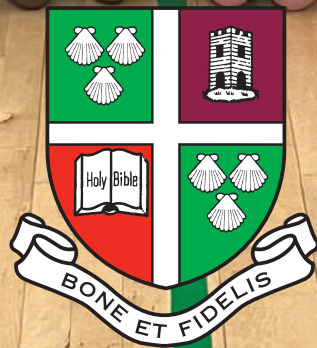


NEWS FROM THE Grove

The Newsletter of Woodhouse Grove School



Summer 2024



New Sixth Form Building

We are delighted to be fully utilising our new state-of-the-art Sixth Form Building. The building combines a professional feel, with mixed-use space for both collaborative and individual working, as well as high tech seminar rooms.

Years 12 and 13 are enjoying the range of spaces, including the outdoor pods and the building has already been used for a myriad of activities including student lessons, industry specific workshops with partner businesses, our life skills programme, post-18 guidance events and medical practice interviews.

Mr Softley, Assistant Head (Sixth Form and Futures) said:

“We are extremely lucky to have a forward-thinking space where students can be industrious and purposeful in their pursuit of not only reaching their potential, but where they will be prepared, to make the transition into the real world smoother and where our students can be ahead of their peers.”



Culture Week at the Grove



Our first ever Culture Week got the Summer Term off to an amazing start - a huge success with lots of engagement from both pupils and staff wanting to celebrate their place of origin. Many thanks to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee and Mrs Vernon for making this such a fantastic celebration.

Throughout the week, various activities celebrated the many nations represented at The Grove, including: a bake sale; pupils designing their name in Mandarin with assistance from our Mandarin speakers; Bollywood dancing; and the finale, a cultural fashion show.

This was a really well supported event which created much excitement and a real buzz around school, particularly with our boarders, as well as starting interesting conversations about heritage and culture.



Post-18 Event

In April, we hosted a Post-18 Event where we welcomed 28 institutions and companies to take stands in our new Sixth Form Building and Morton Hall, to chat to our Year 12 students about their options after school. The evening featured discussions on various pathways available to our students, emphasising our support in reaching their desired goals.



Grove Staff Leavers

We say farewell to a number of colleagues at the end of this term. Amongst them, Mr Munday, Mrs Hudson, Mrs Watson and Mrs Nott have clocked up 88 years at the Grove between them!

We caught up with them to find out about their plans.

Mr Munday

After 30 years at the Grove, I'm retiring from teaching but looking for part-time work of some kind. I have a camper van - so, with more available time, I would like to explore the mountains and coastline of the UK, and maybe beyond!

I am looking forward to seeing more of my family, but will miss the day to day contact with the people of the Grove; daily conversations and their friendship.

Mrs Hudson

I am retiring after 24 years here and have plans for more walking, swimming and maybe I'll learn a new language!

I am looking forward to a slower pace of life and having time to see more of my family and friends and in particular my grandchildren.

I will miss my colleagues very much and all the pupils and parents, both present and former, and will miss all the Grove Community. The Grove is a very special place.

Mrs Watson

After over 20 years at The Grove, I'm leaving to concentrate on my consultancy - I mainly help students with career coaching, and university and apprenticeship applications.

I am hoping I will have more time for my cycling hobby, including training for, and taking part in more races. I am also looking forward to being able to go on holiday during term time!

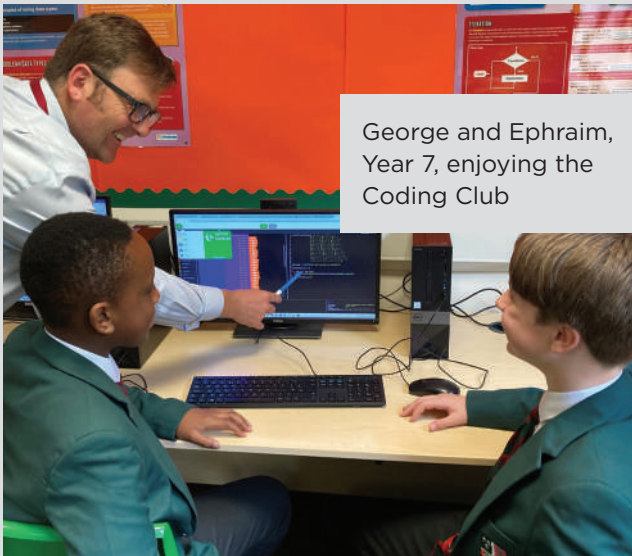
Mrs Nott

I am leaving to train to become an ordained Methodist Minister. I am looking forward to the challenge of learning (and becoming a student again for the next two years!) and meeting new people.

I will miss early morning swims in the school pool, Grove Singers, my colleagues, supporting students with their university applications and seeing that 'lightbulb' moment when a student understands a maths concept.



SCIENCE IN FOCUS



George and Ephraim, Year 7, enjoying the Coding Club

Get Coding

The Grove Coding Club started in December, set up by Mr Higgins to complement the coding work that students were undertaking outside of school. Mr Higgins explained:

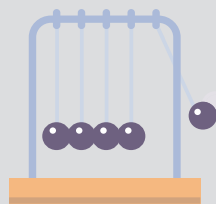
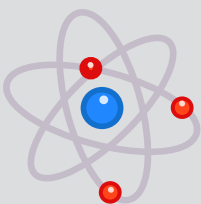
“We do any activity that the students want; from creating games in Scratch (part of the Y7 curriculum), to working on other coding sites where you can follow simple tutorials to make games, to programming with high level languages such as Python.

These activities tie in with the Year 8 to Year 11 curriculum and develop valuable skills when considering future employment prospects (as well as being fun!).

Being able to interact with computers is an essential skill which can be applied to any work environment. It helps students develop logic and problem solving skills which can also be used in their daily lives.”

Said George “Coding Club teaches me good skills for the future and helps me to increase the amount of coding I can do.”

Ephraim said, “I really enjoy Coding Club and am learning more skills every time.”



Physics Olympiad

Well done to all the Year 12 students who took part in the Physics Olympiad earlier this year. Thirteen students received certificates, with particular congratulations to Charlie Wright who achieved gold.

Arup Engineering Workshops

The Arup engineering workshops held in our new Sixth Form Centre, for Year 12 Maths pupils and the whole of Year 10, were a resounding success. The company's engineers led sessions covering a careers talk and bridge building activities.

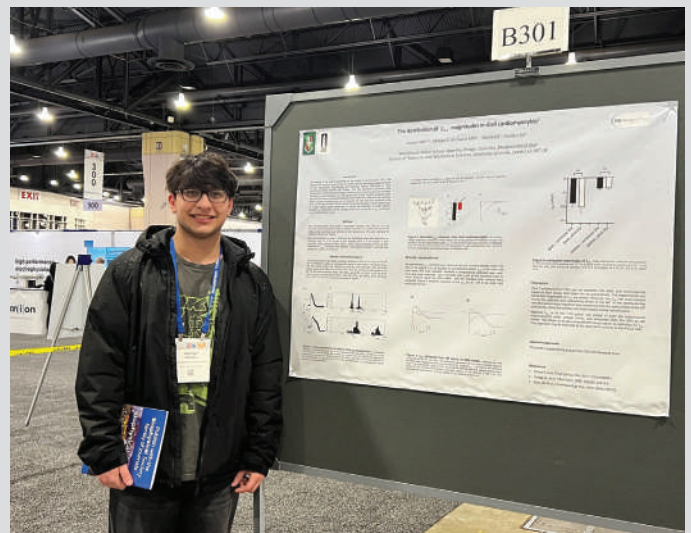
The sixth form pupils had an additional session studying bridge design and were challenged to re-design and present a footbridge for the electrification of the rail line to Manchester.



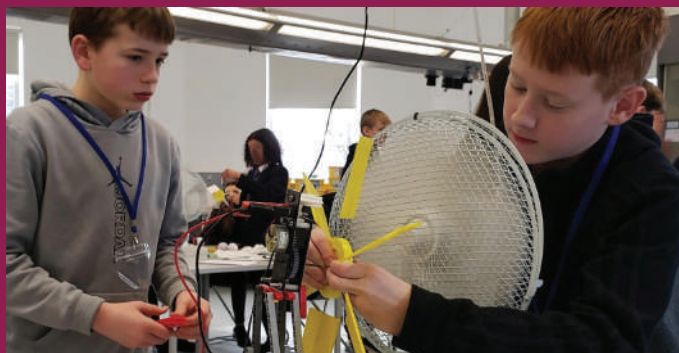
Published Biophysical Research

Congratulations to Vincent in Year 12, who travelled to Pennsylvania as part of a team who presented their published research at the Biophysical Society Convention.

Vincent worked on the project that looked at stem cell development and used coding to replicate the action potentials and predicted the ion channel. He, along with the team, used their results to provide further evidence towards the use of cardiac mathematical models in ion currents prediction.



STEM at the University of Bradford



During February and March, groups of Woodhouse Grove students took part in a variety of STEM workshops and challenges at the University of Bradford.

Year 9 pupils attended two sessions, one looking at how to reduce, reuse or recycle waste produced and the advantages and disadvantages of renewable energy sources. They then had the opportunity to design and make wind turbines.



In the second session, teams were challenged to design islands that were NetZero for carbon emissions. They had to convince a panel of 'Dragons' that their islands were good places to live and operated at net zero across all contributing factors.



Our Year 10 students took part in a "Women in STEM" day at the University. They enjoyed a panel discussion with female professionals from across a variety of sectors, including AI.

The students then attended a careers fair before taking a tour of the University labs for AI, cancer therapeutics, bioengineering and pharmaceuticals.

The Grove joins Globalbridge

Woodhouse Grove is one of the first schools in England to offer each of our pupils a unique, digital Globalbridge profile.

Students can not only upload their academic achievements to the Globalbridge platform, but also a biography, aspirations, photos, sound bites, electronic documents and even video footage showing sporting highlights, drama productions and musical performances. They can then share their Globalbridge profile with any university or employer, showcasing all their talents, skills and qualifications - helping them stand out in a competitive field.

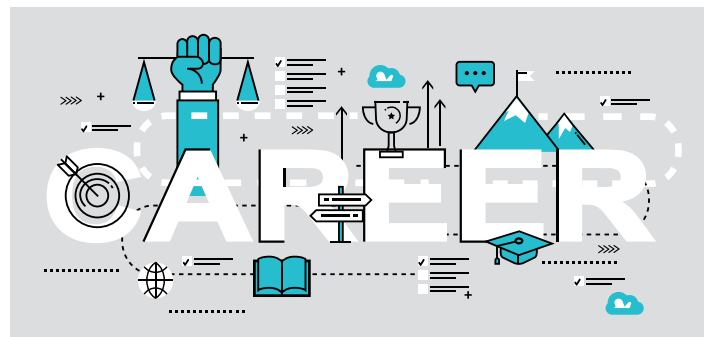
Better still...Grovians have access to the Globalbridge platform for life - and so can use it as an ongoing record of experiences and achievements, evidencing the development of skills for future life and work.

globalbridge



National Careers Week 2024

The school's "Futures" programme is a full school programme designed to help prepare students across all year groups for life after the Grove.



As part of this programme, students were involved in a variety of activities for National Careers Week, including attending a diverse range of talks on careers such as midwifery, finance, music and sustainability; taking part in a virtual careers fair and attending assemblies aimed at furthering their knowledge about careers in a variety of industries.

Outdoor Adventure Programmes

We are delighted to report the tremendous success and exciting developments in our new outdoor adventure programmes. These initiatives have provided our students with remarkable opportunities to engage with nature, develop essential life skills, and build lasting friendships.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

This year, our Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme saw outstanding participation. Around 90 students embarked on the Bronze Award journey, while 20 students took on the challenges of the Gold Award. These programmes have equipped our students with vital skills in leadership, resilience, and teamwork through various activities including expeditions, skills training, and community service. The experiences gained have been invaluable for their personal growth and preparedness for future endeavors.

Climbing Club

Our Climbing Club has achieved remarkable success, most notably our climbers secured victories against Giggleswick School and at Bradford Climbing Wall. These accomplishments reflect the dedication and hard work of our students and coaches, and we look forward to more competitive success and skill development in the future.



Looking forward, Woodhouse Grove School has several exciting new initiatives planned for our outdoor adventure programmes:

Canoeing Expedition for Bronze Level

We are introducing an option for a canoeing expedition as part of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, providing students with a unique and adventurous way to complete their expeditions.

Monthly Outdoor Adventure Activities (OAA) Club

This new club will offer students monthly opportunities to engage in various outdoor activities, including mountaineering, climbing, and watersports.





Junior tennis making full use of the Bolt Courts against Silcoates.

All Weather Bolt Courts

Our brand new covered netball and tennis courts are OPEN! The Bolt Courts represent a huge investment in Woodhouse Grove's sports programme and will allow teams to play netball and tennis all year round without having to be concerned about the weather interfering with practice and matches. Given the inclement weather recently – the timing is perfect!

Grove Awards

Since Christmas, more than 30 students in Years 7 to 9 have received Grove Awards.

Each pupil had to complete five challenges across at least three different disciplines including STEM, Sports, Performing Arts and evidence supporting Grovian Values. These awards encourage students to learn new skills and embrace time out of their comfort zone – all good preparation for schemes such as Duke of Edinburgh.

The range of challenges was incredible and included taekwondo, Air Cadets, 10 hours painting at the local cricket club, singing in a cathedral choir, textiles club, passing a lifesaving qualification, litter picking, fencing, appearing in a show in London's West End, robot club, girls' football and volunteering for the Riding for the Disabled Association.



Chess Revival at The Grove

Chess Competition report by Cameron, Junior Chess Captain

Our junior and senior team played in the St Bede's and St Joseph's chess tournament - a monumental occasion for chess at the Grove since it was the first for at least 15 years!

The U13 team played bravely despite playing mainly older, experienced students with many standout results, including beating both Bradford Grammar School 'A' and St Bede's and St Joseph's without a loss.

Overall, we placed 14th; seven places up in this second leg. A great result given our experience compared to most of our competitors.

Our team consisted of George H, Cameron W, Sheen VDH and Jacob W.

The A team (seniors) consisting of Rakelmi W-C, Charlie W, Zac N and Samuel P, also had an incredible tournament. They placed 2nd after the first part of the tournament with zero losses, but at an unlucky run of matches later meant they finished 12th overall.



House Chess

A lot of brain power was used by Years 11 to 13 in our Senior House Chess Competition. Each house fielded two players and every house played each other. Overall winners were Vinter House with 10/10 wins over the week, with Atkinson placed second and Towlson third.

Junior House Chess was very competitive with only two points separating the top three places. Findlay just took the win by one point from Vinter, with Southern's taking 3rd.

The Addams Family

For two nights in March, parents, friends and staff were treated to an incredible production of the Addams Family by students in Years 9 and 10.

There were some amazing solo performances and excellent comedic timing. Congratulations to everyone who was involved, both on stage and behind the scenes.



We caught up with Lottie (Wednesday), George (Gomez), Luca (Pugsley) and Amber (Morticia) to find out more about being involved in the show. Although they had all heard of the play before, none had seen it being performed, however, they were quite familiar with the film and series versions, so knew what to expect.

All four have been involved with previous school productions such as High School Musical, School of Rock and last summer's Alice in Wonderland, so have quite a lot of experience performing in front of an audience.

How did you feel when you found out you were playing a lead?

They all said that they felt really excited when they heard they had been successful at auditions - although George then read the script and realised how many lines he would have to learn!

Has it been hard keeping up to date with schoolwork whilst rehearsing?

'I think this show was put on at a really good time because I don't have any exams or anything coming up. And after school you have time to do your work anyway because rehearsals do not go on too late.' Luca

Has it been a fun production to get involved with?

'Yes, I get to spend a lot of time with my friends so it's quite fun anyway.' Amber

Do you have a favourite song in the production?

"My favourite song is the opening number, 'Full Disclosure', as everyone was involved and it was really fun, especially when I yell 'line dance!' and everyone goes into a full conga line." George

Are you nervous about the performance nights or are you looking forward to it?

"I was quite nervous about the singing, it's kind of my moment when I sing 'What if?' in the middle of the stage by myself, but I was also really excited and looking forward to getting out there and performing." Luca

"I was a bit nervous in case I forgot my lines." Lottie

Our Teacher's A Troll



Two terrible twins with a talent for turmoil rule their school with terror and tyranny – until the arrival of a new head teacher with green scaly skin, sharp gnarly fangs, and a long purple tongue...

Can the twins save the school from the child-eating Troll? We haven't knowingly employed any trolls at Woodhouse Grove but we were very entertained by this colourfully comic show written by Dennis Kelly.

More than 50 students from Years 7 and 8 auditioned for speaking roles and almost 70 students signed up to be a part of the cast and crew. This level of enthusiasm resulted in a production full of energy.

With so much acting talent, different students took the leads on each night. On Wednesday, Tom Goodison and Lily Richmond-Coggan played the lead roles of Sean and Holly, the terrible twins, with Noah Pennington and Velvet Harrison following on Thursday. And who could forget the terrifying and hilarious Milo Neale as Mr Arrrrrggghhhhhh, the Troll.

But the talent of Grove students doesn't stop at the wings- without the backstage team the show would not have been possible, especially with the likes of Caragh Jemmett and Lily Davison-Monk in charge with their unwaning eagerness and paint splattered appearance.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this end of term production, both on stage and behind the scenes.





All about the Music

During the last two terms, we have been treated to an array of musical genres through our 'Battle of the Bands' evening, the Easter Charity Concert and our emotional Leavers' Soiree, one of the last opportunities for our Year 13 leavers to perform at the Grove.



A variety of school bands entertained us at the Easter Concert, including a rendition of the theme from Back to the Future. Our Leavers' Soiree covered Faure, Delibes, Einaudi, The Cranberries and the White Stripes and eight student bands took to the stage to battle it out, showcasing some extraordinary guitar riffs, at our annual 'Battle of the Bands'.

In the end, Year 12's 'Untied' wowed the judges with their technical prowess and secured their vote. However, 'Bleeding Green' from Year 13, ultimately took the trophy home by audience vote, with their excellent playing and hilariously executed falsetto during "Teenage Dirtbag" by Wheatus.



BBC Radio 3 Performance

Congratulations to Rhys, Year 7, who participated in both the Leeds International Season Christmas Concert, and BBC Radio 3's Choral Vespers broadcast, as a member of the Leeds Senior Boys' Choir at Leeds St Annes' Cathedral.



House Music Results

Congratulations to Towlson House, our overall winners in House Music. Thank you to everyone who took part and especially to our individual winners;

Junior Winner—Seth B in Year 8

Intermediate Winner—Simeon T in Year 9

Senior Winner—Winnie O in Year 13





Year 12 in the Big Apple

Over the May half-term break, some of our Year 12 students embarked on an unforgettable adventure to New York City that showcased everything the Big Apple has to offer.

The students successfully navigated New York's public transport system to take a private tour of the renowned Garment District, delving into the history of the fashion industry. They visited a working factory in the heart of the city and then headed to Macy's, the iconic department store.

One of the trip's highlights was a tour of the United Nations, where students witnessed a live meeting involving UK diplomats.

Students dined in Central Park, Times Square, Little Italy, and Chinatown, each offering a unique taste of New York's vibrant food scene, as well as consuming copious amounts of the infamous New York pizza!



The adventure continued with a private tour of Wall Street and the Ground Zero Memorial, a guided cruise around Manhattan, including the Statue of Liberty, followed by a very entertaining evening at Ellen's Stardust Diner.

Students experienced a behind-the-scenes look at the legendary Madison Square Garden before a day trip to Coney Island providing a delightful change of pace, where students enjoyed beach fun and the iconic fairground.

A Broadway show and a visit to the Empire State Building's observation deck, with breathtaking views of the city, were among the trip's pinnacle moments - with Central Park and the Rockefeller Center offering serene breaks from the city's hustle and bustle.

'The New York trip was a brilliant opportunity to visit one of the most famous cities in the world. I hugely enjoyed both the more educational features of the trip, such as the tour around United Nations and Wall Street, as well as the sightseeing aspects such as the Statue of Liberty boat tour and the Empire State Building.' Lily Lucas-Hooton

'Visiting the United Nations has been one of the most inspiring and interesting experiences of my life and would not be possible without my incredible trip to NYC. Seeing the Statue of Liberty and going to the top of the Empire State Building will be memories that I will never forget.' Trey Halliday

More photos on our school flickr page.



Year 9 Battlefields Trip

Year 9 visited Belgium and France on their annual WWI Battlefields trip.

They arrived in Ypres before spending the next day on the Somme, visiting numerous historic sites including the Lochnagar Crater, the Thiepval Memorial for the Missing and The Newfoundland Memorial Park.

The rest of their time was spent visiting preserved trenches and museums in Belgium and included paying their respects and laying a wreath during the Last Post Tribute to the Fallen, at the Menin Gate. This is an unforgettable experience for our pupils - an emotional insight into life during World War I.

Netballers in Barcelona



Lucy and Isla tell us about their Easter netball trip to Barcelona...

"During the Easter break, we flew to Barcelona and had the chance to explore and try some local food, followed by a fun packed day enjoying the rides at Port Aventura.

Then we had a busy morning of netball training with lots of fun drills, followed by some relaxation time at the beach (Miss Vernon taking one for the team by going in the freezing cold sea with us)!

The next day was tournament day, where we played 5 games - the U15A team came out on top, coming home with medals. We all have some amazing memories and have developed some lifelong friendships along the way, as well as a few Spanish dance moves! Massive thank you to the netball staff for giving up their time!"

Safe Travels

We wish all our summer tourists going to Costa Rica and South Africa, as well as our Year 7s on their PGL adventure week, safe travels. We hope they fully embrace all that is on offer and have an amazing experience. We caught up with Mr Dobson and Mr Bedford to find out about their planned international itineraries.

South Africa Rugby Tour

In July, the Senior rugby players will embark on a tour of a lifetime to South Africa for 15 days. 49 tourists and 6 staff will travel to Durban to play two fixtures – one being Durban High School, currently one of the top 10 schools in South Africa.

A night on safari will follow before flying to Cape Town for the second leg of the tour. Here, the boys will play against a representative team called Connect which is selected from less privileged areas of Cape Town and our final match against the famous Paul Roos Gym School in Stellenbosch.

As well as playing some tough fixtures, the boys will be visiting Robben Island, Table Mountain and going Whale Watching in Hermanus.

Costa Rica Expedition

In July, 16 pupils from Years 11 to 13 will embark on an adventure of a lifetime on a 23-day trip to Costa Rica. After soaking up the local culture in San Jose, the team will be travelling down to Puerto Jimenez, for a 5-day trek through the rainforests of the Corcovado National Park. The Osa Peninsula is renowned for its rich biodiversity; with the stunning views, fauna and flora creating a spectacular backdrop for the expedition.

The team will then be volunteering at a local turtle conservation project, where they will be given tasks such as late-night turtle patrols, beach clean-ups, and working in the hatchery. The final segment of the trip will consist of some well earned rest and recovery along the beaches of the Pacific coast.



Our intrepid explorers on an expedition skills training weekend before they head off to Costa Rica in July.

Netballers on the National Stage

This netball season has, without doubt, been the most successful in the school's history, with National Cup runs across many year groups and our U19s & U14s making the England Netball Nationals again.

Our 1st VII squad made school history by reaching the final of the Independent Schools National Cup against Berkhamsted School. Despite a challenging first quarter, which meant they were always chasing the game, the girls did not give up the fight and showed true passion and resilience throughout the whole game.

Our amazing 2nd VII reached the Northern semi-final of the SNS U19 Shield despite playing against other schools' 1st VIIs in the competition and our U15s reached the last 4 in the U15 SNS Shield which took them to finals day where they ranked 4th overall.



Second VII



U14s

Our U19 and U14 squads qualified for the National Finals to play against the top 18 schools in the country. They played outstanding netball against the absolute best of the best, on the biggest stage of school netball and should be incredibly proud of themselves.

Our U14s had an excellent day winning 5 of 8 of their games and finishing 6th= in the country. It was a very competitive group and the games that they lost were incredibly close!

Our U19s also had a great day at Nationals winning 4 of their 8 games and placed 7= in the country. All the girls in the U19 squad started the school in Year 7 (or before) which is a true testament to netball development at the school.



U19s

Thank you to our passionate and dedicated coaches, our parents for their continued support of Grove Netball and our Nationals kit sponsors Brabners and Bridge-it Housing.



Yorkshire Golf Finals

As West Yorkshire Golf Champions, Matty, Oliver and Jude represented the school in the Yorkshire Schools' Golf Team Final. The team put in a very good performance in tough conditions and were unlucky to miss out on qualification for the National Schools' Final by 1 Stableford point.

Matty won the individual Stableford competition with an impressive 41 points.

U13 Football National Semi Finalist

Another busy season for football at The Grove. There were more girls' fixtures, - with a more structured season planned for next year, as well as our U13, U15 and 1st XI boys' teams entering the ISFA Bowls for the first time. Our U13s did particularly well, getting to the National semi-final, only to lose on penalties.

There were some excellent block fixtures this year, notably against Birkdale and our first ever block with QEGS Blackburn. In total, over 350 students across the Grove and Brontë House played in competitive fixtures, and we hope this will continue to grow.

With our football programme becoming increasingly popular, it is not surprising that there are so many current students playing representative football. This includes Rafe McCormack, who plays for Manchester United and was selected for England U16s in December in their International friendly fixtures against Netherlands and Republic of Ireland.



Cricket News

Despite the inclement weather affecting fixtures, the 1st XI have started their season well with 6 wins out of their 7 fixtures, including wins against Bradford Grammar, The Grammar School at Leeds, QEGS Wakefield, Pocklington and St Peters, York.



Cricket 1st XI

This run of wins was matched by our U13A boys with a season highlight so far of an outstanding last ball victory against Manchester Grammar School - Josh Neale hitting a boundary on the last ball to win the game.

At the beginning of the season our U15 girls progressed in the cup with a 10 wicket victory over Queen Ethelburga's.

Both our U13 boys' & U13 girls' teams were crowned West Yorkshire Indoor Cricket Champions and went on to represent West Yorkshire at the Yorkshire County Indoor Finals at Headingley.



U13s Boys and Girls

The boys won their group and then their semi-final, only to lose on the last ball of the day in the final! Both teams represented the Grove with outstanding performances and brilliant team spirit.

Rosslyn Park 7s Rugby



Four Grove teams travelled to Rosslyn Park this year - and it was a rollercoaster of a ride, with many 'nearly' moments including the U14s missing out on qualifying by one try. Our U13s had an incredible trip winning their group and posting an impressive 95 points difference across their 5 games!



Record Breaking Athletics Success

24 Woodhouse Grove students were selected to compete for Bradford Schools at the West Yorkshire Schools Championships in June at Leeds Beckett University. All athletes competed well against strong competition. Standout performances across the age groups included:

1st places for Tife Solaru (200m), Ben Cooper (LJ) and Maisey Bellwood (800m).

2nd places for Stan Moffat (200m), Guy Wilkinson (300m), Ben Dickinson (400m), Abi Stirk (LJ), Sam Johnson (Shot) and Freddie Brown (100m) who ran 11.1 seconds!

3rd places for Macie Donaldson (800m), Taylor Cody (300m), Simeon Tedd (1500m).

Tife (Junior Girls), Maisey (Inter Girls) and Freddie (Senior Boys) were then selected to represent West Yorkshire at the English Schools Championships in July.

"This is the first time this number of our athletes have been selected at this level and is an outstanding achievement." Mrs Jennings



In addition, four Grove athletic teams (JB, JG, IB, IG) qualified for the English Schools Regional A Finals in Derby. An amazing team effort, and again, a first for the school to have all four teams through to a Regional A final.

Boarding Trips Out...

Our boarders have enjoyed numerous day trips out in 2024 including a mammoth 16 hour trip to London where they: enjoyed breakfast on Oxford Street; a visit to the Twist Museum; then a little shopping or sightseeing (London Eye, Big Ben, Downing Street and Buckingham Palace); before meeting up in Camden Town to head home.



Our Brodwell House prefects recently went bowling with Mr Dobson as a thank you for all they've done this year – although he wasn't grateful enough to let them beat him!



The most recent trip for members of our boarding community was an exhilarating adventure at Raven Tree Top Adventures, a high ropes course near Skipton. An incredible opportunity to push their boundaries and try new things in a safe and supportive environment.

Climbing through the trees proved to be a fantastic confidence booster, and it was particularly inspiring to see some of our boarders overcome a fear of heights, as well as demonstrating teamwork and resilience!

The tree trekking experience was met with enthusiastic responses from all participants, who described it as "so enjoyable", and "an amazing experience".



Boarders also enjoyed a trip to junkyard golf and a few Miller girls with Miss Winks went to see *Fantastically Great Women*, based on an award-winning book by Kate Pankhurst.



and Boarding Nights in...

The first half of the year always brings an array of culture highlights, with Burns' Night quickly followed by Chinese New Year celebrations.

Grove's Resident Piper, Mr Lambert piped in and addressed the Haggis, which our boarders tasted with the traditional neeps and tatties!

In February, boarders enjoyed an amazing Chinese banquet, followed by a fire pit with marshmallows and a lucky red envelope each!



Immersion Programme

In January, we welcomed a number of Chinese immersion students, mostly from Suzhou, Beijing and Shanghai. The students joined our boarding community for one or two weeks and fully experienced life as a boarder at Woodhouse Grove, participating in lessons and co-curricular activities, Burns Night as well as visiting the Yorkshire Dales and tasting fish and chips.



In April, we welcomed six Thai immersion students who joined us for 3 weeks, during which time they participated in tennis fixtures, visited Alton Towers with some of our full-time boarders and enjoyed a walk on the beach in Scarborough.



Our final immersion programme of this academic year saw eight European students join us in June, taking time to explore our local culture and get involved in a variety of boarding activities, both on and off site.

Promotional Visit to Asia

Head of Boarding, Mr King, recently embarked on a two week journey visiting Hong Kong, China and Thailand promoting Woodhouse Grove School to prospective families, agents and school partners.

He was delighted to make new contacts, meet new and current families, as well as managing a bit of sightseeing and being introduced to local culture and food.

Mr King visited schools in Zhengzhou and Kaifeng, where he even featured on the news in a video about his visit, before moving on to Thailand to meet some of the families of our immersion students.



Colour Run

This term at Brontë House we held our first ever colour fun run, in support of Breast Cancer Now. The youngest pupils in Ashdown Lodge took part in a T shirt parade before their run, whilst Year 1 and upwards enjoyed a full paint run in the sunshine with staff and parent support. It was an incredible afternoon, helped by beautiful weather and it was amazing to see the school community pulling together to raise money for Breast Cancer Now - a charity that has touched the lives of many of the school's families, particularly this year. The total currently stands at almost £15,000. Thank you to all our wonderful families who got involved and donated, special thanks to the children who finished the day closely resembling rainbows!

Reception 2024



As of September 2024, Brontë's Reception pupils, currently housed in Ashdown Lodge, will be moving into the beautiful main Brontë House building. Considerable development is planned over the summer to create the perfect indoor and outdoor environment for this year group. One of the many benefits will be greater access to facilities in the main school building, including the library, the sports hall and the music studio. Lessons will be brought to life with more opportunities and a broader range of co-curricular activities. Changing their classroom throughout the day will do wonders for concentration and foster independence, organisation and confidence.



90th Birthday Week

Brontë House School turned 90 this year! During the week there were lots of celebratory activities involving the children and staff. The week started with a very exciting birthday party, the children enjoyed bouncy castles, party games, a special lunch, and a big birthday cake! Year 5 designed some amazing, colourful birthday cards and nursery enjoyed some arts and crafts activities.



A Hint of Snow White

Year 3 and 4 gave two outstanding performances of 'A Hint of Snow White' in The McCarthy Theatre at The Grove in March. There was such confidence and enthusiasm throughout the show from our wonderful Performing Arts children! Thank you to the staff who made this such an exceptional performance and to those who attended.



Mathematical Genius!



This amazing group of Year 6 mathematicians beat 116 teams, from schools across the country, and WON the first round of the National Mathematics Championship, securing automatic entry to the final at Oxford University. A huge well done to you all from everyone at Brontë!



Culture Week

This term, Brontë House had their first ever Culture Week. All the children and staff had a fabulous week learning about the diverse cultures around the world in their humanities lessons and learning about their friends' cultures too! Year 4 learnt lots about India and even investigated art forms before creating their own rangoli patterns using natural materials.



Outdoor Learning

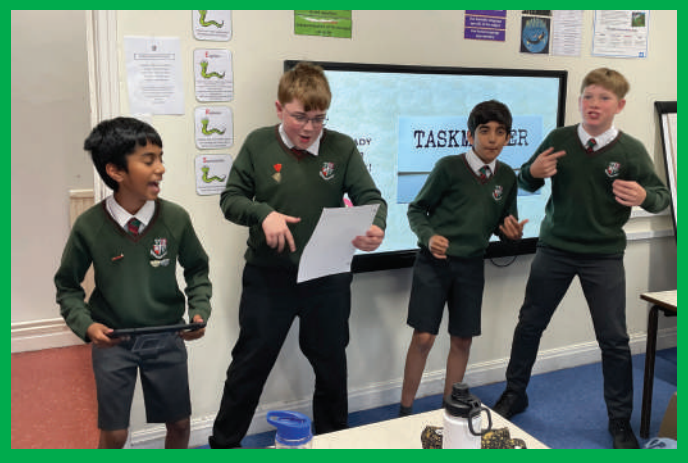
Our Outdoor Adventure Programme, including weekly Forest School sessions, has been a highlight for every year group. These sessions offer the children immersive, hands-on learning experiences in a natural environment and have proven to be an effective way for them to connect with nature.

A new addition to our outdoor adventure offering this year has been the introduction of kayaking sessions in The Grove's pool. These kayaking sessions have been an excellent way for students to build confidence on the water and practise kayaking skills in a safe and controlled environment.



Taskmaster Club

Taskmaster Club ignites the spark of creativity and challenges the children to embark on a memorable journey, fostering creative thinking and developing their problem-solving skills. There have been many task highlights this year - from hurling teabags into mugs from afar, to capturing the most extraordinary team selfie. The spirit of camaraderie prevails as they navigate each task, eager to emerge victorious - and it certainly gets competitive! Best team wins - your time starts now!



Sports Round-Up

This year has been one of sporting development and progress for all involved in the programme at Brontë House. The opportunities for rugby, football, netball, cricket, cross-country and swimming are outstanding and give everyone a chance to represent their school. It has been lovely seeing the girls' football programme continue to develop with their team attending the North East regional tournament at Hymers in March.

Netball goes from strength to strength with lots of pupils getting the opportunity to represent Brontë. A real highlight was seeing the U11 girls play so well in a fixture against a touring side from Robert Gordon's College in Scotland.

There is a solid platform in rugby on which to develop skills and knowledge. Rugby pupils had fixtures and festivals a plenty with lots of running rugby on show, particularly in their games against St Peters and GSAL.

In Cross Country there have been 8 different fixtures this season. A favourite for all being the home race at the Grove, as numbers would suggest! However the favourite race of the season for Mr Marshall is the Catterall Shield as it is particularly challenging on a muddy, wet and hilly course in North Yorkshire.

Swimming has had a packed season with 10 separate galas culminating in some excellent performances in the North East gala hosted at the John Charles Sport Centre in Leeds. This was a huge meet and all those that represented Brontë did so with pride and 100% effort.



TRIPS



Pre-School - Hesketh Farm Park

Our Pre-School children had a fantastic time exploring Hesketh Farm Park! They particularly enjoyed feeding the calves; holding the guinea pigs; and the highlight of the day was definitely the tractor ride with Farmer Chris.



Reception - Herd Farm

Reception children took on the challenges of Herd Farm to enjoy a day of outdoor pursuits and team games this June. They had lots of fun getting involved in all the activities and they were all very brave, and adventurous!



Year 2 - Thackray Medical Museum

Year 2 enjoyed a trip to meet Florence Nightingale at the Thackray Medical Museum. They helped her to clean Scutari hospital and treat the wounded soldiers. Florence was very impressed with the children's knowledge about her life!



Year 3 - Robinwood

Year 3 arrived at Robinwood and launched into their activities enthusiastically. They enjoyed canoeing, raft building, trapeze, night line, the giant swing, knights quest and the long anticipated pirhana pool, among lots of other thrilling activities.

They all pushed each other to achieve things they did not think possible; their communication skills and teamwork were honed and banked for use in future tasks. Obviously a tinge of sadness that these three magical days at Robinwood are over.



Year 4 - Boggle Hole

After Year 4 arrived safely at Boggle Hole, our intrepid explorers spent the afternoon hunting for crabs and fossils on the beach before toasting marshmallows around the campfire.

During the trip they enjoyed a coastal walk to Robin Hood's Bay, searching the old fishing village for hidden clues. They ventured into the woods to create potions with magical powers, weave pretty patterns and bake delicious mud pies.

'I'm having the time of my life!' - Georgia



Year 5 - Windermere

Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic four-day residential trip to Windermere in April. The sun shone as the children kayaked, gorge walked, climbed, canoed, made their way down Wansfell Pike and many more exciting activities.



Year 6 - Peak District

Year 6 enjoyed a short(!) abseil off Miller's Dale Viaduct on their first afternoon, followed by a fantastic second day at the water park. They enjoyed a day at the lake, weaselling and caving. Children showed sheer grit and resilience especially when activities pushed many outside of their comfort zone. Good communication, teamwork and encouragement for each other meant everyone achieved more than they thought they could!



Neurodiversity Ambassadors

Our Neurodiversity Ambassadors wrote and delivered an assembly this term. They wanted the whole school to celebrate neurodiversity and understand how great it is to be unique. They did a fantastic job and made sure that everyone knew that, here at Brontë House, we celebrate our unique strengths and differences, and we are kind, tolerant and accepting of others.



Maths Roadshow

Brontë House hosted the exciting Fun Maths Roadshow this term. All Key Stage 2 pupils had the opportunity to get involved with the help of some Year 10 pupils from The Grove. The event is aimed at fostering a love for mathematics through a variety of interactive and challenging puzzles and the children enthusiastically participated, demonstrating creativity and teamwork. We were delighted to see such a positive response from everyone involved!



Shake Rattle and Boogie

Ashdown had a special visit this term from 'Shake, Rattle and Boogie' in celebration of World Book Week. The children participated in dancing and singing with lots of exciting props and instruments! Each class had a focus on a particular story, alongside their classroom topics.



Farewell From Brontë House

We have a few staff members leaving this summer and we wish them all the very best. In particular, a huge thank you to Mrs Potter and Mrs O'Grady who between them have been at Brontë House for 46 years.

Mrs Potter is retiring, after an incredible 28 years' service. In her near three decades at the school, Mrs Potter has worked across the year groups within Ashdown, leaving an indelible mark. Her knowledge and understanding of our youngest children is undeniable and we will greatly miss her calm, kind approach and infinite wisdom and experience.



Mrs O'Grady, is also retiring from her role as Teaching Assistant, after 18 years. More recently Mrs O'Grady has been based in Key Stage 2, providing unstinting support to staff and children alike. Mrs O'Grady has also been the Mastermind behind our Brontë Knitwits Club, which has proven so popular with children in Years 3 and 4, knitting everything from poppies to pumpkins.



Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2024

Boarders return Tuesday 3rd September from 4pm
 Term begins Wednesday 4th September
 Half term begins Friday 18th October 4pm
 Boarders return from 6pm on Sunday 3rd November
 Term recommences Monday 4th November at 8.30am
 Term ends Wednesday 18th December 4pm

Spring Term 2025

Boarders return Monday 6th January from 6pm
 Term begins Tuesday 7th January at 8.30am
 Half term begins Friday 14th February 4pm
 Boarders return from 6pm on Sunday 23rd February
 Term recommences Monday 24th February at 8.30am
 Term ends Wednesday 2nd April 4pm

