Southerns Report 2026

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.

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