

WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL

woodhousegrove.co.uk

27 March 2026

Dear Parents

As we near the Easter break, I am writing to you at the close of another busy and rewarding term. With the promise of brighter days ahead, it is an ideal time to pause, reflect on and celebrate the many successes our young people have achieved over recent months.

At Woodhouse Grove, our central aim is to provide a balanced education underpinned by strong academic foundations, enabling every child to fulfil their maximum potential. The school maintains high expectations for all students, supporting and challenging them to develop their abilities and make the most of the wide range of opportunities on offer.

Woodhouse Grove provides a rich and varied experience, much of which is regularly showcased in our *Newsflash* publication ([click here to read](#)). I am delighted that so many pupils continue to participate so enthusiastically in our extensive co-curricular programme, exploring and enjoying the breadth of opportunities available. As ever, it is a pleasure to highlight just a small selection of this term's many activities and achievements:

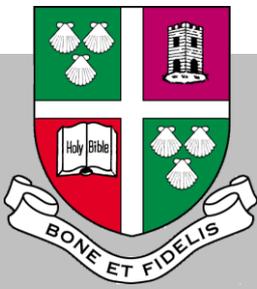
- *Our annual Equality, Diversity & inclusion Week was, once again, a huge success, thanks to our Pastoral Team and EDI Committee. Highlights included henna-inspired bookmarks, a full school macarena and an incredible Fashion Show finale.*
- *We welcomed a wide range of speakers, including many Old Grovians, into school for National Careers Week. They provided students with valuable and inspiring insights into different career pathways and industries.*
- *During February half term, sixteen of our A-level Historians travelled to Munich. From exploring the city's Old Town to visiting the Nuremberg Trials courtroom, their study of German history was brought to life.*
- *Performing Arts at The Grove rocked the McCarthy Theatre stage at the start of February with our annual Battle of The Bands. There were some very impressive performances from across all year groups – and staff! In March, Year 9 and 10 students took on the challenge of creating a "Play in a Day," writing their own lines, developing characters and staging the entire performance themselves – a fantastic achievement.*
- *Four pupils from Years 8 and 9 represented The Grove in the UKMT Team Maths Challenge – finishing 12th overall. In the Intermediate Maths Challenge, students from Years 9 to 11 earned a strong collection of Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates, with three students qualifying for the prestigious Kangaroo follow-on round.*
- *On the football pitch, our U15 Girls reached the semi-finals of the ISFA Shield, while the U15 Boys progressed to the semi-finals of the ISFA Bowl. The U13 Boys went one step further, reaching the ISFA Bowl Final, where they narrowly finished as runners-up after a dramatic penalty shootout. This marks the furthest any Grove team has progressed in a national football competition.*
- *In Netball, our 1st Team finished runners-up and our 2nd Team finished third in their respective Ashville Senior Tournaments. The 1st Team also won the Senior Stonyhurst Tournament. At the St Peter's Festival, our brilliant U13As came away as undefeated champions!*
- *Our teams have enjoyed an outstanding Rugby 7s season, with excellent performances across all age groups. The 1st VII retained the Scarborough Trophy, reached the North of England Cup semi-final, and won the*

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I am Grovian.



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Ampleforth 7s for the second consecutive year. They also triumphed at the Dame Allan's tournament, defeating a strong George Watson's College side in the final. Across the age groups, there has been similar success: the U16s reached the Cup quarter-final at the WGS 7s, the U15s were Cup finalists at Barnard Castle and the U13s also finished as Cup finalists at the WGS 7s. Meanwhile, our U12s made a superb start to their 7s journey, winning the Plate at St Peter's in their first tournament of the season.

- *In Cross-Country, four Grovians raced in the National Cross-Country Championships. We had sixteen students competing in the Leeds Schools Cross-Country Competition, with nine making it into the top 20 finishers.*
- *Our Boarding Community goes from strength to strength, from welcoming our first Immersion group from Wuxi in January to the launch of our Study Play Stay flexi-boarding option. Our boarders enjoyed a variety of activities over the term, including a relaxing afternoon of willow crafting, crazy golf fun and games in Leeds and, of course, the much-anticipated Boarding Bake-Off.*
- *To date, our Year 13 students have received 298 offers from 54 universities across the UK. With more offers expected to come in over the next few weeks – plus apprenticeship offers – the future is looking very bright for our 2026 Leavers.*

This year, the school's charitable efforts have been led by our Sixth Form Charity Prefects, Chloe Green and Rafi Kabiri, both members of our boarding community. It has been heartening to see so many students actively living out our values of being *Kind and Generous*, supporting those most in need.

With the valued support of Mrs Nulty and Rev Drost, we continue to champion a range of local, national and international charities, alongside our longstanding partnerships with Bradford North Foodbank and Candlelighters. This year, we have also supported Toilet Twinning, funding 25 toilets and safe water facilities worldwide, with plaques to be installed around the school after Easter. In addition, we have worked with Martin House, supporting children and young people affected by cancer, while our Easter non-uniform day will raise funds for *Simon on the Street*, aiding vulnerable and homeless individuals in the Leeds and Bradford area. We also look forward to welcoming their team into Chapel later in the year to share more about their work.

Alongside the Charity Committee's work, the whole school has been involved through the House system in selecting a sixth charity. This provides valuable insight into the causes that matter most to our students and reflects their growing sense of social responsibility. We are extremely grateful to everyone who has supported these efforts – through donations, fundraising and raising awareness. Your generosity continues to make a meaningful difference to those in need.

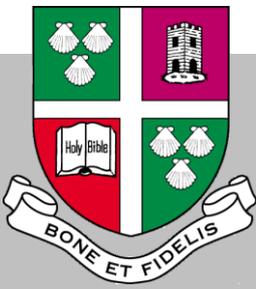
For our Year 11 and Year 13 students, the Easter break represents a vital opportunity to balance focused examination preparation with some well-earned rest. They have been given detailed guidance on how to structure their revision over the holiday, and it is important that they commit purposeful, high-quality time to their studies. Research consistently underlines the value of a calm and productive study environment, supported by good sleep habits and regular physical activity. The final months of the Academic Year can feel demanding and, at times, intense. However, our aim is that every student at The Grove approaches their summer examinations with confidence, secure in the knowledge that they have given their very best.

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We are delighted to announce that this year's Prize Day Guest of Honour will be sports broadcaster and Old Grovian, Becky Ives. Becky is widely recognised for her presenting work with TNT Sports, Premier League Productions and ITV. More recently, she fronted TNT Sports' live coverage of the 2025/26 Ashes Series in Australia. We are thrilled that she will be joining us to celebrate the achievements of our pupils at this year's Prize Giving ceremony. The event will be held on the morning of Saturday 27 June for Prize Winners and students in Year 7, Year 8 and Year 13. Further details will be shared in the Summer Term.

Following the Prize Giving Ceremony, our School Sports Day will take place in the afternoon, again with further details to be shared next Term. Additionally, the programme for our Year 13 Leavers' Weekend will soon be released, culminating in the Old Grovian Family Day and Twenty20 cricket match on Sunday 28 June from 2.00 pm. We warmly invite all Grove families to join us for this special occasion.

It has been wonderful to see the *1812 Society* flourish in the three months since its launch. We are delighted that a growing number of parents and Old Grovians have become regular donors, supporting future Grovians through transformational bursaries. Around school, *1812 Society* bunting and banners proudly celebrate this generosity. This summer, we are excited to launch our inaugural Giving Week, building on the *1812 Society's* strong foundations to celebrate giving and raise vital funds for the school's charitable foundation. Thank you to all who have joined, your support is helping to shape the next generation of Grovians. Click here to find out more: [1812 Society | Woodhouse Grove School](#)

We look forward to welcoming students back for the start of the Summer Term on Tuesday 21 April, with boarders returning on Monday 20 April.

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

With all my best wishes,

Yours sincerely

James Lockwood MA
Headmaster

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