



WOODHOUSE GROVE SCHOOL

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09 July 2018

Dear Parents

It was a great pleasure to welcome Kim Leadbeater to our Prize Day ceremony last weekend, reflecting as she did on the importance of community, and the potential in each and every one of us to make a difference in the world. I was particularly delighted to note the obvious parallels between her vision and the School's stated aims, and the nature of our Grovian values. With similar energy and passion, our Guest Preacher and School Governor, at the Leavers' Service on Sunday, Revd Peter Whittaker, exhorted us all to "choose life" as we said farewell to the Year 13 of 2018.

I hope that my own Prize Day reflections, combined with those of our Heads Prefects, Hannah Waddington and Paddy Ziegler, will have given those of you in attendance a feel for the breadth and variety of activity, and progress made during the course of another action-packed academic year. *News from the Grove*, published last week, will also give you a flavour of the many successful ventures and achievements of students at The Grove.

Full academic reports are now available via the parent portal for all year groups, other than the valedictory reports for Year 13, which should have already arrived in the post. Many reports are very good indeed but, as ever, there are challenges for some pupils to prepare for over the summer holiday, so that they return in September determined to make the most of the fresh start the new academic year brings.

A reminder for those of you with children who have taken any public examinations this summer that A-level results day is on Thursday 16th August and GCSE results day is on Thursday 23rd August. All external examination results can be accessed via the parent portal from 8:00am on the day of their publication. Full details of any support and advice that may be needed during this time, will be published in the week preceding results.

After what will be 11 years of devoted service, Mr Simon Dunn is to leave Brontë House in the summer of 2019, having been appointed Headmaster of St Martin's School, Northwood in Middlesex. I am sure you will wish to join me in congratulating Simon on this appointment whilst also registering Woodhouse Grove's thanks for his passionate commitment to Brontë House. The School's search for a new Headteacher for September 2019 will begin in earnest in the autumn. In the meantime, we will continue to benefit from another year of Simon's dedicated leadership.

As the term ends, we say farewell to Ms Ruby Leung, Mr Tom Gough and Miss Alexandra Fowle and three members of the teaching staff with nearly a hundred years of service to the School between them: Mr John Cockshott, Mr David Wood and Mrs Anne Howard. Similar dedication and length of service is reflected in the 33 years of service to our musicians from peripatetic teacher Mr Michael Woodhead, and four loyal members of the support team who are moving on: Mrs Belinda Frost, Mrs Heather Garner, Mr Sanjit Singh and Mrs Tara Gilks. We also bid farewell to Alison Wood on reception, and our language assistants Miss Clara Wasielewski and Miss Celia Susin. We wish them all every happiness and success.

Whilst I have highlighted one or two of these appointments as the year has progressed, please see below the list of new appointments, both internal and external, for September 2018:

External Appointments:

- Mrs Emma Nulty Deputy Head
- Mr Chris Garbutt Biology and Chemistry
- Mrs Anna Ingham Biology
- Mrs Samantha Harder Science
- Mrs Dawn Smith Design Technology
- Miss Katie Wilson English
- Mr Alex Whitlam Head of Boys' Boarding
- Mr Nick Brown Biology (maternity cover)
- Mr Matthew Keegan English (maternity cover)
- Miss Laura Evers Drama (maternity cover)
- Mr Patrick Hodgson Mathematics (maternity cover)
- Miss Tibo Clément Language Assistant
- Miss Aurora Susin Language Assistant
- Mr Francesco Caroleo Catering Manager
- Mr Robin Jones Gap Graduate Sports Coach and Resident Boarding Tutor
- Miss Jordan Filtness Gap Graduate Sports Coach and Resident Boarding Tutor

Internal appointments, include:

- Miss Lucy Follos Head of Vinter House
- Miss Lucy Holloway Head of Atkinson House

My new PA, Mrs Sally Hargrave will take up her appointment on 13th August. Her email address is hargrave.s@woodhousegrove.co.uk. Until then, should you wish to contact me, please continue to use headmaster@woodhousegrove.co.uk.

My thanks to all those pupils, parents and staff who completed the Wellbeing Award Stakeholder Questionnaires. On his interim visit in June, I am pleased to report that our external assessor, Mr Colin Noble, was very impressed with the structures we have in place in school relating to emotional wellbeing and mental health, as embedded in our Development Plan. The final verification visit for the Award will, hopefully, take place early next term.

As ever, during the holiday period the School site will be a busy place with a breadth of interest and activity in school, ranging from visitors from the UK Maths Trust to Chinese dancers from Ballet North. The Headmaster's Corridor and its environs are being fully refurbished and this will impact upon entrance at the front of School. Any visitors are encouraged to use the Sports Centre Reception until the middle of August. We are also introducing a new seating and social area for pupils in a freshly resurfaced Quad, complete with two large canopies.

As the holidays begin, the History Department is taking 37 pupils to Berlin. The trip is ideal for WW1, WW2 and Cold War history, all of which are on the GCSE and A-level teaching specifications. Among other places, included on the trip will be visits to Wannsee Conference House, Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp, the Stasi Prison and the Brandenburg Gate. Meanwhile, Mr Lambert and Miss Alimundo will accompany 12 Year 8 student pioneers on a visit via New York to Kentucky Country Day School (KCDS), with whom we have established a school link, which seems to be going from strength to strength. Having experienced the major sites of New York over the first two days of their visit, the party will take a flight to Louisville to be hosted by the families of children from KCDS who visited The Grove last October. The holidays will also see a group of 40 pupils and 2 staff departing on the Senior Rugby Tour to South Africa. The party will visit Johannesburg, Durban, East London, Mossel Bay and Cape Town, as well as having two nights on safari. There will be some challenging fixtures, with both teams playing 5 matches against various high-profile schools, such as Tygerberg and Durban High School, as well as visiting old friends at Cambridge High School and Point High School. We wish them well, safe in the knowledge that such a trip will provide sporting and cultural memories for a lifetime.

For those parents who use Woodlands Drive as a cut through, I have received correspondence from a representative of Cragg Wood Roads, informing me that a new bollard has been installed, which will be in operation from the start of the next school term; the intention being to monitor and restrict access to Woodlands Drive. Obviously, these new restrictions will not impact Grovian families living in Cragg Woods.

Our boarders return to School on Tuesday 4th September; with School starting for day pupils at 08:30 the following day, Wednesday 5th September.

Whatever the summer holds for you, I hope that you all have an enjoyable and peaceful break.

With all my best wishes,

Yours sincerely

James Lockwood MA
Headmaster

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I am Grovian.