



# WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL

woodhousegrove.co.uk

15 December 2023

Dear Parents

As ever, I would like to start this letter by asking you to reiterate my thanks to your children for their commitment and contribution to what has been an extremely busy School Term. Quite how they managed to fit in everything I will never know; from end of unit tests, preparation for trial examinations and university preparation, to taking main roles in the Senior School production or performing in music concerts (in the case of some, both) at the same time as playing for a sports team or representing The Grove in another way. I would also like you to thank them for the help they always offer, with great humour and loyalty, whenever we hold Open Days, prospective parent visits and School events, for parents and the public. When visitors write to me to thank the School for running one event or another, they invariably praise the young people who chatted to them or provided a tour.

In the ever-changing political and economic landscape, Independent Schools face unprecedented challenges, including: the nebulous uncertainty of Government-driven initiatives; the continued implications of Brexit; a national teacher recruitment and retention crisis; spiralling costs; the loss of mandatory business rate relief; the prospect of VAT on school fees and the evermore demanding push and pull of Inspection. However, all this uncertainty should not distract us from what is really important; namely, our young people. Notwithstanding all of the challenges that lie ahead, for the time being at least, The Grove continues to thrive and there is no lack of interest in parents seeking places for their children. It is an impressive and hugely encouraging fact that during the course of this Term alone, we have welcomed over three hundred prospective pupils and their families to Open Events and private tours of the School.

At every level our students are making what they will one day realise have been significant academic strides, as well as being involved in a multiplicity of activities. The School is ambitious for all its young people, all of whom are encouraged and challenged to make the very most of their talents and the huge opportunities available. Woodhouse Grove is a school of breadth and opportunity, much of which is regularly showcased in our fortnightly editions of [Newsflash](#) and the latest publication of [News From The Grove](#). I am delighted that a very large number of our students have once again been participating in such a rich and varied programme of co-curricular activities. As always, the Autumn Term has seen a wide variety of activity, ranging from the usual plethora of musical, sporting and drama opportunities not to mention various inter-House competitions.

This year's Senior School production of ***Remember Me*** was a truly exceptional achievement. From start to finish, the production was packed with scenes and songs that were performed with boundless energy, passion and positivity. The quality of the musical numbers and the powerful messages about survival and personal growth conveyed in the literary scenes were quite outstanding. Likewise, those members of the cast who performed solos and soliloquys, some of which were their own compositions, were truly

Apperley Bridge, West Yorkshire, BD10 0NR  
[enquiries@woodhousegrove.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@woodhousegrove.co.uk)

*I am Grovian.*



Woodhouse Grove School is part of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust.  
Registered Office: 66 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3LH.  
Charity No. 1142794. Company No. 7649422.



# WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL

woodhousegrove.co.uk

exceptional. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Mrs Habergham, the entire cast gelled together brilliantly to become an ensemble, absolutely at home with one another, all of whom displayed great poise, precision, authenticity and confidence. Thank you also to the committed and talented team of students who supported the production in a technical capacity. Led by Mr Sunley, they all did a magnificent job in lifting and enhancing the production to another level.

I would like to record my sincere thanks to ***The Friends of Woodhouse Grove*** for putting on a very successful Christmas Fair. Thank you to all those who bought raffle tickets and / or a *FOWG 2024* Calendar. I cannot thank the Committee enough for their support, energy, enthusiasm and commitment. Thank you also to all those who supported another superb Sports Christmas Ball held at the Midland Hotel in the antepenultimate week of Term.

Since September, our new Sixth Form Charity Committee has worked alongside the Chaplain and other senior staff to ensure our Grovian values are expressed through our words and our actions to support those who need that extra help. Earlier in the Term, we had our Harvest Food and Toiletries collection for Bradford North Foodbank and today we have held our Christmas Jumper Day, with money raised going towards EduKid, our international charity that works with school children in Uganda, and Candlelighters, our local charity that offers support to children, young people and parents affected by cancer. Next Term, the Charity Committee will be collaborating with The Crypt, an award winning local charity that offers care, compassion, and hope to homeless and vulnerable people in Leeds.

Following a very convivial Boarders' Christmas Ball and a magical Carol Service, the Term time festivities concluded yesterday evening with the spectacular Christmas Concert. If you are staying local this Christmas, please do come and support the **Family Carol Service being held in the School Chapel on Sunday 24 December at 6.00 pm.**

The following Parents' Meetings will be held remotely next Term. Further details will be sent out under separate cover nearer the time:

Year 10	Wednesday 17 January
Year 12	Thursday 8 February
Year 7 (for Forms W, H and G)	Thursday 22 February
Year 7 (for Forms S, V and E)	Tuesday 27 February
Year 8 (for Forms W, H and G)	Wednesday 6 March
Year 8 (for Forms S, V and E)	Monday 11 March

**Please note that the Year 9 Parents' Meeting and Options Talk will be held in person on Tuesday 30 January. Further details will also be sent out under separate cover nearer the time.**

Apperley Bridge, West Yorkshire, BD10 0NR  
enquiries@woodhousegrove.co.uk

*I am Grovian.*



Woodhouse Grove School is part of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust.  
Registered Office: 66 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3LH.  
Charity No. 1142794. Company No. 7649422.



# WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL

[woodhousegrove.co.uk](http://woodhousegrove.co.uk)

Our boarders return to School from 6.00 pm on Sunday 07 January 2024, with the Term commencing for day pupils at 8.30 am on the following day, Monday 08 January 2024.

Once again, I am delighted to report that in January we will have a huge number of Year 6 children sitting our Entrance Examination. As highlighted above, this is testament to the continued growing reputation of Woodhouse Grove and all that we offer our young people.

Sarah and I wish you all a very peaceful and relaxing Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

With all my best wishes,  
Yours sincerely

**James Lockwood MA**  
**Headmaster**

Apperley Bridge, West Yorkshire, BD10 0NR  
[enquiries@woodhousegrove.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@woodhousegrove.co.uk)

*I am Grovian.*



Woodhouse Grove School is part of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust.  
Registered Office: 66 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3LH.  
Charity No. 1142794. Company No. 7649422.