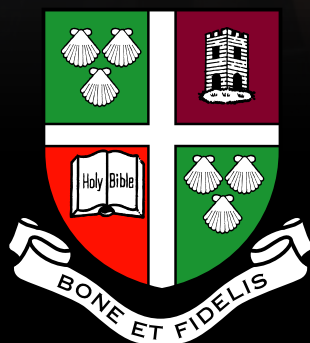


NEWS FROM THE Grove

The Newsletter of Woodhouse Grove School



Winter 2021



Mr Brian Greenwood

In July this year, we sadly said farewell to Mr Brian Greenwood. Mr Greenwood enjoyed a continuous association with Woodhouse Grove for more than 85 years. He was the youngest pupil ever to join the School upon the opening of Brontë House in 1934 and left the Grove in 1945, having been its longest serving pupil at that time – 11 years and one term.

Continued involvement with the school culminated in 1959, with an invitation to join the School's Board of Governors. From 1969 until 2009, Mr Greenwood was Chairman of Governors, and holds the distinction of being the longest serving Chairman of Governors to have held office in any Public School. Upon his retirement from the Board, Mr Greenwood became the School's very first Honorary President, a role he held for the rest of his remarkable life.

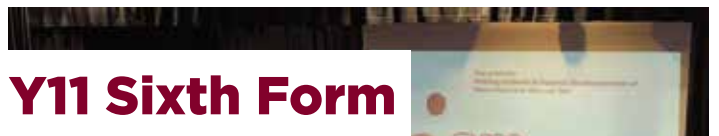
All of this was accomplished in parallel with an extremely active business career which embraced various industries both at home and in the U.S.A.

Mr Greenwood has dedicated many years to Woodhouse Grove, in many different roles and our thoughts and prayers are with Brian's family.



New Uniform

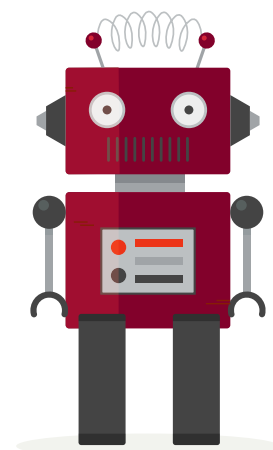
It has been lovely to see the new uniform appearing around school. It is clear that the new uniform is more vibrant and more suited to the modern world, whilst still maintaining the traditional school colours. Thank you for your support through the transition period and the changeover to new suppliers.



At the beginning of term, our Year 11 students experienced a day as a Sixth Form pupil. They wore business dress rather than uniform, attended A-level and BTEC lessons, enjoyed the Sixth Form Centre and sampled the delights of Woody's café, as well as hearing from our teachers about how Sixth Form prepares them for the future.

Insight4me Economics

Our Sixth Form economics students took part in the insight4me Economics – Externalities & Government Intervention event with Goldsmiths and the University of London. The live stream event was a great success and pupils learnt a lot from all of the speakers, as well as gaining an insight into how economics is taught at Universities.



Robot Club

Robot Club, which has been relaunched this September, is a weekly club for Years 7 and 8. Our younger members really appreciate the support of sixth formers who come along to help when available.

Recently there was much excitement and a grand unboxing of two new Lego Spike Prime sets that have replaced the venerable Mindstorms kits. Members of the club have just finished assembling them.

Now that the basic robots have been assembled, members will start to look at the different ways of programming them (e.g. Scratch, Python), then adding further functionality. The aim is to enter a team into the First Lego League which is a global competition.



Green Grove Riverbank

Students involved in the Green Grove Riverbank project have been working hard this term and have cleared a significant amount of the invasive Himalayan Balsam weed. The student pioneers learned about the damage Himalayan Balsam does to the riverbanks and how to remove it. The Tesco Community Grant that has been awarded for this project will help to fund more beneficial planting on the riverbank, such as willow and fruit trees, which can improve natural flood resistance.



Reach for the Stars

Climbing club has been a storming success this year, with junior climbers turning up each week to learn about belaying, rope work and foot technique on the wall, or simply enjoying climbing games such as fruit ninja, limbo and shark attack! Our regular members are steadily working their way through each climb, ticking them off only once they can climb it without falling. Despite a few nerves at first, everyone is now able to get to the top. The club has been so successful, we've expanded to another night for juniors!



Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-bullying week took place in November and activities took place each day to remind pupils to be kind and to raise awareness of this issue. There were assemblies to educate students, as well as fun activities such as Odd Socks Day. We also had a social media kindness day and a kind word board which was filled in just a few hours!

First Class Honours



We are delighted for our four most recent Oxbridge graduates who all gained first class honours degrees from their respective colleges.

Tori Watson read PPE at Oxford and is now on placement with the Civil Service Fast Track Scheme. Cecilia Zhao also graduated from Oxford having read Geography and is working for an investment bank in London. Cecilia joined our prep school and boarded at Woodhouse Grove for a number of years.

Ellie Halstead read Music at Oxford, and Georgia Marker graduated with a starred first class History degree from Cambridge and is studying for her Masters at Goldsmiths, London.

Georgia, and current Oxford University student Abbie Nott, recently came to talk to some of our final year pupils about the Oxbridge applications process and life at these universities. Abbie has just started an English Language and Literature degree at St Catherine's College, Oxford.

Women in STEM

Congratulations to Grovians, Kiah Bardouille-Lewis, Adela Durmekova, Kadia Barry and Bella Miles, all Year 12, who were selected to take part in Upskillme's Empowered Females in STEM Programme. This 6 month programme provides students with the opportunity to meet inspiring female leaders working at some of the UK's biggest companies, and connect with female mentors from top STEM organisations.



Medical Leavers

We caught up with a couple of Old Grovians who recently graduated with medical degrees to find out about their University experiences.

Aaron Soane, Grovian 2008 -15, went to the University of Manchester to study medicine. He kindly came in to school this term and hosted a Q&A session for students considering a career in medicine.



Why did you choose this course and did you enjoy it?

I enjoyed science at school and I've always enjoyed interacting with people. I also wanted a job that would allow me to have a positive impact on people's lives. Combining these led to being a doctor.

The course surpassed my expectations with a wide range of tutorials and skills sessions in my weekly timetable, ranging from anatomy and full body cadaver dissection to pharmacology and communication skills.

What area of medicine are you studying at present?

I'm currently in the second of my two foundation years of being a junior doctor, rotating specialties every 4 months. I'm currently working in palliative care, looking after patients who may be approaching the end of their lives.

What do you particularly enjoy about your job?

I feel privileged to be able to look after people when they're at their most vulnerable. Being able to assess, diagnose and treat patients' illnesses is really rewarding. From prescribing pain relief to performing procedures, you never stop learning new skills or improving existing ones.

What have been the biggest challenges?

Covid has been a huge struggle. I opted to graduate early so that I could work on the front line at Manchester Royal Infirmary during the first wave of covid and since then I've only ever worked in the NHS whilst there's been an ongoing pandemic. Increased shifts, staff sickness, limited resources and dealing frequently with worst case scenarios have been massive obstacles for a newly-qualified doctor.

Would you recommend your career to students?

Absolutely. It's a tough job but every career has its challenges. The satisfaction I get from coming home at the end of the day and knowing I've made a difference to someone's life is a feeling like no other. Medicine is also a massively diverse field to work in; your day-to-day job can range from being a neurosurgeon operating in theatres, to being a psychiatrist treating mental health illnesses.

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

Confidence in my own abilities; teachers and boarding staff always encouraged me to improve and try new things, both in and out of the classroom. The social skills I developed at school have helped carry me through all aspects of my life; from making friends at uni to working with senior consultants.

Natasha Whitcombe, Grovian 2013 - 16, retook one A-level at the Grove after just missing out on her first year of application. She then went on to study dentistry at the University of Manchester.

Why did you choose dentistry?

When I finished my GCSE's I knew I wanted to do something in the medical field, but wasn't sure medicine was quite the right fit for me. I considered several healthcare careers, but none really sparked that interest. Through my own dental experiences I understood the value of being given your smile back, and I liked that it was a career that offers continual opportunity for specialisation across a broad field.

**Was it what you expected? If not, how did it differ from your perceptions when you left school?**

I was surprised by how much full body anatomy you need to know as a Dentist, it isn't just the head and neck! Many systemic conditions impact the mouth and alter the manner in which dental treatment can be carried out. You need a broad understanding of bodily systems (e.g. liver and kidney function, respiratory function etc) to safely plan treatment and avoid complications.

What do you particularly enjoy about your job?

I find paediatric dentistry really fun and rewarding, so one of my favourite parts of the job is treating children. I also really enjoy helping anxious patients access care.

What have been the biggest challenges so far?

At the beginning I was frustrated by the challenge of learning new areas, and had to dig deep to find the confidence and self belief to get through. It is really refreshing to look back at subject areas that were once challenging, but now the terminology and content are a normal part of my everyday vocabulary and knowledge.

Would you recommend your career to current students?

Yes, absolutely! I think one of the most valuable pieces of advice is to give yourself the space to learn. The courses are very competitive, and you may face set backs that you are perhaps not used to. Try not to get disheartened or frustrated if you find things challenging. A little resilience goes a long way!

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

When I decided to resit one of my subjects and re-apply to Dentistry, the staff at The Grove went above and beyond to support me to achieve my goal. I had the determination to try again, but the effort put in by members of staff to help me, is what taught me perseverance and resilience. The skills I learnt at WGS, equipped me to study Dentistry, but also helped me to cope with pressures beyond academia.

THE SIXTH FORM AT WOODHOUSE GROVE



Freddie Ziegler and Lucy Thornton

As Sixth Form prefects, we were asked to apply for additional roles in school that would give us work experience. We chose marketing and throughout this term we have been working with the marketing team on the “@yoursixthform” Instagram, a virtual open day tour and writing this article for News From The Grove.



The Sixth Form centre is a massive part of our school life, and we would like to give you an insight to the people behind it all...the teachers.

Mr Softley

What's your role?

Director of Sixth Form

What's the best part of your job?

Having the opportunity to support students on their journey to reaching their potential. My Sixth Form experience had a big impact on my life, and I am passionate about creating the same opportunity for others.

And what's the worst!?

Having the temptation of Woody's café!

Why is Sixth Form different?

The aim is for students to have a more independent educational experience than they may have previously been used to, whilst still having the support network in place.

The students will experience different relationships with teachers and peers as they join a Sixth Form where two year groups come together. Students have more of a say on their academic programmes and can create a bespoke programme that will help them to reach their potential.

You're originally from Norwich – what brought you to Yorkshire?

Yorkshire is definitely home now. University was the reason why I came to Yorkshire and I suppose it is not too dissimilar to Norwich; plenty of countryside and average football teams!

Mrs Limbert

What is your role?

My role is to help Year 11 to make decisions around their academic programme before they start Year 12. Once in Year 12, I monitor their progress, and liaise with students, staff and parents/guardians.

As part of the Sixth Form team, our door is always open and we are here to help not just with academic problems, but also printer jams and lost items of clothing!

What is your Sixth Form café order?

Ooh, this is a tricky one. I would always go for a cappuccino in terms of hot drinks and have been known to partake of a raspberry iced tea. I will probably be sampling the seasonal hot drinks, possibly a hot chocolate with whipped cream and marshmallows!

You teach English Literature, what is your favourite book?

It is so hard to name one book. Books are like friends, you have different ones for different times in your life. I love everything that Maggie O'Farrell has written. She writes beautifully and with great empathy, 'The Hand that First Held Mine' has brought me to tears every time I have read it, as did her 2020 novel, 'Hamnet'.

A book that had a profound effect on me was a little known novel, 'This Thing of Darkness' by Harry Thompson. It is a novel about Darwin's voyage of discovery on 'The Beagle' and it led me to investigate that period of time in more detail. My guilty pleasure is JoJo Moyes; her novels are like getting into a warm bath, comforting and relaxing.

What's your favourite thing about working at WGS?

I don't think I can just write 'the homemade cookies' can !! My favourite thing is that everyone cares. Somebody always asks how you are, and more importantly, they listen to your answer.

What's the hardest part of teaching?

Teaching is so multifaceted that it is not easy to say which parts are 'easy' and which parts are 'hard'. Because we are working with human beings, there is always an element of the unknown which makes for exciting times and sometimes difficult situations.

What's a time where you wish you'd done something differently?

Every day I wish I had approached something differently, but as I have grown older, I have realised that instead of dwelling on it, learn from it and do it differently next time.



Mr Whitlam

What is your role?

Supporting the pastoral needs of students within the Sixth Form, from attendance to 1-1 guidance. I also manage the boarding provision for girls and boys.

Why did you want to work in education and at the Grove?

I always felt that my life experiences to date meant I was well placed to work with young people. Having been a boarder as a child, and with pastoral experience in secondary education, I wanted to help them realise their true potential, so I joined the Grove boarding team.

What's your favourite memory so far at the Grove?

Probably the Duke of Edinburgh expedition last year. It was a very rewarding experience to be out with students and seeing them work together to overcome challenging circumstances.

What's your favourite Boarding trip?

The York Ice Sculpture trip two years ago; it was a great day out, in an interesting city, with good people.

You were in the Army. What was that like?

It feels like a lifetime ago now and a very different career! I enjoyed travelling and working with a diverse group of people. The sense of camaraderie and enduring some very demanding tours as a team, gave me some of my best memories.



Oxbridge. Industry experience.
Chemistry Olympiad. Creative Arts.
London College of Fashion. Degree
Apprenticeships. Veterinary Science.
Medicine. RADA. A-levels. Russell
Group University. Straight into work.



Mr Howcroft Runs Woody's Café

Do you like the job?

I love it, seeing the sixth formers and the rest of the school enjoying their day is great! Also the bustle of the morning break in the café takes me back to my restaurant days!!

Where did you work before this?

I sold my business, Madeley Daires last year and set up Release the Hounds secure dog walking field. Working at the café fits perfectly around this.

What is the best item at the Sixth Form café?

Has to be the toffee bun(sweet) or bacon and cheese turnover (savory).

Any plans for any Christmas related food and drink in Woody's?

We have the festive latte and hot chocolate that we will be changing monthly. Also, some fantastic festive sausage rolls on sale throughout December.

**Set your
own path** 



Legally Blonde Jnr

Legally Blonde JR. follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes, snobbery and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. When Elle's boyfriend, Warner, dumps her and heads to Harvard, Elle takes matters into her own hands.

A collaboration of more than 30 students, primarily performed by students from Years 11, 12 & 13 with a supporting cast from Year 10 and a backstage crew from Year 13. The production was led by Mrs Baker, with support from Ms Evers, Theatre Technician, Miss Meredith-Walne and an amazing set design by Mr Allison, Head of Design and Technology.

Mrs Baker said, "This was my sixth production for the school and once again, students have showcased their commitment, enthusiasm and support of one another, and created a production they can all be extremely proud of".

The audience were blown away by the energy on stage as Legally Blonde is such a feel-good show - just what was needed after such a long absence from live performances.



Two of our cast members told us about their involvement;

WINNIE OFFLAND – *Elle Woods*

I was really excited to get the part of Elle, she is such a fun and bubbly character to play. Although it was hard to fit all the rehearsals in, it's such a nice thing to do at the end of each day that it was worth every second.

My favourite song in the show is 'Legally Blonde' even though it's the saddest and slowest in such an upbeat show. I love the emotion in it and how the audience get to see another side to Elle.

I have had some previous experience of school shows so I wasn't too nervous. I played Mrs Honey in Matilda in Year 8 and Talullah in Bugsy Malone just before we went into lockdown. However, this has been my favourite by far.



SAMUEL BINNS - *Professor Callahan, a respected and feared lecturer at Harvard*

I have always loved musicals and was incredibly excited to get this role; until I realised the amount of work I had to put in! I have actually rather enjoyed being so busy.

I hadn't even heard of Legally Blonde before auditions, but once I knew I had the part of Professor Callahan, I watched the film to get a good grasp of my character.

I love my song in the show, it was really fun to sing. Lots of the songs are filled with so much energy, however, my favourite is "Ireland". This song has a unique feel, and Paulette (played by Lily Sugden) sings this song beautifully and full of emotion.

The set design for this play is my favourite of any school production so far. It's simplicity, yet massive functionality gives it an incredibly professional feel, and it spins! Well done to the DT team for making such a great set!



The Year 7 & 8 Spotlight show was the school's first live public performance in the theatre for 21 months. The performers were excellent and the show was packed with talent, including dance, drama, drums, electric guitar, piano and solo and group vocal performances. There was even a remote performance on the big screen by Thomas who was side-lined with injury.



Distinctions All Round

Congratulations to the following students who took music theatre and drama exams recently. All of our students were awarded a distinction following their exam.

Speech and Drama

Moses Amedzro, Level 1 Speech & Drama	<i>Distinction</i>
Edward Cooper, Level 1 Speech & Drama	<i>Distinction</i>
Isabelle Woodley, Level 2 Speech & Drama	<i>Distinction</i>
Charles McLarnon, Level 2 Speech & Drama	<i>Distinction</i>
Harry Wilde, Level 3 Speech & Drama	<i>Distinction</i>
Eilidh Molloy, Level 3 Speech & Drama	<i>Distinction</i>
Ellen Dawes, Level 4 Acting	<i>Distinction</i>
Betsy Raj, Level 4 Acting	<i>Distinction</i>
Winnie Offland, Level 5 Acting	<i>Distinction</i>
Tilly Raj, Level 5 Acting	<i>Distinction</i>
Chloe Cater, Level 6 Speech & Drama	<i>Distinction</i>



Some of the students who recently achieved distinctions in their performing arts exams.

LCM Music Theatre

Maisey Bellwood, Grade 3	<i>Distinction</i>
Eilidh Molloy, Grade 3	<i>Distinction</i>
Nicole Cater, Grade 5	<i>Distinction</i>
Ruby Clark, Grade 5	<i>Distinction</i>
Matilda Holt, Grade 5	<i>Distinction</i>
Chloe Cater, Grade 6	<i>Distinction</i>
Ella Manogue, Grade 6	<i>Distinction</i>
Leah Spence, Grade 6	<i>Distinction</i>



Welcome Back

It has been wonderful to welcome back our boarders. We are proud of how they have fully immersed themselves back into boarding life and seem very committed to their studies and co-curricular activities.

Our buddies evening at the beginning of term was a great way for our current Grovians to welcome our new boarders and help them to settle in. We also had a number of birthdays this term, including an 18th with all the girls in Miller House coming together to celebrate her special day with cake and decorations.

Christmas Ball



The Hastings-Long Gallery looked beautiful for the boarders' Christmas Ball. Our catering team provided amazing food followed by singing, fireworks, candy floss and some questionable dance moves! The highlight, of course, was the post meal dodgem cars; frantic and furious! A lovely fun way to finish the term.



Remembrance Day Service

Boarders enjoyed making more than 250 poppies for Remembrance Sunday with Reverend Atkins. It was great to see so many cultures come together to pay their respects at the Remembrance Day Service in the School Chapel.



Boarding Legends



At the start of this term we created our "Boarding Legends of the Week".

Students are acknowledged for their contribution to anything from academic achievements, sporting success, being kind and helpful, and generally being an all-round asset to boarding. Recent winners included Alex for scoring 100% in his Economics exam; Nana who displayed great piano skills and serenaded everyone during one weekend; Noah who contributed to two great rugby wins for our U15 team and Sammi for outstanding achievements in DT.

Baking, Yoga and Climbing



In addition to several new students representing the school for the first time at rugby and netball, we have seen more than 20 boys attend baking classes as part of the evening boarding programme. Boarders from both girls and boys boarding have also taken advantage of our new yoga classes, which support student wellbeing. One of our youngest Chinese boarders was super proud to reach the top of our climbing wall during one of the planned evening activities.



Remember, Remember



Boarders enjoyed one of our historical events with s'mores, toffee apples, hot chocolate and a firework display finale on November 5th. This was the first time a number of our international students had experienced the bonfire night tradition.

S'mores or toffee apples? "S'mores, always!" *Chloe*



"The bonfire night was good fun. It's always nice sitting round a fire whilst having marshmallows. The night was also topped off with great fireworks." *David*

Weekends Away



Our boarders enjoyed a fantastic weekend trip to Alton Towers theme park earlier in the term. Great fun on the rides as well as bringing extra passengers home on the bus!

We locked the boarders up for a while recently..... they needed teamwork to find the clues and solve the problems to unlock the Escape Rooms and beat the clock!

I enjoyed working with other boarders that I don't often have the chance to spend time with. I'm really good at escape rooms and take lots of credit for us finishing 15 mins early! *Chloe*

The escape room was really enjoyable. It was a good time to bond with others and use my problem solving skills to complete the escape. *David*



Cornish Cross Country Capers

The Grove's cross-country squad made school history this term when all four teams qualified for the National Final of the English School's Athletics Association's cross-country Cup. At the beginning of December, the squad enjoyed a three-day trip to Newquay, Cornwall.

The long journey did not quell their enthusiasm. George felt that one of the highlights of her trip was "bonding with the other Grove squads and getting to know them better", and the long coach rides allowed plenty of opportunity for them to do this. We stayed in the Blue Room Surf Lodge, Newquay and several of the junior girls made light work of their steak and chips on the first night. Tife and Cleo agreed that "the food was definitely one of the best parts of the trip!". Breakfasts and pack lunches were prepared by TV chef and sports nutritionist, Rosie Mansfield.

As this was a national final, the course itself was a challenging one, with steep hills and sharp corners; William said that "all the hill training we did beforehand really helped in the race".

The first race was the Inter girls, who ran in a rare glimpse of sunshine. Maisey Bellwood went out hard and worked her way up the pack, finishing in an incredible second place. She was followed by her teammates, club captain Eilidh Molloy, George Rayner, Gaelle Carrasco, Alyse Warburton and Jenny Ingham.

Next up were the Junior boys, who raced hard, but were surprised by the very fast start; James McClarnon was our first junior over the finish line in 51st place. He was followed by Rafe McCormack, Simeon Tedd, Ollie Hall, William Thornhill and Henry Shimmin. Simeon said "the course was really difficult, and we learnt that, next time, we'll have to push our way through the pack at the very start to get those high positions."

Next was the Inter boys' race, and, added to the high winds that had already made running difficult that day, were horizontal hail stones! Archie Peaker, who finished 9th, remarked that "the hail stones were the hardest part of the race – they pelted your face and eyes, but we just had to push through it". The pursuing Inter boys were captain Harry Bates, Ethan Taylor, Zach Taylor, Ayomide Solaru and Jacob Best.

The last race of the day was the Junior girls' race: Macie Donaldson was followed by, Charley Clark-Taylor, Harriet Williams, Cleo Hainsworth, Tife Solaru and Georgie Cothliff. The conditions under-foot were hard for these girls: five races' worth of runners

had churned the ground up. Georgie said that "by the time Junior girls raced, the course was slick with mud. Even with 12mm spikes, we had to scramble up the hills".

Overall, the Inter girls finished in 16th, Junior boys 18th, Inter boys 19th and Junior girls 27th. The celebratory meal at Pizza Express that evening was well deserved and thoroughly enjoyed.



On Sunday, the squad enjoyed an early jog down to the beach just after sunrise. They played on the beach, jumped in the waves and did a little barefoot jogging on the sand before the long coach ride home. As staff, we are so proud of them for reaching the national final and for running so hard on a tough course, battling their way to the finish. This is such a promising set of young athletes with a bright future ahead of them; 17 of the 24 were making their debut this season.

Article written by Miss Hughes





Fencing

With its reintroduction to the school last year, the fencing club has grown from strength to strength and an average of 30 pupils attend each week from Years 7, 8 and 9. Our first target tournament is The Yorkshire County Championships on 26th February. Three pupils also attended an extra training session held by the Northern Sports Academy Fencing Club over half term and trained with University of Leeds and Harrogate fencing club.

Our Year 8 and 9 fencers benefit from the support and advice from Kira Grahamslaw, Year 10, who recently competed at the Cadet Epee tournament in Serbia. Kira tells us a little about this experience.

What was it like fencing for GB?

I was so excited to be selected to compete for the GB Cadet Epee squad as it meant I had earned my GB stripes at only 14 years old in an U17 age group. I was quite nervous as I knew I'd be competing in my biggest competition yet with more than 340 fencers from over 20 countries; I was the only GB fencer from the north of England!

In the first round, I fenced girls from Serbia, Russia, Greece, Switzerland and Hungary – the girl from Greece was really friendly and spoke very good English. Before round two, they eliminated the bottom 25% of fencers – none of the younger fencers made the cut, including me! So I supported the other GB fencers for the rest of the day.

My coaches in Manchester were really pleased that I had scored good points in almost every match. If I had scored just three more points, I might have made the cut – that will be my aim next time. I am currently ranked 24th in the Great Britain cadet epee rankings but I'm hoping to increase that back to the top 20 in the next few ranking competitions which will mean I am selected to fence internationally again.



Grove Sports Podcast

The Grove Sports Podcast was launched in September and a number of episodes have now been recorded with a variety of guest teachers joining Mr Wenham and Mr Barr to talk all things sport. Some of the topics discussed so far include the PE Department bake-off, rugby coaching within the school, the T20 Cricket World Cup, Mr Barr's Movember moustache and most recently an interview with Grovian, James Whitcombe, now playing his rugby at Leicester Tigers.



Football

Congratulations to Luke Harrop, Year 13 and James Edgley, Year 11 who have been selected to represent Independent Schools Football (ISFA) U18 and U16 National squads for their upcoming fixtures. It is an excellent achievement to be selected from the most talented boys in the country to represent the national team.

Cricket



We are delighted to be part of the Cricketer Schools Guide for 2022 and to, once again, be named as one of their top 100 cricketing schools.

Work has started on the new outdoor cricket net project, which is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2022 season. The new 4 lane net facility will provide a high quality practice area for all of our cricketers.

The winter cricket programme will commence in January, including sessions for boys and girls of all year groups. We are all looking forward to a full Summer of cricket!



Netball



With over 100 fixtures played so far, netball has got off to a fast-paced and exciting start. More than 200 girls committed to weekly training has resulted in great progress being made across all the age groups.

Our U19 1st VII are through to the next round of the National Schools in January, having won their regional tournament; the highlight of which was a 13-5 win against GSAL.

Our 2nd VII had substantial victories against Queen Margaret's (20-0) and then Ashville College (16-41) in the SistersnSport National Netball Cup to reach a 3rd round match against Queen Ethelburgas.

Both U15 and U12 teams are through to the next round of the School Sports Mag Cup. The U12s beat Crossley Heath and Scarisbrook Hall School and will face Wilmslow High School just before Christmas. The U15s also beat Crossley Heath and Goole Academy 14-54 and will face Grange School in the next round. We wish both teams all the best.

Congratulations to the following girls who have all been selected for representational netball;

Manchester Thunder Squad - Grace Ross: U15, Bella Strudwick: U12

Leeds Rhinos Squad - Harriet King: U19, Emma Okpala: U17, Phoebe Turner: U17, Summer Anderson: U17

Leeds Rhinos Academy - George Rayner and Jess Strudwick

Leeds District Netball - Caragh Jemmett and Abigail Stirk U12, Naomi Musariri and Pippa Bennett U13



Rugby

School rugby has returned with more boys wanting to participate and represent the school. We fielded 14 teams on Saturday 6th November with approximately 200 boys representing Woodhouse Grove and Brontë House and have consistently fielded an U15B team which has always been difficult in previous years. Some highlights include;

1st XV with an 80% win ratio having only lost to Sedbergh School and unfortunately more recently, Barnard Castle who knocked them out of the last 16 of the National Cup. We are currently 13th in the Daily Mail Trophy;

WGS U13 and U12 teams performing well which bodes well for the future.

George Worthington our 1st XV captain was selected to take part in a rugby training weekend for England U18's at St George's Park in Burton in November.



Ben Turpin, George Worthington, George Heptinstall, Archie Medway, Louis Worrall, Ned McCormack and Harry Willard have all been selected to play for Yorkshire Academy in the upcoming Academy League season.

Freddie Ziegler, Charlie Plein and Paul Blakey are also in contention for the Yorkshire County team.

Max Hassan is part of the Bradford Bulls U19 Rugby League Academy set-up and Archie Hurford and Fergus McCormack are in the Leeds Rhinos U16 Academy.



Harvest Festival

Thank you to everyone who attended our two Harvest Festival services and for all your donations. At this current time, the key messages of looking out for others and helping whenever we can, are important for our pupils to understand.

As part of the harvest topic, Year 2 joined approximately 25,000 school children from around the UK for a live lesson organised by the National Farmers' Union. Harvest Live 2021 gave pupils the opportunity to go on a quest through the countryside to collect an assortment of ingredients, learn about them and meet the people responsible for producing them.



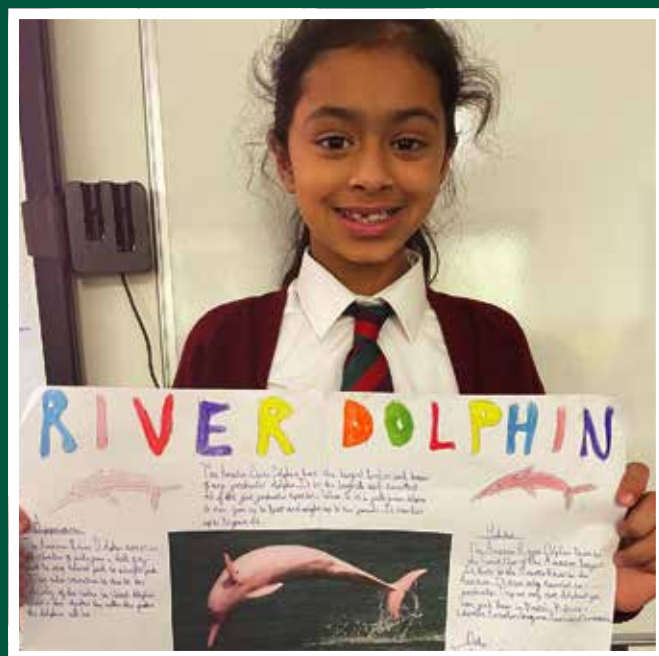
School Council



This term, candidates for our School Council spent time preparing and presenting their election speeches. Some of the pupils didn't feel that confident about speaking in public, but wanted to challenge themselves. Well done to everyone who put themselves forward and to those elected to School Council 2021/22.



Year 5 Met Raymond!



Year 5 enjoyed a trip to Flamingo Land to enrich their learning about the Amazonian Rainforest. They enjoyed a guided tour of the creatures from South America and were brave enough to handle a variety of animals including Raymond the tenrec and a giant cockroach. The children were great ambassadors for the school, asking relevant questions and sharing their knowledge and love of animals. They continued researching this topic back at school and produced some amazing work.

Brontë House



Advent Calendar

Thanks to everyone who sang a song for the Brontë House social media advent calendar. There were some great entries with fantastic sign language, siblings singing together and all-round musical talent. We are hoping it is helping you all to get into the festive spirit.

Pizzas and Pyjamas



It was pizza and pyjamas all the way at the end of November – lots of fun organised by the Ashdown Brontë Association (ABA).

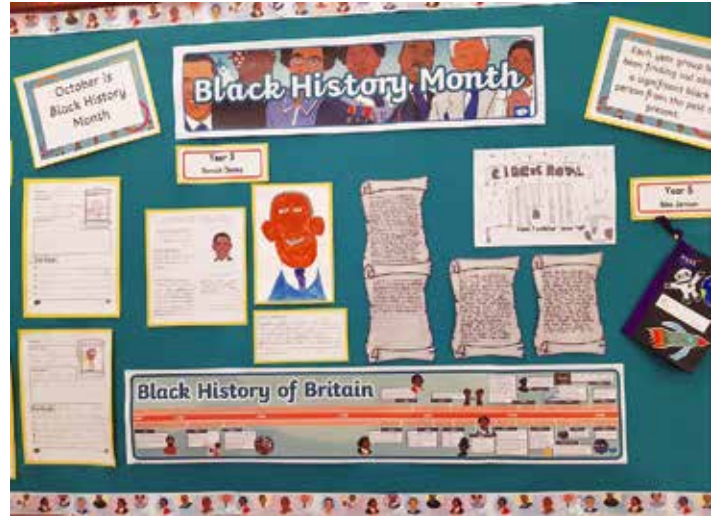
Pre-Nursery and Nursery enjoyed the day in their pyjamas. They baked, made crowns, played special outdoor games and ate a delicious pizza lunch.



Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 watched Paw Patrol, the movie whilst snuggled down with their teddies, blankets and friends. A perfect end to a cold, Autumn day.

Year 3 and Year 4 had a ball at their Pizza and Pyjama Party and Year 5 and 6 enjoyed popcorn whilst chilling with their friends.

Many thanks to the ABA for organising this event and to parents and staff who have supported the fundraisers over the years.



Black History Month

As part of Black History Month in October, a selection of children's work was displayed throughout School. From Barack Obama to Sir Mo Farah, the children learnt such a lot about the lives of these significant individuals.

Year 1 combined Black History Month with National Poetry Day and learned about the poet Benjamin Zephaniah. He started writing poetry when he was very young despite finding reading and writing difficult at school. The pupils listened to his poem 'People Will Always Need People' and discussed it's meaning after which the children wrote verses of their own.

Remembrance Service



The whole school gathered outside on Thursday 11th November for a Remembrance Assembly. The display of poppies, to commemorate 100 years of the Royal British Legion, were created by Years 5 and 6 in 'Let's Create' club with Mrs Malir. Thank you also to former Brontë House pupil Ruby who played The Last Post.





Outdoor Playground

Back in 2019, the ABA approached the School to request a major project to invest in that would benefit all children within the school. School Council representatives discussed this with their classes and the children voted to improve the playground provision. The current adventure playground has been in place for 12 years and requires significant attention. The decision was made to fundraise for a new structure, combined with a weatherproof safety surface, that would enable Years 1 to 6 to play all-year-round.

Phase one of the development is the large piece of equipment shown above. This will be placed in the central grass area and is planned for February 2022. Phase two will focus on the area that currently contains the storyteller's chair and trim trail equipment and may incorporate additional covered seating areas for those children who prefer to sit and chat with friends at playtimes.

We are incredibly fortunate at Brontë House to benefit from a highly supportive parental body and a group of volunteers who give so tirelessly of their time. The new playground is the result of the hard work of ABA members past and present over a number of years, and we can't wait to see the finished result.

We have been delighted by the levels of engagement from students in our inclusive and varied Games and after-school co-curricular sport programme this term. Activities have included rugby, netball, swimming, cross-country, box-fit, hockey and multi-sport.

We have also welcomed the return of inter-school fixtures to Brontë House for Years 3 to 6. This has enabled all students to be provided with the opportunity to represent the school in a competitive fixture in rugby and netball. Rugby and netball continue to be our main Autumn term sports and have provided our students with a large number of fixtures and festivals, including;

Year 4 rugby against Aysgarth and our U11 rugby in action in the Harrison Cup; the highlight being a win against QEGS.



Brontë Sport Summary



Year 3 and 4 netball against Richmond House and Highfield Prep and Year 5 and 6 netball against GSAL. Competitive matches with some wins, some losses and lots of learning.



The cross-country team have also had the opportunity to get back into competitive action and will be looking forward to a busy Spring term. We have also recently restarted inter-school swimming fixtures and it was great to host the first swimming fixtures in over two years at The Grove.

House fixtures continue to play a pivotal role in the sports programme, and offer all students with the opportunity to represent their House across all year groups. The first event we hosted was cross-country, when we welcomed parents back to the school site for the first action in two years and it was a real highlight of the term to watch all students from Years 1 to 6 compete in the event. House rugby and netball for Years 3 to 6 have also taken place, based at The Grove.



Brontë Clubs

The breadth of opportunity available to our students is never so obvious as when we look at the range of co-curricular clubs on offer. This half term alone there were over 30 different clubs available to Brontë House pupils from Nursery through to Year 6. From nature and railway club to sewing, knitting, touch typing and Mandarin and a range of sports clubs thrown in; something for everyone. A fantastic way to try new things and we asked a few club members what they had learned this term.

Languages

Sign Language club (Years 1 and 2) were challenged to get into birthday month order in only 5 minutes, without speaking. They also learned how to spell their names using sign language.



Year 3 are enjoying Mandarin lessons and have learned some everyday greetings, how to use the different tones (high, rising, rise-fall, falling and neutral), some numbers and character writing and have even adopted a new name.



Reception and Year 1 and 2 children can enjoy Spanish club as well as French; Camembear invited the members to a picnic to learn about French culture and the kitchen team baked croissants and pain au chocolat for them.

Science & Technology

STEM clubs have been set some engineering challenges over the last few weeks;

Years 1 and 2 had to build the tallest tower using 10 straws and some tape. They also had to create 3D shapes using marshmallows and toothpicks and then record the number of vertices, edges and faces on a chart.



Years 3 and 4 were challenged to make the strongest paper constructions possible; the winning entry holding an impressive 15 dictionaries.

Coding club, Years 5 and 6, created their own racing games. They designed and created characters and backgrounds and are programming their characters to move.



In Nature club, students collected lots of items of nature to match the colours on the colour wheel. The children found nearly all the colours and talked about why berries are bright colours. They recognised that throughout the seasons, the dominant colour might change.



Sports & Fitness

It is well documented that exercise can have huge mental as well as physical benefits. Pupils of all ages are encouraged to get involved with multisports, rugby, swimming, netball, cross country as well as some newer clubs such as yoga, body and balance, meditation and wellbeing, boxfit, dance and little ninjas.

Boxfit run by Mrs Riley, is one of the latest additions to our co-curricular programme. Year 3 and 4 practised with gloves and pads for the very first time.



Dance club at Ashdown Lodge with Miss Nancy is a very popular choice!



Our first Little Ninja's club took place this term for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children who learnt about front kicks, jabs and balance. Their instructor even brought in a real Champions belt for everyone to see.



Creative

Craft club and Junior art club used nature as their inspiration during the lovely weather in September. Craft club made pictures and sculptures using objects that they found outside (natural and man made) and junior art club collected natural materials to create amazing artwork, some with the addition of googly eyes.



Sewing club helps our youngest children to develop the skills of patience and persistence. Many of them mastered the up and down action of sewing and were ready to move onto binca fabric.

Poppy creation was a key feature recently. Brontë Knitwits, our school knitting club finished knitting lots of poppies before Remembrance Day and Let's Create club, under the guidance of Mrs Malir, made amazing poppies using plastic bottles.



Anti-bullying Week

The message for anti-bullying week in 2021 was One Kind Word. Anti-bullying week is a great opportunity to promote kindness, friendship and wellbeing throughout school. At Ashdown we believe that it is never too early to discuss and promote positive messages.



For Kindness Day in November, Nursery worked on filling their kindness jar by writing down the kind things they had done for someone, or that someone had done for them.

Nursery have also been talking about what makes a good friend and Pre-Nursery joined in wearing odd socks to celebrate what makes us unique.



New Kitchen



The children were excited when the new kitchen was installed in Ashdown Lodge and have been enjoying their family style lunches which are eaten everyday with our Nursery staff. They have also been using the kitchen for baking and used the oven for the first time to bake star shaped biscuits, to fit in with their letter 'S' theme.

Diary Dates

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

Summer Term 2022

Boarders return - Sunday 24th April from 6pm

Term begins - Monday 25th April at 8.30am

Exeat Weekend - Friday 29th April - Monday 2nd May 6.00pm

Half term begins - Friday 27th May 4pm

Boarders return - from 6pm on Sunday 5th June

Term recommences - Monday 6th June at 8.30am

Term ends - Friday 8th July midday

