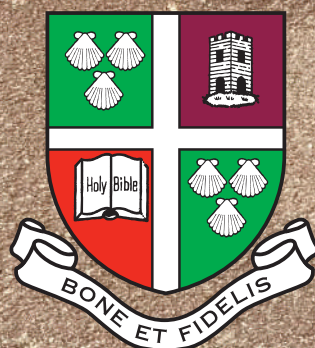


NEWS FROM THE Grove

The Newsletter of Woodhouse Grove School



Winter 2024

Careers Support

We are always delighted to welcome visitors to the Grove to inspire our students. This term, Old Grovian Chloe Fairbank (O3-19) spoke to Sixth Form students about PWC's Flying Start Programme and apprenticeships in accountancy and business management.

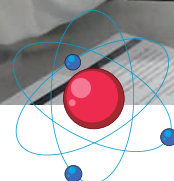


Sam Binns, another Old Grovian (16-23), shared insights into his Materials Science degree at Imperial College, London, and the career paths it offers.

Kate Drury from the NFU delivered an engaging assembly to Years 10 and 11, tying into their studies on farming and ecosystems in biology. As the first woman elected to the British Wool Board, a sheep farmer, lecturer and sustainable rope entrepreneur, she highlighted the diverse careers in farming and the vital role of British farmers in our lives.



Chemistry Week



Chemistry Week at the beginning of November, celebrates the positive impact of chemical sciences on improving the world.

Junior STEM Clubs marked the occasion by making plastics from potatoes, supporting the Royal Society of Chemistry's push for sustainable materials like biodegradable polymers.

Year 7 extracted starch from potatoes using techniques such as decanting and vacuum filtration, while Years 8 and 9 investigated the effects of adding plasticising agents.

Earlier in the term Years 8 and 9 also made chemistry lava lamps and investigated the effect of warming the oil up and cooling it down.



Bronze CREST Awards

Year 7 STEM club students embraced the challenge of earning the prestigious Bronze CREST Award by planning, investigating and reporting on real-world topics. This national award introduces students to project work empowering them to work like real scientists.

Projects ranged from studying the effects of drugs on invertebrate heart rates to assessing the potential of solar-powered cars.

Achieving this award required creativity, dedication and a passion for STEM, all of which the students demonstrated brilliantly. Their hard work truly paid off!



Outdoor Adventure



This term, some of our senior pupils had the opportunity to venture off-site to enjoy climbing for their games lesson. For many, it was their first time climbing outdoors, and they performed admirably despite tackling some challenging routes.



Preparing for the Future



In November, our Year 12 and Year 13 students, along with peers from neighbouring schools, Benton Park and Immanuel College, participated in a mock MMI (Multiple Mini Interviews) event held in our new Sixth Form Building.

The event aimed to prepare students for university interviews in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science. The MMI sessions were facilitated by our parents who are professionals in these fields. Students took part in a series of mini-interviews and assessments designed to challenge and refine their skills.

This invaluable opportunity was well-received, with students fully engaging and rising to the challenges presented. Huge thanks to our Grovian parents who generously dedicated their Saturday morning to support this initiative, helping students take meaningful steps towards their future aspirations.

We've also introduced Bronze Expedition Canoeing for Year 10 pupils. They recently completed a six-week training programme, during which they developed essential skills such as paddling techniques, emergency procedures and rescues. We're thrilled to share that all students successfully passed the training and are now fully prepared for their canoe expeditions next year as part of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Meanwhile, climbing continues to grow in popularity at the school, with competitions booked in against local schools for both our senior pupils and Year 7 and 8 teams.

This initiative is part of our ongoing commitment to providing adventurous activities that foster confidence and resilience.



Biology Olympiad

Congratulations to our Sixth Form students who achieved awards in the recent Royal Society of Biology's Olympiad.

Our two gold medal award winners were placed in the top 5% of 15,000 students who took part.

All five demonstrated great problem-solving skills, which they combined with their pre-existing knowledge to achieve these results.



Senior Maths Success



We are delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our senior students in the recent UKMT Senior Maths Challenge, with an impressive haul of 6 gold, 15 silver, and 24 bronze awards. Special congratulations to Zac Nelson, Liam Matley, Noah Melake, Charlie Wright, Will O'Toole, and Ellen Dawes, who not only earned gold but also completed the next round, the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo Challenge, showcasing resilience, problem-solving expertise and commitment to excellence.



Ellen Dawes, Ruby Xiong, Hebe Mak, and Lucy Hanson also represented The Grove in this year's Mathematics Olympiad for Girls, with Ruby and Hebe earning distinctions.

Ellen also achieved a distinction, and is our first student since 2018 to score highly enough to be invited to participate in the 3.5 hour British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1.

This year, 58% of our maths challenge participants earned awards—up from just 20% in 2018—a reflection of the growing talent and dedication of The Grove's maths students. Congratulations to all involved!

Team Building Days



Establishing lifelong friendships, teamwork, respect and fun are key elements of a Grovian education. Our new Year 7s embraced these values on their famous Team Building Day, a perfect start to their journey.

Similarly, Year 12 students took on an exciting Adventure Day, off-site at High Adventure, Cowling. The team-building challenges were designed to push boundaries, foster growth, and develop new skills.

Both events offered fantastic opportunities to bond, grow, and, most importantly, have fun!



Senior Debating Semi Final between Stephenson and Findlay

House Competitions

Well done to more than 200 students who competed in the House Cross Country this term. Final Standings; Winners Vinter with 99 points, 2nd Atkinson, and 3rd Findlay. Vinter also won senior boys' squash, with Southern taking senior girls' squash.

There has been some fierce House debating this term for the juniors and the seniors, tackling issues such as

'This House believes, dynamic pricing for concerts should be banned',

'This House believes, artificial intelligence is a threat to humanity, and

'This House believes, teachers should be made to wear a uniform.'

Congratulations to Vinter who won the Junior Debating Final and good luck to Atkinson and Findlay who will battle it out in the Senior Final later this term.



Academic Field Trips



Both our A-level biologists and A-level geographers have been on academic field trips to Cranedale, near Scarborough this term.

Our biologists sampled river organisms at Brompton Beck, and then went out to set some traps for moths, insects and small mammals. Our geographers studied sand dune succession and used a gun clinometer in Beverley to measure sky view angle.

Lily Reflects on 15 years at the Grove

As her time at the Grove draws to an end, Year 13 Marketing Prefect, Lily Lucas-Hooton reflects on her 15 years as a Grovian, having joined Pre-Nursery in 2009.

“My Woodhouse Grove journey has been remarkable and one I will never forget.

Ashdown Lodge, Brontë House, and Woodhouse Grove have all been a part of my life longer than I can remember. I am deeply grateful for all the incredible support I've received over the past 15 years—I wouldn't have it any other way.

It has become a place where I feel completely comfortable and truly at home. The established environment within these school walls has been amazingly accommodating and has given me space to flourish accordingly.



I have countless amazing memories and lifelong friends from this school such as winning the good work award for my “red-lipped batfish poster” in Year 6, singing in Mr. Phenny's choir at Christmas fairs, attending school official meetings during Friday break-times with toast and orange juice, winning the hat competition in Year 7, enjoying amazing school trips (especially Costa Rica in Summer 2024), and performing in fantastic school productions such as A Midsummer Night's Dream and Chicago.



The Grove is such a close-knit community. The teachers always take time to understand each student's specific needs, and I'm incredibly grateful for everything they've done for me. They genuinely care about our progression in all aspects of school life and helping us become the best versions of ourselves.

All in all, I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience at Woodhouse Grove and Brontë House. Although I feel emotional about leaving, The Grove has given me the confidence to take the next step in my life.”



Lily caught up with some of her peers who also started their Grovian journey in Ashdown Lodge.

“I think having such a supportive community of both teachers and students since Nursery, has definitely helped me over the years to increase my confidence, both academically and personally.” **Fran**

“The opportunities presented to me throughout my life at the Grove have given me interpersonal skills such as leadership and communication which will be valuable for my future. Encouragement from my teachers to participate in co-curricular activities has given me improved confidence and a willingness to get involved wherever possible.” **Lucy**

“I have maintained friendships stemming from Ashdown Lodge which have supported me in my school journey and will surely last a lifetime.” **Emma**

“I will miss the community here when I leave in Summer. Ever since Ashdown Lodge, the warmth from all staff and students at the Grove has always been apparent and it's an environment I'm very fortunate to have grown up within.” **Barnaby**



Some of our current Sixth Form students who have been at The Grove since Ashdown Lodge

Why Poetry Inspires

Poetry is a timeless expression of creativity with the power to move, provoke, enlighten, and transform. It not only helps students understand their place in the world but inspires them to change it.

Learning a poem by heart is like keeping a cherished painting with you always. Unlike art in a gallery, which must be left behind, memorising poetry means it stays with you forever.

Our English department aims to make poetry accessible. Teachers encourage students to recite, discuss and confidently express their views on poetry, recognising it as a boundary-free form of expression and a potential catalyst for societal change.

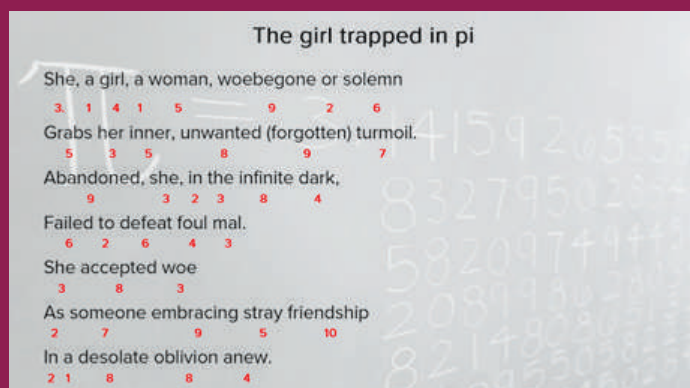
This spirit was celebrated through the Grove's Poet Laureate competition, where students across ages share their unique perspectives on important issues. The winner becomes the school's poet in residence, giving voice to their insights throughout the year.

Grove Poet Laureate

After reading over 25 entries from a range of year groups, Mrs Sharpe was blown away by the creative talent on display in this competition. After much deliberation, the title of Grove Poet Laureate 2024/25 was awarded to **Lorna Kerr** in Year 12 for her piphology-style poem on the National Poetry Day's theme of Counting, entitled 'The Girl Trapped in Pi'.



Lorna also had the poem she wrote for the Grove Poet Laureate competition last year published after entering it into a Black History Month poetry competition and has a copy of the book with her poem in it.



Senior Reading and Speaking

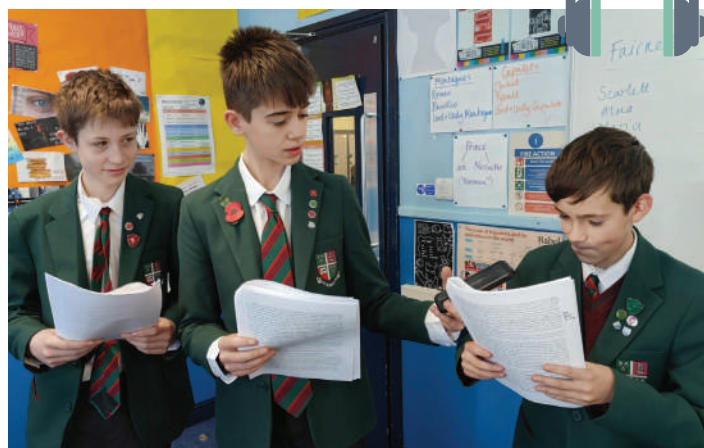


This term, our senior students participated in the Reading and Speaking Competition, learning a poem of their choice by heart and reciting it for the judges, Mrs Sharpe and Reverend Drost.

The competition was intense, with students presenting a variety of genres, including dramatic readings of their own original poetry. From humorous break-up poems to deeply personal creations, the performances demonstrated a heartfelt connection to the poetic form, leaving the judges thoroughly impressed.

Congratulations to our winner, Maia Robb, whose moving rendition of *Meanwhile* by Richard Siken captivated the judges and earned her the top spot.

Year 9 Podcasts



One Year 9 class has been developing their ability to write for a range of purposes by creating their own true crime podcasts as part of their 'Justice' topic in English.

Students had to research their chosen area of true crime, write the script for one episode, compose or choose theme music, create a logo and then record their podcast.

Some students even flexed their editing skills, showing even more creative and technical skill. Topics ranged from cults to high-profile real-life crimes, with some of our budding presenters even coining their own catchphrase. The students produced excellent work in this task and some of them could definitely have a future in the podcast industry!

Year 7's European Hats



The Year 7 Hat Parade was a dazzling showcase of creativity and cultural celebration! Though inspired by the European Day of Languages, the students had the freedom to design hats representing any country, capturing its unique culture and language. The results were truly spectacular, with vibrant designs and imaginative interpretations on display. A huge congratulations to all participants for their fantastic efforts, and special recognition to Evie M and Kalia N from 7H, as well as Mary H from 7E, whose outstanding hats caught the judges' attention and were selected as the winners.



Spanish Super-Curriculum Event

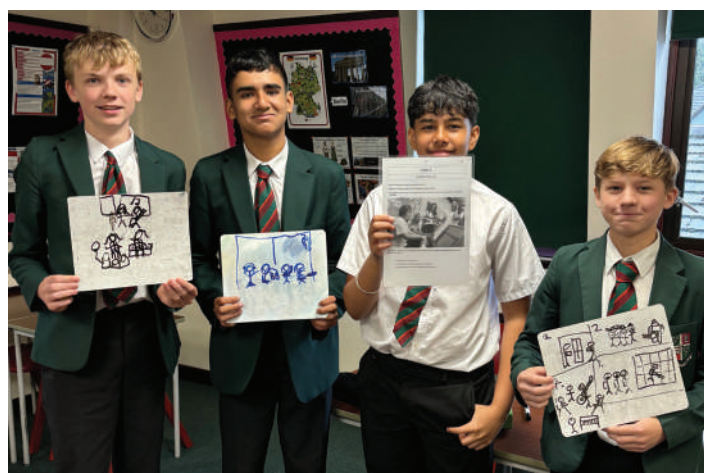
In October, our Year 13 Spanish students participated in a Channel Talent Super-Curriculum event, where they attended engaging presentations by university lecturers. The sessions explored the Argentine Dictatorship and the music of resistance in Chile, offering students valuable insights. This provided them with a taste of university-style learning while deepening their understanding of topics directly relevant to their A-level studies.



Building Confidence



Students from all year groups are encouraged to develop their speaking skills through a variety of activities tailored to their level. For Sixth Formers, this might involve practising mock questions, while younger students engage in speaking games. Year 10 language students, for instance, played Pictionary in German to enhance their descriptive abilities – a key skill for the photo description element of their speaking exam. The more detailed their descriptions, the more precise the drawings became, making learning both interactive and effective.





Chicago: Teen Edition!

Wow! Our performers delivered a show-stopping spectacle in this month's Senior production of Chicago: Teen Edition!

The audience was transported to the jazz-filled, scandalous world of 1920s downtown Chicago, brought to life on the McCarthy Theatre stage with dazzling energy and undeniable charisma.

Chicago follows the crimes, trials, and ambitions of two women in Cook County Jail, weaving a tale that's equal parts comedy and biting satire, exposing the corruption and sensationalism of the US justice system of the era. Poppy Freeley and Scarlett Swinney shone as Roxie Hart, with Matilda Holt and Maia Robb delivering captivating performances as Velma Kelly. Their chemistry and commanding stage presence were a highlight of the production.

Other notable leads included Ash Poplar and Trey Halliday as Billy Flynn, Rakelmi Williams-Colley as Matron "Mama" Morton, and Rudy Halliday as Amos Hart, whose performances added depth and dynamism to the storyline.

The production was a true team effort, with more than 45 students contributing both on stage and behind the scenes. From the set design and costumes to the lighting and sound effects, every element reflected the remarkable energy, dedication, and enthusiasm of the students involved.



A special mention goes to our fabulous live pit band, made up of students and staff, who added depth and vibrancy to the production. Their performance during selected musical numbers brought a touch of magic to the show, perfectly complementing the action on stage.

Congratulations to all who brought this unforgettable performance to life—your hard work and talent left the audience cheering for more!



Ukelele Club Launch

Thanks to a donation from Friends of Woodhouse Grove, school now boasts a set of 20 brand-new ukuleles! The first session had a fantastic turnout from Year 7 students, ranging from total beginners to those with some prior experience.

With just four strings, ukuleles are light, compact, and relatively easy to play, making them perfect for learning a few basic chords and strumming patterns to accompany popular songs. Students kicked things off by mastering the art of tuning their instruments.

In the weeks leading up to the holidays, the club embraced the festive spirit, practicing and performing some well-loved Christmas classics.



And All That Jazz

Seth, in Year 9, joined the Leeds Youth Jazz Rock Orchestra last year after auditioning, despite having only two years of trombone experience. Weekly rehearsals have helped him quickly improve his playing and sight-reading, and he enjoys performing in the orchestra's jazz style.

He has played at various Leeds venues, including jazz clubs, and has recently performed with a Leeds choir to help inspire young musicians in primary schools.



Take One: Waterloo Road

Georgia, Year 7 has recently filmed for the new series of Waterloo Road. She told us about her day.

"I got the opportunity to work as an extra on Waterloo Road from my acting classes with Articulate.

I had to be on set really early in Manchester and we started filming straight away at a school - mostly outdoors in the playground and it was really cold, but they gave us handwarmers and lots of breaks.

I met all the cast, who were lovely, and I met children from other agencies and made friends. There was a canteen, and we had lunch from there which was really good.

I do have more filming days coming up and I'm excited to go again as it was a really good experience to see how a film set works, meet the cast and make new friends."



Junior Ballet Champion

Congratulations to Bo Belle, Year 7, who became the South and West Yorkshire Junior Ballet Champion. The junior section is for dancers aged 10-14.



Y7 and Y8 Spotlight Show



At the beginning of the Autumn Term, our Year 7 and Year 8 students had the opportunity to audition and showcase their talents—and what an impressive group they proved to be! From dynamic dance ensembles and musical theatre stars to passionate pianists and our charismatic host, this year's Spotlight Show highlighted an incredible variety of skills. We look forward to seeing even more remarkable performances in the Year 7 and 8 production in the Summer Term.

A special thanks goes out to our team of dedicated sixth formers, whose support was invaluable. They guided the performers in selecting songs, costumes and group arrangements, while also mentoring them on managing stage nerves and refining their stage presence.



Inspiring Chamber Concert

This term's exceptional Chamber Concert highlighted the outstanding talent within our school. Thirteen performers took to the stage, delivering an inspiring array of music that captivated the audience.

Highlights included breathtaking original compositions by Benjy Saia, a mesmerising guitar solo from Ash Poplar, and outstanding ensemble performances by the guitar and clarinet groups. Each musician performed with remarkable passion and skill, making it a night to remember.

A heartfelt thank you to all the performers for their dedication and hard work in creating such a spectacular event!

Senior Rugby Tour to South Africa



In July, the Senior rugby team embarked on an unforgettable tour of South Africa. The group of 49 students and six staff played two matches in Durban and two in Cape Town, experienced a thrilling safari, and visited iconic sites such as Robben Island, Table Mountain and Hermanus for whale watching.



Reflecting on the trip, **Freddie Brown** and **Luca Teal** shared:

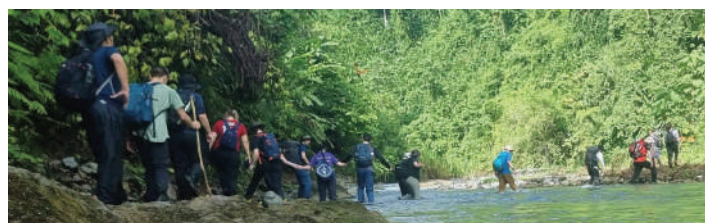
"Our South Africa tour was unforgettable, creating memories we'll cherish for years. Our highlight was playing Durban High School's first XV and witnessing the sheer strength and size of a South African Top 10 school team. It was also a privilege to share this experience with last year's Year 13s, celebrating our friendships and representing the school. We're incredibly grateful for this amazing opportunity with our best mates."



Costa Rica Expedition



In July, 16 students from Years 11 to 13 embarked on a 23-day adventure in Costa Rica. After exploring the vibrant culture of San Jose, they trekked through the biodiverse rainforests of Corcovado National Park on the Osa Peninsula, surrounded by breathtaking scenery. The group then volunteered at a turtle conservation project, participating in late-night patrols, beach clean-ups and hatchery work. The trip concluded with well-deserved relaxation along the stunning beaches of the Pacific Coast.



Year 7 Summer Adventure

At the end of June, 99 excited Year 7 pupils set off for a three-day adventure to the PGL camp at Winmarleigh Hall near Preston.

The action-packed itinerary featured a variety of activities designed to challenge and inspire, including rafting, problem-solving, fire-lighting, survival skills, zip wiring, climbing, abseiling, and the undeniable favourite—archery tag, where students unleashed their energy by firing soft arrows at one another with as much enthusiasm as possible!

Despite the packed schedule leaving them happily exhausted, the pupils embraced every opportunity to push their limits, build confidence and forge stronger friendships.



Caribbean Netball Tour



Over half term, 24 Sixth Form girls embarked on an unforgettable netball tour to Barbados and St. Lucia. The trip began with a warm welcome, a training session, a dip in the sea and some poolside relaxation. Their first matches at sunset set the tone for an exciting tour, with the 1st VII securing a 32-28 win and the 2nds narrowly losing 25-20.



The days that followed were action-packed. In Barbados, the team enjoyed the Boatyard Beach Club, Harbour Lights and pizza by the pool. They played a second fixture against a local club at a community sports ground, followed by a thrilling Jeep Safari and a match against the U21 Barbados trialists.

After arriving in St. Lucia, the girls soaked up the sun, hit the beach and had fun on inflatables until sunset. The tour wrapped up with unforgettable experiences, showcasing laughter, teamwork and passion on and off the court. Here's to the memories and friendships forged along the way!

Huge thanks to kit sponsors **JWH Tanks** for their support!



Iceland Adventure

A group of 47 students and five staff embarked on an unforgettable 'Awe and Wonder' trip to Iceland, immersing themselves in the country's stunning landscapes and unique culture. With recent volcanic activity and hoping to see the Northern Lights, the excitement was high from the start.



The students visited Iceland's hot springs for a refreshing dip and enjoyed pizza watching a thrilling Lava Show, before exploring the Thingvellir National Park Visitor Centre the next day. Despite 'invigorating' weather, spirits remained high as students explored the breath-taking surroundings.

Highlights of the trip included visits to see some majestic waterfalls, volcanic beaches, the original geyser, pony trekking and lunches in a greenhouse at a tomato farm and at the Selfoss food court.

This awe-inspiring trip left students in wonder of Iceland's natural beauty and cultural richness.





Q&A with Becky Ives

We were thrilled to welcome back Old Grovian, Becky Ives (97-04), now a well-known face in sports media with TNT Sports. Becky shared her inspiring journey from Woodhouse Grove student to sports presenter, showing how diverse careers in sport can be.

Our Sixth Formers and Year 10s appreciated her insights and asked great questions. This is the first in a new initiative — bringing in guest speakers each term to broaden our students' horizons about careers in sport.



Rugby Roundup

The 1st XV has had a solid season, with notable wins over Barnard Castle, Durham, Harrogate GS and RGS Newcastle, plus a hard-fought draw against Oakham at Loughborough University, where the U12s opened the season with a curtain raiser.

The U14s remain unbeaten this term, advancing to Round 3 of the National Cup. The 2nd XV is also undefeated, showcasing strong depth in the Sixth Form. The U15s excelled at the Langley Festival, finishing 6th out of 15 teams.

For the first time, we fielded a 3rd XV and an U16 team, with eight fixtures played during Wednesday Games lessons. Over 60 Sixth Form boys have represented the school across all three teams.



3rd XV



In September, we hosted a successful McCarthy U13 Festival, welcoming 15 teams from across Yorkshire. The Grove side performed well, finishing 4th with wins against Bradford Grammar, Harrogate Grammar and King's Pontefract, alongside a draw with Prince Henry's Otley.

Representative Sport

A huge congratulations to all students selected at representative level across all sports, we are incredibly proud of your achievements, which include:

In Rugby.....England U18 training squad and EAP (England Academy Player) - Luca Teal

In Netball.....Leeds Rhinos U19 - Grace Ross, Wales U21 - Jess Strudwick, Wales U15 - Bella Strudwick

In Football.....Welsh Senior Deaf Squad - Cameron Bojas, Manchester United - Rafe McCormack (U16) & Jake Ford (U15), England Independent Schools Training Squad U15/U16 - Hettie Smith

See our social media pages for more.

Golf Matchplay

A 3 player team consisting of Matty, Year 11, Seb, Year 10 and Dougie, Year 8 represented school in the Independent Schools' Matchplay Area Plate Competition in November. The team were victorious against Mount St Mary's College, winning on Stableford points by 96 points to 95. The team now advance to the area final after the Christmas break.



Henry, Year 12, and Seb, Year 10, also played in the Ping Junior Masters competition at Close House Golf Club in Northumberland, following their qualification in the county round in August. Henry won the U18 boys competition and had the honour of being presented his prize by Lee Westwood.

Netball News

Our U19 and U14 teams excelled at the challenging West Yorkshire Schools qualifier, advancing to the regional round in February.



U14 netball team

The 1st VII and U12A secured impressive wins against strong Oakham sides during our Friday Night Lights event at Loughborough University.



1st VII at Loughborough

Our senior netballers achieved fantastic results at the Alex Reid Tournament in Sheffield, with the 1st VII winning the Performance League and the 2nd team triumphing in the 2nd Team League.

Meanwhile, the U16 team in Sisters in Sport (Cup) and U14A team in Sisters in Sport (Shield) have both progressed to Round 3. The U12A continue their strong run, reaching Round 4 of the Sisters in Sport (Cup) and the U15A have advanced to Round 3 of the School Sport Magazine Cup.



U12 netball team

This term, we hosted the Leeds Schools Senior and U14 tournaments, proudly showcasing our newly covered courts.

Cross Country National Finalists



Our Senior Boys' Cross-Country team, captained by Harry, Year 13 and made up of Archie and Jacob, Year 12 and Will and Alex from Year 11, raced extremely well at the Regional Finals held in Leeds in November.

Their solid race performances meant the team came second overall on the day and safely qualified for the National Finals in December. Here they will race as one of the 26 fastest schools from around the country in the Senior Boys category.



England Team Gold

In September, Archie Peaker, Year 12, had an incredible run at the British & Irish Mountain Running Championships finishing 7th in his U17 race. Archie was part of the 4 strong England team who took team gold as well as winning the Edinburgh cup for best overall team.

Archie, who has been running for 9 years with Keighley and Craven AC, told us about his weekend in Ireland;

"The England team manager called me after my 3rd place at the Cracoe qualifying race and confirmed my England selection, which was my first, and something I had worked towards for a long time.

I was excited to compete, but also a bit nervous, however, a few friends had also been selected, which helped to calm the nerves!

The race started fast, but I paced myself on the uphill, gradually overtaking runners and saving energy for the downhill. By the top, I was in 17th place, but I made my move on the descent, overtaking more runners and finishing strong in 7th place. I was exhausted, but happy with my performance and the overall experience.

My favourite part of the weekend was swimming in a lake with the England and Scotland teams after the race. Wearing the England vest for the first time felt like a real honour."

Pastoral Support

Our pastoral team plays a crucial role in supporting students' overall well-being, emphasising the importance of proactive measures to address potential issues before they arise. Key priorities include raising awareness of unacceptable behaviour, shifting mindsets, identifying and addressing bullying, and fostering positive traits such as respect and kindness.



One example of this proactive approach is Anti-Bullying Week, during which the team employs creative strategies to engage students across all year groups. Activities such as Odd Socks Day and the "Choose Respect" graffiti wall were particularly popular among younger students in Years 7 and 8, who enthusiastically shared positive messages with their peers. Similarly, the "Hands of Kindness" initiative resulted in an inspiring wall display in the dining area.



Recognising that discussions about bullying can be uncomfortable—especially for those directly affected—the team works to emphasise the impact of students' actions on others and ensures they are aware of the support available to them.

Initiatives like **"Girls on Board"** further illustrate our commitment to addressing social challenges. This programme helps teenage girls navigate changing friendships, embrace differences in opinions and build resilience.



The pastoral team also tackles complex societal issues such as knife crime. Recently, Year 9 students participated in a Knife Crime Awareness Workshop, led jointly by the NHS and Police. This impactful session highlighted the devastating consequences of carrying knives and provided guidance on how to respond in such incidents.



In yet another example of our Grove community's commitment to supporting mental health, this term, 10 staff members and 2 governors completed their Youth Mental Health First Aid training, along with 19 of our Sixth Form students who volunteered to take part in the training with Debbie Spens from the Charlie Waller Foundation.



Support is extended beyond students to parents as well.....

Our fortnightly Newsflash features a dedicated column offering guidance to parents on topics such as the use of AI chatbots, phone safety and teenage brain development in relation to technology. The column also directs parents to reliable resources where they can access further information.

It's a Knockout

At the start of term, we focus on helping our new boarders settle in with activities designed to familiarise them with life at the Grove and build connections with their fellow boarders. These included icebreakers, human bingo and an It's a Knockout tournament—which was great fun, even in the rain!



Our boarding team also took our new boarders bowling and into Leeds city centre, showing them where the train station is located, how to buy a ticket and generally making them more familiar with the process for future trips.



Halloween Party

Our boarders embraced the Halloween spirit with a brilliant Halloween-themed party organised by Gaelle and Valentina, two of our boarders. There were spooky decorations, creative cookies, a scary playlist and inventive costumes.

In the lead-up to the event, boarders enjoyed their annual visit to the local Pumpkin Pick-Your-Own, selecting the perfect pumpkins to carve and decorate for the party.



BSA Sleep Champions!

bsa | BOARDING SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATION
SLEEP CHAMPIONS 2024

Special thanks to Miss Winks, our boarding tutor, for leading the successful achievement of the Boarding Schools' Association Sleep Champions accreditation. This recognition highlights our commitment to promoting healthy sleep routines, which are vital for the wellbeing of children and young adults.

Baking with Mrs Crawford

On a few evenings this term, our Miller House boarders have also enjoyed baking sessions with Mrs Crawford. Recipes have included apple chocolate torte, mango frozen yoghurt and mug cakes.



Championing Neurodiversity

Brontë House are thrilled to introduce their Neurodiversity Ambassadors of 2024, a passionate and dedicated group of students who have embraced their new role with enthusiasm.



They recently led an inspiring assembly to kick off Dyslexia Awareness Week, raising awareness and fostering a deeper understanding of neurodiversity within our school community. Their efforts are already making a positive impact, and we look forward to the continued work they will do throughout the year.

Celebrating Diwali

Year 1 recently enjoyed a special presentation about Diwali, one of the most important Hindu festivals, delivered by one of our parents. The children were fascinated to learn about the five-day celebration, which includes exchanging sweets and gifts, creating rangoli patterns, and lighting candles to symbolise the triumph of light.



Each child was gifted a Diya lamp to decorate and paint at home, keeping the spirit of Diwali alive. As part of the festivities, other classes in the school also explored the beautiful Mehndi patterns associated with the culture, offering a deeper connection to this vibrant tradition.

Anti-Bullying Week

Odd Socks Day

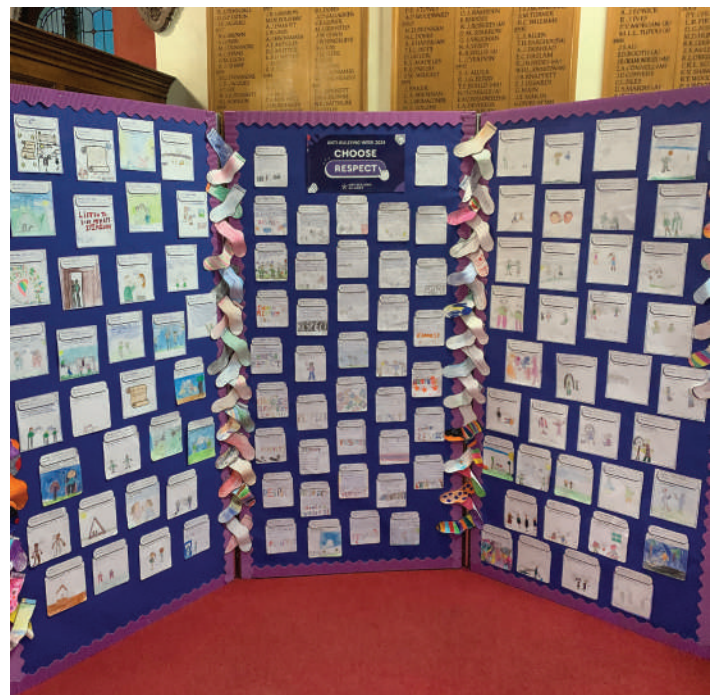


To kick off Anti-Bullying Week, Brontë House got involved in Odd Socks Day! Students and staff proudly wore their brightest, wackiest odd socks to celebrate individuality and have some fun. It was a great way to show that being unique is something to be proud of while raising awareness about the importance of kindness and respect. The school was filled with colourful socks and even brighter smiles!

Choosing Respect

During Anti-Bullying Week, Brontë House focused on the theme 'Choose Respect'. Every child wrote a personal pledge, reflecting on how they can promote kindness and inclusion in their daily lives.

These pledges, proudly displayed around the school, highlighted our shared commitment to creating a safe and supportive environment. Through discussions, workshops, and activities, students embraced the importance of respect and empathy, building a stronger, kinder community together.



ABA fundraising Pyjama Party event!

At Brontë House, a PJ party was recently held by our ABA foundation, bringing all the students together for a day filled with comfort and fun.



From Pre-Nursery through to Year 6, everyone was invited to join in the cosy festivities. Students arrived in their favourite pyjamas, ready for a day of laughter, games, and relaxed enjoyment. The PJ party was a huge hit with everyone!

Year 5 Rocking Out for a Good Cause!



Year 5 channelled their inner rockstars to celebrate the TTRS England Rocks competition, all while raising funds for Children in Need. Rock on, Year 5!

Outdoor Learning

At Brontë House, outdoor learning is a key part of our lower school experience. From conker hunting, to building dens in the autumn leaves, our pupils engage with nature while developing practical skills. Reception made the most of the snow during one of their Outdoor Learning lessons. They played follow the leader where they had to jump from one footprint to another in the snow. Then they made snowballs and tried to throw them through the hoops that were hanging from the tree.

Down at The Grove



This term, students from various year groups have visited Woodhouse Grove to take advantage of the excellent facilities on offer. Reception enjoyed swimming lessons in the pool, while older students took part in swimming galas and competitive football and rugby matches.

Year 5 had a hands-on session in the Design and Technology department, using CAD/CAM software to create their own designs and watching them come to life on the laser cutter.



Sports Round-Up

From cross country to football, rugby to netball, and even swimming galas, sport at Brontë House has been in full swing this term. It's fantastic to see our students getting involved from such a young age and watching them grow and improve each year.

Whether it's hosting training sessions, playing for their House, competing in fixtures, or celebrating big wins like our Swim Squad's festival victory, the enthusiasm and teamwork across all year groups have been brilliant. Well done, everyone!



Trips



Year 3 had a great day out at Leeds Museum. They extended their knowledge on ancient Egypt by completing a treasure hunt in the Ancient Worlds Gallery and learnt all about the life of Nesyamun (the Leeds mummy). The workshop was rounded off with the opportunity to mummify a body, which was great fun.

Beauty and the Beast

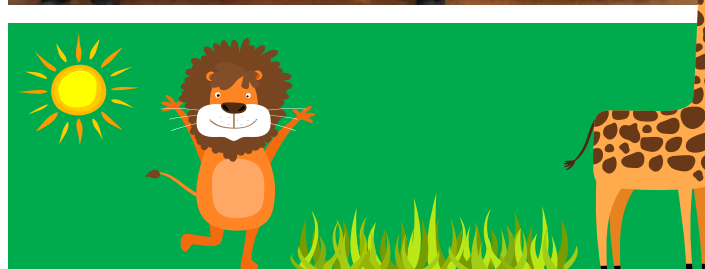


Our lower school children were joined by Pre-School this year on their annual trip to the pantomime. They travelled to Harrogate Theatre to see Beauty and the Beast and the children had great fun interacting with the evil sorceress, Mona Lisa and Phillippe Filop the comic character. The pantomime was packed with sparkle and festive fun and pupils are already looking forward to next year.



Year 4's Tudor Time Travel at Temple Newsam!

Year 4 enjoyed travelling back in time to the Tudor period and participating in lots of fun and engaging activities throughout the day. The Temple Newsam staff were blown away by their knowledge, curiosity, thirst for learning and impeccable manners. They particularly enjoyed dressing as Tudors.



Year 5's Wild Adventure at Flamingo Land

Year 5 had an incredible trip to Flamingo Land, exploring animal habitats, learning about adaptations, and discovering the zoo's conservation efforts.



A highlight of the day was the workshop session, where they met some animals up close. The knowledge gained from this visit will be a valuable part of their rainforest studies this term.

Remembrance Service



The school came together to show their gratitude and respect for those who have given their lives in conflicts around the world. Thank you to Elijah, Year 6, for an excellent rendition of The Last Post, as part of our Act of Remembrance.

Harvest Festival Fun

What a fantastic Harvest Festival at Brontë House! It was great to see the whole school come together to celebrate, with families joining in to make the day even more special. From joyful performances to generous donations, the spirit of community truly shone through. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this memorable day!



Diary Dates



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 8.30am
Term ends Wednesday 2nd April 4pm

Summer Term 2025

Boarders return Tuesday 22nd April from 6pm
Term begins Wednesday 23rd April at 8.30am
School closed on May Bank Holiday Monday 5th May
Half term begins Friday 23rd May at 4pm
Boarders return from 6pm on Sunday 1st June
Term recommences Monday 2nd June at 8.30am
Term ends Friday 4th July midday