

THE KIRKHAMIAN

KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



KIRKHAM
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2021





KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Welcome to the latest edition of The Kirkhamian. It seems to be the perfect opportunity to look forward as the darkness of winter ends and spring arrives. We really do have so much to be grateful for and a great deal to look forward to. It will eventually end and normality will resume.

The feeling of being a pioneer and leading the way in all we have achieved has been a journey over four years. Many schools try to bring success and change in short periods of time which can look wonderful on the surface but is often poorly planned and burns out rather quickly. Having been a Headmaster for ten years and experienced (especially now) most things Headship can throw at you, I am fully aware that change needs to be embedded systematically and for the long term, working with the people who know the place best. I have seen many schools claiming to have turned things around; demanding overnight success; replacing large numbers of staff at the expense of short term solutions and no long term vision. The journey we have undertaken has been in the making for 470 years, since 1549. Most recently the past four years have witnessed the following: The best ever set of combined A Level and GCSE results in the modern history of the school. Since 2016 the school has witnessed improved GCSE and A Level results across nearly all headline figures. The A*/A or 9/8/7 at both GCSE and A Level has risen to over 50% in both. This is a leap of more than four times the figure achieved in 2016 at A Level. The number of pupils gaining A*/A/B at A Level has increased to 78% and

A*/A/B at GCSE to 89%. This is an incredible achievement when considering the reliance on historical data, large cohorts and shifting assessment sands.

The class of 2020 have taken the school to the point of success we had predicted achieving four years ago. Pupil numbers have witnessed the school becoming full to capacity in the Senior School and similar levels in the Junior School. We currently have nearly 900 pupils on roll across the foundation which is the most pupils on roll since 2012. Waiting lists are now being created. We have started to invest significantly in time, training and money in ensuring the school continues to be at the forefront of technology. This has included the rapid and increased use of Google Classrooms and other remote platforms to ensure we compliment the family ethos alongside new technologies. The work being undertaken now is a true testament of the high quality staff we have in school. In a very short space of time we have transformed the technology we use and the quality of teaching and learning with the best practitioners.

We will begin a programme of continued investment and refurbishment of the site as outlined previously. This will include new gym areas, sports facilities, Boarding House extension, and Foundation indoor area for performance and refurbished Senior School teaching blocks. We have already added two new Junior School outdoor play areas and a new Pre-School in the past twelve months.

The continued sporting success of the school and our ongoing reputation as the best for all areas of co-curricular opportunities remains strong. We will continue to build on the large numbers of pupils participating at sport across all year groups. The school retains an enviable position as a centre of excellence for both sport and academics in the north. This was endorsed by retaining a second excellent inspection report since 2016 (ISI February 2020). We have continued to welcome many new staff and retain the stability of staff who have served the school well for many years. This creates a culture and ethos that is impossible to replicate in many schools when retention is volatile and staff remain discontent. Here at KGS it is the people who make it such a wonderful school.

We have learned not to take anything for granted and would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all the Governors, staff, parents and pupils who have remained loyal throughout. Now it is time to look forward to the future and all the success this will bring.

Mr D H Berry
Headmaster



Welcome to Speech Day 2020, the first ever remote one in 470 years. The first Speech Day introduced by a pupil. This is also a first. Even the wars did not stop Speech Day from going ahead but a global pandemic is a different challenge. However, we will try to celebrate and record what has been a year to forget but also a year to remember with some amazing triumphs in the face of such adversity. The year in general seemed to be one in which following and standing still was not an option. It was time to break free and go in a direction that was never expected.

SPORT

Girls' Sports

The school sporting year kick started with the first ever residential Hockey Camp led by International Hockey player and Olympic gold medallist, Susannah Townsend. The camp was made up of 30 KGS hockey players ranging from age 11 all the way up to 18.

The camp certainly set the season up well leading to much success in various fixtures and competitions.



1st XI Hockey

Our annual trip to Millfield, Somerset was the start and whilst the 1st XI put up a gritty performance they suffered a 2-1 defeat, more devastatingly, the loss of their captain for the rest of the season through injury. In the first round of the England Hockey National Competition, KGS were drawn against St Peters, York at home. In an end to end game against top opposition the game went to the wire resulting in a 1-1 draw leading to series of 6 strokes to determine the winner. The second round involved a short trip to Rossall School where the squad sealed a comfortable 4-2 victory leading them to the quarter finals against RGS Newcastle away. The girls fought hard against a great team, absorbing a great deal of pressure. Great goal keeping kept the score line low and the final result stood at 2-0.

The 7's season saw a 1st VII travel to

Austin Friars to compete in their invitational tournament. They experienced much success with victories against Austin Friars, RGS Newcastle, Rydal and Withington to name just a few. The season was topped off with a return trip to Millfield. Once again, the squad battled hard but struggled to create chances up front due to such an impressive Millfield defence. The final score was 0-2 and although not the score we were hoping for, a fantastic way to finish the season.

2nd XI Hockey

The 2nd XI enjoyed a successful season against local opposition, the squad was large in size which was positive but came with its challenges.

The squad competed against various 1st XI opponents experiencing success against Westholme, Ripley, Stockport, Cheadle Hulme, GSAL and RGS Newcastle.

Swimming

The senior swim team certainly meant business in the Stanley Cook Trophy held at QEGS Blackburn. The same senior team continued to impress against St Edwards College, Merchant Taylors, Hutton Grammar and Rossall School.

Boys' Sport

The 1st XV recorded an unbeaten season with many highlights: the away wins at Harrow School, Denstone College and Ballymena Academy stand out. As well as having an unbeaten fifteen-a-side season they also reached the finals the National St Joseph's Ipswich Tournament and the final of the North Of England Sevens.

The 2nd XV won all fixtures bar two games and had excellent victories over tourists Ignatius Park, Townsville, Lancaster GS, Denstone and Manchester GS. The most eye catching game was a 24 all draw against Sedbergh, where the lead changed hands on six occasions, Kirkham unlucky not to win after scoring four tries. Many young players put their hand up for future 1st XV selection. The truncated Sevens season saw the boys take part in two tournaments, winning the long established Austin Friars tournament, beating Barnard Castle in the final and representing Kirkham as the 1st VII at the prestigious Surrey Sevens tournament in Richmond, acquitting themselves superbly with two wins and a defeat against the mighty Hampton in the group stage.



The U16s won ten of their twelve fixtures with notable victories over Llandoverly College, Ballymena Academy and Lancaster Royal Grammar School. The boys had made it to the county cup final, but this was cancelled due to the pandemic. The most improved player award went to Gregor Anderson and the player of the season was Rhys Fray. The U16 sevens squad was in fine form before the season was

brought to a premature end, winning the RGS Newcastle, Merchant Taylors and Sedbergh School invitational tournaments. This team were really looking forward to the challenge of the National School Sevens, however once again this event was also cancelled.

Music

All year groups have taken part in coffee concerts and evening recitals during the course of the year.

The annual Carol Service at St. Michael's Church was a chance for the Senior Choir to impress, and this they did in some style, with music from Elder and Adam. The autumn term was rounded off by the Christmas Concert that produced a dazzling array of individual solos, combined with contributions from the Orchestra, String Group, Concert Band, Swing Band, Flute Group, Soprano Group and Choir. The spring term saw the return of the annual Music House Festival. Miss Crook and Mr Dalton again had the enjoyable experience of listening to a bumper crop of over four hundred students.

As individuals and in groups they sought to secure points for their house, or maybe even progress to the final. Every year so many of the student body choose to give of their time and participate in this annual music making festival. Once the initial auditions were over, it all came down to a Friday in early March in what was to be a thrilling final. The finals began with the House Choir Final and the entire school took part, Preston being crowned the winners. Mr Andrew Barratt was the adjudicator for the day and he had the daunting task of selecting a winner. The Gala Concert in late March gave an invited audience the opportunity to hear the winners and items from the final. It was a truly wonderful evening with outstanding contributions from all performers in the rather more relaxed environment of a concert. With talent like this, KGS music is clearly producing some of the highest standards of music making in the northwest and it continues to be a beacon of excellence in traditional instrumental and vocal performance.



The Rotary Club of Great Britain held its annual Young Musicians competition again this year. The local round was held in November at Kirkham Grammar and youngsters from numerous local schools participated. However, by far the largest number of entrants came from KGS. It is clear to see that music at Kirkham Grammar continues to go from strength to strength as our musicians continue to impress both at home, and nationally!

Combined Cadet Force

September witnessed the start of a new year for the CCF with a brand new intake of cadets from the Fourth Year. The training programme

kicked off with the year groups being divided up onto different activities, the cadets from the Fifth Year went into a round robin of Shooting, Fieldcraft, First Aid, Leadership, Paintball, Archery, Climbing and PT. The new cadets started with six weeks of drill which culminated in the passing out parade. The new cadets rose to the challenge and provided a great spectacle for the parents and family members who attended the parade.

In November there was the first Field Day of the year, this was held at Weeton Barracks Training Area. The year groups were once again split and the Fifth Year enjoyed a day of weapon handling, attacking an enemy position and storming buildings. The Fourth Year stands consisted of introducing them to Cooking in the Field, Patrolling Skills, Camouflage and Concealment, Building Shelters, Military Skills and First Aid. From the feedback on the Field Day, a thoroughly great day was had by all.

At the back end of September the CCF took two teams to the Cadet Skill at Arms Meeting (CSAAM) held at Altcar. This is a shooting competition for all the cadets in the North West of England. Despite the British weathers attempts to put the cadets off we managed some highly competitive results overall and with a bit more consolidation and a little bit of luck could have finished in the medal positions. The programme from October to December consisted of Weapon Handling, Fieldcraft, Paintball and Navigation Training for the Fourth Year while the Fifth Year moved onto more in-depth military tactics. At Christmas we said goodbye to those in the Fifth Year that didn't want to continue with cadets and we wish them all the very best for the future.

In January the training programme was running at full speed and the Fourth Year were fully immersed in all the activities. The Fifth Year had moved onto subjects such as NCO training and Advanced Fieldcraft and Tactics, this was to prepare the Fifth Years for promotion to LCpl.



Another Field Day loomed in March and again everyone went to Weeton Barracks Training Area. The Fourth Year programme was all about consolidating the skills they had learnt so far with First Aid and Weapon Handling. They got the opportunity to fire live rounds on the range and go over a military assault course. The Fifth Years went on the Dismounted Close Combat Trainer which is the military training aid for shooting. This day proved extremely popular with the cadets.

This year we have been successful, again, with the prestigious Lord Lieutenant of Lancshires

Cadet Awards. One pupil has also been successful in his application for an Army Scholarship Bursary, one of only 42 students in the country, which helps with school/university fees and guarantees him a place at Sandhurst at the end of his university course. The CCF continues to go from strength to strength and is an integral part of the school curriculum.



Duke of Edinburgh

This past academic year has seen the completion of 105 DofE Awards, 49 Bronze, 40 Silver and 16 Gold. The DofE Award scheme recognizes the dedication, resilience and accomplishments of young people and we are delighted that so many of our students achieve their Awards.

Our students have been working hard all year to complete their Skills, Volunteering and Physical sections. Since the Covid-19 outbreak our participants have had to adapt rapidly, taking the initiative, changing their activities and keeping going with their programmes despite the challenges of staying at home and social distancing.

They have not disappointed.... We are so proud of our students who have continued with their DofE Awards under lockdown. Using their spare time to help others, raising money for charity, looking after their local environment, carrying out small acts of kindness for our many key workers are just some of the inspiring ways that our participants have completed their volunteering sections during lockdown.

Our KGS DofE staff team are very keen to get back out running expeditions and as restrictions are lifted, we hope many more of our students will complete their full DofE Awards. For now, our students can receive a 2020 DofE Certificate of Achievement Award if they complete the other three sections of the award. We are delighted to announce that twelve students in the Fourth Year and five students in the Upper Sixth have already received theirs!

Drama

The Drama Department began the academic year full of the joys and magic of Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland. The production, which sees Alice on the transition between childhood and adulthood, involved pupils across all year groups. Their dedication and commitment to a text that is set in a series of imaginary settings was superb and the ability to suspend disbelief allowed the audience to be transported into the surreal setting of Wonderland. The production received several NODA nominations and particular credit should go to Olivia Coupe, who played Alice, Joe Ingham as the Mad Hatter, Ria

Sharma as The Queen of Hearts and Maddie Chaya as The White Rabbit.

As usual the department arranged many theatre visits over the year and highlights include: An Inspector Calls at the Lowry, The Girl on the Train at Blackpool Grand, Peter Pan Goes Wrong at the Lowry, A Monster Calls at the Lowry and Treasure Island at the Octagon. Pupils of all years had the opportunity to watch a live performance.

As the year was unfortunately cut short we are now pleased to be able to say that work is in progress for future productions we will continue with celebrating the talent that exists in KGS. There are many projects planned as we continue to give those who perform the opportunity to flourish.

The situation we have faced has led us all to react quickly and take a very different approach to what we thought was the normal procedure. Every school is different and will approach a global crisis in a manner that is best for their organisation. That is what we did and we have learned so much along the way. Now we have placed the school in such an enviable position across many areas and remain the most popular and successful school on the Fylde coast. We are best placed for the next four years and beyond.

Finally, we have clearly led the way for others to follow and will continue to do so as we look forward. The first school in England to make a full return and with the credentials to ensure we stay at the top. The loyalty and support of parents, pupils and staff has been a relentless beacon of strength and hope that we can now proudly celebrate as we look forward to a year and more of success.



To watch our virtual Speech Day 2020 please visit:

www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/news/2020-09-10-upper-school-speech-day-2020



School Captains & Prefects 2020-21



Thomas Hewitt

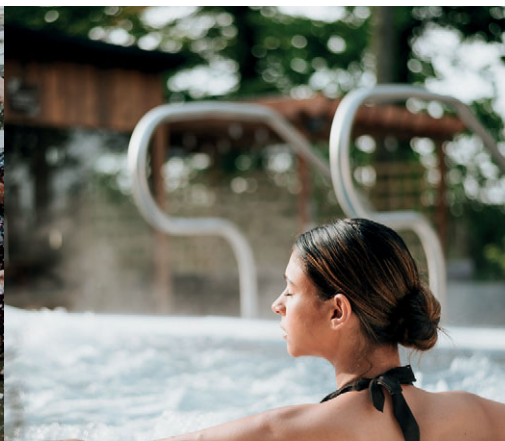
Thomas has been at Kirkham Grammar School since joining in the First Year. He is studying history, politics, Latin and English Literature at A Level and hopes to study history at university. Thomas is a member of the school choir, Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and the History Society. Thomas is also in the process of completing his gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Margaret Hodgson

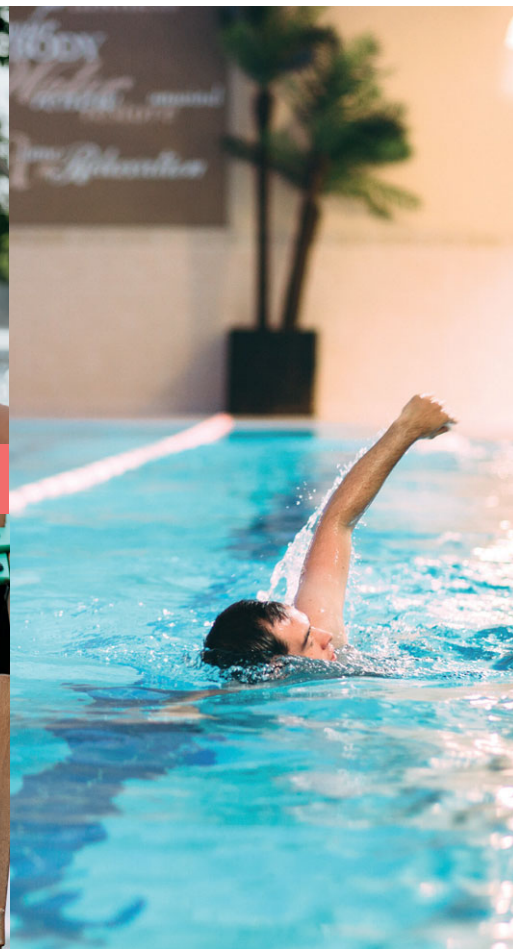
Margaret has been at Kirkham Grammar School since joining in the First Year. She is studying chemistry, physics, maths and Latin at A Level and hopes to study physics at university. Margaret is a member of the school choir, Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and plays the organ for the school assemblies. Margaret is also in the process of completing her gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.



CELEBRATE



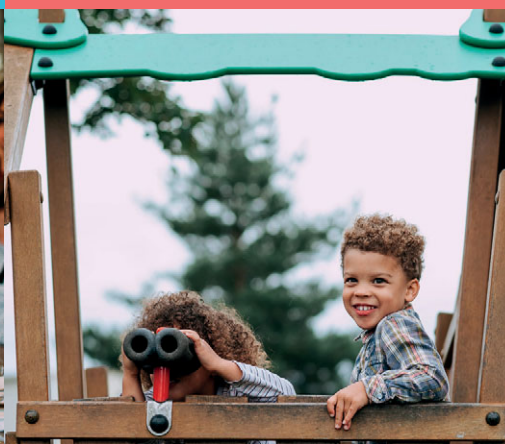
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KGJS

Head Boy & Head Girl

This year's Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School J4 positions were announced at the start of the new academic year. Our Head Boy and Head Girl for 2020/21 are Samuel Smith and Philippa Hancock.

Many congratulations to you both!



Also pictured with Samuel and Philippa are this year's Senior Prefects, House Captains and Deputy House Captains. Well done to you all, we hope you are all enjoying your new roles of responsibility!



KGJS PRIZEGIVING



- || We just wanted to say how much we valued all the efforts you and your team went to, in organising and broadcasting Prizegiving. As parents, it is just wonderful to see all the children congratulated on their achievements especially as they have lived through these turbulent times. Of course witnessing our son win a prize was most definitely the icing on the cake. We couldn't have been more proud and to see the sense of pride and achievement through his eyes was a genuinely magical moment. Not long till half term, we think you, the staff and the children are all doing amazing. The tenacity and strength you all have to keep going, striving and achieving is remarkable."
- || Please pass on my congratulations to all those involved in the virtual Prizegiving streamed online last night. The school came across as a positive, caring and fulfilling place for children to develop. Well done to the Head Boy and Head Girl, Senior Prefects, the Music Scholar and all the prize winners."
- || We would just like to say how great the Junior and Infant School Prizegiving was last night. We were delighted that we could be there to see the children's faces when they were announced as a prize winner. It was a very special time. They loved singing at the end! Thank you again for organising."
- || A quick note to thank you and the staff for putting on such a lovely Prizegiving. It was very slick and really nice not knowing who was getting a prize before the event for a change. I am impressed how KGJS has used new technology that has become available and is embracing it. The Prizegiving, Parents' Social Evening, Google Classrooms and the new Parents' Evening Booking System are good examples of this and is making things much easier. The silver lining to the COVID cloud I suppose!"



Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School is unique; what we offer here cannot be replicated and the pupils in our care thrive. Our pupils, parents and all of our staff aspire for our setting to be beyond excellent. We work together to ensure that your children succeed, irrespective of their interests and aspirations. I am in a very privileged position to be able to witness your children learn and develop every day.

This academic year we had to adapt in so many ways to ensure that our pupils came back to a calm, yet stimulating, environment, where they were able to reengage with their learning, their friends and teachers. On 17 August, we were delighted to be welcomed by happy and motivated children and we thank you for your support in this process, and for trusting us to welcome them back to Kirkham Grammar School safely.

In order for our pupils to continue to strive to be the very best that they can be it is imperative that they are rewarded for their efforts during the last academic year. I sincerely hope that your child recognises the role that they played in the school's many successes last year and that they enjoy the small token sent home today in acknowledgement of this.

Welcome to the very first Kirkham Grammar Junior and Infant Virtual Prizegiving.

Whether it is tackling a new topic in the classroom, learning a new skill during a co-curricular activity or taking on board constructive feedback during a sporting event... interwoven throughout the daily experiences that occur here at KGJS is our emphasis on never giving up and on working hard.

Our pupils are taught that - from time to time - failure happens, no matter how hard you work, but it is what you learn from these experiences and how you adapt that is important; we impress upon them not to flounder when things don't go to plan, but to learn, adapt and grow. At the start of their journey with us, our Early Years Foundation Stage pupils work hard to adapt to school life; they learn to read, write and become motivated and engaged in the process of learning. They learn to make new friends, always endeavouring to be kind. We are immensely proud of our I1 pupils and the start that they made with us last year.

We will therefore begin with the prizes for our I1 pupils, followed by the pupils that have been recognised for their drive and determination to do well, as well as those that have worked hard and made excellent progress.

I1 Winners

(see Prizegiving programme)

Of course all our pupils, at some point, reap the rewards for trying their best, working hard and never giving up. Some find learning easier than others, some find their talents and skills lie in a particular field and there are those that, across the board, attain at the highest level. Over the course of the academic year I have observed

individual pupils achieve a range of targets set for them in all sorts of disciplines. During Chess Club, I have watched pupils accomplish objectives in front of my eyes, attaining at the highest level, using their acquired knowledge of strategy, calculation and tactics. In Art I have witnessed pupils demonstrate outstanding attainment by focusing, taking risks and using their trained eye to make careful observations.

In addition to acknowledging endeavour and progress, we naturally reward all of our pupils' attainment through our daily written and verbal feedback, credits and House Points. In this next section we formally acknowledge and reward those pupils' that have excelled in Reading, in each individual Core Subject and then those that have achieved at the highest level across the curriculum. The prizes for attainment in these areas are awarded to the following pupils...

Attainment Winners

(see Prizegiving programme)

Beyond the core curriculum, the study of the foundation subjects offers our pupils' the opportunity to be introduced to a wide variety of skills and knowledge. Analytical skills and the ability to understand and communicate abstract concepts are all enhanced. Their interest and fascination for the world around them is sparked, and the study of these subjects enables our pupils to find out what they enjoy and excel at. Even at this stage in their education many of our pupils will know now the subjects that they want to pursue as they move through to Senior School. I have been astounded by the pupils' many and varied accomplishments in these subjects; the culmination of their studies within a unit adorning display tables and classroom walls in abundance.

As we are all acutely aware at present, the world around us is increasingly influenced and shaped by technology; within each subject we equip our pupils with the foundational skills, knowledge and understanding of computing to engage with ever-evolving technology; programming, algorithms and sequencing and selection are all familiar skills that our pupils learn and excel at.

The following section of prizes acknowledges those pupils that have excelled in the foundation subjects of Humanities, Computing and French...

Humanities, Computing and French Winners

(see Prizegiving programme)

We are fortunate here at KGJS that we can offer our pupils a broad education that gives them the opportunity to be creative. The value of art, design and music in a school's curriculum should not be underestimated. We are acutely aware that these subjects offer a valuable platform for our pupils to express themselves. Their confidence and self-esteem develops throughout their immersion in these areas of learning. During the creative process, their observational skills become sharper as they observe the finer details of the world

around them. They problem solve, test out ideas, analysing and adapting their creations, indirectly developing vital skills such as concentration and persistence.

In addition to working independently, our pupils love to collaborate, exploring techniques, learning new skills and enhancing previously acquired knowledge. The DT and artwork around the school, the outstanding school musical performances and instrumental and vocal accomplishments are all testament to our pupils' ability to be creative at the highest level. The creative arts and music prizes are awarded as follows...

Creative Arts and Music prizes winners

(see Prizegiving programme)

We take Physical Education at KGJS very seriously. From the moment your children join us in I1 we provide them with multiple opportunities to manage themselves and their bodies in a variety of situations. They learn to work in pairs, groups, within a team or individually. Our pupils naturally have different strengths and preferences. Irrespective of these, we aim, through the variety of opportunities that PE offers, for our pupils to develop a sense of personal achievement, fair play and an understanding of the importance of perseverance and teamwork. By the time our pupils reach the juniors, our teams are renowned for their prowess. The following prizes recognise those pupils, from I1 to J4, that stand out for their attitude and approach to physical education, their determination to succeed and their ability to play fairly during competitive situations.

Sport Winners

(see Prizegiving programme)

By the time our pupils leave Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School, at the end of J4, and move to our Senior School they have developed into well-rounded, confident and independent individuals. They are robust enough to independently tackle the new challenges ahead, and are assured that they will continue to be supported and nurtured by the KGS family as they transition to First Year. They begin their journey with us learning to read and write, they discover how to work successfully with others, and how to effectively work independently...they arrived knowing no one but will leave with friendships that will last throughout Senior School and some that will last forever. They will understand their skills, talents and strengths and may even be considering their future career path!

We are beyond proud of the mature, confident young people that our J4 pupils have become. It is fitting therefore that our Prizegiving concludes with the awards for our J4 pupils.

J4 Winners

(see Prizegiving programme)

Mrs Kirsten O'Donoghue
Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and
Pre-School Headmistress



To watch our Prizegiving event please visit:

www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/news/2020-10-08-kirkham-grammar-junior-infant-school-virtual-prizegiving

Headmistress's Autumn Term 2020 Review

Autumn Term 2020 began with celebrations as we were reunited with our pupils once again in the classroom. When our pupils returned on Monday 17 August, we anticipated that they may take a little time to acclimatise; it was in fact only a matter of days before we felt that they were back into the swing of things once again, clearly with some adaptations to their daily routine. I watched with genuine amazement as our youngest pupils in Pre-School and Infants returned as if they had simply been away on their annual summer holiday. All of our pupils met with their new teachers, pupils old and new and embraced the term ahead with positivity and eager anticipation. It was particularly delightful to watch them play on the new Trim Trail - generously donated by the Friends of Kirkham Grammar School. Each week brought about new discussions with staff about how to operate as close to normal as possible, whilst ensuring every member of our KGS family remained safe. Most heartening was the welcome we received from our wider KGS community including parents, grandparents, aunties and uncles, who I enjoyed time chatting with at the start and end of the school day, whilst getting used to the 2 metre social distancing rules and the wearing of masks!

Our J4 Celebration Party began the Autumn Term. We were delighted to be able to organise a small, socially-distanced gathering; we couldn't have been more proud of the way they managed the transition from Junior School to Senior School. The Virtual Prize Giving for our Infant and Junior pupils, that we were able to watch via our Smart TVs for the first time, also began the academic year on a high, with every pupil commended for their commitment to remote learning and impact on the school's progress, in addition to over fifty new prizes being awarded to our pupils for a variety of different disciplines. Our Parents' Social and Information Evening and Parents' Evening saw us continue to offer effective communication with our parents, albeit remotely, offering video meetings to parents for the first time. It wasn't quite the same as our usual social gatherings; however, it was wonderful to be able to send home an alternative canapé in the form of cheese and biscuits for us all to enjoy during the first formal school event.

Charity was at the heart of our actions for the Autumn Term 2020. Our Harvest Festival Assembly enabled our pupils to reflect upon their fortune and how to show thanks. I was astounded with the pupils' willingness and ability to play their part in this virtual assembly through the means of poetry or singing outdoors in a far from usual manner. Our KGS families donated a bounty of produce to Fylde Foodbank, ensuring that those in need of help were provided with food and essential items. For Macmillan, our Infant and Junior doorstep donation collection pots saw us raise £500,



generously donated from our pupils, parents and staff. It was a pleasure to support such a worthwhile cause, irrespective of our inability to gather in our usual sociable format in the School Hall. Our outdoor Remembrance Service enabled us all to remember the sacrifices and service of members of the armed forces and civilians in times of war, reflecting upon the importance of peace and making sure we work together to keep it for a brighter future. Children in Need and our Keep Fit & Elfie for Brian's House Hospice raised a staggering £1159 and £976 respectively. The actions of each member of our KGS family continues to ensure that our pupils are raised observing and recognising the value of kindness and generosity in spirit, as well as of giving where one can, to assist those less fortunate than ourselves. The term culminated in an array of delightful hampers, collated by all members of the KGS foundation, being delivered to our local care homes, where the residents welcomed the packages with great delight and appreciation. Hopefully the wooden baubles, decorated by our pupils, and messages of hope will uplift our neighbours now and in the future during this ongoing period of uncertainty.

The Children's Laureate, Cressida Cowell MBE, enticed our pupils into the wonderful world of children's literature and answered questions about how to write with creativity, entertaining us all with readings from her most acclaimed novels via a live Google Meet. It was superb to be able to offer them such an enriching experience given the literal geographical distance between Cressida down in London and our children here in Lancashire. During this week we also announced some of the long-awaited positions of responsibility to our J4 pupils, including our Head Boy and Head Girl for 2020/2021.

The Pirate-themed week in I1 and World Nursery Rhyme Week in Pre-School were a highlight for the term, engendering a real love of learning for our pupils across the curriculum in a safe, fun and stimulating learning environment. It was an inspiring five days of learning during both events; a highlight for our Pre-School pupils being the use of recyclable materials to make their own small model buses to continue their learning at home. Events such as Hallowe'en were celebrated in-house with an array of suitably-adorned Hallowe'en-inspired accessories being modelled by our pupils. Skull masks, Dracula fangs and pumpkin headbands somewhat changed the mood of the school for the day, with the children taking part in an array of themed activities.

After-school sporting activities and clubs all began as the term commenced. We were overtly aware that our pupils were champing at the bit to begin to enhance and build upon their repertoire of interests. Pre-School and Infant Fun Runs and the House Cross Country all took place with the sun shining throughout, offering the pupils perfect racing conditions. Our older pupils in the U11 A and B hockey teams also enjoyed playing against each other in some Saturday competitions to continue to enhance their skills during gameplay. Our inaugural Tuesday 8 am Infant Hockey Club also began with nearly thirty pupils turning up every Tuesday morning. Over the course of the term their skills and interactions with each other developed remarkably well and I continued to be impressed with their commitment to this club despite the progressively colder and icier mornings as we moved into December. Indoor Athletics matches took place within the comfort of our own Sports Hall and the AJIS Virtual Cross Country one-mile course was also completed on site, with all scores recorded in-house and subsequently submitted for comparison against other settings. Our pupils' ability to adapt to such a way of working and still perform to the highest of levels is remarkable.

As the Christmas period drew near, our pupils engaged in a Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime screening, Christmas parties and Christmas jumper days. The Infant Christmas Nativity, Prickly Hay, and the Junior Christmas Story, both produced via the wonders of green-screen technology, brought our Autumn Term to a fabulous close. Within a fortnight, during which core subject teaching still took place, our pupils rehearsed and videoed small scenes, with the compilation being screened during the last week of term. I couldn't have been prouder of their ability to work hard, showing determination to succeed in the face



of adversity. I know that our KGS families, near and far, have been impressed by the pupils' ability to pull performances of such magnitudes together in such a short space of time; with the Infant Nativity even including pupils from Pre-School! Our piano being wheeled out to the playground to be utilised for an adapted, COVID-safe Christmas song is something that will remain forever etched on my mind as a reminder of our staff's ability to overcome barriers, and ensure that we continue to offer our pupils a unique and enriching experience whatever the context. I suspect that this little act of ingenuity will become a long-cherished part of our history at Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School.

The events of Autumn Term and Christmas 2020 were somewhat different, low-key but celebrated nonetheless. Since returning in the middle of August our pupils have encountered experiences, highlights and happenings that I hope will remain with them for a lifetime, for all of the right reasons. They have accomplished so much, both in and outside the classroom, that I will be forever proud of them for, given the restrictions imposed upon them to heighten safety. As I often impress upon our pupils, they must never lose sight of the positive impact that each individual has on the growth and development of the school. They must always remember their value and importance in the everyday happenings and highlights of school life. They have certainly played their part this term!

Although 'hands, face, space' still seems to be the mantra as we move into 2021, I am confident that we will continue to offer our pupils the very best despite such adaptations, ensuring that the Spring Term of 2021 is as vibrant and life affirming as ever for all members of the KGS family.

Mrs O'Donoghue
Headmistress
Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School



PUMPKIN WEEK

Pre-School's Pumpkin Week was a busy and exciting time for our young pupils. The children discovered lots of pumpkins in their outdoor classroom which resulted in a considerable amount of conversation as to how they came to be there. Lots of mathematical discussion took place comparing the size and shapes of the pumpkins. A challenge was set to order the pumpkins according to size and the children accepted the challenge with great enthusiasm. Fantastic teamwork from everyone resulted in the challenge being successfully completed. Numerous physical development activities took place during the week with children experimenting with balancing pumpkins, pumpkin football and obstacle courses constructed by the children. The children enjoyed mark-making on the pumpkins and writing secret messages. After a discussion about healthy foods, the children made a delicious pumpkin soup. Outdoors the pumpkins were added to our mixing station and water areas which saw the children clean the pumpkins with cloths and brushes. The week concluded with a Halloween dress up day and a pumpkin themed party. What an amazing and fun week Pre-School had!





WORLD[®]

Nursery Rhyme Week

16 -20 November 2020



During November, our Pre-School children celebrated World Nursery Rhyme week. Research has found that knowing nursery rhymes can improve children's reading and mathematical skills as they progress throughout their education.

The children started off the week learning 'Five Currant Buns' and created a Baker's Shop role play area. The children enjoyed a

'Wheels on the Bus' PE lesson and rolled big tyres to improve their physical development. Using the large construction materials the children made their own bus before, later in the afternoon, using recyclable materials to make their own small model buses to take home! The children learned 'Hickory Dickory Dock' and played a mathematical game using a clock which involved the children

finding a given number. They built their own small world 'Old MacDonald' farm using different textures and set up a 'Miss Polly had a Dolly' hospital role play area for the Pre-School dolls. To conclude a wonderful week the children came to Pre-School dressed as different nursery rhyme characters. They all looked fabulous!

flickr

A selection of photographs can be viewed on our KGS Flickr page via the link below...
www.flickr.com/photos/kgsp/photos/albums/72157716949491246



It was wonderful to welcome our new I1 pupils in August.

They have all had a super first day at the Junior School and were delighted to receive their Schultüte cones at the end of the day. The cones are a symbol of the time that children are ready to start school. There is an old German story which says teachers put cone shaped bags on the ends of their trees in the garden. When the bags are full of goodness and ready to drop, then it is time for school.



Please click on the video link below to view a short video we made of our wonderful pupils first 10 weeks in I1...we are incredibly proud of them all!

www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/news/2020-10-23-the-best-possible-start-to-i1



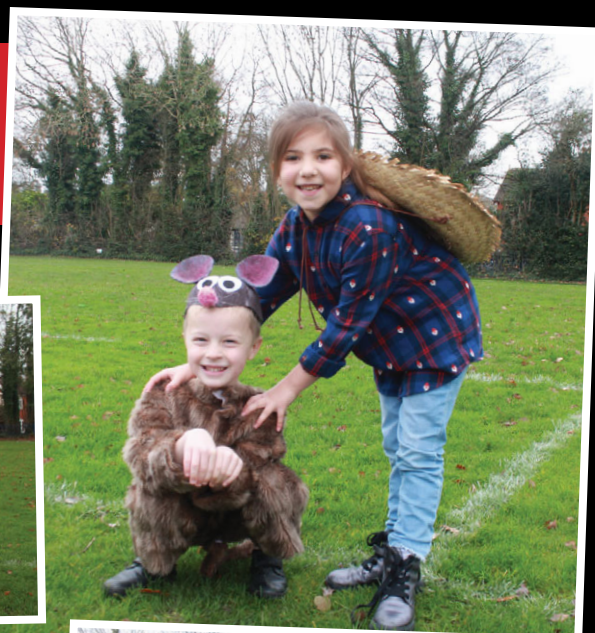
I1 Pirate Week



The beginning of their year in I1 was a very exciting one for everybody; they had a themed pirate week! All of their learning was centred around pirates, from their Communication and Language to Mathematics. The pupils created a pirate ship and used it in their role play, designed treasure maps and even had a pirate party to celebrate the end of their week! What a super start to the year they had with all of their friends.

INFANT & PRE-SCHOOL VIRTUAL NATIVITY

PRICKLY HAY



Due to the pandemic, our annual Infant and Pre-School nativity and Carol Concert, both of which normally take place in the Summerlee Hall, were unfortunately unable to go ahead. It was therefore decided that we would deliver these virtually using the wonder of green screen technology. Our pupils fully embraced the

opportunity to perform, albeit in a slightly different way. The 13 pupils produced beautiful artwork and wrote wonderful letters to Mr Berry, Mrs O'Donoghue and the school governors inviting them to their virtual nativity. We are sure you will all agree that these events still managed to showcase their inimitable talents, although

we were naturally disappointed that we were unable to invite our usual audience to boost their confidence and performance even further. We hope you all enjoyed these events from the comfort of your own home. Well done to all of the pupils...you are all superstars!

J1, J2, J3 & J4 PUPILS PRESENT

One Night in Bethlehem



These virtual events can be viewed via the links below:

Prickly Hay Infant and Pre-School nativity:

www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/news/2020-12-15-prickly-hay-a-virtual-nativity-for-2020

One Night in Bethlehem by J1, J2, J3 and J4 pupils:

www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/news/2020-12-16-one-night-in-bethlehem-virtual-christmas-celebration



KGJS

Remembrance Day



On Wednesday 11 November, our Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School pupils and staff gathered together outside, wearing their poppies with pride, to hold their annual Remembrance Day Service.

Following Mrs O'Donoghue's opening welcome, Head Girl, Philippa Hancock, beautifully read the poem, 'In Flanders Field'.

KGJS were delighted to welcome back former Junior School pupil and KGS Fourth Year pupil, Oscar Harkins, to play the Last Post, before our Senior Prefects; Rosa Gill, Jasmine Stirrup, Francesca Durston, Lucie Wilson and Josie Trow recited the poem, 'The Inquisitive Mind of a Child'.

The final prayer was gracefully delivered by Head Boy, Samuel Smith, before each of the year groups were given the opportunity to have a look at the wonderful Remembrance Day display created by all of the pupils.

It was a very poignant service which allowed the whole school community to reflect and remember all those who laid down their lives for us, whilst also observing the guidelines due to the current situation.



To watch our Remembrance service please visit:

www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/news/2020-11-11-kgjs-remembrance-service-2020



KGS Remembrance Day

On Wednesday 11 November, cadets and staff from Kirkham Grammar School Combined Cadet Force conducted the annual Remembrance Day Service in the Summerlee Hall. This remembered all of our staff and pupils who have lost their lives in service of the country.



To watch our Remembrance service please visit:
www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/news/2020-11-11-kgs-remembrance-service

KEEP FIT AND ELFIE



On Thursday 17 December, our Junior, Infant and Pre-School pupils took part in 'Keep Fit and Elfie' in aid of Brian House Children's Hospice. The pupils all received an Elf Hat to wear whilst completing a fitness session to raise much-needed funds to support children on the Fylde Coast who face an uncertain future. We are proud to work with Brian House and were delighted to raise a fantastic £976 for this worthwhile cause. Thank you to everyone who donated, your continued support is very much appreciated.



Second Year pupil, Lewis Simpson, raised an incredible £3,000 for the Rosemere Cancer Foundation. Sporty Lewis used his summer holiday to run, walk and cycle 1,000km, and asked for sponsorship for his challenge. He even drew up a spreadsheet to help him keep to his weekly 100 mile target, having decided to set himself the challenge to 'give back' for treatment his mum Natalie received for breast cancer at the Rosemere Cancer Centre when he was just seven-years-old. Lewis said: "Rosemere looked after my mum through six months of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. They helped my family through a really tough time. I wanted to make the best of this strange summer by raising money for the charity so it can help more families through tough times." An absolutely amazing amount - well done Lewis, we are very proud of you!



On Friday 13 November, World Kindness Day, our Junior, Infant and Pre-School pupils supported the 40th Anniversary Children In Need Appeal. The pupils looked splendid with their yellow accessories and our Pre-School pupils were delighted to have created their very own Pudsey headband. Each class also took part in the Joe Wicks 24-hour charity workout challenge during the day. We were touched by your generous and kind donations pledged on our Just Giving page and delighted with the final total of £1159. A truly astonishing total which highlights the kindness and generosity of our KGJS family. Thank you once again for your support.



HARVEST ASSEMBLY

Due to the pandemic, this year's Harvest Assembly was slightly different. Throughout the week, all of our pupils learnt about Harvest and thought about those less fortunate than ourselves. The pupils performed songs and poems within their class bubbles which were filmed and all combined to create a wonderful Harvest Assembly video. The children watched this during their assembly time. The collection for The Trussell Trust - Fylde Foodbank, kindly donated by our KGJS families, was tremendous. Thank you for your support!



The photographs can be viewed on our Flickr page at:
www.flickr.com/photos/kgspotos/albums/72157716017160323



The Harvest Assembly video can be viewed via the link below:
www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/news/2020-09-18-kgjs-harvest-assembly



**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

**RAISE
A MUG
AND
DONATE**



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Each year, Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School support the World's Biggest Coffee Morning to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. This year, due to the pandemic, Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School staff took part in the #raiseamug virtual coffee morning for all who are affected by cancer. We invited our parents to join us in raising a mug throughout the day and collected donations at each entrance to school.

KGJS J1 mum, Mrs Rowley, wanted to share what a poignant occasion this is for both her and her mum. "We attended this event at KGJS this time last year, knowing Mum had not long been diagnosed with cancer and no idea what her daunting journey would entail. Macmillan was such an amazing charity, supporting both her and us all as a family. Here she is today, a year later, cancer free and living for each day! The support that these events give all cancer patients, no matter where they are on their journey, is invaluable. This event could so easily have been brushed under the carpet, especially with everything going on, but as usual the school grab whatever situation they are faced with and run with it! Every penny given will make such a huge difference. Thank you for organising this event. I know how amazing the KGJS family are in raising lots of money, as they always do."



KIRKHAM
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Community Trust



As we approached the end of a very difficult year, and whilst we continue to face challenges, Kirkham Grammar School turned their attention to helping others in our local community.

Staff and pupils were involved in a number of activities over the weeks leading up to Christmas to give our care and support to the people in our local community who are a lot less fortunate than ourselves.

Our plans included:

- Collecting food with long sell by dates to donate to our local foodbanks
- Collecting new toys for children whose families cannot afford to buy them
- Sending homemade cards, wooden hearts, letters and poems in care packages to vulnerable people in our community
- Providing festive entertainment to care homes by recording a selection of poems, drama pieces and music all performed by our pupils
- Pupils completed 2262 miles in their games lessons to reach Lapland before they finished for the Christmas holidays
- Pupils and staff took part in Christmas Jumper Day 2020 within their 'bubbles'.

Every penny we raised was used to buy and make up care packages or was passed directly to local charities. In total seventeen large care home packages, twenty-three individual packages, thirty separate trips to the local foodbank and two car loads of toys for Mission Christmas were distributed. In addition to the above, we also supported the following charities; Blackpool's Children Christmas Gift Appeal, Streetlife, Helping Hearts, St Cuthbert's SVP, Furry Tails and Homeless Hounds.

Over £2500 was raised which is amazing. Thank you to everyone who supported our campaign to bring a smile to those who really needed our support at Christmas.

The Kirkham Grammar School Community Trust will continue to plan events and projects on a regular basis to support a variety of worthwhile causes throughout the year.



We help them to help you

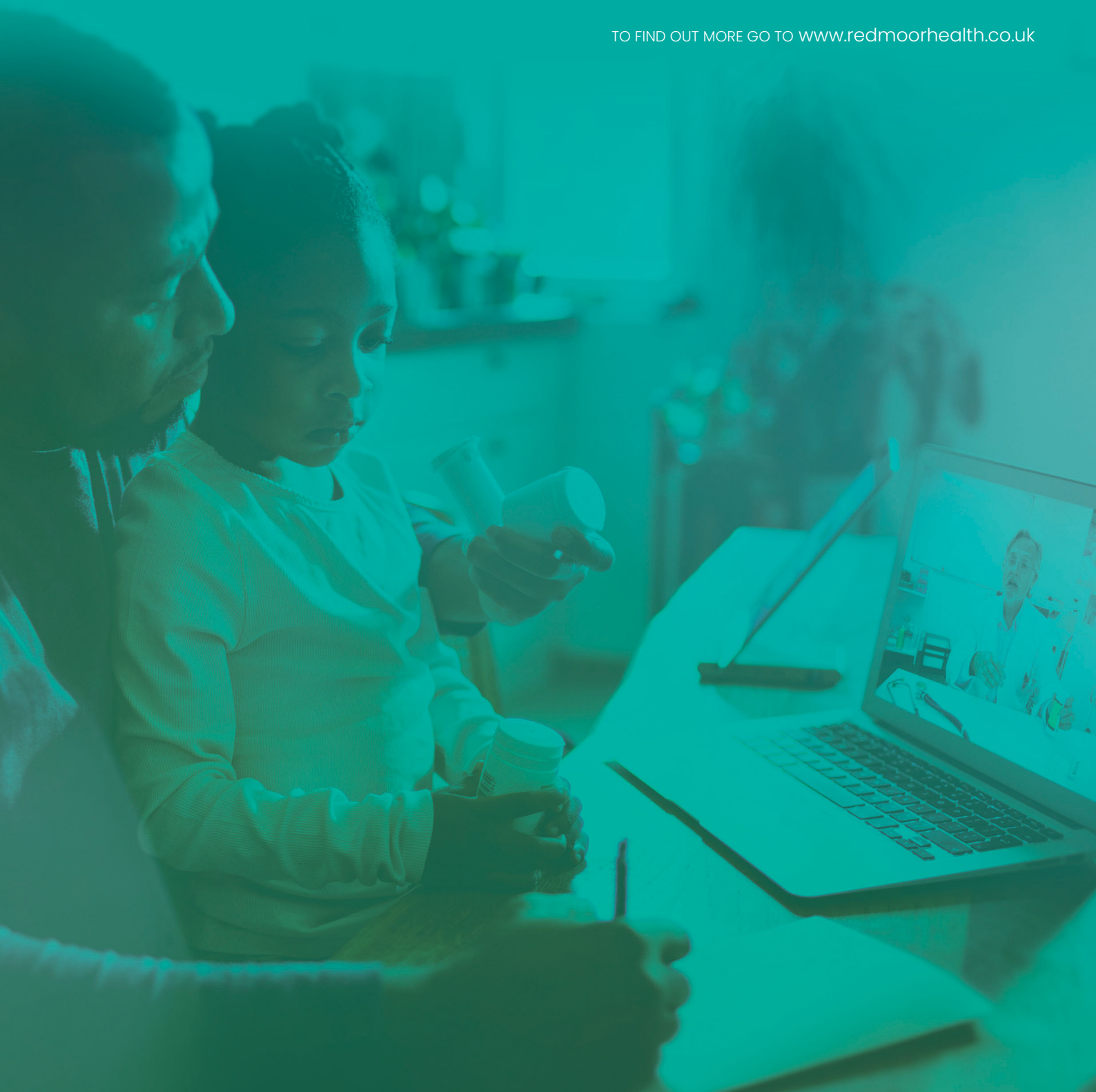
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SPANISH LESSONS

At the beginning of the academic year, we introduced Spanish lessons to our KGJS Pre-School and I1 pupils. KGS Languages teacher, Mr Gonzalez, first taught the pupils how to say 'Hello, Good Morning and How are you' in Spanish before expanding on further Spanish vocabulary. They are really enjoying their weekly Spanish lessons... well done to you all.



THE DAY OF THE DEAD

During their Spanish lesson with Mr Gonzalez just before the half term break, our 1X pupils were asked to create their own 'Día de Muertos' masks. El Día de Muertos (The Day of the Dead) is a Mexican holiday which takes place over the first two days of November and is celebrated throughout Mexico, in particular the Central and South regions, and by people of Mexican heritage elsewhere. Congratulations to Lucy who won Mr Gonzalez' 'Dia de Muertos' prize!



In the video link below, Mr Gonzalez explains how Mexicans celebrate this amazing tradition:
www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/news/2020-11-09-first-year-pupils-create-dia-de-muertos-masks



THE LOGGENBERG FAMILY

At the beginning of the academic year we welcomed The Loggenberg family from South Africa. Anushka, Matilda, Monty, Hugo, Ophelia and Josiah have all settled in very well and quickly become part of the KGS family.

Eldest sibling, Anushka, who has joined us in the Lower Sixth Form and is studying Politics, History and Economics, said of joining the KGS family, "I have made lots of new friends and everyone has been very welcoming. It is a lovely environment and I am very happy here. I am also enjoying the opportunity to play hockey."

A new family record at Kirkham Grammar School!



Congratulations to Lower Sixth Form student, Abigail Johnson, who has been awarded The Royal Navy Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. This is in recognition of outstanding potential as a future leader in Engineering.

The Arkwright Scholarships Trust ensures that more of the country's 'brightest and best' science and maths students remain focused on an engineering path over the 16 to 18 age range - the critical years when teenage dreams and aspirations translate into firm tertiary education choices and career plans. The charity fully supports both higher apprenticeship and undergraduate career paths.

The charity awards prestigious scholarships through rigorous selection to outstanding technology-minded school students. Candidates must pass a selection process comprising a detailed application form with teacher's reference, a two-hour engineering problem-solving exam and an engineering-focussed interview. The scholarships provide engineering enrichment, funding and experience throughout the two years of A Levels and BTEC Level 3s.

Well done, Abigail!



CCF TROPHY PRESENTATION



On Thursday 17 September, the CCF Awards for 2019/20 were presented by Mr Taylor, Major Contingent Commander.

These were as follows:

Best Fourth Year in the CCF - Fintan Doyle

Best Fifth Year in the CCF - Scarlett Turnock

CCF Award Contingent Commander's Trophy - Reuben Bond

Commanding Officer's Trophy for the Most Promising Junior NCO - Abigail Johnson

SSI Trophy - Charlotte Cross

Well done to you all!

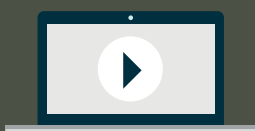


Thursday 22 October saw our annual Kirkham Grammar School CCF Passing Out Parade take place. Unfortunately, due to the situation and ongoing restrictions, we were unable to invite parents and family members into school to support the pupils on this special occasion. The KGS Brass Band were also unable to perform in person. Thank you to Mr Dalton and the KGS Brass Band for providing a virtual performance for the occasion.



The photographs can be viewed on our Flickr page at:

www.flickr.com/photos/kgsp/photos/albums/72157716567933408



The Parade can be viewed via the link below:

www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/news/2020-10-22-ccf-passing-out-parade



CCF

Kirkham Grammar School Upper Sixth student, Reuben Bond, has been awarded the Lord-Lieutenants' Cadet for this year and will accompany the Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire to all of his formal events.

Fellow Upper Sixth student, Charlotte Cross, was awarded the Lord-Lieutenants' Certificate of Meritorious Service for Cadets.

A fantastic achievement, Reuben and Charlotte.

REUBEN BOND

Sgt Reuben Bond became a member of KGS Combined Cadet Force in September 2015 and has made amazing progress, proving himself to be valuable, knowledgeable and an excellent instructor, a rare quality for someone so young. The Junior Cadets thrive under Reuben's leadership and he works desperately hard to think of new and imaginative ideas to make his instructional periods 'different and enjoyable'.

Reuben has attended the Senior Cadet Instructor Cadre, and was awarded 'Best Student'. This award is not usually awarded to CCF students due to their limited training time, a reflection on the amount of hard work and effort he put in. He was awarded the 'Most Promising NCO' on Summer Camp 2019, a justified reward for his tremendous effort and leadership qualities which he had shown continuously all year. A naturally excellent shot, Reuben has competed in the Cadet Skill at Arms meeting where, despite stiff opposition he has been placed on each occasion.

Reuben's school life is as demanding as his Cadet life, he achieved amazing academic results, being awarded 'The Most Worshipful Draper's Company Medal' for the best GCSE results in school. An accomplished musician, he is part of the School Band, Swing Band, Choir and Barber Shop Quartet – and managed to find the time to teach himself guitar! Having achieved his DofE Bronze and Silver, he is working to complete his Gold this year. In his spare school time, he acts as a mentor to a second year form.

Outside school, Reuben dedicates time to scouts. He is currently a Chief Scout and is on track to complete 'The Queens Scout Award' and was awarded the 'Commissioner's Commendation' for delivering lifesaving first aid to a lady involved in a serious accident. He has also represented the area at the World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia, only one of four from the area.

He volunteers for the Salvation Army which focuses on helping the homeless and is part of the group which offers free music lessons for children living in deprived areas. He has been on a fundraising mission since 2016, raising as much money as possible for Trinity Hospice due to the assistance they offered during his father's illness.

Reuben deserves this opportunity as the Lord-Lieutenants' Cadet as he is an incredible inspiration to the younger members of the Contingent and the wider community. He never fails to surprise us with his work ethic, dedication and selfless approach to everything he does.



CHARLOTTE CROSS

Sgt Charlotte Cross became a member of Kirkham Grammar School Combined Cadet Force in September 2017 where she quickly established herself as a hardworking, diligent and trusted member of the Contingent. Promotion followed due to her own hard work and personal study and she became the 'go-to' Cadet for all the younger members of the Contingent who were requiring extra assistance or just someone to talk to, Charlotte does need a lot of credit for this as her patience, knowledge and empathy shone through, this on top of trying to juggle her academic, sporting and musical responsibilities in a demanding school life.

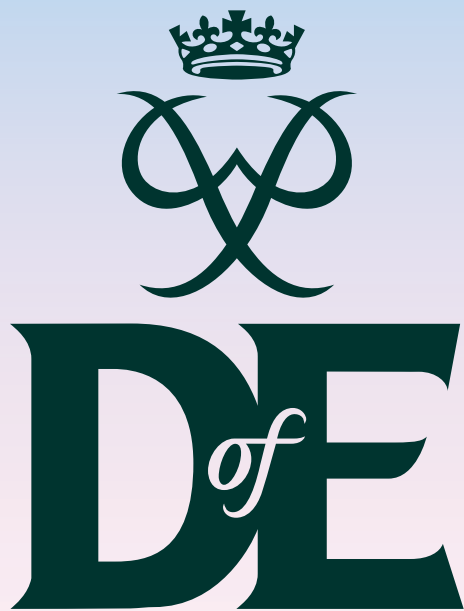
Charlotte, to her credit, despite all her other responsibilities has successfully completed the Army Proficiency Certificate - Basic and Advanced, has attended the Cadet Skill at Arms Meeting at Altcar, where despite stiff opposition from ACF Units, achieved, along with her other team members, some credible results. She has attended all of the summer camps since joining the Contingent in 2017 and this is where Charlotte excels. She has a 'Warrior Style' attitude and is fully committed to throwing herself into every activity whilst maintaining excellent leadership qualities in ensuring all the younger Cadets are fully supported and encouraged to 'have a go'. After last year's summer camp, she was deservedly awarded the trophy for Best Fifth Year on Camp, a reward for all her hard work and dedication and confirmation of how much the staff and her peers respect her.

As mentioned, Charlotte has other school responsibilities, she is an accomplished musician and is a member of the School Band and sings with the Choir. She represents the school hockey, swimming and tennis teams and having already completed her DofE Bronze and Silver, she is working towards her Gold award. Typically, Charlotte is constantly looking for new challenges and her 2020 challenge is to train for and complete the Great North Swim.

Outside of school she is a member of the TROGZ Scout Unit and took part in a three week volunteer expedition to Uganda and is a youth leader at the local Scout Group. She also donates her spare time to helping others by volunteering at Clifton Hospital.

Sgt Charlotte Cross is a credit to her parents, school and the Contingent, she displays qualities normally shown by a more mature person and never fails to surprise us with her selflessness, dedication and mature attitude.





THE DUKE
OF EDINBURGH'S
AWARD



Despite lockdown and the Covid-19 restrictions, our DofE participants have continued to impress with their efforts and success with completing their DofE Awards.

With many activities put on hold due to social distancing measures, our students often had to adapt their activities to complete sections. The 'DofE with a difference' has allowed many to think outside the box and try some more independent activities. We have had students learning sign language, origami and completing online First Aid courses, amongst many other interesting and varied activities for the skill section. For the physical section, we are in awe of those setting themselves personal targets and working hard to achieve them. It has been lovely to discuss how lockdown meant students explored their local area for walks, runs, and cycle rides. We are always delighted to hear what our students undertake for their volunteering section. It has been wonderful to hear of those getting out and litter picking in their local areas, helping do the shopping and other jobs for elderly neighbours, and others raising money and awareness for charities.





GOLD

Oliver Barnett
Joseph Clarke

Gold Certificates of Achievement

Zoë Armstrong
Reuben Bond
Patrick Castelli
Charlotte Cross
Brioni Crowe
Isabella Damp
Thomas Hewitt
Margaret Hodgson
Ewan Macaulay
Emma Nuttall
Emily Scott
Katie Webster
Khirstine Williams

SILVER

Niamh Barry
Tom Gut
Isabel Kane
Jasper Kemp
Harry Lee
Fen McLean
Joseph Medcalf
Theo Mihell
Emma Scott
Henry Smith
Scarlett Turnock

Silver Certificates of Achievement

Sam Broadbent
Phoebe Caunce
Hollie John
Jennifer Jones
Olivia Jones
Thomas Shuttleworth
Sam Taylor
Grace Wong
Jessica Zhou

BRONZE

Talia Armstead
Elizabeth Broughton
Kaden Butt
Tom Lemon
Kaman Mathauda
Amber Mee-Bishop
Matthew Oddie
Harvey Thompson
Theo Timmins
Hannah Wilson
Ethan Woodcock
Ramin Zynali

Bronze Certificate of Achievement

Saif Amr
Hailey Ballantyne
Sophie Birchall-Farr
Luca Bruder
Kate Cookson
Sadie Drury
Rebecca Fisher
Sam Gornall
Oliver Greenwood
Wills Gut
Lily Harrison
Esme Hollows
Any Jackson
Grace Lin
Alexia Macham
Luca Mihell
Martha Millar
Ariana Milligan
Prisha Sivakumar
Alicia Threlfall
Harry Tomlinson
Thomas Wilkinson



As expeditions could not take place from March to September 2020 and then from September only in a limited way, The DofE Award Scheme has introduced a new Certificate of Achievement. The Certificate of Achievement is awarded to participants who have completed their Skill, Physical and Volunteering sections but are waiting on their expedition.

Congratulations to those students who have been awarded these certificates, and we are sure it will not be too long before you receive your Full Award. We have completed practice expeditions under the Covid-19 restrictions, and we are looking forward to getting our students out to complete their Assessed expeditions after the February half term.

As always, the DofE at KGS could not run without the support of many school staff. It is very pleasing that so many staff are keen to get out and enjoy the great outdoors with our students - huge thanks to Mr Gardner, Mr Possamai, Mrs Latham, Ms Russell, Mr Percy and Mr Robinson for helping with the recent practice expeditions. We are all looking forward to a return to 'normal' expeditions!



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CHRISTMAS TREE COMPETITION

Well done to everyone who submitted a 'Christmas Tree book' for the KGS Library competition during December. They looked stunning on display in the library.

Congratulations to our winners below, it really was a very difficult decision as they were all wonderful.

1st - Darcie Daniels

2nd - Lucy Hardcastle

3rd - Haarith Bapu

Some of the trees were kindly donated and gifted in our KGS Community Trust care packages.



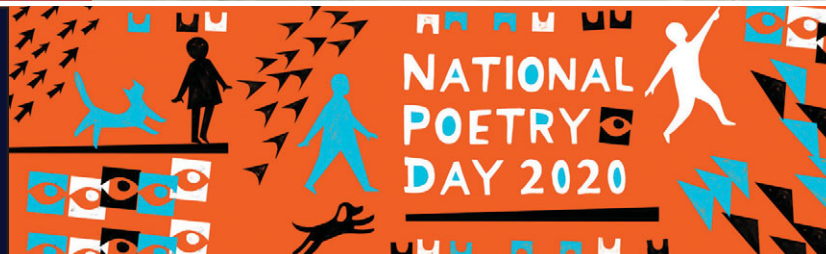
MILLIONAIRE READERS



Our First and Second Year pupils follow the Accelerated Reader Scheme which helps them to select suitable and enjoyable reading material from over 5,000 books! All pupils in the First and Second Years have one timetabled Accelerated Reader lesson where they visit the library to read and select from a fantastic range of fiction and non fiction titles.

Those pupils who have read a million words by May half term would normally be rewarded with a rewards trip, however, due to lockdown and the current situation we were unable to celebrate in this way.

Our 2019-2020 'Millionaire readers' were presented with a certificate and Amazon voucher by Mrs Halsall. Congratulations to you all on this wonderful achievement!



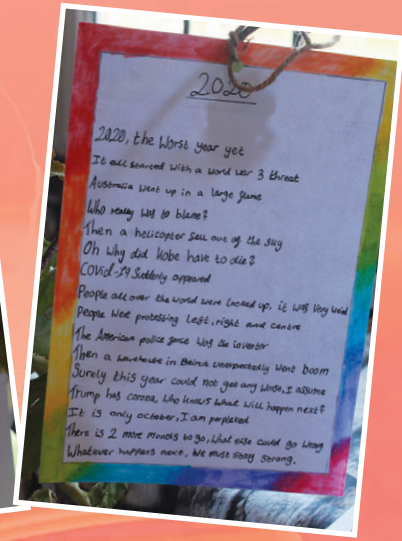
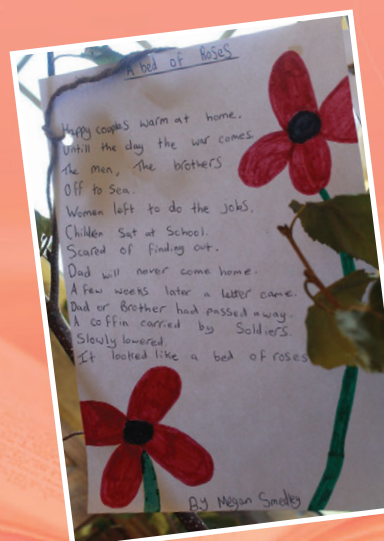
For National Poetry Day, which took place on Thursday 1 October, our Key Stage 3 students wrote poems to hang on the 'poetree' in the library. We also chose some winners who wrote beautiful poems.

Congratulations to the following students:

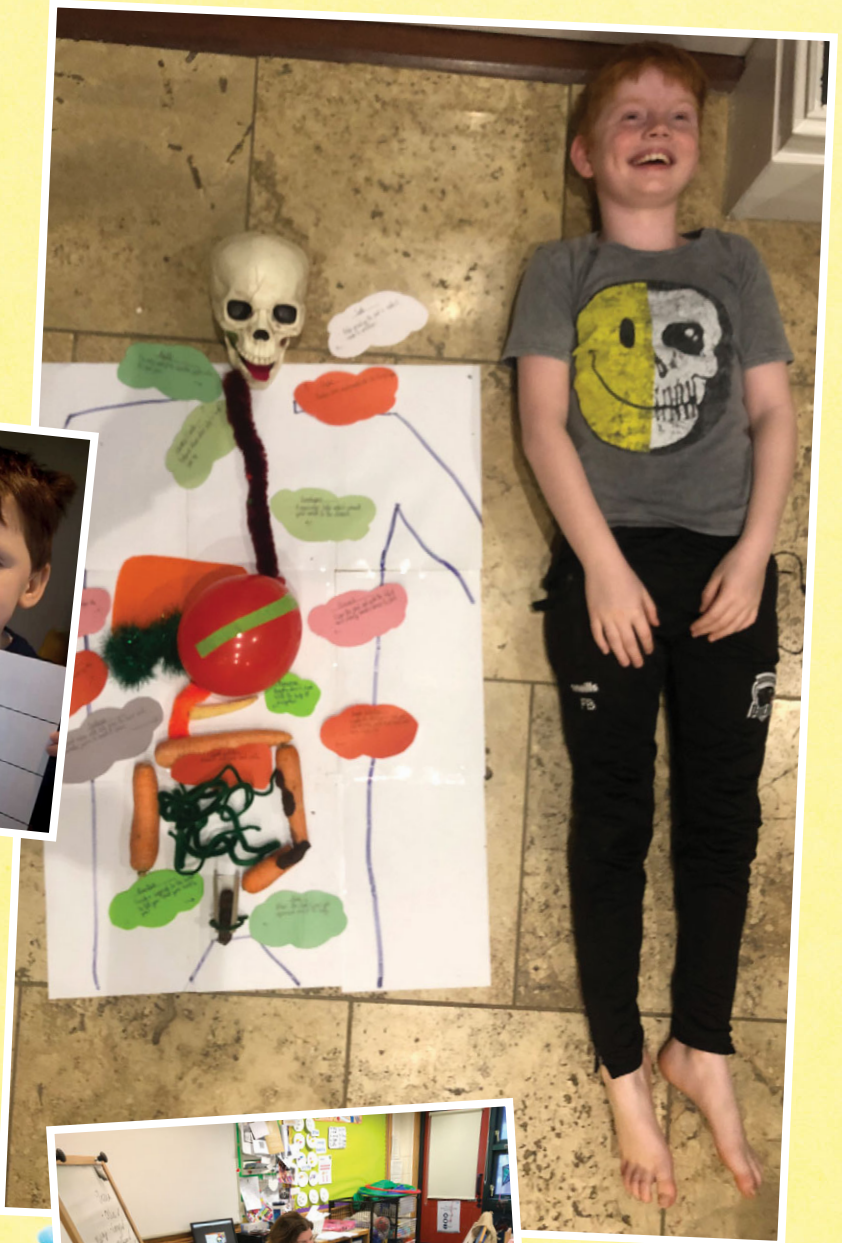
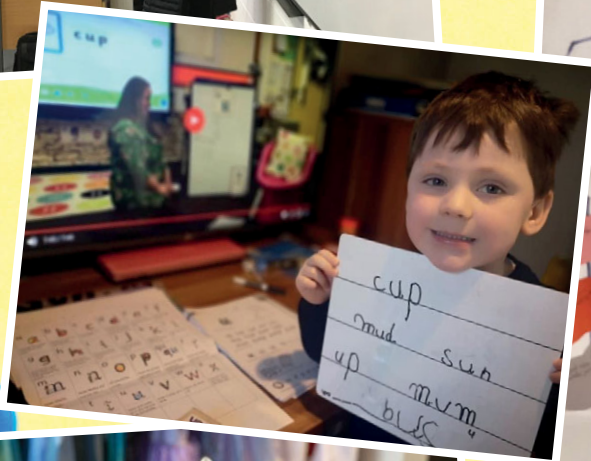
Third Year: Hannah Culshaw, Rebecca Allan, Ben Firth, Francesca Margerison, Jacob Mason, Alexa Anderson and Keira Tomes.

Second Year: Leoma Gill, Dhruv Soni

First Year: Megan Smedley, Evelyn So, Lauren Davies, Jess Grice, Riya Kaur, Daisy Wong, Niamh Smith and Libby Sidebotham.



KGS@HOME

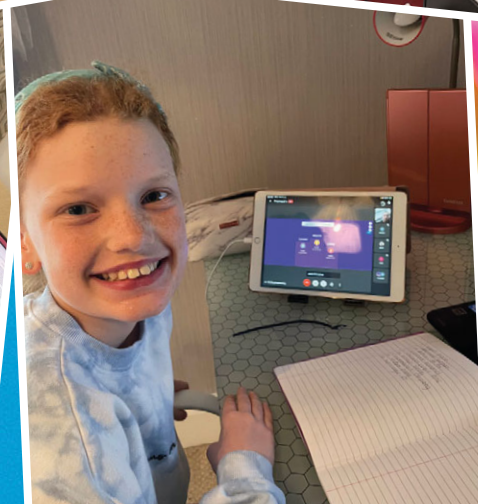


As the first lockdown began, it became an opportunity for everyone to upskill in a multitude of technological ways. Google Classroom quickly became a regular feature in our daily school life as staff and pupils alike learned how to make the most of this online learning platform. Staff faces and voices began to appear on recorded videos that pupils could watch during their lesson time, or when their own time zone allowed. Thousands of documents, presentations, quizzes and spreadsheets were professionally produced so that students could complete and hand them in online; alongside photos of their amazing work done by hand and videos of themselves performing language speaking, drama and music. Many classes also included a live element using Google Meet where students were able to talk with their teachers and classmates.

As school opened in August, the opportunity to keep the blended teaching moving forward was too good to miss. As individuals were required to isolate in order to protect loved ones and family members, we upgraded all staff equipment so that every lesson could include a live link to the classroom, bringing isolating students and a few isolating teachers back into school on a daily basis. From live RPE discussions to live practical science lessons, with students being able to screen-share the school whiteboards from home, the effect of staying fully connected meant that all of our subjects stayed on track and all Kirkham Grammar School students were well-placed for another lockdown when it came.

Since January, KGS@Home has gone from strength to strength with fully live remote lessons across all departments with teachers able to fully interact with each pupil within our normal timetable. Teachers have incorporated new features such as recording audio feedback for assignments, class sets of interactive whiteboards that pupils can use on their phones and a myriad of online platforms to support and improve remote learning. In the run up to February half term each pupil received 140 live lessons and the feedback from parents and pupils alike has been amazing.

We have also enjoyed two virtual Parents' Evenings since January where parents and teachers could chat about the fantastic progress pupils have been making. This new system has also been well-received and we look forward to more virtual parents' meetings soon.





Brioni Crowe

Kirkham Grammar School's talented musician, Brioni Crowe, who joined the Junior Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester when she was only 10 years of age and wowed the Royals after a guest performance at Buckingham Palace, has the enviable job of choosing from amongst the four conservatoires who have offered her a place for September 2021, including the Royal College of Music London.

For Upper Sixth student, Brioni, who was selected to join the prestigious National Youth Orchestra for their winter tour as well as being one of the winners in the Pendle Young Musicians' Bursary competition during the March 2020 lockdown, this is a fantastic achievement.

Congratulations, Brioni!



A Celebration at Christmas

Sadly, Kirkham Grammar School were unable to host their usual Christmas event, however we were delighted to be able to invite pupils, parents and the wider school community to our virtual Senior School and Sixth Form 'A Celebration at Christmas'. All of the performances were filmed individually or in year group bubbles following government guidelines.

Our 'A Celebration at Christmas' virtual event can be viewed at:
www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/news/2020-12-14-a-celebration-at-christmas



GRAND PIANO DONATIONS



Thank you to the Knagg/Cottam family who have kindly donated a Bechstein Grand Piano (pictured above) dating back to 1924 and belonging to the late Mrs Marion Knagg. Mrs Knagg's husband, Edward attended Kirkham Grammar School from 1910-1916, and we believe his father, Robert Yates Knagg, was a teacher at the school in the late 1800s.

We would also like to pass on our thanks to First Year pupil, Leoma, and the Gill Family who have donated an Offenbach Upright Piano (pictured to the left), belonging to Leoma's late grandmother.

Kirkham Grammar School very much appreciate your kind donations to our music department.





KIRKHAM
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SIXTH FORM SCHOLARSHIPS

A number of scholarships are awarded annually for entry into the Sixth Form. There are four types of scholarship in the Sixth Form: academic, sport, music and drama. Academic scholarships are calculated based on GCSE results. Music scholarships are awarded on the demonstration of potential contribution in the musical sphere. Candidates will normally be expected to be at grade 7 although the school reserve the right to allocate an award to those on a lower grade who are judged to have outstanding potential. Drama scholarships are awarded to candidates who have some experience of public performances, although those who demonstrate potential in this sphere will also be considered. This is not a Musical Theatre Scholarship. It is anticipated that sports applicants have gained selection at least at County level in one sport or more, or have equivalent accreditation where appropriate.

Below are just a few of our 2020-21 scholars:

Academic Scholar, Isaac, joined KGS at the start of the academic year from Our Lady's Catholic High School in Preston and is studying A Levels in Politics, Religious Studies and Business.

Academic and Music Scholar, Lydia, joined KGS in the First Year and is studying A Levels in Maths, Geography and Business.

Academic and Sport Scholar, Oliver, joined the Sixth Form from Lytham St Anne's High School and is studying A Levels in Maths, Physics and Business.

Academic and Drama Scholar, Joseph, has been at Kirkham Grammar School since joining at three years of age. Joseph is studying A Levels in Drama, English Language and Psychology.

Academic and Sport Scholar, Molly, joined KGS from St Peter's Catholic High School in Wigan. Molly, who is a KGS boarder, is studying A Levels in PE, Biology and Psychology.

Academic, Drama and Music Scholar, Ria, who has been at KGS since the First Year, is studying A Levels in English Literature, Economics and History.

For further details about our scholarships, please email Miss Sharon Potts at s.potts@kirkhamgrammar.co.uk or telephone 01772 684264.



Isaac Craig



Ria Sharma



Lydia Sanderson



Oliver McIntyre



Molly Maguire



Joseph Ingham



SIXTH FORM VIRTUAL OPEN EVENING



Should I stay or should I go?

Firstly, every student needs to make his or her own choice about whether to change schools for Sixth Form based on the right support and advice. No two Sixth Formers are the same and even though a school may have suited someone well into the earlier years, it's always possible that a particular set of talents and abilities will be better catered for in another school or college. Part of what a good school offers is the right advice on balancing the various factors.

In order to make a change, the opportunities available elsewhere need to outweigh some very significant advantages of staying in the same school. A student's Sixth Form education is a very important phase of his or her life and, to my mind, if the school's advice is to stay, there needs to be a very strong argument for 'taking a chance' on something new. Far off fields are not always greener.

Let's take a look at some of the benefits of staying on for our Sixth Form. The first set can be grouped under the heading of 'continuity', something that most of us look for in other areas of life.

From a logistical point of view routines can

stay largely the same, removing a potential source of distraction. Academically, the Sixth Form represents a significant shift in expectation levels, so a student's focus needs to be on making this step rather than a new set of life circumstances. Often the teaching staff will already be familiar with a student's strengths and weaknesses, which also makes the step into Sixth Form work an easier one. There is a risk that problems will take time to surface when a student is new to a school, in part because of the need to allow them to settle in before questions start to be asked – not an issue when their teachers already know them. Another important aspect of continuity is social. Established friendship groups can be a great source of support when a student is making the transition to Sixth Form and can minimise the risk that they 'go off the rails' in the process of trying to carve out a role for themselves among their new peers.

I'm very conscious that a lot of what I've said makes 'remaining' seem like the risk-averse choice. In some ways that's true – and I'm not sure it's a bad thing. As I've already indicated, I think a student's Sixth Form education is too important to take chances. A change won't be right for all, but it's certainly worth considering. Especially when the school

does not go beyond 16+ or offer the many co-curricular opportunities we do at KGS at such a high standard. It allows students to make a new start without the same friendship groups and expectations of others that they have had for several years. In some ways, it allows students to redefine themselves if they wish to. They may also be able to find an environment that suits them better given the stage they are now at. For example, they may prefer a Sixth Form that could possibly be a bit more challenging or they may simply want a bit more freedom to express themselves. The reasons for moving are, therefore, varied. In some cases, students are in search of specific subjects. There are many options to choose from and students should enjoy looking at their options. Even if they decide the best thing is to stay where they are, at least they will have made a more informed choice.

This is also a reminder for the ones who are still considering their options and want to know why they should stay. We often take the list of additionally for granted. However, like at KGS it's about so much more than just good A Level results.

Mr D H Berry
Headmaster



To watch our Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening, please visit:

www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/news/2020-11-20-sixth-form-virtual-open-evening



SIXTH FORM TASTER DAY

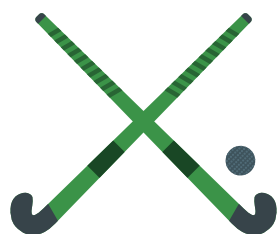


On Friday 4 December, this year's Sixth Form Taster Day took place giving our Fifth Year students the opportunity to explore a wide range of 'preparatory' activities in every subject.

In biology, students extracted DNA from raspberries; BTEC Sport teacher, Mr Unsworth, introduced the students to the links between nutrition, health and performance in sport and exercise; in physics, students carried out a practical experiment to estimate the temperature of a Bunsen flame; Head of Geography, Mr Whittle, discussed the subject content of A Level Geography; students learnt about Sophocles and the origins of Greek Theatre in Drama; A Level PE was delivered by Mr Roddam which saw the students investigate heart rate response to submaximal exercise by completing a 1k row at 26s/m followed by a 700m treadmill run at 12km/h; Dr Rollin's students carried out a chemistry practical experiment to test for aldehydes and ketones by oxidation reactions and Head of Art, Mr Gardiner, talked about the exciting and extensive range of creative and technical skills they will develop if they choose to study A Level Art and Design.

A very informative day which we hope helped the students in preparing for the move to Sixth Form studies next September.





KGJS

INFANT HOCKEY CLUB



In September, our I2 and I3 pupils took to the Astroturf at Kirkham Grammar Senior School for their first 8am Infant Hockey Club session. The sessions are being led by Rebecca Worthington, Head Junior Coach at Garstang Hockey Club and a coach for Lancashire County Hockey. Rebecca holds a BA in Sports Coaching and an MSc in Physical Activity and Mental Health, alongside being nominated for Boots Woman of the Year!

The sessions aim to develop basic, grassroots hockey skills; whilst also supporting endurance, strength, balance, coordination, agility and social skills.

The infants are thoroughly enjoying the sessions which have proved to be an invigorating start to the morning!

INDOOR ATHLETICS



This year, KGJS organised an inter house indoor athletics competition for all pupils in I3 through to J4. Everyone took part in at least one individual and one relay event. There were three separate 'bubble' competitions in line with government guidelines.

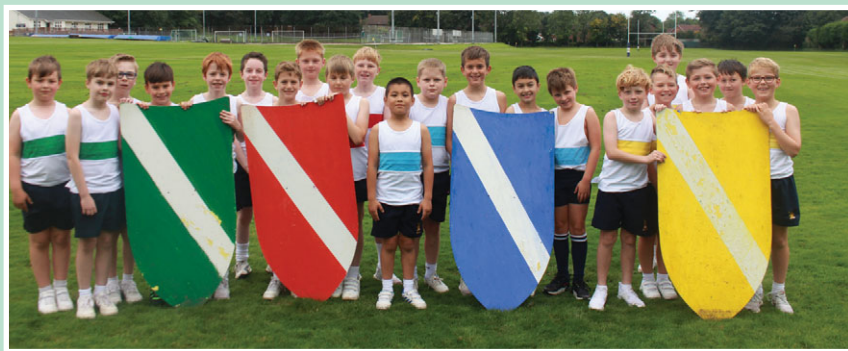
The results were as follows:

I3		J1		J2		J3		J4	
1st	Colborne	1st	Drapers	1st	Clifton	1st	Drapers	1st	Birley
2nd	Clifton	2nd	Colborne	2nd	Colborne	2nd	Colborne	2nd	Clifton
3rd	Drapers	3rd	Birley	3rd	Birley	3rd	Birley	3rd	Colborne
4th	Birley	4th	Clifton	4th	Drapers	4th	Clifton	4th	Drapers

OVERALL

1st	Colborne 30pts
2nd	Clifton & Drapers 24pts
4th	Birley 22pts

Well done to you all!



House Cross Country & Fun Run

Kirkham Grammar Junior School held their annual House Cross Country and fun runs during September. There were 12 races in total and all were held in glorious sunshine. As can be seen by the photographs, they all thoroughly enjoyed taking part in some competitive sport!

Every pupil in the school participated and the Juniors represented their House and wore their colours with pride. The Junior Cross Country races were the first of many Inter-House events which will take place over the next academic year.

The Infants and Pre-school also participated in fun runs and everyone received medals for their efforts.



Below are the individual and team results for each age group:

U11 boys

- 1st Freddie Wiltshire
- 2nd Leo Paraskeva
- 3rd William Thompson

Winning House:
Birley

U11 girls

- 1st Hermione Edwards
- 2nd Josie Trow
- 3rd Philippa Hancock

Winning House:
Clifton

U10 boys

- 1st Tumi Milligan
- 2nd James Wileman
- 3rd Hamish Gilchrist

Winning House:
Birley

U10 girls

- 1st Charlotte Pickervance
- 2nd Eve Thompson
- 3rd Imi Osborne/Evie Dunne

Winning House:
Drapers

U9 boys

- 1st Freddie Butler
- 2nd Matthew Duckett
- 3rd Oliver Donohue

Winning House:
Clifton

U9 Girls

- 1st Ava Godbold
- 2nd Hattie Walker
- 3rd Polly Hargreaves

Winning House:
Birley

U8 boys

- 1st William Coward
- 2nd Zachary Oliver
- 3rd Archie Ashton

Winning House:
Colborne

U8 girls

- 1st Holly Norcross
- 2nd Emily Townsend
- 3rd Jessica Thompson

Winning House:
Joint
Colborne/Drapers

Overall team positions

- 1st **BIRLEY**
- 2nd **CLIFTON**
- 3rd **COLBORNE**
- 4th **DRAPERS**



The photographs can be viewed via the link below:
www.flickr.com/photos/kgsphotos/albums/72157715994499921



Video footage from all the runs can also be viewed via the link below:
www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/news/2020-09-16-pre-school-infant-fun-runs



Virtual Cross Country

In mid-November, twenty-eight KGJS U10/U11 runners took part in the AJIS Virtual Cross Country Championships. The annual AJIS Championships are always very competitive with over 20 schools normally taking part and 125 runners in each race. Due to the current situation, AJIS invited schools to take part in a virtual event.

All of the KGJS runners showed grit and determination over the 1 mile course, which proved to be a challenging terrain due to the wet weather conditions.

Congratulations to you all.

The KGJS positions were as follows:

U11/U10 Boys	U11/U10 Girls
1st - Freddie Wiltshire	1st - Josie Trow
2nd - Leo Paraskeva	2nd - Hermione Edwards
3rd - Oliver Hartley Pagnillo	3rd - Philippa Hancock
4th - Jonty Faith	4th - Hollie Bailey
5th - Tumi Milligan	5th - Holly Schofield
6th - James Wileman	6th - Sophia Gough
7th - Hamish Gilchrist	7th - Eve Thompson
8th - Charlie Oliver	8th - Imi Osborne
9th - Torrin Anderson	9th - Matilda Musson
10th - Ellis McNamee-Sloggett	10th - Rosa Gill
11th - Harry Ford	11th - Charlotte Pickervance
12th - Billy Margerison	12th - Madelyn McGarry
13th - Jack Gillett	13th - Hollie Guthrie
14th - Shaun Williams	14th - Evie Dunne



Charity Golf Day & Dinner

Friday 18 June 2021

18 holes - Shotgun Start

£250 FOR TEAM of 4
Dinner only tickets available

Registration & breakfast from 10am
Shotgun start at 12 noon
Nearest the pin
Longest drive
Winner's trophy
Dinner & auction

**TICKETS & SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES**
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Lytham Green Drive Golf Club, Ballam Road, Lytham St. Annes FY8 4LE

**Headway Blackpool,
Wyre & Fylde
Supporting brain injury
survivors, their families & carers,
in & around Blackpool
Wyre & Fylde**

Due to the coronavirus pandemic all of our 2020 fundraising events have been cancelled. These events raise much needed funds which allow us to continue to provide services to those with brain injuries, their carers and families in and around Blackpool.

Can you help us by donating whatever you can? Donate via our website
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Texts cost your donation plus one standard rate message.

www.headwayblackpool.co.uk

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 **@HeadwayBpool**



KGS HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

The Senior School House Cross Country competition took place this half term with every pupil in each year group taking part. Competition was fierce with all to play for in the battle of the Houses.

In the junior age group the First Year girls lead the way with Xara Lewis leading the pack home followed by Emily Greenwood, Navah Todhunter, Issy Gutt and Zara Gilchrist. The first Second Years home were Lola Cooper, closely followed by Esme Whitfield, Jessica Jennings and Holly Stanbury. The competition was equally as exciting in the First and Second Year boys' event but this time the Second Year boys lead the way with Cieran Milligan leading in the pack bringing home the victory for School House, closely followed by Gordon Ballantyne and Stanley Collinson. All boys ran with real determination demonstrating great teamwork throughout.

The junior results were as follows;

JUNIOR GIRLS

- 1st place: Preston House
- 2nd place: Fylde House
- 3rd place: Kirkham House
- 4th place: School House

JUNIOR BOYS

- 1st place: Preston House
- 2nd place: School House
- 3rd place: Fylde House
- 4th place: Kirkham House

In tough conditions all of our inter runners performed well over the 300m course. In the inter girls race, Georgia Nicholls, Kate Cookson, Martha Millar and Hannah Culshaw excelled leading the way in their respective age groups. In the boys race Charlie Wiltshire, Alfie Guthrie and Luke Schmid led the way for the Third Years whilst Ewan Kwok and Seb Kelly came in first and second place for the Fourth Years.

A very successful and competitive Inter House race with each team gathering valuable points for their House.

The inter results were as follows;

INTER GIRLS

- 1st place: School House
- 2nd place: Kirkham House
- 3rd place: Preston House
- 4th place: Fylde House

INTER BOYS

- 1st place: Kirkham House
- 2nd place: Preston House
- 3rd place: School House
- 4th place: Fylde House

Unfortunately, the senior cross country events were unable to go ahead as our Fifth Year and Sixth Form 'bubbles' are unable to mix.

BOYS PE & GAMES



Although we returned to school in mid-August, it wasn't for the usual pre-season rugby training and preparations, we were straight back into a full timetable. Due to the summer term being delivered remotely, activities like athletics and cricket had been missed as well as a substantial amount of general athletic development. The winter term was also going to look very different with no inter school fixtures taking place, so with no teams to prepare for Saturday morning fixtures, the department set about developing an adapted curriculum, with a focus firstly on health and wellbeing and later moving into more vigorous team sports.

The first term saw the boys take part in no less than ten different activities including athletic development, handball, cricket, basketball, football, volleyball, cross country, touch rugby, gymnastics and hockey.

Rugby was initially taking place in after school and Saturday morning practices to accommodate the delivery of the other activities in games and PE. In the second half of the term, rugby became the main focus of games lessons, with an optimistic view that there could be some fixtures after Christmas. Please see Mr Trenhaile's report for a more in depth look at what has been going on in rugby this term.

It is hoped that we may play some rugby fifteens and sevens in the spring term. However, as we progress to the later stages of the spring term we will focus our attention on the summer sports again. We are hopeful that the athletics, cricket and tennis season will run as normal.

RUGBY REPORT

After a terrific unbeaten season 2019-20 for the KGS 1st XV and highly promising seasons for the under 16s and under 15s, this season was looked forward to with much anticipation. Instead the boys of the senior teams and staff have had to adapt to something we all did not expect. In some cases for boys going into their last year at school hoping to play for the 1st XV for the first time this has been a testing time but with true KGS determination we have all stuck together and worked hard as a group to find a way forward. Captain Cammy Thompson and his vice-captains Sam Carleton and Louis Fletcher have led the Touch Rugby sessions with passion and skill. They have had the support of a large Senior Squad and we have even managed to maintain Saturday morning rugby as a must as the boys showed ultra-competitiveness in some very serious Touch Rugby games. Whilst we have had no school rugby, many players have been involved with Sale Sharks Academy and should gain representative honours before the end of the season.

The under 16s, under 15s, under 14s and under 13s have followed the example of the senior boys by responding in a very positive fashion by undertaking all the rugby activities offered by the KGS staff and I am sure this will benefit KGS rugby whenever full school rugby returns. The under 12s have also started a rugby programme with a strong emphasis on development especially as number of players are playing rugby for the first time and it's been encouraging to see them improve over the last few months. Hopefully things will improve in the world, some fixtures might fall into place and KGS will once again be seen at its best on a sports field.





GIRLS SPORT

September brought new challenges within PE and games lessons with many sports being adjusted to enable us to provide a worthwhile sporting curriculum.

The girls continued to focus on their main sport, hockey, and hit the ground running within games lessons and co-curricular activity. The girls also focused on cross-country running, athletic development, dance, indoor athletics, orienteering, aerobics, generic invasion games and netball. More recently the girls have embarked on a new event which has seen our First to Fourth Years take part in the Lakeland Lapland Festive Run where by the girls covered a total of 2260 miles to reach Father Christmas for the Schools' chosen charity, Streetlife.

Our new First Year cohort have settled in well and have had a taste of several activities in their first term at the school. They are a talented bunch who demonstrate real potential in various areas of PE and games activities. We are all very excited to see them further develop and perform in a competitive environment.

We have seen various pupils manage to continue with their training and even some competition. A special mention should go to our three 1st XI players who have represented Fylde HC in the England Hockey National League, something to be very proud of at 15 years of age. Jessica Cole and Anya Jackson from our current U15 squad progressed to the England Hockey Performance Centre recently with Anya being selected to attend an U16 England trial at Lilleshall National Sports Centre in the near future.

Our swimmers have been back training, our runners have hit the track and netballers have returned to the court.

We have some exciting events in the pipeline and also hockey tours planned for the 2021/22 season which will see the Juniors travel to Holland in October 2021 and the Seniors to Barbados in February 2022.

All we wish for now is a return to our Saturday competitive fixture list which will see us travel to Stockport, Queens Chester, Wakefield, Grammar School at Leeds and Millfield Somerset during the spring.



Pauline Cooper



The retirement of Pauline Cooper, who has called time on her teaching career after a long period of ill-health, brings to an end one of the longest careers at KGS and, more importantly marks the departure of a teacher widely regarded by generations of pupils as the best teacher of mathematics, a core subject feared and even loathed by some, yet valued and loved by many.

First of all, we must all express our deepest gratitude that Pauline has been able to choose retirement with her health restored to a good extent. We have all spent many months of deep concern for her wellbeing and sympathy for her family and friends, so it is wonderful that we can pay tribute to a retiring teacher as she embarks on what we hope will be an enjoyable and well-earned life of greater leisure.

Pauline joined Kirkham Grammar School in September 1984 as Miss Walsh, technically as a replacement for the late and legendary Geoff Cheeseborough. The contrast between Geoff and his successor was more than one of age and gender: Geoff was very much part of the School's days as a boys' state Grammar school, his service at KGS dating back to the days just after the Second World War when teachers were recruited from among demobbed servicemen. Pauline was from a new era of eager young professionals, schooled in the craft of the classroom by an increasingly rigorous PGCE programme.

When she arrived, the School was still finding its feet as an independent co-educational school, and driven by the likes of Neil Gamble as Deputy Head, academic rigour, accountability and professionalism was being added to the School's offering in an increasingly competitive market. Pauline was the perfect fit for such an ethos, and throughout the subsequent 35 years, she has been the epitome of professionalism, an upholder of the highest standards of achievement and behaviour, yet driven at all times by a deep care and concern for the wellbeing and happiness of her pupils.

As a maths teacher, she was ruthless in the best possible way: her expectations were clear, consistent, ruthless yet utterly fair. She was clear that maths was challenging for many, yet

impossible for none, provided that they made the appropriate efforts. To Mrs Cooper, lessons were for sustained, serious work, homework was to be completed fully and with appropriate attention to detail, and fun and games were very welcome, but not in the classroom or even out on the corridors. In an age when pupils sometimes appear to expect to be entertained, indulged and cajoled, she saw mathematics as having an intrinsic value which should require no dilution of this kind.



Such an approach did not seek popularity, yet over time, it invariably gained it. Whilst younger pupils were often a little scared of her, and older pupils somewhat resentful, such reactions were initial ones which were invariably modified by experience. The fun and satisfaction of mathematics is from a challenge met and responded to, and she was skilled at explaining complex concepts, at demonstrating solutions with clarity, such that pupils soon modified their initial fear or resentment into first grudging admiration and eventually affection. Like all good teachers in an 11-18 school, she modulated her approach with senior students, and with Sixth Formers she adopted a more nuanced approach which inspired affection and huge respect.

In her early days at KGS, Pauline was a young, single teacher who had the time and opportunity to participate widely in the broader

life of the school. She took on residential duties in the Boarding House, demonstrating care and concern and providing a welcome female presence as the gender balance of boarders equalised. She also indulged her love of sport, notably of netball, by acting as a coach to girls' teams in that sport, took part in ski trips and in 1992 she was an accompanying member of staff in the World Hockey Tour led by Jane Taylor. In these co-curricular aspects, her consistency of approach and thoroughness of preparation served her well, just as in the academic classroom.

It is, however, in that classroom that Pauline's achievements are rightly best remembered. Countless Old Kirkhamians willingly attribute their success at a grade well above what they consider to be their "natural level" to the drive and determination of Mrs Cooper, and enquire after her in a tone of apologetic repentance for not fully appreciating her efforts at the time.

Pauline's results record would stand comparison with any maths teacher anywhere, but perhaps her most famous achievement was back in 1989, when a top set class of hers in that year's Fifth Year was entered early for GCSE Maths by bringing the following summer's entry forward to the previous November. When the results were published in January 1990, it turned out that every single member of the 28-strong set had achieved the highest grade, at the time a Grade 'A'. This was in the very early days of school PR and press releases, but the School duly made much of this achievement and a photo was duly staged for the local press and much was made of this achievement in assembly. Pauline graciously shunned the credit, praising the work of the pupils involved, but there is no doubt that it was to a large extent her achievement as well as theirs.

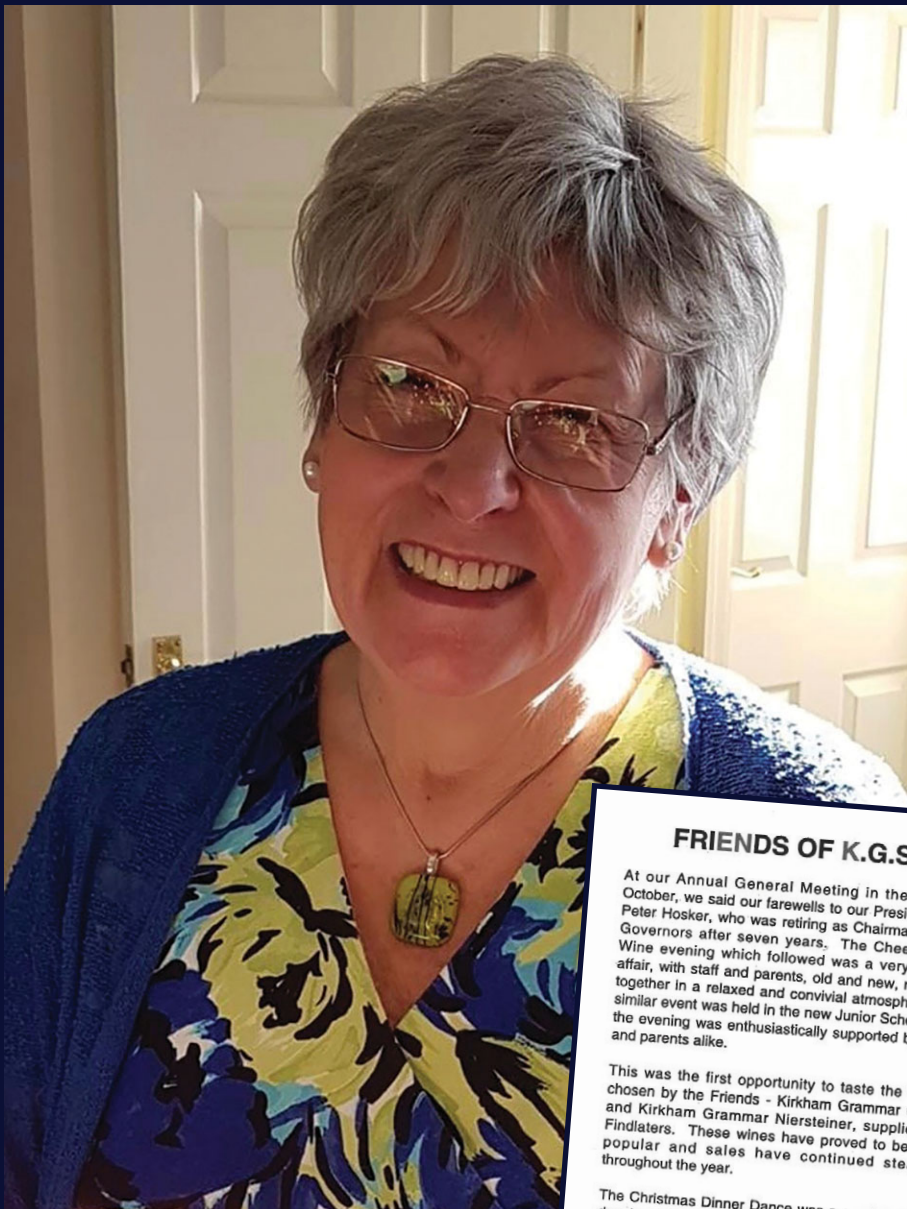
Beyond her work in the classroom and her co-curricular roles, she demonstrated consistent and attentive concern to those under her care in a pastoral sense and a great respect for the many pupils who achieved the appropriate balance between their academic and co-curricular lives. In the Staff Common Room she was a thoughtful and supportive colleague who enjoyed lunch and break time conversations. She was private and undemonstrative about her personal and family life, yet proud and loving of her own children.

Pauline Cooper has for 35 years been a model of consistency, excellence and professionalism in the teaching profession. We are delighted that she leaves us in much improved health, and wish her every happiness in retirement.

Adrian Long



Rosemary Cartwright



Rosemary's two children attended KGS and during this period she was Chairman of the Friends of Kirkham Grammar School.

Chair of Governors, Mrs Lorraine Wareing, wished to express her personal gratitude for Rosemary's contribution:

"As the current Chair of Governors, I would personally like to thank Rosemary for her commitment and dedication to KGS over many years. Her service to the school is outstanding, as is her support and guidance to myself and many other former Governors, parents and staff. We will miss her advice and leadership but also understand her wish to retire and we send her our best wishes."

Following her long association with Kirkham Grammar School, both as a parent and member of the Governing Body, Rosemary is now stepping down from her role as Vice Chair of Governors and member of the Governing Body to enjoy her retirement.

Rosemary joined the Governing Body in 1999 and held a number of roles including Vice Chair of Governors, as well as being a member of the Personnel; Boarding House; Curriculum & Pupil Affairs and Finance & Development Committees. She was also the Governors' Representative for Child Protection & Safeguarding and Learning Support. She sat on the Salary Review Body Committee and historically was Chairman of the Appeal Steering Committee and Chairman of Governors.

FRIENDS OF K.G.S.

At our Annual General Meeting in the Hall in October, we said our farewells to our President, Mr Peter Hosker, who was retiring as Chairman of the Governors after seven years. The Cheese and Wine evening which followed was a very happy affair, with staff and parents, old and new, meeting together in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere. A similar event was held in the new Junior School and the evening was enthusiastically supported by staff and parents alike.

This was the first opportunity to taste the wines chosen by the Friends - Kirkham Grammar Claret and Kirkham Grammar Niersteiner, supplied by Findlaters. These wines have proved to be very popular and sales have continued steadily throughout the year.

The Christmas Dinner Dance was a great success, due in no small part to Darrell for providing his customary excellent musical entertainment. The winners of our raffle were well rewarded with prizes of a week in Portugal and a weekend in Windermere. Once again, we regretted having to turn down some applications for tickets and, although Broughton Park have looked after us well for several years, we have taken the decision to move the venue for 1992 to cater for increased numbers.

Everyone worked very hard to make the Christmas Fair in the Junior School a resounding success. This event was well supported by the pupils and their families and friends. All the stalls were very busy and Father Christmas brightened everyone's day.

The annual Christmas Draw was again sponsored by the Yorkshire Bank and generated over 45 prizes, the star prize being the cash sum of £200. The evening of "Your favourite game - Eyes down at 8pm" was well attended and the final prize of a 'Fish 'n' Chip Dinner' created hilarity throughout the Kirkham and Wesham Workingmen's Club.

It was good to see the Old Hall full for a most interesting "Antiques Roadshow" in February, when Mr. Andrew Firth gave us an excellent evening's entertainment, interspersing his knowledge with amusing anecdotes.

The hall of the Junior School was transformed when a gastronomic treat was provided by the catering staff of the school, following which the eighty parents and guests enjoyed hearing from Mr. John Waite, our Chairman of Governors, about the history of the Spitfire and of its major role in the Battle of Britain.

The Quiz Evening held in March was very well attended and, with prizes ranging from £25 to 4 wooden spoons, there was plenty of competition amongst the 25 teams who took part, answering a wide range of questions from Question Master Richard Wilson.

The Friends '100 Club' has continued throughout the year, with prizes from £30 to £100 per month. We shall be increasing the subscription to £15 from May, but offering more prizes per month. Please do join - the more members, the better the prizes.

The Summer Term will see the return of Susie Brannigan, who, on her previous visit, provided us with a Fashion Show of very smart and colourful casual wear, all items of which were offered for sale after the show.

We are looking forward to welcoming Mrs. Daphne Nevill, wife of one of our Governors, who is bringing her two Otters of TV fame to the school in June.

The Friends decided that the target for their fund-raising should be the much needed new minibus and we are well on our way to raising the £9000 required. However, in the meantime, we presented the Junior School with a cheque for £500 for the purchase of trophies for their annual Prizegiving and have donated half the cost of the vertical blinds for the classrooms.

Rosemary Cartwright
Hon. Chairman FKGS

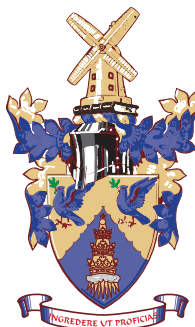




JUNIOR & INFANT PLAYGROUND

The Junior School playground now houses a fantastic 'Adventure Trim Trail', which both our Infant and Junior School children are enjoying using. Additional outdoor equipment has also been provided for the I1 play area. Both sets of equipment will enhance the children's physical development, whilst also creating a more stimulating and fun environment. The pupils have loved using the equipment since returning to school last August and we thank the Friends of KGS for providing this through their fundraising.





Sam Walmsley

Sam Walmsley passed through Kirkham Grammar School like a whirlwind, and in the course of a four year association with the School has fulfilled a remarkable variety of roles, driven by a sense that he somehow should have been at the School for his entire life. In that short time, he became utterly steeped in the ways of KGS, accumulating a feeling for its unique ethos and values which many take years to fathom out, and some never do.

Sam first came into contact with the School on a placement with the Junior School, when considering a career in primary teaching after leaving a Sixth Form college following A Levels. He was already familiar with KGS, as a member man and boy of Broughton Parish Church Choir, directed by former KGS Head of Music John Catterall, and he took a placement at KGJS on John's advice and instigation.

Sam was coming to realise that his career options were perhaps narrowed by his previous choice of A Levels, not least as he was feeling increasingly called to the priesthood. So it was in the summer of 2015, that he took the bold

decision to study for an extra year at KGS Sixth Form, adding two more A Levels in music and politics to his existing qualifications, in order to better prepare himself for a planned degree course in theology on the route to his eventual calling.

To join an established and younger Sixth Form cohort is a big challenge in both academic and social terms, but Sam's decision proved to be a wise and effective one. Thanks to his gregarious personality and an exceptional gift for building bridges with and between strikingly different friendship groups, he rapidly became an integral part of a large and diverse Sixth Form community.

School and student friendship groups are often defined by their co-curricular interests, such that the sporty types, the arty types, the drama types and so on are easily identifiable and somewhat mutually exclusive groups. Joining a year group with a strong presence of sports men and women, of gifted musicians and of strong-minded intellectuals, Sam's natural milieu as a would-be ordinand studying politics and music would have been expected to be among the musicians and intellectuals. However, he refused to be type cast, and within days was known, liked and accepted by the rugby lads thanks to his openness and manifest goodwill. His ability to send everyone up, including himself, with a winning mix of humour and respect made him impossible to ignore and to dislike. During that one year, he illuminated lessons with his irreverent yet respectful humour, and enriched school life with his ability to connect with everyone from the Chair of Governors to senior management to teachers to support and ancillary staff. He played the organ for assemblies, accompanied soloists at concerts and generally threw himself into school life as if making up for a lost six years. When a student studies part-time for one year in the Sixth Form, they would normally be known only to the one or two who teach him or her; Sam made it his business to know or be known by everyone.

After leaving as a student, it was immediately apparent that Sam had not seen enough of Kirkham Grammar School, nor it of him. The years 2015-2018 were difficult times for the School, with a measure of instability caused by a variety of factors, and newly-installed



Headmaster, Daniel Berry, saw in Sam a man who clearly had more to offer while continuing to reassess his longer term career goals. So it was that Sam came to serve the School between 2017 and 2019 in a variety of roles, official and unofficial, encompassing music, pastoral care, maintenance and caretaking, administrative support, alumni relations, registrar, reprographics and Head's PA. All these roles were performed with the same 'can do' attitude, an ability to connect with others and unfailing good humour and kindness.

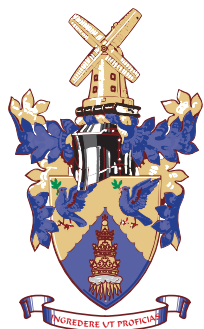
The School owes Sam a great deal of gratitude for all that he so willingly took on at a challenging time in its recent history, a time from which it has emerged strengthened and renewed.

We are delighted that he is now taking the university degree of which he is so manifestly capable, and we hope that he will in time be able to pursue his vocation and use his disarming charm and bridge-building skills to good effect.

It seems unlikely that we have seen the last of Sam Walmsley and we look forward to seeing him in whatever capacity he next reappears at KGS.

Adrian Long





Ranvir Singh



Given its size and location, Kirkham Grammar School boasts an impressive roll-call of distinguished former pupils of national repute. Old Kirkhamians of all ages are to be found all over the world in a remarkable variety of walks of life. Successful Kirkhamians are to be found in all the traditional professions such as Teaching, Law, Medicine, Engineering and Business, but are also to be found in areas as diverse as the media, journalism, catering, professional sport, the theatre, the clergy, the armed forces and archaeology.

The School's Wikipedia entry lists the likes of: sometime Astronomer Royal, **Ralph Copeland**; pioneer of Maglev rapid transport, **Eric Laithwaite**; ITV football commentator, **Clive Tyldesley**; Coronation Street actor, **Tupele Dorgu**; and several rugby players who have made it to the highest level at international and club level. Wikipedia overlooks the likes of: former Head of OfWat, **Sir Ian Byatt**; US-based computer game entrepreneur, **Karthik Bala**; Professors **John Buckley** (History) and **Matthew Pateman** (Popular Aesthetics); cricket statistician, **Tony Lewis**; and TV scriptwriter **Roy Russell**.

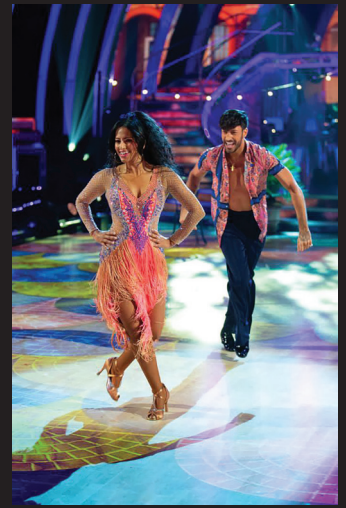
However, with all due respect to this diverse and distinguished list, none has come remotely near to the level of public prominence achieved by Ranvir Singh (KGS 1988-1995), who, just before Christmas, left the television dance show *Strictly Come Dancing* at the semi-final stage, bathed in the love and respect of the nation, her face and words all over the national media.

Before we pay tribute to her part in *Strictly*, we must emphasise that Ranvir was already one of the School's most prominent alumni: a respected TV journalist, she made her name firstly in BBC local radio, then as anchor of the much-loved regional news programme *North West Tonight* alongside the legendary Gordon

Burns. She moved to ITV in 2012, and has become a ubiquitous voice and face, reporting on many of the biggest news stories over the past decade. Her main role is as *Good Morning Britain's* Political Correspondent, but she also appears as a newsreader on *News at Ten* and presents a variety of factual programmes and features for ITV. She was honoured by her home city when installed as Chancellor of the University of Central Lancashire in 2017.

However, as with others who have taken up the challenge of BBC TV's ratings juggernaut *Strictly Come Dancing*, her journey on a show which pairs celebrities with professional dancers has propelled her to a whole new level of fame in the nation's lounges in a year when the programme was warmly welcomed as an antidote to the prevailing gloom at the end of such a difficult locked-down year.

Her dance partnership with Italian Giovanni Pernice, one of the show's established professional dancers, took her well beyond the point to which a woman of her age and self-confessed insecurities would have expected to progress in a show where younger contestants of a performing background are rightly perceived to have an advantage. Millions of viewers with no connection to Kirkham Grammar School or to the North West warmed to her engaging, modest, and



down to earth personality as she uncovered hitherto undiscovered talents, notably in the Ballroom dances.

So what of the Ranvir that we knew at KGS? Did her school career in any way suggest that she would achieve such celebrity 25 years on?

Ranvir joined us at the age of 11 in September 1988, towards the end of Malcolm Summerlee's time as Headmaster, with KGS by then fully established as a co-educational independent school. She is the first to say that she was not a typical privately educated child: her attendance at the school was thanks to the Government Assisted Places Scholarship Scheme, which for 17 years from 1980 enabled bright children from less advantaged backgrounds to attend independent schools with state funding. Ranvir was from a Sikh family of Punjabi Indian origin in Ribbleson, and lost her father at an early age, and recalls being startled by the prosperous homes and lifestyles of some fellow pupils from the well-to-do rural Fylde villages.

However, she was always self-evidently determined to justify the faith put in her by the award of a scholarship, and as one of those who taught her and came to know her well, I believe that this determination and positivity clearly points the way to her subsequent

success in both her professional career and in a TV talent show. As a pupil, she was for her entire career one who gave her utmost to everything, both in the classroom and outside: her best friend Kate (Mrs Aldeen of KGJS) recalls their entering the House Music competition as a duo, undeterred by complete lack of musical expertise. She was an archetypal House Captain, leading what was at that time Mr Trenhaile's Preston House through a golden era of success thanks to her "have a go" attitude. Sounds familiar? She was also a keen student of drama and LAMDA participant; among those who shared a stage with Ranvir in a 1994 school production of *The Crucible* was none other than Kirsten Chatwin, now Headmistress of KGJS, Mrs O'Donoghue. The producer of that play, Yvonne Jones, who also taught Ranvir A Level Theatre Studies (as it was called in those days) still follows the progress of her protégée from New Zealand, where she lives in retirement.

My strongest memories of Ranvir extend from the two ends of her career: in 1989, during her first year, she took part in one of my many school trips to Paris which are so fondly remembered by former pupils. These trips were always deliberately whole school in composition and were far more about fostering friendships and learning intelligent tourism, rather than any specific language learning purpose. So on that trip - her first to Paris, I believe - she mixed with fellow pupils of all ages as we took in the sights, sounds and atmosphere of the "city of light", with leisurely drink stops at pavement cafés to watch the world go by, three-course restaurant meals and a gentle but very real encouragement to pupils to appreciate cathedrals and museums. She took it all in, and developed a love of the French language and culture which led her to pursue the subject to A Level.

At A Level, she was part of a large class - so large, in fact, that Headmaster, Barrie Stacey, had to call upon my wife as an "emergency" teaching appointment in order to split the group into more manageable size. Ranvir engaged in all the challenges of advanced language learning with spirit and determination, and above all else, a sense of fun. That girl-dominated class often dissolved into interminable digressions and fits of giggles, and every time I saw Ranvir sitting with Giovanni on *It Takes Two* this autumn, I

saw the same person that I knew at school, totally unspoiled by fame.

Ranvir has been unshakeably loyal to her home city, her home region and her old school: she has always remained in touch with KGS, and honoured us by acting as Chief Guest and Prize Presenter at Speech Day in 2007. I recall the reaction of a Sixth Form group I taught the next morning, who were so happy to have, at last, heard a speaker with whom they could identify as a product of the school they themselves loved. She has willingly referred to KGS as a key influence, has readily produced quotations for the School's publicity purposes, but most importantly has delighted in visiting us and seeing her own former teachers - now few in number. The video that was made before she started *Strictly*, featuring 'Good Luck' messages from some of her teachers, moved her to tears.

Her humility and willingness to build and maintain connections are the qualities of a true star, who never quite believes she is as famous and successful as she is. A few years ago, I mentioned to her that a young friend of mine had an interview at ITN for a journalism apprenticeship and she asked for the girl's number and called her for a chat and some advice, immediately after coming off air from reading *News at Six*. More recently, throughout the *Strictly* journey, Ranvir and I have exchanged texts before and after each show, giving this unlikely superfan a real delight at being "on the inside" for one series.

The KGS motto *ingredere ut proficias*, meaning "enter in order to profit", is sometimes seen as a disappointingly self-serving one, but Ranvir Singh is as good an example as we could ever have of one who lives it out to the full: she has absolutely made the most of the opportunities given to her by entering the school, but more significantly she has profited society by making the most of her talent, and giving so generously of her time and so openly and honestly of her personality in this most difficult of years.

We at KGS have every reason to be proud of our most famous "old girl".

Adrian Long



Leslie Scott

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Old Kirkhamian, Leslie Scott (Les) who died on Monday 21 October last year at the age of 91. Les would often wax lyrical about his time at Kirkham Grammar which he attended during the war years. He last visited KGS ten years ago during the holidays, and enjoyed a tour of school along with one of his grandsons. At the time he said that he felt he could still smell the smoke from the staffroom, in his imagination, of course! He commented how he had kept all of his school reports, which thankfully were positive, and felt he had a good education at Kirkham, especially considering it was during the war years and a lot of the Masters were called up to fight.

Born in Preston, Les worked for the Department

of Social Security initially in Blackpool and then transferred to Newcastle upon Tyne. He met his wife, Evelyn, in Glasgow whilst doing his National Service after World War II where he was in the Fleet Air Arm. In the early 60s, Les was at the forefront of Computer Programming and Systems Analysis, in a team designing the new computerised Social Security system. He loved this role which suited his mathematical mind. He rose to be a Senior Principal in the Civil Service. Evelyn and Les had two daughters, Lesley and Alison. They had three grandsons and five great grandchildren. Les played golf three times a week for about 25 years after retirement but gave up when he became frailer and his eyesight had deteriorated. He continued to meet his golfing friends at the clubhouse and also his work colleagues until two months before his death.



Chris Lees

KGS 1978-1985

OKA Committee 2005-2020

The Old Kirkhamians' Association flag flew at half-mast on Monday 13 July in memory of OKA Treasurer, Chris Lees, who died unexpectedly on Thursday 25 June.

Chris attended Kirkham Grammar School from 1978 to 1985, leaving after Sixth Form to undertake a degree in economics. His degree led him to a career in accountancy and his role within Turpin, Lucas, Lees Accountants Ltd, where he has been a director for many years.

In 2005, Chris joined the Old Kirkhamians' Committee and was elected to the role of Honorary Treasurer in 2006. Over the last 15 years Chris has been a stalwart and enthusiastic member of the committee, attending Oxford dinners, KGS reunions, OKA rugby fixtures, OKA Golf and of course always the Northern Dinner held at School.

In 2011, Chris worked with the School to organise an Old Kirkhamians Three Peaks Challenge. Two minibuses were booked, Chris completed the training to drive the

second minibus, but as the date drew near, the numbers dwindled so just the one minibus was needed. However, this allowed Chris to share the driving and do some of the walking as well.

In 2014, the OKA committee were delighted to hear the news of the birth of Eleanor Lees. A beautiful baby girl for Chris and fiancée Clair Holden (KGS 1985-1992). Clair, and in more recent years Eleanor, have also attended many of the Old Kirkhamian events.

Throughout the time in office, Chris has worked with fifteen different OKA Presidents, never wishing to have his name put forward as President Elect as he enjoyed his role of Honorary Treasurer. He has worked with four different Honorary Secretaries and from all accounts Chris was the most professional, enthusiastic and helpful Treasurer – always reminding the Hon. Secretary to send the letters of thanks to the auditors and the sponsors for the dinner.

The OKA committee are very grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Chris and his support and enthusiasm for KGS and the OKA will be remembered by all. It is no exaggeration to say that Chris embodied the heart and soul of KGS, nor is it coincidence

that his year group (the Class of 85) has been so exceptionally active and supportive of OKA events over recent years. We shall miss his genial, unflappable presence at every Committee meeting and at every future OKA event.



Old School Tie



Some Basic Facts

1. **Your Name** Ian Byatt
2. **Your Job** Former Director of Water Services (Ofwat)

The Old Days

1. **What years were you at KGS?** 1941-1950
2. **What is your best memory of those days?** The early days of independent intellectual life.
3. **Who was the most influential person at school that helped you succeed?** Sam Hughes taught me that History mattered to our lives. Dennis Norwood helped me to get a place at Oxford which set me on my way.
4. **What was your first job?** Lecturer in Economics, The Durham Colleges in the University of Durham.
5. **What do you wish you had been told about that would have helped you the most?** KGS taught me to deal with uncertainty and opportunities. No one could have forecast my work and family life. So I am glad no-one tried.

And now to Business

1. **Tell us about your job, what do you do?** First, I taught at University (Durham and LSE) for seven years. Then for nineteen years, I worked in several Government Departments, including the Department of Education and Science, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the Department of the Environment, but mainly in the Treasury where I became Deputy Chief Economic Adviser.

On privatisation, I was appointed Director-General of Water Services to regulate the newly privatised Water Authorities where I served for eleven years. Subsequently I became Chairman of the Water Industry for Scotland regulating publicly-owned Scottish Water for six years.

2. How did you come to have a career in this particular industry?

I followed opportunities and found that I could succeed (modestly), subject to numerous challenges, not all of which I managed.

3. What has been the biggest challenge in the last 12 months?

I am now retired, trying to paint acceptable pictures while keeping up with the world and enjoying family life.

4. What is your best tip on how to succeed in business? Look for opportunities and work hard!

5. How do you differentiate yourself from the competition in a crowded market? Knowing my subject reasonably well, translating it into action and communicating with others.

6. What business tool couldn't you live without? Pen, paper and a PC

7. Do you use Social Media in business and what works best for you? No, I'm too old-fashioned.

8. What are some trends in your industry that you're excited about or think that our readers should be paying attention to? Any signs, not easy to detect, that producers and consumers interact better, either through well-functioning economic markets or political designed structures. Bit abstract but I could give plenty of examples from regulation to anti-trust.

And finally, if someone wanted to get in touch how could they do that? If anyone would like to get in touch, my email is ianbyatt@blueyonder.co.uk No Facebook, please!

Having lived through the celebrations of the quarter-centenary, I look forward to 470 years since Fanny Birley and the Draper's Company founded a great institution. Best to the old ship KGS.

Ian



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Macan: Fuel consumption (WLTP) combined: 25.7–28.2 mpg. CO₂ emissions (WLTP) combined: 249–227 g/km.

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PORSCHE