but that was something they will have to miss out on for a few years yet!

It was a wonderful, thought-provoking trip and the students were a credit to the school. Toby summed it up perfectly when he said, 'we won't forget those soldiers after this trip'.

Mr R Firbank



Junior Ski Trip



What a week! We travelled to Andorra with 72 students from Years 8 and 9, and 8 staff, on our first school ski trip since 2019. It was a 4am meet at school but fortunately it was not going to be 24 hours on a coach - instead we had a quick drive to Manchester Airport and boarded a plane to Barcelona. 4 hours after landing, we arrived at our hotel for the week. It is certainly a lot easier on everyone flying!

The hotel provided an excellent base for our group, it had excellent facilities including a swimming pool and a games room, this helped ensure that the students could continue to socialise during their rest time. The hotel was located in the centre of Andorra, this enabled the group to spend some evenings exploring the wide variety of shops and restaurants. Tax free shopping was definitely appreciated for purchasing some gifts for home. The hotel was also located a short bus trip to the skiing gondola, which made it very easy to access the ski slopes.

For over half of the students and 2 of the staff, it was the first time that they had skied on real snow and we were treated to fantastic sunny skies, warm temperatures (many skiing without a jacket at times) and really good snow throughout our time in Andorra. Students enjoyed 4 hours of skiing each day in amazing weather. The skiing conditions were fantastic, especially for groups who were learning for the first time. It was an absolute pleasure to see the students in their element throughout the day, smiling faces, loud singing and some acrobatics were on display on a regular basis. The best aspect was seeing the levels of progression from every student. I had the pleasure of spending 6 days with the beginners group. The level of support and encouragement they gave each other was amazing to observe. I am very proud of each of them, as they can now all competently ski!

Reflecting back on the skiing element, the ski resort provided students with an excellent opportunity to not only develop their skiing but also to develop their physical, mental, and social wellbeing. All staff commented on how one of the highlights of the trip was spending time with different groups throughout the week and watching how supportive they were with each other and how they witnessed students interacting with other students outside of their normal social groups. This is what school trips are all about. It was great to see the students socialising together on and off the slopes across both year groups. They were an absolute credit to the school and this was commented on by all of the ski instructors and our travel agent.

We were fortunate enough to have access to the town and students really enjoyed the opportunity to enjoy some retail therapy after a long day on the slopes. Some members of staff also thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity! Special thanks must go to my 7 colleagues who sacrificed their February half term holidays to attend the trip. They helped to ensure that all students had an amazing experience that they will remember and cherish for a long time. It would be impossible to offer these opportunities without their support and commitment.

We now start planning for the next ski trip in 2025, which will be available for students in Years 8 and 9 in the 2024-25 academic year.

Mr D King



Junior Football Tour

The Junior Football Tour to Spain took place during the second week of the Easter holidays.

Monday:

43 students and 5 staff met at school before travelling to Liverpool airport for a flight to Barcelona.

After we landed in Barcelona and a smooth transfer through the airport, we boarded the coach to spend the afternoon exploring what the city had to offer.

After a few hours sightseeing, we travelled to the Camp Nou for a stadium tour. This was a particular highlight for a lot of the boys. As Barcelona were playing that night, we were unable to go into the changing rooms and the tunnel, but the views from the stands were incredible and it was also great to see the museum that housed their 5 Champions League trophies. After this, we travelled to our hotel and got checked in before having a fantastic meal in the hotel.

Tuesday:

After breakfast at the hotel, we travelled to Port Aventura Theme Park which is famed for being one of Europe's best theme parks. After lunch, it was time for the first fixtures on tour. The first team to play on Spanish soil got on the coach accompanied by Mr Randhawa and I to travel to CF Cunit. A tense and exciting game ensued with Cunit eventually coming out on top, however, it was a great performance that gave confidence for the remainder of the tour. Mr Dobson's side then played against a quality El Morell side; with the game in the balance at 3 all at half-time. Unfortunately, their class shone as they ran away with the win in the second half, however, our boys were able to take positives from a strong first half. The final game was the first game to be played under lights; a really exciting opportunity for the team. Despite their best efforts, St Jaume were too strong, however, the team played some great football and Mr Steene and Bradburne were impressed with what they saw. As the final team arrived back to the hotel, it was lovely to see the camaraderie amongst the tourists as they welcomed each other back and exchanged stories about their respective games.



Wednesday:

On Wednesday morning, the squad had their first 'Masterclass' coaching session at FC Riudoms. This was a fantastic location, and the students really enjoyed the opportunity to work on some team shape and tactical understanding before their matches later in the evening. The afternoon was free, which allowed the boys to have some time in the town to do some shopping and explore the local area, enjoying the Spanish sun and simply spending some time with their friends. Later in the evening, the three teams were merged into two larger squads for fixtures against FC Torredembarra and La Selva FC. We were again given the opportunity to play under lights at two lovely venues and can only praise the hospitality of our Spanish opposition. Mr Steene and Mr Bradburne's side played well at times, however, the larger squad meant they lacked a bit of cohesion, whereas Mr Dobson's side played out a fantastic game, eventually finishing in a 2-2 draw. In an end-to-end game with lots of chances, it was a penalty from Marcos late in the game that salvaged a deserved draw for our boys. This result was excellent for the group as it showed that we could compete with the technically gifted Spanish teams. After this, we travelled back to the hotel to watch the Champions League quarter finals...unfortunately Chelsea couldn't perform as well as our U15s had earlier in the evening!

Thursday:

Our final full day on tour was a busy one which again started with a training session at the spectacular FC Riudoms. Having played the night before, and with a tournament later on in the afternoon, the squad enjoyed a light session. With the sun shining, it was a brilliant way to start the day. From here, we travelled to FC Cambrils for the tournament with other UK schools. A draw in the group stages meant Mr Dobson's side couldn't qualify for the final. They did win the 3rd / 4th place play-off though, to finish on a high. Over the course of the afternoon there was some excellent football played, and it was great to see the boys develop over the week. Whilst there are numerous

highlights from the fixtures, one thing that stands out for me is the way the boys supported each other at the tournament; seeing them cheer on the other Grove teams was so pleasing and showed the bonds that had developed over the week.



After dinner, we went into town to watch Man United play in the Europa League, before finishing with some end of tour awards.

Friday:

For our final morning, it was an early start. Breakfast at 7.15am before travelling to the airport to fly home. On arrival back at WGS, it was lovely to be greeted by appreciative parents as well as very grateful students.

The boys were brilliant all week and I thoroughly enjoyed taking them on tour. It wouldn't be possible without the staff, and I would like to thank Mr Dobson, Mr Randhawa, Mr Steene and Mr Bradburne for their help, support and company over the week.

Mr N Barr

Year 7 Adventure Trip



At the end of July, 70 very excited, Year 7s travelled to Buddens in Dorset, ready for five days of fun, friendship and adventure.

The students took part in lots of activities, including raft building, archery and tomahawk throwing. Then, in the evenings, we had a number of planned activities, which were run by the brilliant staff at the centre. These included a 'pub' quiz, Capture the Flag and a huge game of dodgeball. Grove staff thought that by bedtime the Year 7s would be exhausted, as they definitely were, but alas. Never mind though, it was all good fun!

During the visit, we also visited Dorset Adventure Park to try their mud run and inflatables. Although the weather didn't hold out on this day, somehow the rain made it more fun. However, I think we were still finding mud behind students' ears for the next few days.

Everyone pushed themselves out of their comfort zone and every person on the trip, both staff and students, tried something new, which is the whole point of trips like this, to try something new.

Miss P Winks



Senior Football Tour

We started the tour on the Friday morning, playing Wrekin Collage in the afternoon, after a 3-hour bus journey down to Shrewsbury. The game kicked off with a bumpy start, the ball going through to Grayson Oldridge from kick off, with nerves clearly showing. However, we quickly grew into the game, which became a back-and-forth battle for much of the first half. Both sides had chances, but neither could capitalise, with Callum Hyland-Dugbo's shot rattling the bar, and Grayson making some decisive saves at the other end, keeping the game level going into the second half.

After a strong team talk, and fresh legs coming on, Woodhouse looked strong, attacking quickly, and using width to spread out play. We deserved a goal, however, against the run of play, we conceded after confusion in our box led to an own goal from the corner. Whilst this could have knocked our confidence, the team looked fired up as they looked for an equalizer, putting lots of pressure on Wrekin, and playing with lots of aggression. Eventually, our break came, with a fantastic halfway line free kick from James Edgely levelling the scoreline. Unfortunately, we couldn't use this momentum to snatch another goal, with the full-time whistle being blown for a 1-1 draw. We were all disappointed with a draw, as we had played the better football, however the performance clearly showed that we had great potential as a side.

After a long day of travelling, and a tough match, we were all ready for a meal out, which we enjoyed as a team at the local Nando's, fueling us up for the game on the following day. Then we returned to the hotel for some much-needed sleep before our big match against Shrewsbury.



We had anticipated Shrewsbury to be a very good side and, as a team, we thought it would be useful to have a tactical session, watching back highlights from the Wrekin game. We saw where we needed to improve and what we did well. As they are known for their excellent facilities, we expected Shrewsbury to be a challenge as they perform at a high level year in year out. Before we played, we got the opportunity to explore the town centre, which gave us a good feeling of the heritage of the area, being able to see the churches and castles, before we headed to Shrewsbury School in the early afternoon.

As we drove up the school driveway, we were all taken aback by the grandeur of the campus, as well as the professional facilities, the likes of which many of us had never seen. The pitches were immaculate, with the sprinklers preparing them for our match, making us realise how great an opportunity it was to be able to experience playing a match there. After an intense warm up, we kicked off, and Shrewsbury were everything we had anticipated. They played with pace, power and precision, knocking the ball around us to which we had no answers, shocking us a little bit as we fell behind early on, a deficit which quickly doubled.

Going into the second period of play, we knew we had to change something, as the Shrewsbury defense did not look like it was going to be broken by dribbling through it, forcing us to look to other areas of our game to force a breakthrough. With this, we had two aces in Callum Hyland-Dugbo and Ollie Howes, whose pace we capitalised on to get in behind their defense, and we began causing them lots of problems. We looked like we were going to score, and eventually we did, as Oscar Speck put it on a plate for Callum to head it in from a corner to reduce the deficit, which gave us a much needed goal, breathing confidence back into us.

This remained our game plan for the rest of the match, however we were unable to stop their attack, as we conceded 4 more goals, including an incredibly unlucky own goal, which, had it been at the other end, would've been goal of the tour. As full-time drew nearer, the game looked as good as dead, but with lots of resilience we managed to get two goals back, and could have potentially scored more, with the Shrewsbury keeper denying our attackers on multiple occasions.

Whilst the game may have ended 6-3, it was thoroughly enjoyable, and it was a privilege to be able to play at such high standard facilities. After the match, we went out to a sports bar, where we enjoyed some food and watched the football and rugby. We then finished the night off with a round of bowling, topping off an excellent trip.

Rory Henderson and Oscar Speck

Krakow and Auschwitz

After Covid and the difficulties travelling over the past few years, the History Department was committed to give all KS4 and KS5 a trip that would complement the curriculum and prove to be an unforgettable experience. After studying the holocaust for GCSE and A-Level, it felt appropriate to visit the site of this exceptional horror. The department was also keen for the students to have a cultural experience of the beautiful city of Krakow in Poland.

After a very early flight, we arrived at the centre of Krakow, the breath-taking Cloth Hall and church showed the architectural marvels of Krakow. The students were given free time for lunch, the square had a Hard Rock Café, McDonalds and everything in between. After lunch it was time for our tour of Krakow. The walking tour took us around Krakow, showing us the University, the Jewish Quarter and the Ghetto. We were also shown areas where the movie Schindler's List was filmed, Oscar recognised the stairwell where the daughter hid her mother. We also visited Schindler's factory where he saved thousands of Jewish lives. Oscar said he was 'so pleased he watched the film before coming to Poland'. After enjoying tea on the square, it was an early night for all!



The second day was Auschwitz Birkenau. Nothing can really prepare students or staff for such a place. The students used their subject knowledge of the period to ask questions, and our tour guide was supremely knowledgeable about the camp. Certain aspects of the camp do hit hard, many students commented on the human hair and the fact that the names were still on the suitcases. After such a difficult morning, the staff and students enjoyed a little down time, having an ice cream and drink in the glorious weather.

The final day, we met a holocaust survivor, who told us her story. It was incredible that her parents and family were all murdered by the Nazis. She was only saved by a brave woman who took her in. She talked about the ghosts of her past and how the Nazis had destroyed her life. But the message was one of hope and not despair. The students listened superbly and asked questions at the end about her experiences. The final museum was in the Ghetto and showed how many people tried to save the Jews, including a pharmacist who helped with medicine and underground information.



It was an unforgettable trip, the response from all the students was one of gratitude for going on the trip but, more importantly, a real understanding about the holocaust and their studies. It was summed up perfectly by Jessie when he said what an amazing trip it had been and he hoped to learn a lot more about the holocaust going into the final year of GCSEs.

Mr R Firbank

Senior Netball Tour



Durban

We started our netball tour in the beautiful city of Durban - and what a place to start! The first night we experienced the most amazing food with a build your own burger restaurant right across the street. Then, after having explored the area and taken a swim in the pool, the next day we hit training hard in the sun. The morning session got us ready for the day ahead as next it was time to go to the waterpark. The waterpark was so fun and a great activity to do with all the team. With lots of exciting activities and lots of energy used up, we took a well-deserved break at a local steak house. The next day we visited the Phezulu cultural village where we learnt about a new culture whilst watching a traditional dance and learning parts of a new language. This had a quick change into looking at the wildlife, including animals such as crocodiles and snakes - but we didn't just look (I think the snake around my neck was one of the more memorable parts of the trip). Our first fixture of the tour was against Durban High School for Girls. First to play were our two second teams, with both teams coming away with a win. Next up was the first team match, the atmosphere at this school during the game was outstanding! They had the crowd singing and chanting throughout the whole game; it was slightly off putting but don't worry it wasn't enough to stop us from winning! Our next game in Durban was against Kingsway High School. Another tough few games for everyone but we managed to get the result we wanted, with all 3 teams winning. After our final fixtures in Durban, we had a well-deserved rest day and went for a bike ride along the beach - thanks to Miss Thompson and Miss Dudley for cycling Lucy and I back in our little four seated go kart! Durban was perfect and the best start to any trip, I loved it.

Mary Murphy and Summer Anderson

Springbok Lodge

We now head into, in my opinion, the highlight of the trip. After spending 4 nights in Durban, we ventured out into the wilderness. Even before arriving at Springbok Lodge, down a very questionable looking road, we had already spotted zebras - little did we know we would see the big 5 the next day! The whole safari experience was wild (no pun intended). We headed to our lodges in safari trucks and opened the door to the most insane place I've ever seen, including a bath to fit a family of 5 and an outdoor shower! Anyway, onto the actual safari - we got wrapped up, and headed onto our dusk game drive. Here, we were met with the one and only, Brent, who drove us through the depths of the South African wilderness whilst telling his casual stories about fighting off a lion, we were inspired to say the least. Within minutes, we saw lions, elephants, and giraffes, it was an unforgettable experience. As the sun was setting, we stopped at the highest point on the safari to take in the amazing views and, of course, take some pictures. As we were driving back to the lodges in the dark, we had a full carpool karaoke session to serenade Brent and the animals and then we had an early night in preparation for the second game drive in the morning. We woke up at the crack of dawn and headed back out with Brent, as the sun was rising, we saw giraffes, cheetahs, rhinos and even baby elephants! My highlight of the trip would definitely be when Maya held the rhino poo with her bare hands, we all made sure to stay away from her after that!

Lucy Lund



Cape Town

We arrived in Cape Town and checked in to the gorgeous President Hotel, where we were greeted with a lovely pizza dinner for Miss Pearce's birthday. The next day, you could feel the excitement as we journeyed to Muizenburg Beach for a morning surf lesson. After clambering into our wetsuits, gathering into our teams and an energising warmup, we headed out into the sea. With the rough waves, the surfing had taken a lot out of us, but luckily we had a delicious fish and chip lunch waiting for us, with hot drinks on offer to warm us up. Next on the schedule was the Anna Foundation. This was an insightful look into the educational and social needs of rural children of South Africa. We played some games, helping us to talk and bond with the children. After this long day of fun and games we settled down for dinner back at the hotel.

We woke up bright and early to play in the Wynberg Girls' High School tournament, but it was unfortunately cancelled due to weather conditions. Instead, the teachers thought on their feet, and booked us Total Ninja Warrior Cape Town edition. This helped us spend some of the pent-up energy we had prepared for the match. We left there with a slight injury for Mimi Jones, but with the wonderful opportunity of exploring the V+A Waterfront shopping centre for a couple of hours, and with a lovely dinner at the Greek Fisherman Restaurant, all was well before bed.

Sunday was another fun and jampacked day. We began it with two World Cup netball matches, Australia Vs Fiji and New Zealand Vs Singapore. Getting to see the best of the best in action was inspiring for the match we played later that day against Wynberg Girls' High School. The competition was tough and all 3 teams put out excellent performances. The first team game in particular was extremely physical (I think I came out of that one with a few more bruises than normal) but thankfully we managed to take the win.

On Monday, we were able to explore the capital with our tour guide Drew, who talked us through the vast landscapes along the Cape Peninsula. We headed to Hout Bay for a highly eventful boat trip to see seals. With a few feeling seasick (AKA Miss Thompson) and a graceful fall from Maya, we powered through and made it to our next stop to see the penguins with tears of joy shed by the birthday girl, Ella, in seeing her spirit animal. After a long day, we headed back to the hotel, freshened up and had a wonderful evening of Mamma Mia Karaoke and great food.

We woke up Tuesday morning with a bittersweet feeling, as it was our last full day. We enjoyed a



chill morning at the Virgin Gym, with some seizing the opportunity to get a workout in, and others staying active playing volleyball and tennis. We relaxed with a scheduled yoga session at the gym and had a hearty lunch after. With our muscles loose and ready, we headed to the final match of the tour against Bloemhof Girls' School. It was a challenging game for all teams and unfortunately it did not finish with the results we wanted. Despite the final score, we thoroughly enjoyed our final game as a team; and although tears were shed, we promise it was not because we're sore losers, we just got emotional knowing that's the last time we'll play together as a team. Parents came to relish in the moment with us and helped give the Year 13s an emotional send off. To end the evening, we enjoyed a delicious meal at the Simon's restaurant, with fun prizes being awarded for the tour.

On our final morning, we firstly surprised the third and final birthday girl, Emma, with a champions breakfast (cake) and were then treated to another few hours of shopping at the V+A Waterfront, immediately followed by the journey home. It's safe to say we were exhausted after an amazing South Africa Tour.

Maya Griffiths and Summer Anderson



Senior Cricket Tour 2023

The Senior Boys' Cricket Tour was a resounding success with the squad playing brilliantly to come home with 4 excellent wins from 6 completed games.

All six games were very competitive and the standard of cricket was brilliant to watch. The boys played against various academy sides and some of the stronger Caribbean cricketing schools in recent history. The formats were varied from 30 over games to floodlit t20 evening matches, which were great experiences for the boys.

An important part of the tour was to see some of the culture in Barbados and St Lucia. The boys had a brilliant afternoon on a catamaran cruise seeing the beautiful scenic views of Barbados along the coast. They also enjoyed the local cuisine and vibrant atmosphere at Oistins fish fry on a Friday evening and there was also a very educational trip around St Lucia on jeep safari. A highlight was practising at the Daren Sammy International cricket stadium, an experience which the boys will definitely remember. Overall, an amazing experience on and off the pitch for the boys, they left the Caribbean with happy life long memories.

Mr G Randhawa



Scorecards

WGS 174-7 20 overs J Webster 75 O Speck 41
Combermere School 135-5 20 overs

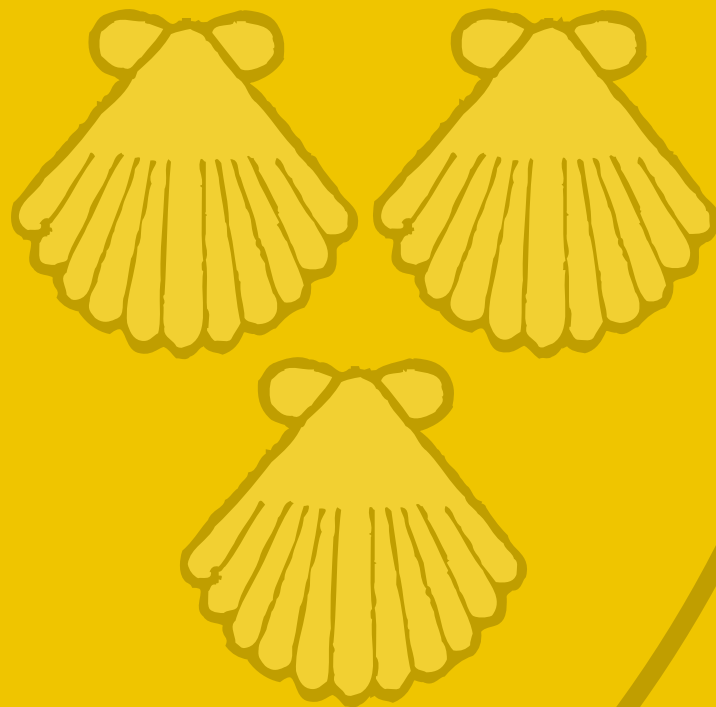
Darrell J - 65ao - 17.5 overs
WGS - 65/4 - 9.4 overs

WGS 181-7 30 overs N McCormack 52no/H Pinkney 43
Becons Academy 163/9 - 30 overs K Tennant - 3/21
H Pinkney - 3/37

St Lucia Northern Academy- 139AO - 18 overs
Wood 4-38
WGS 142-5 16.2 overs Speck 30 Pinkney 30 Tennant 32

WGS 130AO 19 overs O Speck 36 H Pinkney 34
John Eugene Academy 131-5 15 overs H Pinkney 3-36

Performing Arts



Performing Arts Review



The year 2022-23 has been one of farewells, and whether you prefer the sage who said “Goodbyes make you think. They make you realize what you’ve had, what you’ve lost, and what you’ve taken for granted.” or the pithy “Don’t cry because it’s over. Smile because it happened.” from Dr. Seuss, we had a great deal of practice. From the sudden and unexpected to the heavily trailed, from the permanent to the temporary. So, with all that in mind, on with the show...

We launched into the year with the **Senior Production, Blue Stockings** at the end of the Michaelmas Term, which was a great success. The play was a hard-hitting examination of misogyny and class prejudice, delivered by a cast whose stage-craft was some of the best we have seen at Woodhouse Grove. The play tells of the ‘Girton Revolution’ in 1896 when women campaigned for the right to graduate after completing their university studies. Kudos to Mrs Baker for directing such a strong play and continuing serenely throughout a period of only temporary technical support. As ever, Ms Evers ably assisted in rehearsal and backstage. Lily Sugden, Eimhir Robins and Kadiatou Barry headed a stellar senior cast which included several debuts from our international boarders. The headmaster cited the production as ‘unforgettable’ and ‘a phenomenal production where every line and every moment was totally credible. The staging, costumes and make-up put many professional productions to shame, but even more astonishingly, so did the cast’. It was so good that several members of staff went to watch it twice!

How to follow up a hard-hitting senior production? Well, Mrs Baker’s response was to invoke the spirit of grunge, turn the amplifiers to eleven and hand out the ripped jeans for **School of Rock, The Musical**. The Years 9-11 Production (with special guests from Year 8 and the Sixth Form), was directed by Mrs Baker and assisted by Ms Evers. Mr Crawford was the Musical Director and the technical support was provided by Mr Brickel, Mr Tedd, external contractors and OG Tom Wood on sound. The lead role was Georgina Dutton playing ‘Dewey’, the beleaguered dreamer who becomes a music supply teacher. Much focus was on the live onstage band, made up of Ash Poplar (guitar, Year 9), George Ng (drums, Year 9), Anna Parsons (bass, Year 11), Liam Matley (keys, Year 10) and the live guitar tracks of Winnie Offland and Fin Robb at the side of stage. Whilst it was difficult to pick out a standout performer, Charlie Wright’s preening prima donna and Scarlett Swinney’s simmering headmistress definitely took some of the limelight, alongside the ever-present Georgina as Dewey. Some editing of the content to tone down the blasphemy and swearing was needed to make it vaguely suitable for our Methodist sensibilities but the cast clearly enjoyed thrashing through the songs and, of course, wearing their uniform inappropriately as they turned from preppy American school children into renegade rockers. The final week nerves and sound mixing antics were more than covered by the polish of the final performances, although why music teachers must be cast as feckless dreamers is anybody’s guess.



The **Year 7/8 Production, Alice in Wonderland** was another quantum leap in dramatic style, an outdoor production of Alice in Wonderland. The Quad was blessed with outstanding weather for rehearsal, which thankfully held for the performances. The quality of the props created by the Junior Tech Club under Mr Sunley's supervision was great to see, with card-themed outfits, trays of realistic iced muffins and other such touches. Mrs Habbergham and Ms Evers supported Mrs Baker with this production, and with a large number in the cast, the production swiftly produced a real buzz of excitement. Stand out performers (an invidious task to choose) included a particularly menacing Queen of Hearts from Amber Khan, a crazed hatter courtesy of Henry Fox, an extremely nonchalant caterpillar in Simeon Tedd and Isobel McKie's exceptional Alice.

The **Years 7 and 8 Spotlight Show** was presented by Xavier Spanton-Namany and Henry Fox (who wrote all their own material) and introduced a range of performers. Acts from all the performing arts were showcased - the audience were treated to a cellist, two pianists and two singing soloists, in addition to two monologues, a duologue and two wonderful group singing performances featuring music from the musical 'Six' and the 2021 chart hit *Memories*. Performances were punctuated by two energetic drummers. With such an array of talent in the early years, it's fair to say that the future of performing arts at the Grove looks to be in very safe hands!

Musicians once more provided music for the FOWG Fayre on Saturday 26th November, with a selection of festive tunes for the attendees. The Brass Group delivered an enjoyable set of festive favourites for Rawdon Christmas Lights in what is now a firm fixture in the Performing Calendar.

The **Christmas Concert** on Thursday 15th December was a feast of music for the season: From the highly appropriate *Ukrainian Bell Carol* (Orchestra), Prokofiev's *Troika* (Concert Band) and Anderson's *Sleigh Ride* (Les Six) through a variety of pop-rock items, including Band Aid's *Do They Know it's Christmas* (Year 9) and *Baby Please Come Home* (Senior Rock). As ever, the sprinkling of poetry in the evening helped set the correct mood, whether from Frost's evocative *Stopping by Woods* (Kadia B) or Calder's humorous *Thirteenth Day of Christmas* (Amelia C).

The **Chamber Concert**, on 22nd February, provided a lovely selection of performers from Year 7 to Upper Sixth. Chloe Cater closed the concert with a soulful and polished delivery of *Tell Me On A Sunday*, in amongst were the saxophone and clarinet ensembles, both covering fusions of popular tunes. Isla Swarbrigg rounded off her Chamber Concert career with a mature performance of *Somewhere Only We Know*, revisiting the first piece she sang in the Grove Theatre seven years ago, whilst Ella Manogue delivered a vibrant *Don't Rain On My Parade*.



The **Easter Charity Concert** opened with poetry from the Poetry by Heart competition before a plethora of popular numbers, from Orchestra's *James Bond* to Swing Band's *Gonna Fly Now*, via various rock bands and sung items. Pop Choir's rendition of Symphony and Grove Singers' *Viva la Vida* deserve special mention.

Mr Brickel's Year 9 Rock and Pop Band started the Summer Term with an outdoor gig for pupils in the amphitheatre, drawing a reasonable crowd and some curious observers from the maths and history classrooms overhead. An early evening slot for the **Summer Chamber Concert** produced a delightful soirée, with solo items from a selection of pupils, including another premiere of a Benji Saia original. Saxophone Group gave us *Funk Dunk*, whilst Clarinet Choir responded with *Material Girl*. Winnie, Ruby, Scarlett and Lottie sang whilst Reuben, Simeon and Lucy played in a delightful mixture of styles from *Suite Antique* to show tunes.

The **Drummers' Concert** saw Mr Brickel's customary bateria hit the theatre on 23rd June. This time the technical support included video mixing of the various camera angles and a highlights packaged afterwards. Mr Sunley masterminded the audio tech with Mr Brickel, whilst Mr Craig (a Grove parent) provided the video expertise. Will Wood (in his rugby kit) delivered his final solo item, including some outrageous (be-socked) footwork to close the concert.



The last ever **Leavers' Soiree**, yes it is being replaced with a new event, saw the core musicians turn out in force and try to get on stage as many times in different roles. The prize for most pieces went to Chloe Cater who appeared in five different items (two ensembles, saxophone, voice and poetry solos). Ella Manogue and Lilly Sugden tried to reduce the audience to tears with *Slipping Through My Fingers* by Ulvaeus and Kiah Bardouille-Lewis decided it was an opportune moment to open her performing account!

The musical feast which is served at **Leavers' Weekend** promised to be another classic, with the Sixth Form ensemble Les Six performing for Prize Day and switching the mood of the occasion with what would be Mr Crawford's last hurrah in the ensemble. When has Prize Day opened with a run through of items including *The Incredibles* and *Amarillo*? It was frankly a surprise that Mr C didn't launch the band into a rendition of *Mamma Mia* instead of the School Song, but staff were seen looking cautiously at one another as the band launched into *Another One Bites the Dust*. The choices were, in the main, entertaining and light-hearted, and somewhat surprisingly never inappropriate, despite the threat of *Priscilla* and *Rocky Horror* highlights.

Grovestonbury Festival, on Leavers' Weekend Sunday saw a great mix of bands performing from the Year 7 and Year 8 Rock Bands all the way up to the Senior Rock Band. Indeed, it was a day of pop and rock, with the addition of Swing Band for an extended set. The leavers were out in force and the weather was pleasant enough to allow the audience to linger and enjoy multiple acts without fear of the rain.

The **Acts of Remembrance** were led by our fantastic upper sixth trio of buglers, with Chloe

Cater at Brontë House, Ella Manogue on the yard and Ruby Hawker delivering in Chapel on Sunday 13th November. Grove Singers, supplemented by key Old Grovians, were at the heart of Remembrance Sunday, 13th November, singing Purcell's *Thou Knowest Lord* as well as Archer's *And I Saw a New Heaven*.

Later in the afternoon of 13th November, the Brass Group provided the music for the Rawdon Remembrance Service. The now familiar hymn *O God Our Help* and the *National Anthem* sandwiched the last post and reveille from Ella Manogue. Around 250 people were in attendance and once again the rain held off, for the most part.

The **Christmas Carol Service** was on Sunday 11th December, with the Grove Singers, Girls' Choir and Junior Choir leading the service in an atmospheric and delightful first part of the festive season. The Brass Group supported the carols and it was great to have brass renditions of favourite carol descants, definitely worth revisiting in future years. The choir rollicked through *A Child is Born* by Stopford and Rutter's *Nativity Carol*, whilst juniors relished the slightly jazzy setting of *The Angel Gabriel* by Mr Tedd. Girls' Choir once again stole the starlight with a tasteful and refined delivery of *There is Faint Music* under Miss James' detailed direction.

The **Family Christmas Eve Service** proved once more to be a delightful mix of carols, gentle recollection of the Christmas story and some typical Rev Drost illustrations and activities thrown in, to the delight of the younger members, and Mr Crawford.

Grove Singers were once again in charge of a highly emotive musical tour de force at the **Leavers' Service** in the Summer. The service opened with a fantastic and uplifting rendition of Wesley's *Rejoice the Lord is King*, as set by Malcolm Archer, before the customary tear-jerker *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* by Rutter.



Exam Results

30 pupils took ABRSM and Trinity board performance exams at the close of the 2022 Summer Term. Seven pupils gained Grades Seven and above, with Chloe Cater (Music Theatre), Leah Spence (Music Theatre) and Anna Jarvis (Piano) all achieving merits in their Grades Seven.

80 pupils took ABRSM, London College of Music and RockSchool music exams during the year and it was another bumper year at the top of the grades, with OG Catriona Cochrane receiving a distinction in her ABRSM diploma on the saxophone from the summer. Isabella Lawson a distinction in her Grade Eight flute, Ella Manogue a merit in her Grade Eight Music Theatre, Chloe Cater and Amy Cavaliere also scored distinctions in their Speech and Drama Grades Eight. Chloe Cater with over 90% (distinction) in her Music Theatre Grade Eight, closely followed by distinctions for Isla Swarbrigg (88%) in Grade Eight voice, Zaynah Farid (83%) in Grade Eight piano and Winnie Offland with a merit in her Grade Eight RockSchool voice exam.

Amber Khan (Grade Four Music Theatre) and Chloe Cater (Grade Eight Music Theatre) gained the highest individual scores with 93%, whilst Chloe Cater's overall haul of two Grade Eight distinctions and two Grade Sevens may be difficult to match in one calendar year.

The theatre was equipped with a supply of DC power for LED stage lighting, another step towards a more energy-efficient future and another asset for the school to deliver high-quality theatre tech and to confuse Messr's Tedd, Brickel and Bernard who took on the lighting rig during the Spring Term.

The taster instrumental lessons gathered pace with violin, 'cello, trumpet, flute, clarinet and saxophone tasters leading to new starts from several instrumentalists. Mrs Laverick ('cello), Mr McGuffie (clarinet) and Mrs Ribeiro (violin) successfully implemented a taster series with Year 7 pupils and Mr McGuffie delivered a similar scheme with Years 3 and 4. The plan is to broaden this in Years 3, 4 and 7 from September to try and rebuild instrumental numbers, which dropped dramatically during the Covid shutdown.

In staffing terms, it was a year of all changes. Performing Arts Technician, Miss Meredith-Walne, left the Grove in the summer holiday and we spent a sustained period of time without a technician, before Mr Sunley joined us at the end of the Spring Term. Mr S had an immediate impact with School of Rock, the Spring Concert and restarting the Theatre Tech Clubs. Philip Wright breathed a sigh of relief and Mr Tedd considered stepping back from meddling with the theatre.

Mrs Samantha Laverick joined the school as teacher of 'cello and lower strings, bringing with her one pupil and swiftly recruiting three more. The emergence of 'cello trio and latterly 'cello quartet have been great to see. Having worked at Moorlands and produced a great crop of 'cellists there, Mrs Laverick made an immediate impact with taster lessons and a rendition of *Paint it Black* dressed as Wednesday Addams! We look forward to seeing her work her magic here and at Brontë House.

Mr O'Farrell (brass) submitted his resignation to move into lecturing on organisational management and the interviews unearthed a strong field of replacements. Mrs Baker (Speech and Drama) announced her intention to relocate to Cheshire and again the advertisements unearthed some quality candidates. Mrs Baker will be sorely missed, having become an indispensable part of the faculty, not only with her fantastic leadership of co-curricular drama but also in her role teaching Speech and Drama.

Miss Couper stepped down as Head of Drama, to pursue other avenues. It is interesting that Emmerdale's 50th Anniversary played out last October and the professional masterclasses from Natalie Anderson and Helen Fishburn were quite recent additions to the drama calendar. Who knows, perhaps we shall see Miss Couper on-screen as she had previously dreamt. Miss Couper's drama sets were invariably fiercely loyal and her leaving speech was peppered with emotion.

Mr Crawford did not choose the time of his leaving and the impact he had on the school over his three decades of loyal service may well never fully be known. His decision to remain as 'Assistant Director of Music' under three different Directors was always deliberate and (whilst there may have been something of the Beyonce-like prima donna in certain areas) he was passionate about music and seeing Grove music flourish. Under his guidance, musicians were challenged to excel in whatever branch they chose.

As director of Grove Singers and Concert Band, sometimes *Otto Voci* and latterly the Sixth Form only ensemble *Les Six*, he chose music carefully, rehearsed with a keen eye for detail and delivered what the school needed at each point, whether or not the rest of us expected what was produced.

As chapel organist, Mr C was the undisputed guardian of 'the king of instruments' and liked nothing better than dusting off a fiendishly difficult prelude or postlude, usually then dismissively summarised as 'okay' by his own judgement or, worse still, 'well I haven't looked at that (Reger/Messiaen/Durufle) in quite a while'. It was not uncommon for Mr C to perform the Widor *Toccata* or Wierne *Finale* for one of the Upper Sixth's last Chapel assemblies, usually with no preparation, just as common as re-harmonising last verses to include outrageous unprepared dissonances which he would have scored out of any student's chorale work.



His role as Theatre Manager nearly always lasted until the interval but he did make it to the end of many productions, including some which he was integral to! His direction of pit bands and chorus-lines in our music-theatre 'spectacles' produced, by turns: rage and delight, threats to walkout (and for one final rehearsal this was a threat he carried out) and overflowing praise where it was due. Invariably musicians in his bands and choruses were drilled and prepped to deliver memorable nights of musical excellence, sometimes so much so that parents thought there were backing tracks involved. His final theatrical MD role in *School of Rock* was one he agonised over, even vetoing the whole setup with ten days to go (and again with four remaining) but ultimately proved right (again!) with musically tight and polished performances.

Whatever one called him, and his affectionate nicknames were legendary, his legacy of musical excellence founded on technical proficiency and years of solid practice will be long-remembered.

There was also a wide streak of occasionally risqué humour, paranomasia and frequent reminiscence, such as his story about playing a solo for HM Queen Elizabeth II whilst he was still a schoolboy...surely you have heard that one?

In pupil turnover this was the year we said goodbye to a plethora of performers, indeed almost a full swing band of seniors joined the ranks of the OGs. We sincerely hope to see them again and fully expect them to turn out frequently for musical events. So, it is à bientôt and not adieu to our musically active leavers: Alice, Kadia, Sam, Chloe, Imogen, Kiera, Ella, Amilia, Catherine, Eimhir, Lily, Isla and Will. Between them they logged an incredible number of performances and some seem never to have missed an ensemble rehearsal. To one and all we send a fond Xaipete, go well and come back soon.

Mr P Tedd

Arts



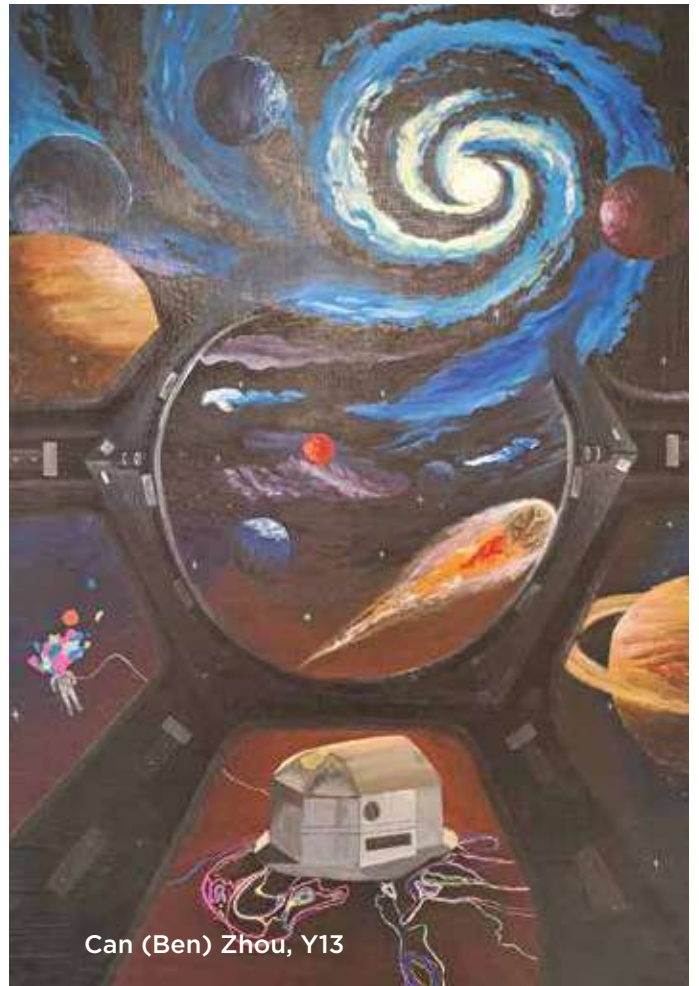
Amy Cavaliere, Y13



Martha Fellows, Y13



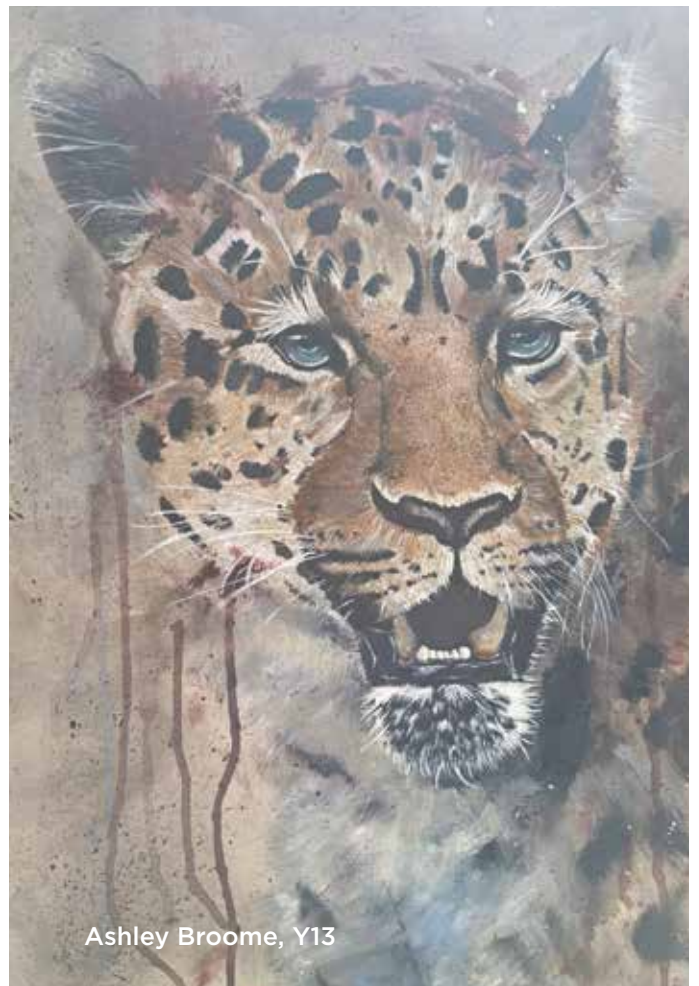
Phoebe Turner, Y11



Can (Ben) Zhou, Y13



Jenny Ingham, Y10



Ashley Broome, Y13



Olivia Helliwell, Y13



Amy Cavaliere, Y13



Lily Yuyang Zhao, Y11



Martha Fellows, Y13



Alyse Warburton, Y10



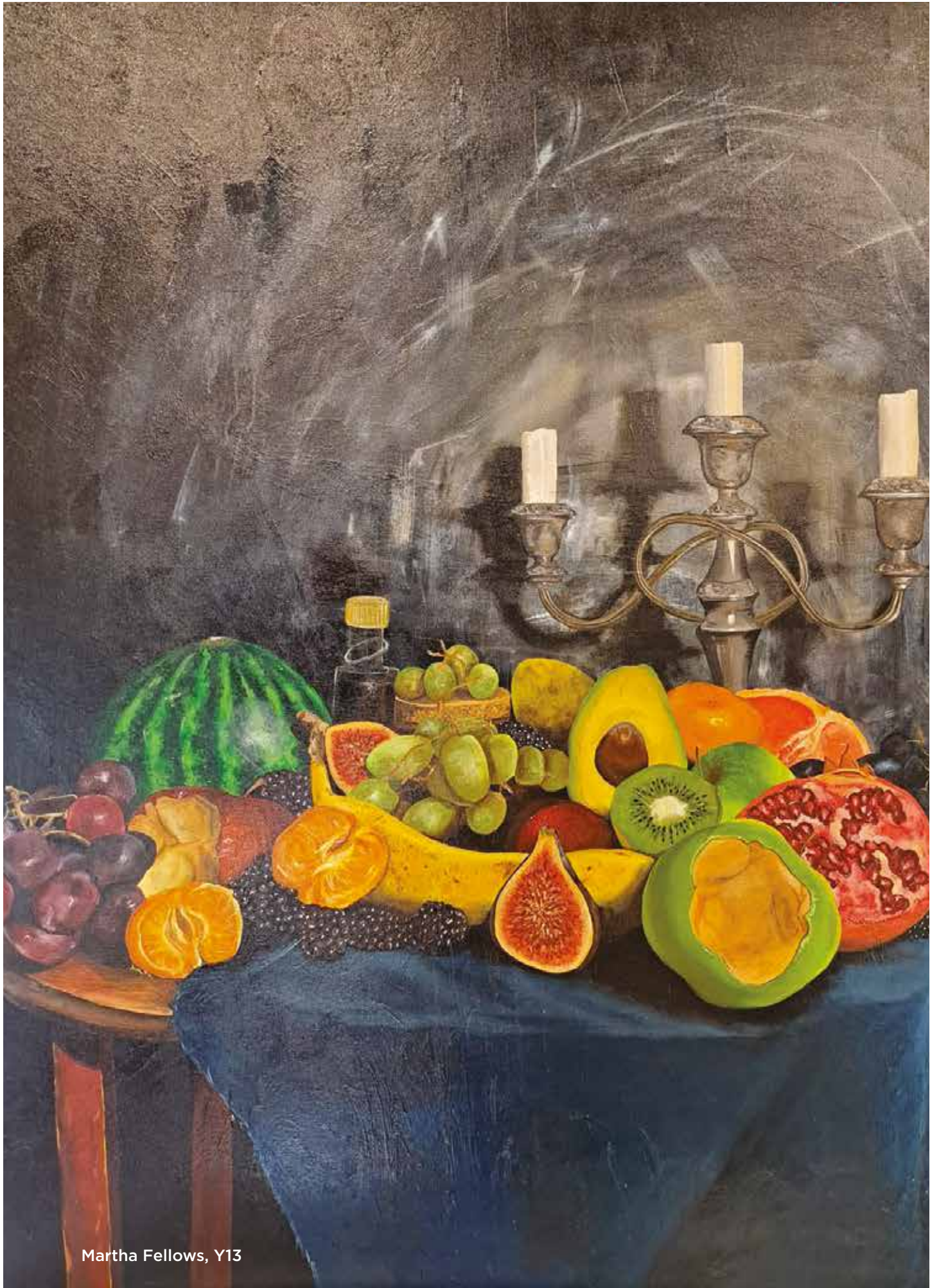
Amy Cavaliere, Y13



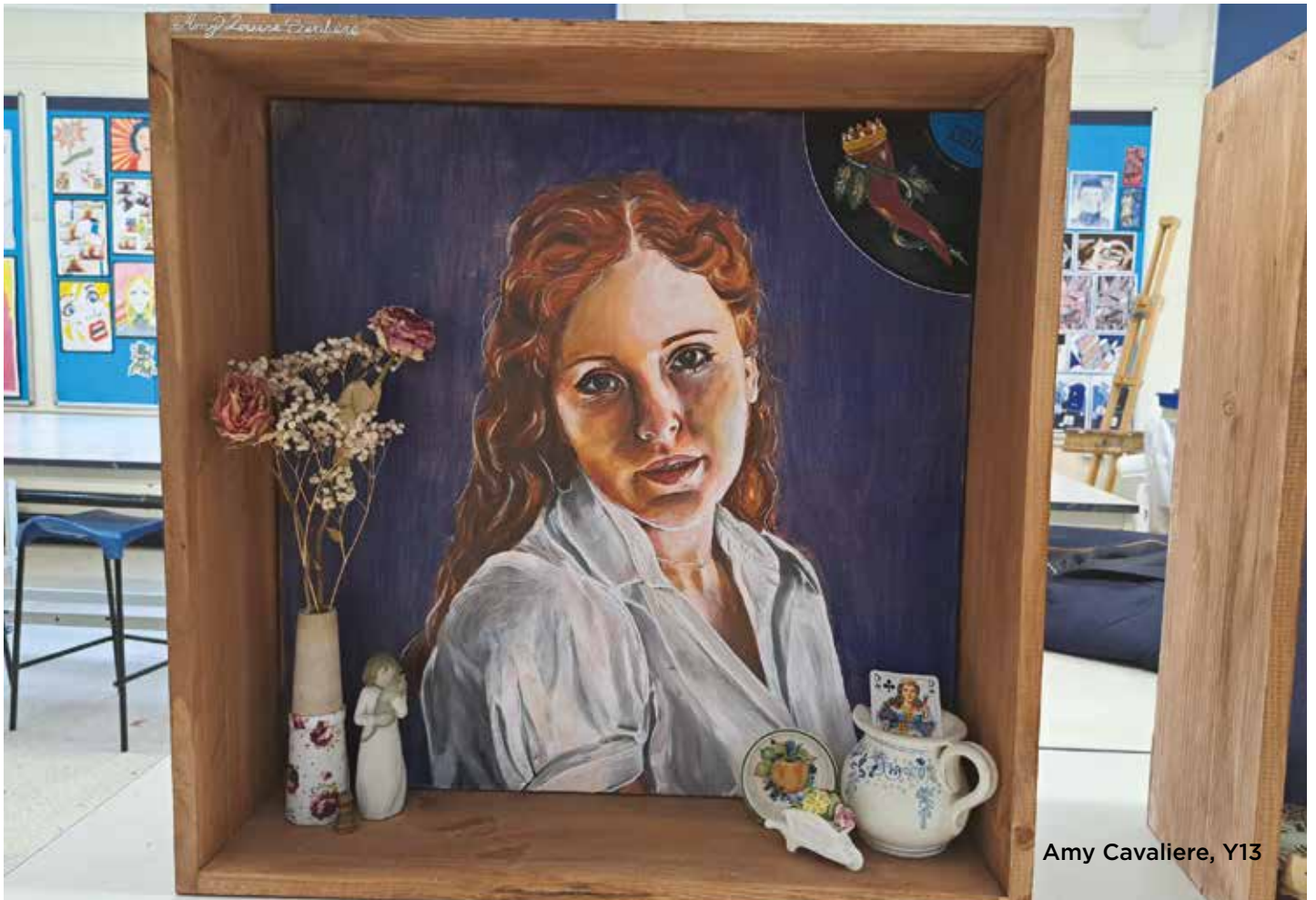
Isabella Defurey, Y10



Olivia Helliwell, Y13



Martha Fellows, Y13



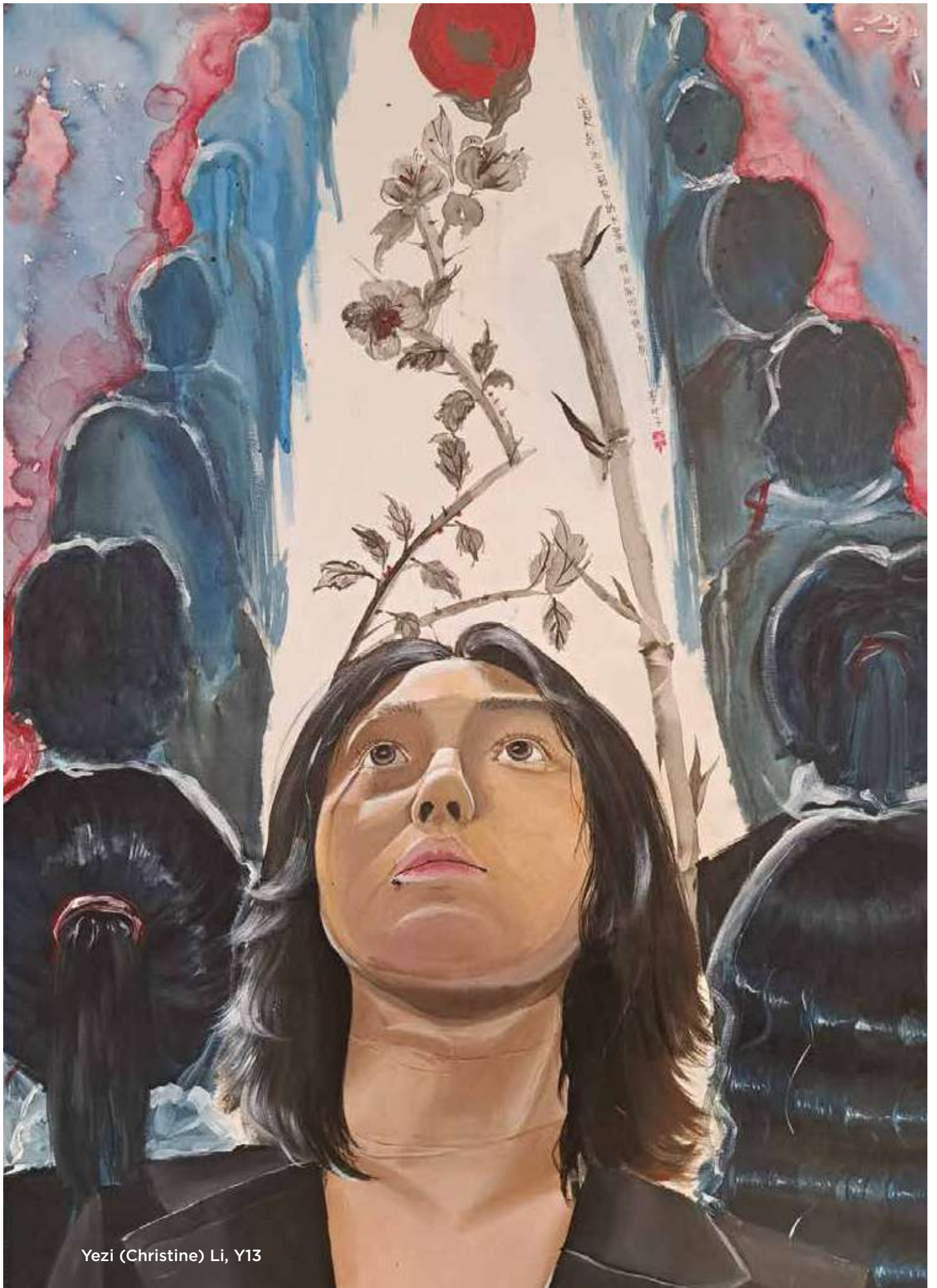
Amy Cavaliere, Y13



Isabella Defurey, Y10

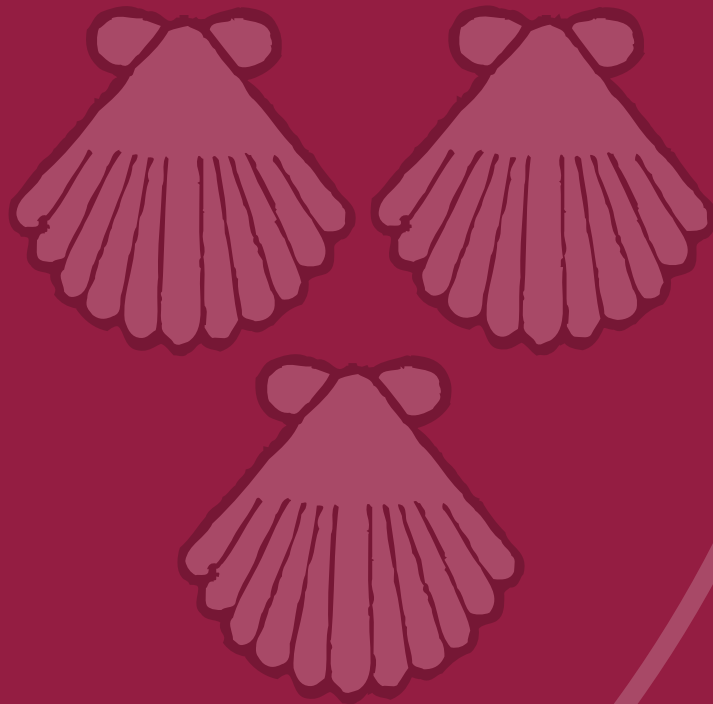


Olivia Helliwell, Y13



Yezi (Christine) Li, Y13

Sports Reports



Athletics

The athletics season was another successful one for Grove athletes, competing in individual and team events.

English Schools Track & Field Cup

The Junior & Inter Girls' & Boys' Teams competed in the county round of the English Schools Track & Field Cup. Both boys' teams acquitted themselves well but faced some very tough opposition and didn't manage to qualify any further. Both of the girls' teams, also facing some tough opposition, managed to qualify for Regional Finals later in the season. The Junior Girls were 1st and the Inter Girls were 2nd.

Regional Finals

This was the first time we had two teams at the Regional Finals and everyone pulled together on the day to give their best efforts. The Junior Girls were 6th and the Inter Girls were 8th, so they didn't progress any further in the competition but a great achievement nonetheless. On the day, notable performances came from:

Macie Donaldson winning JG 1500m
Charley Clark-Taylor winning IG 1500m
Amarachi Nleme 2nd IG 200m
Maisey Bellwood 3rd IG 800m

Bradford Schools' Championships

The individual competitions saw a large number of junior athletes competing in the Bradford Schools' Championships.

Bradford District Champions

Year7:

Hettie Smith 80m, Isobel Payne 400m, Lucy Wainwright LJ, Fabien Poor 400m (CBP), Taylor Cody HJ, Max Walker (CBP), Frank Warburton (CBP)

Junior Girls:

Elle Beaini 100m, Amarachi Nleme 200m, Cleo Hainsworth 300m, Macie Donaldson 800m, Charley Clark-Taylor 1500m, Lucy Bedford LJ, Freya Macdonald HJ, Bella Strudwick Javelin

Junior Boys:

Matty Roberts 200m, Ben Dickinson 300m, Victor Hanson 800m, Ben Cooper LJ, Sam Johnson Shot, Nick Bagshaw Javelin

West Yorkshire Championships

The following Grove athletes were selected to represent the district at the West Yorkshire Championships:

Daisy Marshall, Amarache Nleme, Abbie Stirk, Cleo Hainsworth, Macie Donaldson, Charlie Clark-Taylor, Ellie Beanie, Bolutife Solaru, Oliver Blake, Matty Roberts, Jesse Monovis, Ben Dickinson, Sam Johnson, Nick Bagshaw, Belle Nimmo, Maisey Bellwood, Grace Ross, Evan Morton, Ayomede Solaru, Tise Onigbogi, Ethan Taylor, Zach Taylor, Archie Peaker, Harry Bates.

Podium finishes were for the following:

1st

Sam Johnson -JB Shot Put
Maisey Bellwood-IG 1500m

2nd

Charley Clark-Taylor -JG 1500m
Ben Dickinson JB 300m
Ayomide Solaru IB 200m

3rd

Cleo Hainsworth JG 300m
Macie Donaldson JG 800m
Archie Peaker IB 1500m

Bradford Athletic League

The final event of the season was the Bradford Athletic League, where once again the girls' and boys' junior and inter teams pulled together for some excellent performances. The inter boys' team came second overall, with the junior boys, junior girls and inter girls all winning their competitions. A great end to the season.

Huge thanks have to go to all of the staff who have coached and officiated throughout the term: Mr Tedd, Miss Hughes, Mr Exeter, Mrs Wickens, Mr Jackson, Miss Dudley, Mrs Bradburne and Mr Hicks.

Mrs K Jennings



Rugby - 1st XV



The 1st XV enjoyed a successful season, winning 7 out of 12 fixtures. The team also made excellent progress throughout the term with some good wins against strong opposition.

The season started with a pre-season trip to South Wales, playing against Ysgol Gyfan Glantaf in a friendly before travelling back north to the King's, Macclesfield festival. With so many Year 13 players leaving the year before, it was a good opportunity to build some combinations.

The first Saturday fixture was a trip up to Barnard Castle, where the team showed some promise, but the bounce of the ball didn't go in our favour, losing 26-40. Next up was Sedbergh at Wharfedale RUFC, in front of a crowd of approximately 500. It was a brilliant experience and the boys gave everything against a good team, losing 5-36. The first win of the season came in the Cup at QEGS, Wakefield (31-24) but the team struggled a few days later against a bigger and older RGS Newcastle (12-43). It didn't get any easier against Denstone College, who were unplayable for the first 30 minutes, beating Grove 12-52. St Peter's, York came to the Grove for the second round of the Cup and the boys put in their best performance to date with a 52-22 win and some outstanding team tries. This and a 35-17 win against Harrogate GS were the springboard needed going into half term.

After the break, RGS Newcastle returned to the Grove for the last 16 of the Schools' Cup. This time the players were desperate to make amends for the heavy defeat earlier in the season. The players pushed RGS all the way to the end but lost narrowly 15-22. This showed how far the team had come and the progress they had made. Durham provided some resistance but ran out of steam, with Grove winning 35-14 - and a gutsy team display from the boys at QEGS, Wakefield in torrential conditions saw the away team win 31-21.

A stuttering home win against Hymers 31-19 meant there was one last fixture to demonstrate that the Grove were the best team in Yorkshire. St Peter's, York provided much stronger opposition than in the Cup and the boys had to dig deep. A late Grove score helped settle the nerves and the team ended the season on a high, winning what turned out to be their last match, 22-15. It was a great way to finish and emphasized how tough the team had become to beat.

A huge thanks must go to each of the players for their effort and commitment this year. They have made excellent progress, both individually and as a team, and they have been a pleasure to work with. The Year 13 boys who are leaving have left the shirt in a better place and the Year 12 players can move forward into next year better players for the experience. Finally, I would like to thank Mr Hicks for his expertise and support with the 1st team and Mr Howard and Mr Softley for their help with the senior rugby programme.

Mr J Bedford

Barnard Castle School Lost : 26 - 40
Sedbergh School Lost : 5 - 36
QEGS Wakefield Won : 31 - 24 National Cup - Round 1
RGS, Newcastle Lost : 12 - 43
Denstone College Lost : 12 - 52
St Peter's School, York Won : 52 - 22 National Cup - Round 2
Harrogate Grammar School Won : 35 - 17
RGS, Newcastle Lost : 15 - 22 National Cup - Round 3
Durham Cathedral Schools Foundation Won : 35 - 14
QEGS Wakefield Won : 31 - 21
Hymers College Won : 31 - 19
St Peter's School, York Won : 22 - 15

Burnhill Trophy - Louis Worrall
Player's Player of the Year - Callum Hyland-Dugbo
Coach's Player of the Year - Will Wood
Most Improved Player of the Year - Lewis Peacock

1st VII

The Sevens season for the 1st VII was affected by injury and cancellations but the team still managed to put in some notable performances.

The season started with a strong performance at Hymers 7s in terrible weather conditions for 7s rugby. The team finished as runners-up on the day, losing in the final to an excellent Sedbergh team. The North of England 7s was next, which is the second flagship tournament behind Rosslyn Park. A tough opening encounter against Mount St Mary's, winning 12-10, set the team up to win the group. Two further wins against Malvern College and The Grange allowed the Grove to progress to the quarter finals of the Cup competition to be played at Birkenhead Park RUFC. Unfortunately, Sedbergh were next and despite a valiant effort from the boys, they ran out of steam and lost 12-31.

The Ampleforth and Mount St Mary's 7s were both cancelled due to the weather, so an additional hit-out at Bradford GS was needed to prepare the players for Rosslyn Park. The boys travelled to London to take part in the Cup competition against the very best schools in the country. Woodhouse Grove were placed in a difficult group, amongst them being Trinity, Croydon - who were the Schools' Cup finalists - and Ipswich. A very narrow loss 19-26 to Trinity in the opener, following a disallowed try, meant that the team had to go unbeaten for the remainder of the day.

Unfortunately, Ipswich were too strong and ran away with it 19-31. The first win of the day came against the Sweden International team 19-7 and it was hoped that the team could beat Hurstpierpoint in the last match of the day. However, some tired bodies and a few further injuries meant it wasn't to be, losing 24-33.

Overall, it was a tough season, but much learning took place and there were some excellent individual performers. Congratulations to Thomas Rowe who won the 7s Player of The Season award. Thank you to Mr Howard for his support coaching the team and to all the players for their efforts throughout the campaign.

Mr J Bedford

Played: 14
Won: 7
Drawn: 0
Lost: 7

2nd XV

This was a far from easy campaign. From the outset, a combination of circumstances indicated that playing resources were likely to be stretched.

However, a pragmatic decision was agreed to combine the available squads of Year 11 and Year 12 and play as an Under 17 XV. This was to prove an extremely valuable development opportunity. At times the team were outgunned by older and more experienced opponents and occasionally 1st XVs, yet produced respectable results and encouraging performances. Wins were achieved against RGS Newcastle, Ashville College, Harrogate GS, Durham School and Hymers College. Of the defeats experienced, the narrow loss against QEGS was perhaps the most frustrating.

Among the most positive aspects of the season, was the manner in which the squad integrated together and built a strong team ethos, embracing the importance of equity of opportunity with regards to selections and in game substitutions, alongside commitment to training (and communication in situations where several players were juggling a wide range of co-curricular and out of school commitments). As coaches, both Mr Softley and I appreciated the maturity of the whole squad in this regard.

Playing standards improved throughout the season, with several players gaining elevation to and maintaining their place in the 1st XV. At the end of season awards, in a comprehensive review made by Jacob Eaglestone and Jobe Knapton, it was significant that most squad members were referenced across all the categories of awards, such as the encouraging potential evident in the group. Awards were presented by OG and Sale Sharks star, Joe Carpenter and were made to:
Most Improved: Amit Lali
Coaches' Award: Jacob Eaglestone
Players' Player: Jobe Knapton

After a somewhat inauspicious start, a great deal of hard work and determination followed and a most enjoyable season ensued. A versatile set of forwards gelled into an effective, determined unit, while the backs demonstrated improving skills and tactical awareness and, along with the back row, showed encouraging pace and power.

The team (and coaches) enjoyed and appreciated the support of an enthusiastic group of parents and there is great cause for optimism for the team and individual progress in the future. Well done to all!

Mr E R Howard

Played: 10, Won: 5, Drawn: 0, Lost: 5
For: 148, Against: 217, Difference: -69

U16s

We started off the season as U16s excited to train with the senior squad and looking forward to the challenge ahead.

Our first game of the season against Barnard Castle was a 14-12 win. We then went away to Sedbergh, where we played on their 1st XV pitch. We battled hard despite the loss. We then had our last union game as an U16 team against Prince Henry's, where we had a lot of students involved. Although it was a short season for U16s before joining as U17, it was good to play as a year group for the last time.

Joining the U17 team was a great opportunity to improve on our skills and confidence, especially in the contact area. We had a strong 15-14 win against RGS Newcastle and a 31-7 win against Ashville. However, we lost to a well-organised Denstone College. As a team, we stuck together and wins against Harrogate and Durham followed before a very close 1 try loss to QEGS in tough conditions. We carried on working hard as a team and we beat Hymers 30-21 in a competitive match before losing our last two fixtures to Hill House and St Peter's. The U16s involved in the U17 team learnt a lot and progressed well.

The end of the union season brought the start of the rugby sevens season. A slow start at Durham, coming 8th overall, gave our team the motivation we needed for our home tournament just a few weeks later. A tough few training sessions later and our team was more than ready to play, and this showed. Playing 5, winning 5 with a very memorable final win against QEGS, bringing the trophy home. This gave our team the moral boost we needed to go into Rosslyn Park 2023.

This tournament was one all our team will remember, a very successful first day beating all three teams in our group set us up for an opportunity to go through to day two. Our qualifying match was against a tournament favourite, Stowe, and with a last-minute try, we made it through. Waking up the next morning, our team was up for the day to come. Even with an injury or two we comfortably beat our first opposition, RGS Wycombe - but lost our second match against QEGS Wakefield. Arguably the most important match of the tournament was Brighton.

Our team played very well, but it wasn't enough to win. We then went through to plate qualifiers on points difference. We left the competition securing top 14 in the country, our team had our heads held high.

Henry Barton, Oscar Binns and Danny Morgan

Played: 3, Won: 1, Lost: 2



U15s A

The 2022-23 season was one of development and progress for the squad. In total, 32 players represented the 'A' team, which is a fantastic effort from the squad, and shows that competition for places is high. This was also a season of firsts, as the squad were given the opportunity to travel to Langley School for the U15 National Festival. Playing against schools from all over the UK, the boys recorded excellent performances and victories against St Joseph's Ipswich and Norwich School. This festival was a massive success, and it really helped the boys to develop camaraderie and cohesion for the rest of the season.

As ever, the Saturday fixture list was strong, however, excellent victories were recorded against Barnard Castle, Denstone College and Hymers College, with some narrow defeats along the way too. In the Cup, we lost a tightly contested affair against QEGS which meant we entered the plate competition. In the plate, we had two very exciting games; firstly, away to Stonyhurst where a try in the last play of the game sent us through to the next round where we hosted a very big Lancaster side. Unfortunately, a Lancaster try in the final play meant we were second best, however, there were a lot of positives to take from these games.

Perhaps the highlight of the season was when we switched to the 7-a-side format. This format really suited the strengths of the team, where there were some excellent performances in the two tournaments we managed to play. At Barnard Castle, the squad beat Durham and BGS to qualify for the plate. A strong win against the hosts meant we played RGS Newcastle in the plate final. Once again, a try in the last play of the game was our undoing, however, it was an excellent day, with some superb individual and team performances.

At the second tournament, again another excellent group stage meant we qualified for the plate, after beating St Peters, Ampleforth and Hymers. Unfortunately, another last-minute try meant we were runners up in the plate, however, the progress and development from September to March was huge. Having 32 players play 'A' team rugby was so pleasing and it bodes well for this group as they move into senior rugby next season. I would like to thank the boys for their efforts over the course of the season, as well as Mr Steene and Mr Hicks for their assistance in coaching the boys.

Awards:

Players' Player - Ethan Taylor

Coach's Player - Tish Onigbogi

Most Improved Player - Will Gaffney

7s Player - Zach Taylor

Mr N Barr



U14s A

An excellent group of talented boys who developed an exceptional work ethic and willingness to learn as the season progressed. I thoroughly enjoyed our time together, both on and off the playing field, it was a pleasure to work with the group, see them progress, and develop individually and as a team. They have a very exciting future ahead of them and I look forward to watching many of them go on to represent the 1st XV. I would like to thank our outstanding parental support throughout the season, no matter where we played, in rain, hail or snow we would always have the largest support on the sidelines, and I know the boys really appreciated it. Mr Jackson was a real asset to the squad this year, he worked tirelessly to support the team and ensure that all players displayed high levels of commitment and dedication to the rugby programme throughout the season. Finally, I would like to wish the boys every success in the future, and I look forward to watching them develop further next year.

Mr D King

Season Review by Sam Johnson

This year's season started off well playing a preseason game against King's, Macclesfield and winning. We then hosted Barnard Castle and, the following week, played Sedbergh. Winning both games was a big achievement for us this early in the season. We then got our first feel of the National Cup competition, playing Bradford GS and winning convincingly against our local rivals. We won the next three games, including an exceptionally good win against local rivals GSAL. We then played both Harrogate schools in Ashville and Harrogate GS, winning both games, with a number of players getting their chance to represent the A team. We took a trip up north to Durham, winning the game but it was not one of our best performances. Our next round of the National Cup took us to Hill House where we played some very good rugby, in difficult conditions, to secure the win. We faced our first major challenge in QEGS and, along with this face off, came our first defeat, in horrible conditions. With our morale low, we faced Hymers away and the less said about this fixture the better. We faced Hill House again at home, used a large squad and came out with another strong victory. We then had a day trip to York, not scoring many but keeping St Peter's away from our line, winning 12-0. We ended up meeting QEGS again at home on the 3G, with better conditions but, on the day, it didn't go our way facing our third loss of the 15s season and our second against QEGS.

Starting our Sevens season, we again headed up to Durham, playing strong and ended up winning the Bowl Competition against a fierce Dame Allans side and coming out on top. This effort was then followed

by a trip back to Hymers, we ended up getting our own back on them in the group stages, making it all the way to the final, unfortunately just coming up short against Barnard Castle. We would miss out on our home tournament due to weather, so it was straight to Rosslyn Park, getting down nice and early to get warmed up and ready for our first game, with support from the Prince Henry's team. We did not have a great start against a well drilled Uppingham side. After our first game, we found out that the team we were meant to play second unfortunately had pulled, meaning we had a full four hours before our next game. We used this time wisely and became social media famous. In our second match, we left everything on the pitch, winning but not coming top of the group, meaning we did not qualify for the second day.

Overall, we have had a great season, seeing some of our players help out the year above in their National Plate run. Our season this year saw us win 12 games and only lose 3, meaning we secured the spot of the most successful 15s team in the school with an 80% win ratio and our top try scorer being Matty Roberts with 27 tries.

We would like to thank Mr King and Mr Jackson for their support and guidance during the season.

U14s B

I had the pleasure, alongside Mr King, to coach the U14 age group last season, which I thoroughly enjoyed. It was a great journey for all the boys, in both squads - competing against tough opposition, performing great rugby across the board but, above all, always having a smile on their faces.

In our eyes, whether you have represented either the A or B team, you are all part of this fantastic squad and all have contributed to the success of the season. Win, lose or draw, it is safe to say the boys played to the best of their abilities throughout the season and to field two squads, with an abundance of talent, is an excellent achievement for the age group and for the school.

The team supported and encouraged each other throughout the year, portraying values of leadership, teamwork, enjoyment and respect, which is testament to everyone's development and progression as rugby players, but also as young people, which was fantastic to see!

Toby O'Shaughnessy, Henry Clarkson and Matty Horn detail a roundup of the 2022/23 season for the U14's B team:

"This season we didn't accomplish as much as the A team did but, to be fair, that was a near impossible ask. We had a rough start to the season with some

tough games against Sedbergh and RGS Newcastle, in which we played great games of rugby but didn't get the results we hoped for.

As the season progressed, more pupils deciding to play, which really helped us improve as a team. There were some stronger performances and closer matches, but that wasn't enough to secure as many wins as we deserved.

Near the end of the season, the last game specifically against St Peter's, we played amazingly, as we showed our full potential and even came back against them 0-14 to 26-14 to Woodhouse. A moral come back at the end of a challenging season!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Jackson, Mr Randhawa, Mr Higgins, Mr King and all the Woodhouse Rugby Staff for making our fixtures possible and supporting us this season. Thank you!"

I must say there was a tremendous amount of talent displayed by all players across the board for the U14's B Team, which made it extremely difficult to decide the Most Improved Player, Coach's Player and of course Players' Player!

Archie Wallace received The Most Improved Player of the Season Award, as he is always committed to the team, an absolute pleasure to coach, he takes on feedback well and seeks to improve his game to better himself. This is testament to this young man's resilience, positive attitude and coachability. Preparation is also something he improved on - he now remembers to always bring his water bottle to training!

The Coach's Player Award was deservedly received by Joshua Kendrick as, for me, he was certainly a leader on the park and never took a backwards step. He is a dynamic carrier and solid in defence and is always determined and willing to work hard for himself and for his fellow teammates on the pitch. Nobody can fault his efforts - so much so, he gained the opportunity to represent the A team and made such a positive impact.

For The Players' Player, there is no surprise that Ewan Stirling was chosen to receive this award. He was outstanding for the B team, being a huge dynamic threat in attack and dominant in defence. This was his first year at the Grove and certainly an exciting prospect.

Well done for such a great season of rugby and all the best for the 2023/24 season. It will certainly be an exciting one!

Mr C Jackson

U13s A

The Under 13s had a very enjoyable season with an excellent playing record. A tough preseason game against a strong King's Macclesfield side was a useful exercise and provided a great opportunity to get rid of the rustiness. The boys competed admirably against a much bigger side and soon learned that they needed to play a fast-running game, avoid collisions and take advantage of their obvious skill levels. Some excellent results followed and the highlights were undoubtedly wins against Sedbergh, Denstone and GSAL.

The team always tried to play expansive rugby and it is fair to say that even in the games they lost, they played the better rugby but were undone by some bigger more powerful boys on the opposition. The team scored some wonderful tries having played multiple phases and retaining possession to create space.

The team enjoyed a fabulous minitour across the Pennines, taking in a Friday night game at Sale Sharks watching OG Joe Carpenter have a hand in the winning score right in front of our seats. A morning fixture at Cheadle Hulme was also really enjoyable and all those who played acquitted themselves superbly.

My thanks go to all of the boys who made the season such fun, to the parents for their excellent support and to Mr Eaglestone for his wonderful support throughout the season. I look forward to watching the players develop over the coming seasons.

Mr A Cadman

**Played: 12, Won: 9, Drawn: 0, Lost: 3
For: 400, Against: 200 ,Difference: 200**

U13s B

Like a jumping CD (those of a certain age should ask an adult), I say every year that the success of the A team is a function of the strength of the B team - not vice versa - and the circuit we play on is immensely challenging, playing against other schools with significantly more boys per year.

The season started well in the usual hot and sunny weather that is normally devoid in July and August. Wins against Barnard Castle and RGS Newcastle put us in line for Team of the Year, however, losses to Denstone College and GSAL, both away, stalled that hope. Wins against Aysgarth and Gateways, either side of the half term break put us back on track. Unfortunately, the ubiquitous frost and poor weather at the end of the term put pay to any more fixtures which was a real shame, however, it gave some of the squad the opportunity to play for the A team.

The season was thoroughly enjoyable and at the end of it, if we win more than we lose and have a positive points difference, which we did, the season has been a success. Coupled with this, if the boys have enjoyed the

experience, improved and continue playing, we have all done our job.

The highlight of the season has to be the trip to Manchester at the end of January. Whilst on a trip to play Cheadle Hulme School on the Saturday, the squad went to watch Sale Sharks play Bath the night before. Old Grovian, Joe Carpenter, scored the first try within two minutes and set up the winning try on 82 minutes; he also took the time, accompanied by another Old Grovian, Max Green, who was in the Bath squad, to have selfies with the boys after the game. Thank you to Joe and Max.

Finally, I would like to thank the players and parents for their support and Mr Cadman for his coaching expertise, as well as Mr Hicks for organising the successful trip to Manchester.

Mr K Eaglestone

The awards were as follows
Players' Player: Elliot Alderson
Coaches' Player: Henry Shimmin
Most Improved: Guy Wilkinson

Played: 7, Won: 4, Lost: 3, For: 175, Against: 75

U12s

What a year for our Year 7 boys! Numbers at training were outstanding, the results across the board were excellent and the development and the A team started off the rugby season with long trip to Barnard Castle for the Tate 10s tournament and overall coming 3rd. The second match of the season was against Barnard Castle at home, drawing 15-15. Our best scoring games were against Harrogate Grammar School, putting 40 points on them and making a trip to Hymers, beating them by 15 points..

Moving on to the 7s season we started off with a tournament at Aysgarth and came 3rd out of 12 teams. We then hosted the Shuttleworth 7s and dominated our group stage, won the semi-final and drew in the final v QEGS, conceding on the last play to deny us victory. The WGS B team had a fantastic season and the great thing about our Woodhouse Grove B team was the stunning number of players making a B team appearance; 30 and 10 of these going on to play an A team fixture.

We had six victories and only 3 losses in total, which we are all super pleased with. For us the highlight of the season was our victory over Rishworth in the freezing cold and rain. It was an absolute blast and we all really enjoyed the season.

The B team didn't have a specific 7s squad but that didn't stop us all getting involved as most of the team still attended twice weekly training. It was a great season all round and we can't wait for rugby to return.

Rugby can be a very challenging sport, especially if you are new to the game, but everyone adapted and played their part this year.

Everyone should be so proud of their efforts and we look forward to seeing this group develop over the coming years.

Mr D Bradburne, Sam Dowsland, Jimmy Howcroft, Tommy Morgan and Ben Baker

Summary of Results

A Team

Played: 19, Won: 13, Drawn: 3, Lost: 3
For: 310, Against: 230, Difference: 80

B Team

Played: 10, Won: 7, Drawn: 0, Lost: 3
For: 225, Against: 205, Difference: 20



Fencing

The Woodhouse Grove Fencing Club continues to grow. We saw a large influx of enthusiastic Year 7 pupils join the club this year, many of whom have already gone on to represent the school at external fencing tournaments.

Across Years 7 - 11, pupils have competed at a number of external events, beginning to bring home a number of podium medals from the Yorkshire Youth League tournaments and National Opens. Congratulations to our star performance fencer, Kira Grahamslaw, who continues to be selected by Team GB to represent internationally on the Cadet Circuit (Under 17s). Kira continues to help support the club with her coaching skillset, offering advice, refereeing, lending kit and performing to the highest level in training herself.

A great innovation in the club this year, has been the Year 10 fencers helping out on the Year 7/8 fencing club night as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Volunteering evidence category. A small bunch of Year 10 pupils were fantastic with helping to referee, coach and set up and pack away the fencing equipment, ensuring a smooth running to this busy Year 7 and 8 club night.

A special thanks goes to the Friends of Woodhouse Grove, who again were extremely generous in providing the club with supportive funds. £896.50 this year will be spent on replacement kit and purchasing larger items of clothing for our ever-growing older pupils.

The future is bright for the club, where the goals are to continue to grow numbers, invest in kit, represent the school at external tournaments and to set up and host our very own team tournament, inviting other schools along to compete here at Woodhouse Grove.

Mr T Exeter



Swimming

Well, what a year it was for the swim team! We started off strong at the first training session of the year with a record-breaking number of attendees - many of whom were all new to the competitive swimming world. We, as team captains, are glad that everyone feels welcome enough to come and give our sport a try!

Our first gala was against both GSAL and BGS, where unfortunately, we fell short of the win and came home with 186 points, BGS came out in second with 210 points and GSAL were overall winners with 240 points - this only pushed us to train harder for our next gala!

The team trained extra hard between our first gala of the season until our next one on the 18th November; yet again we were facing BGS, but this time it was a home fixture, where we drew with BGS 230-230! This result was one of extreme hard work and one of which all of our swimmers should be very proud of. We were leading throughout the night, always having the upper hand over the visiting team, until the relays where BGS caught up, resulting in the tie. After the traditional 'three cheers', Franco's cookies straight from the kitchen and some orange juice, the team were able to have a small break until our next gala in the New Year.

After everyone on the team, swimmers and coaches included, had had a well-deserved break over Christmas, we came back with a bang and the first training session back had the same amount of swimmers present as the first one in September! This was great news as it meant that, even though we didn't have many fixtures in the Autumn Term, our swimmers were still enjoying their time training with us. Our first gala of 2023 was away at Bradford Grammar School, where we were unlucky as the home team came out victorious 158-133.

The week after, we faced Ripon Grammar School on our home turf, where we drew right up until the relays at the end of the night but, unfortunately, Ripon came out on top 233-222. This gala marked an abrupt end to the competitive 2022/23 swim season, as the rest of the Spring Term galas were cancelled due to the snowy weather or due to opposing teams not having enough swimmers to compete.

Jasper and I would like to thank each and every person involved in making our last year at The Grove extra special by choosing us to be your captains this year. We have both thoroughly enjoyed helping all of you progress and we loved seeing you enjoy competing like we both have for so many years. We wish you all the best for the 2023/24 season and those that follow it!

Evie Burns & Jasper Hunt

Climbing

Having recently joined the teaching staff at the Grove, I've had the pleasure of witnessing the Climbing Club's remarkable growth over the past 9 months. This year, we've seen a significant increase in participation from both Year 7 and 8 students and seniors alike. Our primary focus remains ensuring the safety of our students. We emphasise the importance of understanding the risks associated with climbing and how to manage these risks responsibly. This sense of responsibility and safety consciousness has been particularly evident among our senior club members, who have demonstrated exceptional skills and insight in mentoring the younger or newer members.

The club prides itself on being an inclusive space for students of all skill levels. While some of our members compete in climbing competitions, others join the club for the camaraderie and exercise it offers. Regardless of experience, everyone is welcomed with open arms. In the coming months, I aim to further nurture the climbing abilities of our students through fun club competitions, inter-house and school fixtures.

Mr L Ashley



Tennis

The 2023 Tennis season started in late March with the first round of the senior Aberdare and Glanville Cups. The U18 Boys and Girls both faced Ilkley Grammar School. Following competitive and well fought singles matches, the boys narrowly losing out, but the girls' team emerged as victorious. Progressing through to the next round, the U18 Girls then faced a very strong Queen Margaret's side. With the doubles games crucial, they lost 4-8 meaning their cup run was over.

Throughout the season there have been many friendly fixtures for both boys and girls from U12-U18, against a variety of schools, but the majority of the matches played were for the Y7/8 and Y9/10 Aegon Division 2 Leagues. All the fixtures have enabled students to experience competitive tennis, both home and away, and have been a good challenge for the students. The Y9/10 girls were particularly successful as they qualified through as winners of their league. Many congratulations to N.Flynn, D.Treanor, C.Coathliff and S.Williams.

A newly formed partnership with Rawdon Golf and Tennis Club meant students were given the chance to train using the excellent tennis facilities at the club during games afternoons and some fixtures. This was a highly successful initiative which hopefully will be continuing next season.

The recently branded 'Play your way to Wimbledon' competition ran with lots of interest this year. With over 70 students entering, the competition was held on a Saturday morning and saw lots of competitive and enjoyable games between pupils. Doubles winners H.Hinchliffe/M.Hands and N.Flynn/D.Treanor all represented themselves at Nuffield Tennis Academy, Hull along with singles winner L.Bridge, where they all competed well, narrowly losing out on a place in the finals at Wimbledon.

The end of the season saw the Year 7s being given the opportunity to visit the ATP Ilkley Challenger tournament, where they were able to watch professionals competing as a 'warm up to Wimbledon' and also get a masterclass held by some of the coaches at Ilkley Tennis Club.

Well done to all the students who have attended training throughout the year and also represented the school in fixtures. We look forward to seeing everyone returning next year for another successful season.

Mrs K Curtis

Netball 1st VII

I started playing netball 9 years ago with most of the girls who played alongside me this last season. So, you could say they've played a pretty important part in my Grove story... or fairy tale.

It all began when 9 girls decided to play netball on a Friday afternoon in games. We didn't really know a lot about netball then, so not much has changed to be honest. But what we did know, was that the girls stood next to us would change our own story, for better or for worse, I still haven't figured that bit out yet.

Year 7 was where everything really kicked off. From finding out our first villains and creating a 7 year-long rivalry against GSAL to wearing netball dresses for the very first time in our cup matches, thinking we looked so good.

But fast forward to the past few years when most of my favourite memories with these girls have been made. First, it was Miss Thompson saying we need a team bonding session and deciding to take us to her cross fit gym. All I can say about this experience is that I don't think any of us will be doing that ever again. But these sessions did really bring us together as a team. You could say we all move as one now, maybe even better than synchronised swimmers - which was another of our sessions.

For me, the moments off the court really made us a team. Whether it was the trip to Truro, ending in dance battles and finding out Miss T and Miss Dudley really can't dance, or going to Nationals and proving to everyone that hard work really can pay off. But also, the endless bus trips filled with karaoke and stopping off at cafes and sweet shops on the way home. These were all just as important as the hard work we put in after school, training when it was dark and miserable. It was the little things, where we spent so much time together, learning how everyone worked and what we all needed. That's what made us a family.

But none of this would have been able to happen if it wasn't for the amazing girls on the court and, of course, our fairy godmother, Miss Thompson. Miss T has looked after us for the last 7 years, making sure everything ran smoothly and that we always had the best opportunities to grow as a team, even if that meant getting parking tickets or breaking school buses along the way. It's a shame they don't repair how the pumpkins do!

Thank you for everything you have done for us over the past 7 years. You have helped us grow into the people we are today and we are forever grateful for that.

Harriet King

Playing Record

St Peter's School	Won	32-18
Alex Reid Tournament	Won	1-0
The Grange School	Won	31-30
Bradford Grammar School	Won	35-30
Ipswich High School	Won	58-31
Greenhead College	Won	32-28
Sedbergh School	Won	33-15
Area Rd National Schools	Won	1-0
Wyke 6th Form College	Won	59-33
The Grammar School at Leeds	Won	33-26
Harrogate Grammar School	Won	49-38
Leeds Fury (Mixed Team)	Lost	5-32
Wrekin College	Lost	41-42
Hymers College	Won	46-17
Yarm School	Won	35-19
Stonyhurst	Won	25-23
HMC U19 Tournament	Won	1-0
Sedbergh School	Draw	5-5
St Peter's School	Lost	25-28
Trinity School	Lost	8-9
Bury Grammar School	Won	36-35

Netball 2nd VII

The 2nd VII's netball season was nothing short of a success, highlighted with some amazing victories and a strong team spirit, both on and off the court.

Over the course of the season, the team showcased their strength and depth in securing an impressive 15 wins and only suffering 2 losses.

Facing many opponent's 1st teams, we had to stick together and show good levels of grit and determination to ensure we took the win. The level of competition throughout the whole season was high and credit to all members of the 2nd VII for the high levels of commitment throughout. Each win was because of the hard work put in during the gruelling fitness sessions, where we were put through paces in every weather condition. The bond we created as a team has made it such a memorable season and, after all my years of Grove Netball, this was the greatest. The journeys were much more than a means of transport, more like a carpool karaoke session on repeat!

A huge thank you to the coaching staff and to Mrs Curtis for the pivotal role she played in the team's success, providing guidance, support and challenges to allow us to develop our talent. I will certainly miss Grove Netball and I am so thankful for all the memories it has provided me with over the past 7 years.

Jasmine Wilde

**Played: 17, Won: 15, Drawn: 0, Lost: 2
For: 357, Against: 181, Difference: 176**



Netball 3rd VII

I've absolutely loved being Captain of the 3rds this year. The great thing about this team is that Year 11s, 12s and 13s have been able to all play together, which is an opportunity we've all really enjoyed and made the most of. We also had the privilege of having 12 girls able to represent us this year, so all of the matches that Miss Thompson worked hard to organise for us were very much appreciated.

I didn't have a vice-captain this year, so I've worked more with our Coach, Miss Pearce, more than other years, which I've loved. She is so supportive both on and off the court, and makes training feel fun, even at the fitness sessions. Our success this year in the games we've won has been aided by her expertise and encouragement.

Our girls on the team are all wonderful and have also played amazingly well this year. Our shooters racked up a whopping 310 points in just 14 games. With only three losses, two of which were only by a few points, and one draw, we've definitely had a great run this year.

Netball at the Grove is second to none and I've really enjoyed playing with the other senior teams in training, as well as my own. Some of my happiest memories at the Grove are on the netball bus, on the way to matches with my team. I really feel this season has been the best so far, and I cannot wait for the Tour in the summer.

Ella Manogue

**Played: 14, Won: 10, Drawn: 1, Lost: 3
For: 310, Against: 182, Difference: 128**



Netball U16s

The U16s have had a fantastic season; after missing the opportunity to qualify for Nationals at U14s because of covid, our target for this season was always to get to National Finals. A huge congratulations to the members of our team who have had representative honours this season. Grace, Phoebe, George, Jess, Nicole and I playing for Leeds Rhinos and in addition to this, congratulations to Jess who has also represented Wales U17s.

From our very first match against Bury Grammar 1st team, it was clear that we would need to challenge ourselves against senior teams to develop and improve our game. It was clear that our coaches felt that too with us playing regular fixtures against 1st teams, club and women's sides.

The squad of 11 played phenomenally well throughout the season remaining unbeaten against U16 teams until the semi-final of the Sisters in Sport National Cup.

We had a great local round of nationals in November and qualified for Sheffield in January to fight it out against the top 8 schools in Yorkshire. After a great but incredibly physical day we were crowned U16 Yorkshire Champions and had booked our place at Nationals with the top 18 schools in the country. In March we made the trip down to Oundle school. A great morning saw us riding high in the group and positivity was high but a couple of hard games came after that which meant we were out of a top 8 spot. In the lead up to Nationals I don't think any of us really prepared ourselves for the intensity of the day and the mental challenges we would face, one of which being my 'insole' issue which resulted in me throwing my shoe half way across the court - where a very quick-thinking Miss Thompson pulled her own shoe off and ripped out her insole and I was back on court in less than 2 minutes.

Thank you to the team for giving absolutely everything this season in training and in games. Every single one of you played your part in our amazing season. Thank you to our parents who have driven us all over the country this year, but also for your encouragement from the balcony at every fixture - we take this for granted but shouldn't - you support us so much and we are thankful for the opportunities you have given us all.

And finally, Miss Dudley and Miss Thompson - thank you for believing in us, pushing us and for instilling your netball passion in us. We can't wait to be playing senior netball in September.

Lexie Cadman

Netball U15s A

This season has been a phenomenal season. I'm immensely proud of the effort and work put in from the team. Everyone should be proud of themselves, every game was played with 100% effort and ability and even if we didn't win, the girls were still positive and wanted to go again the following week. I have a large amount of respect for all the girls involved and, with the following season closing in, I'm excited to see what it holds for us as a team.

Thank you to everyone involved and those who helped out. My Captain's Player of the Season is Michaela Masiye, for the work produced and her ability to grow and adapt to the game throughout the season.

Belle Nimmo

Played: 18, Won: 14, Drawn: 0, Lost: 4

Netball U15s B

Another season over and what a season it's been. We have had our fair share of ups and downs, however the journey along the way and some of our successes made the downs all worth it. One of the most important things being the progress we made as a squad since starting the season back in September. We did have our fair share of losses this season but it's important to remember the lessons we learnt as a result of these losses and the resilience we showed to come back from these, week in week out and still give it our everything at training to try to ensure we could get back to winning ways. One of the great things about this sport is that there's always room for improvement and that it's a team sport; we took the losses together, as well as enjoyed the wins together.

During the season we've made many fun memories. These mainly included Sienna tripping over thin air and having a sing-song on the bus trip - although some may not call it singing (but we tried!).

Some of the major highlights of the season have to be beating Fulneck 7-0 and winning 14-8 against Guiseley. These performances were so well deserved after the effort and intensity each and every squad member put into training, even on the dark cold evenings. We battled through to make sure we made our coaches proud. With that being said, we couldn't have got through this season without the guidance of Miss Myers. She helped us to develop our game understanding and gave us the tactical knowledge to have some great wins against tough opponents.

I cannot wait to return for senior netball next year and see what more progress we can make as a squad.

Grace Roy

Netball U14s A

Well, this season has definitely been the best our year group has had in the past 3 years. We have played 26 matches with 17 wins and 6 losses. We also had two draws to Wakefield Girls' and Prince Henry's, which was a great result for us given we had previously lost to these schools in past seasons.

Isla and Naomi have worked tirelessly at the back in defence to create turnovers for us all season. In attack we have had Matilda and Thalia shooting in the high percentages. In the mid court we have our pocket rockets Lucy Bedford, Pippa Bennet, Grace Dunn, Ilaria Walton and Freya McDonald, who worked well to give us options on the circle edge and help bring the ball out of defence.

This season, many of our squad represented the school in the U14 Schools Tournament. We first played at Bradford Grammar, coming away undefeated. A day to be proud of, we came up against some tough schools but we all worked together to get the results we wanted. We then progressed on to the Regional Round at Sheffield EIS, unfortunately we came away as third place, missing out on qualifying by one goal to Ashville.

Although we were disappointed to miss out by such a narrow margin, we managed to turn it around quickly for the U14 Leeds Schools Tournament at GSAL, where we came in 1st place, beating Prince Henry's in the final. You can imagine that was a very happy bus ride home!

We are so grateful to have the opportunity to represent the school in the sport we love. Whilst we do this, we make so many memories. I don't think we would have got very far without our support, whether that's Ilaria's parents coming to every match or to the other teams cheering us on. Thanks to our parents for their support on the side lines, and getting us to fixtures, no matter of the early starts.

We would like to thank our amazing coaches for helping us this season, without you it would not have been possible. We are all looking forward to seeing what next season brings.

Lois Turner

Netball U14s B

This season has definitely been a bit of a rollercoaster. We started off on a massive high after beating Bury Grammar, who we had previously lost to last season. We then moved on to another win against local school, Bradford Grammar. The winning streak continued for us, after our first 5 matches we had 5 wins!

At some point the loss had to come and, although it did, followed by a few more, we didn't let it have an impact on our attitude and Mrs Jennings provided us with some team feedback and targets, as well as some individual feedback. We worked hard to develop our on-court connections with each other and learning to read off one another when bringing the ball down the court helped us in attack. With some changes to positions and more work on our movement in trying to lose defenders, we put an end to the losing streak.

After the Christmas break, we faced Stonyhurst, who always provide us with a well contested fixture that could go either way. However, after our recent work in training, we were able to take the win 18-5, one of our strongest performances throughout the whole season.

We would all like to thank Mrs Jennings for her work with us this season and keeping spirits high, even after some heavy defeats at times. We have all improved as netballers this season and had a fun time along the way. I would like to thank all the girls who represented the U14B squad this season and look forward to working hard with you all again next year.

Daisy Marshall

Netball U14s C

I only started playing netball this year and one thing I've learnt is that teamwork really does make the dream work. I started netball in September, not thinking much of it, but my goodness, has it surprised me! Netball isn't just a sport to me, it's a community of people that share the same interests, united by friendship and dedication.

Although this season we may have only won two of our matches, which may not sound like a lot, I think it's an incredible achievement on our part as everyone has worked so hard. We've been against tough schools but we've tried hard in all our matches, we trained consistently and worked to get the skills to become even better netball players. We've had great coaches and I can say that I've made lots of friends from playing netball and it really does unite people.

We hope to come back next year, stronger than before, showing our dedication to the sport. Although I was nervous to try a sport I hadn't had much experience of before, I cannot stress enough how much this has added to my first year at the school and would encourage others to pick it up later if they haven't already experienced it.

Thank you to all staff and well done to all who represented our team. I have had a great time and cannot wait to see what next season brings for us.

Amarachi Nleme

Netball U13s A

It has been a privilege and an honour to be Captain for this season. From all the training to the nail-biting matches, this squad has shown unwavering dedication and a true passion for netball.

Our tenacious defence has grown from strength to strength, with Tife and Caragh alternating at GK and Cleo and Abi at GD, we were able to keep our opponents attack at bay. We've learned from last year's mistakes of obstruction and contact and we have increasingly created loads of interceptions and turnovers throughout this season and the girls can be proud of their efforts.

Our midcourt is incredible at connecting our defence to our attack, with myself at WD, Georgie at C and Ellie at WA. We get the ball down the court quickly to catch our opposition on the back foot. We have developed our centre pass attack and defence, and we have improved massively as a unit.

Our attack is amazing, with Taylor and Bella netting more than 20 goals combined per game. Both of them rarely miss a shot and have made several vital goals that have won games. They both work hard on and off the ball and, like the rest of the team, are outstanding in all contributions.

This season we have played 28, won 24 and only lost 4. I would like to thank all the girls who have played a part in this team, throughout the season we all appreciate your contributions on making the Grove the strongest we can be. Our biggest result was a 44-5 win over Queen's School Chester. We have done exceedingly well in all competitions we have taken part in, and I can proudly say we are the second-best team in the North of England.

Thank you to Miss Thompson and Miss Dudley for coaching us and taking us to all our matches, I will not be surprised if your ears are slightly broken because of our singing. Thank you to our families for being our biggest supporters from the sidelines. To the current Year 7 students, I encourage you to enjoy playing netball next year and hope the Grove's success continues. All the team should be so proud of our achievements and know next year we can be champions...

Vida Richmond-Coggan

Netball U13s B

During the 2022/2023 netball season we have all become stronger and grown together. The season started off well with a win against Gateways, which made us very excited for the season ahead.

Throughout the season we were constantly challenged by our coaches, with them trying to

develop our tactical awareness of the game and more game understanding. This proved really helpful when we received feedback, as we were able to understand what the coaches were asking us to change and act on this. During this season we have all been pushed out of our comfort zones and encouraged to try new positions. With our wins we also experienced some heavy defeats but I am extremely proud of the team for how they were able to move on from these and still bring a positive attitude to all training sessions. We have always made sure that we were all playing to the best of our ability.

We finished our playing season with a great win against RGS Newcastle. After the Easter break, we had an incredible trip to Condover Hall, we were blessed with the sunshine too. The weekend consisted of a netball tournament as well as many different activities to do at the center too. We had a go at the high ropes and worked our way through the high trees adventure area, we enjoyed laser tag, a silent disco and many more. The weekend was extremely memorable, and not only did we grow as a team but we also grew as friends.

Matilda Couzens

**Played: 14, Won:4, Drawn:0, Lost:10
For:94, Against:187, Difference: -93**

Netball U12s

This year, netball in Year 7 has been as much about making new friends and getting to know everyone as about winning as many fixtures as possible.

This year we have had some great fixtures and tournaments, like making it into the semi-finals at GSAL and beating Wakefield Girls'. This season has come with its highs and lows as, at the start of the year, we had some interesting footwork and passing. Thanks to Miss Pearce and Mrs Vernon, at the backend of the season there have been great improvements in all of these things. This was especially shown on our trip to Condover Hall, where we got to enjoy some great netball and amazing activities.

Thank you so much to the whole of the team for showing the hard work and determination you have this season, you have been working hard and coming to training no matter the weather! We also want to take this opportunity to thank our parents for making time to take us to matches and pick us up from practice. And one last final thank you to all the coaches, who have helped us on the way. We couldn't have done it without you and we look forward to continuing to improve and enjoy ourselves moving into next season!

Lucy Wainwright and Penny Lofthouse



Cricket 1st XI

The 2023 1st XI season was overall a very pleasing year, the young squad competed brilliantly in every fixture and showed some very promising signs that our 1st XI will be strong moving forward into next season. The tour to Barbados and St Lucia was also a brilliant experience for our senior boys, lifelong memories were made and there were some outstanding performances against some competitive school and academy teams.

Oscar Speck, Year 13, has written a detailed season review:

After a strong winter, the boys prepared for the first preseason game which was a tough test in Huddersfield New College, which we overcame convincingly, putting the boys in great shape for the massive first game of the season, away in a T20, against GSAL. Woodhouse batted first on a terrible wicket, managing to get up to a total of 111 in 20 overs, with Elliot Tattersall controlling the innings finishing on 47 not out. The boys were pleased with the total but ready to put GSAL under pressure from the off, which we did with Max Chaplin, Jadon Webster, Kian Tennant, and Grayson Oldridge ripping GSAL apart, bowling them out for 26. The boys were a credit to the school, putting us on sky high confidence, ready for another local derby against Bradford Grammar on the weekend. Derby day came around and Woodhouse were on it straight away with Popely winning the toss again, putting the Grove in to bat. Chaplin took the team up to a respectable total of 188-9 from 40 overs scoring 51. We were confident we could keep them under that score, and we were right, bowling Bradford Grammar out 110 in just 11 overs, with Starman Webster taking 4-11, meaning the Grove cruised to victory by 78 runs. As momentum built, we looked for a possible bigger challenge in Manchester Grammar, which was our first loss of the season, followed by another loss to a beatable Pocklington School. After these tough results, the boys regrouped for a massive game in the National Cup against a very strong Scarborough College. The boys put in a much needed good performance, however narrowly lost by 22 runs. Despite the loss, many positives were taken from the game. There was now a big final push before a half term break as we looked forward to welcoming another local rival, QEGS. We started strong with fireworks from Tennant, scoring 87 off 46 deliveries, followed up by Speck 47, giving the Grove of 261 to defend from 50 overs. The Grove was confident as always and skittled QEGS for 79 all out, with Pinkney taking 5-24 and Khan taking 2-12, meaning the Grove won by a massive 182 runs. This put the lads in a great position going into the half term on the back of such a convincing win.

On the back of a great first half term, the boys looked ahead to what we knew would be a tough second and final half to the year. With some key players facing exams and a tougher fixture list, we knew it wouldn't be easy. The first game back was against Yorkshire Cricket College and then followed up by St Peter's a few days later. Webster stood out in both, with a century and 94 back-to-back and Tattersall hitting a 50 against St Peter's. However, we were second best in both games, losing by 34 runs against Yorkshire Cricket College and 3 wickets against St Peter's. We then had a run of 4 games to finish the season off, with one of them being the biggest and most prestigious game of the year against the MCC. Tattersall stood out again, scoring 84, with us losing quick wickets at the tail meaning we ended up losing in a winnable game.

As the cricket season came to an end, the boys focused on an amazing opportunity to tour around Barbados and St Lucia, playing 3 games in Barbados and 2 games in 2 St Lucia. The Barbados first game was against Beacon CC, with the Grove posting 181-9, with McCormack hitting 50* and then bowling Beacon CC all out for 160. This very good win for the Grove put us in good shape for the remainder of the tour. Our second game came up against Combermere, who we defeated, again thanks to Webster and Speck putting on a 100-partnership, taking the game away from Combermere. After a tour of the Darren Sammy Stadium and a six hitting competition, which Tennant won, the boys were ready for their final game in Barbados, coming up against a young Darrell Jordan School, who we also defeated after sending Worrall and Mackenzie out to open the batting. 3 from 3 games won in Barbados, we were confident we could make just as big a mark in St Lucia.

A short 40-minute flight later, the boys settled into St Lucia with a day at the water park in preparation for our t20 under the lights against John Eugene Academy. Popely won the toss again, putting us into bat scoring 130 all-out, with good knocks from Speck and Pinkney, before JE academy knocked that off with 5 wickets to spare. The first loss of the tour came against strong opposition and we knew we would have to bounce back strong, as our final game of the tour was against the strongest opposition so far in St Lucia Under 19s North. After restricting STL to 139 off 20 overs, with Wood taking 4fer and Pinkney taking 3fer, the boys had a massive chance to go out in style. Knocks from Tennant and Speck set the game up, before Oldridge finished the game with a spectacular 6 over long on to leave the Grove 4 wins from 5 in an amazing tour.

Mr G Randhawa and Oscar Speck

Played 17/Won 7/Lost 10

Girls' Cricket 1st XI

Firstly, we would like to say a huge thank you to the teachers who made last season possible, and the support we got from parents along the way.

We can all agree that we had a slow start to the season. Up first we faced Stockport Grammar on home turf, it was a huge occasion with plenty of nerves around the field. Stockport quickly racked up the points getting 113 runs to finish, it was one to beat! Unfortunately, it wasn't our day, with only getting 40 on the board. It was a tough battle to say the least but there was a lot we could take into training.

Moving swiftly on...we picked up the pace at training and had a real focus on nets. The hard work didn't go unnoticed at the Scarborough game, which took place at home, with the final score being super close, where we also managed to reach our team best of 94 runs. Again, the team were very happy with their performance and were willing to continue their hard work to look for a win.

Our next fixture saw us take the road to Sedbergh - where the team dug deep, and resilience was shown by all...a special mention to poor Grace whose neck unfortunately had a go at catching the ball...it didn't end well! (Sorry Grace.) The cause of this fierce bat can, however, be forgiven, as the Sedbergh player is now playing for England - and gives us more confidence as we did not look out of place.

After all the hard work that we had put into training, we then went on to face Ampleforth for our final match of the season. We were all rooting for a huge win to end the season. Thankfully, we were all on top form and we were able to achieve our goal of the season. We managed a huge win over Ampleforth to bring our season to an end. Special mention to Naomi, who managed a successful 5 outs and to Illaria, who was top wicket keeper.

Last season was certainly historic for The Grove. As Captain, I am proud to say that I was part of the first girls' cricket team to represent the school. I am sure the rest of the girls would agree, and they should all be proud of what they achieved last season, and hopefully this season can be even more successful. From me and Mica, we would just like to wish a massive, good luck to Lucy, Lois, Illaria and Megan who are attending the Yorkshire Observation Day in October! Thank you.

Naomi Partridge



Cricket 2nd XI

In our first game against Bradford Grammar, we batted first but our openers Harry and James decided to get out within the space of a few overs, leaving me and Zak Shahzad to keep the score ticking over and the game alive. We finished on 93 all out, leaving Bradford the chance to chase. Following some dodgy bowling and too many extras to count, we managed to hold them out for 18 overs before they passed our score.

Next was Pocklington, we won the toss and decided to bowl, with James and Dom opening, getting 4 wickets between them. It was looking good as we saw more wickets from Dhilan, Rory, and Harry. The decision to field was paying off, with Umar Khan and his signature long barrier stopping the 4s and Hritik finishing the tailenders off. We had managed to bowl them all out for 68 as we moved onto the batting. Callum hit 20 and, with a bit of help from Divit, we finished them off in 15 overs. A good day at the office.

Then there was Yorkshire Cricket College... the only thing I'll say is that Ahmed took 4 wickets and there was no chance of us chasing 250.

Against St. Peter's, choosing to bowl first didn't pay off as they hit 174 with only 8 players. It wasn't looking good; however, we were sent a gift in the form of Grayson from the 1st XI who hit 46 for us and did a job standing in at keeper. But in the end, we came up short, losing by 67 runs.

Forty Club was a good event giving us a chance to play a timed format rather than our typical t20. As tradition, they batted first. We managed to bowl half the team out before they declared, with wickets from Grayson, Jaden and Oscar. But then came our batting which, safe to say, was not the best performance from any of us.

Next up was Lancaster Grammar. Once again, trying to play to our strengths, we bowled first, but once again they put up a big total. Vinay played himself in hitting a solid 50 and Ahmed almost did the same but closely missed out bottling the half century. But in true 2nd XI fashion, the rest of the wickets fell quickly as we only managed to score 130.

Now onto Durham, the pinnacle of 2nd XI cricket. After a lengthy bus journey up, morale was high going into our first game. We had pulled Newcastle School for Boys in the draw. Batting first, we put our best foot forward in the form of Elliott and Vinay, managing to put 154 on the board, slightly helped by Elliott's 101*. Then came the best display of cricket I have ever produced, managing to somehow get 5/16 with some solid fielding from the boys, including Hritik's incredible dive, where he flopped to the floor just short of the ball claiming he jumped as high as he could. This brought our second win of the season, with hopes up for the rest of the tournament.

However, this didn't last as the rest of the games fell from here, with notable highlights being Daniel Varley bowling out the openers against NSB, Danny Morgan's brick wall keeping and Hugo's one-handed batting. The trip was an overall success.

A good season from the boys, with special thanks to Mr Dobson taking care of the team.

Jacob Eaglestone (Captain)

Played: 10, Won: 2 , Lost: 8

Cricket U15s

The under 15s had a mixed season, with a similar loss to win ratio with a few top performances throughout the season.

Starting off, we had a close loss to Bradford Grammar, where Zach Taylor took 4 wickets and George Ingham took a hat trick to take their score to 132 all out but we failed to chase, scoring only 99, while having a team short of players. A couple of weeks later, we travelled to South Craven for a Cup game, where we batted first and got 224 on the board, with Max Chaplin's very quick 100 and Adam Hussain also scoring highly. As a team we bowled and fielded well, limiting their score to 88 so failing to chase us down, which meant we were through to the next round.

Two days later, with only 8 players, we travelled to Pocklington, where we had to put out two batters to bat twice due to our lack of players, one of whom was Oliver Riley Radcliffe who scored 20 runs in the last two overs and Will Moxon scoring high thirties, which brought our score to 118. Some average bowling and good fielding, especially from Tom Yeadon, who took 3 catches, almost won us the game, but Pocklington's bottom order managed to hold on and beat us by 3 wickets and not many overs to go.

Our next Cup game came up against Harrogate Grammar. They batted first and we managed to bowl them out for mid 70s with a good opening spell from Theo McClelland and Oliver Stoner. We managed to chase them very quickly and send them on the early bus home, only losing one wicket and everyone scoring highly.

We had a scheduled Cup game the week later, but we were unable to participate so were therefore eliminated from what looked like a promising Cup. We then travelled to Durham, getting a good victory after scoring 140 runs and bowling them out for 114 with Tom's 37 and Ethan's 30 getting a partnership of 50 between them. We also bowled extremely well that match, with Oliver getting 2 wickets, Ethan getting 3 and Tom getting 4.

Sadly, we finished the season off with a punishing loss on the worst wicket possible, with the outfield the same color as the square. We batted first, getting all out under 60, we weren't much better in the field with a couple of dodgy overs, although there was Jamie Wheelhouse's 2 wicket maiden to make the game slightly more enjoyable, nearly winning him a hat trick, although the mood dropped after Lancaster won in the next over.

Overall, I think we had a good season with many positives but also many things to learn from. We can come back again next year and hopefully win the Cup. And a big thanks to Mr Randhawa and Mr Stein for helping us along the way.

George Ingham & Tom Yeadon

Played: 10, Won: 3, Lost: 7

Girls' Cricket U15s

The team that played this season in the U15 girls' cricket consisted of one Year 8, two Year 10s and the rest from Year 9. Even though we were different age groups we all bonded well and enjoyed our matches. We have made huge strides this season and I cannot wait for what next season's challenges will bring.

Some highlights of the season are Isla Eaglestone's impressive bowling, taking three wickets in one match and the victory against Old Leos, who WGS bowled out for just 35 runs. I really enjoyed my partnership with Ilaria Walton where we achieved 43 runs in this match. In every game, the thing that stood out the most, was the level of support each member of the team had for one another. "Come on you girls in green" soon became known as COYGIG after numerous random shout outs by Grace Roy during matches. Our record for the season.

On behalf of the team I would like to thank Mr Randhawa, Miss Thompson and the rest of the PE department for transporting us to and from matches and the numerous after school coaching sessions.

Megan Atkins

Played: 8, Won: 6, Lost: 2

Cricket U14s

Our season started against BGS at home. We bowled first and bowled them out for 72 and best performance was Theo, 4 overs 3-13. Batting, we chased it down in 10 overs by Adam getting a quick fire 40. Then we played MGS at home, we bowled first and kept them down to 112-8 off 30. George

got best bowling figures, with 6 overs 3-18. Then batting, we chased it down with 8 overs left and Adam getting top performance with 43 off 23. We then played Pocklington at home, we batted first and got 164-4 off 30 overs and top performers were Adam and Ewan, both getting fifty. Then we bowled Pocklington out for 71 and top bowling was Jack, 3 overs 3-6.

We then moved on to play our first round of the Yorkshire Cup, playing Horsforth at home. Batting first, we scored 122-7 off 20 overs and top performer was Thomas getting 26. We kept them down to 82-7 off 20 overs. Our next game was QEGS away. Batting first we put on a large total of 191-1 off 30 overs. Well done to Adam for scoring his maiden school hundred. We kept them down to 157-6 off 30 overs.

We then played St Peter's, some great batting from Thomas scoring 22 and Tom scoring 26, got us to a defendable score of 123. Unfortunately, a not-so-great bowling and fielding performance and a good batting performance from St Peters meant that they knocked our score off without losing any wickets.

Moving on to a difficult game against Durham. We won the toss and chose to bat first. A very strong opening partnership from Isaac, scoring 31 and Matty, scoring 50 not out. Theo came in at 3 and scored a quick fire 52 from 35 balls and not out, which helped us finish on a good score of 187. Some good figures from George, 2 for 31 off 5 overs and some fantastic figures from Isaac, 3 for 9 off 3 overs, finished off the game bowling Durham out for 154.

Finally, a big thank you to Mr Bradburne, all the parents that came and supported us and also to my brother Ethan for all his help with training and warm ups.

Theo McLelland and Adam Hussain

Played: 12, Won: 9, Lost: 3

Cricket U13s

The U13 team enjoyed a very successful season, winning the majority of their games and losing only 2 fixtures against strong opposition.

The season got off to a positive start with wins over Bradford Grammar and Manchester Grammar with Goerge Cameron and Tom Halstead playing superb innings in these games, scoring over 70 runs each. The wins kept coming with a good performance at Pocklington School and then a super effort at QEGS to win by 6 wickets; George Cameron scoring 53 not out and hitting some enormous sixes along the way to see us home.

After the half term break, we lost George Cameron to injury, but the other boys were confident after the good start to the season and stepped up, with various players putting in some great performances. Harry Hainsworth scored an excellent 74 not out at Guiseley and Charlie Dibb bowled a fabulous spell at Durham to help us defend a small total on a small pitch.

The beauty of this team was that they all played as a team, celebrated each other's success and had lots of fun along the way. There was a lot of development and learning that happened through the season and the boys were a pleasure to be with, both at training and during the matches.

My thanks to Mr Randhawa for his efforts in organising the cricket programme for us. Also, thanks to the ground staff and to the catering team who, as ever, all looked after us wonderfully.

Good luck to the players with their cricket as they move through the school.

Mr A Cadman

Played: 10, Won: 8, Lost: 2

Girls' Cricket U13s

In January the girls qualified for the indoor West Yorkshire competition, which gave Year 8 a taste of cricket and many were excited to hear there were more games to follow in the Summer Term. Most of the team had very little cricketing experience but we were guided by Miss Pearce, Mr Randhawa, Rosie, Vida, Pippa, Caragh, Hettie and Daisy and quickly picked up the important bits.

We joined the newly formed West Yorkshire Girls' Softball League, and that enabled us to play fixtures against other clubs and schools in our first real taste of competitive cricket. The pairs format meant that we could all work on all parts of the game and be involved in bowling, batting and fielding. Our first match against Calverley was tight and we battled, emerging victorious, thanks to some great catching and tight fielding. Our match against Bradford Grammar allowed us to gain experience and confidence with our batting, and many of the girls enjoyed hitting the balls for four or six! The score was Bradford Grammar 38, Woodhouse Grove 112.

Our toughest match was against Low Moor Holy Trinity, which was a very tight contest, and the intermittent weather meant it was a very late finish. Sadly, they won by just one run from the last bowl of the game! We learnt the importance of trying to win the toss and of running between the wicket as much as we could. Our rematch with them a month later was a thrilling game, with some excellent nail-biting bowling from Rosie at the end, which resulted in a victory for the Grove.

We got through to the West Yorkshire Finals in July and I am delighted to say we achieved a very creditable 3rd place in our first season. Although a few members of the squad were missing, everyone played such an important role in representing the school: for example, Georgie with some excellent bowling and Taylor enjoying smashing the balls for 4. Throughout the season, we have really grown as a team. We thank the teachers for staying very late at school on Fridays and we can't wait to play hardball next year and build on our achievements.

Ellie Beaini

Played: 10, Won: 9, Lost: 1

Cricket U12s

This year the U12 A team had a smashing season! Playing 10, winning 8 and only losing 2.

We kicked off the season with a game at home against Bradford Grammar, which not only was our first game of the season but also our first game of the Cup. Winning the toss, we had a bat, posting a good score we were confident going into innings number 2, with a few wickets here and there and James Walton turning them inside out, we came out victorious.

Moving on to our second game, I think the less said the better about this one, with a long bus journey to Manchester Grammar and only posting 95 in innings 1.

After our loss to Manchester GS, we were all fired up for our game against Pocklington and we did not disappoint. Bowling them out for 65 and comfortably knocking off their total overall, it was a good day at the office for our squad.

QEGS was our next game and we knew it was going to be a tough fixture. We won the toss and elected to bat. With a bit of a wobbly start, losing 2 early wickets, we needed something to happen. With a cracking 67 off 47 from skipper Sam Downsland, we were back where we wanted to be. With a great stumping from Joe B and 3 quick wickets from Frank, we won.

Our next game was the Cup round 2 vs South Craven, at home on the first team pitch, which was an honour to play on. With Tommy taking 3 wickets and me taking 3 as well - and almost decapitating Nulty - we cruised to victory, bowling them out for 45 and knocking it off in 6 overs. Ermysteds was next in Cup round 3, at Menston. With the sun shining on us, we played really well, bowling first and both Harry and Frank getting their fifties in the second innings. We were though to the Quarter Finals.

Durham was next, we had a successful first innings, posting 232, with both Tommy and me hitting fifty and Josh and James ending the innings both on 30. We bowled them out 151 in the end and the boys were super happy.

Lancaster Grammar was our last block fixture and all round a great game of cricket. With our main fixtures over we were now focused on the Cup and we had St. Aidan's in the quarters. With Frank's 68, Harry's 36 and Sam's 58 in the first innings and Hugo's 4 wickets and James' 3, we made it to the semis. We had Aysgarth in the semi and had a solid start bowling first but, as the overs went on, our fielding went downhill with 2 catches go down and 3 run out opportunities missed. The second innings did not go to plan either for us, as wickets fell quickly. A great innings from Frank brought a glimmer of hope back but the total was just too big to chase but it was still great to see the boys smiling after the match.

On behalf of the team, a big thank you to parents for your support and to Mrs Pearce for scoring, but an even bigger one for Mr Barr and Mr Eaglestone - we could not have been so successful this season without you.

Tommy Morgan and Sam Dowsland
Played: 10, Won: 8, Lost: 2





Football 1st XI

After many cold dark nights training and watching free kicks land in the netball court, the long wait for the football season was over. David and I were excited to lead the 1st XI to a successful season in our last year at The Grove.

St Peter's 6 a-side competition kick started our season. We got off to a wonderful start going unbeaten at the tournament, playing 6 and winning 6, as things were looking bright for this season. However, this was short-lived as 4 days later we suffered a rough 2-1 defeat at home from a lacklustre Sedbergh School.

We kept our heads high and hosted a strong Rossall School and despite the 2-0 loss, we played well, and we took some real positives from the game. These positives were then demonstrated as we hosted St Peter's at home looking for our first win of the season. We received that first win as we beat St Peter's 2-1, with Cameron scoring the first goal and Noah scored a last-minute winner.

Getting our first win put us in good stead for hosting our rivals GSAL on the following Saturday. After some lazy and silly errors leading to a few goals, GSAL had beaten us with their physical strength and desire for the ball. But a great highlight to take from the game was Callum's chip over the keeper.

After the derby we went on to take a tough loss away to a physical Barnard Castle, we had a good win against Scarborough College and another win against Hull Collegiate.

During half term, some of the team went to Shrewsbury. This was an experience playing some strong teams in an unknown area. Well done to the players who came out with a draw against Wrekin College and a narrow defeat to Shrewsbury School. With confidence at a high we then travelled to Ripon and the team put on an outstanding performance with a 6-1 win, with goals coming from Rory, David, Will, Kian and Noah.

The following fixtures saw a defeat against a tough Birkdale team, a good 4-1 win against Ampleforth but then a narrow 2-0 loss against Hymers College. Bolton School were next up and, with several injuries in the 1st XI, we had a small squad and although we lost, it was a very competitive match where the players walked away with their heads held high.

The last game of the season was against GSAL. With the defeat from earlier in the year still on the minds of the players, we aimed to seek revenge, with David, Kian and Johnny Li desperate to make a statement as our last time representing the 1st XI at The Grove. With a good, fast start, it unfortunately turned out not to be our day with 2 early goals conceded, leaving us chasing the game. We turned out to be the losers on the day. However, it was a competitive last match, which was good to end this season on.

Overall, the season ended with 6 wins, 9 losses and 1 draw. We are extremely proud of this season and have enjoyed every minute of it. With an incredibly young team, I'm sure the younger players will have a cracking season next year and we can't wait to come back and support. We recognise we wouldn't have been able to do this without the support of parents and staff but most importantly, we couldn't have done this without our Coach, Mr Softley.

Kian Tennant and David Olubiyi

**Played: 16, Won: 6, Drawn: 1, Lost: 9
Goals For: 27, Goals Against: 48, Goal Difference: -21**

WGS 6-aside tournament - 3rd Place
St Peter's 6-aside tournament - 1st Place
V Sedbergh - Lost 2-1
V Rossall School 'B' - Lost 2-0
V St Peter's - Won 2-1
V GSAL - Lost 5-2
V Barnard Castle - Lost 4-1
V Scarborough College - Won 3-1
V Hull Collegiate - Won 3-2
V Wrekin College - Draw 1-1
V Shrewsbury School - Lost 6-3
V Ripon Grammar - Won 6-1
V Birkdale - Lost 8-1
V Ampleforth - Won 4-1
V Hymers College - Lost 2-0
V Bolton School - Lost 5-0
V GSAL - Lost 7-0



Football 2nd XI

From my perspective it was great to see the number of players taking part this year, which shows how popular the sport is. The Grove provides many sporting opportunities for all pupils and I'm sure we're all so appreciative of the facilities and sports we have access to.

We have had ups and downs throughout the season, some losses and some victories, but the most important thing is that we've developed as a team.

For me, the most memorable game was the away fixture against Birkdale. A very closely fought match, which resulted in a 2-1 victory. This game stands out to me for various reasons....

Obviously, the 2-1 win - but if everyone could picture the scene.

Amit, our creative midfielder, receives the ball outside of the penalty box shortly after a corner. He took one touch on his left, sets himself up and strikes the ball, taking a shot that was something of premier league quality.

The ball looped over the defenders' heads, hitting the top right corner of the net.

As Amit turned away in celebration, Jacob Eaglestone raises his arm, with the biggest grin on his face, claiming the goal as a brilliant header. However, in reality, it was nowhere near his head. Sorry mate, the goal is still Amit's.

Shortly after Amit's celebration, we knew we were in for a game, as we conceded with 10 minutes to go, making the score 2-1.

Mr Randhawa, in true Sir Alex Ferguson fashion, made the tactical switch to make our formation a 7 - 3 - 0 to absorb the increasing pressure from Birkdale's attackers. We managed to hold on, to get the win. Mr Randhawa, pure genius.

The camaraderie between us all and the atmosphere that has grown over the past 4 to 5 months was fantastic, and it's been great to get to know players from different year groups, making new mates and forming a great team.

Finally, I'd like to thank all the coaches but, in particular, Mr Randhawa for the valuable time, effort and patience that he has invested in all of us.

Callum Atkins





Football U15s

This year was a very big year in terms of being our final year playing as a year group and offered us the very fortunate opportunity to go on the football tour to Barcelona.

Throughout the season we have had highlight moments. We had two very difficult games against GSAL, when both times we had arguably a very good first half against them. A huge shout out must go to Marcos and his audacious volley that went soaring into the top corner during the first time we played them to give us a short lasting 1-0 lead.



The B team had a close in-house game with the U14B team, getting the result on the day. They went on to show development and began to gel as a group before the tour, despite losing the four remaining fixtures during term time. Both sides grew into the season and progression was very clear to see and in the end of the regular season, the As finished with 5 big wins and 4 unfortunate losses.



Now onto the football tour; along with Year 9 we set out to lay a mark in Spain and, to say the least, we definitely did. On matchday 1, against Spanish opposition, the A team, with the addition of Matty R, Harry J, Oliver S from the year below, put up a great effort but came up short and ultimately lost to a team with pure class. It was a similar story for the B and C squads. On matchday 2, the As produced a historic draw, becoming first team to finally not lose against a foreign team. Two big moments in the game came from big goals from Daniel, with a tidy finish and Marcos, with a composed penalty. To end the football side of tour we had a Master Class Tournament against the other English schools that had travelled over. It was a great day for all three sides, with a special Woodhouse Grove Year 10 and Year 9 'el classico' for 7th place. The A team, with the mix of year groups, had a successful tournament losing just two games and coming fourth.



All of this would not have been possible without the amazing efforts of Mr Barr, arranging fixtures and making sure the tour ran smoothly. A big thank you goes to master tactician Mr Dobson, who develop our style of play this year and brought the best out of us. Finally, thank you to the other teachers, such as Mr Bradburne, Mr Steene and Mr Randhawa, who gave up their time and effort away on tour - and to our parents for their efforts during the season.

Oluwatisefunmi Onigbogi

**Played: 14, Won: 6, Drawn: 0, Lost: 8
For: 37, Against: 58, Difference: -21**

Football U14s

It's safe to say the Under 14A didn't have the best of starts to the season with 4 losses out of 5. The second half of the season was a lot better with us only losing 2 out of 6 games. The last game of the season was an amazingly exciting draw to GSAL, which shows how much as a team we improved over the season. We all got used to Mr Bradburne's tactics and we are sure next year we can come back stronger.

The Under 14B team had some mixed results, winning 2 and unfortunately losing 4. We started the season with a friendly match against the U15B team, which we narrowly lost 1-0. The team's main strength was when we played 7-a-side, as this was when we had 2 victories against Immanuel College and RGS Newcastle. During the second GSAL game, on the last day of the season, Victor Hanson scored an incredible goal from outside of the box that curled into the top corner to make the scores level for the second half.

To finish off the season, a large group of boys from the U14 and U15 football squads had the amazing opportunity to travel to Barcelona for a 5 day football tour during the Easter holidays. Our team had a difficult run against some strong Spanish sides early in the tour, however, on the last day in the tournament, we played some brilliant football to complete a couple of drawn games.

Finally, we would like to thank the coaches, Mr Bradburne, Mr Eagleston and Mr Jackson for all their help and support during training and matches.

Ted Cooper, Harry Jarvis and George Webster

A team

**Played: 10, Won: 3, Drawn: 1, Lost: 6
For: 13, Against: 24, Difference: -11**

B team

**Played: 7, Won: 2, Drawn: 1, Lost: 4
For: 5, Against: 9, Difference: -4**

Girls' Football U14s

Last season was another one full of progress for the U14 girls as they played more fixtures and gained more cohesion as a team.

The season started with a tough game against a very good High Tunstall side. Despite their team having a lot more experience than ours, we put in an excellent performance and scored some wonderful goals, including an excellent free-kick from Captain, Megan Atkins. Later in the term, we played against Prince Henry's Grammar School,

which again proved to be a tough, but competitive match. It was clear to see that the team was improving with every game and getting more tactically astute.

The team had to wait a few months for their next game, which also proved to be the final game of the season. Playing away at GSAL, the girls put in another excellent performance, eventually losing 3-1 against a good side. A sign of progress was that more girls wanted to play, with the squad growing from 9 in the first game to 15 for the final match.

It was great to see the girls playing and enjoying football, and we are excited to have football in the first term next year. Having entered some ISFA National competitions, we hope to have more games and see the girls continue to improve as a group. I would like to thank the girls for their effort throughout the term, it was a pleasure to work with them and see them improve every game.

Mr N Barr



Football U13s

This season, the Woodhouse Grove U13 football team played 8 games. We had a mixed season, with 3 wins and no draws. Although we did not win most of our matches, there were lots of positives to take from the season. All the boys have improved massively this year and there was great team spirit.

Our first game of the season was against a strong Hull Collegiate side, who managed to beat us 2-1. It was a very good performance from us but they scored a last-minute winner, which was frustrating, but we didn't let that stop us, as we went on to win back-to-back games against Rossett and Scarborough College. Our game against Rossett was a highlight because they were a tough team and some of them play for Yorkshire. We managed to sneak a goal in just before half time, with great defending from Thomas Halstead and Lewis Riley, which kept us in it. I have fond memories of the next game, a 4-1 victory against Scarborough College because I managed to get a hat trick. Seb Cadman finished the game off with a very skilful goal into the bottom corner.

We have 25-30 people coming to training every week, which provided enough players to put out an A team and a B team, with subs. We learnt lots of things in training with our coaches, Mr Keegan, Mr Jackson and Mr Steene.

After a couple of losses, we came back better than ever and managed to beat our hardest team on the fixture list 2-0. Ollie Hall managed to get a goal in the first half, which got us in the mood to win. Despite playing on a wet astro pitch, we did our best to play good football. Later in the game, I managed to get a goal, with a great assist from Guy Wilkinson. All the boys this season gave their all. With skill all over the pitch, hopefully we have another season just like this next year.

Thank you to all the coaches, Mr Steene, Mr Keegan and Mr Jackson for a great year.

Ben Cooper

**Played: 8, Won: 3, Drawn: , Lost: 5
For: 14, Against: 28, Difference: -14**

Girls' Football U12s

Football in Year 7 was a great experience and we all thoroughly enjoyed it. As well as enjoying playing matches and being competitive, we enjoyed the training and fitness that we did the rest of the time. All of these training sessions were fun. Some of the examples of the things that we did were matches, fitness, passing and simple drills. All of the drills were extremely fun. We won all of our matches and scored

many goals but there were some heartfelt misses. Some of the misses were skyped onto the train lines behind the goal and others were kicked wide or onto the hill behind. We fought to win all of our matches and scored some absolute screamers. We won all of our games by at least 2 goals, there weren't any tight matches we topped them all. This fun and competitiveness continues on in Year 8, where we have just as much fun.

Isabel Payne and Isabelle Hastings

**Played: 3, Won: 3, Drawn: 0
Lost: 0, For: 14, Against: 5, Difference: 9**



Football U12s

U12 football proved to be very popular this year with over 45 boys coming to train every Monday night. With U12 playing 9-a-side, it was difficult to get playing time for every student, however, there were more 'B' team games than ever before, as well as some 'C' team games as well, both during the week and on Saturdays.

It was clear from the start that the U12s were very keen and quite a talented bunch, however, with most players wanting to play as a striker, it meant we had to work on our tactical awareness and positional understanding to be competitive in matches. The focus in training and in games lessons was to develop in these areas, and as the season went on, the boys improved dramatically and were much more capable at following a plan and implementing their tactics. The A team played 11 matches, the B team played 9 matches and the C team played 5 matches; during a fairly short term that also has rugby sevens, this was very pleasing. Some of the highlights during the season are listed below:

- A team beating Birkdale 5-1
- A team beating Aysgarth and Bootham convincingly in a festival
- B team beating Rishworth 2-1
- B team beating Birkdale 2-1
- Over 50 students representing the school in a fixture

Overall, it's been a pleasure to work with the U12s this year. Their enthusiasm and passion for the game is great, and to have so many boys training and playing bodes really well for the future. Next season, they go to 11 a side and I am sure there will continue to be high numbers putting their hands up for selection.

Mr N Barr

In total, as A, B and C.

Played: 25 games, Scored: 35 goals

Players used: 53

Cross Country

"All great achievements require time," said the oft quoted writer, Maya Angelou. We frequently look back on the days where cross country, as a sport, was considered, at best, a punishment and, at worst... a form of torture. Several years ago, we were lucky to get a single team out at any race, let alone multiple talented runners competing for selection for our national squads. It is not unusual now for us to have thirty runners at any given training session and, in the 2022-23 season, many athletes ran their debut race for the school. We had some great achievements last season, and we're very grateful to the pupils, staff and parents who have dedicated their time to help the sport thrive at the school.

We started the year (quite literally - our first race took place on the first day back of the Autumn Term) with the Ilkley Fell Junior Relays. This is the first time that we have taken part in this competition, and it proved a great way of starting the season, albeit a little rainy. Three teams of four runners took part. The boys' team were third place overall; the girls' team and the mixed team were second in their respective categories (6th and 7th team overall). It was a fast and hilly race, but with some beautiful views.

Our second race of the year was the Bingley Harriers' Schools Cross Country Championships. This is a great event to get many of our runners competing in the sport in the first few weeks of the year. 25 pupils attended, and the teams took three gold medals, two silver and a bronze, with six individual runners from the Grove also making the individual top-three podium.

Leeds Schools League, Race 1. 25th Sept. 11 pupils attended the first league race and Charley Clark-Taylor won, Jacob Best came 2nd and Macie Donaldson fourth in their respective races.

At the English Fell Running Championships, there was a disappointing outing, with two injuries and several athletes calling in sick, meanwhile Archie Peaker and Maisey Bellwood were running the

London Mini-Marathon with Maisey 17th and Archie 31st in the U15 races.

English Schools' Cross Country Cup
We had another successful year in the English Schools' Cross Country Cup. The first round took place on the 13th October and all four of our teams, across the age groups, qualified for the next round regionals. WGS squads achieved three first place finishes (Abi Stirk, Maisey Bellwood and Archie Peaker), with Charley Clark-Taylor achieving second in her race, and Simeon Tedd third place. The Regional Final took place on Saturday 12th November and, for the first time in the school's history, we had senior teams in this round of the competition. The Junior Girls (third place) and Intermediate Boys (first place) qualified, but unfortunately the Intermediate Girls' team missed out on qualification by one point. We were excited to take part in the Cup final, which fortunately took place in December at GSAL this year - a significantly shorter drive than last year's trip to Cornwall! The Junior Girls' team consisted of Abi Stirk, Macie Donaldson, Harriet Williams, Hettie Smith and Georgie Cothliff; the Intermediate Boys included Archie Peaker (who came 8th overall), Jacob Best, Oliver Goodison, Zach Taylor, Ethan Taylor and Will Thornhill. The Inters Boys' team were ninth place - an impressive achievement at national level.

Leeds Schools League, Race 2. 15th October at Otley. We had a good turnout but an incomplete Junior Girls' team, the Junior Boys missed the start and we had an incomplete Intermediate Girls' team. The Junior Boys ran in the U15 race and meant the Intermediate Boys were a strong second team overall. Charley Clark-Taylor in 1st and Macie Donaldson in 4th were top individuals of the day.

In the English Schools' Individual Cross Country, things started well at the final race of the Michaelmas Term, at GSAL. It was a historic day for WGS cross country, with fifteen pupils making it into the Leeds team and, in many cases, heading the field. Charley Clark-Taylor and Archie Peaker powered to wins in their races, whilst the Intermediate Boys' team of Archie, Harry, Jacob and Olliver took the first four slots in the Leeds team, a feat which was highly commended by officials and staff from other schools. Gaelle Carrasco and Harry Bates (2nd), Abi Stirk and Jacob Best (3rd), Macie Donaldson and Oliver Goodison (4th), Mica Bardouille-Lewis and William Thornhill (6th) all took the priority selection places. At the West Yorkshire Schools' Trials in February a record (yes, it's getting boring saying that now!) five athletes qualified for West Yorkshire: Archie Peaker (1st and receiving the West Yorkshire Athlete of the Day trophy), Maisey Bellwood (1st), Gaelle Carrasco (4th), Charley Clark-Taylor (6th) and Harry Bates (7th) with Jacob Best and William Thornhill (10th) named as reserves and a further three (Abi Stirk, Simeon Tedd and Macie Donaldson) in contention throughout and fighting hard to be considered to run in the National finals.

The final LSAA league race took place on 25th March, on our home course and what better way to enjoy cross country than by adding in hay bales as obstacles? The course proved a real success with the primary school children relishing the 'hay hurdles' and, once again, Woodhouse runners competing at the sharp end of the field. Charley Clark-Taylor in 1st, Tom Goodison 2nd, Will Thornhill and Simeon Tedd 3rd and Jacob Best 4th.

Charley Clark-Taylor subsequently won the overall Leeds League with a clean sweep of victories, another sign of her progression and talent as an athlete.

In the wider world of running, there was a good turn out at the Yorkshire County Championships, 7th January at Lightwater Valley, Cheshire. Archie won the Individual title - Yorkshire Champion and the team gold with his Keighley U15 team. Maisey gained silver and the team U15 silver with hers. Simeon Tedd (17th U13), Charley Clark-Taylor (17th U15), Macie Donaldson (19th U13) were next best placed on a challenging, muddy course.

Archie led home his Keighley team to Northern gold at the Northern Cross Country Championships, 28th January at Witton Park, Blackburn. With Simeon Tedd (39th U13), Macie Donaldson (64th U13) and Oliver Goodison (75th U15) all competing for their clubs in the competition.

The National Cross Country Championships on Saturday 26th February was hosted at a new venue of Bolesworth Castle. Archie Peaker (22nd U15), Maisey Bellwood, Charley Clark-Taylor, Macie Donaldson and Simeon Tedd all competed for their clubs in a fast race on firm going. Archie's U15 club team were initially denied medals because of a technicality over a lost bib number but were later awarded their rightful national medals. Archie Peaker and Maisey Bellwood also represented Yorkshire at the Inter-counties Cross Country

As well as cross country, we continue to nurture a number of promising triathletes. Several pupils have regularly attended triathlon cycle training sessions at the Brownlee Cycle Circuit, notably Eilidh Molloy, Gaelle Carrasco, Oliver Goodison, William Thornhill, Simeon Tedd and Thomas Simpson. Eilidh Molloy competed in the Inter-regional Triathlon Competition and was successful in being promoted to the Yorkshire Triathlon Academy Squad. Oliver Goodison joined the Yorkshire Triathlon Talent Squad for the first time.

Will 2023-24 reach and even surpass this season? Let's hope so.

Mr P Tedd

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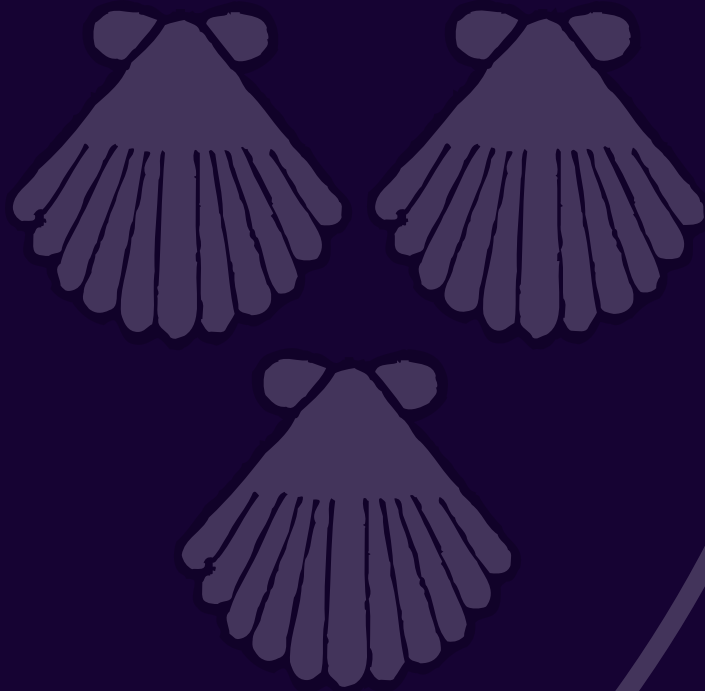
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House Reports



Atkinson

This year, I have been in awe of the students' willingness to go above and beyond in representing their house and showing the other five houses what we are really made of – and this year the students certainly delivered! I am delighted to state, and personally for the first time since being Housemistress, that Atkinson House came FIRST in the house competition! WELL DONE to everyone who took part in house events this year. Every single student contribution counts and it really is a team effort in achieving this momentous milestone!

Atkinson success has been made possible this year by the outstanding prefect team; Annabelle Hudson, Charlie Popely, Harriet King, Simeon Townsend, Kadia Barry and Emma Berry. These students have truly excelled as a senior prefect team, leading our house to victory. Many thanks also to our inters prefects; Isabella Defurey and Lily Bickle, alongside our junior prefect team; Sophie Moffat, Matilda Couzens and Luca Nelson.

My deepest thanks also go to the Atkinson house tutors, as well as my fellow House Masters and Mistresses. Your support, friendship and comradeship is what makes the role of Housemistress such a delight and it wouldn't be the same without you.

This year saw a new trophy introduced to Atkinson House; 'The Schoeman Dedication to Atkinson House Award'. The award is in recognition of recent leaver, Luke Schoeman who, throughout his time at The Grove, amassed an incredible 87 house points. The trophy was given to Year 8 student, Luca Nelson, who took part in every house event, apart from one; house swimming (which I think we can let him off). Luca was also the recipient of The Hole Cup. This is a trophy which is awarded to the student who has scored the highest number of house points throughout the whole student body (not just Atkinson). Luca earned 14 house points (the average in a year is around 6 or 7), which highlights his incredible effort! I am very grateful for him being a member of Atkinson House!

And now for a round up of the year. Autumn Term saw a string of successes. Atkinson came first in girls' swimming, swimming combined, Year 7 and 8 basketball. Podium positions were also scored in junior table tennis, climbing, inters badminton, boys' swimming and Year 9 basketball.

The success carried on to the new calendar year, with first place in junior boys' squash, inters netball, senior chess, Year 7 boys' football and senior girls' football. Podium positions were also achieved in junior girls'

squash, senior netball, inters table tennis, senior table tennis, senior quiz, Year 8 boys' football, Year 10 boys' football and junior girls' football.

Atkinson continued to ride high as we entered the Summer Term, with first places in junior cross-country and podium position in inters and senior cross country. Of course, I cannot reflect on the Summer Term without mentioning the all-important Sports Day. For any Head of House, it is always a grapple to ensure you have a full team and everyone turns up on the day. The inters boys' team was touch and go at one point but we managed to muster an almost full team together! Despite the chaos of Sports Day, it is always my favorite day of the academic year. A few highlights from this year include; Georgie Cothliff's outstanding perseverance in the 1500m, Year 7 student Jasper Bickle running in the inters boys relay (and holding his own against the giant-in-comparison Year 10 boys), Marcos Benito-Martin running the 1500m with one shoe after losing his other (somewhere, somehow) on the track and Sam Dowsland breaking the school record for the fastest junior boys' 300m. Overall, it was a hugely successful day for Atkinson House, finishing first in junior athletics, third in inters athletics, third in boys' athletics and first in girls' athletics. The results culminated in an overall third place position for the house – an outstanding achievement.

I must also highlight Atkinson's success in house debating this year. In the Autumn Term, Summer Lawrence and Kaitlyn Walsh successfully beat Southern to come first in senior house debating. Our junior debaters, Sophie Moffat and Luca Nelson, were also victorious. Following this, our inter debaters, Cecily Cothliff and Michaela Masiye, narrowly missed out on first place, coming second overall. We have never had such success in house debating! Long may it continue!

Thank you to every staff member, student and parent who has supported Atkinson along the way this year. I am immensely proud of all students in the house. Can we make first place two years in a row?

Xaipete.

Miss L Holloway



Findlay

Under Mr Crawford's skilled leadership and guidance, we achieved numerous successes this year. Although Findlay secured the 5th position overall, this ranking does not accurately reflect our many superb performances throughout the year.

Findlay's first triumph of the year was in the Autumn Term at the junior table tennis tournament, with the winning team consisting of Seb Cadman, Milly Cross, Lily Davidson-Monk, Charley Dibb, Caragh Jemmett, Jack Yeadon, Henry Holt, and James Howcroft.

On return from the Christmas holidays, the Spring Term was an extremely positive one for Findlay. Early in the term the senior girls' netball team secured a highlight win once again. Our fantastic netball team comprised Catherine Potter, Isla Swarbrigg, Jess Wilde, Megan Barnes, Summer Anderson, Lola Henderson, Nicola Trimby, Lexie Cadman, Evie Edgley, Lucy Hanson, and Daisy-May Hurford.

We then had great success at the junior badminton tournament. The team that secured first position consisted of Milly Cross, Charley Dibb, Jack Yeadon, Isobel Mckie, Adesh Sandhu, and Guy Wilkinson.

Later in the Spring Term was house quiz. Traditionally strong in the house quiz, this year was no different for Findlay, with victories in both the junior and inters categories. Nearly all our Year 7, 8, 9, and 10 students participated, contributing to our top spot.

Our last victory of the year came from cross country in the Summer Term, where the senior cross country team, composed of Victoria Dabrowska, Harry Bates, Rory Henderson, Isla Swarbrigg, Charlie Watterston, and Archie Hurford, performed exceptionally well.

Our other notable achievements from a year packed full of events included securing the second position in Year 7 boys' football, senior science (Lily Edwards and Lucy Hanson), and junior chess (Aaron Ahmed, Scarlett Barnes, Jeffery Lange, Shern Van Den Hof).

The Summer Term concluded with house athletics, an event that we all look forward to enormously and it didn't disappoint. With maroon bibs on and face paint everywhere, Findlay showed up in full force, ready to take on the challenge! Throughout the afternoon we poured our efforts into every event and can be proud of our performance.

Throughout the year, numerous students earned silver and gold badges, symbolising their dedication and commitment to the house. A heartfelt thank you and congratulations go to all those who were awarded

silver and gold badges this year. In addition to this, trophies were awarded to Catherine Potter, Archie Hurford, and Rory Henderson for achieving an impressive 50 house points. Isla Swarbrigg also received a trophy for accumulating an incredible 70 house points, a truly remarkable achievement!

This year, the Michael Allewell Trophy was presented to Thomas Yeadon (Year 10) for his excellent attitude and unwavering commitment and support of house events.

Special thanks go to all our house prefects, especially the seniors: Megan Barnes, Adela Durmekova, Max Hassan, Amilia Newsome, Isla Swarbrigg, Jasmine Wilde, and William Wood. Their excellent teamwork contributed significantly. Also, a massively thank you to Catherine Potter, who served as an incredibly committed Head of House.

As the year comes to a close, Findlay House extends best wishes to two of its longest-serving staff members, Mrs Hughes and Mr Jarvis, as they embark on a well-deserved and happy retirement. We deeply appreciate their immense contributions to the house over the years, and their support and wisdom will be greatly missed. Additionally, we bid farewell and good luck to all our Findlay leavers, knowing that their connection to Findlay will last a lifetime.

Lastly, I and the whole of Findlay House express our heartfelt gratitude to Mr Crawford for his ten years of devoted service to Findlay. Mr Crawford's dedication and passion in leading Findlay House has left an indelible mark, making him a true legend, leaving behind an extraordinary legacy.

Mrs S Harder



Southerns

As one year concludes, my thoughts naturally gravitate towards the future. But before forging ahead, it's vital to reflect on our 2022-23 journey. While we've faced both highs and lows, I consistently ask: "Did we have fun?"

During the year of 2022-23, we began on a high note, consistently ranking in the top 3 during the 1st half of the Autumn Term. Among our victories, we clinched 1st place in the senior girls' squash and climbing competitions. 2nd place was ours in both the senior and junior debates, as well as in senior boys' squash. However, our momentum waned in the latter half of the term with rankings that, though not our best, still showcased our determination. We took 6th in junior table tennis and senior squash, 5th in boys' swimming and Year 9 and 10 basketball, 4th in inters badminton, girls' swimming and Year 7 basketball. We did however secure 3rd place in Year 8 basketball, which provided us with a little glimmer of hope.

The Spring Term posed its challenges, in fact, we took a bit of a beating! We took 6th and 5th place in junior boys' and girls' squash. We came 6th in the inters and senior netball competitions, and although we were all fired up for the junior netball matches as we had a strong and confident team, much to our annoyance this competition was cancelled due to poor weather conditions. We came 5th in inters and senior table tennis and junior badminton. We took 4th place in senior chess. However, the inters and senior quiz results rekindled our hopes of a comeback; we took 2nd place and we came 3rd in the junior quiz! Despite our enthusiasm, the term ended with a less than ideal performance in the football competition; we came 6th.

Heading into Summer, we were down but we were adamant that we were not out. Sadly at the very start of the final term our optimism was dented, as we took 5th place in cross country. But brighter times were on the horizon with victories as we secured 2nd place in junior science and 3rd place in senior science. We came 3rd in the inters debate and then we hit the big time; we secured 1st place in junior chess! We were once again hopeful for a comeback. But alas, it was not meant to be, the climatic athletics competition on Sports Day placed us in 5th position; we finished in last place overall.

And so, as we all know, sometimes in life, things don't go our way and we find ourselves at the bottom of the league table - and at the end of 2022-23 that is where Southernns were. Throughout this year, I have spoken to our house a lot about my belief in the power of optimism and perseverance. We have

entered every house competition with optimism and have persevered when faced with the fierce competitors from other houses. Though the year might not have seen Southernns at the pinnacle, the joy and spirit of competition remained undiminished, and I remain unwavering in my faith in our house. I will never cease to believe in Southernns' greatness and have high hopes for what the future holds.

Throughout the year of 2022-23, as a house we have learnt that whether it's in sports, academics, or any other area of life, being at the bottom can be disheartening and demotivating. It's easy to get discouraged and to feel like giving up, but that's when it's most important to stay optimistic and keep pushing forward and that is exactly what we did as a house.

Being at the bottom signifies one clear direction - upwards. We will harness our optimism, grit and tenacity to make 2023-24 a standout year. Whatever time it takes to clinch that House Trophy, we are here for the journey. Our path will no doubt be riddled with challenges but promises growth and, with every new year, we get a chance at redemption. We might have had setbacks and will face many more as we move forward but they are merely chapters in our ongoing journey. It is paramount to forge ahead, and that is precisely our intent.

In closing, to each Southernns member: success is not just about winning or achieving a certain goal. It's also about the effort we put in, the lessons we learn and the growth we experience along the way. One of my personal highlights of 2022-23 wasn't a victory but a photograph I received from a senior netballer (included in this report) it is a testament to our Southernns' spirit. Although we didn't top the charts, the photo doesn't give the impression of failure, it gives the impression that the team had fun and enjoyed playing together, it stands testament to our character and the overriding feeling is joy. Joy in the fact that we have fun - and for me, that's winning.

Miss L Watmough



Stephenson

For the past six years, I have had the privilege of being Stephenson Housemaster, and I can honestly say that I have loved every moment of it. The house system at The Grove is unique and special, giving students the opportunity to be part of a smaller community within the wider Woodhouse Grove family. Having been at The Grove for 10 years, I can honestly say that some of my fondest moments have been watching Stephenson students compete with passion and pride across a range of events, but most notably during House Swimming and on Sports Day. I have been fortunate to have had fantastic students in Stephenson, who are the best ambassadors for the school, and always give their best and abide by the school motto; Bone et Fidelis.

As Mr Jackson takes on the role of Stephenson Housemaster, I would like to wish him the very best of luck and I know he will do a wonderful job and take Stephenson to the next level. I would also like to thank the students for their passion and commitment to the house and I hope to see a Stephenson student receiving the House Cup on the final assembly at the end of year.

Thank you,
Mr Barr

To be appointed Head of Stephenson House is an absolute privilege, as I am filling the shoes of former Head of House Mr Barr after a considerable number of years, leading Stephenson and instilling the values the House carries today! I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Barr, on behalf of all of us in Stephenson House, for his services and commitment over the years – It is truly commendable!

I was very grateful for the opportunity to shadow Mr Barr on Sports Day, last academic year, as it was evident that Stephenson House portrayed a lot of team spirit and determination to pull together as a team and compete to the best of their abilities. Although we ended up coming in 2nd place overall, we received a grand total of 199.5 points, with a total of 37 participants competing. Mr Barr and I could not have been prouder of all involved!

The standing for the overall leaderboard last year was also an achievement to be tremendously proud of. Stephenson House finished 3rd (171 points) just behind Towlson in 2nd (179 points) and Atkinson in 1st place (198.5 points). This has, without doubt, given us the confidence to finish top this year!

I have really enjoyed being introduced to such a welcoming and positive environment that the

students and staff alike have created in Stephenson House. Only three weeks into the new academic year, and I couldn't ask for a better and more supportive team around me! We have a great crop of prefects (senior, inters and juniors) and certainly a very strong Stephenson SLT, to support and inspire students in the House to get involved and be a part of making memories and gaining valuable experiences.

The staff and students within Stephenson House acknowledge that the House system plays a fundamental part in facilitating an environment where all can participate and compete in a range of different activities of interest. This allows students to thrive and showcase their talents, as well as fully expressing themselves individually and collectively, ensuring that students gain a real sense of belonging in our House and aspire to pursue goals to succeed.

Certainly, a successful year in 2022-23 and a very exciting year ahead!

Mr Jackson

Heads of House (Year 13):
Emma Okpala

Deputy Heads of House (Year 13):
Claudia Darren and Evie Burns

Sixth Form prefects:
Sam Binns, Divit Gupta, Amy Cavaliere, Sam Siu

Inters prefects Year 10:
Oliver Goodison and Izzy Kaye

Junior prefects Year 8:
Josiah Stockill and Taylor Crowther

School Council:
Daniel Littlejohns



Towlson

Heads of House : Ella Manogue and Ruby Hawker

With Towlson house winning the overall house trophy last year, we started the year with a spring in our step and we couldn't have had two more suitable Heads of House in Ella and Ruby, sharing the James Hole trophy for their contribution to Towlson House over their time in school as a reflection of all their hard work. As seems to be a bit of tradition now, we started off the year with a win, the senior boys' squash team of Amit Lali, Callum Atkins, Tom Steel and Ed Bywell storming to victory. Our junior debaters this year were Amelia Grimshaw and Eesa Hamid, Poppy Freely and Georgia Rhodes represented the seniors. The senior girls' squash team of Lucy Lund, Jess Weir, Mary Murphy and Kitty Hawker came second, and our junior table tennis team came third, giving some of the new Year 7 students their first opportunity to take part in a house event and get their first house points. We then had inters and senior badminton, the teams coming in fifth and third place respectively. The climbers should not be overlooked and a big thank you should go to Simeon Tedd, Huzefa Baiji, Helaina Lamb and Charlie Rutter. There are too many swimmers to name, but the girls' team came a respectable third place and the boys' sixth place. Thank you to all the students who took part, as ever it was a great night for everyone.

I think I say this every year, but the Spring Term was a busy one. It started off with six girls taking part in junior squash and coming fourth, followed by Alex Steel, Ethan May, Simeon Tedd and Issac Rashid achieving fifth place in junior boys' squash and a strong team of eight junior boys and girls achieving third place in junior badminton. I think the senior table-tennis team of Rainie Ngari, Amit Lali, Caitlin Marshall, Jess Weir, Lucy Lund and Mary Murphy were pleasantly surprised when they achieved second place and a particular well done should go to the junior team of Harris Turnball, Zack Taylor, Ethan Taylor, Faysal Adeshina and the last-minute call up of Lily Peacock for coming first. Thanks should go to Max Warland for leading the senior chess team and well done to the junior science entry of Rosalind and Miranda Bayliss, who came joint third and senior science team of Ella Manogue and Ruby Hawker, who came fourth. There are too many netballers and footballers to name but the results can speak for themselves. In netball, the seniors came fourth, as did the inters. Unfortunately, the weather prevented the junior fixture from taking place. In football, Year 7 came fifth, Year 8 came fifth, and then Years 9 and 10 and the seniors came first. This year was also the first time for girls' house football. It is fair to say that every girl that took part in either the junior or senior games





had a ball. The junior team won four games and drew one and achieved first place and the senior girls came in second place.

The Summer Term was a quiet one, but it culminated in another successful Sports Day for Towlson. We had 30 students from Years 7 to 10 taking part, with 4 Year 12 students helping to get everyone in the right place at the right time. The weather was a bit hit and miss but our athletes' performances were not. Ethan Taylor secured first place in the inters boys 200m, as did Sam Johnson in both inters shot and discus. Alex Steel and Ben Cooper also came first in the junior javelin and junior long jump respectively. Not to be outdone by the boys, Amaraci Nleme came first in the inters girls' 200m, as did Bolutife Solaru in the junior shot, Ruby Stansfield in the junior discus and Freya McDonald in the inters high jump. Special mentions should go to Simeon Tedd, Alyse Warburton and Zach Taylor, who all stepped up to run the 1500m and 800m races in their age category, Simeon coming first in both his races, this is a big ask for all the students. I am pleased to say that Towlson have won Sports Day two years in a row now, and

this is purely down to the team spirit and determination of the students in my house.

I am immensely proud to lead the students in Towlson house. They are all willing to have a go, push themselves out of their comfort zone and go the extra mile if needed. Sports Day is always an example of this, but this year more than ever; when a student struggled to finish a race, all her friends got onto the track to finish it with her. House can be about winning but it is also about supporting one another and being part of the school community. Well done Towlson, you are all "kind and generous, committed and resilient".

Mrs C Spencer

Vinter

The highlight for me, on a personal level, of the academic year 2022/23 was taking on the role as Head of Vinter. I already knew Vinter was full of enthusiastic, talented and competitive individuals but, as the year went on and I worked my way through the full list of House events, it really came to light what a fantastic group of pupils there are in Vinter and how all have been a delight to work with.

Whether it was losing my voice cheering at the swim galas or Sports Day, giving some last-minute squash coaching, or being blown away by the persuasive arguments put forward in House Debating, each and every event has been great fun to be a part of, all full of excitement and enthusiasm, and I really have seen the 'Grovian best' by many a pupil.

A superb Vinter prefect leadership team was recruited, and I could not have got through my first year as Head of House without the wise intel from the senior prefects, who knew far more than me about how the House system worked. A big thanks goes to...

Head of House:

Chloe Cater

Deputy Heads of House:

Eimhir Robins, Evie Hamer

Sixth Form Prefects:

Max MacKenzie, Tasmia Tayyibah,

Inters Prefects Year 10:

Shreya Naik, George Ingham Scarlett Williams,

Jenny Ingham

Junior Prefects Year 8:

Harriet Williams, Ellie Beaini, Daisy Allen,

Charlotte Powell-Wiffin

School Council Year 9:

Charley Clark-Taylor & Alex Butler

Year 11:

Natasha Simpson & Charlie Wright

It has been great fun to put together assemblies for Vinter House, and all have enjoyed competitive inter house quizzes, toilet roll pyramid building competitions from the Vinter staff, interviewing the older sixth form students, creating a stunning Holocaust butterfly memorial art piece, and so much more.

During the House competition, Vinter was pretty much in second place for most of the year, with a slight drop in the last few events, meaning we finished a close fourth place overall. I feel it is a little bit, 'back to the drawing board' and a fresh start as the new House competition begins for academic year 2023/24. I know all of Vinter house are very competitive and will want to build on last year and aim for that final top spot.

Some shout outs go to those who were the 'most involved' per year group and achieved the most House Points for 2022/23:

Isabel Payne, Year 7, x7 House Points

Harriet Williams, Year 8, x9 House Points

Thomas Edgar, Year 9, x9 House Points

Scarlett Williams/George Ingham, Year 10, x8 House Points

Charlie Wright, Year 11, x9 House Points

Lena Plein, Year 12, x8 House Points

Max Mackenzie/Chloe Cater, Year 13, x3 House Points

A huge congratulations and thank you to all the Year 8 Vinter students, where there was 100% sign-up rate from every pupil in this year group to participate in at least one house event, closely followed by Year 10 with 90%.

A massive thanks to you all.

I look forward to another successful school year, with a new prefect team, who undoubtedly will be great role models and inspirational leaders. Let's go Vinter House!

Mr T Exeter



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