

A Chance to Succeed

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THE GROVE ACADEMY

CHRISTMAS 2018



Remember, School reopens for students on Tuesday 8th January

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Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been a tough, but rewarding term.

We started September with the devastating news that the Local Authority planned to cut our discretionary funding by 83%. This did not daunt the determined and resilient spirit of Grove's staff, students and parents.

Our safeguarding parent-governor, Dr Pickering, supportive parent Natalie Astwood, and our Head of English, Mr Boyce have led a brilliant campaign to fight the cuts. They have led on high-profile stories in the media, with effective



articles in the newspapers and on Radio York and Stray FM. Then the Guardian and the Times Education Supplement ran stories on us! We were even on Look North showing off the excellent work Mrs Kersey does with her Art students.

Staff and parents have run information stalls on busy Saturdays in the town centre, organised petitions totalling with over 4,000 signatures and lobbied councillors and MPs. The Grove has been overwhelmed with messages of support from the public, parents and pupils, and councillors.

We were very proud of the contribution many of our current pupils made in praising the work the Grove has done to help them. Staff were really moved by how passionately so many students defended what we do during the Local Authority consultation period, completing questionnaires, speaking to LA officers and telling journalists about how important the Grove was to them in giving them a second chance.

Special mention should be made of the exceptional support of past pupils who offered support when they heard of the cuts. Zoe, Kayleigh, Amy, Francesca and Richard played an important role in gaining public support for the Save the PRS Campaign. They were powerful speakers at the LA Consultation meetings, on the radio and in the local press. For staff, to see how much they valued the support we had

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given them over past year made all the hard work seem worthwhile.

As the Principal, the remarkable efforts of everyone has made me realise what a special place the Grove is to work at. First and foremost, it reminds me that the Grove is a community school, looking after its own in the heart of the local area, trying its best to serve local schools and local people in difficult times. Secondly, it has made me appreciate how fortunate I am to lead such an outstanding group of caring, resilient and talented staff. Everyone goes above and beyond, and I thank them for their hard work and commitment.

Despite the strain of working under the threat of cuts, The Grove has never been busier. We continue to offer an outstanding education to our young people. The curriculum has never been better, the many trips continue to broaden minds and creativity, and the idea that everyone can change and strive to be a better version of themselves remains at the core of everything we do.

A stand out occasion from many for me was the Remembrance Day service organised by Mr Kitson, Mr Hamilton, Mrs Kersey and our new English teacher, Mr Hall, who has brought such enthusiasm and talent to his teaching. The poems, home-made poppies and the moving memorial in our garden space was emotionally powerful. Above all, I was impressed by the respectful attitude of the students during the two-minute silence as we remembered the sacrifice of our forebears in the

world wars. Again, another example of how the Grove seeks to connect our young people to their community and national history.

Sadly, we say said goodbye to two well-respected staff members this term: Mr Haddock, our brilliant and well-liked HLTA, and the polymathic tech whizz Mr Wilkinson, our Head of Maths. Whilst at the Grove, Mr Wilkinson has developed exciting and popular STEM lessons, and achieved success for students in national maths competitions such as Sumdog. We were the only PRU to enter this competition and we were the Daily Winner on the 4th December, meaning that our students answered the most correct questions of all schools on that day!

Ethan was our best performing student and came 42nd! We wish both Mr Haddock and Mr Wilkinson every success for the future and will miss them and the contribution they have both made to the success of our school.

It only remains to wish everyone a very happy and relaxing Christmas. The symbolism of the evergreen Christmas tree amidst the bleakness of winter reminds us that even in the darkness times, the hope of new life and possibility remain. I am hopeful that the new year will see a brighter future for both our young people and the Grove Academy, so we can continue to serve those who need that extra bit of time, love and understanding to become a better person.

Mr Warren,
Principal

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Children In Need

To raise funds for Children in Need we held our bi-annual Balloon Stomp Melee challenge! and the Grove Bake-Off!



The balloon popping insanity was won by Mr Hall - much to the chagrin of everyone else involved... a stewards enquiry is underway.

The Grove Bake Off was won by Max who made the most delectable biscuits in the school, the Pudsey bear biscuits were all eaten by Mr Boyce, who gained 3 stones and a cavity in his 3rd molar.

In all this fun and madness we never lost sight of the reason we were raising the money. We raised a grand total of £33.97



World War One Centenary

Marking the centenary of the end of The Great War Mr Kitson organised a service at the Grove.

The students and staff made 100 crucifix and poppies to place in our remembrance garden.



Mr Hughes, Mr Hall, Mrs Kersey and Mr Warren read war poetry, Mr Hamilton reminded us all why the poppy was so important



at this time, and Mr Wilkinson gave us the shocking statistics of how the Great War affected this community.

We were all reminded of the sacrifices made by the men and boys who never returned all those years ago.

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Night in the woods

At the end of October, before the winter set in, four of our students took part in our 'night in the woods challenge'. They came back into the centre late afternoon, packed their equipment and were dropped off near the



village of Ripley. From here they walked across the fields and through woods to Fox Wood. By the time they arrived it was dark so it was 'torches out time' in order to build their homes for the night. Some slept in shelters they had previously constructed whilst others made a shelter out of a tarpaulin strung between two trees.

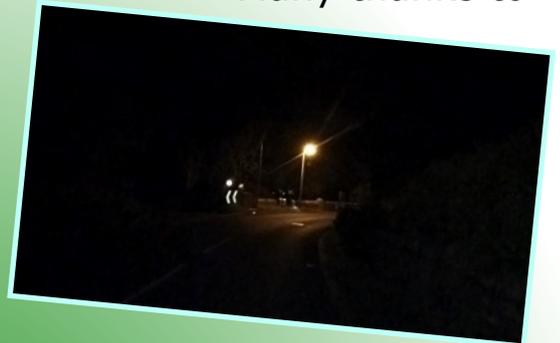
After a hearty tea and endless games of hide and seek they settled down to make a key ring from natural materials. All the students went to sleep straight

away and all slept in until 8 o'clock the following morning. In the morning they packed up their gear and walked the short distance to the

minibus. This was a great trip that enabled students to build on the skills learnt in Outdoor Education Lessons and practice them



in a realistic situation. Many thanks to



Miss Burton Cole and Mr Hamilton for making this happen.

Mr Turner



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Land-based Studies - Autumn-Winter 2018

KS4

John has had a busy term developing his Level 1 Land-based Studies skills.

The nice weather of September saw him in Hutton Conyers, near Ripon, building a kissing gate on a public footpath, as part of our work for the Harrogate Council Countryside

Ranger.

Over three consecutive lessons, John took the responsibility for all the setting out, digging, measuring, marking, cutting, and fixing of all the posts and rails needed for the gateway. A job with a real sense of achievement ... as you can see from the photos.



KS3

The Autumn term also saw the launch of Land-based Studies as a weekly, timetabled lesson for Key Stage 3 students for the first time.

To mark this development, 3.2 and 3.1 have both been trialling a new scheme of work, studying the River Nidd, from its source on Great Whernside - in Upper Nidderdale, to its confluence with the River Ouse - at Nun Monkton in the Vale of York.

Along its course, the students have been visiting various sites, studying the natural and social history at each particular point of interest and developing their local knowledge along the way.

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James visits



We had an exciting opportunity for one of our students to visit the studios of Stray FM.

James spent time in the studio whilst the Breakfast presenter, Nick Hancock was live on air, although James didn't actually go on air himself. However he enjoyed being shown exactly how the station creates



their output, and met several of the other presenters.

Support for Families

Wishing all our families a safe and happy Christmas. If a young person or any one in your family needs help over the holidays then please remember that the Samaritans and Papyrus can always be contacted through their websites and free phone numbers:

<https://www.samaritans.org/>

<https://papyrus-uk.org/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/get-urgent-help/youngminds-crisis-messenger/>

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Budget Cuts



This half term staff, parents and pupils have been campaigning against the huge cuts to the PRU proposed by North Yorkshire County Council.

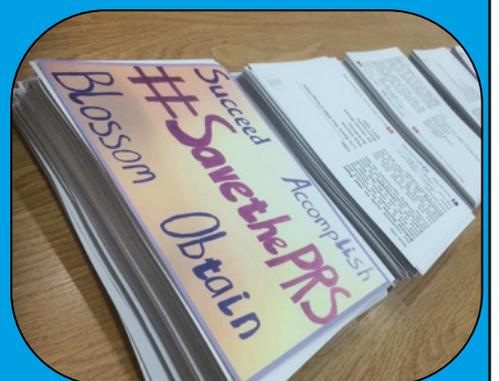
Over 2700 online signatures have been collected as well as over 1200 written objections to be posted to council soon. Staff have also spoken at county hall to highlight the devastating effect this would have on our students and on the community.

Councillors and MPs are showing their support and we hope to get the proposal voted down at the budget vote in February. A parent group is also bringing legal action against the council for an unlawful and inadequate consultation.

Local school heads have also spoken out and a joint letter opposing the cuts is being drawn up for them to sign.

Facebook: Save the PRS, Twitter: @savetheprs

Website: <https://www.crowdjustice.com/case/savetheprs/>



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Be in it, to win it!

As you know school attendance is very important in ensuring pupils achieve the very best they're capable of. The more time off they have the less likely they are to achieve a place at college or find a job they enjoy. Please encourage your children to attend school every day ready to learn.



We will be monitoring attendance very carefully next term and will follow up any absences to ensure students are at school when they should be and if not the reason they are absent. If your son or daughter is going to be absent from school please ring the school office (01423 536111) to let us know the reason they are absent.

The Government considers any child with below 95% attendance as a Persistent Absentee. If your son's/daughter's attendance drops below this figure The Grove Academy will put them on a fast track programme. This could

ultimately mean that parents are fined in the family court or given an Education Supervision Order as it is parents' responsibility to ensure their children attend school.

Obviously we want to avoid the above action so if you need support with getting your child to school please let us know as soon as possible so we can work together to that end. The important thing is that we communicate with you and you communicate with us so that together we can ensure the best outcome for your children.

KS3 pupils arrived at Fountains Abbey not expecting a workout!

Having looked at the impressionist artist Monet, the pupils were armed with their chalk pastel drawings in the smudgy style of the great master. It was to be poppies not water lilies this time that were going to be transported into felts.



Rapidly, the pupils were fully engaged, layering, colour blending and

finally the challenging, exhausting process of the irreversible change! A thousand rolls to make the felt. It was all worthwhile. Seven amazing felts were produced, resembling their initial drawings. They are also an important way for the pupils to remember the 100 years since the end of WWI.

The following day GCSE Art students Lauren and Lucy arrived and quickly got down to sketching and taking photos of the Abbey. This inspired them to create very



individual felts reflecting their special views.

Well done to all the pupils and a special thanks to Janet, Mary and Deb for two more, great workshops and 1,000 rolls later the students were also fitter!

Mrs Kersey

