



WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL

woodhousegrove.co.uk

08 April 2024

Dear Parents

Following a meeting of the Board of Governors on Friday 22 March 2024, I am writing to advise you of the Governors' decision with regards to school fees for the Academic Year 2024-2025.

The Woodhouse Grove Governing Body continues to recognise that school fees are a significant investment and that many families make difficult choices to enable their children to experience the very real benefits that an independent education offers. In recent times, Governors have been hugely conscious of the cost-of-living pressures parents have been facing and our fee increases have been below the rate of inflation. However, the additional expenditure due to the cost-of-living crisis, allied to the effect of continued inflationary pressures in a number of key operational areas, have resulted in the School being unable to further limit next year's fee increases.

Please be assured that every possible step has been taken to limit the effect of these additional costs on fees and that we continue to rigorously scrutinise expenditure and manage costs to ensure we achieve the best value for money and only apply the lowest fee increases required to sustain the outstanding quality of a Woodhouse Grove education. The appointment of a dedicated Cost & Procurement Officer is paying dividends and is enabling the School to monitor its spending even more judiciously.

The Methodist Independent Schools Trust (MIST), of which Woodhouse Grove is a part, is a Registered Charity. All income is generated by fees and any surplus is reinvested into the School to further enhance the pupil experience. Thanks to the support of MIST, our new Sixth Form Building and Covered Netball / Tennis Courts facility will be fully operational next Term. Unlike some of our local competitors in the sector, our fees remain virtually all-inclusive and also compare very favourably with other schools in the MIST group.

Whilst by no means a certainty, if the looming General Election returns Labour to power with an outright majority, it seems highly likely that VAT will be imposed on independent school fees. At the time of writing, there are no details from the Labour Party over when or how any potential change in VAT may be implemented. Given the current level of uncertainty, the Governors continue to work closely with the School's Executive to explore all possible options to mitigate the impact of VAT on parents, as far as possible.

Fees for the Academic Year 2024 / 2025 will be as follows:

| Year Group | £ per term |
|-----------------------|---|
| Pre-Nursery / Nursery | £3,875 - Term time only £5,100 - 51-week place |
| Reception, Year 1 & 2 | £4,150 |
| Year 3 | £4,575 |
| Year 4 to 6 | £4,815 |
| Year 7 to 10 | £5,785 day £12,940 boarding |
| Year 11 to 13 | £5,855 day £13,015 boarding |

All amounts are exclusive of VAT

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.



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Details of pro-rata Nursery fees for part-time attendance are available on application to the Finance Manager.

The School continues to operate a Fees in Advance Scheme, which provides a method where the cost of your child's education can be reduced by making an advanced lump sum payment, for a minimum of 3 Terms, in exchange for a discount on fees. If you would like to find out more about this scheme, or wish to request a quote, please do make contact with the School's Accounts Department (accounts@woodhousegrove.co.uk).

The School is striving to be the best it can be, including offering its young people the best facilities. 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. I am sure you will agree, the breadth of sporting and Performing Arts opportunities, Trips and Co-curricular activities that Woodhouse Grove offers is second to none.

In reaching the decision to increase fees, the Governing Body was once again mindful of our continuing commitment to ensure that we are able to provide all the benefits of an independent education whilst also being very mindful of the increasing financial cost that is required to meet these expectations. The School continues to work hard to absorb as much of the increase in costs as we can, to avoid passing on the whole burden to parents. This burden-sharing approach will continue during this period of significant uncertainty and high operating costs affecting all families and organisations. In these continued challenging economic and political times, we thank you for the trust you place in the School.

On behalf of the Staff and Governors, I would again like to thank you for your unstinting loyalty and support.

If you have any concerns, or wish to discuss this letter further, please feel free to contact the Headmaster or myself.

Yours sincerely

Andy Wood
Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee
Board of Governors

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