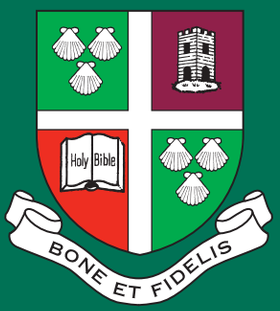
AN ATTITUDE FOR LIFE



I am Grovian

Ages 2-92

I am the very best of me…

I am every teacher who has inspired me. I am every lesson that has opened my eyes. I am every maths problem I have solved. I am every book that has captivated me. I am every science experiment that has surprised me. I am every sports tour that has motivated me. I am every drama class that has transformed me. I am more than just academic. I am everything I want to be. I am prepared. I am gracious and generous. I am resourceful and resilient. I am ambitious and committed. I am understood. I am my unlocked potential. I am an individual, yet I am part of something incredible.

I am Grovian.



Making each individual the best version of themselves they can be.

At Woodhouse Grove, we appreciate that every child is an individual with their own unique personality, talents and skills; and it is this individuality that we nurture at all stages of their education.

A child's potential could lie anywhere – so we ensure that every pupil is exposed to a huge array of opportunities and experiences. We then take pride in identifying and honing their strengths to make the most of their natural abilities, while working hard to develop areas that need improvement. This approach sees each and every Grovian grow into the very best version of themselves they can be.

James Lockwood,
Woodhouse Grove School
Headmaster



Identifying uniqueness

Taking the time to understand a child is the most important aspect of unlocking their potential. With around 700 pupils in our Senior School, getting to know them is easy and we learn how best to motivate and inspire each individual. We believe that this level of insight is the only way to ensure we play to every pupil's strengths.

Understanding the individual

An environment where education shines

The environment in which a child learns is just as important as what they learn. We have worked hard to create a community where pupils can come together, where they are encouraged to flourish, where they feel comfortable, confident, stimulated and, most of all, happy.

Because we are a day and boarding school, our day doesn't finish at 4 o'clock and friendships develop that bridge the gap between different age groups, further strengthening the school community.



Achieving the perfect balance

We believe that unlocking the potential in every pupil is only possible when you provide them with a full and rounded education. Of course, academia remains at the heart of that, but we never underestimate the importance of sports, music or the arts, and the enrichment that these pursuits can bring to a child's life.

Learning

through a full education

A Grovian is...

Inquisitive & Curious

Enterprising & Resourceful

Kind & Generous

Honourable & Respectful

Committed & Resilient

What it means to be a Grovian

Our approach to ensuring each child becomes a confident, well-rounded young adult is not exclusively founded on providing an excellent education.

Our Grovian Values are the foundation for each pupil's development and every child carries these forward for the rest of their life.

We asked some of our current students to explain what being a Grovian means to them. Read on to discover what thay had to say.



Watching people put real effort into something they care about pushes me to want to do better myself.



"The man who loves walking walks further than the man who enjoys the destination."

This piece of advice has stayed with me because it's a reminder that enjoying the process matters more than fixating on the result. If you care about the work itself, the success tends to follow.

My favourite subjects at school are Physics and Maths, as they reward you for complete understanding rather than memorisation and I enjoy problem solving. Competitions that the school participates in, such as UKMT and the Physics Olympiad, have furthered this enjoyment by challenging me beyond the classroom.

I hope to go to a top university (Imperial or Cambridge) to study Electrical and Electronic Engineering, with the aim of landing a job in computer hardware.

I'm into a mix of things, including reading, exercise science, working out and listening to music. I also like outdoor activities such as hiking and cycling. I enjoy photography, especially landscapes. This influenced my research project on Rayleigh scattering, which has enhanced my enjoyment for practical physics.

My passions are obvious through my reading habits, mostly modern technology and exercise. I'm always eager to see new developments and research, from foundational computer science to quantum computing. Over the years, I have tried many of the co-curricular clubs at The Grove, from Dungeons & Dragons to Orchestra to Cricket. I regularly make use of the school's excellent gym facilities.

The people around me inspire me more than any one famous figure. Watching people put real effort into something they care about pushes me to want to do better myself. I try to stay calm and break things down into smaller steps rather than letting them feel overwhelming. This is helped by the support of pastoral care at school and the ability to talk to form tutors or go to the Hub.

The Ski Trip and the Barbados Cricket Tour stand out as two key memories of my time at The Grove. It wasn't just about being away with friends, it was the independence that came with it. Being trusted to manage yourself in a completely new environment, while still sharing the whole experience with people you're close to – that's what made these trips so special. Plus, they were great fun!

Nihal, Year 12 The Grove

I think being a leader is a great skill – and this is something that I aspire to be good at.



I'm just finishing Year 8 and looking forward to going into Year 9. Both my brothers are also at The Grove and I'm really looking forward to future school trips, sports tours and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions because I've seen how much fun my older brother has had taking part in all these things.

My favourite subjects at school are the sciences, especially Chemistry. I also really enjoy Maths, so I guess you could say that I'm drawn to more logical subjects. Obviously, I also love PE and Games.

I'm into most sports – especially rugby and cricket, which I play both in and out of school. I've also recently taken up golf. I don't play football anymore because I realised I'm better suited to rugby – but I am still a loyal Man City fan.

I guess I like doing pretty much the same things as most other 13 year olds. I play sport with my friends, we play online games and go into Leeds. I read every night and enjoy going on holiday with my family.

The school ski trip earlier this year was amazing. I'd never skied before but the whole trip was brilliant; it allowed us to see the teachers in a different light and spend loads of time with friends, whilst also getting to know different people. Even having to go down a red run on my first ever day skiing was fun!

Whilst I'm at The Grove, I want to make the most of my time here and achieve as much as I possibly can – both academically and in other areas of my life. I think being a leader is a great skill – and this is something that I aspire to be good at. I hope to do well in my GCSEs in a few years' time and then stay on into the Sixth Form. At the moment, I think I would like to go to university and then find a career I enjoy, that is challenging and rewarding. If it paid well too, that would be ideal!

The staff and wider community at Woodhouse Grove and Brontë House have given me fantastic support over the years. Knowing I have somewhere I can come and be myself with my friends is a big part of why I enjoy coming to school so much.

George, Year 8 The Grove

My Grove journey began at Brontë House, where I made lasting friendships. Over the years, I've grown alongside these friends, while also meeting many new ones.

I am currently in Year 12, studying Biology, Chemistry and Drama. My favourite subject is Biology, as I have a strong interest in understanding the natural world, the complexity of the human body, and the underlying reasons behind biological processes.

I have a strong interest in pursuing a career in healthcare because I find the opportunity to care for and support young people both inspiring and deeply rewarding. Out of school, I enjoy volunteering within my local community, in primary schools and charities.

Ever since I was young, I have always loved being on the stage and I truly believe that entertaining is what I'm best at. I love to sing and achieved Level 6 in Musical Theatre with Distinction. My passion for the Performing Arts is something I want to pursue in the future. My dream would be performing in musicals in the West End.

At school, I take part in breaktime concerts and Grove productions. I play netball for school, which I love and am also a keen member of the Student Council. Out of school, I enjoy trying out new restaurants and activities with my friends.

My mum is the person who inspires me the most. She always works hard to be the best person she can be. She is kind and caring, placing others before herself. This is the type of person I want to be.

I try to embrace challenges, rather than shy away from them. Facing difficulties and working hard to overcome them is better than letting them sit to the side and grow until they are unsolvable. I utilise the support around me and use every piece of feedback and opportunity to help me overcome any problems I am facing.

My time at the Grove has been truly special and shaped me into the person I am today. I have made the most of my time here, taking on challenges and opportunities with confidence and enthusiasm. This has really made me feel part of the Grove community.

Matilda, Year 12 The Grove



Confidence for life beyond education

Instilling confidence in each individual child through an education that is rich and diverse, in an inspiring environment where they are encouraged to excel and given the support to develop, enables our pupils to grow into the very best version of themselves that they can be.

We hope that every one of our pupils leaves with the confidence and resilience to continue to succeed in their life beyond Woodhouse Grove.



From 2 to 92. Grovians carry our values with them throughout the rest of their lives.

Thanks to the strong community and exceptional environment of Woodhouse Grove, even after our pupils step out of our doors for the last time, the knowledge, values, self-confidence and life-long friendships they have forged here will never leave them.



Becky Ives, Reporter and Presenter

Becky works in Sports Broadcasting as a TV Presenter, working for various companies such as BT Sport and Premier League across a range of sports – but with the main focus on football.

Following The Grove, Becky studied for 2 years at the University of Teesside, before a further 3 years at Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts in London. After this, some serious hustle, networking and making the most of opportunities got her to where she is today!

"Sport has always been my passion and I feel lucky that The Grove gave me the opportunity to try a wide range of sports that aren't always easily accessible to all. School Ski Trips, international mountaineering expeditions and D of E courses gave me a wealth of experience and taught me a lot about commitment and determination!
I also regularly played sport at school to a high level and so gained an understanding of how competitive sport works.
I was 1st team Netball Captain and also Captain of the Swimming Team and learnt some invaluable lessons about leadership, communication and teamwork – which I still utilise today.
Woodhouse Grove gave me the foundations to turn my passion into a job. I feel incredibly lucky to spend my days with top level athletes, pundits and fellow broadcasters talking about sport…all of which started at The Grove."



Tom Bould, Squadron Leader

Tom joined Brontë House in 1988 and left Woodhouse Grove in 2000.
After leaving The Grove, Tom studied Aerospace Engineering at Manchester University and completed his elementary flight training as a member of Manchester and Salford University Air Squadron. In 2005, he joined the Royal Air Force, where he was streamed to operate fast-jets.
He flew the Typhoon – the RAF's multi-role combat aircraft – and during his front line tour had several deployments to the Falkland Islands as well as exercises in Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates.

Tom was accepted as a member of the Red Arrows display team in 2015. He has recently been promoted to Squadron Leader and selected to be Red 1. As Red 1, he is primarily responsible for all aspects of the display, from running the training programme and creating and choreographing a new 20-minute aerobatic show, to leading the nine-aircraft.

"The education I received from The Grove was more than just about academic success. It gave me the self belief to challenge myself and the resilience required to achieve my ambitions. My time at The Grove and the all round education gave me the tools I needed to be part of a high performance team; including the confidence and humility to lead it."



Dr Kulwant Johal, Managing Director, Piccadilly Properties

After leaving Woodhouse Grove, Kulwant studied Polymer Chemistry at Lancaster University and graduated with a 2.1 in 1992. He then completed his PhD at the Interdisciplinary Research Centre (IRC) in Polymer Science and Technology at the Universities of Bradford, Leeds and Durham sponsored by the Chemical giant, ICI.

Kulwant then changed career and trained as a Chartered Accountant with Price Waterhouse and BKR Haines Watts.
In 2000, he joined the family businesses and has worked with Samsung and Panasonic in the retail business, eventually settling on Property Development with Piccadilly Properties Ltd which specialises in transforming Industrial Heritage and Grade II listed buildings.

"The Grove was life changing for me and instilled in me a sense of self and helped me fulfil the aspirations that my parents had for me when they sent me as the first Johal back in 1984.
The Grove has always had great teachers, Mrs Morris and Mr Driver encouraged and inspired me that anything was possible. The moral compass, resilience and knowledge I gained, along with the problem solving skills have stood me well in my career. These life skills are what the Grove excels in, with a combination of hard work and fun!"



Emma Clarke, Law - Partner

Emma left The Grove in 2006 and took a Gap year before starting her degree in Law (with Criminology) at the University of Manchester. During this time she lived and worked in Bangkok, where she enjoyed playing in the Bangkok Netball League and joined an amateur dramatic company – two loves instilled during her time at The Grove. She also travelled widely during her holidays.
Emma graduated in 2010 and started a two year training contract to become a solicitor a year later, after first completing her post-grad qualification, the Legal Practice Course (LPC).
Once qualified, she moved to Eversheds Sutherland in 2013, specialising in employment law, labour and business immigration. She has been fortunate enough to be involved in a number of high profile and reported cases for household names.
Emma is now a Partner, working in London.

"I am so thankful to The Grove for all it has given me. It goes without saying that the excellent education I received stood me in good stead at university and my career. I look back with such fondness at my A-level classes in particular and how engaging, interesting and fun they were. That was predominantly down to the teachers – who are clearly passionate about their subjects and their students. However, The Grove is much more than this. It is not just a school that teaches students how to pass exams, but also develops well-rounded individuals who learn the importance of working as a team, treating people with dignity and respect and recognising that we all have something to offer. The opportunities I received have instilled a desire in me to do my best and be the best I can – whether in the exam room, on the netball court, on stage, personally or professionally. The Grove taught me how to tackle challenges and seize opportunities with the same enthusiasm and has given me life-long friendships which I will treasure forever."



Andrew Smith, Lord Mayor of Westminster

After leaving The Grove Andrew studied at the University of St Andrew's, followed by a Masters at the University of Aberystwyth.

After graduation he started working for the Conservative Research Department, alongside another Old Grovian and A level history classmate Mathew Gulick, now a leading QC. After a spell working for a member of the then Conservative Shadow Cabinet in Parliament, Andrew then moved into public affairs consultancy and now works for the international PR firm Weber Shandwick as a Senior Vice-President and the Head of their Public Affairs practice in London, advising a range of multinational businesses on their relationships with policymakers and regulators. Andrew also served as Councillor in the City of Westminster for 13 years, serving as a member of the council's cabinet and, between 2021 and 2022, Lord Mayor of the City.

"I owe a lot to Woodhouse Grove. As a dyslexic it gave me the support I needed to succeed academically, but probably, most importantly, it helped to foster and direct my thirst for knowledge. I was lucky to have some inspiring teachers in history and religious studies and through studying history to grow my interest in politics and public service. Over the years, I have also appreciated the moral grounding that both study and worship at The Grove instilled in me".