

WOODHOUSE  
GROVE SCHOOL

Appointment of Head of Cricket

SEPTEMBER 2022



## Background

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Woodhouse Grove is one of the north's leading cricket-playing schools. It has a long history of high quality provision for the game, which has been recently enhanced and modernised under the current Head of Cricket, former Derbyshire batsman, Paul Borrington. West Yorkshire has a strong culture of cricket, which is reflected in the strength of the club and school game in the area. Woodhouse Grove has resisted trends towards ever shorter 1st XI games. Although it competes in national T20 competitions, most of its regular Saturday matches are of 50 overs per side. Pupils are committed to the game, and practise diligently throughout the winter, in preparation for an extensive programme of matches in the summer term. Girls' cricket has been introduced in recent years, and is now thriving.

The School has outstanding facilities for Cricket, with 5 high quality grass squares, 4 artificial grass nets and four indoor nets. Nine boys' teams play an extensive programme of school fixtures, predominantly on Saturdays. The School also enters a number of regional and national competitions, and has enjoyed considerable success in recent years. For example: U15 Yorkshire T20 Champions/North T20 Finalists 2018, U14 Yorkshire Lord's Taverners Champions 2017 and National Schools Twenty20 Champions 2014. A number of players regularly win representative honours and Yorkshire Schools teams at all age groups have regular Grove players in their ranks. The girls' fixture list is constantly growing, and teams now enter a range of competitions.

## The School

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Woodhouse Grove is a thriving independent day and boarding school situated on a beautiful 70-acre campus within easy reach of both Leeds and Bradford. There are approximately 1,200 pupils aged 2 to 18, within the senior school and its neighbouring junior school, Brontë House. There are currently just over 200 students in the Sixth Form. Day pupils are drawn from a large, well-populated catchment area of West Yorkshire and beyond, and the school is accessed through its own extensive bus services and an adjacent train station. The large campus has benefited from significant capital investment in recent years, which has enhanced facilities for teaching, performing arts and sport. The latest (March 2017) ISI Inspection graded Woodhouse Grove as 'Excellent' in all areas.

Brontë House is situated close to the senior school. Many of its facilities are on its site, but it also benefits from sharing opportunities with the main campus, not least in sport. It provides automatic entry to the Grove at 11, thus ensuring continuity of education from 2–18, and provides approximately half of the 11+ intake.

Further details of the school can be found at [www.woodhousegrove.co.uk](http://www.woodhousegrove.co.uk)





## The Sports Department

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Sport and Physical Education is a dynamic and high achieving department that has gained national recognition in a number of different sports. In the senior school, there are 12 fully qualified teachers, 3 sports coaches and 3 graduate assistants. High quality Physical Education and Games lessons use a variety of teaching and learning strategies to inspire pupils and ensure progress. The main sports for the boys are Rugby Union and Association Football, plus Cricket: the girls play Netball, Football, Athletics and Tennis. In addition to this, there is a thriving co-curricular programme in a wide variety of sports taking place throughout the week in all three terms. The department relies heavily on other academic staff who are involved in the co-curricular programme throughout the year. Brontë House has its own dedicated sports staff and facilities, also benefits from sharing resources with the Grove.

The school's indoor sporting facilities include a full-size sports hall, an additional smaller hall, fitness suite, 25m indoor pool, squash courts and an indoor climbing wall. On-site outdoor facilities include floodlit tennis courts, 3G pitch, netball courts, extensive pitches catering for rugby, football, cricket and athletics practice areas.

The Physical Education department is heavily involved in the organisation and running of major sporting trips and tours. In recent years students have had the opportunity to experience sporting culture in South Africa, Caribbean and European destinations.

## Role Summary

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The School seeks to appoint an outstanding Head of Cricket with a strong work ethic and clear philosophy for the development of cricket. Woodhouse Grove seeks to be the leading cricket playing school in Yorkshire and beyond, providing an inspiring programme of coaching and competition for players, including the most able and committed. The successful candidate will lead this important area of school life, and be accountable for the health of the game in the school. They will be the ambassador for the game, and for the reputation of Grove Cricket.

The person appointed will lead, manage and deliver an exciting programme of cricket throughout the 5 – 18 age range. They will ensure that all boys and girls have the opportunity to play, develop and learn to love the game. This will include leading the winter coaching programme, providing one-to-one and small group coaching sessions, in addition to coaching the 1st XI in the summer term.

A number of pupils in each year compete to a high standard and are involved in representative pathways: supporting and encouraging their aspirations will be another important dimension of the position. This will involve building positive relationships with outside bodies, most notably Yorkshire County Cricket Club. Attracting and retaining talented players through the quality of the programme on offer is a responsibility of the role.

A range of staff contribute to the coaching programme, and are line managed in this role by the Head of Cricket. Support and development of these staff is important in maintaining high quality provision throughout the School.

The Cricket programme operates all-year-round for the keenest cricketers. Much of this takes place beyond the regular school day. The development of a high performance support programme for the able and ambitious cricketers will be vital, but inspiring all pupils to love the game and participate enthusiastically is equally important.

The successful candidate will be committed to the continued development of the girls' game in the school. Although a recent inclusion in the Grove programme, this has been immediately successful, and a large number of girls are now engaged within the game and play and practise regularly. The school is keen to develop this further, to become a leading force in female cricket within Yorkshire and beyond.

The School's Cricket teams have a strong tradition of touring in school holidays, to which the successful candidate will be expected to be fully committed. Senior teams undertake biennial tours to long haul destinations, such as the Caribbean, with junior teams travelling regularly throughout the UK.

The Head of Cricket will also administer the cricket programme, liaising closely with the Director of Sport, Health and Fitness (and the Headmaster) in building appropriate fixture lists and controlling competition entry. It is important that routine logistics are of top quality, and that the game fits seamlessly into the wider school programme. Liaison with support staff, including groundsman, caterers, transport providers and others is an essential part of this. Maintaining records, preparing reports and collating results will all contribute to high quality administration. Communication skills will be important in ensuring that staff and parents are clearly informed of all cricket activity, and the arrangements which support it.

There will be an important role in maintaining relationships with feeder schools, and others to ensure that all cricketers are aware of the quality of the programme at the Grove.



## Person Specification

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The School is keen to consider applicants from a range of backgrounds for this post. A strong background of playing and/or coaching the game to a high standard is essential. An understanding of high performance programmes is vital. Also important is a track record of coaching and rapport with young players, and an awareness of the landscape of school cricket and the challenges that it faces. The ability to inspire enthusiasm for, and commitment to, the game are essential, together with communication skills and the ability to work as part of a team.

Sports programmes at Woodhouse Grove takes place within and beyond the school day, including weekends and school holidays. Staff are dedicated, and give generously of their time to ensure that sports provision is extensive and successful.

To support our pupil recruitment, the successful applicant will be encouraged to take part in the school's sports outreach programme to local primary schools. In addition to which, they will be expected to lead and help deliver a programme of 3-day cricket camps held during the key school holidays; camps currently run for one week at Easter and two weeks in the Summer holidays.

The capacity to contribute, at some level, to coaching winter sports (especially Rugby Union, Association Football or Netball) will be essential, along with willingness to be fully involved in the life of the School, within and beyond sport. This will involve attendance at Saturday fixtures throughout the school year, and an appropriate involvement in the PE programme. Necessary training, leading to relevant qualifications, will be provided where necessary.

A degree in a sports related discipline would be an advantage, as would ECB coaching qualifications, ideally at Level 3 or beyond. However, applicants with extensive, relevant experience in the game are also encouraged to apply.

## Application Process

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The School is working with Independent Coach Education on this appointment. Prospective applicants who would like to discuss this role further should contact Dan Scargill, Recruitment Director, ([dan@independentcoacheducation.co.uk](mailto:dan@independentcoacheducation.co.uk)) to arrange an informal discussion.

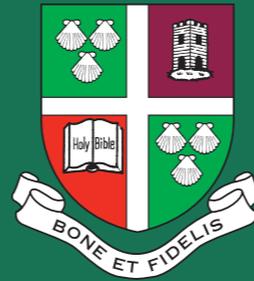
Applications should be made to the Headmaster, James Lockwood, on the school's official Application Forms. These can be found on the school website: [www.woodhousegrove.co.uk/school-info/vacancies](http://www.woodhousegrove.co.uk/school-info/vacancies)

Completed applications should be returned by the closing date, Wednesday 11 May at noon.

Interviews will be held in the week commencing 16 May.

*Woodhouse Grove School is committed to Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This appointment will be conditional upon successful pre-employment and DBS checks.*





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