Chair Report

It has been a real pleasure to be Old Grovian Chair for the last two years. I have loved meeting and talking to so many of you and reconnecting with people I haven't seen since school. From catching up with Andrew Thompson (91-96) at the St Joseph's rugby festival in Ipswich watching our sons play rugby to bumping into Ben Knappett (91-98) and his sister Jess (95-02) walking my dog and going for a few cheeky beverages at the nearest establishment. Perhaps if the afternoon with Ben had gone on a bit longer we may have reenacted some of the dance routines we created for boarders discos, there would have been little chance this time of the headmaster walking in as we did our grand finale...I'm not quite as lithe and spritely as I used to be though so it was a good thing we had other commitments to head off to!

I need to cover a few highlights from the last twelve months:

- The London Reunion on 29 April 2026 at De Hems Dutch Cafe Bar, Soho was the best attended event in history with Old Grovians attending from every decade from1960s to 2020s!
- The Spring Term Coffee Morning held for the first time on a Saturday and at Bronte House, saw record numbers attend the event - Old Grovians, former staff and parents.
- One year since the launch of the 1812 Society Bursary Fund - I've had a few OGs ask me about this. It is a chance for you to show your support towards supporting children whose families can't afford some of the fees or opportunities by monthly giving starting from £18 per month, one off donation or leave a gift in your will. Every donation helps, no matter the size, please give what you can to help. The Grove's first Giving Week raised £50,878. We donate as a family as we want to see the school to continue to be an important part of the community producing well rounded, talented people.
- **Notable OG achievements:**

-Major General (Retd) Professor Tim Hodgetts CB CBE OStJ DL, Old Grovian (74-81), awarded Honorary Membership of the British & Irish Tactical Medical Association (BRITMA).

-Red Roses full-back Ellie Kildunne (11-16) awarded an MBE in the King's New Year Honours List for 2026 she was also robbed finishing runner-up at the BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2025. Well done Ellie!

As I pass the torch over to Michelle Phillips (86-88) as the new chair, I can honestly say it has been so much fun getting to hear what people have been up to and where life has taken them. I am sure she will have a great time, I'm not going to prepare her for John Fidler's quest to have his name added to the boards in the dining hall as rugby captain, I think it is a rite of passage for all future chairs.

Best of luck to you all, thank you for coming to the events and continuing to be a part of the school community. I'd strongly recommend you all get in touch with Eve, tell us all what you have been doing since school and if you think you can add any value to the school through career talks, coaching, advice to students, 1812 society then please do reach out.

Xaipete.

Dan Nulty (90-97)