

WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL

woodhousegrove.co.uk

19th October 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

I always feel that the first half of the Autumn Term is key to setting the tone for the rest of the academic year – and I am delighted to report that, if the last couple of months are anything to go by, we can look forward to a happy and successful year ahead. And a busy one!

The whole school was very excited to welcome former England and British Lions rugby legend Dean Richards, who delivered an inspirational assembly in which pupils who represent their country in their chosen sport were recognised and celebrated. Dean also presented James Whitcombe with his England shirt and cap; a moment, I am sure, that will remain in James' memory for a long time to come.

I am also delighted to share the news that The Grove's ongoing commitment to the mental health of our pupils and staff has been recognised and we have been awarded the Optimus Education Wellbeing Award for Schools. We are the only independent school in the UK to achieve this accolade. The Award has been developed in partnership with the National Children's Bureau with a focus on ensuring effective practice and provision is in place within schools to promote the emotional wellbeing and mental health of both staff and pupils. We are tremendously proud to have achieved the Wellbeing Award for Schools – a testament to our staff and pupils and their commitment to our school ethos regarding the importance of mental health. Woodhouse Grove is not just a school, we are a community – and, as in any community, we take responsibility for each other's wellbeing. It is wonderful that this has been acknowledged.

This year sees the 25th Anniversary of Ashdown Lodge – and Grovians old and new joined together on Friday 5th October to celebrate the occasion. Our Head Prefect, Charlotte Proctor and Deputy Head Prefect, Imogen Amos – who both joined Ashdown at the age of three – compèred the proceedings and introduced a variety of musical numbers, performed by pupils from Reception to Year 13, all of whom started their Grovian journey at Ashdown Lodge. The younger party goes then followed cake and refreshments with some fairground frivolity in the grounds of Brontë House. It is fair to say, a wonderful time was had by all.

On a more serious note, we have been informed that there are proposals for the redevelopment of Yorkshire Water's Esholt Estate. One of the proposals includes a review of permits and access to 'the Avenue' which could be restricted further. As a large number of our parents have permits, this could affect a great number of families and I wanted to make you aware of an upcoming consultation, due to take place this autumn. Whilst a date for the autumn consultation meeting has not yet been published, it will be important that representations are made and that the voices of Woodhouse Grove families are heard. More details can be found as follows:

<https://www.insidermedia.com/insider/yorkshire/masterplan-unveiled-for-esholt-water-treatment-works>

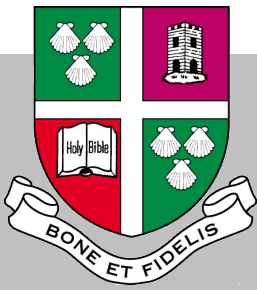
<http://esholtpositiveliving.co.uk/resources/>

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I am Grovian.



Woodhouse Grove School is part of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust.
Registered Office: Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW15JR.
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It was very positive to see so many of you at our Careers Fair last night. It is never too early for our pupils to begin researching options for the future – and it was great to see many from the younger end of the Grove making the most of the companies and industry experts present.

Over the half term break, we are delighted to be hosting our very own Grove Rugby Camp – open to pupils from Years 5 to 8, both from Brontë, the Grove and other schools. It looks like this might become a regular occurrence, as there are only a few places remaining. Watch this space!

Next half term is set to be packed full of activity...

Our second full school Open Morning will run on Saturday 17th November – and, if the record-breaking October Open Morning is anything to go by, it is expected to be a busy and successful one. Many visiting families commented on how confident, articulate and knowledgeable their student tour guides were. They were true ambassadors of the school and what it means to be Grovian. Our Sixth Form Open Evening is on Thursday 8th November – for our current Year 11's, as well as potential new Sixth Formers. We look forward to welcoming all our Year 11 pupils and parents.

The Senior School Play this year is Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* and will run on the 29th and 30th November. Seasonal festivities commence on Sunday 9th December with our annual Carol Service and we bring the term to a festive conclusion on Thursday 13th December with our Christmas Concert. I hope to see you at any or all of the above events.

Finally, please be aware that school buses will have an early departure time of 4:15pm on the last day of term (Friday 14th December).

I wish you all the best for a restful and enjoyable half term.

With all my best wishes,

Yours sincerely

James Lockwood MA
Headmaster

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