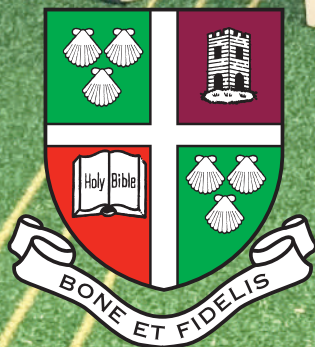


NEWS FROM THE Grove

The Newsletter of Woodhouse Grove School



Summer 2022

Launch of the Grove Award



This initiative was launched in September 2021 and is an opportunity for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 to gain recognition for participating in a range of activities; inside and outside school. To gain their badge and certificate, they must complete 5 challenges, covering at least 3 different categories.

The categories include:

Bone et Fidelis - supporting the community, for example litter picking, helping with the Green Grove River project, helping in the library or completing a sponsored bike ride

Performing Arts - for example attending 10 weeks of theatre tech club, performing in the Y7 /Y8 Spotlight show or attending 10 rehearsals

Sport - for example attending 10 weeks of sport training or completing a Rookie lifesaving course

STEM - for example completing 10 maths parallelogram puzzles, completing a CREST science award or attending 10 weeks of D&T club

Other - for example completing the Arts Award Explore Qualification, attending 6 months of Scouts/Guides or writing regularly to a penfriend



An important aspect of the award is that students must provide an online portfolio of evidence. This provides a good basis for participating in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme in Year 10. Over 20 students have completed the award so far this year.

School Wellbeing Award

WAS

A big thank you to the whole school community who have contributed to our school successfully being re-accredited with the Wellbeing Award for Schools (WAS) for a further three years. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive and reflects our determination to support our whole community. In 2018 Woodhouse Grove was the first independent school in the UK to achieve this award.

Porton Down to The Grove

Old Grovian Marina Newton came to talk to Year 11 and 12 chemists about her experiences studying chemistry at University and her career since. She has worked as an Analytical Chemist for the MoD's Science and Technology Laboratory at Porton Down, and more recently at Astra Zeneca. The Sixth Form had lots of questions about life as a chemist and university applications and also a few questions that she couldn't answer due to the Official Secrets Act!



Co-curricular Survey

With more than 450 responses to our survey about the Grove's co-curricular programme, we have been able to gather a lot of useful feedback.

85%

of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that it was easy to find out the activities on offer each term.

81%

of respondents agreed or strongly agreed there was enough choice and variety of activity.

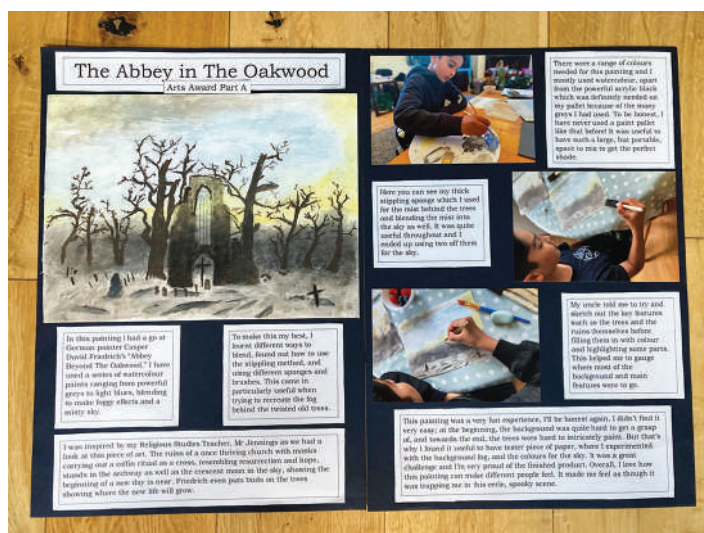
Following the survey, the Autumn Term co-curricular programme will have plenty of familiar activities on offer, alongside some new ones, including golf, football masterclasses, 'drum duelling' and entrepreneurship club.

Thank you to those who took the time to respond.

UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

Congratulations to the 7 pupils who were invited to participate in the UKMT Junior Kangaroo and especially Will O'Toole in Year 8, who was invited to the Junior Maths Olympiad. Fantastic news which reflects the high calibre of our mathematicians in Year 7 and Year 8.





Year 7 and Year 8 Arts Awards

Congratulations to the following Year 7 and 8 students who have completed their Arts Award this year. This involved a lot of work and the students have worked independently through the tasks showing great commitment.

Aaron, Caragh, Georgina, Poppy and Simeon (Year 7)
Gracie, Libby, Maya, Summer and Tilly (Year 8)

Between them they have covered: painting, photography, music, drama, poetry, drawing, cartoons, interior design and DT. They have researched various artists/musicians and actors, as well as looking into a variety of institutions from Salts Mill to the Louvre.

Dungeons and Dragons Club



We welcomed 31 students to Dungeons and Dragons Club in March. Most of them were able to level up their character for the first time which means more spells, more powerful characters and more adventures! We are thrilled to have such a diverse, enthusiastic and friendly group of students.

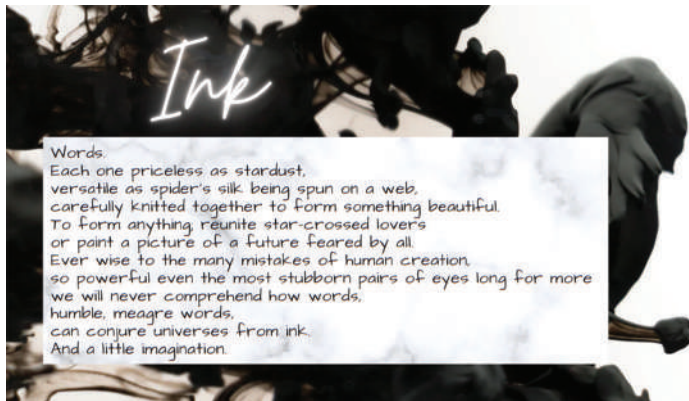
In June, Leo Wood, Year 7 was awarded the 'The Fellowship of the Grove Badge of Honour' as he has played across a number of tables and demonstrated incredible teamwork in protecting his fellow D&Ders, intelligent strategy with some epic attacks, and kindness of heart as he shared his winnings with those around him. We are delighted to celebrate Leo's contribution to every team he has played in as his formidable character, Trodius Blade!



Battlefields Trip



Year 9 finally enjoyed their first History trip for a while with a residential visit to Staffordshire. Students were able to try on and handle First World War equipment, explore a recreated WWI trench, and pay their respects at the National Memorial Arboretum. A special mention goes to the members of our wreath laying party: Nicole Cater, Ben Vernon, Ibrahim Khan and Isabella Kaye.



The Grove's First Poet Laureate

Earlier in the year, we ran a competition to appoint the Grove's first ever Poet Laureate. The competition was fierce and there were some superb entries which the judges thoroughly enjoyed reading. After much deliberation, the student who will take the post of The Grove Poet Laureate is Lily Edwards in Year 10.

The judges awarded a special commendation to Abi Stirk in Year 7 who was a close runner up.

As the newly appointed Poet Laureate for the school, Lily has written a number of poems inspired by events throughout the year, such as Ink, a short poem written by Lily for World Book Day.



National Poetry Competition



Congratulations to Kadiatou Barry, Year 12, who won the Yorkshire regional round to reach the National Finals of the Poetry by Heart competition held at the Globe Theatre in June. Kadiatou read Song (Ae Fond Kiss) by Robert Burns beautifully and thoroughly enjoyed this amazing opportunity to recite on stage at The Globe. Mrs Sharpe was also entered into the National staff competition which she won with her recital of Passing the Time by Caroline Bird.

Crafting for Ukraine



Our fantastic boarder, Sammi Cheng, Year 11, made some wonderful crochet sunflowers to help those impacted by the situation in Ukraine. An amazing effort over one weekend and along with your generous donations through our whole school non-uniform day, together we raised £4,000 for the Disasters Emergency Committee, who are helping with the situation in Ukraine.



There have also been 'Vigils for Peace' held in Chapel, where staff and students lit candles to show their continued support for those affected.

National Short Story Winner



Congratulations to Francesca Tartaglia, Year 10, who achieved a "highly commended" for her short story entry in the Young Walter Scott Prize 2021. This is an amazing achievement and Fran will get to take part in their writing workshop in the summer.

WGS literary magazine Booklore

Booklore was launched this year to bring together keen readers from throughout the school and create an opportunity for them to share their love of books. Often non-readers say they can't find a book that interests them, or just that reading is boring, and we hope that Booklore might provide those people with some inspiration to pick up the right book. One of the best parts of Booklore this year, particularly after covid kept us in bubbles, has been students from Years 7 to sixth form debating not just books, but editorial decisions and layout; it's been a true team effort!



Trinity Foodbank

Grove teacher, Mr Lambert is heavily involved as team leader with the Trinity Foodbank Centre, part of Bradford North Foodbank. Five years on and they are busier than ever. Although the situation in the UK regarding poverty and the number of people needing support is worsening, we would like to share a few facts from Mr Lambert.

In the last 5 years Trinity Foodbank Centre has provided 4,452 days of food to local people in crisis and 10,745 kilograms of food. Of the food provided, over 40% was to children.

Mr Lambert's time as team leader at the foodbank is coming to an end, and on behalf of the school we would like to thank him for his tremendous efforts in organising a fantastic group of volunteers and local businesses to service this vital part of our local community.

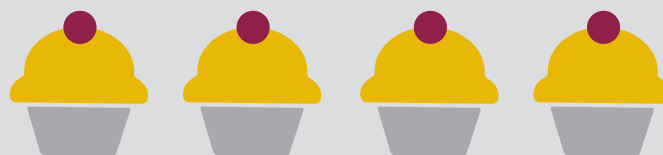
Through Mr Lambert, school have run collections for BNFB and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all pupils, parents and staff for their contributions over the years.



House Charity Bake



Vinter's marketing strategy!



Our House charity bake sale last half term was a huge success. Houses had their own stalls in the Quad with the aim of raising the most amount of money for this year's school charities, Candlelighters and Edukid. In total, the bake sales raised over £900 and the baking challenge was won by Atkinson House.

Young Scientists at Stem Club

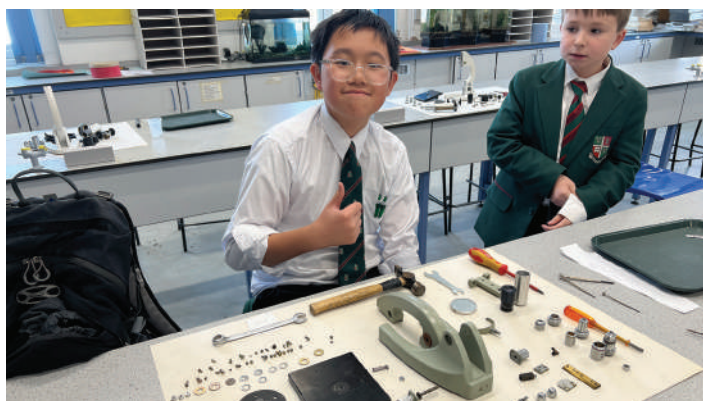
STEM Club is aimed at students in Years 7 and 8 who want to take science a step beyond the classroom. Doctor Ingham gave us the lowdown on how she chose activities to pique their curiosity.

We felt that students who enjoy science should have the opportunity to develop their skills in a student-led manner and we wanted to inspire our future scientists at the grass roots level.

We choose activities that engage and rewarded students in biology, chemistry and physics as well as teaching students the importance of sustainability and becoming responsible citizens.

The bath bomb challenge was a highlight. Students investigated the different reactants that go into a bath bomb in order to give a good fizz, they wrote the project up and many of them earned a prestigious bronze CREST award, which is a nationally recognized award.

Another highlight was Mr Garbutt's challenge to students to disassemble a microscope and decipher the function of the many different parts; Alex Chan, Year 8 counted over 91 parts!



We have investigated sustainable ways of carrying our lunch to school and considered the strength of different plastic bags and our final session was how humans augment themselves, considering the engineering that goes into prosthetic limbs and having a go at building their own. It almost managed to pick up a pen.



Going forward we would like two separate STEM clubs; one in Year 7 and one in Year 8. This will allow Year 8 students to further develop their skills and take on more complex challenges for their Silver and Gold CREST awards. We would also like to plan some sessions with other STEM subjects and see if we can work cross-department, for example designing a bionic shoe with the DT department.

Let's hear from members of STEM Club...

What sort of things do you do in STEM Club?

Make prosthetic arms, learn about the world, look at minibeasts under microscopes, and even use VR headsets. It's so much fun at STEM. **Josiah**

What has been your favourite activity in STEM Club so far?

The bath bombs project, where we tested different ingredients in baths bombs to see what effect they had. **Ruby**

Has STEM Club helped you in your science lessons and if so, how?

Stem Club adds more detail to the things we learn in lessons. **Charley**

Have you completed any projects in STEM Club?

Yes, I got my bronze crest award for the bath bomb project. **Caragh**



What would you say to someone who wasn't sure about joining STEM Club?

At first I wasn't sure about starting, but when I joined I learned it was more than just writing and we do lots of fun experiments. **Amelia**

What would you say to someone who was worried about joining STEM Club because they don't feel very confident at science?

Don't be worried, it's fun and great for everyone and is all about learning and exploring together. **Isobel**

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

77 of our Year 10 students recently completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh weekend expeditions. This was a record breaking number of students taking part for Woodhouse Grove and it was great to have so many Year 10 students signed up for this award.



Two of our Old Grovians, James Shoesmith-Evans and Andrew Mettrick were invited to Buckingham Palace recently to receive their Gold DofE award. It was a wonderful occasion and something for those in Year 10 to aspire to.



Oxford Offers

We are delighted to announce that following the final Oxbridge application decisions, two of our students have received offers:

Lucy Hart, to read English Language and Literature at Regent's Park College, Oxford.

Sebastian Howles, to read Physics at Exeter College, Oxford.

Well done to all of our Oxbridge applicants for completing the long and challenging process.

It's all in the DNA

Before the Easter holidays some of our sixth form were lucky enough to visit York University to learn about DNA finger printing from Adrian Harrison. The students carried out a number of techniques and used a range of apparatus to work out the key suspect.



Good luck to our Y13 leavers!

End of term ended on a high with the usual rugby 1st v netball 1st team match and the more unusual sight of Seb on his ice cream cycle. Seb had cycled for two hours along the canal fully loaded with cones, icecream and sprinkles that morning, determined to surprise and delight his fellow leavers; showing true Grovian spirit. Wishing our leavers all the best in their next steps.



Post-18 Event

Woodhouse Grove hosted a Post-18 event giving our sixth form pupils and parents the opportunity to speak with a variety of Universities and organisations about their options once they finish sixth form. The feedback was very positive and parents were impressed at the different post school options presented to their child, including further education, travel, direct employment, apprenticeships and volunteering.

Following this event, Year 12 have been putting together presentations for their 'top tips' on preparing their Post-18 applications and presenting them to each other in form time.

A-level Field Trips



Field trips are an important and a required part of some of our A-level courses. Our Year 12 geographers visited the North Yorkshire coast for their field trip. Part of the trip was exploring and collecting data from the coastal landforms of Flamborough Head and the sand dunes at Bridlington. They had a day full of sunshine to visit this beautiful coastline. In April, our Year 13 geologists went on a two day field trip to the Lakes to study rocks and rock formations created under different conditions.

High School Musical Y7 and Y8



In March, the Grove Theatre was transformed into East High School as the setting for the Year 7 and 8 production of High School Musical.



The wannabe Wildcats, brainiacs, cheerleaders and thespians wowed the audience over two nights with rousing performances of the songs, including All in this Together.



Well done to everyone who took part in a great show, more photos can be seen on our school flickr account.

Woodhouse Grove | Flickr

A Midsummer Night's Dream

On 21st & 22nd June, 25 students from Years 9 & 10 performed 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. This was a particularly exciting production as it was the first to take place outside! Audiences were invited to bring picnics and refreshments to enjoy whilst being entertained by the talented cast. The whole cast were well matched in their passion and enthusiasm for the production and gave some truly stand-out performances.



Mrs Baker said, "It has been a pleasure to work with this cast of exceptional young people, as well as take the opportunity to bring theatre outdoors onto the beautiful grounds of the school".



As a school, we are working toward gaining the Eco Schools Green Flag status in 2022-23 and are continually looking for opportunities to become more sustainable. For this production, we did not print our programme, instead shared it electronically with our audience to protect our magical forests!





House Music Winners

This year's House Music competition was won by Vinter House. Benji Saia (Vinter) won the junior solo category playing and singing 'Anywhere' a piece he composed himself.

Winnie Offland (Stephenson) continued the singer songwriting victory in the senior solo category with 'Untitled'. The ensembles was a closely fought contest with Vinter's 'Lean on Me' edging out Towlson's 'Shut up and Dance' and Southern's coming third with 'Valerie'.

Performing Arts Dinner



In May, we held our first Arts Dinner in 2 years on the Hastings-Long Gallery. It was fabulous to be back celebrating our amazing students, their wonderful work and our incredible subjects! An evening full of celebratory speeches, awards and emotional farewells had pupils and staff laughing, reminiscing and some shedding a tear.

Year 13 Leavers' Soirée



A very moving evening for our talented Year 13 leavers' soirée. We heard some fabulous musical performances from our leavers. This was one of the final opportunities for them to perform before they move on to pastures new.



A Stand out Performance



Catriona Cochrane Y13, recently performed in DIVA'S Legally Blonde as a Delta Nu (Pilar). Catriona was awarded DIVA'S George Pullman 2022 award for outstanding performer and cast member!

The Easter Charity Concert

The Easter Charity Concert was a feast of music from choral music to Jazz and onwards to Rock, punctuated with poetry items. It was great to see a wide variety of pupils on stage with highlights including the (Junior) Pop Choir singing Wellerman and Believer. Thank you to all pupils who participated and to the team of staff who rehearsed the items.



Girls' Boarding

Our tutors enjoy spending time with our boarders. Miller House girls have had many weekend sessions chilling, baking and crafting with Rev Atkins over the last two terms as well as enjoying some fairly competitive 'hump back' games devised by Miss Dudley to celebrate getting to Wednesday evenings and on towards the weekend.

Weekend Events

In March our boarders enjoyed a great day out in Whitby. A day which, of course, involved fish and chips, a visit to the Abbey and browsing in town.

More recently, as part of National Boarding Week, our boarders enjoyed camping out on Saturday night followed by paintballing on Sunday. Special mention to Chloe for her camp craft skills, keeping the fire going all night!



Cultural Celebrations

At the beginning of the Spring term, boarders had the opportunity to learn about some of our UK cultural events and, in return, we learned about some international ones.

At the end of January, boarders were treated to some tasty haggis and Mr Lambert's fine bagpipe playing to celebrate Burns' night. As is tradition, the haggis was piped in, followed by a short presentation, including the Address to the Haggis and ending with the Selkirk Grace.

Then in early February, our boarders celebrated Chinese New Year. They enjoyed a delicious feast laid on by our brilliant catering team. Thank you to everyone for marking these events with our boarders.

Life as an International Boarder

We chatted to two of our International boarders, Elizabeth and Liza, who both joined for sixth form. They gave us an insight into boarding life.

How did you feel about boarding here before you came?

I have had 2 years of experience of weekly boarding, so I sort of knew what boarding was going to be like. I was worried about feeling homesick so far from home, family, and friends and with a language barrier. Also hearing about British boarding schools being old fashioned with school on Saturdays, compulsory chapel and very strict rules did make me worry a little. **Elizabeth**

And how has Woodhouse Grove compared to that?

A rollercoaster ride. Nothing like I expected, but also exactly as I expected it to be! I personally barely felt homesick, thanks to the girls' boarding community in my Year 12 making it feel like home. The boarding staff and other students were very patient when I joined and was too scared to speak English. I needn't have worried about the old fashioned bit either, thankfully, no Saturday school and not too strict! **Elizabeth**

Do you feel like there are lots of activities both on site and off site for boarders?

I joined boarding in 2020 during the Covid-19 Pandemic, so I feel like my experience here was different to "normal". In Year 12 for me, the activities were altered according to current covid restrictions, and I can tell that boarding tried their best to offer as much as possible. In Year 13 we were back to semi-normal, so weekend trips, Friday trips, more evening activities and the Christmas ball were all back on. There is a wide range and everyone can find something they will like. **Elizabeth**



Liza

Any advice for someone who may be thinking of boarding here?

Do try it – you'll love it! Everyone will find something for themselves – either fun games in the common room or a quiet corner to enjoy yourself. I love the atmosphere here and the freedom with discipline. I will always crave the gym! **Liza**

How did school and boarding tutors help you to settle?

They set trust and understanding in our relationship which then helped me to talk to them easier about any worries and concerns that I've had. I also had a boarding buddy. **Liza**



Elizabeth

How did school help you prepare for exams?

Mrs Limbert organised revision planning sessions before Easter to give us guidance on how to plan revision for Easter and half term before exams. During form time we also shared tips with Year 12 on how to plan revision for mocks/exams. In all my subjects we have been offered lunchtime or afterschool revision sessions and sent lots of resources to help us with the revision. All my teachers provided us with past papers and offered help in person or via Teams. **Elizabeth**

What are your plans post A-level?

I am hoping it will be Durham University in September 2022, studying MSci Biology and Mathematics under their Natural Sciences programme. **Elizabeth**

Double-majoring in Psychology and Business, and minoring in Food Studies at New York University in Abu-Dhabi. **Liza**

Anything else you would like to add about your boarding experience?

I am endlessly grateful for having been here for these wonderful 2 years. The challenges I faced helped me become more mature and resilient, and the support I've had is immense and much appreciated. I want to thank all the boarding staff (and all of my teachers) for helping me become a better version of myself! **Liza**



National Netballers

Our U19 Netballers had an amazing run through county and regional finals culminating in a weekend at the National Schools Finals in March. Thanks to Dentex, Farsley Dental Practice and The Leeds Deli for sponsoring them. We hear about the experience from Vice-Captain Isla Swarbrigg, Year 12

National Finals 2022 was an amazing experience. There were immense highs (and a few lows) but as Vice-Captain, I could not have been more proud of this fantastic team. The team consisted of three Year 13 girls and nine Year 12s. As a team we trained hard together week in week out in the run up to the finals, so to finally be there and playing was super exciting. All of the year 12s had been before so we knew exactly what we were facing and how physical and skilled the opposition were going to be. We had some extremely tough matches, going down by 2 or 3 goals in the opening minutes, nearly giving Miss Thompson a heart attack, but then pulling them back to take the win.

As a team we won 5, drew 1 and lost 2, placing 3rd in our group, only just missing out on the semi-finals by goal difference. This was devastating for all the girls but in hindsight what we had achieved was incredible. The night before the tournament started, I think everyone was feeling the pressure. The coaches, Miss Thompson, Miss Dudley, and Mrs Curtis baked us a cake and we sat down and wrote motivational messages to each other. It was important we reminded ourselves how strong we were and just what we had come to do, which was to 'smash it' and in the end that's exactly what we did, finishing in the top 6 in the country!

Netball Mini Break



53 of our Year 9 and Year 10 netballers went on a mini netball break to Shrewsbury in May. They competed in a netball tournament and enjoyed a variety of outdoor activities, such as wild swimming, abseiling and a tree top challenge. In the tournament they came away with a win and three 3rd placings.

Cross Country

Congratulations to Maisey Bellwood and Archie Peaker who competed for West Yorkshire in the English Schools' XC Championships in Kent. The English Schools is the highest quality school race in the country. Congratulations also to Simeon Tedd and James McLarnon who won team silver with West Yorkshire in the National Year 7 XC.

Football

This year has been another successful one for football at The Grove. The programme has gone from strength to strength, with the largest ever block fixture being played against GSAL with 10 teams representing the school. The girls' programme has also improved, with both the U13 and U15 teams playing in the Sisters in Sport Cup competitions. The highlight of the year was Schools' Football Week where 17 teams across The Grove and Brontë House played 22 fixtures during the week: over 200 students represented their school.



Congratulations to Luke Harrop who was presented with his Independent Schools Football Association (ISFA) England Cap last term. Luke initially went through the selection process for the North of England before being selected for the ISFA National U18 team and has played against a number of Welsh, Scottish and English school and college teams.

Fencing



In February, eleven WGS fencers took part in the Yorkshire County Championships. This was a debut tournament for all but one of them; they fenced extremely well against more senior and more experienced fencers from across the county. In May, many of the same fencers took part in their first Northern Youth League. Congratulations to Rosalind Bayliss winning a silver and Miranda Bayliss a bronze in the Under 14s Girls' event. A massive thank you to Kira Grahamslaw Year 10, who has given up a lot of her time helping to coach the less experienced athletes.

Senior Cricket Tour



Our Senior cricket team toured the East Midlands during the Easter break. They enjoyed matches at Oundle, Uppingham and Oakham Schools before attending a training session at Derbyshire Cricket ground with County cricketer Alex Hughes. A wonderful opportunity to benefit from some competitive matches and receive expert coaching advice.



Outdoor Cricket Nets Opening

The beginning of May saw the opening of our outdoor cricket nets. This has been a long time in the planning and highlights the school's investment and commitment to WGS cricket for the future. Year 7 were lucky enough to be the first people to try them out during their games lesson.

First Girls XI



In May, the girls' 1st XI cricket team played their first-ever cricket match against Hill House School, followed by a second match against Ampleforth College the following week. What a memorable event for the girls involved and also for WGS cricket.



New Head of Cricket

We asked the newly appointed Head of Cricket, Mr Randhawa, about his cricket journey so far and what he's looking forward to most about joining WGS.

My main interest in cricket came from my dad. I remember being as young as 5 years old and travelling around with him for weekend fixtures.

I feel that as a coach you can have such a positive effect on a person, both mentally or physically. Through my own playing experiences and learning from some of the best coaches in the world, I wanted to pass on that knowledge and spark the interest of young cricketers.

The history and prestige of Woodhouse Grove speaks for itself and joining the WGS community really excites me. I was able to come in during Easter half term and work with some of the young cricketers here. Seeing their enthusiasm and willingness to learn made my choice to apply for Head of Cricket an easy one.

I am looking forward to helping all cricketers here progress in whatever way they want to; whether that is initially getting into cricket and developing an interest in the game; or helping our representative players reach the next level.

I would say my sporting inspiration is current England Cricketer, Joe Root. I was lucky enough to spend time with him at Yorkshire CCC through the academy and staff. Seeing his relentless work ethic and hunger to improve his game is something I think is a glowing example for any young cricketer looking to get to the highest level.

Max Chaplin



Congratulations to Max Chaplin in Year 9, who was invited to Headingley recently to sign his first EPP contract with Yorkshire CCC.

Jubilee Celebrations



We had a fantastic day at the end of last half term celebrating the Jubilee and holding our Outdoor Learning Day. From scarecrow competitions, team challenges, a bouncy castle, picnics and golf; everyone seemed to have a lovely day and were very excited when our very special visitor arrived to open the Jubilee Garden Party! Our very own 'Queen', former receptionist Mrs Richardson, surprised us all arriving in a chauffeur driven car.



Aladdin in Trouble

The long-anticipated Year 3 and 4 Pantomime adaptation of Aladdin finally made it on stage and, wow, what a show! The comments from the audience about the professionalism and energy were extraordinary. Superb individual performances supported by a very energetic all-singing, all-dancing chorus made us very proud. A huge thank you to Mr Phenny, all the staff involved and especially to Years 3 and 4 for giving it their all.

Checkmate



Our U9 and U11 chess teams were in action in March at the HMC Chess Competition. They followed the Swiss format tournament, playing six matches in total which required a lot of concentration. Well done to them all, especially Rehan in Year 4 who won all of his matches.

Pink Marathon



And they're off! It was the hottest day of the year for the Brontë Big Pink Marathon, so water and suncream were both at the ready. Children from Pre-Nursery through to Year 6 came dressed in pink and took part in the collective 26.2 mile marathon to raise money for Candlelighters, our designated summer charity. At the time of printing, we had raised £4,000 of our £5,000 target. Our thoughts and prayers are with our Brontë families and others who have been affected by children's cancer.



A Busy Easter



Towards the end of the Spring Term, we had a flurry of Easter activities, including the ABA Easter Competitions asking students to decorate a real egg and guess the number of eggs in the jar.

Our dedicated team of Brontë 'Knitwits' also excelled themselves, knitting some adorable Easter chicks.

Door Jackets for World Book Day



It's a thumbs up from Year 5 for Mrs Howcroft's chocolate brownies. These were a surprise treat for them on their Victorian day as their Paperbag Prince door jacket won the World Book Day competition.

Design and Technology with Year 5



Year 5 were very excited to visit the Woodhouse Grove Design and Technology department this term. Using CAD and CAM systems, they designed and made personalised wooden pencil cases. Having access to these facilities and learning about this technology is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils and entuses them about moving to the Grove in the future.

Cheering on the Tigers



In March, Year 6 enjoyed a day out at Leicester Tigers. They started the day with a rugby training session and once that was completed, enjoyed watching Old Grovian, James Whitcombe, play for Leicester in a win against London Irish.



Two Terms of Sport

We are very proud of our sports teams over the last two terms. All age groups have shown progress and demonstrated great commitment and teamwork.



HMC Athletics



There were some great individual performances at the HMC Athletics competition in York in June. Teams from Years 4, 5 and 6 entered; with wins for Emily Pix in her throwing event and Kieran Jemmett in his High Jump, equalling his own personal record of 1.17cm.





Year 6 in Wales

Year 6 had an amazing time at Plas Menai in Wales on their four night residential. Austin said 'It was amazing, the gorge was the best thing I've ever done!'



Ben B said 'It was action packed' - and it really was! The children did windsurfing, stand-up paddle boarding, leap of faith, gorge walking, mountain biking, climbing and kayaking, as well as many team activities in the evening. All the children had a great time and Charlie described the trip as 'spectacular and adventurous'.



Year 3 and 4 at Ford Castle



In June, Years 3 and 4 travelled to Northumberland for their 3 day residential trip to Ford Castle. In glorious sunshine the children enjoyed a variety of confidence building activities, ranging from raft building to high ropes trapezes. It was super to see everyone pushing themselves outside their 'comfort zones' and being part of a team helping each other through some tough challenges. The resulting benefits from such challenges are invaluable, and the maturity and manners of our amazing children was commented upon by numerous members of staff at Ford Castle. Well done everyone - we are very proud of you all!

"I loved the trapeze it made me feel like I was in the circus!" - Martha
 "I fell in the river and loved it!" - Olivia
 "The jacob's ladder was a challenge but I enjoyed it!" - Hisham

Year 5 at Windermere



Year 5 had beautiful sunny, dry weather for their trip to the Lakes over Easter. The accommodation overlooked Windermere and the scenery and activities kept them entertained. There were team challenges, climbing, canoeing and lots of walking to get stuck into, and, of course, plenty of fresh air and smiles.



Year 2 Thackray Museum



To complete their topic on Florence Nightingale, Year 2 went back in time to 1854 to 'meet' her at the Thackray Medical Museum. In their roles as porters and nurses they had to clean Scutari hospital and take care of the injured soldiers. A great day that really brought the topic to life.



Ashdown Trips



Classroom learning can be brought to life through educational day trips. These trips are an important part of life at Ashdown Lodge. As well as the more obvious educational elements, they are the start of nurturing life skills and Grovian values.



Reception have had a couple of fantastic outings recently. They visited Kemps Farm where they rode on a tractor and trailer looking at the strawberry, raspberry and pumpkin plants. They saw flowers and some green strawberries growing, which they were told would soon turn red and would be ready for picking. Mrs Kemp explained how they grow the strawberries and what they must do to protect them from wildlife. The children used magnifying glasses to look in the hedgerows for minibeasts and at different plants. They also planted their own strawberry plant to take home and grow.



Reception children also visited Herd Farm activity centre where they challenged themselves to try new activities such as archery and had to work as a team to complete an obstacle course. One of their favourite activities was crate stacking where they had to balance on crates and move from one to the other so more could be added.



Meanwhile, Nursery pupils enjoyed their day out at Hesketh Farm Park. They fed the lambs, held guinea pigs, stroked goats and the donkey, collected eggs and went out on a tractor and trailer ride around the farm.



More photos of all of these trips and other Brontë House events can be seen on the Woodhouse Grove flickr page.

Woodhouse Grove | Flickr



Snakes and Snails!



Lion Learners visited us in Nursery this term and told us all about how to look after the different animals that they brought with them. All of the children had to be super sensible and quiet so that they didn't scare the animals. We held tarantulas, lizards and snakes, amongst other things.



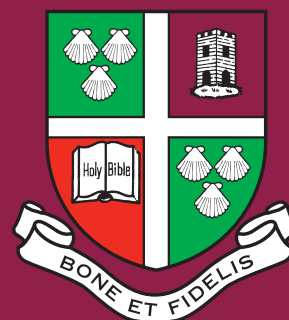
We're going on a Beast Hunt



Pre Nursery have been making the most of the warm weather and have been busy planting seeds as well as hunting for minibeasts. They explored the outdoor area searching for different minibeasts and identified them using simple pictures and books. The children have engaged in sensory exploration through soil in the tuff tray, hiding and finding the minibeasts and beginning to recognise them by name.

Ashdown Sports Day

Our Ashdown Lodge pupils enjoyed lovely sunshine for their sports day. The children tried really hard in all their races (as did the mums and dads!).



Diary Dates

Autumn Term 2022

- Boarders return - Tuesday 6th September from 4pm
- Term begins - Wednesday 7th September
- Half term begins - Friday 21st October 4pm
- Boarders return - Sunday 6th November from 6pm
- Term recommences - Monday 7th November
- Term ends - Friday 16th December 4pm

Spring Term 2023

- Boarders return - Tuesday 3rd January from 6pm
- Term begins - Wednesday 4th January
- Half term begins - Friday 10th February 4pm
- Boarders return - Sunday 19th February from 6pm
- Term recommences - Monday 20th February
- Term ends - Friday 31st March 4pm