

I am Grovian

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 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 brown hair tied back, wearing a green school blazer, white shirt, and green tie with a crest, is smiling and looking to her right while playing a violin. She is in a school orchestra, with other students in the background also playing violins. The lighting is bright and natural, suggesting an indoor setting with large windows.

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**

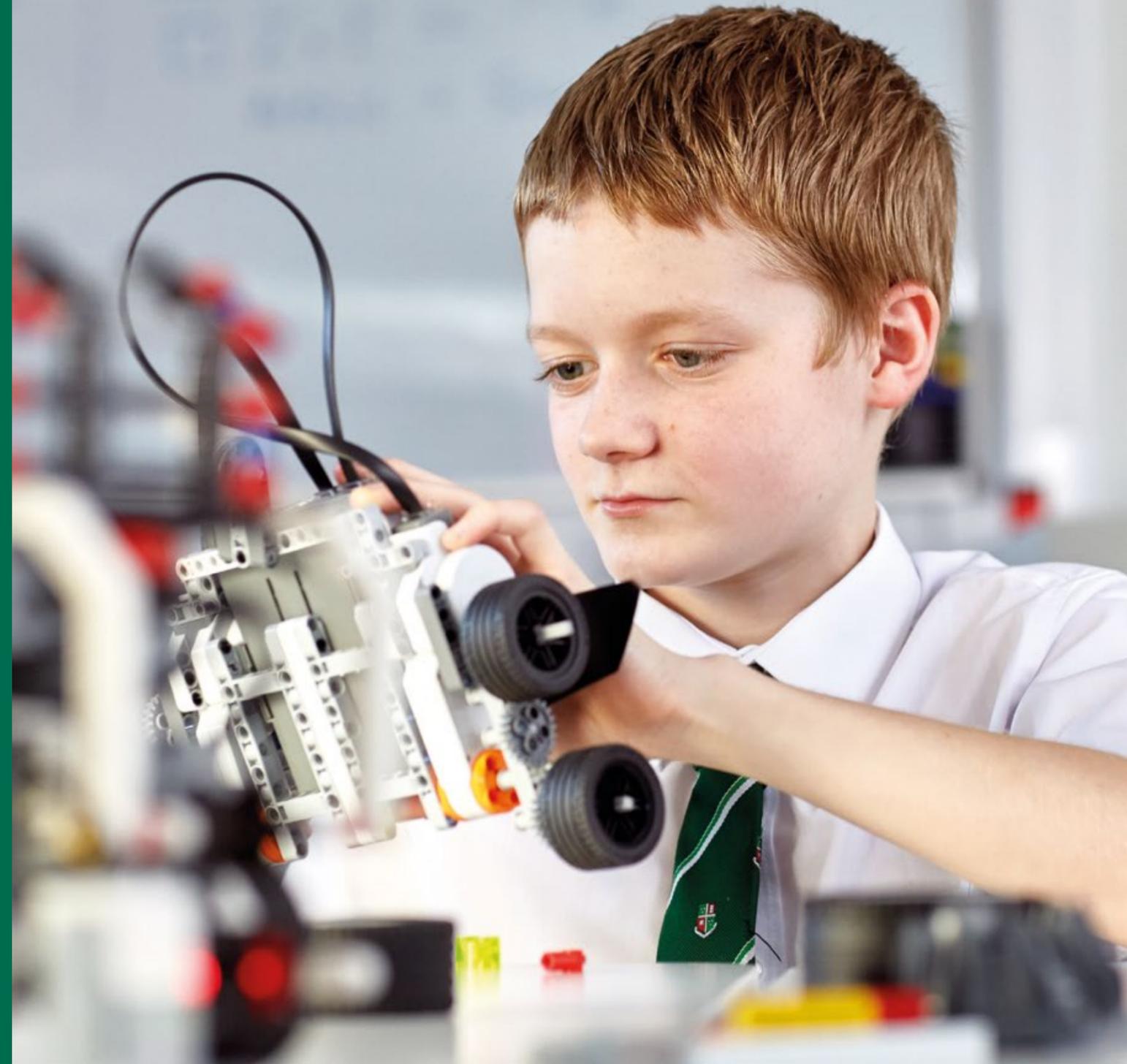
**Committed
& Resilient**

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.

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

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



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

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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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*Everything I do,
I love doing, and
that helps me learn
how to do it better.*



My dad is an adventurous man. He's into music and extreme sports, and so I was always tagging along. As a result I enjoy all sorts of things. I love windsurfing in the summer and my friends and I go mountain biking.

I've developed a very keen interest in climbing. I really enjoy the combination of both mental and physical resilience required to tackle a difficult climb. Recently I chose to confront free climbing on Baildon Bank. It's sort of a mini cliff and free climbing means you don't use any ropes. This is really where you need the mental toughness to focus. If you look down and think about falling off, you probably will. But by focusing on the climb, on the rocks, enjoying being up there on the wall, by focusing on every movement of your hands and feet and how the rocks feel, you will make it. I think I've developed this level of focus from a number of disciplines and activities, whether that's extreme sports, playing the piano every night, learning to play guitar or the rigour of a physics problem.

My favourite subject is probably maths. I enjoy the elegance of some of the problems you can solve, some of the proofs you can find and the practical applications. I do physics, biology and chemistry as well, so I'm exposed to maths in those subjects too. It's extremely useful, like a second language you can speak and a tool that you can use.

I would like to go into aerospace engineering. I have quite a large obsession with space, and seeing Tim Peake, our own British astronaut, go into space has been extremely inspirational. Even if I can't be an astronaut one day, I just want to be in the space industry and working towards the great discoveries we can make.

As well as applying to universities, I applied to BAE Systems and got an offer for an apprenticeship. It's a big decision because I could go to Imperial College, London, which is my preferred university, so it's a real dilemma.

More than anything I would say Woodhouse Grove has helped me develop as a human being and I learned to work as a team with my friends. A lot of this has come from my acting. While on stage, we're all able to contribute to what the audience experiences. From choreography to props, we pool our ideas and work together. You definitely feel like you're part of a team, rather than just being led by the director. It's a collaborative process.

I feel like I really enjoy every aspect of life. Everything I do, I love doing, which helps me learn to do it better. I live in the moment, so I just focus on that.

Luke Dillon, 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* and *Oh What a Lovely War!*

“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 Chairman of GS1

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 and Kraft Europe where he is currently responsible for all Market Customer Service and Logistics Operations in 33 countries across Greater Europe. For the last five years he has been a non-executive Director/Vice Chairman of GS1 in the UK, which develops and drives e-commerce standards across businesses.

“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.”



