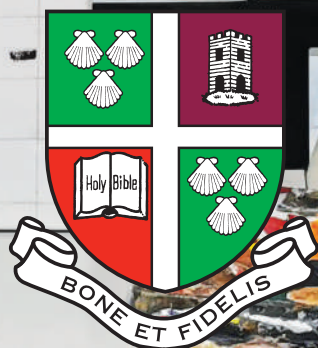


NEWS FROM THE Grove

The Newsletter of Woodhouse Grove School



Summer 2021



STEM Podcast Launch

2021 saw the launch of our first ever STEM podcasts. Daniel Cheng, Year 12 initiated the idea with the aim of sharing his passion and knowledge with the rest of school. The sixth formers involved with the first podcast were Daniel Cheng, Seb Howles, Adam Shann, Christian Masiye, Tom Vernon, Sophia Nwachukwu and Fiona Trimby and the topic was 'Space Exploration and its Impact'. It was very interesting, well researched and entertaining. Subsequent podcasts looked at;

'How stats and modelling are applied in the real world', a discussion with Mrs Kerr;

Encephalitis Lethargica - the virus that causes you to fall asleep.

The group found the experience very rewarding and a great addition to their personal statements. You can listen at:

<https://anchor.fm/wgs-stem>



Zip the Cow for Manorlands

We are proud to announce that over the summer, we are sponsoring Sue Ryder's 'Zip The Cow', a 270 metre long zipwire from the Cow and Calf on Ilkley Moor. Our local Sue Ryder hospices support many families at very difficult times and this is a great family event to help raise funds for them after a difficult 12 months. If you've already got tickets - then enjoy the ride!

Tickets still available for Sunday 29th August.



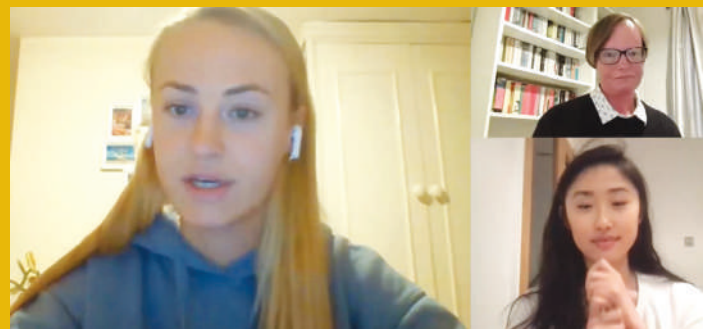
10th National Careers Week 2021

National Careers Week took place at the beginning of March and despite running as a virtual event, was very informative. A wide range of guests shared vast amounts of knowledge and experience with our students, including:

Old Grovians, Lizzie (now working for Imperial College) and Cecelia (now in investment banking) who both studied Geography at Oxford;

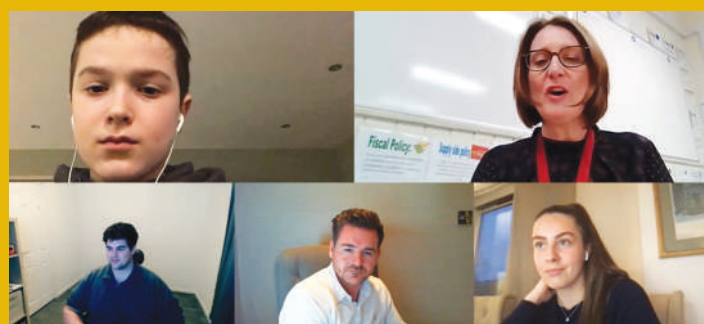
Old Grovians, Will (an IT systems apprentice and now software developer) and Katie (psychology degree and now NHS digital account coordinator) both working for digital engineers, Infinity Works;

Oliver Quaye, Head of Operations at Cyber Security for the Home Office, who leads a team against cyber attacks and talked about life as a civil servant;



Apprentices, Ben and Jasmine who gave an insight into apprenticeships at Produmax, a high precision engineering company that specialises in flight components;

and Old Grovian, Emma who works for ITV as a reporter and is now based back in the Calendar region.



Pupils also had the opportunity to view numerous videos recorded by parents and other sector specialists, telling us about their careers, all of which are still available for pupils to view on the WGS Careers firefly page.



Uniform

We are looking forward to seeing pupils across Woodhouse Grove and Brontë House in our new school uniform, rolling out from September. The uniform has not been updated for many years and we feel this is an updated, smarter and more coordinated identity across both schools. Please be aware, we are using new suppliers for both our current sportswear and the new uniform. Details of how to order can be found on our website under Useful Information.

Staff Shelfie Challenge

WGS English held a World Book Day Shelfie Challenge. Pupils and staff were asked to identify 35 bookshelves or 'shelfies' belonging to staff. Nicole Swinnerton, Y13 guessed the most shelfies correctly with 29/35. Mr Wright and Miss Monk achieved the highest staff scores with 31/35. Housepoints were awarded to all participants.



Mathworks Modelling Challenge



A team consisting of Daniel Cheng, Elliot Brady-Beck, Alex Broome, Fiona Trimby, Mia Chan, Tom Vernon, Charlie Plein and Luke Schoeman took part in a MathWorks Math Modelling (M3) Challenge.

This is the first time the school has entered this contest, which is for high school juniors and seniors in the U.S. and sixth form students in England and Wales. Students experience what it's like to work as a team to tackle a real-world problem under time and resource constraints, akin to those faced by professional mathematicians working in industry. Once the problem is downloaded the team has 14 hours to submit a solution. Although they didn't win any prizes, the team were praised for their use of Matlab and received some useful feedback to help them with next year's competition.



United Kingdom Mathematics Trust

We had some great results across all age groups in the UK maths challenge this year. Well done to everyone who participated.



UK Maths Challenge

78 students from Years 7 and 8 sat the Junior Maths Challenge. Miranda Bayliss, Will Hall, William O'Toole and Zac Nelson were awarded a gold certificate and invited to participate in the follow on round, the Junior Kangaroo. A further 15 pupils were awarded silver certificates and 16 were awarded bronze. Juncen Li and Nihal Johal, both Year 7, were awarded a gold certificate and were selected by UKMT to participate in the Junior Maths Olympiad taking place at the end of term.

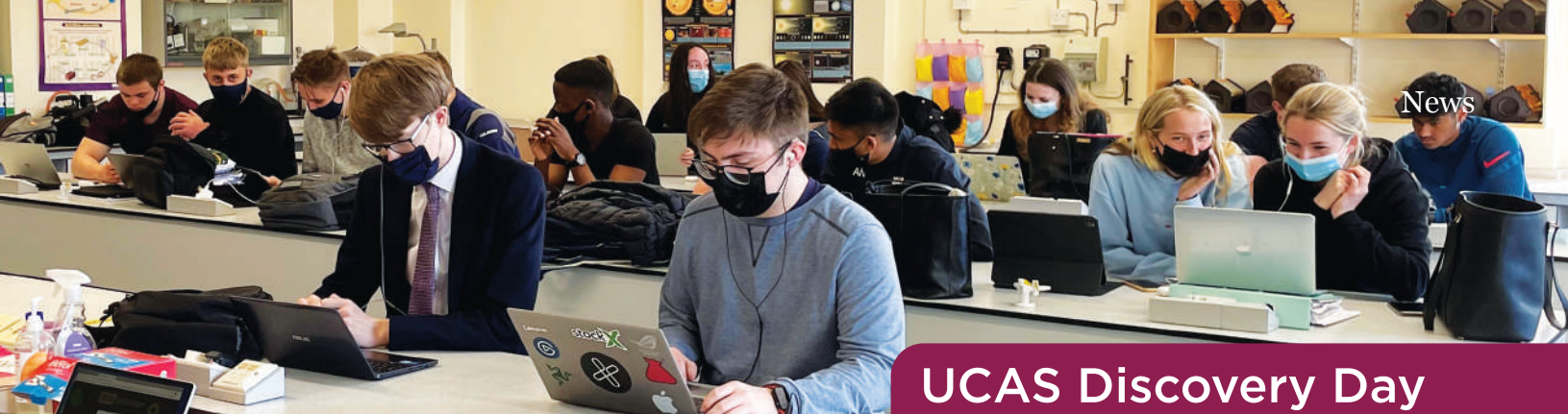
Students from Years 9, 10 and 11 entered the Intermediate Maths Challenge from the comfort of their own homes. Best in school, and achieving a gold certificate was Kaidong Huang in Year 11. Philip Wright, Year 10 achieved a silver certificate and best in year. Bronze certificates were awarded to Aaliyah Mian and Loretta Zhao in Year 11, Rainie Ngai and Mica Bardouille-Lewis in Year 10 and Amelia Cooper in Year 9, who was also awarded best in year.

Students in Years 11, 12 and 13 sat the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge at the end of 2020. Daniel Cheng, Year 12 was the best in school and was awarded a gold certificate as well as being invited to participate in the next round. Louis Anderson, Luis Sugden, Nicole Swinnerton and Kathy Xiao were awarded silver certificates and Luis was best in Year 13, whilst Kathy was best in Year 11. Oscar Bowling, Abi Roche, Charlie Smith, and Eoin Thorpe were awarded bronze certificates.

Learn with the Lords



For International Women's Day, Year 12 joined a 'Learn with the Lords' virtual Question Time. An inspiring line up, consisting of Baroness Hunt of Bethnal Green, Baroness Harris of Richmond, Baroness Chakrabarti and Baroness Newlove, it was a great debate for Year 12 to get involved with. The presenter mentioned Woodhouse Grove when she asked the panel one of our questions about when the next female Prime Minister might be and why America has never had a female President.



UCAS Discovery Day

Year 12 students recently took part in an online UCAS Discovery Day to help them investigate their options post sixth form. They were able to explore six zones ranging from the Live Lounge with a wide variety of talks to choose from; to exploring apprenticeships in 'Discover Careers'; and talking to universities for more information. Support for writing personal statements, information on student finance, videos of current students and apprentices and much more, meant that there was plenty to keep the students engaged.



Cambridge Masterclasses

In March, nine of our Year 12 students took part in masterclasses run by Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. The subjects ranged from chemistry and engineering to medicine and classics. Feedback from the sessions has been really positive:

'The classics masterclass was an insightful glimpse into life beyond sixth form, they provided us with really helpful information on how to make a competitive application, life at university and the course itself' Sophia and Elsa, classics.'

'It was very informative as we learnt about the steps a neurosurgeon would take to relieve hydrocephalus in the brain which is something I find extremely fascinating. The virtual tour around the college was amazing as it gave me an appreciation of the beauty of the grounds' Adam, medicine.'

'It was very interesting. We learnt about the naked mole rat from experiments they conducted. They also gave us step by step advice to making a great medicine application and insight into the college and course itself which was all quite informative' Daniel, medicine.'



Drama Star



Congratulations to Freddy Smith, Year 11 who has been busy filming for CBBC's 'The Dumping Ground'. Freddy has previously performed in short films and other television programmes, but this is definitely his big break! We caught up with Freddy to find out more.

What part are you playing ?

My character has to be kept under wraps until it is aired in series 9. I can tell you that The Dumping Ground is a children's home and I will be the new boy.



Co-curricular Art

We were delighted to launch co-curricular art for junior years at the beginning of this term.

Year 7 pupils were introduced to Pop Art and investigated some of the movement's core themes. They developed their observational drawing skills, colour mixing and painting skills resulting in some wonderful canvasses of Mars bars (see front cover).

Year 8 were challenged to make a sculpture with the theme 'Animals from Nature'. Pupils investigated the sculptural work of Nicola Hicks, David Oliveira and Andy Goldworthy and experimented with large scale drawing, developing ideas for an animal sculpture. They used a chicken wire former to create their animal sculptures.

When are you filming?

I have been filming since the beginning of the year. I have a break this summer then go back until spring 2022 for series 10. We film in Newcastle so I have to live there Monday to Friday as filming can take up to 9 hours a day. There is also a classroom on set where I have a tutor each day.

What else have you been in before?

I have played co-lead in two movies; a feature film called Suicide Kelly which was a gritty northern film and a short film called Osama Bin Hiding which is a more light hearted comedy.

Leaving School in a Pandemic

We caught up with Ellie Nott, who left last year to see what life post Sixth Form had been like. Ellie is a student Midwife at the University of Leeds.

Tell us about your course.

I am loving my course! I've pretty much always wanted to go into healthcare, and I decided in Year 10 that I wanted to do midwifery after a friend pointed out how interested I was in pregnancy and birth! It's such an interesting and diverse career.

Has it all been remote learning or have you had some contact with lecturers?

Some of the learning has been online but my placements in hospital and the community have gone ahead which I'm very glad about. We also had a 'clinical skills' day before my first placement which meant I could meet some other student midwives.

How has University helped you stay involved during the pandemic?

Plenty of the Uni societies have put on activities; both online and slowly, now some live events. While I haven't been able to be involved with music groups yet, there's always next year. I have joined the Midwifery Society, which organises study days run by other organisations such as Antenatal Results and Choices (ARC) and also the Christian Union, where I've met lots of friends who aren't on my course. I've recently helped to set up a Leeds chapter for the charity 'Make a Smile', and I'm excited to be on the committee for next year.

Are you staying in university accommodation?

Moving to university during a pandemic has been very strange, but I'm lucky to be in halls with other healthcare students, which is great as we are all in similar situations.

I got used to independent living fairly quickly, though I will admit I've taken my washing home a few times! One of the great things about living with nurses is each person will cook one night a week on their night off so that if you have worked a 12.5 hour shift on placement, your tea is cooked for you when you get back.

Is there anything you miss about the Grove?

So much! But also I appreciate the benefits of moving forward and having new experiences. I especially miss the music groups as they were so much fun, I'm really hoping to join a band or choir in my 2nd year. I also miss chatting to teachers about nerdy things, like musicals with Mr Crawford and books with Mrs Goodwin-Bates.



What did you learn from the Grove, which is benefitting you now?

The Grove definitely offered me an environment to gain confidence, particularly in sixth form with smaller classes and extra roles like being a Prefect. This confidence helped me as a student midwife to venture out of my comfort zone and learn new skills; although taking blood for the first time was very nerve wracking!

Sixth Form Pathways

Our flexible Sixth Form Pathways programme offers different levels of work experience through partnerships with a variety of local businesses. This is a great way to ensure all post Sixth Form routes are open to our pupils and they have the opportunity to gain work experience throughout Years 12 and 13. Two of our 2019 Leavers, both with aspirations of becoming Civil Engineers, updated us on the different routes that they chose post Woodhouse Grove.

Anjola is studying MEng Civil Engineering at Coventry University

Anjola, Why did you choose your course?

I chose civil engineering as it combines my favourite things which are maths and helping people; as civil engineering is about improving and developing infrastructure for a better society.

What are your particular areas of interest in civil engineering?

I have a particular interest in water systems and intend to pursue water sanitation and water as an energy source in developing countries. I love that it combines politics (which I also did at A Level) with engineering; I didn't know this was possible to this extent.

When I have completed my MEng course, I aim to work in the specialist field of hydraulic engineering, developing water as an energy source to help societies become efficient and tackle sustainability issues. Eventually after working in the industry for some time, I hope to pursue a PhD to further develop this area.



Advice for current pupils...

You are probably your own biggest critic. Do not be discouraged and if you work hard and believe in yourself, you will not only surprise yourself

with your accomplishments, but also those around you.

Caitlin is a Civil Engineering apprentice working for global leaders, WSP

Caitlin, why did you choose an engineering apprenticeship?

I decided in my second year of sixth form that carrying on in full time education was not for me and I wouldn't go to University. However, I still needed a degree to study engineering. After looking into alternative routes, I decided that becoming an apprentice and gaining experience in the job role whilst working towards getting qualifications would be the best option for me.

WSP is one of the world's leading engineering consulting firms, and there a wide range of disciplines to work in such as property & buildings, transport & infrastructure, earth & environment or energy, industry and resources. I work in the Highways discipline supporting senior engineers on projects, and have done both site and design work.



Did any particular teacher or subject at The Grove inspire you to pursue engineering?

News

I decided I wanted to go into a STEM career whilst studying for my GCSEs as the subjects I enjoyed most were a good fit for this sector. I made my mind up after doing work experience with a consulting company called Jacobs. I would say the teachers who inspired me most at school would be Mr. Allison as Design & Technology was my favourite subject, and Mrs. Kerr for helping me survive maths!

What piece of advice would you give to anyone looking to pursue an engineering career?

The advice I would give to anyone, especially people in minority groups who are thinking of going into engineering is, be inquisitive and confident. The engineering industry is male-dominated and it can be intimidating to speak up in a room full of men with more experience than you, but intimidation can be overcome and it is never as scary as it seems. Diversity is essential in teamwork, especially in problem solving situations and different perspectives help increase creativity and productivity.

Sport

Cultiv8 Tennis Partnership



The tennis competition schedule resumed and saw Joe Mazingham, Tommy Vale and Abby Kelliher, from Year 9, in action in the U14 'Youth National Series' against the best 36 players in the country in their age group.

Joe won all of his matches to finish first in his draw. Tommy only lost to Joe in the final, having won all of his group matches and Abby narrowly missed out on the final by a few points only losing one tight match. All three players were invited by the LTA to compete in a 2 day "Battle of the Brits" competition. They played well and were part of the winning Union Jacks team competing in Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles matches against top National Age Group players across the country.

In June, they attended an U14 Tennis Europe event in Wales. Abby had a fantastic week, with success in both the Singles and Doubles events of this Junior International, which saw her crowned Champion of both.

Joe and Tommy also battled hard to produce excellent results. Joe reached the semi finals of both singles and doubles, just losing out in two very close fought final sets. Tommy reached the semi final of the doubles securing some solid wins along the way.



Rugby Success

Congratulations to Mr Bedford, our Head of Rugby who has been elected as a Yorkshire Representative for the RFU Council following a vote by 47 Rugby clubs in the region. Mr Bedford starts this very privileged position on the 1st August. The Council helps to govern the game in England and hold the RFU to account.

Joe will be very busy as he is also Assistant Coach to the U18 Yorkshire Rugby Academy who had a very successful season despite early disruption. Results included a fantastic win against Wasps Academy 28-21, Northampton Saints 50 - 27 and Newcastle Falcons 26-7.

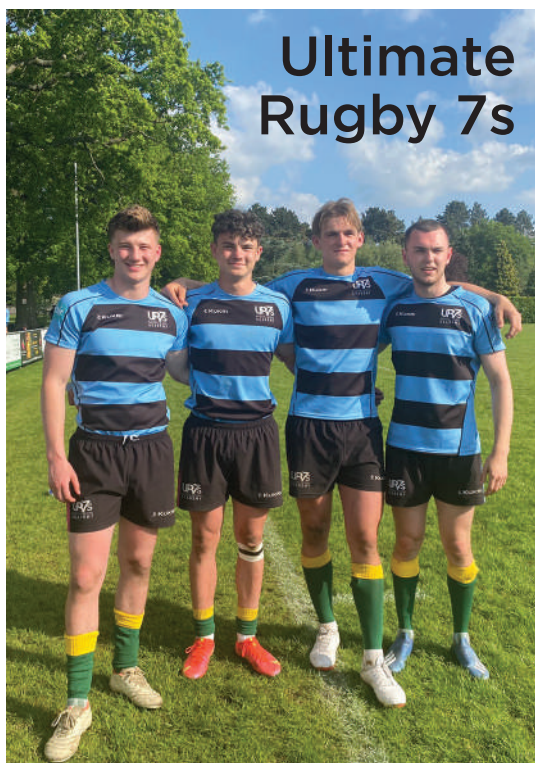
Congratulations to all our boys who were selected to represent Yorkshire Rugby Academy this season;

Y13 pupils Willem Johnson, Will Metcalfe, Ben Markey, Ben Carpenter, Louis Guthrie, Ned Hawker, Freddy Clark, Matt Tanner and Y12 pupils Ben Turpin and Harry Willard.

Congratulations also to Harry Willard, Y12 and Ned Hawker, Y13 who were selected to train with the England U18 squad earlier in the year.



On the Rugby League front, we have Archie Hurford and Fergus McCormack, both Y10, who are currently playing for Leeds Rhinos Rugby League Under 16 team.



Ultimate Rugby 7s

Sam Kildunne, Stan Spence, Josh Stephenson and George Worthington represented the U18 North of England Ultimate Rugby 7's team in a recent tournament at Warwick School. Their team won the tournament, winning all of their matches against the other regions within the country.

Rhinos Netball



Congratulations to Summer Anderson, Year 10, Phoebe Turner and Grace Ross, Year 9, who were among 20 athletes selected for the U15 Rhinos West Yorkshire Academy. They join Harriet King, Year 11 who currently trains with the Leeds Rhinos U19 squad and has an England trial in the summer and Emma Okpala, also Year 11, who trains with the U17 squad.

Fencing Club



It was fantastic to welcome lots of students from Years 7 to 9 to the new WGS junior fencing club. Many of these pupils were new to the sport and enjoyed learning new skills and tactics. We are looking forward to introducing tournaments in the future.

Well what a year for our sports virtual question and answer sessions. A variety of professional sportsmen and women shared their experiences with our pupils across a number of sports. This culminated in a surprise appearance by double Olympic, World, European and Commonwealth Champion, Alistair Brownlee who joined our Triathlon and Cross-country Club's virtual social just before the Easter break. Alistair chatted about his training, life as a junior athlete, genetics versus training, his latest world record challenge, routine, motivation and his diet.

This tops off a fantastic array of lock down Q&A sessions across a number of sports since Christmas including:

Former England Cricket Captain Sir Alastair Cook who offered advice and a fascinating insight into his career to over 100 pupils from WGS and Brontë House;

Erik Lund, the former Leeds Carnegie and Biarritz rugby second row who spoke with Year 10 and 11 boys in February. He talked about his late transition to professional rugby and life after rugby as a gym owner and sports analyst;

Stuart Dixon and Alex Grieve, from the newly re-formed Yorkshire Rugby Academy, who chatted with over 30 boys from Year 6 upwards letting them know how the pathway works;

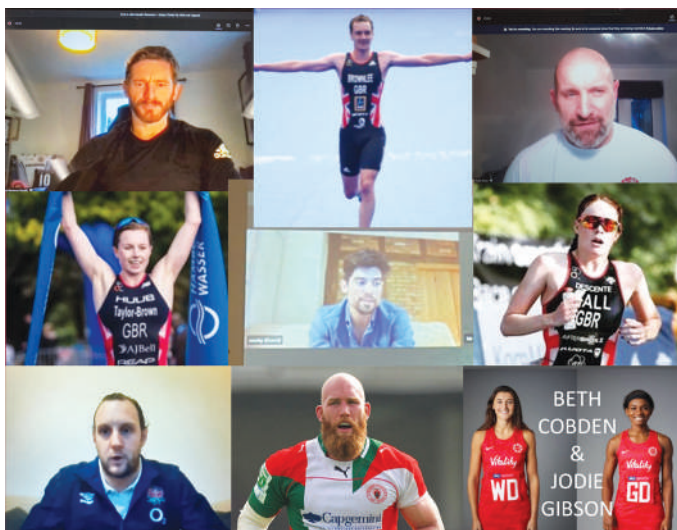
Gareth Steenson, the Exeter Chiefs Fly Half and Club Legend, who took questions from the Senior Rugby boys and provided some inspiration for them all;

GB Triathletes, Lucy Hall and Mark Buckingham, who joined the Cross-country and Triathlon team for a Quiz of 2020 and a smoothie making competition and gave their insights into what training has been like in the snow and during the third lockdown;

Beth Cobden and Jodie Gibson, England Netballers and Commonwealth Gold Medallists, who spoke with more than 60 girls across Years 7 to 13 offering advice on injuries, nutrition and mental toughness;

and Georgia Taylor-Brown, Great Britain's Triathlon World Champion, who chatted with the cross country and triathlon teams about racing, training and how she's keeping active amidst the challenges of a winter lockdown.

Q & A Bonanza



British Fell Racing Champion

Sport

Congratulations to Maisey Bellwood, Year 8, who became Girls U15 British Inter Counties Fell Running Champion at 'Up the Nab' in June. She was part of a Yorkshire 1, 2, 3 in her race.



Global Running Success

Shrewsbury School hosted a digital running event with hundreds of runners competing from 17 different countries.

Woodhouse Grove excelled with four medals including a clean podium sweep in the female U15s 5km race:

Gold – Maisey Bellwood with an incredible 18:30; Silver – Georgina Rayner with 19:45; and Bronze – Eilidh Molloy with 22:07.

In the male races Archie Peaker took silver in the U15s, 5km race with a fantastic time of 17:10.

County Cricket

The following pupils have been selected for the Yorkshire squad; George Cameron, Year 6 (U11s), Theo McLelland, Year 7 (U12s) and Awais Khan, Year 8 (U13s) and also, Adam Hussain, Year 7, has been selected to play for Lancashire U12s.

Cricket Podcasts

The WGS cricket podcasts, launched in December, go from strength to strength. There have now been 12 episodes with WGS staff entertaining us with their cricket experiences as well as Old Grovians, Kathryn Leng (the first female to play in the WGS first XI) and Will Hatfield. You can listen to them on <https://anchor.fm/mr-borrington>



On Palm Sunday, Ashville College and The Grove joined forces for a virtual 'Songs of Praise' event with hymns and anthems broadcast on YouTube simultaneously. There were a large number of pupils from Ashville, The Grove, Brontë House and Moorlands School involved, with the highlight being a massed version of Shine Jesus Shine. Many thanks to the Head of Drama and Director of Music at Ashville along with Dr Longbottom, Mr Knight and Miss Meredith-Walne for mixing the resulting files into the final service. Our WGS Musicians have also recently showcased their talent in a recorded Spring Chamber Concert.

House Music

The Virtual House Music Competition saw a wide range of entrants including a couple of firsts with DJing and Bassoon.

The Junior Solo class was won by Benjamin Saia (Vinter) singing Yesterday whilst playing the guitar. Matilda Holt (Findlay) sang the Bruno Mars track When I was Your Man for second place and Annabel Smith (Stephenson) played Hallelujah on the piano for third place.

In the senior section, it was a close-fought battle with Catriona Cochrane (Findlay) singing Breathe from 'In the Heights' to take first and Nicole Swinnerton (Southerners) with a complex sax solo in second. Tim Eichert (Stephenson) played Shostakovich's Waltz from Jazz Suite No. 2 on the bassoon for third.

Drama Stars

Annabelle Hudson, Year 11, successfully auditioned for the latest Sports Direct television advert to celebrate the Euros. The advert starred Eric Cantona, Bruno Fernandes, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Jordan Henderson and was filmed in Manchester, in a purpose-built set. Annabelle had to play football with a group of youngsters and said, "It was a great experience, meeting the footballers and the 'Football Choreographer' had worked with Ronaldo and Messi which was amazing!"

Congratulations to Joe Richards, Year 9, who has been filming for The Railway Children - The Return. This follows up the original film some decades later and stars Jenny Agutter.

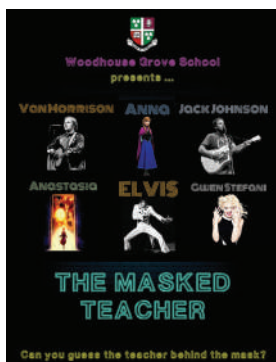
Hope Mass Recording

Hope by Jason Robert Brown was performed by the Grove Singers and Old Grovians and released during February half term onto YouTube. The message of the song was very appropriate during lockdown; there is hope, even when sometimes things seem bleak.

A number of these mass recordings have helped to keep everyone going through difficult times.



The Masked Teacher



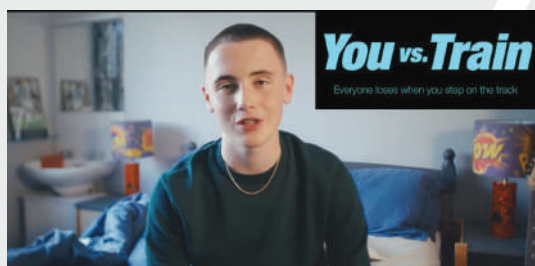
We had an entertaining week in March as our Grovians tried to guess which of their teachers was singing behind the masks of their favourite musicians. From Elvis to Abba, Olaf to Jess Glynne, some of the contestants had our students (and staff!) truly stumped. More than 30 form groups entered the competition, with only 2 guessing all of the 8 contestants correctly.

A huge congratulations to 7H and VIB, who clearly know their teachers very well! A big thank you to all of the brave teachers who took part, to the students for their enthusiasm and energy and to our fabulous host, Miss Couper.



The Unmasking:

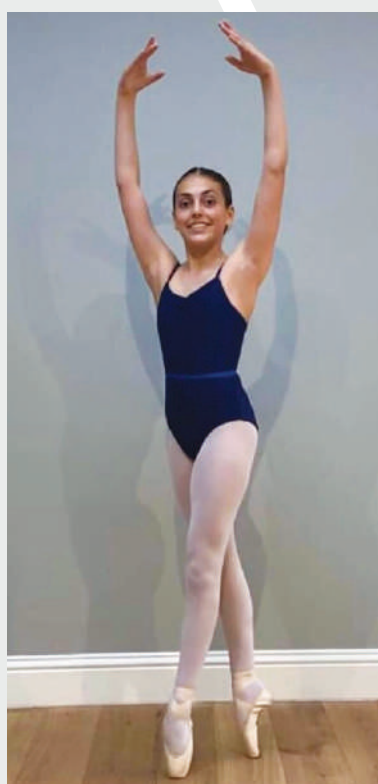
- **Elvis** = Mrs Watmough, Head of Business and Economics
- **Van Morrison** = Mr Lambert, Modern Foreign Languages Department and International Coordinator
- **Gwen Stefani** = Mrs Nott, Assistant Head (Curriculum)
- **Anastasia** = Miss Meredith-Walne, Performing Arts Technician
- **Jack Johnson** = Mrs Jemmett, English Department and Learning Support Teacher
- **Olaf** = Ms Evers, English Teacher
- **Jess Glynne** = Mr Tedd, Director of Music and Performing Arts
- **Meryl Streep** = Rev Atkins



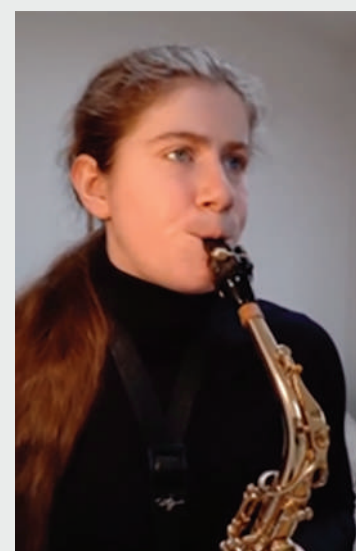
Congratulations to Finlay Sheard, Year 12, who is the lead actor in the new Network Rail safety campaign. The campaign was officially launched in March and was shown on Crimewatch on BBC1. Finlay has previously appeared in ITV's Emmerdale.



Matilda Holt, Year 7, has taken on the role of Martha Booth in the drama 'Gentleman Jack', after also appearing in the first season of the show. Martha is the child of one of the main characters and Matilda really enjoyed filming locally at Broughton Hall.



Congratulations to Nicole Swinnerton, Year 13 who passed her ARSM Diploma on the Saxophone (the level above Grade Eight). Nicole has been a key member of the school ensembles, even through lockdown, as well as producing regular solos for the break-time concerts and keeping on track with her A-Level studies.



Tilly Raj, Year 9, has been accepted on to The Royal Ballet Senior Associate Programme, starting in September. She will train at the Birmingham venue most weekends. We wish her all the best with this amazing achievement.



Brodwell Olympics

An extraordinary level of commitment from our Boarding House Captain, Pablo Benito Martin, led to the Brodwell Olympics being staged during February half term. Pablo tells us how it came about.

Upon discovering that the boarding community would be spending half term away from their families, I felt it was my duty as House Captain to create an inclusive programme of activities.

The main objectives were to give everybody the opportunity to experience a number of different activities we have never done before, to give everyone a purpose, as well as providing all boarders with a memorable experience during this challenging time. This is where I came up with the idea of having a 'Brodwell Olympics'. After careful consideration of the different activities that we could complete with appropriate social distancing, I proposed my idea to Mr S Vernon. Success! He loved the idea and gave me unrestricted access to all school facilities.

To make this event attractive to the community I had to select activities that fitted with the interest of all members of the boarding community, but also ensure that I was utilising the expertise of the members of staff on duty each day. I prepared a presentation outlining the plans for the week and announced the teams. And so, the Olympics began...

Day 1 Head-Handball

Day 2 Sports Festival

Including dodgeball with a Spanish twist and crazy basketball!



Day 3 Cluedo

A real who dunnit!



Day 4 MasterChef

Handstretching pizzas, judged by the catering team



Day 5 Quiz Night

My favourite activity, I felt it showed a real sense of community with lots of laughter and joking with personalised categories designed.

Day 6 Treasure Hunt

Designed to allow the teams to find out interesting facts about the school.

Day 7 Decathlon

Great teamwork displayed in the egg and spoon race, wheelbarrow, human carry, maths equations, memory test, throw and catch.

The inaugural Brodwell Olympics enabled me to reflect on everything Woodhouse Grove School has given me. I will never be able to repay them for this, however the organisation of the Brodwell Olympics was a small gesture to show my appreciation to the school. This memory will stay with me forever, and I would like to thank all of Brodwell House and the staff who made it possible for me to run the event.

Pablo Benito Martin, Boarding House Captain

Goodbye Mr Vernon

This summer we say goodbye to Mr Vernon who is joining an International School in Moscow. We asked Mr Vernon about this exciting new position.

Where is your new position?

I am leaving to be Vice Principal at a boarding school in Moscow.

How long have you been at Woodhouse Grove?

I've been here 8 years. Mrs Vernon and I arrived with our 3 sons in late August 2013 after a 6 week tour of Australia.

What will you miss most about Woodhouse Grove?

The community of boarders and boarding staff. I love the international dimension to the school and the opportunities this has given day pupils to create friendships and networks for their futures. Beautiful grounds and amazing colleagues who have taught me so much during my time at the school. And the Stansfield Arms!

Favourite boarding trip?

I have been really privileged to be able to travel internationally as part of my boarding recruitment role. Being able to learn from cultures and customs where many of our boarders come from has really helped me with my friendships with parents and boarders. I spent 5 days in Wuhan in December 2019. I found the city to be beautiful and the people to be warm and welcoming. I attended an event and meal at the Donghu Ecological area in Wuhan with my hosts prior to the outbreak of the pandemic.

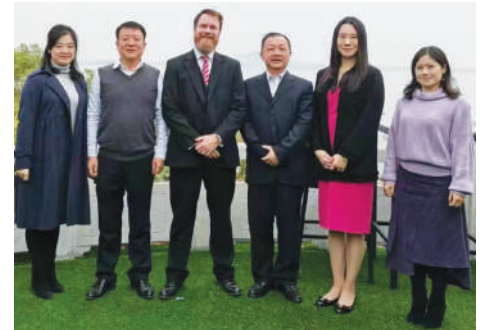
Will you need to speak Russian, and if so, have you been learning some already?

There are over 600 boarders at the school and all lessons are taught in English. But I will do my best to immerse into Russian culture and pick up some phrases. Mr Lambert hasn't stopped talking in Russian to me since it was announced that I will be leaving!

We wish Mr Vernon all the best in his new role.



Boarding



Throughout school we have been celebrating Chinese New Year, the Year of the Ox. Our boarders enjoyed an amazing banquet to start their celebrations.



Year 13 Miller House girls with their Leavers' Tree.



First experience of snow for some of our boarders.



Making use of the climbing wall during May half term.

Gallery of Boarding 2021

Dance-a-thon



This week Brontë House got its groove on and staff and pupils danced till they dropped! It was wonderful to see everyone having fun outside. Well done to everybody who took part, the support was overwhelming.

Thank you to Mrs Cook for leading the dances so energetically. The money raised is going to Zarach, a charity committed to helping children and families living in poverty. Pupils raised an amazing £8,482.28 which will buy 60 beds and duvets for children in Leeds.



Skipping Workshops

This week we welcomed Georgia from Skipping Workshops to work with children in Years 1 to 6. The children learnt lots of new skills and there was a great 'buzz' around school as a result of it. Hopefully, the children will continue to enjoy skipping for fun and fitness throughout the summer.

Farewell from Brontë

We wish the best to all our leavers, three of whom have done over 75 years' service between them; teacher Mrs Stega, and Mrs Metcalfe and Mrs Johnson from the catering team.



We caught up with Mrs Johnson, our 'Queen of the Kitchen' who retired at Easter after 39 years at Woodhouse Grove and Brontë House. Julie joined Woodhouse Grove in 1981, as the weekend 'Tea Lady' whilst studying at catering college, before moving up to Brontë in 1985.

Many of us have benefitted from Julie's culinary skills over the years (special shout out for the brownies) and under Julie's leadership, the food at Brontë has been, quite simply, excellent. Julie's tireless commitment to the School has been inspiring and in her 40th year of service, she is a Brontë institution, with a plaque on the Dining Room wall to prove it!

What do you enjoy most working at Brontë House?

I have fantastic work colleagues, and a great bunch of children who I will miss a lot.

Can you briefly describe a typical day?

A typical day is non-stop; placing orders, receiving deliveries, planning menus, preparing meals, serving the children and last of all, the dreaded paperwork!

What has changed most about Brontë House since you started?

When I first started, it was mostly boarders, with a lovely family atmosphere.

What are the most popular meals?

Chicken Pie and steamed sponge puddings will always be popular with the children, but my favourite is sausage and mash followed by treacle sponge and custard.

What do you like to do away from work?

Outdoor activities particularly cycling, hill walking and camping. Also gardening and keeping chickens. I also enjoy needlecraft and entertaining.



Brontë News

World Book Week

There were lots of activities throughout World Book week in March: collaborative story writing across year groups; photos of the most fun and unusual place to read; and the potato challenge where pupils used their imagination to design a potato book character.





He's Behind You

As part of our World Book Day celebrations in March, Robin Hood and his Socially-Distanced Men visited us (virtually). The show was very funny and really made me laugh. My favourite part was when Maid Marian was singing. I am really glad that we had the opportunity to watch this pantomime as I really enjoyed it. My favourite character was Little Joan, as she was so enthusiastic and a great actress. It was very different not being in the theatre watching it live, but I did really enjoy how they put some social distancing in there. I laughed when Robin Hood asked Maid Marian to marry him and then Little Joan sprayed some sanitiser on his hands. I thought this was an excellent show which really made everyone smile. Thank you!

Review written by Isabella, Year 6.

Pop Art

As part of their ongoing study of Pop Art culture, Year 6 explored a range of digital editing tools; they had to add a mixture of lenses, backgrounds and colouring effects to create a new version of themselves. Before Easter they also created an art installation for all the pupils to enjoy and 56 individual bird sculptures were displayed in the school grounds in the 'Pop Up Pop Art' Exhibition.



Mental Health Week

The theme this year was 'express yourself' and Brontë House pupils were set a task to show how they can do this. It seems there are many ways to express individuality, including singing, playing instruments, drawing, dance, story and poetry writing.



Feel The Beat

For their music lesson, Year 1 enjoyed singing and performing outside in the sunshine. They had fun keeping up with the changing tempo of the song.





Silver in Virtual World Challenge

Our Year 6 A relay team, consisting of Alex Dawson, Ollie Hall, Roman Morgan, and Simeon Tedd came second in the Virtual World Cross Country Challenge (a 4 x 2km relay) in the Under 12 age group.

Simeon also finished 8th in the individual race of 2kms, with Harriet Williams in 26th place. There was fierce competition in this category with individuals entering from all over the world including Australia, Canada, USA, Sweden, Switzerland, Latvia and Zimbabwe.

Elijah Tedd, Year 2, finished second in the 1km race, 1 second behind the winner but both 20 seconds clear of third and fourth.



House Rugby

Year 5 and 6 enjoyed the House Rugby which was very close and resulted in a three way tie between Buckden Pike, Pen-y-ghent and Whernside.

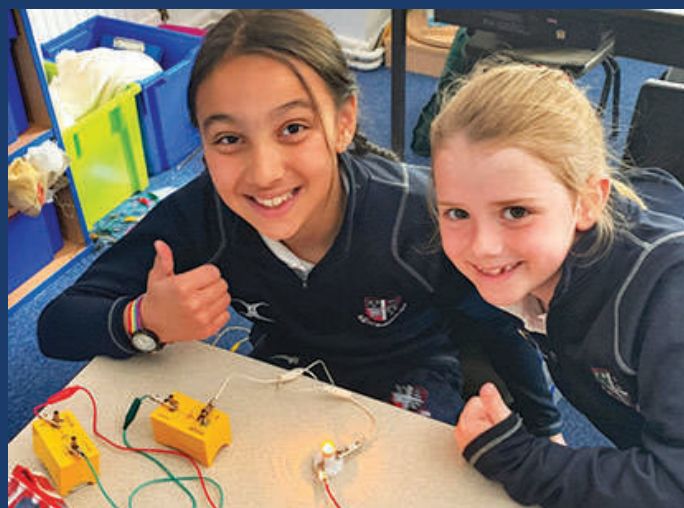
It is always amazing to see the inventive ways that our pupils are taught science. Here are a few examples across the year groups.

Year 1 learnt about the senses of taste and touch. They realised how difficult it is to identify objects when they didn't have all their senses. They tried to guess objects, with their hands covered. They also wore a blindfold to try and guess food just by taste without their sense of sight.

Year 3 have been busy studying the human body and skeletons in Science. Our budding paleontologists found an assortment of bones from the field!

Year 3 created a range of plastic sea creature sculptures to highlight the importance of stopping plastic pollution.

Year 4 have been electricians in training. They have been testing and fault finding circuits and investigating what happens when different numbers of components are used in a circuit.



Science Throughout the School



Year 5 have been investigating which material should be used to develop a new brake pad as part of their science work about forces. They tested which materials create the most friction and recorded the results.



Year 6 have been looking at the physiological effect of different drugs on the body in their science lessons.

Year 6 Moving on

It's time for Year 6 to be moving on..... We asked them to think about their time at Brontë House and what they will miss most.

What is your favourite or funniest memory?

The zipline at Ford Castle seems to be a favourite memory. Many felt a little scared before they did it, but then were very proud once they had finished. The girls mentioned jumping and pushing each other off the canoes on the residential in the Lakes, whilst a key memory for the boys was racing their suitcases across the dorm in Whitby and playing dobble for hours.



My favourite moment was going to see the play Dorothy. My friends and I had a great time.

Zahra

My funniest moment was just before cross country when we were all dancing to the song 'Rain On Me' and then it actually started raining!

Amelia

On World Book Day I dressed up as Daisy from Murder Most Unladylike and I wore a dress, tights and a wig.

Isaac

When Mr Graham put on a video called Guinea Pig Olympics and songs by Number Rock.

Leisha

One of my funniest memories was throwing wet sponges at Mr Dunn.

Caragh

What will you miss most about Brontë House?

The food, the lovely dining staff and the teachers scored very highly on this question. Some of the children talked about missing the environment and the comfort of being at Brontë House, as many had been there since Nursery.

I will miss the teachers, they make lessons interesting and have a great sense of humour.

Caelan

I will miss studying War Horse and WW1 in Year 6.

Emily C

What are you looking forward to most about going to Woodhouse Grove?

Many of Year 6 were excited about meeting new friends, taking new subjects, trying new clubs and enjoying all the facilities such as the climbing wall. Although they loved the safety and familiarity of Brontë House, I think quite a few are looking forward to more independence.

The kind, helpful teachers, the World Book Days and Halloween dress up days, the playgrounds and fun swim days.

Aaron

I will miss the teachers, the children and the 'wake-up' workout we do each morning.

Adesh

I will miss not being able to wear shorts when it gets hot in Summer.

Alex D

Playing my guitar in the recording studio, the swimming pool and the science labs.

William N-B

The sport and being more free and independent and you can take in better snacks.

Seb

I am looking forward to making new friends, meeting my teachers and exploring the campus.

Isobel

Studying science in more depth, new challenges, new friends, climbing wall and swimming starting again.

Aaron



Indoor + Outdoor Activities = Enhanced Learning at Ashdown

Ashdown Lodge

Our younger pupils are extremely fortunate to have such a vast outdoor area to explore. Not only do they benefit from our adventure playground and covered sand pit, but they can enjoy all the sports fields, bushcraft area and gardens on offer at Brontë House.

By utilising all of these facilities for our Nursery children, we can enhance indoor learning and encourage greater interaction.

Pre-Nursery studied the book 'Supertato' and planted their own potatoes in the garden. They created their own Supertatos and printed with potato shapes.



Pre-Nursery's transport topic earlier in the year combined junk modelling their own vehicles with outdoor construction of a car with multi-coloured wheels.



Summer Transition

It's not only Year 6 who are thinking about transition and change in September. Reception have been thinking about their move up to Year 1. One of the benefits of moving from Nursery to Brontë House, and then Brontë House to Woodhouse Grove, is that each stage can be carefully managed and the next steps can be made as familiar as possible leading to a smoother transition. Reception talked with their teachers about worries that they might have and that it is ok to be nervous about change. They made a worry doll so that they could tell it about any worries they had.



In Nursery, they used the outdoor play equipment as part of their measuring to see how long or short items were. They measured the train to see how many of our 'feet' long it was. The children also walked around the grounds looking for signs of Spring. They found daffodils, violets, daisies and buds on the trees.



A Fond Farewell...

We say farewell to a number of Grove staff this year including Mr Hole who has been at the Grove for 31 years, our Finance Manager, Mr Ainsworth, who has been at the Grove for 14 years, Mr Vernon who is taking up a role in Russia (see page 13) and Mr Wilson who has been a valued member of the estates team for 12 years. We wish them and all our other leavers the best for the future.

Mr Hole has been instrumental in the coordination and administration of our House system for many years. We interviewed him to find out how he feels about leaving.

What are your favourite memories about working here?

Other than getting married in the school chapel, some of my favourite memories are being fortunate enough to go on two rugby tours, both to New Zealand and Australia with one also including Fiji. A bungee jump in Queenstown was a thrilling experience.

As both a parent and member of staff I used to love being able to watch Grove teams competing across a wide range of different sports.

What roles have you held at School?

As well as becoming the first Senior Housemaster in 2005, I have also been Head of Chemistry and Head of various year groups. I also run the School Council and previously I edited News from The Grove and I coached both rugby and cricket teams for several years.

What is your favourite meal at Woodhouse Grove?

I always enjoyed the cricket teas. Chicken pie has also been a favourite over the years.

What are your plans for when you leave Woodhouse Grove?

Plenty of reading, walking and hopefully travelling in the near future. I would love to be able to go back to New Zealand at some point with my wife and we had planned to go to Florence last summer before it was cancelled.

I would also like to do some voluntary work for a hospice.

Unfortunately, I have given up on the idea of a nationwide tour as a stand-up comedian as the pupils keep telling me my jokes are just not funny.



2006 Touring Party

What 3 things would you take to a desert island?

- 1 A family photograph.
- 2 I love reading historical based novels so a book by someone like C J Sansom or Kate Mosse.
- 3 A bar of very cold Cadbury's milk chocolate – not very practical but I do like chocolate.

What will you miss most about Woodhouse Grove?

I really enjoy being in the chemistry laboratory teaching pupils, particularly A-level. I will also miss being part of the House system and the range of activities and responsibilities it provides for pupils. Of course, I will miss the staff, pupils, parents and the school grounds.

Anything else you would like to share?

The Grove is an outstanding school. The staff are superb, it has excellent pupils, supportive parents and the grounds are fantastic. I feel very fortunate to have taught here for so long and I will miss it enormously.

Diary Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2021

Boarders return Sunday 5th September from 4pm
Term begins Monday 6th September at 8.30am
Half term begins Friday 15th October 4pm
Boarders return from 6pm on Sunday 31st October
Term recommences Monday 1st November at 8.30am
Term ends Wednesday 15th December 4pm

SPRING TERM 2022

Boarders return Tuesday 4th January from 6pm
Term begins Wednesday 5th January at 8.30am
Half term begins Friday 18th February 4pm
Boarders return from 6pm on Sunday 27th February
Term recommences Monday 28th February at 8.30am
Term ends Friday 1st April 4pm