

# *I am Grovian*

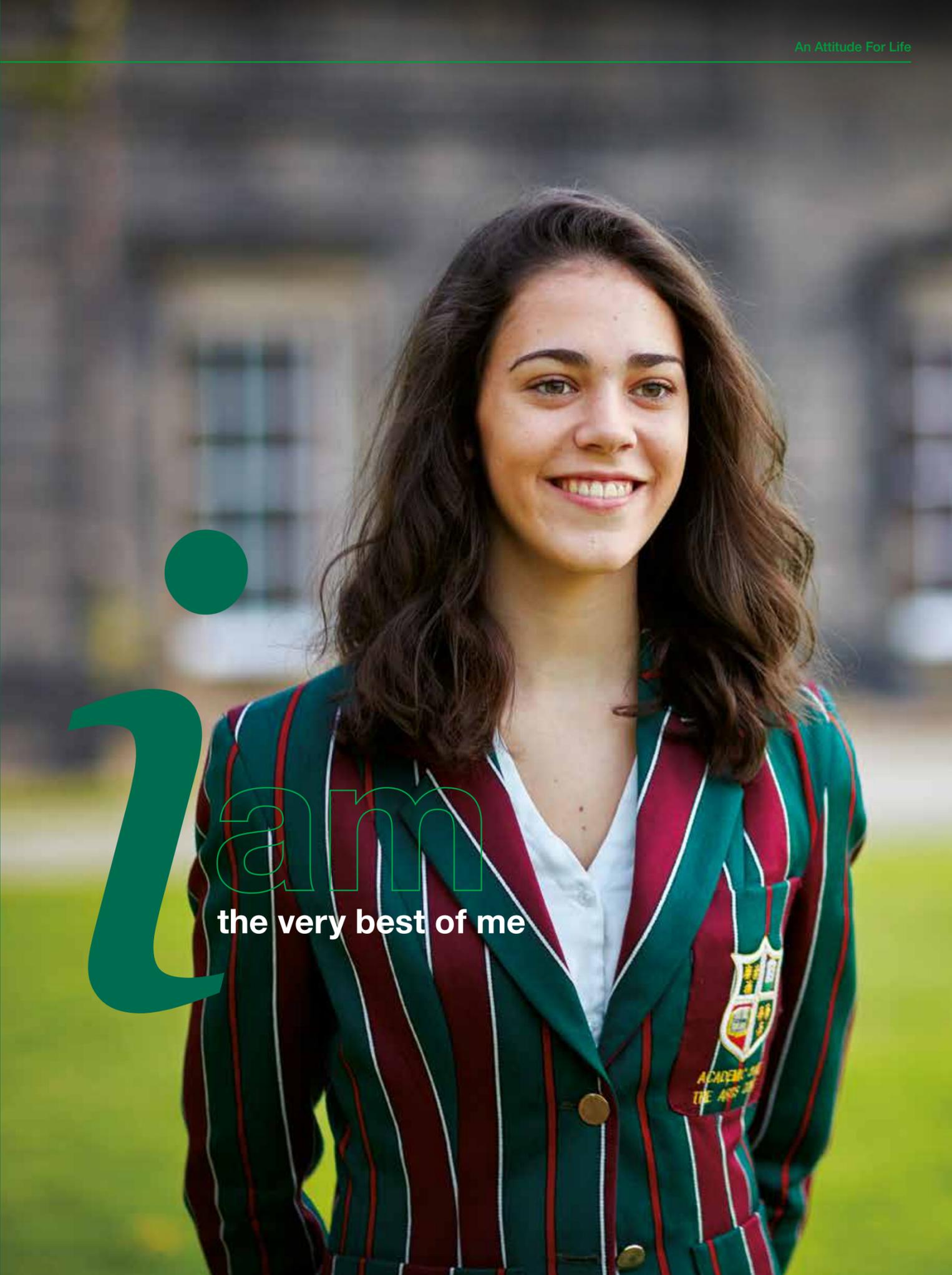
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*Ages 3-93*

I am the very best of me...

I am every teacher who has inspired me.  
I am every lesson that has opened  
my eyes. I am every maths problem  
I have solved. I am every book that  
has captivated me. I am every science  
experiment that has surprised me.  
I am every sports tour that has  
motivated me. I am every drama class  
that has transformed me. I am more  
than just academic. I am everything  
I want to be. I am prepared. I am  
gracious and generous. I am resourceful  
and resilient. I am ambitious and  
committed. I am understood. I am my  
unlocked potential. I am an individual,  
yet I am part of something incredible.

*I am Grovian.*



**I am**  
the very best of me

## Making each individual the best version of themselves they can be.

At Woodhouse Grove we appreciate that every child is an individual with their own unique personality, talents and skills; and it is this individuality that we nurture at all stages of their education.

A child's potential could lie anywhere – so we ensure that every pupil is exposed to a huge array of opportunities and experiences. We then take pride in identifying and honing their strengths to make the most of their natural abilities, while working hard to develop areas that need improvement. This approach sees each and every Grovian grow into the very best version of themselves they can be.

*James Lockwood,  
Woodhouse Grove School  
Headmaster*



## Identifying uniqueness

Taking the time to understand a child is the most important aspect of unlocking their potential. With just over 700 pupils in our Senior School, getting to know them is easy and we learn how best to motivate and inspire each individual. We believe that this level of insight is the only way to ensure we work to every pupil's strengths.



Understanding the  
**individual**

## An environment where education shines

The environment in which a child learns is just as important as what they learn. We have worked hard to create a community where pupils can come together, where they are encouraged to flourish, where they feel comfortable, confident, stimulated and, most of all, happy.

Because we are a day and boarding school, our day doesn't finish at 4 o'clock and friendships develop that bridge the gap between different age groups, further strengthening the school community.

A place to  
**flourish**



A young girl with her hair in a ponytail, wearing a green school blazer and tie, is smiling and looking to the right while playing a violin. She is part of a school orchestra, with other students visible in the background, some also playing violins. The setting appears to be a bright, well-lit school hall or music room.

# Learning

through a full education

## Achieving the perfect balance

We believe that unlocking the potential in every pupil is only possible when you provide them with a full and rounded education. Of course, academia remains at the heart of that, but we never underestimate the importance of sports, music or the arts, and the enrichment that these pursuits can bring to a child's life.

# A Grovian is...

**Inquisitive  
& Curious**

**Enterprising  
& Resourceful**

**Kind & Generous**

**Honourable  
& Respectful**

**Committed  
& Resilient**

## What it means to be a Grovian

Our approach to ensuring each child becomes a confident, well-rounded young adult is not exclusively founded on providing an excellent education.

Our Grovian Values are the foundation for each pupil's development and every child carries these forward for the rest of their life.

Over the following pages in conversation we asked some of our current students to explain what being a Grovian means to them.



Three words to describe myself...  
sporty, funny, happy.



Netball is the sport I love the most. When I started playing I was in the B team. By Year 4 I had moved up to the A team. We bought a netball post at home, so I practised every day. Eventually my netball teacher asked if I wanted to play for the year above. So I played for the Year 5 team and she was happy with how I performed. When I moved up to Year 5 I was invited to play with the Senior team, the Year 7s. In Year 6 I became netball captain and I was also lucky enough to play some Year 8 matches.

Being able to play in the older teams was really exciting and I think it helped me progress more quickly. It also meant I could go on the netball tour twice, once in Year 5 and again in Year 6! The UK tour this year was in Newcastle. I captained that team and we won the tournament. Being captain is a lot of responsibility, but it's never fazed me. I try to motivate the girls on the team. At half time I always speak to them. If they're doing something wrong I explain how they can correct it. If they're feeling down because we're not winning, it's my job to pick them up. We've been down before and pulled it back to win.

I have also started doing DIY. My grandad built his own house; he's very handy. He had come over to help decorate my room and I helped him lay the floor. We'd bought some furniture and I wanted to build it. My mum said I couldn't. I think she was worried I would ruin it. But I really wanted to try. So I waited until the early hours of the morning and started assembling the wardrobe. When my mum came down in the morning, she was really surprised and she let me build the other furniture too.

I have a lot of friends at school. But I'm happy on my own as well. I like to feel independent. I just like to explore, be on my own for a while and I suppose that makes me quite a confident person.

At school I really enjoy art. Some artists do paintings of landscapes or still life. But I'm more of an abstract painter. I don't paint objects or people. I prefer to create what I see in my head; colours and shapes to show emotion.

I also like biology, chemistry, physics and maths, so when I'm older I think I'd like to be a doctor. Some people find it gruesome, but I find it really interesting. My dad is also a big inspiration for me. He was a boxer. He's incredibly tall, at least 7ft, and we go out on cross-country runs together. I would certainly consider a career in sport just like him.

*Gabrielle Garber, Year 6 Brontë House*

I am passionate about writing. I have written stories all my life. When I was little, my Nan had a pet cat called Jake and I really liked him, so I wrote little stories about him. I've been working on a series of books for the last three years, called School Chaos. It's based on my life, my time at this school and the last years at my primary school. Obviously, I've had to change all the characters' names.

Drawing cartoons is more of a hobby. They are to go with my books and so what I have with me today are School Chaos illustrations.

I always wanted a dog and I had always planned on getting a Samoyed. I went to Crufts, which was so exciting, and I met a photographer there. I follow her on Instagram, she's not famous, but she really inspired me and I fell in love with her Springer Spaniel. Ever since then, I've never wanted something more in my life. I've read up on heel work and dog dancing and I'd like to take that quite seriously.

Art is still one of my favourite subjects and I also like writing my own work in English. I love drama. It's a team environment. It's fun. It's collaborative. You're working together to engage the audience. But personally the part I most enjoy is getting to know people really well and making new friends.

I've sometimes found it hard to make friends. Because I have Asperger's, which is a form of autism, I can become very fixated on things, even people. I suppose it's like a social anxiety and it's a constant battle.

It has taken a few years, but I am now a more confident person. School has certainly helped, but I've also had to find my own feet with it. I've had to think about myself in a more positive way; telling myself to be proud of who I am whilst having the resilience to accept that not everyone will like me. But then, that doesn't matter.

The school has given me inspiration. It's given me a confidence to learn things about social dynamics and social skills. I've been able to learn from the community here. It's also a very intellectual environment which is important because I'm quite an academic person. I'm better than my parents in most subjects already.

*Amy Brook, Year 10 The Grove*

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*The group I enjoy the most is The Grove Singers. I am not the greatest singer, but it is brilliant to be part of such a friendly choir.*



“I love music. I play the clarinet and the saxophone both in and out of school and am Grade 8 level in both. In fact, I have The Grove to thank for introducing me to the sax; I was encouraged by staff to give it a go when I first joined in Year 7 and have played it ever since! The Grove is good like that – there are so many different music groups at school and plenty of opportunities to try new things.

Actually, music is also important to me socially as a lot of my closest friendships have been made through playing music together, both in and out of school. I am a member of the Leeds Youth Wind Orchestra and the Leeds Youth Orchestra and rehearse once a week for both. I like spending time with the other musicians and loved our trip to Italy last year. In school, I play Tenor Sax in Brass Group and I am also in Concert Band and sing in Barbershop. I think the group I enjoy the most though is the Grove Singers. I am not the greatest singer, but it is brilliant to be part of such a friendly choir. We achieve a pretty decent standard, but it’s as much about enjoying ourselves as sounding good. It’s definitely a lot of fun!

I’m working hard at the moment for the Cambridge Entrance Exams. It is my ambition to read Natural Sciences there. The breadth of the course appeals to me. At the moment, I am really enjoying everything I am studying and I like the fact that this course doesn’t mean I have to choose a specific science. I can try them all out at degree level and specialise later.

I used to play rugby in the A team up to Year 11. I was lucky to be in a good rugby year and I really enjoyed the success we had in various cup competitions. In the end, music and work took over in the sixth form, but the friendships I formed by being part of the rugby team are important to me. I’m still quite fit as I am a member of the school Running Club. We go out every week and I look forward to this as it is much nicer to run in a group than on your own. I suppose that’s what being at The Grove is all about.”

*Alex Dalton, Year 13*

# Building the confidence to succeed

## Confidence for a life beyond education

Instilling confidence in each individual child through an education that is rich and diverse, in an inspiring environment where they are encouraged to excel and given the support to develop, enables our pupils to grow into the very best version of themselves that they can be.

We hope that every one of our pupils leaves with the confidence and resilience to continue to succeed in their life beyond Woodhouse Grove.



## From 3 to 93, Grovians carry our values with them throughout the rest of their lives.

Thanks to the strong community and exceptional environment of Woodhouse Grove, from the moment a pupil steps through our doors, the knowledge, values, self-confidence and life-long friendships they have forged will never leave them.



*Bleu Woodward  
Theatre Actor*

After leaving Woodhouse Grove, Bleu went on to study Musical Theatre at Laine Theatre Arts in London. Since then she has worked on many high profile productions including, the international tour of *Mamma Mia*, playing Lisa, and national tours of *South Pacific*, *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *Oh! What a Lovely War* and *Kinky Boots*.

*“My time at The Grove was nothing short of wonderful, they supported me every step of the way. It gave me a solid foundation of education and friendship, and for 6 years it felt like home. The full education I received taught me how to work as a team, how to communicate with all different types of people and also to just jump at every opportunity life throws at you. I have so many happy memories from The Grove, mostly with my group of girl friends who are still my best friends now.”*



*Marcus Dunsmore  
Vice President  
Integrated  
Supply Chain*

After leaving Woodhouse Grove, Marcus studied Production Engineering and Production Management at Nottingham University and graduated in 1988 with a 1st Class MEng. He has worked for a range of top global companies, including Unilever, Cadbury, Schweppes, Kraft Europe and is currently Vice President, Integrated Supply Chain, Chocolate Category at Mondelez International.

*“The Grove instilled in me a desire to work hard and be my best. This drive has been instrumental in allowing me to seize many different opportunities through the different stages of my career. My time at The Grove developed me into a well-rounded individual, allowing me to fulfil my academic potential, but also to develop and participate in many extra-curricular activities. Having a good education is important, but in a business environment having a well-balanced and rounded perspective of the world and its challenges is critical.”*



*Victoria Craven  
Accountancy  
Partner*

Victoria left The Grove in 1994 equipped with ten GCSEs and four A-Levels and secured a place at the University of Dundee on a four-year course to study a degree in Accountancy and Business Finance. In August 1998, she was offered a role as an audit assistant working for RSM, a ‘top 10’ accountancy firm, which also gave her the opportunity to study towards an ACA qualification whilst gaining ‘on the job’ experience at the same time. Over the following years Victoria has been promoted a number of times and became a partner in 2015.

*“At Woodhouse Grove I had some excellent teachers who really encouraged me to believe in myself. I left school with a clear understanding of the importance of working hard, always doing your best and treating others how you would like to be treated yourself. I have taken this with me to this day and have applied this in working hard for a degree, securing a job, passing my ACA and developing my career from trainee to partner.”*

