

WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL

woodhousegrove.co.uk

03 July 2026

Dear Parents

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

This year's Prize Day was once again a joyous and fitting celebration of all that our young people and staff have accomplished. Our Head Prefects, Pippa Green and Tish Onigbogi, delivered a thoughtful and highly engaging reflection on their journey through The Grove, using the metaphor of a marathon to describe how the School has prepared them for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. They spoke warmly of the friendships, values and confidence they have gained, celebrated the many sporting, musical and dramatic successes of the year, and paid heartfelt tributes to the unwavering support of staff and parents. Their message to younger pupils was both simple and powerful: embrace every opportunity, value the journey and trust that The Grove will equip you well for whatever comes next.

Our Senior Prefect, Liam Matley, then delivered an exceptionally moving Vote of Thanks. Reflecting on the themes of community, belonging and gratitude that had run throughout the morning, Liam spoke eloquently about the people who have shaped his time at Woodhouse Grove. He thanked staff for their dedication, care and encouragement and acknowledged the sacrifices and unwavering support of parents and grandparents. Above all, he reminded us that while qualifications and achievements are important, it is the relationships we build and the people who accompany us on our journey who leave the most lasting impact.

Our Guest of Honour, Old Grovian and sports broadcaster, Becky Ives, delivered an inspiring and deeply personal address. Reflecting on her own journey from pupil at Woodhouse Grove to presenter of some of the world's biggest sporting events, Becky spoke candidly about the twists, setbacks and rejections that shaped her career. Her message was one of resilience, curiosity and courage: that success rarely follows a straight path and that embracing uncertainty is often the key to discovering new opportunities. Becky credited The Grove with providing the foundations of confidence, teamwork and leadership that enabled her to thrive and left pupils with the powerful reminder that whilst we never know exactly what life has in store, we can be certain that the values and experiences gained here prepare us well for whatever lies ahead.

At Woodhouse Grove, we believe that education should be both ambitious and enriching, developing not only academic excellence but also character, confidence and a lifelong love of learning. Our aim is to ensure that every pupil is challenged, supported and inspired to achieve their very best. The achievements of our students this year, across academic, sporting, creative and co-curricular pursuits, reflect the breadth of opportunity that exists within our community. This is captured regularly in [Newsflash](#) and the latest edition of [News from the Grove](#), both of which provide a vivid snapshot of the many experiences that make a Grove education so distinctive.

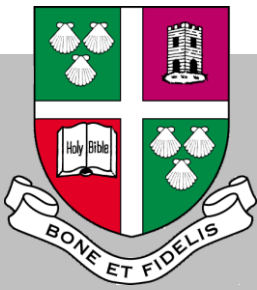
As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring our admissions process reflects the needs and expectations of today's families, we are introducing several refinements for pupils applying for Year 7 entry from September 2027. I would like to reassure our current families that this is an evolution of how we recognise talent, rather than a change in what we value.

Apperley Bridge, West Yorkshire, BD10 0NR
enquiries@woodhousegrove.co.uk

I am Grovian.



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Woodhouse Grove has always recognised applicants' strengths through our Headmaster's Awards, Academic Scholarships and Music Scholarships. Our new *SHINE* Awards simply make this part of the admissions journey more transparent by inviting applicants to share their talents and interests from the very beginning.

Alongside *SHINE*, we are introducing a revised admissions journey, beginning with our *Showcase Open Day* on Saturday 19 September, which will allow visiting families to tailor their experience and explore the areas of School life that matter most to them. This will be followed by a *Candidate Day*, replacing the traditional entrance examination morning. This approach will give prospective pupils more opportunities to experience life at The Grove and discover all that we have to offer.

Our commitment remains unchanged: to recognise potential, celebrate excellence and ensure that every child has the opportunity to flourish at Woodhouse Grove.

As always, the final weeks of Term have been filled with a flurry of activity. In the past three weeks alone, our pupils have taken part in sporting fixtures, educational visits, residential trips, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, concerts and major events, including the spectacular Year 7 and 8 production of *Collected Grimm Tales*, performed in the McCarthy Theatre. There have been numerous celebrations, including the Netball Presentation Evening, our Centenary Sports Day, the Leavers' Service and Ball, *Grovestonbury* and Family Fun Day and last night's uplifting Summer Concert. These events are not only joyous occasions; they are important moments to pause and acknowledge all that our students have achieved and contributed to School life.

Our Year 7 pupils have also recently returned from their residential adventure to the PGL Centre at Dearne Valley in Doncaster, where they embraced every challenge with enthusiasm, resilience and good humour. Experiences such as these play an important role in developing independence, confidence and friendships, and it was wonderful to hear of so many pupils stepping outside their comfort zones and supporting one another throughout the week.

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

A reminder that A-level results day is Thursday 13 August 2026, and GCSE results day is Thursday 20 August 2026. Full details regarding the publication of results and the support available to students and families will be shared in the week prior.

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

Our deepest gratitude goes to Mrs Sowerby, Dr Bailey and Mr Yam for their dedication, passion and hard work, both in and out of the classroom.

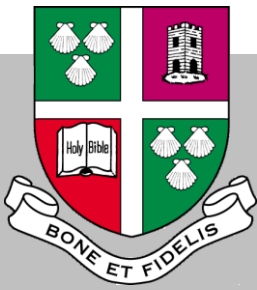
After sixteen years as Head of Design & Technology, Mr Allison leaves The Grove to pursue new business interests beyond education. He has led the department through significant change – from the move to the converted stables to the redevelopment around the Sixth Form Centre – while also navigating the challenges of COVID and a shifting national curriculum. Throughout, his unwavering support for students and colleagues has underpinned the department's continued strength and success.

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

We are pleased to welcome three new staff members in September 2026:

External Appointments

- Miss Shannon Halliwell – Teacher of Science
- Miss Lizzie Edwards – Teacher of English
- Miss Madeleine McLeod – Sports Coach and Resident Boarding Tutor

Internal Appointment

- Mr James Birkett – Head of Design & Technology

As Woodhouse Grove's first *Giving Week* draws to a close, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported this wonderful initiative. It has been a fitting celebration of the strength, generosity and spirit of The Grove community, bringing together parents, Old Grovians, Governors, former parents, staff and friends in support of our Bursary Fund. From the good-natured rivalry of the tug-of-war to the elegance of the *1812 Soirée* and Summer Concert, the week has provided many opportunities to come together and celebrate all that makes Woodhouse Grove such a special place. I am particularly grateful to Eve Corry, our dynamic Head of Development & Alumni Relations, whose energy, enthusiasm and leadership have been instrumental in making *Giving Week* such a success.

Thanks to this remarkable collective effort, we have already raised more than £20,000 to help provide life-changing access to a Woodhouse Grove education for young people with talent and potential, regardless of their financial circumstances. The appeal remains open until 31 July, so there is still time to make a gift and help extend the transformative opportunities of a Grove education to future generations. If you have not yet had the opportunity to contribute, I warmly encourage you to consider doing so ([Giving Week 2026 - JustGiving](#)). Thank you for your generosity, your support and your unwavering commitment to our School and its future.

Our boarders return on **Wednesday 02 September 2026**, with the new Academic Year beginning for day pupils at **8.30 am on Thursday 03 September 2026**.

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

With all my very best wishes,

Yours sincerely

James Lockwood MA
Headmaster

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