

# WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL

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02 April 2025

Dear Parents

As we approach the Easter break, I write to you at the end of another dynamic and fulfilling Term. With the hope that brighter days are ahead, this is also a perfect moment to reflect on and celebrate the many achievements of our pupils over the past few months.

Woodhouse Grove's primary goal is to deliver a well-rounded education with a strong academic foundation, enabling every child to reach their personal best. The School holds high aspirations for all its students, encouraging and challenging them to maximise their talents and take full advantage of the wealth of opportunities available.

As I highlight each Term, Woodhouse Grove offers a diverse and enriching experience, much of which is regularly featured in our fortnightly editions of *Newsflash*. I am delighted that so many of our pupils continue to engage enthusiastically in our extensive co-curricular programme. While this is by no means an exhaustive list, here are some key highlights:

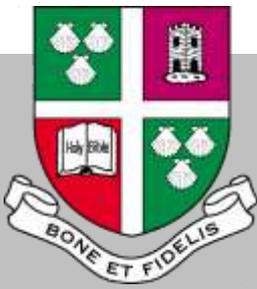
- *Our second ever **Culture Week**, brought together by our Pastoral Team and our EDI Committee, was a phenomenal success with the highlight being the EDI Talent Show – an incredible array of talents showcasing musical, dramatic and athletic talents as well as a magician!*
- *We achieved record breaking results from the recent **UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge** with 10 Gold, 20 Silver and 26 Bronze Certificates being awarded and six students being invited to the next round.*
- *We also entered 21 students into the **UK Linguistics Olympiad** for the first time and achieved a Team Silver and Bronze, and an Individual Silver and Bronze, placing some of our students in the top 15% of entrants nationwide, in this very challenging set of tasks.*
- *During Half Term, 62 boys and girls from Years 9 and 10 embarked on an unforgettable **Football Tour** to Milan. Highlights included watching AC Milan in action at the iconic San Siro Stadium and as I write a further 100 students from Years 8 and 9 are back in Italy, on the **School Ski Trip!***
- *We enjoyed two key events on stage this term with some very impressive performances across all year groups in our **Battle of the Bands** evening and our **Chamber Concert**, which included a beautiful cello solo and a debut from our Jazz Ensemble.*
- *More than 100 of our Year 13 students have now received their **University Offers** across a wide range of subjects. Our remaining students have either secured or are seeking apprenticeships or have applied to universities overseas.*
- *Our **Boarding Community** brings a unique dynamic to the school – ensuring there is always something taking place during evenings and weekends. Two great examples this Term were our Boarding Bake-Off Competition and the recent trip to Alton Towers.*
- *On the **Rugby** pitch, our U14s reached the last 16 of the National School Sports Magazine Cup and across the age groups we have secured multiple trophies in Rugby 7s tournaments. Our 1<sup>st</sup> VII triumphed at Scarborough, Ampleforth, and Mount St Mary's and reached the semi-finals of the North of England 7s, as well as the semi-finals*

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*I am Grovian.*



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of the Rosslyn Park National 7s Plate competition. The U15 team won at King's, Macclesfield, while the U14s claimed victory at both our own tournament and St Peter's.

- Our U15A **Netball** team had a fantastic run in the National Cup reaching the semi-final and losing by just one goal to miss out on a place in the final. We have also had success in the Sisters in Sport competition where our U13s won the National Netball Plate; U14s reached the Plate Quarterfinals and 2<sup>nd</sup> VII secured 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the U19 Vase competition. To round-off a fantastic season, our 1<sup>st</sup> VII finished on a high by winning the Queen Margaret's Invitational Tournament.
- On the **Football** pitch our U14 girls' team reached the ISFA U15 National Shield semi-final and our 1<sup>st</sup> XI boys reached the ISFA National Bowl quarter-final, and losing only one of their 11 inter-School matches.
- The Grove's U13 girls' **Cricket** team was once again crowned West Yorkshire Indoor Champions and reached the final of the Yorkshire County Finals at Headingley Stadium – agonisingly losing in the final over of the game.
- We continue to have a strong presence at Leeds **Cross Country** events and our Senior Boys reached the final of the English Schools' National Cup. I am delighted to report that a new record was set at this year's inter-House Cross Country competition with an incredible 203 participants.
- Our golfers progressed to the Independent Schools' **Golf** Matchplay Regional Plate Final and competed in the West Yorkshire Schools' Championship and our junior and senior climbers have been to more competitions than ever, **Climbing** against other schools in the area.

This year, our charitable work has been energised by the enthusiasm and dedication of our two Sixth Form Student Charity Prefects, Gabby Cotruta and Maria (Vee) Vasilescu, both of whom are part of our Boarding community. Their fresh perspective has revitalised the way we approach fundraising, encouraging greater student involvement and engagement. With the invaluable support of Mrs Nulty and Rev Drost, we reintroduced whole-school voting to determine which charities we should support beyond our longstanding partnerships with Candlelighters and Bradford North Foodbank. This democratic process has given us real insight into the causes that resonate most with our students, reflecting their concerns, passions, and sense of social responsibility.

As in previous years, our charity efforts have been divided into local, national, and international causes. Locally, we continue to support Bradford North Foodbank and St Gemma's Hospice, while our national charities include the British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research UK. Internationally, we have raised funds for Save the Children and the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF). A highlight of the year was welcoming staff from St Gemma's Hospice, who led our Chapel Assemblies for a week, sharing powerful stories and statistics. Particularly special was the return of Old Grovian, David Walker, now a volunteer at St Gemma's, who joined the visiting team. To everyone who has supported our students' charitable efforts – whether through donations, fundraising events, or raising awareness—we extend our heartfelt thanks. Your generosity has made a tangible difference in the lives of those in need.

For our Year 11 and Year 13 students, the Easter break is a crucial time for both examination preparation and well-deserved rest. They have received extensive guidance on structuring their revision over the holiday, and it is essential that they dedicate quality time to their studies. Research consistently highlights the importance of a productive study environment, balanced with sufficient sleep and regular physical exercise.

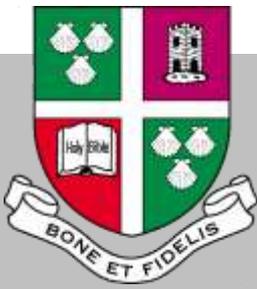
The final months of the Academic Year can be demanding and, at times, stressful. However, our goal is for every student at The Grove to receive their summer results with confidence, knowing they have given their best effort. Those preparing

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for exams next Term should use this valuable period to organise their studies, consolidate their understanding, and commit key information to memory.

We are delighted to announce that Old Grovian and current Woodhouse Grove Governor, Sarah Huby, has accepted our invitation to be this year's Guest of Honour at Prize Day. Sarah had an outstanding school career at The Grove before embarking on a highly successful journey in education, where she is now serving in her second Headship. The event will be held on the morning of Saturday 28 June for Prize Winners and students in Year 7, Year 8 and Year 13. Further details will be shared in the Summer Term.

Following the Prize Giving Ceremony, our School Sports Day will take place in the afternoon, again with further details to be shared next Term. Additionally, the programme for our Year 13 Leavers' Weekend will soon be released, culminating in the Old Grovian Family Day and Twenty20 cricket match on Sunday 29 June from 2.00 pm. We warmly invite all Grove families to join us for this special occasion.

We look forward to welcoming students back for the start of the Summer Term on Wednesday 23 April, with boarders returning on Tuesday 22 April.

Sarah and I wish you all a very happy and relaxing Easter.

With all my best wishes,

Yours sincerely

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

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