



WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL

woodhousegrove.co.uk

04 July 2025

Dear Parents

I write to you at the close of another immensely busy and rewarding term at Woodhouse Grove. As ever, our final weekend of the Academic Year – culminating in a series of truly uplifting events – provided the perfect opportunity to reflect on the scale of achievement, the breadth of opportunity and the rich tapestry of life at The Grove.

This year's Prize Day was once again a joyous and fitting celebration of all that our young people and staff have accomplished. Our Head Prefects, Lucy Hanson and Ayomide Solaru, and Senior Prefect, Harry Bates, delivered splendid reflections, speaking with clarity, humour and genuine pride on their school experiences. Our Guest of Honour, Old Grovian and current Governor, Sarah Huby, spoke with great fondness about her time at The Grove and offered a heartfelt and inspiring address. Her reflections on the values instilled in her here – values that she has carried forward throughout her career in education and school leadership – served as a powerful reminder of the long lasting impact this community has on the lives of its former students.

At the heart of all we do at Woodhouse Grove is our commitment to delivering an exceptional, full and well-rounded education. Grounded in strong academic principles, we aim to empower every student to fulfil their potential. We set high aspirations, and our students continue to rise to meet – and exceed – those expectations, both within the classroom and far beyond it. The richness and diversity of experience at The Grove is evident in our fortnightly [Newsflash \(link\)](#), and the latest publication of [News from the Grove \(link\)](#) which showcase the sheer variety of learning and opportunity available to our young people.

As always, the final weeks of Term have been filled with a flurry of activity. In the past three weeks alone, our pupils have taken part in sporting fixtures, educational visits, residential trips, DofE expeditions, concerts and major events, including the spectacular Junior Production of *Mary Poppins Jr*, performed in the McCarthy Theatre. There have been numerous celebrations such as the Netball Presentation Evening, Family Fun Day, Leavers' Service and Ball, and last night's uplifting Summer Concert. These events are not only joyous occasions, they are important moments to pause and acknowledge all that our students have achieved and contributed to School life.

Earlier this week, our Senior Cricketers set off on the tour of a lifetime to Barbados and St Lucia – a fitting reward for their dedication and commitment. Meanwhile, over 100 of our Year 7 pupils have recently returned from an exciting outdoor adventure residential to Ford Castle in Berwick-Upon-Tweed, where they challenged themselves and supported one another with great enthusiasm. Later in August our Year 12 students will complete their adventure education journey at The Grove with their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Expedition.

Full academic reports for all year groups are now available on *Firefly*. These reports, the majority of which are excellent, reflect not just academic attainment but the diverse contributions our pupils have made to the life of this vibrant school.

A reminder that A-level results day is Thursday 14 August 2025, and GCSE results day is Thursday 21 August 2025. Full details regarding the publication of results and the support available to students and families will be shared in the week prior.

As is customary at this time of year, we say farewell to a number of colleagues whose dedication and service to The Grove have had a profound and lasting impact.

Apperley Bridge, West Yorkshire, BD10 0NR
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I am Grovian.



Woodhouse Grove School is part of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust.
Registered Office: 66 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3LH.
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We extend our deepest gratitude to Ms Strachan, Mr Fernandez and Miss Bastin for their dedication, passion and tireless work, both in and beyond the classroom. To Ms Evers, who left us at Half Term after seven years of inspiring students in English, Media and Drama – thank you for your many contributions.

Mr Bean leaves The Grove after 17 years to pursue a new career path. What a great loss he will be to the teaching profession.

Mrs Richardson departs after nine years of leadership in Biology and across the wider Science department – her influence has been significant and much appreciated. She will be taking up a promotion to a Head of Science Faculty role.

We also bid a fond farewell to Shirley Crawford, whose five years supporting Girls' Boarding – following a previous decade running the school's medical centre – have been marked by immense kindness and care. Your compassion has touched many, and your presence will be greatly missed.

Mr King, who has led with distinction as Director of Sport and, more recently, as an Assistant Head, now leaves us after eight impactful years. We wish him, Leona, and their boys, Ezra and Xander, the very best as they begin an exciting new chapter in Dubai.

This summer also sees the retirement of four long-serving teachers, whose combined 96 years of dedicated service speak volumes of their unwavering commitment:

- Mrs Mitchell (15 years)
- Mrs Charlton (23 years)
- Mr Robb (25 years)
- Mrs Shoesmith Evans (33 years)

These outstanding individuals have wholeheartedly embraced the ethos and values of The Grove. They have contributed not only through their excellent teaching but through their involvement in boarding, sport, music, Chapel life and the wider curriculum. Above all, they have exemplified the belief that, first and foremost, teaching is a caring vocation. Their wisdom, dedication and kindness have left an indelible mark on our community, and they leave with our deepest thanks and very best wishes for the future.

We say goodbye to two much-loved members of our Support staff at the End of Term. Our ever charismatic and committed Catering Manager, Franco Caroleo, leaves us to take on an exciting new challenge at BAE Systems. Franco has played a key role in the daily life of the school and his energy, positivity and warmth will be sorely missed by colleagues and pupils alike. We also say farewell to Lindsey McManus in our Marketing team. During her nine years at The Grove, Lindsey has worked with boundless energy and an unwavering *can-do* attitude. No matter the challenge, she always approached her work with positivity and a genuine *glass half full* mentality.

Of course, no short letter can adequately capture the contribution of those leaving us this year, but we thank them all for everything they have given to The Grove.

We are pleased to welcome several new staff members in September 2025:

External Appointments

- Dr Andrew Bailey – Teacher of Biology
- Ms Aoife Jackson – Teacher of RS

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- Miss Ellie Nash – Teacher of History
- Mr Sam Shepherd – Sports Coach
- Mrs Rachel Sowerby – Teacher of Drama

Internal Appointments

- Mrs Jane Edgar – Head of Physics
- Miss Kate England – Head of Chemistry
- Mr Chris Norris – Head of Biology
- Mrs Caroline Pearce – Head of Year 7
- Mr Chris Jackson – Head of Year 8
- Mr Oliver Mantle – Head of Year 10 and 11
- Miss Alex Barron – Head of MFL
- Mrs Emma Hodson – Spanish Co-ordinator
- Ms Rhia Page – French Co-ordinator
- Mr Nathan Barr – Head of PE & Games
- Mr Tom Hicks – Head of Rugby
- Mr James Birkett – Head of Stephenson House
- Ms Grace Bond – Initial Teacher Training (ITT) Lead Mentor

Our boarders return on **Tuesday 02 September 2025**, with the new Academic Year beginning for day pupils at **8.30 am on Wednesday 03 September 2025**.

Whatever your plans this summer, I hope the coming weeks provide you with rest, joy and renewal. Thank you, as ever, for your continued support.

With all my best wishes,

Yours sincerely

James Lockwood MA
Headmaster

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