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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ONLINE NOVEMBER 2026

Reports available on the website from the 6th November as listed below and now listed as OGA AGM minutes 2026.

Survey sent to all Old Grovians via email and published on social media account to request Old Grovians to agree minutes and elect officers.

1. Chair's Report
2. Treasurer's Report
3. School Update
4. Southerns Report
5. Foundation Report

8. Election of Officers

OG Chair: Daniel Nulty (90-97)
OG Chairperson Elect: Michelle Phillips (86-88)
President: James Lockwood (86-92, st16-)
Treasurer: Vanessa Bates (87-94, st14-)
Secretary: Eve Corry (st24-)
Xaipete Editor: Eve Corry (st24-)

9.Date of Next Annual General Meeting

Reports will be made available on or before Sunday 7 November 2027.

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Old Grovian Association

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)

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Old Grovian Association

Treasurers Report

The Association is reporting a surplus of £4,901 for the year end 31 August 2026.

The improved position compared to previous years is due to the school not requesting a contribution towards the funding of the Development Office, and the digital archive project is currently on hold pending completion of the Heritage room project.

At the year end the OGA held assets, being cash at bank or invested totaling £37,563.

Looking ahead to 26/27 the OGA will work in partnership with the Foundation to prompt and develop initiatives to further grow the 1812 bursary fund, whilst also seeking to develop existing and renewed relationships with the Old Grovian community.

Vanessa Bates (87-94, st14-)

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Old Grovian Association

OLD GROVIAN ASSOCIATION
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st AUGUST 2026

	31st August 2026		31st August 2025	
	£	£	£	£
Current Assets				
National Savings Investment Account	10,132		9,743	
Cash at bank	27,431		30,001	
		37,563		39,744
Current Liabilities				
Sundry Creditor (WGS)	0		7,082	
		0		(7,082)
Net Current Assets		37,563		32,662
Total Net Assets		37,563		32,662
Representing				
Accumulated Fund				
Balance as at 1st September 2024	32,662		32,253	
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Accounts	4,901		409	
		37,563		32,662

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Old Grovian Association

OLD GROVIAN ASSOCIATION
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 31st AUGUST 2026

	31st August 2026		31st August 2025		Comments
	£	£	£	£	
Income					
Subscriptions Received					
Ordinary members	1,249		1,379		
Life Members	11,760		13,800		
		13,009		15,179	
Interest and Investment Income Receivable					
National Savings Investment Account	389		10		estimated - statement requested
		389		10	
Other Income					
Sundry Donations / Legacies	100		100		
		100		100	
Total Income		**13,498**		**15,289**	
Expenditure					
Donation re Development/Foundation Officer	-		10,000		No recharge in 25/26 to allow bursary fund to grow
Grovian Printing and Postage	1,542		1,770		
Pupils Societies	28		28		
OGA Leavers' Scholarship Fund	1,200		1,200		
Xaipete inc Postage and website up load	1,795		1,595		
Digital archive	0	-	5,000		Project on hold so provison released
Reunions	3,924		5,112		Golf day, Leeds, London & Summer reunions.
Bank charges	108		175		
Total Expenditure		8,597		14,880	
Excess of Expenditure over income		4,901		409	
Transferred to accumulated Fund					

None of the Association's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above two financial periods.

There is no recognised Income and Expenditure other than that included in the Income and Expenditure Account for the above two financial periods.

Accounting Policies

1. The financial statements have been prepared under historical cost convention.
2. No provision has been made for the commitment to life members
3. Life Members - All leavers now pay a one- off subscription for which they will be notified of all Old Grovian matters

School Update

A Year of Resilience, Ambition and Community

The 2025–26 academic year has been another extraordinarily busy and rewarding one at Woodhouse Grove, played out against a national landscape that remains incredibly challenging for independent education.

The introduction of VAT on school fees, the removal of business rates relief, increased employment costs, persistent inflation and wider economic uncertainty have combined to place considerable pressure on schools and, more importantly, on the families who choose them. Across the country, pupil numbers have fluctuated, schools have closed or merged and the sector has entered a period of significant structural adjustment.

Against this unsettled backdrop, Woodhouse Grove has continued to demonstrate considerable resilience and stability. Recruitment has held up comparatively well, while Brontë House has continued to perform particularly strongly despite the demographic pressures affecting primary age pupil numbers across our region.

None of this is cause for complacency. Families rightly expect outstanding teaching, exceptional pastoral care, extensive opportunities and genuine value from the education they choose for their children. Careful financial planning and a sustained focus on operational efficiency therefore remain essential if we are to protect the breadth and quality of a Grove education.

Yet perhaps the most important lesson of recent years is that, in uncertain times, clarity of identity becomes more important rather than less. Good schools know who they are and what they stand for. At Woodhouse Grove, our ***Grovian Values*** continue to provide that compass.

Our purpose remains resolute: to provide an excellent all-round education with a strong academic core and to nurture young people of intellect, character, compassion and resilience. Academic achievement matters enormously, but education at The Grove has never been confined to examination results. Sport, music, drama, service, leadership, Chapel life, outdoor education and the countless other experiences available to our pupils all help shape the confident, grounded and generous young people we hope will leave us.

Academic Life and Preparing for the Future

Academic ambition has remained at the heart of School life throughout the year. Pupils have continued to challenge themselves both within and beyond the curriculum, with strong participation in national academic competitions and enrichment opportunities.

Our mathematicians again performed impressively in the UKMT competitions. Four pupils represented The Grove in the Team Maths Challenge, while pupils in Years 9 to 11 collected an excellent range of Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, with three progressing to the prestigious Kangaroo follow-on round. Sixteen A-level historians also travelled to Munich during February half term, bringing their studies of twentieth-century Germany vividly to life.

We continue to place considerable importance not simply on helping pupils secure their next destination, but on preparing them for life beyond school: encouraging independence, curiosity, adaptability and the confidence to embrace opportunities when they arise.

That message was captured particularly powerfully at Prize Day by our Guest of Honour, Old Grovian and sports broadcaster, Becky Ives. Reflecting on her journey from Woodhouse Grove to presenting some of the world's biggest sporting events, Becky spoke candidly about the setbacks and rejections she had encountered along the way. Her message to pupils was one of resilience, curiosity and courage: success rarely follows a straight path and uncertainty can often create unexpected opportunity.

Life Beyond the Classroom

As ever, one of the great strengths of Woodhouse Grove has been the extraordinary breadth of opportunity available to our pupils.

Sport enjoyed another highly successful year. In football, our U15 Girls reached the semi-finals of the ISFA Shield, while the U15 Boys reached the semi-finals of the ISFA Bowl. Most notably, our U13 Boys reached the ISFA Bowl Final, eventually finishing as runners-up following a dramatic penalty shootout – the furthest a Grove football team has ever progressed in a national competition.

Netball also enjoyed considerable success. The 1st Team won the Senior Stonyhurst Tournament, while our U13As were undefeated champions at the St Peter's Festival.

There was further success on the rugby field. The 1st VII retained the Scarborough Trophy, reached the North of England Cup semi-final and won the Ampleforth 7s for the second consecutive year, before also triumphing at the Dame Allan's tournament. Across the age groups there were numerous further Cup and Plate successes. Four Grovians competed in the National Cross-Country Championships, while sixteen represented the School in the Leeds Schools' competition.

Performing Arts has similarly continued to flourish. The Autumn Term production of We Will Rock You Young@Part, featuring the music of Queen, was an outstanding celebration of the talent, ambition and creativity of our pupils. The Spring Term brought Battle of the Bands and a hugely

successful “Play in a Day”, while the summer saw younger pupils take to the McCarthy Theatre stage in Collected Grimm Tales.

All of these achievements sit alongside the less easily measured but equally important experiences that make up daily Grove life: concerts, trips and expeditions, Duke of Edinburgh, inter-House competitions, clubs and societies, residential experiences and the myriad opportunities through which young people discover interests and talents they did not necessarily know they possessed.

Boarding and the Wider Grove Community

Our Boarding community has continued to evolve. During the year we welcomed our first Immersion group from Wuxi and launched our new *Study Play Stay* flexi-boarding option, providing greater flexibility for families while allowing more pupils to experience the distinctive benefits of boarding life.

More broadly, our connection with the wider Grove community remains enormously important. It was particularly pleasing to welcome a number of Old Grovians back to School during *National Careers Week*, providing current pupils with first-hand insights into an impressively diverse range of careers and industries.

Those connections between generations are hugely valuable. Old Grovians provide our pupils with role models, mentors, professional connections and, perhaps most importantly, tangible evidence of the extraordinary variety of career paths that can begin at Woodhouse Grove.

Charity, Service and the Grovian Values

Service to others remains central to our understanding of what a Grove education should provide.

This year's charitable activity was led with tremendous energy by our Sixth Form Charity Prefects, supported by Mrs Nulty and Rev Drost. Our pupils supported organisations including Bradford North Foodbank, Candlelighters, Toilet Twinning, Martin House Children's Hospice and Simon on the Streets.

The Toilet Twinning initiative funded 25 toilets and safe-water facilities around the world, while the House system was again used to give pupils a voice in choosing an additional charity to support. These initiatives matter not simply because of the money raised, but because they encourage young people to understand their responsibilities to communities beyond their own.

Being ***Kind and Generous*** are not intended simply to be words displayed around the School. At their best, our charitable and community activities provide young people with practical opportunities to live those values.

The 1812 Society and Our First Giving Week

One of the most significant developments of the year – and one of particular relevance to the Old Grovian community – has been the growth of our Development activity.

In December, we formally launched the ***1812 Society***, named, of course, after the year in which Woodhouse Grove was founded. Its purpose is simple but important: to help open the doors of the School to future generations of Grovians by providing transformational, means-tested, bursaries so that talent and potential, rather than financial circumstance, can determine opportunity.

The response from parents and Old Grovians was enormously encouraging and provided the foundations for another important first: Woodhouse Grove's inaugural *Giving Week*, held at the end of June and beginning of July.

Giving Week was deliberately about more than fundraising. It was a celebration of community and brought together parents, pupils, Old Grovians, Governors, former parents, staff and friends of the School. From the distinctly competitive tug-of-war to the elegance of the 1812 *Soirée* and Summer Concert, it provided numerous opportunities for members of the wider Grove family to come together.

That is a tremendous start, but perhaps more important is what *Giving Week* represents. Philanthropy has always played a part in the history of Woodhouse Grove. Many generations have benefited from the generosity and foresight of those who came before them. As affordability becomes an increasingly significant challenge for independent education, bursaries will become ever more important if the School is to remain accessible to talented young people from a broad range of backgrounds.

Strengthening our relationship with Old Grovians and friends of the School is therefore not simply about fundraising. It is about creating a stronger community around Woodhouse Grove: one that celebrates our shared history while accepting some responsibility for its future.

My sincere thanks go to Eve Corry, our Head of Development & Alumni Relations, whose enthusiasm, energy and leadership have been instrumental in establishing both the *1812 Society and Giving Week*, and to every Old Grovian who has supported these initiatives.

Looking Ahead

The environment in which Woodhouse Grove operates will undoubtedly continue to change. We cannot insulate ourselves from demographic change, economic pressures or the challenges confronting independent education more broadly.

What we can control is how we respond: our task is not simply to weather change, but to use it to sharpen our distinctiveness and strengthen the School. That means continuing to innovate while remaining true to those things that have made Woodhouse Grove special for more than two centuries.

During the year we began refining our admissions journey for September 2027 entry. Our new *SHINE Awards* will provide prospective pupils with an opportunity to demonstrate their talents and interests from the outset, while a new *Grove on Show* open day and subsequent, *Grove in Action* event and *Candidate Day* will provide families with a more personalised and engaging introduction to the School. The principle underpinning these changes is reassuringly familiar: recognising potential, celebrating excellence and giving young people the opportunity to flourish.

That balance between tradition and evolution feels particularly important. Woodhouse Grove has never stood still. The School that today's Old Grovians remember was itself shaped by generations who adapted and developed it while preserving its essential character.

The same responsibility now falls to us: the policies surrounding independent education may change; economic pressures may intensify; the educational landscape will undoubtedly continue to evolve. But the essence of a Grove education remains remarkably constant: curiosity sparked in classrooms, courage developed on sports fields, creativity brought to life on stage, friendships forged, service given and character shaped.

If we remain adaptable, ambitious and true to our values, I have every confidence that Woodhouse Grove will continue to thrive and flourish – and that future generations will be every bit as proud to say ***I am Grovian*** as those who have gone before them.

Thank you, as ever, to the Old Grovian community for your continued interest in, affection for and support of the School.

James Lockwood MA (86-92, St16-)
Headmaster

Southerns Report

An early Easter combined with the inevitable shift in the Public Examination timetable necessitated candidate interviews taking place a little earlier than heretofore. Unfortunately, circumstance left the trustees without the long-term experience and guidance of Mrs Kath Dawson on the day of the interviews, but Mrs Elizabeth Ainscoe and I were delighted to peruse the applications and meet the candidates in late March. Whilst the number of candidates applying did not quite match last year's record number, the standard remained very high, and decision making was just as difficult.

As before, the day of the interviews was a very long and ultimately enjoyable one, despite my own late arrival thanks to Kirklees Highways Department. The flexibility of the school and the candidates meant that the delayed start did not affect the smooth running of the day from then on, and we enjoyed 22 separate interviews, a very good lunch, a few brief reunions, and plenty of coffee. We agreed upon 18 awards and 4 commendations. Of these, five students received an Old Grovian Award, and the Southerns Scholarships went to Liam Matley and Shreya Naik.

Other than remarking on the obvious academic and co-curricular excellence of all the candidates, the trustees were particularly delighted by the maturity and authenticity of all the applicants. Whilst the candidates are always likely to be an impressive group, this cohort still represented the breadth of our intake in every way. OGs can rest assured that the school continues to produce unaffected, self-aware, secure young people who have loved their time at The Grove, and who will enthusiastically acknowledge their symbiotic and long-lasting relationship to this very special community.

David Wood (st87-18)
Southerns Trustee

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Old Grovian Association

Foundation Report

The past twelve months have seen significant progress in fundraising, alumni engagement, communications and the preservation of Woodhouse Grove's heritage.

Key achievements include:

- £16,500+ received in Foundation donations.
- £50,878 raised through the inaugural Grove Giving Week.
- 475% growth in monthly giving, from 4 to 23 donors, including 18 qualifying 1812 Society members, plus one annual donor.
- £7,000+ in annual regular giving income.
- Two new legacy pledges following the relaunch of Fidelis.
- 50% growth in the Grove Business Directory, now with 18 members.
- 6,750+ podcast downloads, reaching 527 cities across 56 countries.
- Two IDPE Development Awards shortlist nominations for Grovian Voices.
- 80+ Old Grovians participating in the second Year 7 Letter Exchange.
- Official opening of The Knowles Heritage Centre.
- 26 Old Grovians recognised in the 2026 Remembrance Roll of Honour.

These achievements demonstrate the growing reach of the Development Office and its contribution to strengthening the Grovian community while developing sustainable support for future generations.

1. Expanding Fundraising Initiatives

The past year has seen encouraging growth in fundraising, with increased regular giving, new legacy pledges and further development of the Foundation's fundraising initiatives.

Donations and Financial Overview

Between September 2025 and October 2026, the Foundation received donations totalling over £16,500, reflecting continued generosity across the Grovian community.

The inaugural Grove Giving Week, held from 27 June to 3 July 2026, raised £50,878 towards bursaries and the 1812 Society Bursary Fund. The week brought together pupils, parents, Old Grovians, staff and friends through a programme of fundraising and community activities.

Regular Giving and the 1812 Society
Regular giving has grown significantly, increasing from 4 to 23 monthly donors, representing a 475% increase. Of these, 18 qualify for 1812 Society membership by contributing a minimum of £18 per month. The Foundation also has one annual donor.

Together, regular giving generates over £7,000 in annual income, providing an increasingly sustainable source of support for bursaries.

Legacy Giving – Fidelis
October 2026 saw the relaunch of Fidelis, the School's legacy giving programme, coinciding with Make A Will Month. A dedicated series of social media posts was promoted across Old Grovian channels to raise awareness of leaving a lasting gift to Woodhouse Grove.
Encouragingly, two new legacy pledges were received between 22 September and 5 November 2026.

The Grove Business Directory
Now in its second year, The Grove Business Directory has grown from 12 founding members in September 2025 to 18 members, representing 50% membership growth.
The Directory connects Old Grovians and current and former parents through business promotion and professional networking. All annual membership fees contribute directly to the Foundation's 1812 Bursary Fund.

The 1812 Gala Dinner
The inaugural 1812 Gala Dinner takes place on Saturday 14 November 2026, celebrating the first anniversary of the 1812 Society.

Bringing together Old Grovians, current and former staff, parents and former parents, the event provides an opportunity to celebrate the Grove community and its shared commitment to the School's future. Three Old Grovians from different generations and professional backgrounds will be guest speakers.

2. Strengthening Alumni Relations

Alumni engagement remains a core priority, with a programme of reunions, sporting events, coffee mornings and opportunities to reconnect with the School.

Events and Reunions
Highlights from the reporting period include:

- London Reunion – 30 April 2026: Held at De Hems Dutch Café Bar, Soho. The best-attended London Reunion to date, with Old Grovians representing every decade from the 1960s to the 2020s. The event also celebrated 100 years of the House System, with attendees holding their former House signs for photographs.
- OGA Golf Day – 3 May 2026: Held at Bradford Golf Club, raising over £470 through the raffle and half-way house for the WGS Foundation.
- Grovestonbury Family Fun Day – 28 June 2026: The annual summer reunion brought together Old Grovians, friends and families during the School's first Grove Giving Week.
- Summer Coffee Morning – June 2026: Included an extended archive display celebrating the centenary of the House System on the Hastings-Long Gallery.
- Brontë House Coffee Morning – Autumn 2026: Welcomed over 30 attendees, including Old Grovians and former staff, making it the best-attended coffee morning to date.

The 2025 Autumn Reunion sporting fixtures (netball and rugby) were cancelled due to low numbers, and no Autumn Reunion was scheduled for 2026. The planned House Party event on 3 July 2026 was also cancelled due to low ticket sales.

Termly coffee mornings continue to attract strong interest, with new attendees at each event. Following the success of the Brontë House event, plans are underway for a Saturday Spring coffee morning/social at The Grove, offering those travelling from further afield an opportunity to reconnect.

The annual Remembrance Service takes place on Sunday 8 November 2026, followed by an opportunity for guests to preview the newly opened Knowles Heritage Centre.

OGA Feedback Survey 2026
The 2026 OGA Feedback Survey provided valuable insight into alumni interests and future engagement opportunities.

Feedback highlighted strong engagement with social media, publications, email communications, reunions and the Year 7 Letter Exchange.

Key suggestions included:
- Weekend coffee mornings to accommodate those travelling further afield.
- More year-group reunions rather than relying solely on general reunion events.

- Regional events beyond Leeds.
- More opportunities to reconnect with former classmates and staff.

These findings will help shape the future OGA events programme.

Year 7 and Old Grovian Letter Exchange
The second Year 7 and Old Grovian Letter Exchange attracted over 80 Old Grovians in 2026. The initiative connects current pupils with alumni through handwritten letters, providing an opportunity to share memories and experiences across generations. Positive feedback highlighted the value of being able to give back to the School in this way.

Old Grovian Engagement and Remembrance
Continued engagement through email, postal correspondence and personal meetings has strengthened connections with Old Grovians and former families.

An increase in obituary notifications received by the Development Office has enabled more former pupils to be recognised and remembered. A total of 26 Old Grovians will be included in the 2026 Remembrance Roll of Honour, compared with 23 in 2025.

3. Communications and Digital Engagement

The Development Office continues to develop targeted communications to strengthen connections with Old Grovians worldwide.

Publications – Xaipete and iNSIGHT
The termly iNSIGHT newsletter continues to achieve strong engagement, with consistently high email open rates.

Issue	Open rate
Spring 2025	52.0%
Summer 2025	61.4%
Autumn 2025	54.3%
Spring 2026	56.1%
Summer 2026	57.7%

The Spring 2026 edition also benefited from repeat sponsorship by Old Grovian Keith Loudon (45-50).

The annual Xaipete newsletter remains an important communication for alumni across generations. The planned Grovian Giving brochure has been postponed until 2027 due to Development Office priorities and capacity.

Social Media Engagement
Social media continues to provide an effective platform for promoting alumni stories, events, fundraising and School news.

Email Communications and Database Engagement
Email communications are increasingly targeted and segmented by year group, interests and location, achieving an average open rate of 53.2% and click rate of 6.5%.
A 100% sign-up rate was achieved for 2026 Year 13 leavers' personal email addresses, ensuring all leavers were added to the alumni database for future OGA communications.

Grovian Voices Podcast
Launched in March 2025, Grovian Voices continues to share the stories and achievements of Old Grovians, former staff, current pupils and the wider School community.
To date, the podcast has achieved:

- Over 6,750 downloads
- Listeners in 527 cities
- Reach across 56 countries
- 30 published episodes across two seasons

The podcast has once again been shortlisted in the 2026 IDPE Development Awards, in the Judges' Choice categories of Outstanding Fundraising Initiative and Outstanding Engagement Initiative. Winners will be announced on Friday 20 November 2026.

Sixth Form and Alumni Engagement – OG Prefects
Following a successful one-year trial of OG Ambassadors, two OG Prefects have been introduced for the 2026/27 academic year.

Their role is to raise awareness of the OGA among younger Old Grovians and support future engagement through:

- Assisting with Old Grovian school tours, where timetables allow.
- Promoting the OGA within the Sixth Form.
- Contributing to social media and Xaipete.
- Sharing ideas for future alumni events and activities.

This provides an opportunity to involve younger generations in shaping the future of the Association.

4. Archives, Heritage and School History

The Knowles Heritage Centre
A significant milestone was achieved with the official opening of the Knowles Heritage Centre on Friday 6 November 2026.

Located just off the Quad, the Centre provides a dedicated space to preserve and celebrate the School's history through photographs, archive materials, sporting memorabilia and items donated by members of the Grovian community.

The opening was attended by Hugh Knowles (49-54), his wife Janet and their family, alongside invited guests Roger Davy (47-57) and his wife Barbara, David McCarthy (st53-92) and his wife Liz, and members of the School community.

The Centre will provide new opportunities for Old Grovians, former staff, current pupils and visitors to reconnect with the School's heritage. Future plans include guided tours, weekend visits and further archive engagement activities.

100 Years of the House System
The centenary of the School's House System provided an opportunity to celebrate an important part of Woodhouse Grove's history.
Archive materials featured at the London Reunion and Summer Coffee Morning, encouraging Old Grovians to share memories and reconnect with their former Houses. The Heritage Centre will provide a permanent space to showcase this history for future generations.

5. Donor Stewardship, Data and Reporting

Donor Recognition
Research and planning continue towards the introduction of a Donor Wall at School, recognising and celebrating the generosity of individuals and families supporting the WGS Foundation.

Financial Reporting and Development Office Capacity
The Development Office continues to work closely with the Finance Team to monitor donations, Gift Aid and fundraising income, ensuring accurate reporting and appropriate donor stewardship.

Operating as a single-person Development Office, the breadth of activity across fundraising, alumni relations, communications, events, heritage and database management requires careful prioritisation. Despite these capacity considerations, the year has seen considerable progress in developing sustainable fundraising initiatives and strengthening alumni engagement.

6. Priorities for 2026/27

Key priorities for the coming year include:

- 1812 Society: Increase awareness and membership among Old Grovians, former parents and former staff, encouraging regular giving towards bursaries.
- Legacy Giving: Promote Fidelis and encourage conversations around leaving a lasting gift to Woodhouse Grove.
- Alumni Engagement: Develop more targeted reunions, regional events and weekend opportunities to reconnect with the School.
- Heritage: Promote the Knowles Heritage Centre through school tours, weekend visits and alumni events.
- Business Directory: Continue growing membership and professional connections within the Grovian community.
- Communications: Build on the success of social media, email, iNSIGHT and Grovian Voices to reach more Old Grovians worldwide.
- Donor Stewardship: Progress the Donor Wall and continue demonstrating the impact of philanthropic support.

The overarching aim remains to strengthen the relationship between Woodhouse Grove and its worldwide community of Old Grovians, providing meaningful opportunities to stay connected, celebrate shared heritage and support the School's future.

Eve Corry (st24-)
Head of Development & Alumni Relations