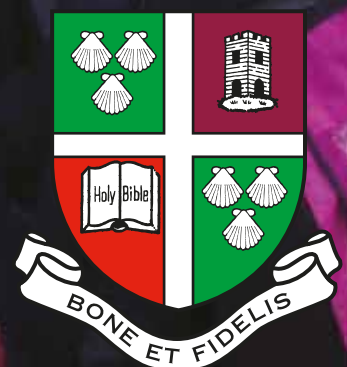
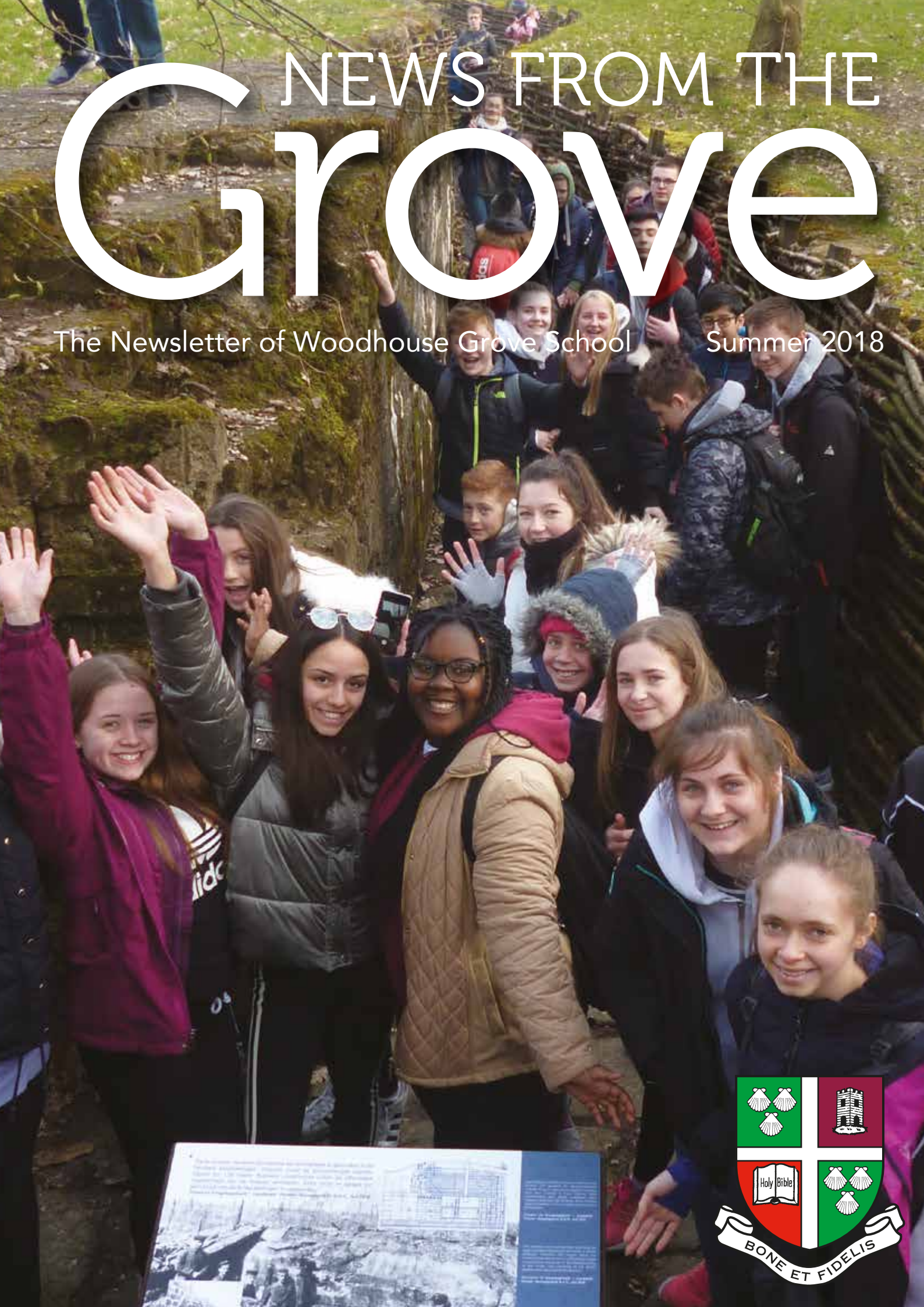


NEWS FROM THE Grove

The Newsletter of Woodhouse Grove School

Summer 2018



“The sky’s the limit” for pupils in unique collaboration



Pictured: James Lockwood with Philip Grant, Principal of One In A Million Free School

At The Grove, our ethos has always been rooted in a shared set of Grovian Values, key to which is Community; both within the school and also looking outward. We are, therefore, extremely proud and excited to announce that Woodhouse Grove and One In A Million Free School, Bradford, are collaborating on a new initiative between the two schools.

This is a tremendous opportunity for pupils and staff at both schools. The partnership aspires to encourage pupils to consider what lies beyond their existing social, intellectual and cultural experience and will enable staff to share best practice, resources and facilities, keeping the interests of both schools’ pupils as the focus.

A very special element to the collaboration will see Woodhouse Grove award two full Sixth Form bursary places per annum to promising Y11 One in a Million Free School leavers through its own Charitable Foundation which was set up to support and fund bursaries for pupils whose parents may not otherwise be able to afford the fees.

Staff Leavers

Unfortunately we are saying goodbye to a number of staff leavers this year. Between them they have clocked up over 150 years working at Woodhouse Grove, with four members of staff having worked here for over a quarter of a century; Mr Wood, Mr Cockshott, Mrs Frost and Mrs Garner. We would like to thank them all for their service and wish them all the very best for the future. We caught up with Mr Wood to see how he intends to keep busy.

Have you got plans for retirement? What is going to be keeping you busy?

My main focus in the first instance is to complete writing two books that I have begun over the years but never completed. One began life as a children’s book but the more I wrote the more complicated it seemed to get – so I gave up. However, I think the germ of an idea is something that could work, so I will revisit this once I have completed the other book. This is intended to be a comic novel. I have written 6 or 7 chapters already and have some ideas how this might develop – but who knows!

What three things are you most looking forward to when you retire?

Mainly time for family and health; but also things I will not have to face again like endless e-mails and policy amendments, and paying through the nose for holidays in school holiday time!



Improving Access to Woodhouse Grove



Following a travel survey conducted by the school in March, we are pleased to announce some significant changes in response to parents’ requests. We are offering a discounted annual ticket for our school buses; we have improved our five bus routes to cover more areas, in particular Stanningley and Farsley, Shelf and Northowram and have added routes through Adel & Weetwood.

Another major change is that after school buses will now leave school at 5.20pm rather than 4.00pm to allow all of our pupils to participate in co-curricular activities or to access library facilities for prep. As a school, we feel it is important to encourage all pupils to enjoy the opportunities on offer as this is one of our key strengths.

These changes, combined with direct rail services to and from Kirkstall Forge should hopefully help to reduce congestion around school and mean that it has never been easier to get to Woodhouse Grove.



What do you think you will miss most about Woodhouse Grove?

Unquestionably the people. Whilst there is no doubting that Woodhouse Grove is in my family’s blood – both my boys were educated here, loving every day of their time here despite their father being Deputy Head – it will not be the buildings nor the grounds, hugely impressive though they are, but all those who have crossed the quad over the years.

I will, of course, miss the teaching itself. My role as Deputy Head has necessitated much less time in the classroom but there is no doubt that being able to share my love of Literature with an A level group, and seeing their understanding develop into a shared joy is very special. So too has been dragging a few less eager students through a subject which they may find challenging or difficult.

What will of course remain is the extraordinary pleasure of meeting former staff, pupils or parents out of the school environment with calls of, “Hi, Sir” across a supermarket aisle!

Safer Internet Day

The whole school got involved with Safer Internet Day. Brontë House pupils performed a song, set up a diary room and had a question wall. At Woodhouse Grove our PSHEE lessons initiated some excellent discussion from the groups as to how they thought they could use the internet more responsibly.

Activities included a quiz on how easily individuals might be influenced by the online world, discussions about how people might feel pressured by online content and exploring “digital dilemma” scenarios.



Life on the right side of the Pennines!

We interviewed Dan King, Director of Sport to find out about his first year at The Grove.



What made you apply for the job at Woodhouse Grove?

The National reputation of the school in a variety of sports was one of the key reasons why I applied for the job, and on further investigation the outstanding sporting facilities that the school has to offer inspired me to want to work here.

How have you found your first year?

Rewarding, challenging, eye-opening, exhilarating! Every day is different and has different challenges, this is one of the things that I have really had to embrace this year. In particular it has been difficult working away from my young family who reside in Liverpool. I will definitely not miss the journeys up and down the M62 when we move onto school site in the summer.

What has surprised you most about the job?

The levels of commitment and motivation that all staff, pupils and parents have when it comes to co-curricular activities. I have been very lucky to inherit such a passionate staff team who are willing to commit their time to deliver sports and activities. Parents also have a major role to play in supporting practice sessions and fixtures, both after-school and at weekends.

What is your favourite thing about Woodhouse Grove?

Apart from the support I receive from colleagues throughout the school, it would have to be the fantastic array of food that we receive on a daily basis!

What have you enjoyed most about the job so far?

I have really enjoyed getting to know all the staff throughout school. In addition to the sports staff, I work closely with staff in grounds and estates, catering, medical, lettings and administration who are all so important in the day to day running of Woodhouse Grove, and without whom, we would not be able to deliver such an extensive co-curricular programme.

Any particularly funny moments or highlights so far?

My main memorable moment so far would have to be driving the U16 Netball team down to Stevenage to take part in the National Netball finals. From the 'Greatest Showman' sing-alongs, to the sub zero playing temperatures, to finishing 4th overall in the country it was a great day.

What are your key objectives going into your 2nd year at WGS?

Continue to create more opportunities for all pupils regardless of ability levels within the school. To use sport and physical activity as a tool to develop physical, social and mental well-being is a real priority of mine moving forward.

Crufts®

Performing at Crufts Amy Brook, Y12

Amy Brook, Y12 had an amazing experience when she qualified to perform at Crufts with her English springer spaniel, Bow. Amy and Bow have been competing in heelwork to music, informally known as dog dancing, for a year. Amy tells us more about it...

"I have entered two fun shows and four official Kennel Club shows and to qualify for the Young Kennel Club ring at Crufts, I had to keep a record of any placings from 1st to 10th.

We arrived at the NEC in Birmingham and I introduced Bow to the venue to see how she reacted to the environment. It was extremely noisy and crowded, and Bow found this difficult to cope with. On the Saturday she was again fazed and by the time she went to compete she had completely lost her concentration and got stage-fright. Luckily, we were competing again at 10.15, and she performed much better then, despite the even larger audience.

The sport is very hard and does not have many competitors so despite Bow being a bit overawed, we managed to get two firsts. At the award ceremony, a tired and fidgety Bow decided to take this opportunity to leap at me and start a play fight in front of the whole audience and our fellow competitors; all the waiting around was far too boring!

For a nervous dog of two to qualify and perform as well as she did at Crufts is an amazing achievement and I cannot wait to compete when the season comes around again."



Zaina receiving her certificate

Maths Superstars

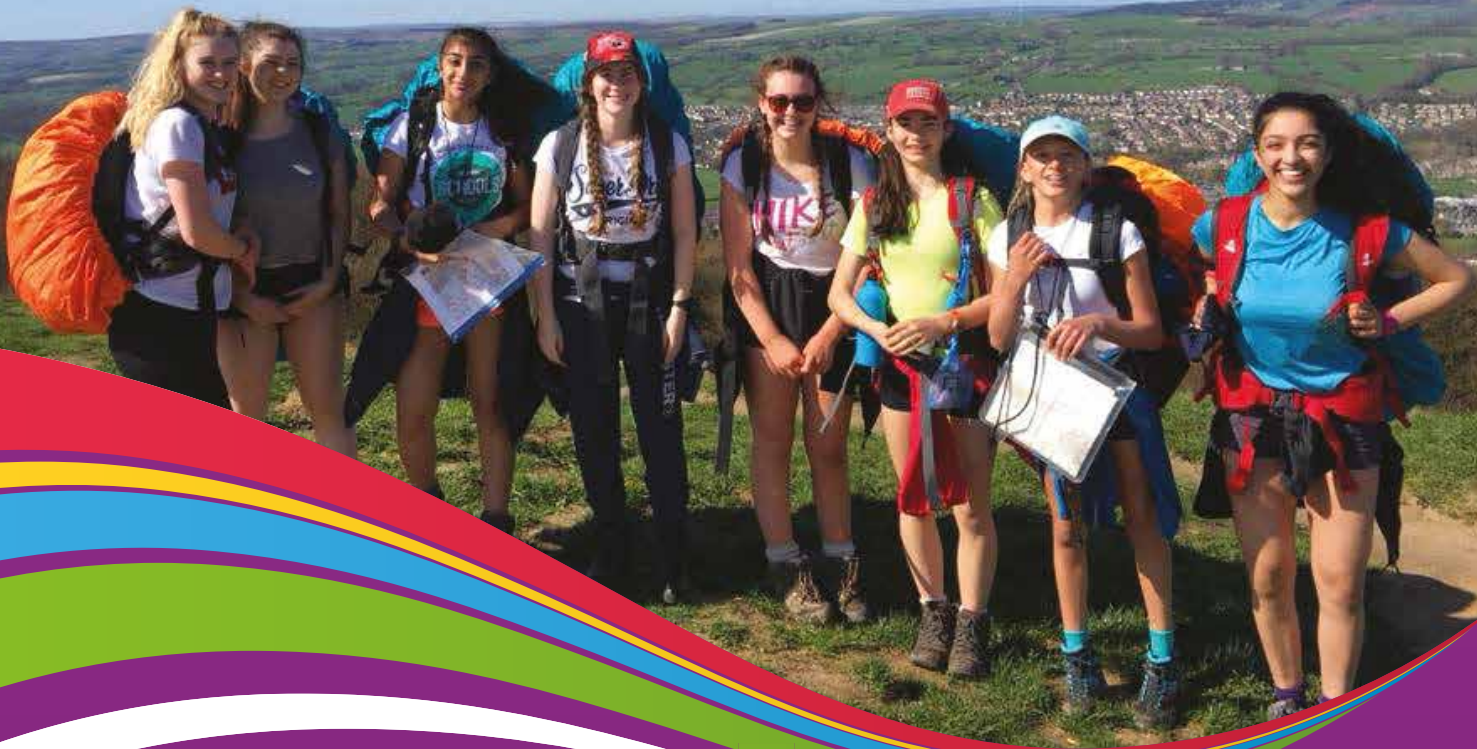
Over 50 students from top set Maths in Y9, Y10 and Y11 sat the Intermediate Maths Challenge this term. The pupils had to answer as many complex and challenging questions as they could in 1 hour. Our students performed very well with 6 pupils gaining Gold Certificates, 8 Silver certificates and 16 Bronze. We would like to congratulate Zhang Xiang and Luke Burke, both Y10, and Michael Cavaliere, Y11, who were all awarded Merit certificates for placing in the top 25% of participants in the next, more challenging Maths Kangaroo round.

In addition, Y7 'maths superstar' Zaina Rajput beat 270 other young mathematicians and won 1st prize in the February Maths Challenge run by Leeds University.





THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD



We have 44 Y10 students completing their Bronze D of E awards this year. Students have to learn a new skill, complete a physical activity and volunteer in the community. They must then complete a practice and an assessed hiking expedition, learning navigational skills, camp craft and improving their teamwork and communication skills.

The two day practice expedition through Otley and Bramhope was a great opportunity to develop the skills required for the assessed expedition from Ilkley to St Ives in June. Group 1 completed their final expedition on June 8th/9th and all passes. At the time of going to press Group 2 were still waiting to find out.

Doing D of E is a very rewarding experience, as achieving the Award gives students skills, confidence and a view on life that employers and universities are looking for. It helps students to develop their team work, leadership and commitment in a variety of activities, as well as making a difference in the community through their volunteering. Plus it's great fun! Although Bronze D of E does not contribute towards UCAS points, it does help when writing UCAS statements, due to the variety of skills and attributes it helps young people to achieve.



Great at Debate

We have enjoyed success this year in terms of debating and speaking competitions.

Congratulations to Georgia Marker, Y13, who won the Leeds heat of the Historical Association 'Great Debate' competition and went to the National Final in March at the House of Lords.

Georgia's speech focused on the most democratic turning point in history with the event being held in London specifically to remember 100 years of Votes for Women. Georgia performed really well at the national event and finished runner up out of 23 finalists, winning £75 from Hodder education for the school history department and HA membership for herself, which will come in handy as Georgia currently holds an offer from Cambridge to study History.

In addition, three of our Y9 students; Elsa Beese, Christian Masiye and Fiona Trimby, won the district round of the Youth Speaks competition run by The Rotary Club. The team delivered a powerful and articulate speech on the UK government's role in animal welfare and the judges were particularly impressed by their use of challenging vocabulary, clear, confident diction and their teamwork.

This is the first time the school has entered a team and our pupils should have gone to the regional final in York but it was cancelled due to bad weather. Bring on next year!



Pictured: Y9 Students Elsa Beese, Christian Masiye and Fiona Trimby, winners of the district round of the Youth Speaks competition run by The Rotary Club.

Business Support and our Next Careers Fair

As a school, we are very lucky to have such incredible support from parents, Old Grovians and local businesses who give up their time to share advice with our pupils and offer work experience. Some recent examples of your support include:


Y12 BTEC Enterprise and Entrepreneurship students enjoyed some advice on how to get into law and how to set up your own business from current parent Claire Murphy.

DT students benefitted from a visit by Thomas Barnes, a local, professional designer and furniture maker who offered top tips and allowed students to connect their school design work with real world business opportunities.

A Level Politics and History students have been well supported with three Old Grovians recently sharing their wisdom and encouraging debate; Tom Mcmeeking, Ryan Young and George Morrall presented to students about the foundations of conservatism, brexit and House of Lords Reform.

Local businesses and parents have always been particularly supportive of our careers events, the next of which is on Thursday 18th October in the Sports Hall. This will be a full Careers Fair, and we invite pupils from Y7 upwards to come along and browse over 30 stands showcasing many different career options and meet industry representatives offering advice to pupils and parents.


WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL



Careers Fair

Thursday 18th October

For pupils and parents Y7 to Y13

Over 30 different stalls from a large variety of careers and professions.

www.woodhousegrove.co.uk

Silly Olympics Finkle

The weekend of the 9th/10th June saw the finale of the boarding house competition, Red v Green. We held a "Silly Olympics" festival throughout the weekend with events such as tug of war and egg catching. The Green team won the annual cup with 1565 points while the Red's achieved 1500 points. Thank you to all the boarders who participated in events throughout the year. We must also thank the boarding staff for all their support in organising a variety of competitions including; squash, table tennis, swimming and bingo!

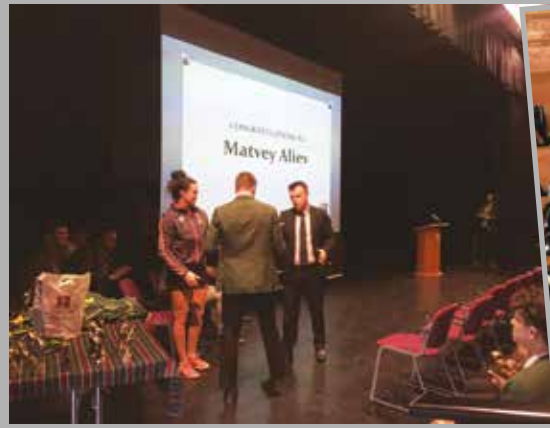


BUSY BOARDERS!

Our boarders are brilliant at making the most of their time here at The Grove, getting involved in a wide range of school activities. The buzz they bring to the school adds an extra dimension that cannot be replicated in a day school environment.

Sport at The Grove is a big hit with our boarding community. Some of our boarding tutors are excellent football coaches and many boarders play football for the school. Others have toured the Caribbean playing netball or made their mark on the rugby field.

The Grove just wouldn't be the same without them!



So Long, Farewell

It is with great sadness we say goodbye to Mrs Garner, who has had an association with boarding at Woodhouse Grove since 1992. Mrs Garner ran Junior Boarding prior to taking on the role of Boarding Administrator. The boarding staff and all the boarders rely on her for many things yet she has always found the time for a friendly chat as well as getting all the transport, visa's and arrangements so smoothly organised.

We know that Mrs Garner has many plans for her retirement including a trip to New Zealand to visit friends, joining a walking club, moving house and helping out with her grandchildren. We wish her a happy retirement. Although Mrs Garner will not be involved in boarding life we know she will stay in touch and will no doubt be seen at future school events and sporting fixtures.



Meeting the Parents... Simon Vernon, Head of Boarding

Throughout the year, I really enjoy my contact with boarding agents and visits to boarding fairs. Some extreme weather challenged my London boarding fair in March!

On a recent trip to Hong Kong for an education fair I was lucky enough to catch up with some of the parents of boarders at Woodhouse Grove. It is such a privilege to be entrusted with the care of your children, and wonderful to learn more about home life and culture. Thank you very much for your hospitality Mrs Cheung and Mrs Yu.



Paintball Fun

Boarders enjoying the facilities on site as well as off site.



Chinese New Year - February 2018



Shooting Hoops at the Basketball



Anyone for Subbuteo?!



Mrs Garner Opening the New Brontë School Hall in 2004

Did you know..... Mrs Garners' fondest memories are of Carol Services held at Brontë House up until the early 90's (before stricter Fire Regulations came in)! They were held in the school hall and up the stairs with parents seated around the balcony and edges. It was held by candle light and, as Mrs Garner remembers, was a truly magical start to Christmas.

I am Grovian.

BRADFORD SPORTING AWARDS

We are very proud of pupils Harrison Green, Y12 and Hermione Roe, Y8, who were shortlisted for the Young Achievers Categories at the Bradford Sporting Awards in March. This was an amazing achievement for both students and credits their hard work and commitment to their chosen sport. They were invited to attend a glittering awards ceremony at Valley Parade where Harrison won Young Sportsman of the Year and Hermione came 2nd in her category.

Harrison was selected to represent the GB team in Bulgaria last year and has now been asked to compete in the Men's Senior events category despite still being a junior. In two recent qualifiers Harrison gained a 1st and 2nd place to qualify for the Men's Senior British Championships in September. He also smashed the World Age Group qualifying score by 10 points and this hopefully means he will represent his country again in Russia later in the year.



Hermione has had an incredible swim season with two national silver medals in 50m and 100m Breaststroke and two British Summer National qualifying times. Hermione has won 17 Swim England North East Regional Championships golds and 12 Yorkshire Championship golds and competed at the Senior Winter Nationals Championships/Commonwealth Games trials.

Hermione hopes to join City of Sheffield elite junior squad which means she will swim most days with Senior GB and National representatives as Sheffield is one of the top performance clubs in the country.



HOCKEY

We are looking to increase the opportunities for pupils to play hockey at The Grove and this first year has been a huge success with participation numbers growing week on week leading to the school's first hockey fixture in several years. Mr Dobson is looking to build on this great start and is planning more indoor and outdoor fixtures for next year.

I am Grovian.

WEST YORKSHIRE Champion Athletes

Ben Hill and Lola Henderson, both Y7 and Club Captain Robert Mitchell, Y13 were selected to represent West Yorkshire at the English Schools' Cross-Country race in Loughborough in March, following their superb performances at the West Yorkshire trials. Ben won his West Yorkshire trial in commanding style from the gun and Lola (11th) and Robert (10th) paced superbly to stay in contention throughout on a muddy and wintry course. Ben then put in a great performance at the Nationals to finish 16th.

12 WGS athletes represented Bradford District at the West Yorkshire Athletics Championships in June. All 12 qualified for their respective finals which is an incredible achievement in such a strong county championships. We are proud to announce we have 5 West Yorkshire Champions; Junior Girls Champions are Annabelle Hudson (75m Hurdles), Emma Okpala (Javelin) and Emma Wood (Long Jump) and for the boys, Conrad Myers (Inter Boys 100m Hurdles) and Will Robinson (Senior Boys Hammer).

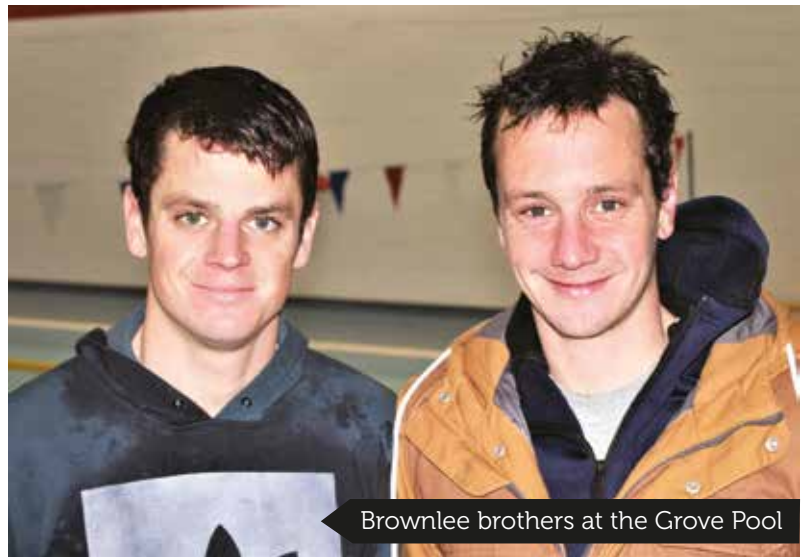


Some of our Bradford District Representatives

Triathlon

We have had a number of Olympians in our pool recently. We were delighted that the Brownlee brothers chose to use the Grove Pool for training in preparation for the Commonwealth Games 2018 alongside fellow international triathletes Gordon Benson, Mark Buckingham and Aaron Royle. In addition, we hosted our first Mark Foster swim academy during the May half term holidays which included a brief visit from the Olympian himself.

Our triathlon club goes from strength to strength and we are delighted that Brontë House pupils are getting involved in triathlon as well. The future looks bright.



Brownlee brothers at the Grove Pool



National Netballers



U16 National Semi Finalists



U13 National Plate Finalists

Our U16A netball team are officially ranked 4th in the country after reaching the semi finals at the England Netball School Finals. The girls played fantastically well as a team with wins in the group stages over Southend, Repton, Kings Worcester, Wycombe, Canford and Teeside. The girls lost 11-8 in the semi-final to the eventual winners St Monica's.

Our U13A netballers also had an amazing run as they hosted Berkhamstead in the ISNC National Plate Final. It was a nailbiting game with our girls narrowly losing in the last few minutes 21-17. They also became Leeds District Champions beating GSAL in the final 9-5. Well done to all the girls in this tournament, we fielded three teams showing great strength in depth in the game.

Rugby News

U18 National Plate Winners

Our 1st XV won the National Plate Final in March at Sixways Stadium, Worcester against Trinity School, Croydon, with a resounding 36-14 win. Grovian supporters were rewarded with a superb display of rugby. 1st Team coach, Mr Bedford said *"To say we are proud of the U18s is an understatement. This is a new high for Grove rugby and we're sure our younger players will be inspired by what the U18s have achieved."*

Our representative rugby is also very strong across the age groups with Will Metcalfe, Freddy Clark and Ned Hawker being selected for the U15 RFU Regional Development camp after good performances at recent Inter Academy Festival matches. Joe Green and Chris Jackson, Y13, have both been offered contracts at Carnegie. The biggest success of the season has seen James Whitcombe and Joe Carpenter selected for this summer's England U18 tour and international tournament in South Africa despite being a year young. Good luck to them and all our other ERDPP and JDS squad members.

Cricket Update

Newcomer Owen Tennant has performed extremely well for the 1st XI in his first season at Woodhouse Grove, scoring 346 runs in 9 innings at an average of just below 50. Owen's best performance so far was the match winning innings of 92no in the 79 run victory against Durham School.

James Swarbrigg, Y10, has also made a positive start to his 1st XI career with an impressive bowling spell against Bradford Grammar. He took 4 wickets for 14 runs, including taking a crucial wicket with his first ball. However, perhaps the best performance of the season so far came from Jack Luxton, Y8 (right), who scored a most impressive 149 in the U14 victory against Durham.

We would like to congratulate Josh Stephenson, Y10, who has been selected to play for the Yorkshire U15 Development Team. Well done to the U15s who won their 4th round game of the ESCA T/20 Cup against Pudsey Grangefield 169-2; J Stephenson 59, A Pyrah 31, E McClelland 33no, J Luxton 39no with Pudsey Grangefield 93-4: O Guymer-Gairn 2-17. They will now face GSAL at home in the area final. A good cup run also for the U14s who secured an excellent 6 wicket victory at Holmfirth HS in the ESCA cup quarter-final. Holmfirth 96-8 WGS 97-4.





Y9 Ski Trip to Andorra

A group of Y9 students, together with 3 staff travelled to Vallnord ski resort in Andorra on New Year's Day for 5 days of skiing. Apart from some rain on the first day, the conditions were excellent; blue skies and sunshine to ski in.

One highlight was joining the evening parade of the Three Kings which travelled through Andorra la Vella, the town where the group were staying. As part of the festivities the crowds are showered in sweets with team WGS collecting over 1500 between them! On the final day, there was a stop-off in Barcelona for a stroll up Las Ramblas and some of the students felt moved to share their packed lunches with some of the homeless who were sheltering from the cold and rain. A lovely way to end a very good trip.



Y7 & Y8 Ski Trip to Italy



72 pupils from Y7 and Y8 and nine staff travelled to Sestriere in Italy for a week's skiing at Easter. It was a long sugar-fuelled bus journey with some inevitable travel sickness! However, when we eventually arrived, the conditions were fantastic with plenty of snow and lots of blue sky. The food was excellent and after an action packed week the group returned home without any injuries. The highlight of the week, apart from the skiing, was an evening at an old skool disco where the pupils and staff were able to show off their moves!



SPORTS TOURS

Senior Rugby Tour to South Africa 19th July to 4th August

Our senior Rugby players set off on 19th July to embark on a two and a half week tour of South Africa. Taking in training and team building sessions, safari game drives, Robben Island and the Springbok Museum and of course fixtures for both U18 and U17s against five selected schools. A trip of a lifetime boys, enjoy every second.



Netball Tour Caribbean

This Easter, 22 Senior girls travelled to the United States and the Caribbean to experience netball outside of the UK. The standard of play in both New York, Trinidad and Tobago was exceptional and the players had some tough opponents. The netball on display from the WGS athletes was brilliant and a narrow win against the national Trinidad and Tobago U19 side was a tour highlight. Whilst in NYC the players delivered an introductory netball session to a group of local teenagers, we managed to squeeze in lots of sightseeing, a fantastic dining experience at Ellen's Dinner and of course a little shopping. After the busy City the island life of Trinidad and Tobago along with some warm weather was fully embraced. Some amazing experiences both on and off the court for all 22 tourists.

Netball from the Caribbean



BATTLEFIELDS REPORT

by Rafael Marcus, Alex Broome, Joe Myers, Elsa Beese, Imogen Hearn, Katherine Knight, Catriona Cochrane & India Appleton-Gregg

It is hard to describe this amazing trip in just a few words but here are a few highlights;

- Bayernwald trenches, part of an original German trench system made in 1916.
- Essex Farm cemetery where we learned about the Canadian surgeon, John McCrae who, during the Second Battle of Ypres, wrote his famous poem 'In Flanders' Fields.'
- Langemark, a German cemetery with black gravestones and an open, mass grave that contains the remains of 24,917 servicemen.



Wreath Presentation

- Passchendaele 1917 Memorial Museum where we went through underground model trenches with sound effects and realistic rooms that contained replicas of beds, toilets, offices and many more.
- Menin Gate Memorial, which bears 54,000 names of soldiers from the UK and Commonwealth who have no known grave. We stayed for the touching and poignant Last Post Ceremony and our school laid a wreath to commemorate the fallen.
- Wellington Quarry; we went underground and saw pictures and videos of the soldiers in action as well as objects such as uniforms which the soldiers had abandoned after the war had finished.
- Chocolate shopping!

SPRING EVENTS

March was a busy month for the Performing Arts Department. Our Spring Concert raised more than £750 for Action for Children. A broad range of styles and ensembles were showcased including a humorous Barbershop interpretation of *'The Four Chord Song'*; Grove Singers rendition of 'Don't Forget Me' and our Soul, Rock and Swing Bands were all in action.

'A Night To Remember' treated its audience to a range of musical, solo, dance and drama items that followed the themes of Love and Death. The A Level drama students performed two thought provoking pieces; one based on the life of Marilyn Monroe and the second focused on the story of Lynn Gilderdale who suffered from Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (M.E.).

Other memorable performances included junior and senior dance club performing to *'One'* from the musical *'A Chorus Line'* and Will Robinson who made his Grove Theatre debut singing and playing guitar.



Y13 Leavers



Chorus Line



Will Robinson



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

In May we enjoyed both the annual Arts Dinner and the Leavers' Soirée. The Arts Dinner celebrates the achievement of the Arts at The Grove over the past year. 53 staff and pupils attended, listening to a review of the year by students from each of the Arts and celebrating the winners of the music, drama and art awards.

Y13 marked the occasion of their final week at Woodhouse Grove with their Leavers' Soiree. We wish them all the best with life after The Grove.



RAF SWINGS INTO WGS

In January, Y9 and some of our musical scholars enjoyed an excellent concert by the RAF swing band. They also had a Q&A session afterwards so pupils could find out more about careers in music in The Forces.





Kings College Choir Visit

In April, nine of our senior music scholars were lucky enough to visit King's College Cambridge to see Old Grovian Christopher Nehaul, a choral scholar in the world famous King's College Choir. The group experienced a 'behind the scenes' tour, sat in on a choir rehearsal & attended Evensong in the Chapel.



Class Dismissed

Exciting news for Y8 pupil Connor Elliott who has successfully auditioned for series 3 of the CBBC show *'Class Dismissed'*. Connor is scheduled to film for 6 weeks over the summer holidays with the show hitting our screens after September. We caught up with Connor to find out more.

How did you hear about the auditions for Class Dismissed?

Through Scala, my casting agency. All young performers are on Spotlight, a website where casting directors see who they want to audition.

Had you watched the show before?

No, but as soon as I was recalled I started to watch some episodes to give me an insight into the characteristics of the cast members.

Can you tell us a little bit about the show and filming?

Class Dismissed! is a children's comedy TV programme about a mad school, with mad teachers and confused pupils. Nothing like Woodhouse Grove! My contract is for 6 weeks of filming over the summer. This takes place at Media City where I will be chaperoned for the first few weeks, the rest is to be confirmed.

What are you most looking forward to about filming?

Meeting new people and having fun, judging by the content of the programme anyway.

I know that you are heavily involved in acting. Have you ever done anything this big before? What other productions have you been in?

Yes, I've done lots of professional musical theatre but comedy is a new avenue so it's very exciting. Priscilla Queen of the Desert was a highlight for me as I starred alongside Jason Donovan. During half term I was delighted to play the Artful Dodger in Oliver before I became too tall!

I understand that over 200 boys auditioned, were you nervous?

No, I'm no stranger to auditions so it doesn't phase me. My first audition was held in Manchester, which involved script reading. The recalls were at Media City where I met Chantal Delaney, the series producer along with over 200 fellow auditionees.



Annabel Gracey extended till September The show must go on...

There is no stopping Annabel Gracey, Y8, who has been offered another contract with School of Rock in London's West End. Annabel was due to finish in February but her new contract will see her performing on stage until September. This is a great compliment to Annabel and we wish her all the best for her additional performances. Some of the school staff and Annabel's friends are planning a trip down to London to watch the show in July before she finishes her second run.

I am Grovian.



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

In March we celebrated British Science Week. The highlight of the week was the visit from Science Boffin Rodney who demonstrated all sorts of science "magic" in assembly. Every class then attended his workshops which included making human electrical circuits to light up fluorescent tubes and making slime.

One of the main topics was the oceans and the children researched all the organisms that live at different depths and made a fabulous display of ocean life in the Sports Hall. In particular, the focus was on plastic pollution and the children were tasked with identifying pieces of rubbish on British beaches to help train a computer to do this task. The children have also enjoyed programming an autobot in ICT, "running to the deep" in PE lessons and making biodegradable plastic in Science.



Out in the Garden

Gardening Club have entered a vegetable box for the Great Yorkshire Show which had a birthday theme to celebrate 160 years of the show.

The children from Gardening Club and Art Club decorated a metre cubed box with lots of birthday celebration ideas, such as papier-mâché balloons and planted it with vegetables that will hopefully grow (depending on the weather's input) to hit their peak for the judging days.

Two judges from the Yorkshire Agricultural Society are visiting schools from across the county to decide which entries will be finalists for the show in July. The children had to explain their plan and show the judges the diary of their planting regime. We were the first school to be visited and the judges said that we had set a very high standard.



I am Grovian.



Y3 Countryside Event

Y3 had a great day at the Countryside Live Event at the Great Yorkshire Showground in June. 3H made a pig model and 3B made a bee sculpture for the school 'Countryside Sculpture' competition. Each class worked very hard creating their entries and were rewarded with two second places.

Throughout the day the children had the chance to interact with many of the show animals in the ring and back in the pens and saw some sheep being sheared.





BRONTË'S GOT TALENT

"IT'S SATURDAY, IT'S 7 O'CLOCK AND TIME FOR BRONTË'S GOT TALENT...."

these opening words heralded an evening of pure entertainment in the Grove Theatre featuring over 120 pupils aged 7-11.



The show featured big song and dance numbers from the school choir and all pupils in Y3 and Y4. There were medleys from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Bugsy Malone, songs by Madness and 1980s Rock Classics. These large group numbers were punctuated with some fantastic variety acts from our older pupils in Y5 and Y6. We saw a vast range of talents on display including instrumentalists, vocalists, magicians and comedy.

The show was compered by our very own Ant and Dec - Trey and Rudy Halliday. They had the audience in the palm of their hands, crying with laughter one minute and with a lump in their throats the next. It was an amazing evening and the audience were wowed by the confidence and professionalism shown by the pupils of Brontë House.



First Recorder Exams

Both the senior and junior Recorder Clubs entertained staff and pupils with a fantastic repertoire of music. These clubs are really popular and it was a delight to see so many pupils performing together. In addition, for the first time ever, pupils at Brontë House have taken music exams on the recorder. Well done to the following pupils who all passed with a distinction or a merit: Fran Tartaglia, Oliver Alderton, Betsy Raj, Macey Holmes-Moxon, Seth Crosby, Liam Matley and Harlei-Jade Iles-Binns.



Bushcraft

The children are still loving Bushcraft. Many new activities have been introduced including making a treehouse, rope ladders and hammocks and a particular favourite - camouflage!

Charity Events

Our two main charity commitments recently have been sponsoring a guide dog puppy called Brontë and running for Forget-Me-Not. Brontë is a golden retriever who was born on 27th October last year and the Guide Dog Association will keep us updated of her progress.

More recently the whole of Brontë House got involved with a 500 mile run for the Forget-Me-Not Children's Hospice. Mrs Chatterton and the School Council led a school assembly and the children made a memorable and informative video which was even used by the Charity for their social media. Even the school staff were running and Ashdown Lodge pupils were like Forrest Gump and just kept going, and going and going!

Thank you for all your support and generosity with these and other events. It is very valuable for the children to learn about community spirit and compassion.





Y3/Y4 WHITBY RESIDENTIAL

Years 3 and 4 travelled to Whitby for their long-awaited residential trip. Some of their activities included a journey to the Jurassic period at Pannett Park; building a viking longship; a trip on a lifeboat around the bay and finding fossils on the beach. The children were superbly looked after by staff at the hostel and were sad to leave after making so many treasured memories and gaining an invaluable sense of independence.

“A memory of Whitby is looking out of the window of the Captain Cook Museum and seeing the Year 3 children having a trip on the old life boat.”

Elspeht Hennessy

“A memory of Whitby was going on the old life boat as the waves were all bumpy and the captain put on some music and started dancing.”

Lucy Bedford

“My favourite bit was fossil hunting on the beach.”

Sam Johnson

“

My favourite bit was going on the open top bus tour around Whitby and learning all about the town.”

Lois Turner

Y6 Paris Residential

Y6 had a superb week in France. Before they set off they made a diary of famous Parisian sites and used maps to locate them. They also gathered information about the delicious foods they might try on their trip. We asked a couple of children to write a review of their trip.

We have just got back from a brilliant school trip to Paris with Y6. I had felt so excited and nervous as this was my first trip in a foreign country without my parents but the nerves left me from the moment I stepped off the plane in Paris. We stayed in a Chateau and I was blown away by the breathtaking grounds, where we had lots of fun in free play times. On the first day I loved going to the market in the little town called Brie le Comte. We had to buy food in French and then had a competition to make the most healthy lunch with a French theme, using our ingredients. Parc Asterix was epic! The rides were fabulous and I would definitely recommend it. The Eiffel Tower was outstanding and the views were so picturesque. This was an unforgettable trip and the memories will stay with me forever. Thank you to all the staff for taking us.

By Mabel Walker

Our 5 day residential on the outskirts of Paris was amazing. We stayed in a marvellous Chateau run by PGL and the staff there were very kind and good fun. There were so many brilliant activities on the site and my favourite was abseiling. We went to the local market to do some shopping and speak French. We also went on a boat trip down the River Seine and got to see lots of famous Parisian landmarks. We had an action packed week but my most memorable thing was getting a birthday cake on the first day, which was my birthday.

By Henry Barton

I am Grovian.





Y1 DAY TRIPS

Y1 have been out of school on various trips this term. They visited Cartwright Hall to learn about Lowry and the style of artwork he produced. They imagined they were characters in one of Lowry's pieces and architects who built a model of a Lowry landscape using 3D shapes.

The children also enjoyed a trip to Harlow Carr Gardens where they used their plant knowledge and explored different types of herbs, trees and plants. They also planted some lettuce plants which they were able to bring home with them!



Y2 Florence Nightingale Lamps



Following a visit to Lotherton Hall to learn all about Florence Nightingale and the work that she did to help others, Y2 made their own Florence Nightingale lamps. They had to follow the instructions carefully in order to make their lamps.



Y3 Ancient Mummies trip to Leeds Museum

Last term Y3 began their exciting new topic about Ancient Egyptians. At Leeds Museum they learnt about Nesyamun (the Leeds Mummy); making their own amulet; mummifying a body and designing a new devourer! In the afternoon they improved their understanding of chronology using the surroundings of the museum.



Y4 Visit to Temple Newsam House

Y4 travelled to Temple Newsam House to experience first hand a Tudor House and to take part in activities designed to augment the children's understanding of our Tudors topic. Included in the day was a chance to experience Tudor dancing whilst dressed as rich Tudors, making Tudor portraits and a tour of the house with an experienced guide. It was a great day that really brought our Tudor topic to life!



Y6 moved by 'War Horse'

Y6 had a fantastic trip to see the National Theatre production of War Horse at Bradford Alhambra.

Pupils were involved in an interactive workshop with cast members who explained how they prepare for the show, including how they warm up their voices and bodies before a performance.

They also shared some secrets about how they make the animals seem so lifelike. The performance was very moving and brought together all the class learning about WW1.

It has been an action packed year of sport at Brontë House and thankfully the weather has been relatively kind, especially of late. Every pupil in Y4 to Y6 and the majority in Y3 have represented the school.

The U11 rugby team have continued to make progress and this has been helped by the fact that the number of boys in the year group has doubled from 12 in Y4 to 25 in Y6. The boys put in some strong performances against Richmond House, Birkdale and Hymers. The U10s have got a lot more strength in depth and there will be a lot of competition for places in the A team next year.

The U11A girls netball team have remained unbeaten this year and the U11B have only lost one match, against Woodhouse Grove U12B. Our U10A team have only lost one match by a single goal against Highfield Prep School.

This term, the girls have been introduced to cricket as a number of HMC schools are moving towards playing girls' cricket instead of rounders. Our girls have had cricket practices as well as playing in the scheduled rounders matches and seem to be enjoying both.

As part of the games offering next year, we are introducing hockey alongside netball in the autumn term for girls. The boys will also participate in some hockey sessions as part of their games lesson in the spring term.

Y6 Sports Tour

Despite a delayed start due to snow, some of our Y6 pupils took part in the annual sports tour to the North East. After checking in to the hotel at Millennium Bridge, Newcastle, they all went out to Frankie and Benny's for an evening meal.

The following morning the girls were up early to play in a netball tournament at Newcastle School for Girls. The A team won all their group matches, before beating Newcastle High School in the semi-final 12-1 and then winning the final against a strong RGS Newcastle side.

The B team had a tough challenge ahead as they competed against some strong "A team" opposition. The quality of the netball clearly displayed that we have strength in depth at Brontë House as they finished with 2 wins and 2 losses.

The boys had a later start and played against RGS Newcastle on their 1st XV pitch. It was a very evenly matched game with excellent rugby and all boys playing to their potential, moving the ball around skillfully and tackling hard. The final score was 35 - 35, with both teams scoring 7 tries each.

A few sporting successes to note.....

Fencing

Y6 pupil Kira Grahamslaw's love of fencing continues and she competes regularly, recently coming 2nd in the Yorkshire Youth Championship meaning she qualified to represent Yorkshire at the British Youth Championships in Sheffield in May. Despite being only 10, Kira fenced in the U12 Girls Foil category and came 21st out of 53 competitors so things are looking very promising for Kira next year when she will be older in her age category.



Cross Country

Grace Ross and Finley Hainsworth, both Y6 have been selected for Bradford Schools Cross Country.



Swimming

A team of Y4, Y5 and Y6 boys and girls enjoyed a great day out at HMC Swimming with Nicole Cater, Y5, winning Gold in Breaststroke.



Our Sports Tour Netballers March 2018



At the end of May, 12 children from Brontë House were given the opportunity to take part in the Brownlee Foundation Triathlon. Over 1,200 children in the region were able to experience what a real triathlon is like, not only the physical aspects but also real transitions from Swim to Bike to Run. The children had a great time and demonstrated their prowess in all three areas. Well done to all those taking part; their reward was a goodie bag for their efforts!

Royal Wedding Fever



Royal Wedding fever hit Ashdown Lodge this May! Some of the children watched old royal weddings and enjoyed watching Prince Harry and Megan's wedding. The whole school celebrated with an amazing cake and also made their own celebratory buns.



Reception classes received a very important letter from the Queen asking for their help to design and build a carriage for Meghan. The children had lots of fun working together to build the carriage and then posed as Prince Harry and Meghan, riding in their carriage along with a driver and horses.



Nursery were very excited that four chicks hatched during the Royal Wedding week. They were very gentle handling and caring for Harry, Meghan, Will and Kate before they went back to the farm.

Animal Visitors



Earlier in the year there were some special visitors to Ashdown..... the children were very brave and held and touched lots of interesting animals. There was a bearded dragon, four millipedes (all called Alice), a 13 year old tortoise called Tim, a stick insect that liked to wave at us and a cockroach. I think the favourites were the furry animals though - Jemima the rabbit and the two greedy guinea pigs. The children learnt the importance of washing their hands after touching animals and not putting their fingers in their mouths.



The children even set up their own vet's surgery



RECYCLING

At Ashdown Lodge we have been talking about recycling. New recycling bins have been placed in every room and staff and children are encouraged to reuse and recycle. It would be great if parents can continue this at home and show your child how you recycle things that aren't found in school. The children looked at a lovely Peppa Pig story that explains recycling well. Pre-nursery championed this initiative and are brilliant at working out what to put in the recycling bin.

I am Grovian.

A Squash and a Squeeze

Interaction is good!

The children at Ashdown Lodge are very lucky to have their own amazing outdoor space where they can learn 'hands on' and learning topics can be reflected in the outdoor activities. The children have really enjoyed the recent warm weather playing in the stream and building a treehouse in bushcraft.

However, it is important that learning indoors is also as fun and interactive as possible. In Nursery, thanks to the ABA, a new smart board has been installed which has proved a huge hit and a valuable resource helping the children to refine their drawing and mark making skills.



Reception went to see 'Tiddler' at the Kings Hall in Ilkley. The show was really good and the cast performed three stories...Tiddler, A Squash and a Squeeze and Monkey Puzzle.



V IS FOR VOLCANO



Making volcanoes, with the children waiting with anticipation for the explosion.

Dates for Your Diary 2018/19

July

Friday 6th | 12.00 Noon Summer Term Ends

August

Thursday 16th | A-Level Results Published

Thursday 23rd | GCSE Results Published

September

Tuesday 4th | From 4.00pm Boarders Return

Wednesday 5th | 8.30am Autumn Term Begins

October

Friday 19th | 4.00pm Half Term Begins

November

Sunday 4th | From 6.00pm Boarders Return

Monday 5th | 8.30am Term Begins

December

Friday 14th | 4.00pm Term Ends

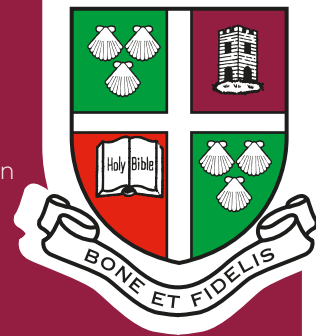
January

Sunday 6th | From 6.00pm Boarders Return

Monday 7th | 8.30am Spring Term Begins

For more information please visit our website

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