



*Successful, Welcome and Included*



# Welcome to Grove Academy

## Natalie Wismayer, Headteacher, says...

The all-through nature of Grove Academy supports all children to maximise both academic success and personal growth. All children are supported to feel welcome, successful and included.

### A first for Slough

Grove Academy is the first all-through school in Slough to open from Early Years Foundation Stage through to the end of Key Stage 4. This is underpinned by high-quality teaching and learning and assessment.

### Moving between key stages

As one school, we are able to draw on the expertise of staff at all phases in planning and delivering our curriculum, developing sequential learning and a transition curriculum for children as they move between key stages.

## What we stand for: our Aims, Values, Ethos

Grove Academy is a school where every child can feel welcome, successful and included. We want our students to:

- Be responsible, fully active citizens who are kind to one another, ready to learn, know how to keep themselves safe and are proud of their achievements
- Engage in a curriculum which will encourage problem solving, critical reflection, research and challenge
- Recognise the importance of creativity and innovation to their future lives
- Develop the confidence to participate in decision making, and have a creative input across the three areas of family well-being, public service and contribution to the economy
- Leave school confident in their ability to succeed and able to successfully access the world of work or further/higher education
- Be able to learn new skills and engage in business markets that no one is yet able to define
- Be the future leaders of our society



*"We wouldn't hesitate to recommend Grove Academy to other families."*

## Yolade feels comfortable and at home and is enjoying his education in the safe surroundings of Grove Academy

Kazeem and Tessy live in Slough with their daughter, Yomade, aged 18, who is at college, and their son, Yolade, aged 15.

### Ambition for Education

Kazeem and Tessy are delighted that their son, Yolade, has settled in and is happy to be at Grove Academy. Kazeem says: "Yolade particularly enjoys the history lessons, and the cookery classes. He will be taking his GCSEs next year and he has told us that he would like to go on to study at a sixth form college and then go to university."

### Kind teachers

Although he is by nature very quiet, Yolade already has a couple of very close friends at Grove Academy, his father says. "The staff were all very welcoming and helped make the transition to a new school as smooth as possible for him. We can tell the staff are very caring towards the children and during his time at the school he has had no issues with anything. Now Yolade is in Year 10, he feels at home at Grove Academy and he enjoys playing football at school and likes doing PE," Kazeem says.

### Safe surroundings

"We like the way the school teaches the children good values, such as being respectful to others and the importance of being inclusive, and that they encourage positive behaviour from their students. When I visit the school, I always notice that it is very tidy and well looked after and the staff in the reception area make you feel very welcome. You can also tell that Grove Academy take security very seriously and it gives you the confidence to know that your child will be kept safe while he is at school," he says.

### Good communication

"The staff are always very welcoming to parents and they keep us very well informed. They email you consistently to keep you up to date with what is happening at the school and they let you know straight away if there are any changes to arrangements, or to the school opening and closing times, and they also regularly ask you for your input about the school," Kazeem says.

### Caring environment

"We are pleased that the staff are very caring towards the children and have helped to make Yolade feel at home at his new school and it is very reassuring for us as parents to know that the school take the safety of the students seriously. We wouldn't hesitate to recommend Grove Academy to other families."

### Children say

Yolade says: "My school is a great place of learning. The teachers are all really supportive and they are always ready to help when students are confused or in need of extra explanations. The resources needed are all readily and easily available and the community is strong."



# Settling in to primary



**Giving children a strong foundation through quality learning experiences and enrichment opportunities.**

## Transition

All learners, from foundation stage to the end of Key Stage 2, are supported to make a strong start to their learning journey.

The EYFS curriculum provides the foundation for children to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow. The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the framework that provides that assurance.

## School hours

The school gates open from 8:30am to 8:45am, where a member of staff will welcome your child to a day of learning and play. Registration closes at 8:50am for all year groups.

At the end of the day, each year group will be dismissed at a staggered time between 3pm and 3.30pm. There is an early finish for all year groups on a Friday, from 2:30pm to 2:50pm.

We expect students to be on time each day, ready for the day ahead.

## Food in school: The Bistro

We encourage healthy eating to improve concentration, performance and general wellbeing for all our children and staff. The Bistro is Grove Academy's state of the art kitchen and servery, and we are fortunate to have a skilled team of chefs preparing a selection of hot and cold breakfast and lunches.

Grove Academy continues to provide Universal Free School Meals for children in Reception, Year 1 and

Year 2 and also provides free lunches for children who are on our Free School Meals register. Parents may also choose to send their child with a healthy packed lunch.

Primary students are able to access wrap around provision at the start and end of each day, run by staff familiar to the students, at a nominal cost to families.

## Uniform

We take pride in seeing all of our students in uniform that reflects their experiences as 'Active Learners' and hold all students to high uniform standards. Primary and secondary uniforms are available from our trusted suppliers 'School Days Direct'. All items of uniforms must be clearly labelled with your child's name.

# Regis and Albion have been given a warm welcome by both the students and staff since starting at Grove Academy

Danjela lives in Slough with her children, Regis, aged 12, Albion, aged 7, and Erda, aged three.



*"I like the way we have been welcomed since my sons started at Grove Academy. The staff have been amazing and have helped us a lot since we came here."*

## Helpful staff

Danjela is very happy with the academic progress her sons are making at Grove Academy and she is delighted with how well they have settled in at the school. She says: "I like the way we have been welcomed since my sons started at Grove Academy. The staff have been amazing and have helped us a lot since we came here."

## All-through school

When the family moved to Slough last year, Danjela searched on the internet for a good school for the children and was pleased to discover Grove Academy. She says: "I looked at all the information about the school online and thought that it sounded a good school. It was close to where we live and, because it is an All-through school, both my boys can go there. I am able to take them to the same place each morning to drop them off and pick them up again from there in the afternoon." Danjela's daughter, Erda, goes to a nursery nearby.

## New start

After the family arrived in Slough, both children were able to start at the school in September within a few days of each other. "The staff were very kind and helpful to me

with filling in the forms before Regis started in Year 7. A few days later, Albion was able to join Year 3 at the school," Danjela says.

## Friendly environment

"Regis liked Grove Academy straight away and said the staff were very polite and kind to him and the children were all friendly towards him, so he felt at home quickly. The staff have all told me he is a good student and that he is doing well academically. His teacher has told me he is 'an amazing boy,'" Danjela says.

## Enjoying activities

"His favourite subject is Maths, but he also likes Geography and Science. He is very friendly and talks to other children easily and so he made friends with other students quickly. He is very active and joins in with everything. He enjoys Drama and comes home telling me proudly that he is an actor, when he has been doing Drama at school. He also enjoys playing basketball after school and being in the school basketball team," she says.

## Enthusiastic student

After Albion started in Year 3, he also settled in at the school well. "He likes Maths, IT, and History and he enjoys

doing gymnastics at school. Albion loves to bring work from school to do at home and when I offer to sit down with him to help him, he will say that he can do it by himself. He is doing well with his work and I am very proud of him. I am very happy with Grove Academy because I know Regis and Albion both love the school and are doing well there," she says.

## Good communication

Danjela is very grateful that the staff at the school take the time to call her and explain the things she needs to know and that they will also send her emails to let her know information in advance. She says: "They have helped me a lot and are always very kind to me."

## Children say

Regis says: "I love the teachers and how they help me to become a better and smarter individual."

Albion says: "I like to be in this school and to learn to become a good student and I wish my teachers the best."



# Primary curriculum



**Our curriculum is designed to give Grove students the best start, from foundation stage throughout their learning journey.**

## Meeting the needs of all students

Our curriculum is based on two foundation principles: inclusion and aspiration. This curriculum, from EYFS to Year 11 is underpinned by what we believe our school community needs to be successful.

The Grove 5

Our students will be:

1. Relentless Readers
2. Knowledge Retrievers
3. Critical Connectors
4. Quality Talkers
5. Active Learners

## Creativity and expression

Our rich and balanced curriculum offer provides a core academic suite of subjects. Alongside this, students will develop creativity and expression through practical subjects and the expressive arts.

### Personal development curriculum

Our primary school personal development curriculum lays the foundation for children to grow into confident, responsible individuals. It teaches essential life skills vital for both academic success and personal well-being. By fostering positive relationships, promoting mental and physical health, and encouraging a strong sense of self, this curriculum helps children navigate challenges and prepares them for future opportunities, both in school and in life.

## Assessment

Assessment is central to our curriculum. Teachers regularly check students' work and understanding, identify misconceptions and gaps in learning and provide effective feedback so that students are clear about the next steps they need to take in their learning.

### Inclusion

We analyse a wide variety of information to identify any potential barriers to learning. Our teachers and staff are committed to inclusion and precision planning, using the information we have gathered to support and accelerate children's learning. Children reap the benefits of an all-through school, with access to science labs, dance studios, design and tech rooms, and music rooms.

## Lee, Kupakwashe, and Praise are all enjoying learning and playing sport in the welcoming atmosphere of Grove Academy

Bruce and Savegirl live in Slough with their children, Lee, aged 14, Kupakwashe, aged 12, and Praise, aged seven.

*"As a family we have been made to feel very welcome by the school and the teachers always communicate with us well."*



### Excellent choice

The children all started at Grove Academy after the family arrived in England from Zimbabwe and settled in Slough. Bruce and Savegirl chose the school, mainly because it was close to where they lived, and they are very happy with their choice because of how well the children are getting on.

### All Through school

It helped the family that Grove Academy is an All Through school, which meant that all the children could go to the same school and that Praise will be able to follow her brothers into the secondary school when she is older.

### Great start

Bruce and Savegirl are very pleased that all three of their children are flourishing at Grove Academy, less than a year after they first started at the school. Bruce says: "We are delighted with the high standard of teaching our children are receiving at the school and we're very satisfied with how well they are doing after such a short time there."

### Science facilities

"Lee settled in well and has made plenty of new friends," Bruce says. "He is now in Year 9 and is doing well. He likes the Science Lab because it has lots of equipment and

he likes working on the computers. He is good at Science and IT and so we are pleased that Grove Academy has such good facilities for him to use."

### Supportive staff

Kupakwashe is now settled in Year 6. Bruce says: "When he first started in Year 5, at the age of 11, he found it difficult to begin with because the school had a different style of operating from his school in Zimbabwe. But the staff helped him adjust to the environment by talking to him and making sure he understood everything and they were very kind and patient."

### Playing sport

Bruce says they helped him to understand the terminology they used to the children and explained words to him. "Now he is settled at the school, Kupakwashe enjoys most of the lessons and he is doing well in most subjects. He has made some good friends and he likes the teachers. He is gradually getting used to the way they teach and he is beginning to enjoy it more now. His favourite thing is playing football at school."

### Attentive teachers

After Praise started in Year 1, she found it difficult to understand the routines to begin with, Bruce recalls.

"The staff were kind and regularly checked with her to make sure that she was okay and she is doing well now according to the teachers. She says she really enjoys the music lessons."

### Keen student

Praise has lots of friends at the school, he says. "She comes home and tells us all about the school and she is very enthusiastic about it. She enjoys all the different sports and she likes the clubs that the school put on for the children."

### Good communication

Bruce says: "As a family we have been made to feel very welcome by the school and the teachers always communicate with us well. It is a very diverse school and we like the way that all children are made to feel included and comfortable and we are pleased that our children were given places there."

### Children say

Lee says: "I like the environment at Grove Academy and the nice buildings."

Kupakwashe says: "I enjoy the free materials and I like English."

Praise says: "I love golden time and English, and the student councillors."



**Primary extended curriculum:**  
our rich and diverse community  
is valued and celebrated

**We are passionate about how we can  
build students' cultural understanding.**

#### **Educational visits**

At our school, we believe that learning extends far beyond the classroom, which is why we offer a wide range of enriching educational trips throughout the year. From local explorations to exciting visits further afield, our students have the opportunity to experience the world around them in meaningful and memorable ways. Primary pupils enjoy nature walks along the Jubilee River, visits to the Braywick Nature Reserve, and adventure walks around Chalvey, helping them connect with their local environment.

#### **Residential trips and visitors**

Older children have the opportunity to take part in residential trips during the school year.

Additionally, we arrange visits to the school by theatre groups and those with professional expertise such as singers, artists and musicians, tailoring visits to support classroom learning.

#### **Wide variety of clubs**

We run a wide variety of after-school clubs to appeal to every child. Recent examples are:

- Art and Origami
- Reading
- Boys Football
- Girls Football
- Art
- Maths
- Lego
- Multi Sports

## **Secondary transition and pastoral care**

**Every child that comes through our door  
is a valued member of the Grove Academy  
community. The move to secondary phase  
is smooth and supported.**

#### **Transition**

As Slough's only all-through school, we are fortunate to receive a large number of students in Year 7 from our Year 6 cohort. Year 6 teachers work closely with the Head of Year 7 so that your child starts the year set up for success. It also means we are able to offer more support to those students joining us from new schools.

#### **Transition programme**

We have a bespoke induction programme, enabling students to receive a strong start at Grove.

- **Transition Day:** *students have a full day, involving tasters of different lessons and activities, run by the Head of Year 7.*
- **Summer School:** *we offer summer school for a week in the school holidays with lots of fun activities.*

*This helps students to become comfortable with our environment and teachers.*

#### **Additional SENDCO support**

Any students that feel they need extra support they can come in and met with our SENDCO and have a tour of the school to support their transition and consider their needs.

#### **Pastoral care**

At Grove Academy, students feel safe, valued, and understood. With a focus on emotional, social, and academic support, our dedicated team works closely with students to help them navigate challenges, build resilience, and achieve their personal best. By fostering strong, trusting relationships, the pastoral team ensures that all students have the guidance and encouragement they need to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

The pastoral team consists of Heads of Year, Form Tutors and Learning Mentors, and is supported by the work of the safeguarding and welfare teams.

#### **Safeguarding**

At Grove Academy safeguarding is integral to every aspect of our school community. Safeguarding is woven into the fabric of the curriculum, teaching practices, and

extracurricular activities. Staff promote a culture of readiness, respectfulness and safety for all.

Through lesson content and discussions, students are encouraged to understand their rights and responsibilities, as well as the importance of personal safety, well-being, and respect for others.

This is underpinned by the school 'Keeping Safe at Grove and Beyond' programme.



# Secondary curriculum and SEND provision

## An ambitious curriculum designed to encourage success.

### The Grove 5

Our curriculum is based on two foundation principles: inclusion and aspiration. This curriculum, from EYFS to Year 11 is underpinned by what we believe our school community needs to be successful:

#### The Grove 5

Our students will be:

- Relentless Readers
- Knowledge Retrievers
- Critical Connectors
- Quality Talkers
- Active Learners

#### Key Stage 3

Our curriculum is designed to focus on a core academic suite of subjects as well as developing creativity and expression through practical subjects and the expressive arts.

Core subjects - English, Science and Maths and are given prominence as these provide the essential skills for future progress. However, the range of other subjects is suitably wide. We offer experiences in four technologies: Resistant Materials; Graphics; Photography; Food Technology as well as Art; Music Drama, Business/Computing, PSHE and Physical Education. Spanish is the main foreign language but students will also be introduced to new languages as part of their wider personal development.

#### Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4 we encourage students to study GCSE option routes with the EBACC the preferred suite of subjects to be studied. A small number of vocational courses are offered to ensure that sufficient breadth in the curriculum for all learners is maintained.

### Inclusion and SEND

We analyse a wide variety of information to identify any potential barriers to learning. Our teachers and staff are committed to inclusion and precision planning, using the information we have gathered to support and accelerate children's learning. Students with additional needs will receive support from our SEND provision, The Hub.

We are fully committed to offering an inclusive curriculum to ensure the best possible progress of all our students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

#### Assessment

Assessment is central to our curriculum. Teachers regularly check students' work and understanding, identify misconceptions and gaps in learning and provide effective feedback so that students are clear about the next steps they need to take in their learning. for academic success.



*"I have had a very good experience of the school with both of my sons and I would certainly recommend the school to other families."*

## Hassan is being supported to fulfill his academic potential in the friendly environment of Grove Academy

Basharat lives in Slough with her sons, Umar, aged 16, and Hassan, aged 14.

### Enjoying Science

Basharat is very satisfied with the high quality of education Hassan is receiving at Grove Academy. She says: "Hassan is getting on very well at school. When he comes home each day, I ask him if he has understood everything and he always says he is fine and understands everything and that he is happy at school. He likes Science and is studying Triple Science as part of his GCSEs; I am pleased that his science teachers are all very hard working and dedicated to their students."

### Good grades

She says she chose Grove Academy as a secondary school for her older son, Umar, because it was near to where they lived and after doing some research, she thought it seemed a good school and that the standard of teaching would be high. "Umar always got on very well at the school. He liked Chemistry and Maths, and he always understood everything he had been taught and

he obtained good grades in his GCSEs," Basharat says.

### Making friends

Hassan had been to another primary school and moved to Grove Academy to start in Year 7, Basharat says. "When he joined the school, he settled in well and he liked Grove Academy straight away. Hassan is very friendly and he quickly made some good friends at the school. He said the teachers were very kind and helpful and that he understood everything he was being taught and he has never had any issues."

### All-through school

"Hassan is passionate about football and he enjoys playing the game at school with his friends. Also, both Umar and Hassan have enjoyed going on trips with the school. Although my sons didn't do their primary education at Grove Academy, I think it is great that it is an all-through school and that children can stay at the same school

all the way through their education and that they don't have to change schools to go to secondary school," Basharat says.

### Working as a team

"The staff are good at working with parents to try to help the children. Hassan is, by nature, not very organised and he sometimes didn't take the right equipment with him to school. I used to have to remind him each day about taking the right things with him for each lesson, but the staff have now helped him with that. Staff communicate well with me, and we have worked together to help Hassan improve his organisational skills," Basharat says.

### Helpful teachers

"Whenever I have had to contact the school about anything, I have always found the teachers to be very helpful. I have had a very good experience of the school with both of my sons and I would certainly recommend the school to other families."



# Secondary enrichment

**Widening our students' horizons is fundamental to our ethos.**

## Trips

Teaching is enhanced through well planned trips and experiences to bring classroom learning to life. Students will enjoy local area visits and trips further afield, widening their horizons to experiences outside of their everyday lives.

Students can also take part in subject-specific field trips, such as Geography investigations at Northala Fields, Biology studies in Amersham, and Maths enrichment at Bletchley Park. Regular visits to London's world-class museums, including the Science Museum, Natural History Museum, British Museum, Tate Modern, and the National Gallery...support learning across the curriculum and spark curiosity.

## Sports enrichment

We also have a large sports enrichment offer. We have a fabulous new Table Tennis Centre and Fitness Studio.



In addition, we have basketball clubs, badminton clubs, cricket clubs, football clubs and more. We compete against local Slough schools in many sports fixtures and have the ambitious but real aim to ensure all students have represented the school in at least one sporting event by the end of Year 9. This is done in conjunction with the Slough Schools Sports Network who host many events in a range of sports, which ensures accessibility for all students.

## Clubs

We have a wide variety of clubs that students can take part in, including:

- Art and origami
- Colouring
- Reading
- Maths
- Multi Sports
- Boys football
- Girls football
- Lego builders
- Computing
- Handwriting
- Science
- Music
- Drawing
- DT
- School choir
- Drama Club
- Dance Club
- Grove's Got Talent

- Badminton Club
- Fitness Club
- Chess club

Students can try their hand at a wide variety of new experiences and make new friends through Grove's club programme.



## Inter-school competitions

Pupils also participate in inter-school competitions and events within our trust, including chess tournaments and multicultural celebrations. A highlight for many is the annual three-night residential trip to PGL, which builds independence, confidence, and teamwork. These diverse experiences are carefully designed to inspire students, deepen their understanding, and broaden their horizons.

## Further and higher Education

All year groups have the opportunity to learn about colleges, sixth forms, and universities.

*"He is progressing well and being helped by the teachers to achieve his full potential academically."*

## Ayaan's writing and performing skills are being positively developed by the motivating teachers at Grove Academy

Noreen and Khawer live in Slough with their son, Ayaan, who is 14.

## Enjoying learning

Noreen and Khawer are pleased their son, Ayaan, is thriving in Year 9 at Grove Academy and that the staff are motivating him to work hard and succeed with his studies. Noreen says: "Ayaan likes all his subjects but particularly enjoys English. He loves writing short stories and poems and two of his stories have been published in a young writers' story book."

## Keen student

"We would certainly recommend Grove Academy to other families looking for a good primary and secondary school in this area. We are satisfied that it was a good decision to send Ayaan there. After three years at the school, Ayaan is still very happy at Grove Academy and keen to go to school each day. He is progressing well and being helped by the teachers to achieve his full potential academically."

## Children say

Ayaan says: "Grove Academy is a great place to attain knowledge and gain motivation. The staff and Safeguarding Team do a fantastic job of keeping my friends and I safe,

and I feel comfortable around the school. The Grove 5 (Knowledge Retrievers, Quality Talkers, Active Learners, Critical Connectors and Relentless Readers) give us a foundation to the school's standards and expectations, and guidelines to follow towards success. There are what seem to be endless opportunities, and extracurricular activities, to participate in, some of my favourites being Music, Drama, and Writing, allowing for a more fruitful and enjoyable time. With the help and reassurance of my parents, friends, staff, and teachers, I am certain my time at Grove Academy will be joyous, purposeful, and supportive for my future and my aspirations when I leave. I am satisfied and happy at Grove and proud to be a part of it.

## Good communication

Noreen likes the way the school keep the parents informed about their children's progress. She says: "Grove Academy send regular newsletters and there is also a ClassCharts that you can look at where they put on details about homework and other information. We are always made to feel welcome at the school when we go in for meetings with the teachers."

## Friendly community

Noreen is pleased that Grove Academy is a diverse community where all students get on together well, and parents find that they also get on well with the other parents whenever they go to the school for events.

## Talent recognised

"Even though it seemed a big school to Ayaan after the primary school he had attended, he settled in well at Grove Academy when he started in Year 7," Noreen says. "He liked the school and got on well with all his teachers and he is always happy to go there every day. He won a trophy for a poem he wrote in Grove's Got Talent in his first year."

## New friends

Ayaan plays the piano and guitar and also won a trophy for his music band in Grove's Got Talent two years later, Noreen says. "He likes all the subjects, but English and Music are his two favourite classes. Ayaan now has a good circle of friends. All the children came from different primary schools, but have mixed well since they started at the school."



# Careers Support at Grove Academy: Inspiring Futures Together



## Keen PE student Rafay Ali is enjoying the benefit of the excellent facilities offered by Grove Academy

Kay lives with her son, Rafay, who is 13, in Slough.

### Life beyond the classroom

At Grove Academy, we are committed to supporting every student — and every family — as they prepare for life beyond the classroom.

Our secondary students take part in a wide range of exciting careers workshops and experiences that build essential skills such as communication, confidence, and decision-making. These activities are all part of our mission to help students feel inspired, informed, and ready for their future.

#### Clear and structured careers programme

From Year 7 onwards, your child will benefit from a clear, structured careers programme that guides them through each stage of their journey. Whether they are considering university, college, apprenticeships, or going straight into the workplace, we are here to support them every step of the way.

Our careers guidance is built on the Gatsby Benchmarks, a national standard that ensures every student receives high-quality, impartial advice and meaningful encounters with the world of work and further education.

### Options

We know how important it is for young people to explore their options early. That's why we encourage students to think about their future from Key Stage 3, helping them link their current learning to exciting possibilities ahead. As they move through school, they'll gain experience through employer talks, workplace visits, university tasters, and one-to-one guidance; all designed to broaden their horizons and build confidence in their choices.

### Partnerships: real world insights

Thanks to our partnerships with respected organisations such as Learning to Work, O2, Mars, and local universities including Brunel, Reading and Bucks, your child will hear directly

from people in industry and higher education. These experiences offer a real-world insight into different careers and what it takes to succeed, making the future feel tangible and achievable.

### Careers education

We also deliver careers education through PSHE lessons, tutor time, and subject-specific activities, ensuring that your child can make links between what they're learning now and where it might lead. With a strong focus on academic foundations, particularly in English, Maths, and Science, we help students keep doors open to a wide range of exciting pathways after their GCSEs.

### Preparing students for life

At Grove Academy, we don't just prepare students for exams, we prepare them for life. Together with parents and carers, we aim to equip every young person with the confidence, knowledge and support they need to shape a bright and successful future.

### Well-equipped gym

Kay is pleased with the progress her son, Rafay, is making at Grove Academy and is impressed with the facilities at the school. Kay says: "Grove Academy is very well equipped and has an excellent gym that the students can use, which is great for Rafay because one of his favourite subjects is PE."

### Welcome opportunity

She was pleased when Rafay was offered a place at Grove Academy because he had lost his previous primary school place during Covid 19. "He had been attending another primary school in Slough at the time, but when Covid broke out we were in a red list country and couldn't get back to the UK. He lost his place at primary school and had to be home schooled for a while. Therefore, I was very keen for him to get back into a school setting," Kay says.

### Good impression

"We were living near Grove Academy at the time. After I applied to the school, they offered him a place straight away and I was very relieved. We went to have a look round and liked the building and Rafay loved

his classroom and the lunch hall. He started at Grove Academy in Year 5 when he was 10 years old," she says.

### Playground fun

Rafay was given a warm welcome by the Headteacher and the staff helped him to settle in, Kay recalls. "He got on well in the primary school and enjoyed lots of different activities. They marked out games on the primary playground, which all children enjoyed playing together. There were some good after school clubs and he enjoyed doing Lego and arts and crafts clubs. The sports teacher was very good and Rafay loved playing football and basketball."

### Enjoying Maths

"Now he is in Year 8, he is a bright student and is doing well in all his subjects and particularly likes PE and Maths. Rafay believes in attentively listening to what's being taught in class. He is a hardworking student, who works with dedication, takes time to reflect and studies at home. Grove Secondary school has a great addition to aid with studies which is through an App called SPARXS Maths. It's a fun way to do Maths homework," Kay says.

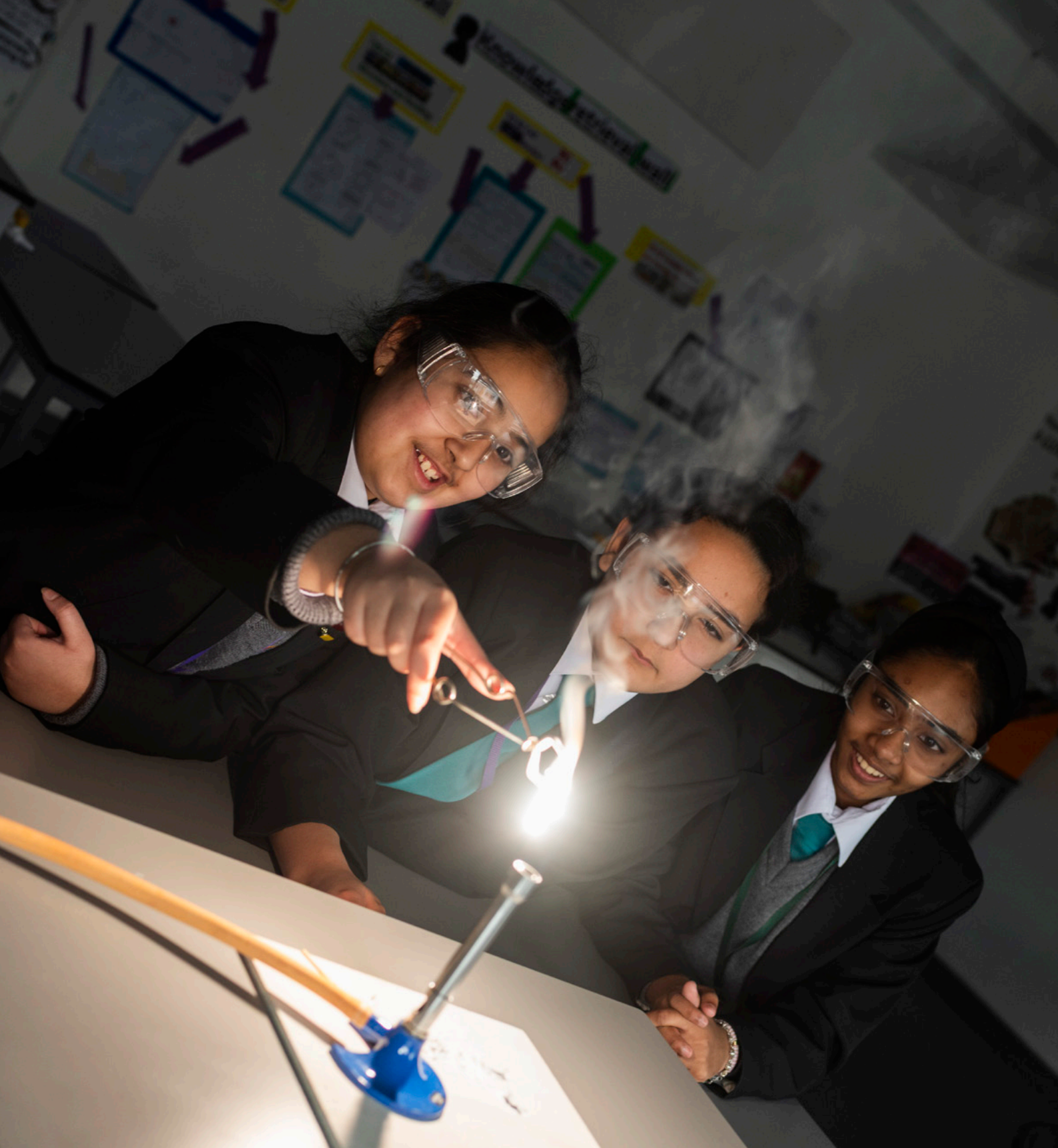
### Diverse community

"The school lunches are very good and we are glad they always have Halal and vegetarian options on the menu. Grove Academy is a diverse community and the staff take all faiths into consideration. During his time at the school, Rafay has had some good teachers. If your child is bright and asking questions, the staff will encourage them, so that they reach their full potential. Rafay has been his class ambassador/prefect throughout the years and represented his school on open days."

### Children say

Rafay says: "I think the facilities at Grove Academy are very good, and the school lunches are nice. They also have a breakfast club families can use if they need it, which is a good addition for working parents who need to drop off kids earlier. I believe the teachers deserve the utmost respect as they are attached to a noble profession and only after having good teaching can a student reach their full potential."





**Grove Academy**  
Ladbroke Road, Slough SL1 2SR

**Tel:** 01753 517359

**E-mail:** [office@groveacademy.co.uk](mailto:office@groveacademy.co.uk)

**Web:** [www.groveacademy.co.uk](http://www.groveacademy.co.uk)

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