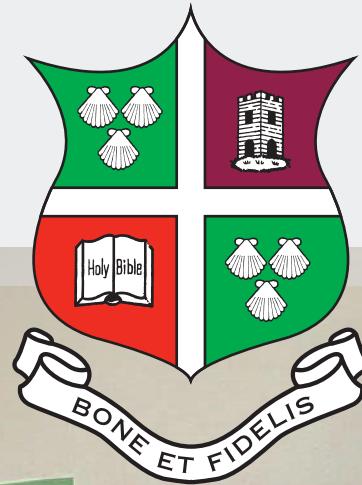


Χαίρετε



The Newsletter of the Old Grovian Association

Issue 36 | 2025

Welcome from the Chair



What a year 2025 was. There were amazing performances from current Grovians across a variety of platforms but how about those OGs?! We have a world cup winner in Ellie Kildunne (11-16) who is providing inspiration not just to young girls but also to boys and old grey haired has beens like me! What a fantastic ambassador for her sport but also for the

school as well. Hot on her heels for winning trophies were the OG7s netball team who won the international social netball cup out in Dubai. The men's rugby 7s teams also doing fantastically well too and it was great to hear how much support they gave the netballers. I also saw many photos of Old Grovians who had not just agreed to meet up but also bumped into people they were not expecting. James Phillips (87-93) getting mistaken for a Welsh actor was a particular highlight, would have signed autographs, but writing was never a strong point.

We ended the year with the launch of the 1812 Society, a fantastic initiative that I urge you all to take a look at here: woodhousegrove.co.uk/1812-society/

Supporting current and future Grovians to have the same opportunities we did is so important as the school continues to educate fantastic young people and fill them with the confidence they need to go and make their mark on the world. Please do consider this if you are able. There is also a dinner planned for the 1812 Society in November this year. Look out for more details soon.

We have great events lined up for this year including:

- Coffee Morning (termly event) Spring date: Tuesday 10 March, 10am - 12noon
- London Reunion: Thursday 30 April (more info soon)
- Golf Day: Sunday 3 May, 1pm tee off at The Bradford Golf Club. I promise to play my own ball this year and not sabotage the headmaster's fourball.
- Govestonbury - Summer Reunion & Family Fun Day: Sunday 28 June, 1:30pm - 6pm
- House Party celebration event this summer: Friday 3 July (more info soon)

109 Old Grovians took part in a letter exchange with new Year 7s. They wrote and told us what houses they were in, their interests and hopes. I really enjoyed writing back to tell Will why Vinter was so much better than Southerns and a few tales from my time at the school. I understand that many of the OGs who took part encouraged them to step out of their comfort zones and try to take part in as many different sports, music, theatre, educational trips and events that they could. I look back and do know that I could have studied a lot harder, but I did make the most of every opportunity to compete and feel that was a really important part of my education. If you'd like to take part this year, please do get in touch with Eve via email: foundation@woodhousegrove.co.uk

I'd love to hear how you are all doing so please do attend as many events as you can, even if just one would be great. If you can't make it then please let us know what you are up to anyway, it would be brilliant to hear from you.

Best wishes for 2026 and beyond.

Xaipete.

Dan Nulty (90-97)

All tickets available at:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/woodhousegroveschool

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Development Update



Eve Corry, Development Officer (st24-)

The Woodhouse Grove Foundation and Development Office continues to strengthen connections across the Grovian community, celebrating our shared heritage while investing confidently in the future. Over the past 12 months, it has been a joy to welcome back more than 85 Old Grovians to The Grove from those who entered in 1949, to leavers from 1979-88 and as recently as 2023-25. Some travelled from abroad, others returned just a few years after leaving and some stepped back through the gates for the first time in over seventy years. Here's a snapshot of what's been happening.

OG Sixth Form Ambassadors

We're excited to announce this year's Old Grovian Sixth Form Ambassadors:

This brand new initiative gives our Year 12 and 13 students the opportunity to leave a lasting legacy for their year group while engaging with the wider Grovian community.

In December, current OGA Chair Dan Nulty (90-97) met with the ambassadors to outline his role and share the aims and purpose of the Old Grovian Association. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity for Dan and the students to ask questions of one another and exchange ideas for future planning.

L-R: Harry Edwards, Grace Wu, Macey Holmes-Moxon, Chloe Green, Ted Cooper.



Letter Exchange Project

One of this year's most heart-warming initiatives has been the launch of the Letter Exchange, connecting Year 7 pupils with Old Grovians. A remarkable 109 Old Grovians took part, each receiving a handwritten letter from a Year 7 pupil.

From wide-eyed excitement to quiet reflection, the reactions said it all. Students loved reading stories of school days past, words of encouragement and advice that felt personal, kind and inspiring. Many were amazed to learn their letters had travelled across the world and back again - a powerful reminder of the lifelong Grovian connection.

Caroline Pearce (94-99, st06-) Head of Year 7, said: "Having been at WGS nearly 20 years, and as an OG myself, it was truly moving to read the lasting impact that Woodhouse Grove has had on so many people, many of whom are still remembered in the staffroom. The Year 7 pupils loved the idea that their correspondent has 'walked in their shoes' and the offerings of superb pearls of wisdom for them to apply on their Grovian journey will hopefully allow them to get as much out of school as so many before them."

Thank you once again to our incredible Old Grovians for taking the time to write with such warmth and generosity. You have truly made a lasting impact on our newest Grovians.



Grovian Voices Podcast

Our Grovian Voices podcast continues to go from strength to strength, with 3,900+ downloads since its launch in March 2025. Even more impressively, listeners are tuning in from 380 cities across 45 countries worldwide. Plans are already underway for a special one-year anniversary episode, featuring a very special guest - watch this space!

Listen via: Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music (search Grovian Voices), or alternatively listen via the school website: Alumni > Podcast: Grovian Voices.

Expand Fundraising Initiatives

The Grove Business Directory

The 2025/26 Grove Business Directory is now live online, and membership remains open. This valuable resource provides a platform for Old Grovians to connect, collaborate and support one another professionally. Own or run a local business? Membership is open to anyone in the Grove community - Old Grovians (alumni), current parents and former parents of Woodhouse Grove School, Brontë House and Ashdown Lodge.

The 1812 Society

We are proud to announce the launch of the 1812 Society, inviting members of the Grovian community to give back and help provide life-changing opportunities through bursaries.

You can join the 1812 Society from as little as £18 per month or pledge your support by including Fidelis in your will, creating a legacy that continues beyond your lifetime. Your generous donation can open doors for a young person, transforming their life and empowering them to reach their full potential. Together, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of future generations.

Old Grovian Gift Shop

The Old Grovian Gift Shop is now open online, making it easy to shop Grovian wherever you are. Orders can be placed for home delivery or free click and collect from the main school reception.

We were delighted by the fantastic response to the initial sales of the OG Rugby Jersey. Thank you to everyone who supported the launch. If you missed out, don't worry - the next pre-order will open this Spring, so watch this space.



OLD GROVIAN ASSOCIATION ONLINE GIFT SHOP



...plus lots more!



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[woodhousegrove.co.uk/
old-grovians/gift-shop/](http://woodhousegrove.co.uk/old-grovians/gift-shop/)

Free click & collect from the school reception.

Woodhouse Grove School Foundation



1812

Be the Difference. Be 1812.

The 1812 Society exists to support future Grovians by providing transformational bursaries to talented young people, giving them access to the exceptional education offered here at The Grove.

Make a lasting impact on the lives of future students and join the 1812 Society today.

[Learn More](#)

Call: 0113 250 2477

Email: foundation@woodhousegrove.co.uk

Visit: woodhousegrove.co.uk/1812-society

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GROVIAN VOICES

Discover Grovian Voices, the podcast of The Grove, featuring students, staff and Old Grovians sharing their experiences, insights and memories.



OG Sevens Rugby: A Season of Triumph, Talent and Tenacity

The 2025 OG Sevens season was nothing short of spectacular. Anyone following their Instagram couldn't help but be in awe of their success, driven by the perfect blend of seasoned veterans and hungry young talent.

Their campaign kicked off at Pocklington Sevens, where a healthy squad made an immediate impact, setting the tone with a strong opening win. Momentum continued at Kinsale 7s in Ireland, where 8 of the 12-strong squad were Old Grovians, leading the charge to another victory and proving that experience and youth could seamlessly combine for success.

May saw OG Sevens dominate Bournemouth 7s, entering two squads — Elite and Social — more silverware came home! Next up were the Eggchasers, where the Elite and U18 squads showcased resilience and skill. The Elite team emerged as Plate winners after a challenging group stage.

By the end of June, OG Sevens were unstoppable, claiming the British Elite 7s title, with Louis Anderson earning Player of the Tournament honours. Back home for the Ilkley 7s, four teams competed, with the OG Originals taking the crown. Ripon followed with yet another victory, keeping the winning streak alive.

The season culminated in a remarkable trip to Dubai 7s, one of the world's biggest sevens tournaments. Two squads represented OG Sevens, entering the International Open and International Social competitions. The results were extraordinary: Open International Semi-Finalists and International Social Plate Winners! Beyond the results their social media showed that the trip fostered unforgettable memories, laughter and friendships across generations.



This season was a testament to the spirit, skill and determination of OG Sevens. A huge thank you to Matt Gaffney for his dedication and drive in giving WGS alumni this incredible opportunity to play together, sharing the same spirit and camaraderie they enjoyed at school. Your passion, support and generosity in allowing so many OGs to be part of the OG Sevens journey are truly appreciated whilst continuing to support their charity of choice MNDA.

Congratulations on a truly incredible 2025 season — here's to even bigger dreams next year!

Old Grovian players/Coaches this season (as per og.sevens Instagram):

George Worthington, Charles Morgan, Louis Martin, Archie Hurford, Tom Reevey, Freddy Ziegler, Blake Morgan, Tom Rowe, Louis Anderson, Joe Green, Ben Turpin, Freddy Clark, Callum Hyland-Dugbo, Joe Carpenter, James Whitcombe, Freddie Brown, Luca Teal, Ben Magee, Rufus Halliday, Luke Strauss, Harrison Strauss, Luca Devittoris, Archie Robinson, Sam Dodd, Lloyd Hudson, Matt Worrall, Chris Blackhall, Willem Johnson, Matt Burke, Ben Waddington, Ben Brown and Jack Maplesden.



OG Sevens Netball: From Bold Idea to Dubai Champions

When OG Sevens first proposed creating a netball team for the Dubai 7s, excitement and panic hit in equal measure. Could a brand-new team really take on one of the world's biggest sporting festivals with no warm-up or trial run?

Months of planning, late nights and determination followed. A passionate group mapped out the team, secured sponsorship and navigated the complex Dubai 7s application process - with unwavering support from OG Sevens, especially Matt Gaffney and John Hincliffe (82-94).

Thanks to main sponsor JWH Tanks and all our other supporters who backed us, the dream became reality. Kits arrived, training intensified and a squad of mentally tough players was ready. Nine of the ten players were Old Grovians and the team manager was an OG, giving the squad strong roots and shared history.

Arriving in Dubai brought heat and pressure, but the team's speed, cohesion and fearlessness shone through. Over two days, they dominated the group stages, winning every game, cheered on by OG Sevens rugby players.

Finals day tested them like never before, but they stayed composed and fought with heart. When the final whistle blew, they were crowned International Social Cup Champions - a bold idea turned historic achievement.

Thanks to our players, coach Georgie Thompson, supporters, OG Sevens and our sponsors, this journey turned a dream into triumph. As the team flew home, thoughts were already on next year and the future of OG Sevens Netball - proving this is just the beginning.

Old Grovian Players/Squad:

Summer Anderson, Esther Bean, Maisie Bickerton, Lexie Cadman, Katie Mortlock, Emma Okpala, Georgina Rayner, Grace Ross, Phoebe Turner, Beth Peat, Sam Cadman, Georgie Thompson (WGS st)

Music at The Grove – a retrospective view!

When I arrived at Brontë House in September 1947, as one of only a total of five day boys, the 'back drive', now the main entrance, was a muddy, overgrown track down to the back door which was overshadowed by a huge iron fire-escape. Once inside the house, a dark passage led past the kitchens to the classrooms and the entrance hall, and the splendid oak panelled and parquet-floored hall where morning assembly and weekly music and singing lessons took place.

Ernest Moxon, had been the 'strings' music teacher at The Grove since 1924 and in 1940 because most of the younger masters had been 'called up' into the Forces, he agreed to be the resident master-in-charge at Brontë House for another seven years with his wife as matron, coping with the privations of the war years. Both had just finally retired in 1947, but then Ernest remained as a part-time music master. In the school hall we learnt to sing up and down the scales, singing "Fish and chips, fish and chips, fish and chips" until one day to my embarrassment, Ernest – our teacher, realised that my name would be an ideal alternative, "Roger Davy, Roger Davy, Roger Davy!"

Arriving at The Grove two years later when my brother Peter was Head Pre, I soon got used to Morning Assembly in the old School Room, now the Staff Room, with its many rows of worn wooden desks, on which scores of the lids were carved with the initials of long-gone occupiers. The whole school would be there with the staff wearing their teaching gowns and each of us with a copy of the 1933 Methodist Hymn Book from which we sang a hymn accompanied on the black 'baby' grand piano by the newly appointed Cornish music master Ken Pelmear. The then Headmaster Clifford Towlson (st1922-50) was in the last of his twenty-eight years as Head. He stood or sat at the equally imposing oak desk in front of the large centenary screen, now upstairs in the library, and led the assembly. He had a fine tenor singing voice and led various choral groups in the area, particularly in Pudsey where he continued to conduct the local society.

The volume of sound from the collective voices of more than three hundred boys and young men was always impressive, but in Towlson's time if he considered we were not singing to his satisfaction, he would stop us and correct our mistakes by singing the correct line himself, for all of us to repeat, if necessary several times. There was no apparent obligation for subsequent Grove Headmasters to emulate CWT's lead in this practice!

One of the disadvantages in our day at a single sex school but then accepted as completely normal, was that in plays the girls' or ladies' parts were always taken by boys. We didn't think it strange; it was just the way it was. One memorable occasion was when, as part of the Christmas Concert in 1950, Lindsay Makinson, the Art and senior resident master, produced G & S's 'Trial By Jury', and the Plaintiff 'bride' was played by Leslie Myers who was a regular award-winning boy soprano and who was supported by four attractive young 'lady' bridesmaids!



Assembly Room 1940s



Ernest Moxon with WGS band 1891



'Trial By Jury' WGS 1950



Chapel service 1970s

I do not know if the tradition, then recognised as a 'rite of passage' to become a fully accredited member of Vinter House, still exists, but for many years the custom was for every new House member, on the last night of their first term, to stand on the lockers in the middle of the senior New North dorm and sing a song to everyone in the House. Quite an ordeal for some but then quickly overcome by a sense of pride and achievement.

Nowadays the tradition could be enhanced with the addition of young ladies' voices!

Monday evenings in the Autumn and Spring terms in the Memorial Hall resounded to the music of strict tempo dance tunes, played on 78 rpm vinyl records, as perhaps forty of us learnt ballroom dancing under the cheerfully strict tuition of Dorothy Braybrooks, who had a dancing school on Manningham Lane in Bradford. With combed hair, clean hands and comparatively clean shoes we learnt the quickstep, foxtrot, tango, samba, rumba... and the Charleston, the latter by holding on to the back of a green metal tubular chair with its canvas seat, and 'winging' our feet about! The weekly bonus in those far-off days was the presence of three young ladies from Bradford Girls Grammar School who came to help us learn to dance, and for us particularly to enjoy the new experience of actually holding and dancing with a girl! At least two of my contemporaries eventually married young ladies whom they had first met in this way.

So, there was music to be heard most of the time in 'our' day, from portable radios, 'in dorm', under our blankets, late on Sunday nights when listening to 'Top Twenty' from Radio Luxembourg, and during the day the constant playing of five pianos and perhaps clarinets and a trumpet, in the practice rooms along the corridor just below the Art Room in what is now the Towlson Building. We also sang six days a week in morning assembly and as boarders always a total of ten hymns every Sunday on our morning and evening visits to the Chapel. Times have changed!

Those of us who have spent any length of time at The Grove will have nostalgic memories of at least one aspect of our lives there. Perhaps for some it will be a memorable game of rugby. Perhaps for others it could be the memories of house cricket matches played on the field in front of the School where strangely, two games were often played at the same time and where you risked life and limb if standing in the outfield with your back to the alternative game, but for me as being not too much of a sportsman, though I could run quite fast in House '7-a-sides', an on-going memory is of being in the school and chapel choirs accompanied initially by Ken Pelmear on the original pipe organ and later by David McCarthy. I well remember singing solo, the first few phrases of David's splendid 'Nunc Dimittis' at its premiere, just before I left, on my final Sunday evening in 1957 and on many occasions singing the school song 'Xaipete!' and at the end of the Autumn Term the Football Song.

"The Autumn Term has past again, With heat and frost and drizzling rain,

To mar the football sport...Play up Grove, Play up Grove, Play up Grove!"



Dorothy Braybrooks



Doc Towlson



Mr & Mrs Ernest Moxon at Brontë House

Apart from the Football Song there are also the splendid words and music of the Prize Day Hymn of 1897 both of which were created through the joint talents of the former Head, Dr Arthur Vinter who provided the words, and his music master 'Freddie' James, who composed the music. They also produced the now sadly unheard Cricket and Lacrosse Songs.

The words for Xaipete! were actually translated from a Greek poem by the Rev Benjamin Hellier and given to his friend Freddie James to set to music. The resulting song had its first public performance at the end of Prize Day in 1891.

Whenever and wherever Grovians meet formally, the words and music of our school song will be sung and later repeated by every new generation. Then, those words and that special melody will always be securely fixed into the individual memories of Woodhouse Grove.

"Joyful word at parting spoken,
Be it to our friends a token,
Of a bond of love unbroken,
Xaipete! Xaipete!"

Roger Davy MBE (47-57)

An Inspector Calls

In 1978, about six of us were studying for French A-levels. We had conversation classes with a French assistant, a student teacher. As part of his assessments, an inspector was sitting in with us this particular day.

At one point, we were having a bit of a laugh, and Jacques said that, if we were going to laugh, we should laugh in French, at which point I did my best hee-ghaw-hee-ghaw-hee-ghaw impression of Maurice Chevalier, clever Dick that I am.

The conversation turned towards a new, hitherto unheard-of subject: the environment. How remarkable it is in these modern days of climate change, global heating, plastics overproduction, waste sorting, PFSAs and the rest, to think that these concerns have all arisen over the course of one man's lifetime, for in 1978 we barely knew what an environment was - literally, as what follows illustrates. The point was made by none other than our guest, the inspector.

I've never forgotten three things from that day: how to laugh in French; that why is both pourquoi and la raison pour laquelle; and the meaning of the French la nature. We say nature in English, but it's not intuitive, and the intuitive rendering can be elusive.

"Où est la nature ?" the inspector asked. Where is nature?

"C'est là, dehors," someone said. It's out there.

We sit by the Shipley to Leeds railway. If ever there was something that is not nature, it's the Shipley to Leeds railway. It deafened us as double-headed diesels chugged past. It came out of a tunnel that took five navvies' lives to build, through Apperley Bridge Station onto an

1902.
Matches played 11. – Won 6; Lost 3; Drawn 2; Points scored 107 against 59.

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Clegg, E. Niles, Mr. H. W. Starkey, Mr. J. H. Jaggar, Mr. J. H. Kent, R. Widdowson, Mr. A. Conner, Mr. W. E. Howitt, L. F. Barnes, J. E. Taylor, R. Diam, R. G. Brown, R. R. Gaskell, G. H. Smith, (Captain), Mr. W. W. Key, H. Walgate, C. Goodhead, J. E. Jaggar.

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embankment that God never intended, even if the Midland Railway did, and crossed the Aire, in which leeches were the only lifeform.

The inspector gestured. "Où ça ? Là-dehors ? Vous croyez que cela, c'est la nature ?" A seminal moment. It dawned on me: for most of my life I've never truly experienced la nature. Maybe you have. Climbing in Wales (once the car park's out of view) or boating up the Amazon (with Belém way behind you) or trekking across the Sahara (without a Jeep). We're surrounded by natural products, natural wood and natural, healthy lifestyles but, from birth to death, we rarely actually experience nature itself, even if we talk about it all the time. Now even less so than in 1978.

We extract from nature and leave much destruction behind. We regard nature as the subjects of a painting might regard the world: stylised, marshalled by the artist's sense of composition, constrained within the frame, and hung on a wall to lend a pleasing allure to what would otherwise be a vegetal free-for-all.

He left a deep impression, decades before we could really understand what he was driving at, that inspector who called.

Graham J Vincent (73-80)

The Grove
Business Directory 2025/26

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8

Xaipete 2025

SPORTING EXCELLENCE

Ellie Kildunne

We are bursting with pride for our very own Ellie Kildunne (11-16) and the England Women's Rugby team on their Six Nations and World Cup victory. Ellie, your incredible performance on the world stage has inspired us all and the entire Grove community is so incredibly proud of you.

And not only that, Ellie finished second in the voting for the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award in December 2025 and we're delighted to hear that Ellie has been awarded an MBE in the King's New Year Honours List.

We can't wait to see you back at The Grove soon - and hopefully catch a glimpse of that shiny medal!



Joe Carpenter

Joe Carpenter (17-19), was named in the England Rugby squad starting at full back for an England 15 against a France 15 at Twickenham on 21 June 2025 and also starting at full back to face the USA on Saturday 19 July!



Alfie Longstaff

Congratulations to Alfie Longstaff (22-24) who was selected for England at the World Rugby U20 Championship in Italy. Alfie, who plays hooker, has represented England at U18 and U19 level and played in warm-up games ahead of this summer's tournament, but is yet to win his first cap.



Sam Kildunne

Sam Kildunne (14-21) pictured here with our 1st XV Coach Joe Bedford (00-02, st13-), made a special visit to present his Great Britain Rugby 7s shirt to the school - a proud moment for our rugby community.

Since leaving The Grove, Sam has gone on to study and play BUCS Super Rugby at Loughborough University, where his outstanding performances earned him selection for the GB 7s squad, competing in tournaments across Europe.



Rebecca Newark

A massive congratulations to Rebecca Newark (10-17) for securing Gold at the British Cycling Championships on 23 February 2025 with her team, The 3 Amigos! Don't miss the incredible Contiki interview with Rebecca, where she shares her passion for competitive sports, her journey as a Para-Athlete and so much more!

Available on www.contiki.com

Image source: Rebecca Newark, Velo Bavarian



Becky Ives

Huge congratulations to Becky Ives (94-04), who spent eight weeks in Australia presenting the 2025/26 Ashes Test Series. A truly special highlight came in Melbourne for the iconic Boxing Day Test, where England secured a historic victory on Australian soil for the first time in 15 years, witnessed by an incredible 94,000 fans each day. We can't wait to hear all about the experience and look forward to seeing you very soon!



WHERE ARE OUR GROVIANS NOW...



To read the full OG updates, please visit:
woodhousegrove.co.uk/old-grovians/where-are-they-now/

KEITH S.J. SUNDERLAND (69-76)

I am now an official pensioner in Germany having reached the retiring age of 66 in August 2025. I recently translated my mother-in-law's book from German into English which she wrote and had published before she died in 2018. It is a biography of her life and how she survived the persecution caused by her first father-in-law who was executed by the Nazis for being involved in the assassination attempt on Hitler in 1944. This has given me an incentive to write down my own, meagre exploits to pass on my life experiences to my family. It has been fun writing about my time at the Grove, recollecting some of the episodes I and my fellow Grovians experienced!

I am grateful for the school digital archives which have provided me with one or two photographs. I keep in touch with Moti Stephens (69-76) and of course my brother, Alan Sunderland (66-73). Read this full OG update online (see link top of page 10)



DOUGLAS BRIGGS (80-87, ST03-05)

Since my 2024 Xaipete update, I have represented Wales M55 in the road half marathon held in Swansea and the off-road half marathon in the Forest of Dean both races were against England. I was selected again for the British and Irish Masters XC, which took place on 15th November 2025 in Roundhay Park. It was great to visit Leeds again and race!



PABLO BENITO MARTIN (17-21)

Now in my fifth year of the bilingual double degree in Law & Business Administration at CUNEF University. I look back on my years at Woodhouse Grove School and I'm struck by how profoundly it shaped the person I am today. The academic challenges were important, of course, but it was the personal lessons; living in an international community, learning to collaborate, and understanding what it means to lead with integrity, that have stayed with me the most. Those lessons accompany me daily in my current role as President of ELSA Spain, "The European Law Students' Association". Read this full OG update online (see link top of page 10)



JOSIE GORTON (20-22)

In 2024, Woodhouse Grove generously donated a large quantity of sports kit to the Volunteer Zambia project - a charity dedicated to developing young coaches in football, netball and basketball. The programme places a strong emphasis on supporting young girls, helping them build confidence and sporting ability while also working to reduce teenage pregnancies. Alongside coaching, the girls receive valuable education on personal hygiene and wellbeing.

I spent two months in Zambia working within the netball programme, helping to develop the fantastic group of coaches pictured. The experience was unforgettable. I met some of the happiest, most resilient people despite them having so little.

Read this full OG update online (see link top of page 10)



JOHN HAISTE (56-63)

After leaving The Grove in 1963 I studied civil engineering at Leeds University, graduating in 1966. I am still in touch with a few Old Grovians who were my contemporaries at both school and university.



I had a long and enjoyable career in civil engineering, primarily on design and construction of water and wastewater projects which encompassed a wide range of disciplines

and roles. In later years I became a technical adviser in water related litigation and in dispute resolution on international construction contracts. I worked in over 30 countries overseas with some fascinating experiences and was able to retire gradually, reaching full retirement only in my late 70s. Civil engineering is a satisfying career that I would highly recommend.

PETER WRIGHT (66-73)

Upon leaving The Grove, I took a four-year degree course in Town Planning at Aston University and then stayed on in Birmingham to undertake research for the Department of the Environment on a number of urban issues. In 1979 I moved into main-stream planning with Birmingham City Council where I spent the next 37 years fulfilling a satisfying and successful career.



I worked with many MPs and politicians and had the pleasure of participating in overseas projects in Germany, Malta and Sweden. I'd be delighted to hear from any of my contemporaries. Read this full OG update online (see link top of page 10)

CAROL DAVIS (ST92-16)



President of Inner Wheel Club Aireborough

On Prize Day 2025, the Woodhouse Grove School Inner Wheel Club of Aireborough's Friendship with Service Award was presented to our first winner, Year 9 pupil Eloise Baker. In Year 7 Eloise befriended another pupil with hearing difficulties and learnt sign language in order to assist her. She also learned how to help her monitor her blood levels for Type 2 diabetes.

GEOFF PITCHER & PAUL BROWN

For Geoff Pitcher (65-72) and Paul Brown (65-72), a friendship formed in September 1965 has now lasted sixty years. First bonded during paired outings from Woodhouse Grove, their friendship grew through shared sports, adventures and school life.

Their professional lives later followed strikingly similar paths. Both worked for Midland Bank (later HSBC), starting at Heathrow before gaining regional experience and returning to London.

Despite living in different parts of the Thames Valley, now retired, they remain close, bringing their families together regularly. Read this full OG update online (see link top of page 10)



Paul Brown on his first day at WGS



Geoff and Paul celebrate 60 years of friendship at the 'Woodhouse' restaurant

DAVID LESLIE HARTLEY (46-51)

Now living in Whakatane, New Zealand, 91-year-old David reflects on his life, particularly his formative years at The Grove.

In 1946 David became a boarder, initially struggling with homesickness but gradually gaining independence. He won Form Prizes in 1947 and 1948 and passed his GCEs in 1951. After National Service in the Army, David met his lifelong partner, Gerald Lomas. He later became a successful self-taught chef, running restaurants in Yorkshire and catering for notable figures.

David reminisces fondly of his years at the Grove and the influences of a couple of special housemasters, and the chaplain, who helped to shape him into the kind, genuine, thoughtful and resilient man he is today.

Read this full OG update online (see link top of page 10)



Engagements



Joe Carpenter (17-19) and Fredrika Green (08-18)

Joe and Fredrika announced their engagement in December 2025! Sending Grovian congratulations to you from everyone here at The Grove.



Gemma Wilson (04-11) and Frazer Sparham got married in the Yorkshire Dales on 26th July 2025

Congratulations to Gemma and Frazer Wilson Sparham on their marriage in Summer 2025!

Old Grovians in attendance: Thomas Wilson (00-05), Katie Wilson (07-14), Rachel Parker (née Gaguin) bridesmaid (97-11), Jennifer Brear (née O'Brien) (97-11), Ashley Brear (01-08).



Marriages



Jack Maplesden (99-14) and Dr Genevieve Perrins got married in Northumberland on 14th June 2025

Jack married Dr Genevieve Perrins at Ellingham Hall, Northumberland. There were many Old Grovians in attendance. Jack's best man was Angus Hastings (07-14) whom he has known since they met at Ashdown Lodge at the age of 3. Jack was in Vinter House, captain of the 1st XV and treasurer of the OG7s team. Of the 6 groomsmen, 5 of them were Old Grovians.

Groom photo: from left to right: are Angus Hastings (07-14), Luke Hope-Robertson (07-14), Tarek Moursi (07-14), Jack Maplesden (99-14), Charles Morgan (12-14), Floris Van Oakel and Ben Magee (07-14).



There were many more Old Grovians in attendance, too many to mention. A wonderful time was had by everyone and we wish Jack and Gen a wonderful marriage and life.
- Paul Maplesden, Jack's father.



Lessons in Leadership: Old Grovians return

On Friday 20 June, we were honoured to welcome back two distinguished Old Grovians Major General Tim Hodgetts (74-81) and Brigadier Phil Carter* (83-90) for an unforgettable day at Woodhouse Grove.

The day began with a special assembly for Years 7 & 8 in the McCarthy Theatre, where Major General Tim and Brigadier Phil shared stories from their school days, their extraordinary careers as medics in the British Army and how the values instilled at Woodhouse Grove have remained with them throughout their lives.

Later, Sixth Form students with aspirations in healthcare, medicine and the military joined them in the Rawson Room for a compelling session covering leadership, commitment, self-doubt, building resilience and post-traumatic growth. Their honest reflections and hard-earned wisdom left a lasting impression.

After the talks, it was time for a trip down memory lane, with a school tour led by Sixth Formers, a nostalgic stop to find their names on the honours boards and then lunch in the main hall where many memories were rekindled.

We were also delighted to host a wonderful podcast session with Major General Tim, offering a deeper dive into his personal journey, leadership through crisis and how poetry has helped him process some of his most challenging experiences. A truly moving conversation not to be missed – listen to Grovian Voices via Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music or via the school website.

The visit concluded with a meeting with the Headmaster, where Major General Tim presented a copy of his book, *Frontlines and Lifelines: Collected Poems from an Army Doctor in Crisis and War*.

“Inspired” doesn’t come close. We are incredibly proud of our Old Grovians and look forward to welcoming them back to Woodhouse Grove again soon.

*appointed to UK Surgeon General, Aug '25.





Reunions

Alan Sunderland (66-73) and David Vasey (65-71)

Alan and David - both Findlay took the opportunity to get together to watch their respective football teams battle it out in League One on a Saturday in March 2025. Not the best of games but Wycombe Wanderers beat Lincoln City 1-0. We have agreed to meet again at the London Reunion in April, after not seeing each other for a mere fifty years!



Roger Davy MBE (47-57) and David Stephens (49-57)

Roger reunited with school friend David Stephens when David and his wife Anne called to see Roger in April 2025. "We were school prefects in the Summer Term of 1957 just before we left the Grove. David was the source of the French chalk story at the school dance! We hadn't met for about thirty years. It was a happy reunion." - Roger Davy

"Word to give new friends our greeting,
Word for former friends when meeting,
Sing we all the word repeating, Xaipete!"

David & Roger (now & then)



Simon Tunstall (66-70) and Charles Kirkman (66-75)

In April 2025, Simon and Charles visited The Grove for a school tour and a trip down memory lane, sharing many Vinter memories and school-day stories along the way.



Class of 1979, 1980 and 1981

On 23 October, day boys and boarders returned to The Grove and share fond memories as they walked the school grounds, reminiscing about Old North, the Vinter baths (now a locker room!), the underpass, the basement rugby changing rooms and the dining hall with its honours boards, where many names were proudly remembered.

There was plenty of nostalgia (and amazement!) as they revisited the Martin Hall, the Headmaster's hallway and entrance and marvelled at how the old gymnasium has become the McCarthy Theatre, alongside the new swimming pool, Sports Hall and Hastings-Long Gallery.

Wonderfully nostalgic to see the friendships and bonds remain strong - more than 40 years later. From left: Carl English, Jonathan Tearle, Andrew Hirst, Paul Morris, Tim Pratt, Andrew Barker, Pete Chippendale, Graham Holdsworth, Chris Gateley, Dick Linkogel.



50 year reunion - entry year 1975

On 6 September 2025, we were delighted to welcome 24 Old Grovians from the 1975 entry year back to The Grove for a memorable 50-year reunion.

Friendships were rekindled as guests toured Brontë House and the school grounds, revisiting former dorms and common rooms now classrooms and locker rooms and pausing for quiet reflection in the chapel. A look through the archives sparked fond memories of first-year caps, rugby match days, the unmistakable smell of deep heat, the communal rugby bath and even the famous drainpipe that doubled as a cricket wicket.

More than a school, The Grove was a home where lifelong friendships were formed and continue to endure. Thank you to all who joined us to celebrate this special milestone - here's to many more shared memories ahead.

Old Grovians in attendance:

Andrew Allison
Philip Blakemore
Steve Burnhill
David Cardus
Stefan Cockerill
Mike Fatkin
Richard Featherby
Malcolm Gray
John Haigh
Mark Hammes
David Hawcroft
Cameron Henderson

Tony Hope
Charles Jones
James Lennon
Giles Manchester
George Paterson
Neil Saville
Richard Slater
Andrew Tomlinson
Bruce Tomlinson
Richard Widdop
Timothy Wood
Alasdair Wright

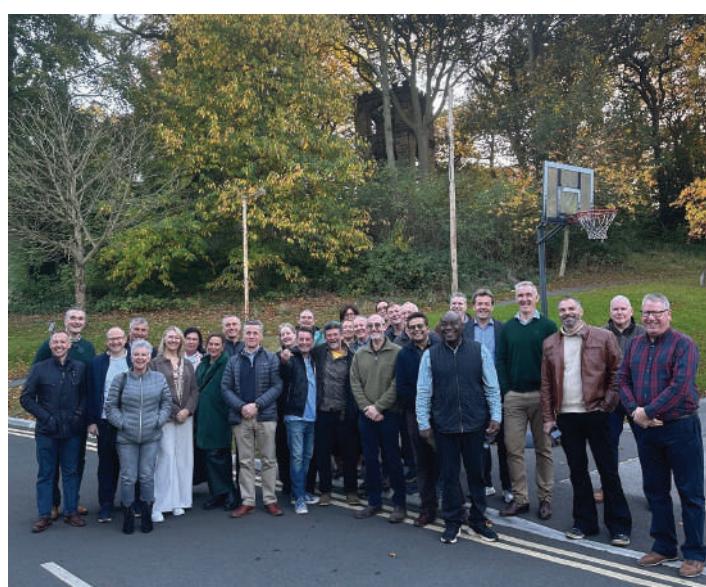


Class of 1983-88 Reunion

On 25 October, Class of 1983-88 gathered for a special reunion event, featuring a school tour, a meal and drinks on the Hastings-Long Gallery, an exhibition of curated items from the school archives and a nostalgic 'Sounds of the 80s' playlist.

Guest list: Maria Atkinson, Julian Berry, Harvey Bolshaw, Sue Burge, James Busfield, Mark Busfield, Chris Coates, Enahoro Edgal, Richard Emmott, Samantha Ferrington, Keith Flannagan, Rachel Garbett, Sarah Hattam, Mark Hill, Jim Jackson, Simon Jackson, Paul Jaggar, Pippa Odell, Simon Page, Pravin Prasad, Aanthonny Ratcliffe, Helen Rawnsley, Ian Ruthven, Andrew Sharp, Gavin Smith, Nick Smith, Nick Taylor, Simon Waterfield, Steven Waterfield, Adrian Wood.

Reunions like these remind us how strong the Grovian spirit remains.



51 Club Old Grovians & Former Staff visit

On 21 October Old Grovians and former staff enjoyed a tour of the school followed by refreshments in the Rawson Room and the chance to purchase Old Grovian merchandise.

Attendees: Trevor Constantine, Bill Davis, Carol Davis, David Funk, Rachael Funk, Peter Heyes, Julie Hipkin, Dorcas Kirk, Chris Lee, Mary Lee, Helen Littlefair, David Littlefair, Julie Hipkin, Weyland Roberts, Yvonne Roberts, Mike Sanders, Nigel Webber, Peter Wood, Jane Wood.



Autumn Reunion Nov 2025

Due to player availability, unfortunately the Autumn Reunion had to be cancelled.

Remembrance Service

Remembrance Sunday is always a special event at The Grove Chapel and this year was no different. Our choir led us in song with our Hymns, including, "Make me a channel of your peace", "Guide me O thou great Jehovah" and ending with the school song, "Xaipete!"

Mr Daniel Nulty (OG Chair) (90-97) read the Roll of Honour - the names of those former staff and students who have died in the last year, and Lavinia Giorgi (Boarding Student) read from Paul's letter to the Ephesians, which spoke of putting on the whole armour of God. The Chaplain reflected on these words, with videos from "Blackadder goes Forth", which captures that moment when so many men went 'over the top' in the Great War. The Armour of God is about the qualities of truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and God's Word, which is mirrored in our school values and in the hymn we sang, "Be thou my vision":

Be Thou my Breastplate, my Sword for the fight;
be Thou my whole Armor, be Thou my true Might;
be Thou my soul's Shelter, be Thou my strong Tower;
O raise Thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

The Headmaster lead the Act of Remembrance, Tish Onigbogi (Head Prefect) led our prayers and Pippa Green (Head Prefect) read the whole poem, For the Fallen, by Robert Laurence Binyan, which has the familiar words, "They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old".

After the Service, we gathered in the main Dining Hall and used this time to catch up with friends, old and new, and to enjoy fellowship together.



On Remembrance Day itself, the whole school, along with players and coaches from Bradford City Football Club, gathered as one large group under the Bolt Courts at 11am to commit itself, as a whole community, to remember and to seek peace. Readings and prayers were led by Pippa Green and Tish Onigbogi, our Head Prefects, Mr Cadman led the Act of Remembrance, and the Reflections were from the Chaplain. As always, our two-minutes silence was a powerful reminder of all those who fought and lost their lives in conflicts, past and present.

Rev. Drost (st22-)

2025 Events & Reunions

London Reunion

Thursday 24 April | The Walrus and The Carpenter

An evening of reconnection and introductions at the London Reunion saw Old Grovians enjoy great company, delicious food and fine weather. Many reconnected after decades apart!



Golf Day

Sunday 4 May | The Bradford Golf Club

13 teams enjoyed a lively day of competition at BGC despite the cool conditions. Big congratulations to the prize winners: Winning Team - Jeremy Neale (91-96); Longest Drive - Eddie Morris (04-11), Nearest the Pin - Richard Ham (84-91).



Leeds Reunion

Thursday 19 June | Friends of Ham

Old Grovians, staff and former staff came together for an evening filled with great food, laughter and the rekindling of long-standing friendships.



Family Fun Day & Summer Reunion

Sunday 29 June | Woodhouse Grove School

The Annual Family Fun Day & Summer Reunion, known as 'Grovestonbury,' was a joyful celebration of The Grove community, bringing together Old Grovians, families and friends under sunny skies. The day was a resounding success, with excitement already building for this year's event on 28 June.

There are plans afoot to relaunch the 1st XI vs Old Grovian 50 over Fixture on the Friday before Leavers' weekend. If there are any OGs out there who would wish to play on either the Friday or Sunday 2026 fixture, please do get in touch.



Coffee Morning

Termly event | Woodhouse Grove School

This new termly event invites Old Grovians, former parents and former staff to visit the school for a relaxed, informal event in the Rawson Room, with complimentary refreshments to enjoy.

A particularly special moment came at the first event in March 2025 when we surprised, Rex Armitage (35-42), a former day pupil of Brontë House and The Grove, who turned 100 years old in November 2024, with a heartfelt "Happy Birthday" sing-along and a birthday cake!

At the Summer event, we were delighted to be joined by Jenifer Percy, daughter of former Headmaster Dr. Pritchard (st50-72), and her son Bruce Percy (74-85) - can you spot the resemblance?

The events offered a wonderful chance to explore treasures from the school archives and pick up Old Grovian merchandise, which proved incredibly popular. It was also wonderful to see some Old Grovians reconnect for the first time since school, with former staff joining us and contributing to the warm, celebratory atmosphere.

Join us for the next Coffee Morning this March, book your FREE tickets now!



2023, 2024, 2025 Reunion

Thursday 28 August | Woodhouse Grove School

This new event brought together recent leavers from the Classes of '23, '24 and '25 along with staff for an evening of reconnection and celebration at The Grove.



Obituaries

GEOFFREY NEWTON (38-47)

Informed by his daughter, Sarah Newton.

Geoff died on 13th March 2025 in the care home in Cambridge he'd moved into summer 2024. Making it to 95 was quite an achievement he never expected, and as he used to say, using a favourite sporting metaphor, he had good innings, and was content with that.

Dad loved his time as a boarder at the school, and we have heard many a story over the years of his time there, including life at Woodhouse Grove during wartime. He wrote an article several years ago about life in the wartime years, you may already have a copy of it. He loved the sports on offer at the school, particularly cricket and rugby. One year he won the overall sports award Victor Ludorum, which would in normal times have resulted in a special blazer. Unfortunately, due to the war there was no spare material for things like that, so he never got it. During a Grovian reunion in London in 2019, around the time of his 90th birthday, he told the story to the headmaster who was there as well. Shortly after that a sports winners blazer arrived in the post - to make up for the one he never had. I cannot tell you how much delight and pleasure this generous gift gave Dad. He wore it regularly with such pride and was always happy to tell the story of how he came by it.



ROBERT SMITHSON (63-70)

Informed by his sister, Eleanor Weetch.

Rob was a boarder in Southern House when Mr Makin was Housemaster. School and House Prefect. He was a keen rugby player and ran for the school in the 100 and 220 yds.

After school Rob went back to the family farm in north Nottinghamshire where he expanded the acreage and excelled as an agriculturalist. His farm was featured twice in the Yorkshire Post and his high standards in crop husbandry made him a leading seed grower. He became dedicated to the care of the land, flora, fauna and bird life, erecting huge numbers of bird boxes and making and maintaining ponds for insects encouraging others to do likewise.

With his wife he walked all the national ways of England, Scotland and Wales and did some walking with Chris Knee (63-70), a running friend from school. After leaving school he had many interests, particularly history and art and always regretted he didn't pay more attention at the time! Rob died of cancer on 30th January 2025.

Photo taken when Rob was 29 years old.



DAVID E POLLARD (46-55)

Tribute by Roger Davy MBE (47-57)

After leaving the Grove David served his National Service in engineering in the RAF, driving heavy vehicles and developing his driving skills. Later as the BMW garage franchise owner in Bradford, his love of driving led to a great interest in rallying and he had much success competing in the UK and from the mid-60's in the annual Dutch Tulip Rally, several Monte Carlo Rally's and driving Sunbeam Rapiers, and then Hillman cars with the Rootes Group on the London to Sydney Rally in 1977.

David also sailed across the Atlantic several times in 'square-riggers' as a volunteer 'crew' and also across the Pacific.

CHRIS CARTER (54-61)

Informed by his son, Phil Carter (83-90)

My father, Chris Carter passed away on 20 November 2025, aged 82.

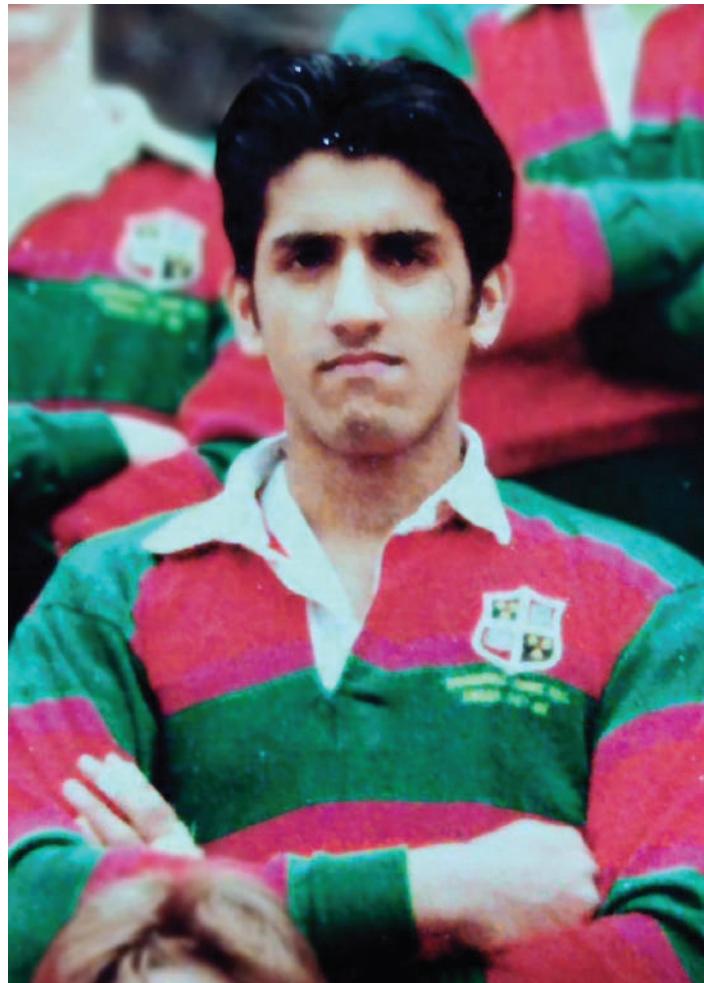
Dad had a long career in catering after he left the Grove and moved to catering college in Glasgow. Various roles in kitchens and front of house across West Yorkshire culminated in his role managing the Director's dining room at the Headquarters of the Halifax Building Society.

Married to my mum for 57 years until his death, he passed away peacefully in a nursing home in Shrewsbury, and my mum was with him.

MUKHTAR SINGH PUREWAL (86-93)

Informed by Mukhtar's family.

Mukhtar was a highly regarded Old Grovian, remembered for his academic ability, sporting talent and thoughtful nature. During his time at Woodhouse Grove School, he excelled in his studies and represented the school in both cricket and rugby. He later went on to study at the London School of Economics, pursuing a strong interest in business and finance. Mukhtar was known for his intelligence, generosity and willingness to support others, qualities that stayed with him throughout his life. He is fondly remembered and deeply missed by his family, friends, and those who knew him.



ANDREW RHODES (82-87)

Informed by his brother, Nigel Rhodes (82-87)

Andrew followed his father and older brother to the Grove, grateful for the opportunities his education provided him. Initially as an Officer in the Royal Logistic Corps, serving across the globe, but notably completing three tours of Afghanistan with 16 Air Assault Brigade. Then, on leaving the Army, a career in construction logistics, his leadership and professionalism recognised ultimately as the Managing Director of Support Services in the Munnely Group. He put others before himself, a mentor for Buildforce, an organisation placing Veterans into the construction industry, and an enthusiastic OG. He leaves a wife, Vicky and a son, Joe.



We were also informed of the passing of the below Old Grovians:

Philip Abel (51-57)
Peter Bingham (47-51)
Ashley Crawford (57-63)
George Cowburn (39-41)
Alan Cuckston (51-58)
John Elstub (62-68)
Robert W. Ellis (55-62)
Richard Errington (64-75)
Charles Gibson (47-53)
Mary Greaves (former Governor)
George Howard (48-54)
Michael McLean (66-72)
Tracy Sellers (85-87)
Nicholas Starkey (61-66)
Martin Studart (64-74)
David Dyke Tovey (49-55)
David Waterhouse (48-57)

Giving To The Future

Giles Manchester

Giles Manchester (72-82) returned to The Grove after 43 years to inspire students considering a career in medicine. A practising GP in Leeds, he shared fond school memories and his journey into healthcare, highlighting the rewards of travel, lifelong friendships and professional growth.



Ritika Kanda

Ritika Kanda (16-23) spoke with our aspiring 6th Form healthcare students, reflecting on her own experiences and offering guidance. She emphasised the importance of preparing well for the UCAT, sharing tips to help students avoid the mistakes she once made. Beyond academics, Ritika highlighted the importance of wellbeing, reminding students that while strong grades and test scores matter, unrealistic expectations can be harmful. Her key advice: don't compare yourself to others, embrace your unique journey and focus on being yourself rather than striving for perfection.



Damien Muchechtere

Damien Muchechtere (17-21) spoke with our 6th Form students about technology careers; the skills employers look for and the importance of gaining work experience early. He discussed how careers in tech are rarely linear and instead shaped by problem-solving, curiosity, adaptability and the ability to apply skills in real world contexts.

Andrew Midgley

Andrew Midgley (80-90) Group Managing Director at TXM Group, gave an inspiring talk to our 6th Form students interested in apprenticeship opportunities and delivered a CV writing workshop, where he provided valuable advice and guidance on creating and perfecting CVs.



David Walker

Following the 6th Formers' trip to St Gemma's Hospice in November, where they helped size-sort over 800 Christmas trees for public sale, we were delighted to welcome the Hospice staff and volunteers into school for our weekly Chapel assembly. David Walker (70-78) a volunteer at St Gemma's, was thrilled to be given a tour of his former school by student members of the school Charity Committee.



School News



Katie heads to Youth Climate Event!

After expressing an interest in politics to her local MP, Katie in Year 10 was incredibly lucky to be invited to a Youth Climate meeting at 10 Downing Street, ahead of COP30! Katie went down to London and met with Ed Miliband and Prime Minister Keir Starmer to discuss the government's plans to tackle climate change.

Katie told us all about her experience, commenting:

It was an honour to be invited to the youth climate event at 10 Downing Street by Katie White, OBE, MP for Leeds North West. This was a fantastic opportunity to share concerns directly with the Prime Minister Sir Kier Starmer, alongside Ed Miliband and Katie White. The meeting highlighted the climate crisis as their greatest worry for the future. The event ensured that youth voices were not only heard but respected, with questions posed freely to government leaders. It felt empowering to ask questions freely and know that our opinions mattered.

A Fond Farewell

We said goodbye to several valued members of staff this year, including: Lead Practitioner Mrs Shoesmith-Evans, who has dedicated 33 years to the Grove; Head of Modern Languages, Mrs Mitchell; Assistant Head of Boarding, Mr King; Heads of Science, Mr Bean and Mrs Richardson; RE teacher, Mr Robb; Art teacher, Mrs Charlton; and English and Media teacher, Miss Evers. We also said a fond farewell to Mr Caroleo, Catering Manager and Mrs Crawford, who returned to the school after a decade in Uganda. We wish them all the very best for the future.



Mrs Shoesmith-Evans played a central role in school life. Since joining in 1992, she's held many positions - Head of Girls' Boarding, Head of History, Assistant Head and Lead Practitioner - but her favourite was leading Southern House.

She fondly recalls WW1 battlefield trips, sports tours to South Africa and a teaching exchange in Australia. Personal highlights include marrying in the school chapel and her son's christening there. She'll especially miss the beautiful grounds - and the famous chicken pie!



Reflecting on her time at WGS, Mrs Shoesmith-Evans noted the growing role of women since the school became fully co-ed and the increasing impact of technology on teaching. Looking ahead, she's excited to travel, enjoy live sport and theatre and explore family and industrial history.

"I wouldn't change a thing about my time here," she said. "Teaching has been a wonderful career - and WGS the perfect fit. Thank you to everyone who's walked with me from 1992 to 2025. Xaipete!"

Magical Moments with Mary Poppins Jr.



Our talented Year 7 and 8 students brought the magic of Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's Mary Poppins JR. to life, with an unforgettable performance full of heart, imagination and charm. This enchanting musical follows the mysterious nanny, Mary Poppins, as she helps the Banks family rediscover the true meaning of love and family, through whimsical adventures and timeless songs.



A total of 76 students were involved in the production, both on stage and behind the scenes, demonstrating incredible dedication and teamwork. Special congratulations go to Sofia Ellis, Year 7, and Catherine Jackson, Year 8, in the title role of Mary Poppins on Wednesday and Thursday respectively and Emily Pix, Year 7, as the charismatic Bert, whose performances captivated the audience.

The show left audiences in awe, with parents, staff and peers alike praising the professionalism and talent of our young performers. Pupils from Brontë House and Calverley Church of England Primary School were also treated to a magical dress rehearsal, making this production a truly supercalifragilistic experience for all involved.



We Will Rock You

The senior students took to the McCarthy Theatre in December in We Will Rock You, the musical featuring music from Queen. The students performed over two nights plus a special matinee performance for our Year 7s, transporting their audiences to a post-apocalyptic version of our reality in which the only thing that may save all of mankind is music.

Our main cast included Isabella Defurey as Scaramouche, Ash Poplar as Galileo, Matilda Holt and Charles McLarnon as villains Killer Queen and Kashoggi, Xavier Adie as Buddy, Charles Ng as Brit and Velvet Harrison as Oz.



Caribbean Cricket Tour

In July, our senior cricketers jetted off to the Caribbean islands of Barbados and St. Lucia. The teams played against the Isolation Cavaliers and St. Michael's School, before heading off to St. Lucia where they played two more games. The teams also had plenty of downtime, enjoying the Harbour Lights dinner show, Boatyard Beach, and Oistin's Fish Fry.



Rugby Round-Up

There has been some incredible participation in Rugby this year, with teams from all year groups competing in fixtures and cup games. Our U16s kicked off our fixtures playing on the 1st XV pitch, beating Barnard Castle in a great start to the season. Our U12s showed great promise in their first win of the season against Barnard Castle, winning 0-55.



Our U13s competed in the annual McCarthy Cup here at The Grove, with both the A and B teams competing. The U12s headed off to Barnard Castle for the Tait 10s, coming home with four out of six wins.



There have been strong performances in the National Cup and the Sports Schools Magazine Cup, and the U15 team did brilliantly in the St Joseph's Festival in Ipswich. We're looking forward to seeing how the boys progress throughout the rest of the year.



Netball News

Our netballers have been busy, with a strong 15 teams currently competing in fixtures and cups across all year groups.

The 1st VII have progressed to the next stage of the SIS Plate after a great win over Wath recently and took the win against Oakham at Loughborough University in the annual Friday Night Lights fixture.



The U14s have performed brilliantly, securing a win over GSAL in the SIS Cup and following that up with an incredible performance in the first round of Nationals, where they went unbeaten. They now advance to the Regional Round as West Yorkshire Champions.

We have seen participation in several cups and shield tournaments, with our teams competing in the SIS cup, Alex Reid Memorial Tournament, SIS National Shield, Independent Schools National Cup, School Sports Magazine Cup, and the Leeds Schools Tournaments.





UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2026

30
APR

LONDON REUNION

Join us for a relaxed and friendly get-together for Old Grovians and parents of OGs living in or around London. Whether it's your first London reunion or you're a familiar face, you'll be greeted with a warm welcome. Partners are more than welcome too!

03
MAY

GOLF DAY

Get your clubs ready for a great day of golf at The Bradford Golf Club on Sunday 3 May (bank holiday weekend). Arrival from 12 noon, tee times from 1pm. Sunshine, swings and serious Old Grovian spirit incoming - plus a fabulous raffle in aid of the Woodhouse Grove School Foundation. Book your Four Ball today!

28
JUN

GROVESTONBURY

Join us for our annual summer reunion and family fun day, 1:30-6:00pm. Enjoy live music, BBQ and bar, sport fixtures and plenty of kids' entertainment. No booking required - just turn up! All members of the Grovian community welcome. Interested in playing cricket/tennis? Email: foundation@woodhousegrove.co.uk

03
JUL

HOUSE PARTY

Get ready to reunite, reminisce and celebrate everything that makes our House System legendary! Old Grovians and the wider Grovian fam will come together for a fun, lively and unforgettable 2026 bash. Drinks, laughs and house pride guaranteed. More details dropping soon - don't miss out!

Date
coming soon...
NOV

1812 SOCIETY DINNER

We are pleased to announce the 1812 Society black-tie dinner at The Grove, celebrating nearly a year of the Society's accomplishments. 1812 Society members will receive an early bird invitation to secure their tickets before general sale. Save the date - more info soon.

Plus: Coffee Morning - the termly event
Spring/Summer/Autumn.
Scan the QR code for the latest event info or
call: 0113 250 2477
email: foundation@woodhousegrove.co.uk

SCAN
TO
BOOK



*Our legacy is Grovian.
Our future is 1812.*

