



WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL

woodhousegrove.co.uk

05 July 2024

Dear Parents

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

My heartfelt thanks to Rugby League legend and current parent, Jamie Peacock, who stepped in at short notice to be our Prize Day Guest of Honour. As ever, Jamie spoke with great passion and conviction about life's challenges and the need to be surrounded by positive influencers whilst also displaying grit and determination in times of adversity. He also gave us an important message about failure only being success turned inside out. His words were inspiring and I am sure all those present will have taken great heart from Jamie's powerful messages.

As our recently published Inspection Report records, Woodhouse Grove aims to realise the full potential of every individual pupil by promoting academic excellence, encouraging self-discovery and fostering high standards of conduct and social responsibility. The objective is that each pupil grows to be the best that they can be, is fully prepared for the world they will encounter when they leave school, and develops strong levels of integrity, loyalty and commitment whilst upholding the School's Grovian Values and Methodist heritage.

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. The fortnightly editions of **Newsflash** ([WGS Newsflash](#)) showcase 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.

As ever, this Term, the broad educational canvas has been painted with a considerable number of high-profile events. In the last three weeks alone, the calendar has been packed with a plethora of sport, educational visits, residential trips, DofE expeditions, concerts and events, such as: the excellent Junior Production of **Our Teacher's a Troll**, performed in the McCarthy Theatre; a jubilant Netball Presentation Evening; an excellent Prize Day, Leavers' Ball, Leavers' Service and Family Fun Day and last night's uplifting Summer Concert.

At Woodhouse Grove, learning is never confined by the walls of a classroom. Over Half Term, sixteen Year 12 students enjoyed a thrilling Business Studies trip to New York, which included a private tour around the famous Garment District, learning about its history in the production and manufacturing of clothing, as well as visiting a working factory in the heart of the City. The group was also lucky enough to have a guided tour of the headquarters of the United Nations and a private tour of Wall Street and the Ground Zero Memorial.

In the next 24 hours, two Senior groups will depart these shores for trips of a lifetime.

Firstly, a group of fifteen Year 11, 12 and 13 students will be embarking 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, ready to undertake a 5-day trek through the rainforests of the Corcovado National Park. The Osa Peninsula is renowned for its rich biodiversity; with stunning views, fauna and flora

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

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 team will have the chance to see some of Costa Rica's other marine life, as they head out on a dolphin watching and snorkelling tour in the Golfo Dulce. The final leg of the trip will consist of some well-earned and much needed rest and recovery along the Pacific coast.

Secondly, a few hours before the Costa Rica trip departs, forty-nine Senior rugby players will be flying to Durban to experience a very different culture and to play rugby against four prestigious South African schools. Alongside the rugby, the tour party will go whale watching and, hopefully, see the 'Big Five' on two game drives at the Dumazulu Game Lodge. The tour will also take in a trip up Table Mountain and a visit to Robben Island. The four match days will see the boys play against Pinetown Boys' High, Connect Academy, Durban Boys' High and Paul Roos Gimnasium. Paul Roos is currently the top rugby school in South Africa and Durban Boys' High is also ranked in the top 10. The tour will undoubtedly challenge the boys on the pitch; however, like the Costa Rica trip, I am equally certain that it will afford all those lucky enough to take part, the opportunity to broaden their horizons and widen their education, and I have no doubt that they will all return home enriched by the experiences they have encountered.

Full Academic Reports are available via Firefly for Years 7 to 12. The vast majority of the reports are very good indeed and celebrate the many achievements and contributions of our students to the life of this busy school.

A reminder for those of you with children who have taken Public Examinations this Summer that A-level results day is on Thursday 15 August 2024 and GCSE results day is on Thursday 22 August 2024. Full details of publication arrangements, and the support and advice that will be available during this time, will be published in the week preceding the publication of results.

As the Term draws to a close, we say farewell to a number of colleagues who have so enriched our community. Thank you to Ms Emmott for all her hard work in the Art Department and to Mr Badmus for his brief but incredibly productive time with us in the Science Department.

Mr Munday, Mrs Watson and Mrs Nott leave The Grove having notched up between them an impressive 63 years of combined service. All three of them have been brilliant classroom practitioners, getting the very best academic results in their respective subjects for generations of Grovians. In addition to which, they have all made significant contributions to School life outside the classroom: to boarding, sport, music, Chapel life and the wider curriculum, including countless trips, tours and educational visits. However, first and foremost, each one of them have been good and faithful to the mantra that teaching is above all a caring vocation. We thank them for their service, unstinting commitment, wisdom and deep humanity; they will be sorely missed.

After fourteen fulfilling years, Mr Tedd will leave Woodhouse Grove at the end of this Academic Year. This year has been an increasingly challenging one and after much deliberation, Mr Tedd has decided to step down as Director of Music and the Performing Arts, and from his leadership of cross-country and triathlon.

During Mr Tedd's time at The Grove, he worked closely with the late Mr Crawford, which was a most memorable and positive time for him and the School. Mr Tedd has taught a variety of fantastic students and the many musical and performing arts successes which the pupils, academic staff and peripatetic team have delivered over the years will be fondly remembered long after he has left. The cross-country and triathlon successes, likewise, are achievements of which the School should be justifiably proud, as it has become one of the regional leaders of school endurance sport.

We have no doubt that Mr Tedd will keep in contact with the many good friends he has made over the years and that he will continue to take an active interest in the School and its future development. He has so enriched our community and we wish him all the very best for the future.

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

I would also like to acknowledge the impressive service of an important and much loved member of the Support staff. Mrs Hudson retires at the end of this term after 24 years' service. Behind that gritty and no-nonsense West Yorkshire exterior lies a heart of solid gold; someone who really understands and cares about our young people, their parents and the wider School community. We wish Mrs Hudson every happiness in her retirement.

Of course, my few words do not adequately do justice to the staff who leave us. Their contribution to this community has been significant, and we wish them every happiness and success beyond The Grove.

The new School year will see a number of new staff join The Grove. Please see below the current list of new appointments, both external and internal, for September 2024:

External Appointments:

- Mr Daniel Cliffe, Teacher of Chemistry
- Ms Rhia Page, Teacher of French
- Ms Claire Brennan, Pathways and Progression Co-Ordinator

Internal Appointments, include:

- Miss Megan Barnes, Head of Atkinson House
- Miss Megan Green, Trainee Teacher of English
- Mr Mark Gill, Head of Towlson House
- Mr Chris Jackson, Teacher of PSHE and Learning Support
- Mr Owen Tennant, Teacher of Maths

Our boarders return to School on Tuesday 03 September 2024; with School starting for day pupils at 8.30 am the following day, Wednesday 04 September 2024.

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

With all my best wishes,

Yours sincerely

James Lockwood MA
Headmaster

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.