



# Stretch and Challenge At The Grove



Be part of something  
incredible.



## AN OVERVIEW OF OUR Stretch and Challenge ethos



'Stretch and challenge' essentially means ensuring that all pupils at the Grove have the opportunity to fulfil their academic potential by following a **rigorous and varied curriculum** in a stimulating classroom environment. It also means enabling pupils to take part in a wide-range of both **curricular and co-curricular enrichment opportunities**. Promoting a stretch and challenge culture at the Grove ensures that we are getting the very best out of every single one of our pupils and nurturing their love of learning.

## OUR PURPOSE AS AN EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY IS EXPRESSED IN OUR AIMS:

- to develop the academic potential of each pupil, successfully and enjoyably
- to foster mature, caring behaviour and high standards of social responsibility
- to encourage sound judgement, discipline and integrity
- to develop talents and skills whether physical, cultural, technical or social
- to prepare our pupils for the world they will encounter when they leave school

Our focus for stretch and challenge, in line with these aims, is also to provide opportunities for the academically gifted to be identified, extended and challenged in particular curriculum areas and outside the formal teaching provision.





# English

In the English Department, we are passionate about inspiring all of our pupils to love the many facets of the subject, from linguistics to literature. Our pupils have many opportunities to enrich their understanding of the subject, both within the classroom and outside of it...

- The Year 9 Extended Research Project
- The Reading and Speaking Competition (entered by all pupils from Years 7 to 9, in addition to a number of self-selected pupils from year 10)
- Creative writing competitions (internal and external), including our own Grove 'Poet Laureate' competition.
- Debating and public speaking, including debating club, house debating and the external 'Youth Speaks' competition.
- 'Poetry by Heart' competition (entered by self-selected pupils from Year 11 to Year 13; pupils will then go on to enter the national competition).
- Literary journal club
- Theatre trips
- A-level trips to literature lectures
- A-level creative arts trip to London (Pinewood Studios, National Theatre, Museum of London and the Harry Potter Studio Tour)
- KS3 Genre-specific Stretch and Challenge Reading Lists

"English at the Grove is like the key to a lock of ability that I never thought was possible, pushing myself and every other student to be the best that they can be through endless opportunities and engaging lessons and tasks."

Ash, Year 12







# Mathematics

Pupils at The Grove have many opportunities to thrive within the maths department. In curricular lessons, differentiation is aided by setting from Year 7, alongside opportunities to take further maths at both G.C.S.E and A-level. Some pupils will fast track, completing A-level Maths in one year.

Additionally, there are many clubs, competitions and opportunities that our pupils are able to get involved with to extend their knowledge and appreciation of mathematics. This includes...

- The Parallel maths project (which many pupils also use when aspiring to achieve their Grove Award)
- UKMT maths challenges for all year groups
- Lego Robotics club.
- Puzzle club.
- Chess club.
- Inspiration interactive lectures
- The Royal Institution of Mathematics Masterclasses
- UK Space Design Competition
- CityZen Competition
- Girls in Maths Event at Oxford University
- Empowered Females in STEM mentorship programme

**"The maths department really push me to broaden my understanding of topics beyond what is simply expected for exams. They always provide me with questions that stretch my abilities and encourage me to also ask questions to work towards the top grades."**

**Olivia, Year 13**





# Science

Here in the science department, we take our responsibility to push each student to the edge of their academic capabilities. We also understand that many of the future global issues and concerns may need a creative, innovative and scientific solution, and that our students could be the ones to develop it. We encourage students to make links between different areas of science and different subjects. These cross-curricular links feature in schemes of learning; our schemes of learning include links to sustainability, British values, careers and SMSC. Our students benefit from setting, which we believe promotes a nurturing yet ambitious classroom environment. Students celebrate each other's achievements with a healthy dose of competition. Our provision for stretch and challenge gives them the opportunity to do this in a positive way. We have strong recruitment into sixth form, of which a large proportion go on to read a science subject in higher education. Teachers are generous with their time and will engage in discussions which push those trying to reach the highest grades.

Here are some of our curricular and co-curricular enrichment opportunities...

- **Year 7 STEM club** – students carry out an independent investigation and obtain a Crest award
- **Year 8 & 9 STEM club**
- Year 10 – **Junior Physics Challenge**
- Year 11 – **Intermediate Physics Challenge**
- Year 12 – **Senior Physics Challenge**
- Year 13 – **British Physics Olympiad**
- **RSB Year 10 Biology Challenge**
- Sixth form **science book club**.
- Year 9 **STEM workshops in engineering**.
- **'20 weeks in Science'** – short tasks for students to engage in topics outside of the specifications.
- Year 12 **RSB North-West biology quiz** – 10 team practical tasks from forensic entomology to biochemistry.
- Science Instagram sharing topical news stories.

"Science at The Grove is challenging, rewarding and fulfils my intellectual curiosity in many ways. In lesson time, as well as theory, we explore a range of practical's which expand my knowledge even further and make it easier to visualise. As well as this we get weekly out-of-the-curriculum quizzes to develop our understanding and a teacher is always available to answer any question or push me even further."

Alex, Year 12







# Modern Foreign Languages

Although already an international community through our thriving boarding environment, pupils have a great deal of opportunity to immerse themselves in the language and culture of France, Spain and Germany.

In the classroom, all of our linguists are able to access 'Challenge Activities', which are built into lesson resources (such as Powerpoints) and lesson plans.

There is also further differentiation for pupils in relation to their skillset:

## **Native/Near-native speakers**

These pupils are supported with fast-track, early entry for GCSE & A-level. All of these pupils are supported via extra sessions with MFL teachers or our Languages Assistants. Many will complete the qualification in one year, instead of the usual two. Those fast-track students who complete early entry exams are then supported further and encouraged to keep developing their language proficiency with continued sessions with our native Language Assistants.

## **Dual-Linguists**

The dual-linguists that we have at The Grove are very often non-native students with a Gifted & Talented profile. Every year, we have dual linguists at both GCSE and A-level. For example, in year 11, currently, we have 10 students who are dual linguists. Pupils will have access to a native speaking assistant from both of their chosen languages.

Pupils at The Grove also have the opportunity to engage in cultural trips and exchanges, take part in departmental competitions and join the junior **MFL Club**. Activities at MFL Club include vocabulary games, constructing a presentation of Día de los Muertos, and studying films and cookery programmes in other languages.

"Reading a French book has been a great challenge because there is such a wealth of new vocabulary to learn. Not only this, I have had to improve my knowledge of the context of the story too."

Being challenged in this way I feel has already helped me massively improve in both knowledge and confidence."

Lucy, Year 13  
A-Level French





# Music

The Performing Arts offer our pupils many opportunities to thrive and develop both their academic and practical skills. The school's music department is just one of the many places where our pupils can challenge their creativity.

## **Curricular Music**

There are a wide variety of pupils taking music as a subject, ranging, in ability, from those who are new to reading music, to our more seasoned instrumental performers and singers. In order to allow our best musicians to excel within the classroom, lesson tasks are routinely set in stages, with various levels of musicality expected. Pupils demonstrating expertise within a unit or strand are given extension work, ranging from one-off tasks through to fully resourced additional tasks.

## **Co-curricular Music**

All of our students, but in particular our gifted and talented musicians, are encouraged to take part in co-curricular music. There are an incredibly wide-range of ensembles and choirs for pupils to choose from, and gifted and talented musicians have the opportunity to join advanced ensembles, perform solos in concerts, take part in workshops via BTEC recording projects and, for those interested in music technology, a recording day at Castleford Recording Studio, The Chairworks. Internal competitions include our very popular 'Battle of the Bands', and there are external opportunities that pupils are encouraged to apply for, such as composition competitions.

## **Music Scholars**

Our most talented musicians audition for one of the school's music scholarships, and those awarded a scholarship take part in concerts and other initiatives throughout the school year, such as 'Scholars' Jam Day'.

"Music at The Grove has challenged me to reach my full potential by the encouragement I receive from the Music Department, who always offer me new opportunities with different bands and music groups. They constantly offer chances to excel in the things that I enjoy.

From Year 7, both of my academic music teachers have pushed me to do things out of my comfort zone and, now I am in Sixth Form, I can see how much I have improved due to their constant encouragement and faith in me."

Winnie, Year 13  
(Music Scholar)







# Philosophy and R.S.

Faith is central to the school's ethos and, although we embrace the principals of Methodism upon which the school was founded, we are nevertheless a multi-faith community - something that is embodied and richly explored by our Philosophy and R.S. department.

The department has many curricular and co-curricular opportunities to challenge pupils' understanding of faith, spirituality and philosophy.

These include...

- Junior Philosophy club
- The Athens trip (an educational trip for Year 12 and 13 Philosophy and R.S. A-level students)
- A-level philosophy revision sessions run by Dr Lacewing, Head of Theology and Philosophy at Christ's Hospital School
- GCSE relevant trips, such as to the Bradford Reform Synagogue. For more information on this, see the following page.

The department is also planning, this year, to enter some of our most gifted and talented students into the University of Sheffield's Department of Philosophy's 'Secondary School Philosophy Essay Competition'.

During my Philosophy and RS lessons, we always consider both 'for' and 'against' arguments based on the current topic, and that stretches my understanding because I'm challenged to think about two different sides of the argument, allowing broader knowledge of the topic."

Michaella, Year 13





## PE & Games



Some of our elite runners receiving **training and racing advice** from Olympic Triathlete, **Jonny Brownlee**

The main aim of the Physical Education Curriculum is to provide students with opportunities to participate in a wide range of sports and activities throughout the school year. They spend 6 weeks on one activity before moving on to a different one. Within Physical Education lessons, each year group has a specific focus across all of the 6 activities they will participate in over the three school terms.

**Year 7** – the foundations of core skills and the development of physical literacy and fitness elements.

**Year 8** – the development of core skills, introducing advanced skills and introduction to healthy lifestyles through fitness.

**Year 9** – the development of knowledge and understanding of a variety of activity and fitness areas.

**Year 10** – Knowing and understanding different ways to be healthy and active through different physical activity opportunities.

**Year 11** – Linking theory to physical performance.

"The school netball coaches have really helped with my development, making sure we are working on something different every session and are being pushed. They schedule matches against schools that will challenge us, and they give us amazing feedback to help us to improve our own performance. The coaches have helped me to get into the county team and netball clubs outside of school. The trips and tournaments also really help everyone develop and it exposes us to different netball environments."

**Lois, Year 12**

### **P.E. and Games Stretch and Challenge: Athlete Performance Programme (APP)**

In addition to PE and Games lessons providing the best possible learning opportunities for all our students, our endeavour with our **APP initiative** (Athlete Performance Programme) is to support our most **gifted athletes** by offering an **enhanced education programme** to inform the pupils of how to manage a lifestyle for pursuing excellence in the sporting arena, whilst balancing their academic studies. The APP helps to recognise potential, as well as existing talent, and to nurture these attributes side-by-side. We aim to develop talent support by providing an **educational programme** with a holistic approach guiding pupils on Well-being, Psychology, Fitness Programming, Nutrition and Career Advice and Guidance. We aim to help stretch and challenge students by further developing the personal qualities which will enable them to maximise their potential in the sports world.





# Humanities: History and Geography

## HISTORY

Stretch and challenge opportunities in history include...

- Junior History Club
- Current Affairs Club
- Extended projects, including the castle project and the WW1 project
- Holocaust Education Trust – Lessons from Auschwitz project



## GEOGRAPHY

Stretch and challenge opportunities in geography include...

- Junior History Club
- Current Affairs Club
- Extended projects, including the castle project and the WW1 project
- Holocaust Education Trust – Lessons from Auschwitz project





# Business Studies & Economics

Business Studies is a particularly popular subject for our pupils at GCSE and A-level; many students often also opt to take A-level Economics in the Sixth Form. There are many opportunities for pupils to gain academic skills and vocational experience that will provide an excellent foundation for life after A-levels.

As well as the stretch and challenge opportunities provided within lesson tasks, Business Studies and Economics students also take part in an extensive enrichment programme.

This includes...

- Entering the LEAP enterprise competition
- Annual Business and Economics trips (in both the U.K. and America)
- Attending 'Institute of Economic Affairs' Lectures
- Watching 'Financial Times' live and online lectures
- Entering nationwide economic essay writing competitions
- Entering the University of Bradford Mock Trial Competition

"Economics is a subject that challenges me everyday; my teachers do this by asking for examples from the real world. They use the current global situation to help apply the issues that they are teaching. This challenges me to keep up to date with the news and has prompted me to have further discussions about current affairs."

Maya, Year 13



## The Grove's Supercurricular Programme



The school's **Supercurricular Programme** aims to develop the breadth of experiences that our students from **Year 10 upwards**, enabling them to access a broader range of opportunities outside of the classroom. This is so that our students can make a more informed decision about their post-16 and post-18 future, whilst developing important skills. Opportunities are made available for students throughout the academic year. This programme is in its developmental stages, but we are already seeing pupils engage with, and benefit from, having a more structured and curated system of enrichment.

Our intention is that, by engaging with the programme, pupils will be **fully prepared for the next stage of their academic or vocational development**, with early insight offered into what is required for a particular career or pathway. We have forged strong links with many of the schools' Old Grovians (our network of alumni) and they play a vital role in offering guidance and advice about careers & higher education to our current pupils.

### **Each academic department are required to offer the following across the year:**

- Workshop or seminar – student participation.
- Competition or an opportunity for student led work.
- Lectures – organise a guest speaker.
- MOOC (Massive Open Online Course), Ted Talks, Future Learn courses, or Podcasts.

### **Students are encouraged to commit to the following during an academic year:**

- At least one lecture
- At least one workshop or seminar
- At least one MOOC, Future Learn course, or similar opportunities, such as a Ted Talk
- Take part of a competition or work in a student led group – e.g. creating their own podcasts or running a club for lower school.

We invite all students to record their attendance and reflection on their personal **Globalbridge** profile. The intention, once the programme is in its second stage of development, is to present all students with a high engagement with a certificate of achievement and an e-gift voucher from Woody's Café. Student engagement will be monitored, in the first instance, by form tutors.



# The Grove Award

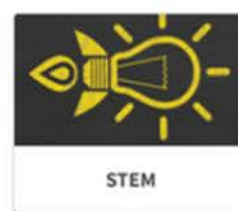


## A Grovian is...

inquisitive and curious; enterprising and resourceful; kind and generous; honourable and respectful; committed and resilient.

**The Grove Award is open to students in Years 7 to 9. Students must complete five challenges to earn The Grove Award badge (with a different badge for each year group).** Pupils can select challenges from any of the five sections, but they must include at least 3 different types of activity in their final five. For example, students could pick two activities from sport, two from STEM and one from the performing arts; alternatively, they could do 1 from each section. Some of the challenges may be completed out of school.

These are the five sections:



### Possible challenges:

- Plan and deliver an assembly
- Regular library monitor duties
- Play an active role on the school council or as a house prefect
- Take an active part in a project that celebrates WGS's multi-cultural community
- Take part in 10 hours volunteering in your community

### Possible challenges:

- Join a school choir or ensemble and attend 10 rehearsals and perform in a concert.
- Be a member of tech club and attend 10 sessions
- Take part in regular rehearsals and perform in a school play
- Take part in a production outside of school

### Possible challenges:

- Be a member of a school sports team and attend 10 weeks training
- Take part regularly in a sporting activity inside/outside school and attend 10 weeks of sessions e.g. fencing club
- Complete the 'Grove Parkrun Challenge'
- Agree a personal fitness goal with your PE teacher

### Possible challenges:

- Attend 10 weeks of STEM club
- Attend 10 weeks of chess club
- Attend 10 weeks of robot club
- Attend 10 weeks of D&T club
- Attend 10 weeks of textiles club
- Complete a Discovery or Bronze CREST award
- Complete 10 weeks of Simon Singh's Parallelograms

### Possible challenges:

- Gain 5 house points
- Attend 10 weeks of philosophy or geography club
- Correspond with a pen-friend in another language
- Attend 10 weeks of Dungeons and Dragons
- Take part in a school residential trip and write a report for News From The Grove or The Grovian



# The Arts Award

Pupils at the Grove are also encouraged to acquire **extra qualifications** outside of the curriculum in order to challenge themselves and enrich their skillset, gaining additional cultural capital. One example of this is **The Arts Award**. This is a national award in the arts that can lead to a qualification from Trinity, at entry level 3 (just below GCSE). In order to achieve this award, KS3 pupils have the option to complete a research project, record their ideas, actions and thoughts completing an arts activity, and also produce a piece of artwork. This provides pupils with a range of useful skills, including organisation, time-management, research and communication skills.

## **Part A**

Pupils initially take part in two different arts activities. For example:

- Music and drama
- Textiles and photography
- Painting and Sculpture
- Writing poetry and songwriting

They are also required to evaluate their involvement in the work, and their process.

## **Part B**

This part requires pupils to choose an artist; they find out about their career, their work, achievements, their style of work, explain what their favourite piece is and why, articulate why they chose them, and show pictures of their chosen artist's work. Pupils also have to choose an arts organisation, research it, visit it, and write about their experience in depth.

"The Arts Award challenged me to improve my photography but also to attempt different art forms that I hadn't tried before. I learnt and improved my art skills, but also how to reflect on my own and other's work. It was enjoyable because I could choose my own projects and artists."

Caragh, Year 11

