

THE KIRKHAMIAN

KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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GRAMMAR SCHOOL

AUGUST 2020





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KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for everything you have done to support your families and KGS during 2019/20. The fantastic effort by everyone has allowed the school to keep moving forward and to ensure our children have a bright future. The past year has been one to remember and will never be forgotten. An active school year at KGS supporting nearly nine hundred pupils and delivering a six day week of lessons, sport, drama, music, co-curricular activities and events makes a school very busy and an honour to serve. We have also been inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate and the Home Office (Boarding regulations) and moved to a new version of learning through 'Google Classrooms', to keep us even busier. However, all outcomes ensured we retained our position as the independent school of choice. A school year is never the same as the last one but this one was definitely different.

On a more serious note it continues to be a challenge watching the daily news, listening to further updates of how our lives have changed and being continuously bombarded with updates

on the difficult situation we have been faced with. As I sit here in school today it does make you appreciate what we have even more. The place is a soulless shell without the laughing children, the stampede to break and the bell that tells us a lesson is over. When we do come back we will appreciate our wonderful school and all who travel through it even more. We will ensure we return stronger and more thankful of all that makes up KGS. Every bit of homework, revision and lap of the fields will be embraced with more energy than ever before. Although we are living through an unpredictable time it is noticeable how you take the little things less for granted. Attending KGS is one of those aspects that can be so easily taken for granted. However, I do feel this will not be the case anymore. When you lose something you love you appreciate all of what you have missed. I do hope that this edition of the Kirkhamian reminds us all of what we are missing and what we have to look forward to upon our return.

Looking ahead to August, we have extended lesson times and increased the hours during the school day. The

changes do give us a total of five extra teaching weeks in the Senior School and four extra teaching weeks in the Junior School. Having reviewed and adapted the school calendar for the Autumn Term we will ensure the priority for staff and pupils is teaching and learning, normal routines and co-curricular activities wherever possible. GCSE and A Level mock examinations will be brought forward from January 2021 to December 2020.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the staff for their extraordinary efforts in keeping the school going and the lessons coming. I would also like to thank both the Governors and parents whose loyalty has been unwavering during this period and continues to be so. You have all given me strength to carry on. I will be counting the days until we can welcome all of the pupils back to school and embrace the KGS family once more.

**Mr D H Berry
Headmaster**



*Upper Sixth
Last Day of School*





Christine Brown

Christine Brown is so much more than just the Bursar. Her energy, professionalism, attention to detail and love of the school are unique and permeate every corner of school life. A true KGS legend. The following captures this.

Mr D H Berry, KGS Headmaster

Colleagues who have worked with Christine Brown for many years will certainly describe her as the consummate professional: dedicated, hardworking, fiercely loyal to KGS, and above all a compassionate and fair individual.

There have been many who have likened Christine to a Blackpool stick of rock because if broke in two, there would be KGS stamped all the way through her. Having put her own girls through Kirkham Grammar School, she could personally see the excellent all round education offered by a dedicated team of professionals – academic and support staff alike. That first-hand knowledge and experience of the school was always put to good use at open events where she could speak with real passion and understanding to prospective parents. Once signed up to the KGS family, parents could always be assured that Christine and her excellent team would provide the best service possible, whether it be on financial matters, the school coaches, school uniform, lost property, and much more. Christine was also responsible for personnel matters, payroll, property maintenance, cleaning, security, as well as being Clerk to the Governors. This post entailed a great deal of administration, organisation, and time devoted to ensuring the smooth running of meetings and carrying out the decisions reached. Mrs B was also the champion lead for the support staff.

At first meeting one would be mistaken to think of Christine as purely the holder of the purse strings; this was not so for her remit seemed to span so many aspects of what made KGS so successful. There were a number of years when KGS expanded and upgraded, with many of the projects being managed by Mrs B. Every school holiday was always meticulously planned for the never ending list of jobs to be completed in all corners of the campus. Holidays were often the busiest time for the Bursar who, having spent term time keeping abreast of busy school life, would then notch up a few gears to clear a backlog of work and embrace all the projects to be completed. Security sometimes became an issue outside of term time, for example when travellers arrived on the school playing field across the bypass. Christine was contacted by the Police one Saturday afternoon and her immediate presence requested. Leaving her social gathering, the Bursar arrived at the muddy field wearing her lovely white summer jeans! The Police told her she was within her rights to approach the travellers, explain they were trespassing, and therefore should move on. Under the watchful eye of an admiring copper, Christine strode across the field to explain to the 'visitors' who she was and why she was speaking to them. Having heard Mrs B's reasoning, the travellers did in fact move on, leaving the rugby pitch almost intact. All in a day's work for the KGS Bursar!

Having worked so tirelessly for the last 26 years, it will seem strange not to see Mrs B in her window but the good ship KGS will sail on. Meanwhile, let's hope that Christine has a well earned rest and is able to enjoy her retirement post lockdown.

Christine Seed

In just over a decade as Headmaster at KGS, I was fortunate enough to work throughout my tenure with two Christines. One acted as my PA, the outstanding Mrs Christine Seed who retired fairly recently and the other was the irreplaceable Mrs Brown whose retirement we celebrate here. Christine Brown was Bursar at KGS before my arrival and had been instrumental in building the School up from tenuous financial circumstances, working in tandem with my predecessor Barrie Stacey. Upon my arrival we struck up an excellent working relationship which I believe served the School well.

Christine had always an eye for detail and immense energy in pursuit of getting the job done. Hence this dove-tailed with my role as more of the broad brush ideas man, always needing colleagues to pick up the gauntlet and carry them out! Mrs Brown managed the finances skilfully throughout and the hallmark of her work was the maxim - the Bursar served the needs of the pupils and the School. If we needed the finances Christine always seemed to find a way to achieve our goals. She always knew somebody who could get the job done. I joked with her that she had a 'money tree' and we often laughed about the health of the 'tree!' To carry out the work as Bursar, clerk of works, site manager, clerk to the Governors and many other roles requires stamina and Christine never lacked for that. You always knew that a meeting with Christine would be a packed agenda and one needed to be alert and active in order to keep up the pace. I always tried to catch her out on the figures but never had much joy!

She always revelled in a building project and as we were fortunate to undertake many in our time working together, from the new Science Block right through to the new Sports Hall, she never lacked for a project. I still recollect the two of us putting out stools in the science labs in readiness for the pupils to begin use of the new labs the next day, in the knowledge that we had an ISI inspection the next day too! Sometimes you just had to get your hands dirty!

Her considerable work for charity has been on going but has always fitted around her pride and joy which has been Kirkham Grammar School. I know she will have done all she can to assist the School in these troubled times surrounding the Covid virus, despite her recent illness and I know we all hope she is now well on the road to recovery. Christine Brown has been a true and loyal servant of KGS and she has played a monumental role in its growth and evolution through both good times and more challenging days. She has always cared deeply about those in the School, both staff and pupils, and I hope she has a long and happy retirement and enjoys her growing family as she joins the ranks of us retirees.

Mr D Walker (Former KGS Headmaster 2002-2013)

From the moment I first met Christine, we bonded over our love of cups of tea! As a parent, member of the Friends and currently the Chairman of Governors, the kettle is always on to solve any problem - sometimes even with some shortbread for our 'baggin'! Christine has been a huge support to me over the years. Her knowledge, loyalty and dedication to KGS is second to none. I look forward to seeing her and catching up after lockdown. Christine has been an amazing Bursar to KGS but I also count her as a kind and caring friend.

Mrs L Wareing, Chair of Governors

During my tenure as Chair of Governors an extensive ten-year development programme at KGS was initiated by the Governors in the early 2000s. Christine was an integral part of the team involved in the planning and implementation of the many building and refurbishment projects undertaken in the following years including the Waite Building, New Science Block, Drama Studio, Boarding House facilities to name but a few. I would like to pay tribute to her dedication, integrity and indeed enormous help she gave to these projects

over and above her normal duties as the school's Bursar. Christine's contribution enabled both the Senior and Junior Schools to provide the necessary facilities required for the future growth of KGS. On a personal note I enjoyed immensely the many years of collaboration with Christine and send my sincere best wishes for a well-earned retirement.

Mr S Fulford-Brown, Associate Governor/Former Chair of Governors

Having worked with Christine for more than a quarter of a century I searched for a photograph of her but I was unable to locate one. Pondering the reason for this, I quickly realised that rather than seeking the limelight, over the years Christine has worked endlessly in her own extremely diligent and conscientious manner behind the scenes helping to ensure that every aspect of Kirkham Grammar School is running effectively and efficiently and without doubt she has helped to shape it into the fabulous institution it is today.

Despite her official role as Bursar, Christine is often found getting her 'hands dirty' and helping out whenever it is needed and this is especially true on open events when she is always more than willing to go the extra mile, often helping with cleaning and tidying from first thing in a morning until last thing at night to ensure that KGS is always seen at its best. She has always been a truly dedicated member of the KGS family and has worked tirelessly with governors, SLT and staff to help improve facilities and education across the foundation. She is however more than the public 'face' of the Bursarial Department. Over the years she has also been a friend and trusted confidante to many staff and parents when they needed valued advice, support and someone to listen to.

Her tireless fundraising for cancer charities is commendable as is her lifelong dedication to her family, especially her two daughters Caroline and Rachel and her grandchildren.

Christine has been the epitome of KGS and everything it represents for nearly three decades and without doubt she will be sadly missed on several levels.

I genuinely wish her a long, happy and very well deserved retirement.

Jackie Stanbury

Working with Christine Brown features in many of my best memories of my time working at KGS. Christine has a work ethic and resourcefulness that meant she rarely said 'no' to a viable idea.

I remember being involved in a scheme to evolve the strength and conditioning rooms at KGS, which had been generously supported by the Pope family. Christine played a huge part in making that become a reality, even drafting in a contact to build a specialist gym frame at a fraction of the cost of a commercial alternative which meant our funds went so much further than they otherwise would have done. The gym was built at a particularly busy time for Christine, yet she found the time and the contacts to assist in creating what is a very useful facility for the school.

Christine's work ethic sets her apart as an exceptional bursar. My favourite example of this is when she assisted with the 'Sports Balls' that ran for a number of years. Despite the fact that she had a Rosemere event the night after the ball, she assisted with the 'Sports Ball' and was seen collecting empty glasses at 3am after the event had finished! I don't think there are many school bursars who would go to those lengths.

In my view the best parts of KGS rely on committed staff that may be in academic staff, coaching sports teams or running Duke of Edinburgh. No staff were more committed or contributed more than Christine.

James Walker

Christine always looked after the finer details of everything. She very much lived by the mantra of 'looking after the pennies'. I remember when I was managing the library that she searched everywhere to find new furniture that was appropriate and the right Kirkham blue! Armed with tape measure she made sure everything was as it should be. She was very proud of how the space looked for visitors and personally came to check, outside her working hours, to ensure everything had been done properly, especially if the library was being used after school hours to host an event.

The same can be said for the pride she took in designing the new sixth form centre last summer. She sourced all the accessories to make the space seem very welcoming and personal. The warmth that radiates from the Six Degrees Cafe is down to Christine's interior design skill and eye for detail.

When Christine discovered the theme that was underpinning the last school production of Alice in Wonderland, she readily offered her own collection of table decorations to support the show. Again, this attention to detail is what made the whole production so special. She always got involved in making sure that everything looked great and not only offered advice but practical solutions to ease any problems.

On a personal level Christine always made a point of asking after my family, offering help by putting my son in touch with her daughter so he could do work experience at her school. She remembers personal details and genuinely cares about the wider life of all her staff, ensuring that they are always supported on every level.

She was the eyes and ears of Kirkham and if ever an answer was needed to a question, it would be Christine who would know it and willingly pass on her wisdom.

Gill Latham

Christine has been a constant reminder that hard work gets a job done and that no job is worth doing unless it is done well! Her professionalism is exceptional and is only superseded by her care for Kirkham Grammar School. From fundraisers to open days, from formal dinners to final assemblies – Christine has always been there and has always helped make sure KGS is top of its game.

Christine has been such an important member of Team KGS, although we may lose her professional services, I know she will always be part of the KGS family.

Anna Sutcliffe

Unfortunately, due to the limited space in this publication we have been unable to publish all of the wonderful memories that had been submitted for inclusion in this magazine. A book of Christine's time at KGS will be produced in due course for her to keep.



A FOND FAREWELL



Miss Debbie Cooper

After 22 years of service, KGS is going to sorely miss Debbie. Her professionalism is absolute and she will be so hard to replace. As a class teacher, she has taught in both Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. No one who has been taught by her or worked with her can fail to have been influenced by her high expectations, both of herself and her pupils.

Debbie's contribution beyond the classroom over the years has been immense. Her love of sport has led her to support hockey, netball and athletics clubs. A favourite sporting event for her was participating with the pupils in the annual triathlon to raise money for Brian House Children's Hospice. She also represented the staff in the obstacle relay team on sports day and was consistently part of the winning team, even when a former colleague got stuck in a hurdle!

Due to her interest in books, she encouraged our pupils to be avid readers by leading the book club, book fairs, book week and, of course, our school library. In fact, four out of five lunch times every week, Miss Cooper could be found in the library supporting the library monitors as well as class upon class of children who had come to change their books.

It is fair to say that Debbie also got 'stuck in' when it came to organising and accompanying pupils on a vast array of school trips. The one that will undoubtedly stick in her memory, is the year she offered to step in to accompany the J4 pupils on their final trip of the academic year to Wales. Little did she know what was in store! Putting her fear of heights on hold to help a pupil up the rope ladder, she scrambled up to assist, not realising that the only way back to the ground was by hurtling down the zip wire! This was a once in a lifetime experience, but a clear demonstration that, no matter what is required, one can always rely on Debbie Cooper.

Another example of how Debbie would go above and beyond, year upon year, was with her unwavering support with school productions where she would spend hour after hour of her own time, washing, ironing, making, altering and organising costumes. Over the years, she has never once seen a live performance, always having to watch the final shows on DVD as she would be permanently backstage ensuring all the pupils had all that they needed. Her sewing expertise was always made use of at every event. Whenever a pupil discovered their blazer button was missing, they knew that the go-to person was Miss Cooper and whenever a member of staff couldn't get their gowns to look right, off to Miss Cooper they would go! Of course, due to her expertise in this area, Debbie also ran a craft club for our pupils.

We will miss hearing about Debbie's forty mile fell runs, racing car wins, fencing, archery, roller skiing and orienteering hobbies but most of all we will miss the kind, caring, dependable lady who is, Debbie Cooper. So Debbie, our friend and colleague, we say a very sad goodbye as you leave us but we wish you every happiness for the future and the exciting new chapter of your life that is about to begin.



Mrs Rachael Alarcon

With mixed emotions, we must bid farewell to Mrs Rachael Alarcon who first entered the KGS doors in 2008 to cover a maternity leave in J4. Mrs Alarcon then went on the lead English at Blackpool Sixth Form College.

Her love for teaching children in Key Stage Two led her back through our doors in 2013 when, along with her role as class teacher, she was appointed as the English coordinator. Having achieved a first-class honours degree from Lancaster University, Rachael was very well equipped to perform this key role. She grasped the opportunity with relish and has propelled the English forward with new schemes for reading, spelling and writing. Not only did she oversee and update the English curriculum, Rachael was also fundamental in the organisation of arranging visits from key authors for our children to enjoy.

After the birth of her daughter, Florence, in December, 2019, Rachael decided to put her career on hold to concentrate on her new family. So, we say a sad goodbye to our friend and colleague who will be greatly missed at KGS, but it is with joy in our hearts that we wish her well as she steps forward down the path of motherhood. We wish Rachael and her family every happiness for the future.



Mrs Keirina Heatley

Keirina moved from teaching in the UAE to join KGS in September 2017, taking up her post as a J2 class teacher. She quickly established herself as a valuable member of staff and we are most grateful for the commitment, care and support she has given to our pupils. Her contribution to our school beyond the classroom has seen her offering a popular netball club to the lower Juniors and participating in many school trips. For those that worked closely with Keirina, she will be remembered for her exceptional organisation, ability to rise to a challenge and her fantastic teamwork. Keirina will be returning to the UAE, along with her family, to teach at Brighton College. We wish them every happiness for their new adventure.

As my first academic year as Headmistress at Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School draws to a close, I have taken time to reflect upon what makes our school so unique. At this time, the closeness of the KGS family has never been more apparent. Despite our physical distance, due to remote learning, I have felt particularly connected to our families, perhaps even more so than when we chatted every morning, as we greeted each other in the playground come rain or shine!

The pupils never cease to amaze me, each and every day. I often receive visits from pupils sharing their learning with me, keen to engage and express their delight in doing well. It is paramount that we fuel this thirst and love for learning so that our children develop an inherent ability to search for knowledge when they leave us at the end of Sixth Form. We are privileged to have the time to listen to and support them with their needs, reward their successes and tailor their experiences as they progress through our school. Having a thriving school where pupils are able to express themselves, whilst learning about and respecting the opinions of many others, generates a real respect for each other and a constant reminder of the importance of being kind. There is a dynamic 'buzz' and energy that you feel as you walk amongst the classes here. Indeed, it is the very same vibrancy that inspired me to become a teacher all those years ago when I sat in those very seats!

The KGS staff markedly effuse a passion and drive for each and every pupil to do well, irrespective of their starting point and interests. Aspiration and ambition are key to ensuring that our pupils succeed as they move throughout our school and beyond. We offer this in abundance from the minute that they start with us at the age of three.

My experience of the schools that I have worked in throughout the years is that each one takes on its own personality. Our pupils, parents and staff play their part in creating a school with a very distinct and unique character. Our school has a soul; we have a very real and determined attitude to shine in all circumstances, and we present ourselves with honour and integrity in all that we do. The pupils demonstrate a quiet modesty that is appealing and charming to all who encounter it. This pervades through every element of school life, not just at events or on special occasions, but every day, without thought or reminders.

During our highly successful inspection in February, the inspectors were quick to comment upon how the pupils naturally conversed with them about feeling safe, happy and well cared for. They recognised the strong family ethos and the extreme measures that we take to offer an exceptional experience for each pupil when it comes to their academic progress and wellbeing. We 'know' all of our pupils; their safety and happiness is always our number one priority.

Having experienced a variety of educational establishments, I am certain that our setting is like no other. The education provided for our children continues to be rigorous, enhanced this year from I1 to J4 with the appropriately challenging Power Maths scheme. Our EYFS pupils now have a seamless transition from Pre-School to I1 due to the addition of the Cornerstones curriculum, providing both age ranges with ambitious learning experiences.

Naturally I enjoy all of the special events and highlights of the school year but what I thrive upon the most are the day-to-day happenings of our school. Observing how each individual interacts and how they positively influence, in their own way, our continued progress is something that I cherish. I see this as I walk around the school, when I observe lessons, listen and speak to

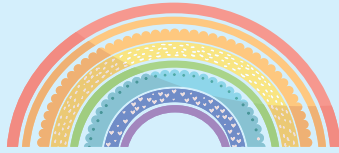
pupils during their break times and over lunch. Often I peek through the classroom door, when the pupils don't know that I am watching, and I observe how they work independently, or collaboratively, and I notice the distinctive relationships that they have with their teachers. There is something quite special about what could be deemed the 'ordinary' side of school; there is nothing ordinary about what takes place in our classrooms.

As we look to the future, we will continue to enhance our resources and technology in line with developments, always endeavouring to embrace the latest teaching and learning methodologies. Though I do not know exactly what the future holds, I do know that whatever paths we take, we will continue to do what we do so well: listen to our pupils, respond to their needs, encourage and model kindness and always be thoughtful and encouraging in our approach. Our School Values to Work Hard, Be Kind and Never Give Up will always pervade and permeate throughout all aspects of the educational experience that we provide.

We will be faced with a 'new normal' when we reach August 2020, but I have no doubt that we will embrace this together, as a family, to ensure that we strive for the very best for our pupils so that they thrive and prosper.

Mrs K O'Donoghue





KGJS MUMS

HELP
THE

NHS



At the beginning of the 'lockdown' period, a group of I1 and J2 mums decided to raise money for our amazing NHS frontline staff. Some of the I3 mums joined in too and in total they have raised over £1200.

The ITUs at Blackpool were desperately in need of socks and toiletries. The nurses shower before they leave work so that they can return safely home to their families. They are in protective gear and their shoes can be cleaned but their socks are thrown away after every shift so donations of socks were greatly received. Iris' dad, Mr James, supplied several thousand pairs of socks courtesy of his employer the Boohoo Group.

Mr Wan also did a 'big bargain shop' which, when dropped off at Royal Preston Hospital, was well received. The fundraising team working for Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Charity, which includes Rosemere Cancer Foundation and Baby Beat in its family, prepared and delivered 4,000 welfare packs containing donated items valued at around £85,000 to frontline clinical staff at the Royal Preston and Chorley and South Ribble Hospitals.

They are also helping Lancaster with a donation to provide toiletries for care packages which go out to patients and members of staff who

are currently working but having to isolate themselves away from their families and also to patients.



Paula Wilson, Head of Charities and Fundraising for LTHTR, said: "We wanted to show our thanks and appreciation to all the frontline staff working in our two hospitals. Our focus is usually on fundraising to benefit patients. Our charity family works to fund equipment for our hospitals that the NHS cannot afford to buy. We also fund other services and research plus work to improve our treatment environments to make life better for patients, but I am delighted that we are able to offer support to our frontline colleagues. They are working so hard and putting others first during this unprecedented health crisis, we felt we needed to give them some of our help and attention. From the overwhelmingly supportive response we have received from local individuals and businesses, we know that this is something the public very much agrees with us on."

Well done to you all...a fantastic effort!

FRIENDS OF KGS



One of the main aims of FKGS, is raising funds to help enhance the development of our children on their educational journey through Kirkham Grammar School. We are therefore always delighted to be able to provide funds to school. In recent years, amongst other things, this has helped with the renovations of the Summerlee Hall, provided hockey nets for the sports department and cabinets for technology displays. We have been equally excited this year to be able to provide funds for the much-needed playground equipment in the Infant and Junior School playgrounds.

The Junior School playground now houses a fantastic 'Adventure Trim Trail', which both our Infant and Junior School children will be able to utilise. Additional outdoor equipment has also been provided for the I1 play area. Both sets of equipment will help enhance the children's physical development, whilst also creating a more stimulating and fun environment. We are sure the children will love it and we look forward to them being able to enjoy using this equipment later this year.

None of this would be possible without both the fantastic efforts of our committee and your continued support and I would like to express my thanks to you all.

We are always looking for additional help and ideas in our fundraising efforts. Please do let us know if you are interested in joining our committee, have any new ideas or are just curious about what we do. I have found being part of the FKGS very rewarding and would love to welcome new members as we move into the next school year.

Before our home schooling journey began, we did manage to hold our annual Junior School Disco, which was again a great hit.

We have obviously been disappointed not to be able to continue our fundraising efforts during these unprecedented times and have missed hosting the many events that we had scheduled during 2020. We will be rescheduling the events we had to cancel earlier this year including our Junior School Mother's Day Gift Sales, our Preloved Uniform Sale and The Bag2School collections as soon as we can.

I'm sure, like me, many of you have missed our annual Summer Ball particularly as this year we would have been celebrating 470 years of the School, 100 years of the Old Kirkhamians' Association and 40 years of co-education and independence. As well as being one of our main fundraising events, it is always a fabulous evening and provides

a fantastic opportunity to enable us to come together and celebrate. We hope that when circumstances permit we will be able to host this event in some form at a later date.

Whilst we have been unable to proceed with most of our funding efforts, we have continued to raise funds with our Easyfundraising shopping facility. If you have not already done so, registering with Easyfundraising (www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fokgs/) is simple and turns your everyday online shopping into free donations, with no cost to you. You can even set a reminder in your settings option, which ensures your donations continue even if you forget to use the Easyfundraising website. It really couldn't be easier!

Whilst my year as Chair of the FKGS hasn't necessarily gone as planned, I have had a fabulous time and I again wish to express my thanks to everyone who has helped and supported both the committee and myself this year.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you all once we return to school.

Kerry Greenwood

Chair, FKGS



REMOTE LEARNING

Thank you to everyone who sent in their KGS@Home photographs during the many weeks of lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Communication between home and school featured of great importance during what was a challenging and unusual period.

Seeing our older pupils working hard, adapting to a new normal despite the circumstances, and our younger pupils' having lots of fun creating sunglasses for an art project and building their own obstacle courses in PE are just a couple of examples of how our wonderful pupils embraced the situation and showed great resilience and strength of character. A period in time that will certainly go down in history and something our pupils' children and grandchildren will no doubt learn about in the years to come.











Quarantine 2020 A Summer We'll Never Forget.

You're telling me 'cause someone ate a bat
My GCSEs are cancelled, - well fancy that!
I can't go outside, not even for a bit
Which is rather unfortunate
If you'd told me this when in year eight
The topic would have been up for debate
Sitting at home, searching for something to do
Missing my all friends, same as you
Hoping my learning's not gone to waste
So for the future I will be best placed.

By Bea Bunday









Lockdown

My swimming bag stays empty
There's no towel hung out to dry
My ballet shoes aren't packed to go
It makes me heave a sigh,
There's no school to get ready for
My exams are cancelled too
Online learning isn't the same
As having your friends with you.
Roll on summer, you never know
We may get a second chance
To go out and enjoy the world
Without a backward glance!

By Kirsty Williams





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KGS HELP WITH **NHS** PLEA FOR PPE



As frontline medical staff continue to experience critical shortages of PPE equipment, Kirkham Grammar School were delighted to be able to support health workers by producing and supplying their own.

The plea for the visors initially came from a KGS parent who works at Preston Royal Infirmary. The first 80 visors Kirkham Grammar School produced (those in the photo with the paper covers on) were laser cut from polypropylene sheet which meant five visors could be produced in about forty minutes until material ran out. Fifty of these visors went to Preston Royal Infirmary and 30 to Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

To continue production over the Easter holidays, Design Technology teachers, Mr and Mrs Hancock took home the department's two 3D printers which were used every day for two weeks to make an additional 240 visors, each headband taking one hour to print. These visors were distributed to: Kirkham Health

Centre; Ash Tree House Surgery, Kirkham; The Manse Nursing Home, Kirkham; Millbanke Residential Care Home, Kirkham; Waterloo Road Medical Centre, Blackpool; Bloomfield Medical Centre, Blackpool; Adelaide Street Medical Centre, Blackpool; Westmorland Homecare, Poulton; The Crescent Surgery, Thornton-Cleveleys and Ansdell Ambulance Station.

Kirkham Grammar School Headmaster, Mr Daniel Berry, said, "As soon as we heard that these amazing frontline staff were not being protected enough against this devastating virus, we set to to produce the much needed visors. In addition to this, we have also donated a large quantity of science goggles, surgical gloves and disinfectant wipes to local GP surgeries and medical centres. It is vital at a time like this that the community pulls together and we were delighted to be able to support our local heroes. To receive messages of thanks and photographs of them being put to good use is heartwarming."



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DOCTOR FOR A DAY



Our Lower Sixth budding medics were privileged to have experienced the 'Doctor for a Day' initiative run by Royal Preston Hospital, in conjunction with Manchester University Medical School. Our students were forewarned that it was not a course for the faint hearted but our Lower Sixth medics are made of 'stern stuff' and were willing to embrace the challenges the course presented.

The day started with an introduction to the course and quickly proceeded on to diagnostic radiography which had the students studying X-ray plates and CT scans, and together with the third year medical students, established a diagnosis. Blood pressure was their next venture into medical care and they quickly got to grips with both the manual and digital measurement of blood pressure, which is more difficult than it looks!

Their next port of call was phlebotomy and with the help of a synthetic arm and a supply of fake blood, they all managed to fill a vial or two of blood for analysis. Finally, they were thrown into the chaos and trauma of an A & E ward, complete with a simulated RTA patient that even managed to move, breathe and blink.

The whole experience was an incredible opportunity to examine and be involved in some critical aspects of medicine that medics deal with on a daily basis. It was an informative, inspiring and incredibly enlightening day and we are very proud of the performance and achievements of every one of the students.





SIXTH FORM TASTER DAY

In January, we welcomed pupils from across Lancashire to our Sixth Form Taster Day.



Sixth Form Geography Trip to LANCASTER UNIVERSITY

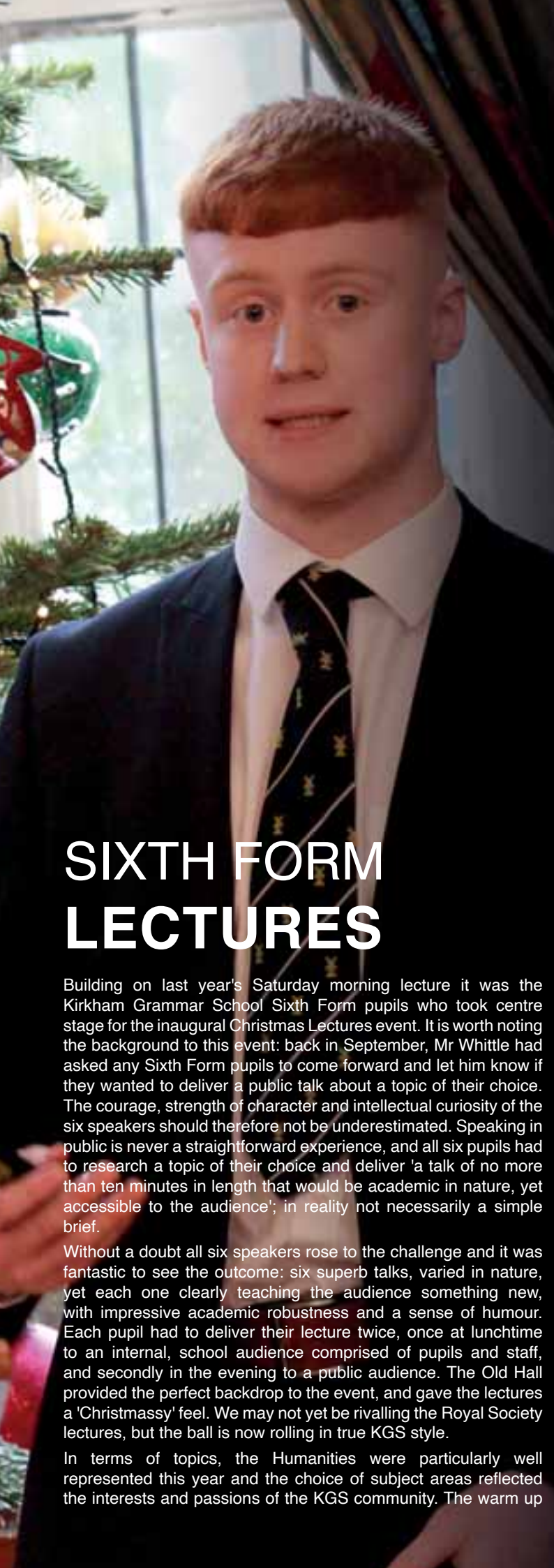
February saw The Lower Sixth Form geographers spend a morning in Lancaster University's Environment Centre, in what has become an annual trip for the Geography Department. As always we were looked after very well by members of the Lancaster University staff, as two lecturers and 'volcanologists' hosted the pupils and guided them through a morning of discussion and practical experiments. This revealed, in greater depth, the theoretical workings of volcanoes and their eruptions.

Based in one of the Environment Centre's impressive teaching laboratory areas side by side with a large group of undergraduates, the geographers were first shown how basaltic lava behaves and the nature of the hazard risk that it can pose in eruptions such as those regularly experienced on Hawaii. The pupils then got 'hands on' with a fascinating analogue experiment using melted paraffin wax to recreate lava flows and behaviours and it was amazing to see how the experienced university staff could guide us through a range of lava behaviours and patterns before our eyes.

Once the group had thoroughly destroyed the lava flows that they had just created, they were then shown a second experiment based on showing what happens within a volcanic conduit as magma rises to the surface and 'de-gasses'. Bubble 'slugs' were created, as all pupils asked insightful questions to extend their understanding of the processes behind volcanic activity, and the monitoring of volcanoes such as Mount Etna.

Following the practical sessions it was great to be able to meet up with an Old Kirkhamian, currently studying Geography at Lancaster University, and the opportunity was there for the Sixth Form geographers to ask questions about university applications, Geography degrees and the UCAS process and life as an undergraduate in general, first hand, from someone they could clearly relate to. The final act of the morning was to get some good advice on the best eateries on campus, and the group then set off to what turned out to be a hearty undergraduate style lunch.





SIXTH FORM LECTURES

Building on last year's Saturday morning lecture it was the Kirkham Grammar School Sixth Form pupils who took centre stage for the inaugural Christmas Lectures event. It is worth noting the background to this event: back in September, Mr Whittle had asked any Sixth Form pupils to come forward and let him know if they wanted to deliver a public talk about a topic of their choice. The courage, strength of character and intellectual curiosity of the six speakers should therefore not be underestimated. Speaking in public is never a straightforward experience, and all six pupils had to research a topic of their choice and deliver 'a talk of no more than ten minutes in length that would be academic in nature, yet accessible to the audience'; in reality not necessarily a simple brief.

Without a doubt all six speakers rose to the challenge and it was fantastic to see the outcome: six superb talks, varied in nature, yet each one clearly teaching the audience something new, with impressive academic robustness and a sense of humour. Each pupil had to deliver their lecture twice, once at lunchtime to an internal, school audience comprised of pupils and staff, and secondly in the evening to a public audience. The Old Hall provided the perfect backdrop to the event, and gave the lectures a 'Christmassy' feel. We may not yet be rivalling the Royal Society lectures, but the ball is now rolling in true KGS style.

In terms of topics, the Humanities were particularly well represented this year and the choice of subject areas reflected the interests and passions of the KGS community. The warm up

act was a short lecture from Mr Whittle on 'Where to Catch a Waterfall', followed by Oliver Barnet leading the way with a talk on 'The Importance of Psychology in the England 2018 World Cup Football Team'. The very topical 'McDonalds' Straws – Plastic or Paper?' was then delivered by Elliot Gourlay, followed by 'Life on Mars?', confidently delivered by Olivia Bickerstaff. The second half of the talks began with Thomas Hewitt's 'The Legacy of Edward VI's Reformation', before Oliver Leatherbarrow delivered his take on 'The Economic Impacts of the 2019 Rugby World Cup in Japan'. Finally it was Reuben Bond to finish proceedings with his intriguingly titled 'Marching on Its Stomach!'.

Looking back on this event, the KGS Christmas Lectures fulfilled a variety of purposes; first and foremost the event was all about giving our pupils an opportunity to speak in public, and research and communicate to others an area of their own, personal, academic interest. For the KGS pupil, personal pride and a genuine sense of achievement, in addition to personal statements are now very much fulfilled! But beyond this, these KGS Sixth Form pupils have continued to support and strengthen the sense of learning and intellectual rigour within the school, and they have taken their interests and conveyed them to a wider audience.

'Enter in order to profit'.



International Women's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world. Traditionally held on 8 March each year, it is a day when women are recognised for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political.

As this significant day fell on a Sunday this year, Kirkham Grammar School embraced this date by holding a lunchtime event on Monday 9 March for our Fourth and Fifth Year female pupils. This year's campaign theme was '#EachforEqual - An equal world is an enabled world.'

Thank you to Sophie Denney, Sally Shaw and Janet Thornton who delivered three influential presentations, each with their own story to tell, to inspire our pupils to believe that anything is possible for them in the future.

The event also featured on That's Lancashire TV.





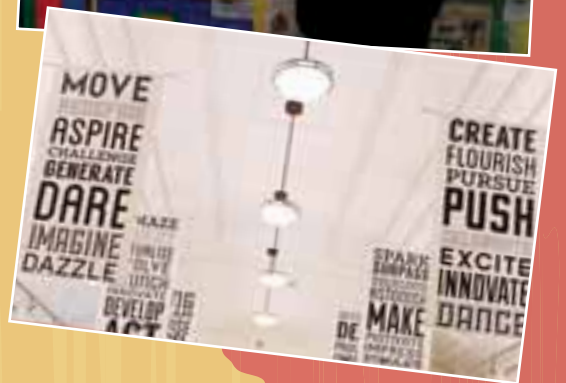
EGYPTIAN DAY

J2 pupils have been studying Ancient Egyptians in their history lessons. They all chose a topic and produced an Ancient Egypt project which was displayed in the Junior School entrance hall. As part of their Egyptian day, staff and pupils dressed up and invited a visitor into school from the Lancashire County Council Museum. The pupils had great fun learning about the pharaohs and their lives and also mummified a model. J2X made ancient Egyptian bread and J2Y mummified tomatoes. In their art lessons they painted pictures of Tutankhamun and Cleopatra.



SEASIDERS ART EXHIBITION

For the third consecutive year, Kirkham Grammar Junior School entered the Blackpool Gazette Young Seaside Arts and Crafts Exhibition. Out of over 100 entries a lucky twenty-six Infant and Junior pupils were shortlisted and visited the exhibition at Blackpool and The Fylde College. Congratulations to our two winners, J3 pupil, Amy Hodson and J1 pupil, Matilda Thompson and to all of those who took part.



AUTHOR VISITS



CASSANDRA
WYER

At the beginning of March, international Storyteller, Cassandra Wye, visited Kirkham Grammar School Infant and Junior classes to deliver a series of inspiring storytelling workshops. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed these interactive sessions. Thank you, Cassandra, for a wonderful day!

HOLLY SMALE



As part of our 'World Book Week' celebrations, we were delighted to welcome Number One best-selling, multi-award winning author of the 'GEEK GIRL' series, Holly Smale, to Kirkham Grammar School at the beginning of March. The series is humorous fiction which follows the life of Harriet Manners, a nerdy 15 year old girl who tries out modelling to 'reinvent herself'.

Holly spoke to our First, Second and Third Year pupils about her own school days of being bullied and how her career developed as a writer. Holly, who has a BA in English Literature and an MA in Shakespeare, described the writing process she uses and gave some structure and tips for pupils to use.

At lunchtime, pupils were invited to visit the library to purchase one of Holly's books which she personally signed.

The event, organised to coincide with National Careers Week, was an excellent opportunity for us to promote reading and writing for pleasure.



KONNIE HUQ



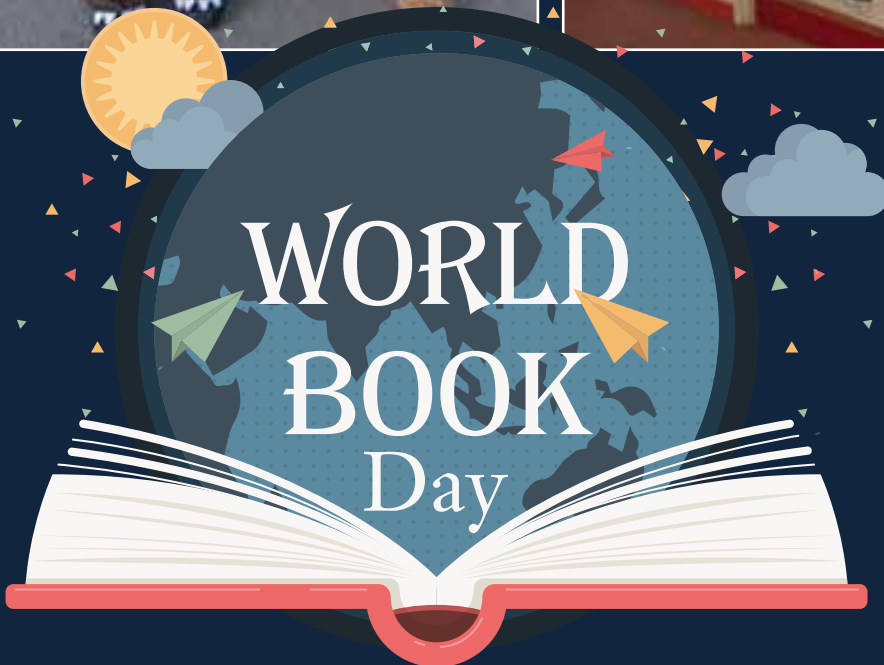
Kirkham Grammar School were delighted to welcome former Blue Peter presenter and writer, Konnie Huq, at the end of February. The event celebrated the publication of Konnie's brilliant new children's book, *Cookie and the Most Annoying Boy in the World*. A brilliantly funny new series which has been written and illustrated by Konnie, featuring chaotic family life and madcap school science projects. Our I3 and Junior pupils were joined by six local primary schools and given the opportunity to create a comic sketch from scratch with Konnie, allowing them to let their imaginations run free! They also enjoyed a 'Cookie' quiz and witnessed a science experiment before they were given the chance to ask Konnie a question. The morning concluded with a book signing and photograph opportunity! A wonderful time was had by all.





For the third consecutive year, to celebrate World Book Day 2020, a decorated door competition took place at the Senior School. Junior, Infant and Pre-School Headmistress, Mrs O'Donoghue (dressed as Miss Trunchbull!) judged the fantastic array of entries!

Kirkham Grammar School Junior, Infant and Pre-School pupils and staff also marked the occasion by dressing up as their favourite book character. Everyone looked amazing!







VE DAY 75





In 2005, Kirkham Grammar School and the Old Kirkhamians' Association commemorated the 60th anniversary of VE Day. In the Old Hall at KGS, we have our bronze memorial to our former students who fell in the World War 1939-1945. We also have two other WWII memorials donated to the school by the families of two of our former students Albert Matthew Osbourne and G H Desmond Dawson. In 2020, despite the school being in lockdown, our KGS flag pole flew the Union Jack, our History department set VE Day Lockdown projects for our students and most importantly we remembered our former students who lost their lives in the service of their country between 1939 and 1945.

Thank you to the pupils who sent in their VE Day photographs. We hope you had a fantastic time with your family, celebrating this special day, despite it taking place during the lockdown period.



International Slavery Museum

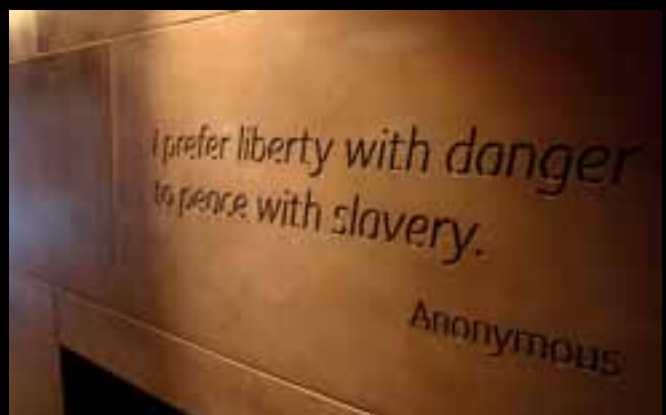
Third Year Trip to the Slavery Museum

The International Slavery Museum in Liverpool is a very eye-opening place. I had already learnt a lot about the Transatlantic Slave Trade in class and knew about the slave triangle and Britain's involvement in the trade. It is a very depressing part of our history and hard to believe that so many enslaved Africans had no human rights and were treated so dreadfully.

During my visit I discovered many interesting facts about the trade and the lives of the enslaved Africans in their communities in West Africa. The artefacts in the museum were fascinating to see how different life was. The gallery was interesting to look round, although it was a little confusing in parts to navigate. The interactive displays were well designed and most engaging. I particularly liked learning about the legacy of slavery in the modern world today.

The handling session with the museum staff in the afternoon was also informative and it was a real experience to handle artefacts associated with the trade. We learnt about a slave who tried to escape from their plantation and the lengths they went to really affected me. It was an excellent day and I would thoroughly recommend a visit to the museum.

By Sophie Birchall-Farr 3Z





CCF LIVERPOOL FLIGHT DECK VISIT

On Monday 2 March, thirty of our RAF and army cadets travelled to Liverpool's waterfront to visit HMS Prince of Wales. Despite the wet and windy weather, it did not deter everyone on our trip to see the 65,000-tonne carrier. When we arrived, we quickly ate our lunches ready to join the queue of cadets and students eager to board the carrier. I was very keen to get onboard as this had been one of my dreams to step onboard an aircraft carrier and hopefully work on one in the future. Once we had made our way onto the ship, we were greeted with Royal Navy crew and staff who were on hand to answer questions about the £3.1 billion warship. There were many activities onboard designed for the visitors in celebrating the UK engineering excellence on the ship's technology. Companies like Babcock and Bae systems were there showing their inputs into the ship along with various speakers giving talks on the future of Navy ship concepts and research into maritime technology. I was especially intrigued by the Jumbo jet design of the ships engines and the Rolls-Royce lift system which provides vertical landing capability for the F-35B jets. Around

every exhibition there were high ranking crew members there to offer information about the carrier and careers into the Navy. I really enjoyed learning about what the different companies' inputs were in the technology of the ship. We then joined the long queue for the tour of the flight deck, but it was worth the wait. During our tour on the 280-metre-long flight deck we got the opportunity to walk to the top of the ski jump ramp which stands at 39 metres above waterline. We also had the opportunity to take pictures with a Merlin helicopter on top of the flight deck overlooking Liverpool's industrial docks. We then returned back to main deck through the maze-like hallways and steep stairs whilst we talked to our tour guide who was weapons engineer officer. He gave me some useful career advice and some interesting facts about the radar systems onboard. Once we had made it back, it was time to return to school, but this was a day that I will never forget. It was such an amazing experience and I learnt so much from the exhibitions on display.

Abigail Johnson (5K)

NEW ADDITION TO THE KGS FAMILY

In January 2020, we were very excited to welcome Bee, our school dog to the KGS family. Bee was born on 7 April last year and is a Borador (A Labrador/Collie Cross). Within a matter of weeks, Bee became an integral part of our school community. She has quickly adopted the routine of saying, 'Good morning' to pupils and staff and adores the abundance of attention she receives on the doorstep of the pastoral office.

Bee began her school therapy dog training within the school environment straight away. This is supported by KRRs, a professional trainer on a weekly basis. Bee has to achieve three awards over the course of an academic year. Remarkably, Bee achieved 100% in her Bronze Award in just three weeks and was ready for her Silver assessment just before school closed for the Covid-19 lockdown. Well done, Bee!

Bee has made such a positive impact on many pupils and staff. Her cheeky manner has ensured that pupils leave the Pastoral office feeling much calmer. She also senses when pupils just need a moment of reflection and she shares her toys and enjoys sitting quietly and calmly with the pupils who want her support.

Bee had just started to visit classrooms where she brought smiles to pupils' faces and this is also evident when Bee walks around school seeing & meeting pupils. One pupil's response to



having Bee in school was, "It's helpful and nice because she is very friendly and it's also great to see someone who isn't human in school."

Having Bee as a furry friend in school to aid in all our wellbeing has been delightful and we are delighted with the positive benefits Bee has brought to KGS.



ROTARY RESPECT AWARD

Congratulations to Fourth Year pupil, Ella, who has been awarded an 'Outstanding' Rotary Respect Award in recognition of the support and care she provides for her disabled brother, James who has complex needs.

Ella helps with her brother's care when she is not at school and has a huge amount of responsibility for someone so young. She approaches this responsibility with positivity and great kindness and is utterly devoted to her brother. She helps to organise deliveries of medical supplies, which are huge and ensures that emergency equipment is functioning correctly. She is fully trained to do emergency and routine tracheostomy changes and can draw up and administer James' anti-epileptic medications and knows how to keep him calm when he has a seizure. Aside from medical tasks, she also has an important role in keeping him happy. She can communicate with him even though he cannot talk and sings and dances with him. Ella loves reading to James and enjoys making him laugh.

Due to James' condition, he has regular hospital stays and Ella remains upbeat when James and her Mum are in hospital for long periods. She also takes care of the family pets and her Dad and younger sister during these times and tries hard to keep the family positive. Ella gives up a lot of her time at the weekends to spend time with James as she knows that their time together is precious as his prognosis is life limiting.

Well done, Ella...a fantastic achievement, very well deserved.



noda

Be inspired by amateur theatre

The NODA North West District 2 awards ceremony took place at The Grand Hotel in Blackpool on Saturday 29 February. Kirkham Grammar School received five nominations for their Senior School Production of Simon Reade's 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' and the Junior School Production of 'Mary Poppins Jr'.

The nominations were as follows:

Best Supporting Actor (Drama) - Kyle O'Keefe (King of Hearts - Alice's Adventures in Wonderland)

Best Actor (Drama) - Joseph Ingham (Mad Hatter - Alice's Adventures in Wonderland)

Best Supporting Actor (Musical) - Morgan Cuthbert (Bert - Mary Poppins Jr.)

Best Actress (Musical) - Brooke Medhurst (Mary Poppins - Mary Poppins Jr.)

Best Director (Musical) - Helen Shuttleworth & Shelley Stott

Helen Shuttleworth and Shelley Stott were both delighted to win their category and go on to the regional NODA awards later in the year. Well done to everyone nominated and also to all involved with the productions.



MUSIC AWARDS



Pendle Young Musicians' Bursary Success

Kirkham Grammar School Sixth Form pupil, Brioni Crowe, took part in the Pendle Young Musicians' Bursary competition during lockdown. She was asked to submit videos to progress through the rounds and, as a result, was selected as one of the winners. The concert, which will now take place in March 2021 due to the current situation, will see all the winners perform. Congratulations, Brioni!



Gold LAMDA Award

Gaining a Grade 8 Gold Medal LAMDA Award takes commitment and focus as well as hard work and talent. Gaining that award with an almost perfect mark is a rare achievement indeed but that is exactly what Upper Sixth pupil, Florence Bunday has just done. Her presentation of a scene of Restoration comedy, an extract from an Arthur Miller play and a piece of contemporary drama combined with her extensive theoretical knowledge was rewarded with a mark of 98 out of 100. An additional benefit of 30 UCAS points makes this an achievement to be very proud of. Florence, take a bow - you deserve it!

AJIS MUSIC FESTIVAL



KGJS J3 and J4 Vocal Ensemble with AJIS Music Adjudicator, Matthew Hamilton, Conductor of the Halle Choir

On Tuesday 10 March, our J3 and J4 Vocal Ensemble won the AJIS Music Festival at Bury Grammar School. The Vocal Ensemble performed two pieces; 'A Clare Benediction' by Rutter and 'I am the Wind' by Marsh. In his feedback, adjudicator, Matthew Hamilton, Conductor of the Halle Choir, said of the first piece that the pupils had a, "lovely gentle tone and cheerful energy with great control at quiet dynamics and strong healthy sound at forte". Of their second piece he commented that it, "had great drive and character, which was engaging and well animated, as well as having good crisp rhythms". Well done to you all and thank you to Mrs Atherton for her help and support in preparing the pupils. A fantastic achievement!

FLUTE FUNDAMENTALS MASTERCLASS & WORKSHOP

On Tuesday 21 January, Old Kirkhamian, Kezia Taylor, who is now in her final year studying flute at the prestigious Royal Northern College of Music, returned to conduct a 'Flute Fundamentals' workshop. The day began with some physical warm ups and some meditation to focus the participants on the exciting day ahead.

Flautists then worked in groups with Kezia on some varied music, including 'You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two' and a waltz from Swan Lake. In the afternoon, Kezia gave a masterclass for the young flautists, providing them with some wonderful advice, which enabled them to add more detail to existing solo pieces. The day concluded with a concert which included all the pieces the flute group had worked on during the workshop.

It was a valuable and thoroughly enjoyable experience for all involved and so lovely to see one of our former students flourishing in their chosen career. We look forward to seeing more successes from Kezia in the future.





House Music Festival

At the beginning of March, one of the highlights of the academic year took place in the Summerlee Hall: the House Choir Final. The event, which brings the whole school together in song, saw the four houses battle it out for the top spot! Addressing the pupils following the competition, KGS Headmaster, Mr Berry, said, "Of all the events throughout the academic year, this is still a firm favourite as it fully embraces the family ethos of KGS."

Congratulations to Preston House who were the overall winners with their rendition of Elton John's, 'Can You Feel The Love Tonight' from the award winning film, The Lion King.



The House Music and Ensemble Finals also took place on the same day and the winners were as follows:

Instrumental winners:

- 1st Alexandra Clarke
- 2nd Brioni Crowe
- 3rd Koko Taylor

Highly Commended: Jessica Zhou & Amy Wildish

Vocal winners:

- 1st Florence Bunday
- 2nd Charlotte Cross
- 3rd Esme Ikram/Esther Livermore

Ensemble winners:

- 1st Soprano Group
- 2nd Koko Taylor/Brioni Crowe
- 3rd Amy Wildish/Sioned Jones-Blanco & Reuben Bond/
Poppy Taylor

Thank you to our judge, Andrew Barratt, and well done to everyone who performed.



KGS RUGBY

Our KGS rugby teams have had a fantastic season. Below are a few of the season highlights. The other match reports can be viewed on our school website.

1st XV

Kirkham Grammar School 1st XV reached the last game of their season with an unbeaten record. After magnificent recent away wins over Harrow School, Denstone College and Ballymena Academy, Kirkham were faced with more local opposition in Yorkshire school, Woodhouse Grove. A large crowd gathered at Preston Grasshoppers for this game with KGS expected to maintain their unbeaten season. Woodhouse Grove were in no mood to allow this to happen and even though winger Keir Gordon opened the scoring for KGS with a well worked try, the Yorkshire side made Kirkham battle for everything. As half time approached Kirkham only held a 7-3 lead but suddenly against the flow of play KGS managed to score two quick tries another from Keir Gordon and a fine individual try from scum half Jonty Cope. The half time score was 19-3 with the large KGS crowd anticipating more but it was Woodhouse Grove who gradually started to gain the upper hand and whittled away the KGS lead. With 10 minutes to go the game was in the balance with Kirkham only leading 19-13. Captain Ethan Caine rallied his team and, with the spirit they have shown all season, found a way of turning the game around. Kirkham were not going to allow Woodhouse Grove to spoil their season as they forced the Yorkshire side to make mistakes which led to a penalty in front of the posts. Fly half Elliot Gourlay stepped up to take KGS clear 22-13. The last five minutes were dominated by Kirkham as they finished their season with the win they wanted. This group of boys have flown the flag of Kirkham Grammar School all season with great tenacity and skill and deserve all the accolades given to them for this outstanding season.



North of England 7s

After the disappointment of losing in the final of the Birkenhead School 7s midweek,

KGS 1st Seven moved on and tried to defend the prestigious North of England 7s. Despite facing tough opposition in their group, KGS were able to defeat Bradford Grammar School, Durham School, Malvern College and Loretto School. Adam Spence was in fine form scoring a number of tries, as was young under 16 player Aaron Pope who stepped up to this demanding form of the game in fine fashion. Scotland under 18 player, Oliver Leatherbarrow, was outstanding in carrying the ball and running from distance to score vital tries for KGS.

After winning the group Kirkham faced The King's School Worcester in the quarter final. With confidence gained from the group games, KGS dominated the opposition and, with fly-half Elliot Gourlay controlling the game, ran out comfortable winners.

The semi-final was a tense affair with RGS Newcastle proving tough opposition but with Captain Ethan Caine leading powerfully and with Adam Spence scoring a fine try at a crucial stage, KGS reached the final for the sixth time in the tournaments history. The final versus Barnard Castle was brutal with the North East side gaining the upper hand in the first half after KGS having to defend with six players after a yellow card. Defending a title is always difficult and despite going behind Kirkham responded with great tenacity and scored two tries themselves to close the score 12-26. Unfortunately time ran out but KGS can be proud of their efforts this weekend.



Under 17s

The Under 17s finished their season with two impressive wins over Sedbergh School and Altrincham Grammar School. In the first of these two games KGS enjoyed a 12-7 victory at Sedbergh with Ethan Hulme and Tane Bentley getting the crucial tries. Playing in difficult conditions, KGS dominated the Cumbrian school and deserved their win.

In the second of the two games v Altrincham, KGS were in complete

control and scored a number of tries from Tobias Parkinson, Sam Carleton, Harry Thompson, Cammie Thompson, Louis Fletcher and Josh Lynch as they secured a big win.



U16s Winners at Merchant Taylors, Crosby Sevens Tournament

At Merchant Taylor's Crosby Sevens Tournament, the U16s continued where they left off before February half term. Following their success at the RGS Newcastle, Kirkham picked up another prestigious trophy beating a well drilled St Mary's Crosby side in the final.

In the group stage, Kirkham defeated Hymers College 17-0, Wirral Grammar 40-0 and St Mary's Crosby 17-0. The Manchester Grammar School pushed the Kirkham side in the semi-final, however Kirkham had too much pace and power and they won the game 31-7. Kirkham then met St Mary's again in the final. Kirkham found themselves 7-0 up at the half way point, however St Mary's got the first try of the second half. At 7-5 to Kirkham and with both defences functioning well it looked like the next team to score would win the game. Kirkham winger Josh Lynch found himself one on one and beat his man to put Kirkham ahead. Lynch did the same again, just before the final whistle, helping Kirkham win 17-5. Captain Yande Nkonge collected the trophy and it was the first time that a team from Kirkham had won the since the competition began in 1987.



Sedbergh Sevens Tournament Winners

The KGS U16 sevens continued to impress winning the highly competitive Sedbergh Invitational Tournament in March. Kirkham topped their group beating Woodhouse Grove 28-17, Sedbergh B 17-7 and RGS Newcastle 52-0. Ethan Crompton, Rhys Fray, Archie Dowds and Joe Medcalfe were impressive in defence whilst Jake Merrick, Sky Lo and Tom Hoad added a great deal of impact from the bench at crucial times.

Kirkham met Barnard Castle in the semi-final. Barney were very competitive in the first half, however Kirkham's pace and power proved too much for them to contain and Kirkham progressed to the final winning 40-5.

Kirkham met Woodhouse Grove again, after they beat Sedbergh A in the other semi-final. Kirkham got off to a flying start with Harry Thompson powering in to score the first points of the game. Kirkham defended well and made it very difficult for Woodhouse to generate any momentum. Tobias Parkinson, Josh Lynch and Yande Nkonge scored three more tries, and with skipper Aaron Pope successfully converting three of them, it made the final score 26-0.



In February, former KGS pupils Daniel Kelly and Connor Doherty were in action for Ireland under 20s and England under 20s. In fact last year's 1st XV Captain Dan Kelly was making his international debut at that level (pictured below).



Other News..

Further tennis success for Yandy Shek

Congratulations to KGS Third Year pupil, Yandy Shek, who won the Winter Regional Tour U18 Girls' Competition at Birchwood Tennis Club in March. Commenting on her achievement Yandy said, "I was delighted to win the U18s regional competition this weekend and to beat the U18s number one seed was a great moment for me!"



KGS boys represent Lancashire

Three KGS Fourth Year pupils, Charlie Read, Matthew Wright and James Sutcliffe represented Lancashire in their rugby match v Yorkshire in March winning 22-17. Congratulations on your team selection.





SENIOR HOCKEY TOUR TO BARBADOS

On Wednesday 12 February, twenty-nine Kirkham Grammar School hockey players from 14 to 18 years of age embarked on the trip of lifetime to Barbados.

Day 1

On arrival in Barbados the girls settled into their accommodation before preparing for their first games of the tour.

The 1st XI took on the National Mixed Development Squad. A great game of hockey was played whilst the girls were adjusting to the climate. Unfortunately, the result was 0-1.

The 2nd XI played against the U16 National Mixed Development Squad. Battling end to end, the girls played extremely well and Aleisha Mansfield converted a great short corner to seal a 1-0 win for the team.

Day 2

Day 2 and the tour party were off to the Boatyard for inflatable water fun with trampolines and rope swings. The evening was topped off with a 70s themed fancy dress fun night.

Day 3

Day 3 was their second set of fixtures. The 1st and 2nd XI both took on the U18 and U16 Bajan National Squads. In very tough games all players battled to keep possession of the ball working extremely hard in both attack and defence. The 1st XI came away with a 1-0 win whilst the 2nd XI drew 0-0.

The evening's entertainment was quiz night and Bingo.

Day 4

Day 4 allowed the girls some leisure time which involved pool games and a volleyball competition on the beach.

Day 5

Day 5 was excursion day. First up was a half day Catamaran cruise – the Catamaran anchored down in various spots which allowed the girls to swim with the turtles, explore a ship wreck and swim across to Sandy Lane Beach to see the monkeys. In the evening it was a trip to Harbour Lights,

a traditional Bajan entertainment night with dancers, stilt walkers, fire eaters, Calypso singers and limbo dancing. The evening included a delicious Bajan banquet and a disco.

Day 6

Day 6 was their final full day. This saw the girls and staff members travel to the Garfield Sober Stadium for the last of their tour fixtures. The 2nd XI were up first against the Combermere School mixed U18 squad. Once again, the girls thrived on the experience and top opposition. The 2nd XI came away as 1-0 winners.

The 1st XI followed suit with a great 2-0 victory, goals coming from Dani Merrick and Emma Savidge.

Day 7

The final half day was spent by the hotel pool relaxing, waiting for their transfer to the airport. A smooth flight home and onward journey back to school finished off an amazing tour.





SPORT

ROSSALL U11 RUGBY 7S

On Wednesday 4 March, Kirkham travelled to Rossall School to take part in the Rossall Rugby 7s.

In the group matches Kirkham achieved the following results:

- v St Mary's Hall Drew 5-5
- v Birkenhead won 30-5
- v Merchant Taylors won 15-5
- v Cheadle Hulme won 20-5

Kirkham won the group and progressed to the final which saw them face Abbeygate School.

Kirkham played some excellent rugby and eventually won 20-0 to win the Rossall Rugby 7s Shield. The player of the tournament for Kirkham was William Thompson. Well done to everyone who took part.



AJIS INDOOR ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2020

On Tuesday 28 January, a team of J4, J3 and J2 pupils travelled to Wigan Indoor Arena to take part in the Association of Junior Independent Schools Indoor Athletics Championships.

Twenty-five schools entered and seven hundred pupils were involved. The standard of the competition is always very high and just to come in the top 10 is a fantastic achievement.

Kirkham had prepared very well with four fixtures against Preston Harriers and Lytham AC.

Out of the twenty-eight athletes who were selected sixteen returned with medals which is a fantastic achievement.

Kirkham achieved four gold medals, five silver medals and also set or equalled four AJIS records!

In the obstacle relays the team had practised really hard and it was very satisfying to win three golds and one silver out of four races, also setting three new records.

The relay teams were represented by the following:

U10 Girls (gold)

Ellie Wu
Hollie Bailey
Philippa Hancock
Hermione Edwards

U11 Girls (gold)

Evelyn So
Alice Wright
Issy Gut
Emily Greenwood

U10 Boys (gold)

William Thompson
Jonty Faith
Sebastian Clarke
Freddie Wiltshire

U11 Boys (silver)

Evan Twose
Tom Barton
Jack Dawson-Gerrard
Bertie Jones

In the individual events, Bertie Jones won gold in the balance and equalled the AJIS record. Silver medals were won by Freddie Wiltshire in the three lap race, Evelyn So in the balance, Tom Barton in the speed bounce and Emily Greenwood in the javelin.

Congratulations to all the team who worked really hard in the weeks leading up to the championships.



U11 BOYS LANCASHIRE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

On Monday 9 March, Kirkham U11 boys hockey team took part in the Lancashire Hockey Tournament which was held at Preston Sports Arena. Five schools took part and Kirkham recorded the following results:

v Rossall won 2-0

v AKS won 3-0

v Ashbridge won 1-0

v Scarisbrick Hall won 3-0

These results in the round-robin tournament meant Kirkham became Lancashire Champions and now go forward to the North of England Finals at a later date.



U11 GIRLS NORTH WEST REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

Following a great result at the U11 Girls Lancashire Hockey Tournament which saw KGJS finish runners up, the girls progressed through to the North West Regional Tournament at Manchester High School for Girls. Another top hockey performance resulted in 3rd place overall and the girls now progress through to the North of England Finals in Leeds later in the year.



U11 INDOOR ATHLETICS V PRESTON HARRIERS

On Saturday 25 January, Kirkham Grammar Junior School hosted Preston Harriers for an Indoor Athletics match. This year the two teams competed for the 'Bob Welfare Memorial Shield'. Bob Welfare (pictured) sadly passed away in October. He was instrumental in promoting athletics across Lancashire and he worked tirelessly for Lancashire Schools Athletics and his beloved club, Preston Harriers.

The match comprised of the following field events: team speed bounce, long jump, triple jump, vertical jump and javelin.

Kirkham performed very well in the field events and points were level at this stage.

First places were achieved by;

Emily Greenwood (javelin)

Poppy Pickervance (triple jump)

Hermione Edwards (long jump)

Evan Twose (speed bounce)

The individual track events and relays followed the field events.

On the track Preston Harriers were very strong and eventually pulled clear to win the match.

The final scores were as follows:

Preston Harriers 183pts

Kirkham 115pts

All Kirkham athletes can be very proud of their performances and it was lovely to see so many parents from both teams supporting the event. The PE department and athletes would like to thank Miss Cooper and Mr Butterworth for their help with the matches on Monday nights and Saturday mornings.



ISLE OF MAN SPORTS TOUR 2020

On Friday 28 February, twenty-two pupils, Mrs Farquharson, Mr Butterworth and Mr Oddie met at 7.15 am at KGJS to embark on their annual sports tour to the Isle of Man. This was their thirteenth consecutive tour and the whole tour party were looking forward to three action-packed days of sport away from home!

The Cosgroves coach was ready and waiting and they departed earlier than scheduled - a perfect start to the tour. Their first destination was Manchester Airport for their 11.30 am flight to the beautiful Isle of Man. They landed at Ronaldsway Airport forty minutes later after a very eventful flight, similar to being at Alton Towers! They quickly checked into their accommodation at King William's College and enjoyed a wonderful lunch.

In the afternoon their first netball and rugby fixtures were against The Buchan School. The boys recorded a narrow victory and the girls lost to a very talented Buchan team who had been enjoying a very successful season.

After tea they headed to Onchan Fun Farm for an evening of Laser Blast. This was very competitive with Mr Butterworth winning the boys competition and Evelyn So the girls. It had been a long day and they were all ready for bed.

After a good night's sleep and a welcome breakfast, another set of enjoyable fixtures were played with the girls achieving a 2-0 victory v The Buchan hockey girls and the boys just losing the A team football match 3-2 and the B team game 7-2.

After lunch they all took part in a local quiz to try and learn a little bit more about the Isle of Man. The children's enthusiasm was excellent and eventual winners were Issy Gut and Evelyn So with a staggering 19/20!

After tea they headed to Ramsey in the north of the island for an evening of ten pin bowling. It all proved very competitive with Issy Gut and Alice Bunday winning the girls and Sebastian Clarke the boys' competition.

On their third and final day, everyone was starting to feel tired and to blow away the cob webs the teachers held a World Cup Hockey Tournament for the group. The teams were Brazil, Spain, Holland and Ireland and proved lots of fun to prepare them for their final fixtures.



After lunch, the girls played a very exciting match v Isle of Man representative team with the final score 3-3 - a brilliant performance by the KGJS girls.

The boys travelled to Port Erin to take part in a tournament hosted by Southern Nomads Rugby Club. They played three games and recorded three victories: The perfect end to three days of fixtures.

A huge thank you must go to all of the opposing teams for providing KGJS with fixtures but a special thank you to The Buchan School and King William's College who, yet again, were excellent hosts.

Finally, it would be wrong not to mention the exceptional behaviour of the pupils, who really were a credit to the school, their parents and themselves. You all made Mrs Farquharson, Mr Butterworth and Mr Oddie very proud.

J4 Trip to Warwick and Stratford

Six excited J4 boys, along with Mr Lewis and Mrs Case, boarded the school minibus early on Friday 28 February to travel down to Warwick to visit the amazing Warwick Castle. Despite the rain, everyone had a lot of fun watching the Birds of Prey show, having a private historical tour of the grounds and climbing to the top of The Mound. While wandering around the Great Hall, looking at all the armoury and weaponry, the tour guide spotted us and gave us a personal talk on various old weapons which he also allowed the boys to handle. After the customary visit to the gift shop, it was back in the minibus and off to Stratford. After checking into our hotel, we put our smart clothes on and walked to Pizza Express for a super meal of pasta and pizza! From here, we walked to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre to watch David Walliams' 'The Boy in the Dress'. What a fantastic performance! Everyone was buzzing with excitement at the end of the show as we walked back to our hotel for the night.

After a hearty breakfast, we left Stratford and drove up to Cadbury World. Here, we joined one of the tours which took us through the whole process of how chocolate is made, right from growing the finest cocoa beans to the end product, several of which we were given along our journey! We saw how chocolate has to be tempered in order for it to shine and we watched how boxed chocolates are made and filled. After a quick lunch and a play on the Adventure Playground, we then finished our trip with a visit to the 4D Cinema which was great fun! We were all shattered by the time we got home but it was a fantastic trip from start to finish.





DofE

THE DUKE
OF EDINBURGH'S
AWARD



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 are continuing with their DofE Awards under lockdown. Using their spare time to help others, raising money for charity, looking after their local environment and carrying out small acts of kindness for our many key workers are just some of the inspiring ways that our participants are completing their volunteering section. The skills section continues to enthuse our participants: we have some students learning British Sign Language, others improving their baking and cooking skills, others their gardening and DIY skills or trying a new lockdown craft. Playing a musical instrument continues to be a popular skill and we've been very impressed with the numbers following Mr Berry's lead and starting to play a completely new instrument. The physical section seems to be the section being completed the easiest in lockdown with the KGS PE department activities definitely helping to motivate our young people to keep active.





GOLD

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| Robert | Burrow |
| Archie | Cooper |
| Sam | Davies (OKA) |
| Caitlin | Ireland |
| Jack | Livsey |
| Eleanor | Moss (OKA) |
| Ran | Parkinson (OKA) |
| Daniella | Parziella |

SILVER

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Agatha | Barker-Mills |
| Oscar | Bennett |
| Olivia | Bickerstaff |
| Leo | Biviano |
| Oliver | Cooper |
| Elizabeth | Coulston |
| Hannah | Doyle |
| Jacob | Halsall |
| Charlie | Hodgson |
| Joseph | Ingham |
| Abigail | Johnson |
| Sophie | Minten |
| Emma | Savidge |
| Alisha | Sebastian |
| Eleanor | Sharp |
| William | Sutcliffe |
| Aaron | Thomas |
| Jemima | Towers |

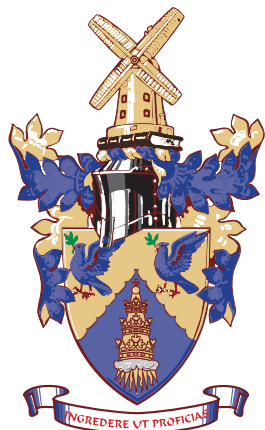
BRONZE

| | |
|----------|---------------|
| Sara | Al-Badawi |
| Miriam | Al-Idari |
| Penny | Blackmore |
| Eliza | Booth |
| Sam | Broadbent |
| Theo | Bucklow |
| Beatrice | Bunday |
| Hiba | Elkhatim |
| Eve | Gooderham |
| Fred | Hackett |
| Natasha | Hartley-Smith |
| Samuel | Higgins |
| Hannah | Leaker |
| Danielle | Merrick |
| Amy | Merrick |
| Saul | Penn |
| Zara | Prosser |
| Charlie | Read |
| Thomas | Shuttleworth |
| Evie | Smith |
| Isabelle | Smith |
| Harry | Snape |
| Josh | Stirrup |
| Theo | Timmins |
| Noah | Tonry |



The DofE Award scheme recognises the dedication, resilience and accomplishments of our young people in these extraordinary circumstances and want the efforts of our students to be recognised even if it's not possible for them to do an expedition at the moment. Therefore, they are launching a new accolade that recognises the fantastic accomplishments of our young people – the '2020 DofE Certificate of Achievement'. This will be awarded to all our participants who sign off their Skill, Physical and Volunteering section at their Award level. They will then receive their full Award certificate and badge when they can undertake their expedition.

Despite some students not being able to complete their Award yet, lockdown has allowed others the time to complete the paperwork. We are delighted to announce the above awards which have been achieved since the start of 2020.



The Old Kirkhamians' Association

OKA Lockdown

As this newsletter goes to press, we are normally preparing for our annual OKA v Headmaster's XI cricket match and organising our summer reunion event, both sadly postponed due to social distancing.

In March we were working with the Friends of KGS on this year's School Summer Ball. Entitled the Anniversary Ball, the theme was to celebrate some impressive milestones in the history of KGS; 470 years of KGS, 100 years of the OKA and 40 years of co-education and independence. We are still hoping to run this event, but it may now be a Winter Ball.

On Friday 20 March, KGS closed its doors to all but a small number of key worker children. Emotions were high; public exams had been cancelled, sport tournaments and school trips were no longer happening and lessons were to be taught online.

Social media is often the bane of peoples' lives, especially teachers'. However, in recent months it has saved the sanity of many and harnessed the education of our students.

Both KGS and The OKA are social media extroverts. Their presence on such platforms as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram is difficult to miss and somewhat time consuming to keep up with! Additionally, at recent OKA events, many Old Kirkhamians have commented with regards to social media affirming former relationships with both the School and their friends whilst at school.

With this in mind, the Old Kirkhamians' Association Facebook page and email have been very active in recent months. From the first week of lockdown, we sent our support and thanks to our former students who are key workers, we had contact from those working on the local frontline who were in need of PPE and working with the school we helped. Added to this each day we shared some photos from the school archive collection – as we pointed out to the Facebook group, the term archive collection is really describing a collection of photographs, which started to be collated in the mid to late 1990s, in time for the 450th Anniversary of the school. We do have some real archives, such as attendance registers from the late 1800s and the whole collection of the KGS Chronicles.

These photographs have started conversations and brought back memories of trips, tours and teachings. Former school friends from throughout the years have reconnected, many from the 60s and 70s, harping back to the good old days before girls arrived at KGS! Rugby photographs from the era, have been true discussion starters and unfortunately we are still missing the 1974/75 squad photo,

but once lockdown is over, we will find it! To receive an email to say that a group of gentlemen in their late 70s had spoken across the world (Australia to England) for the first time in many years, was truly heart-warming.

As former students have used lockdown to sort their cupboards, attics and sheds, more photos have been added to the Facebook group and KGS memorabilia has been donated to the School archives. The OKA Facebook group has helped find accommodation for a family having to travel north, for permitted reasons, and lockdown had meant no hotels were available. It has brought together year groups, school cohorts and built friendships across generations. The earlier archives have bought comments such as "that is my father, grandfather", the more recent photos – "there is my son, my daughter" – the family ethos of KGS has always been strong, but has been bought to the forefront by these interesting times. Many years have passed since some of these former students have been together. Yet the memories made at KGS, the experiences and lessons which instilled them with compassion and care for others (not forgetting an excellent academic foundation) and most importantly the KGS family ethos has meant that despite distance and lockdown, former school friends have offered support to one another, connections have been renewed and in fact many new ones made. We look forward to seeing many Old Kirkhamians at our next event.

OKA Mayors

Following the term of office served by Cllr Peter Collins as Mayor of Fylde in 2018-19, another Old Kirkhamian from the same era has also been honoured with the highest office in his adopted home town.

Cllr Rob Wood (KGS 1968-75) has just been appointed to the role of Lord Mayor of the City of Portsmouth, and posted a picture of himself proudly wearing his OKA tie along with his chain of office. Rob has served as a Portsmouth City Councillor since 2010 and Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Children and Education since 2011, reflecting his lifelong interest in improving education outcomes.

Prior to becoming a councillor, Rob spent many years in senior positions in the IT software industry as a Director and Principal Technologist with a cloud computing company. Like his fellow Mayor Peter Collins, Rob has in recent years attended the OKA Dinner with an enthusiastic and loyal group of alumni from the seventies.



Cllr Peter Collins, Mayor of Fylde 2018-2019 with his wife & Mayoress Caroline



Cllr Rob Wood, Lord Mayor of Portsmouth 2020-21

Old School Tie



Some Basic Facts

1. **Your Name** Michael Snape
2. **Your Job** Regional Implementation Manager
3. **The Company Name** Royal Bank of Scotland

The Old Days

1. **What years were you at KGS?** 1977-1983
2. **What is your best memory of those days?** The fun and the camaraderie (I am still in touch with several of my fellow alumni) plus, of course, the sport – I partook in the usual ones being part of the curriculum at KGS, as well as playing football on the Cabbage Patch.
3. **Who was the most influential person at school that helped you succeed?** Richard Watson gave me my love of the English language – even now, I avoid using the verb 'to get', always seeking alternatives, plus I can still recall the soliloquy in Hamlet and the lines of Wilfred Owen's war poems.

Brian Gornall impressed upon me the need for dedication and commitment in sport – this has given me the ability to continue to play cricket into my 50s, along with transferring these skills into the workplace.

4. **What was your first job?** Barman, Black Horse in Kirkham – a well-known local drinking establishment.

5. **What do you wish you had been told about that would have helped you the most?** To have selected my career carefully – to have been given a more continual career advice, as I do not consider one can make a career decision at 16 (I still don't know what I want to do!!)

And now to Business

1. **Tell us about your job, what do you do?** Manage and implement change in the banking world.
 2. **How did you come to have a career in this particular industry?** Fell into it really - not knowing in what direction I was going, many years ago I attended a careers fair at the old Ambulance Hall (where Morrisons is now) in Kirkham; Barclays had a stall, so I applied for a role – the rest is history!!! Did I mention I play bass guitar in a covers' band? Becoming a rock star might have been a preferable alternative career move!
 3. **What has been the biggest challenge in the last 12 months?** The change in how RBS have to channel their business away from the norm (on boarding of customer to build their customer base) by promoting an initiative for their customers to switch to competitor banks, as part of the redress for the bail-out received during the financial crisis in 2008.
 4. **What is your best tip on how to succeed in business?** Dedication, commitment and, of course, believe in yourself.
 5. **How do you differentiate yourself from the competition in a crowded market?** Be yourself – don't put on an act.
 6. **What business tool couldn't you live without?** Mobile phone – it has all my contacts, diary, etc all in one place.
 7. **Do you use Social Media in business and what works best for you?** LinkedIn – Facebook and Twitter are for personal use only.
 8. **What are some trends in your industry that you're excited about or think that our readers should be paying attention to?** The move towards a cashless society.
- And finally, if someone wanted to get in touch how could they do that?** Facebook or through the OKA secretary

Dinner History

The First Old Boys' Dinner was held in January 1920 in the School Dining Hall (now the Boarding House Dining Room), the second was held the following year on 24 November 1921. This means that the next Reunion Dinner on 10 October 2020 will be the Association's Centenary Dinner.

What will be on the menu?

We could take inspiration from the Old Boys' Golden Jubilee dinner (1970), or the first dinner of the Old Kirkhamians' Association (1980) or the 75th Annual Reunion Dinner (1995):

Golden Jubilee Dinner- 1970

Prawn Cocktail
Minestrone Soup
Roast Leg of Pork
Apple Tart and Fresh Cream
Cheese and Biscuits
Coffee

First Dinner of the Old Kirkhamians' Association – 1980

Grapefruit Cocktail
Cream Soup
Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding
Raspberry Pavlova or Sherry Trifle
Coffee and Cream

75th Annual Reunion Dinner -1995

Seafood Platter
Roast Sirloin of Beef
Meringue Nest or Fresh Fruit Salad
Lancashire and Stilton Cheese
Coffee and Fudge

The first three dinners were held in the School Dining Hall, (Boarding House Dining Room), but the 1924 dinner had to utilise the Assembly Hall (Old Hall) as numbers were too high for the Dining Hall. For a short period of time the Dinner was held away from KGS, The Clifton Arms Hotel in Lytham hosting the event. The Dinner was bought back to KGS in the late 90s and was once again held in the beautiful surroundings of the Old Hall. For more information on this year's dinner please contact OKA@kirkhamgrammar.co.uk





Young OKA Gathering

On Monday 23 December 2019, a large contingent of young Old Kirkhamians gathered at the Grapes Inn, Wrea Green for the annual Christmas reunion. All who attended had a great time and it was lovely to hear the tales of university courses, new interests, academic achievements, gap years, sports highlights, the beginning of careers and the like, but most of all it was wonderful to see the KGS family enjoying their Christmas get-together.

Elyssia Cockshott



Last September, Old Kirkhamian, Elyssia Cockshott realised her ambition by securing a place at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA). Elyssia first developed a love for drama when she played the role of 'Nancy' in *Oliver* under the direction of Junior School Deputy Head, Helen Shuttleworth. In addition to this, Elyssia won two 'Best Actress' NODAs under Jane Barrie's direction at the Senior School. The process for getting into any drama school, but in particular RADA, is brutal with thousands auditioning for a handful of places. Having got close to but not securing a place, Elyssia moved to France and studied in Fontainebleau, Paris before finally gaining a well-deserved place in September. Elyssia's dad said of her achievement, "None of this would have been possible without the amazing support Elyssia received at Kirkham Grammar School". Congratulations, Elyssia!

Lily O'Brien



Kirkham Grammar School Old Kirkhamian, Lily O'Brien, studying Neuroscience with Psychology at Keele University, is now fully qualified as an independent carer. She works at Oaklands Care Home in Garstang dealing with a broad spectrum of disabilities and illnesses. Well done, Lily...we are very proud of you! Take care and stay safe!



James Cartmell

We were delighted to hear that Old Kirkhamian, James Cartmell, has been cast as the lead in the new Dreamworks Animation series, 'Where's Wally?' (2020), which was released in March on SKY TV and NOW TV and headlined the Kids section! The past few months in London, working with Dreamworks, has been a great experience for James, who had LAMDA acting and voice lessons from starting in I1 at the Junior School and this continued throughout his time at the Senior School.

After being spotted in children's books for more than two decades, 'Where's Wally?' is finding a new way to reach kids through a brand new DreamWorks Animation Television original series. From executive producer FM De Marco (Spy Kids: Mission Critical) and co-executive

producer John Tellegen (Spy Kids: Mission Critical), 'Where's Wally?' centres around Wally (voiced by James Cartmell) and his best friend Wenda (voiced by Erin Austen), who are members of the Worldwide Wanderer Society—the international order of curious travelers who circle the globe celebrating cultures and solving problems through observation. Their mentor—Wizard Whitebeard, a seasoned wanderer—sends these inquisitive young adventurers on international travel missions so they can earn their stripes and someday become wizard-level wanderers too. But standing in Wally and Wenda's way is their rival, Odlulu, who can't help but cause trouble wherever she goes.

Well done, James!



Will Kollard

Old Kirkhamian, Will Kollard, was awarded a travel bursary from the Old Kirkhamians' Association Sydney Crane Fund to support his gap year volunteering experience. Below is an account of his time in Fiji.

After my A Levels last June I decided the time had come to take a break from my academic studies and open my mind to the vast world around me. As part of my gap year I decided to travel to Fiji, a country as far around the globe as you can go. During my stay there I was fortunate enough to spend my time volunteering in a rural village, situated in the highlands of mainland Fiji. The village I lived in, Nubuyanitu, was based in the heart of the Nadroga-Navosa province and was surrounded by mountains and greenery in every direction. When we arrived in the village, our home for the next month, following a four hour truck journey from the capital, we were welcomed by a 'sevusevu' ceremony. The sevusevu is a traditional Fijian protocol performed when visitors arrive at a village; Essentially it is an exchange of the gift of kava, a dried



root pounded into a powder and mixed with water to produce an intoxicating drink. This was our first glimpse into the enchanting culture of our new community.

A standard weekday included workshops with the youths of the village, where our aim was to promote ideas of different social issues. The main focuses were on public health, mental health, sports development, leadership and life skills. The evenings were always great fun and often consisted of playing touch rugby with the village rugby team. This brought everyone together, allowing us all to bond on a different level to that in the workshops. They played an interesting version of 'one touch' rugby, where there would be a turnover whenever a player is touched with the ball; This explained the excellent hands of professional Fijian rugby players. Most of the houses didn't have showers, so this would be followed by a wash in the river where we would watch the sunset over the valley.

Christianity is the most widely practised religion in Fiji, meaning that we were given the time to relax during the Sabbath, which began at sundown on Friday and ended at sundown on Saturday. We attended the Methodist church service every Saturday where we were required to wear our bula shirt and pocket sulu, which is formal Fijian dress. Our Sundays were spent participating in various activities which ranged from building rafts and spearfishing in the rivers to exploring underwater caves and hiking through the mountains. We also had volleyball tournaments on a regular basis; Unfortunately, even after two years of playing in Mr Lyon's volleyball team at school, I wasn't quite cut out to beat the villagers.



One of my favourite aspects of the village was not only the amazing food we had during our stay but the fact that families would often come together to eat, resulting in large feasts. It was this sense of community and this 'door is always open' approach which made the place so unique. Our breakfast was always very interesting, when contrasted with our standard British breakfast. It would vary from roti pancakes and noodles one day to pea curry the next. A curry was never on the agenda before 6pm back in the UK. Other meals throughout the day were made up of chicken, fish, beef, Fijian roro, cassava, rice and plenty of coconuts, not to forget the abundance of fresh fruit and vegetables from the villagers' farms.

I had the opportunity to celebrate my birthday during my stay, which was certainly one of the most memorable nights of my time in the village. We had a large celebration meal at my family's house, where I wore a traditional Fijian masi outfit which was picked out by my 'Nene' (mother). This was followed by a party in the village hall where we sat together into the early hours of the morning having 'talinoa' (chat), dancing and drinking kava. Looking back, my time there seemed rather surreal. I'm still not quite sure which part of the place made my trip so unforgettable. Maybe it was the fact that we had no phone signal or connection to the outside world or maybe I was just lucky with the amazing group of people I met during my time. The fact of the matter is that my journey there was an unforgettable one and I will always have special memories of the small country, which made the vast world seem a little smaller.

Angela Hodgkinson

The whole KGS community was shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden death of Angela Hodgkinson, who has died since our last newsletter, and so soon after retiring in 2015 from her role as Head of Catering.

Angela worked at the school for almost 20 years, having initially joined as a temporary catering assistant in the Boarding House, but will be forever remembered for her fifteen years as Head of Catering, in which time she transformed the School's catering operation from that of school dinner provider to the sophisticated, versatile and flexible operation that it is today, the envy of schools everywhere. Most significantly, it was the personal, people-centred manner in which she achieved so much that speaks volumes and which made her the perfect match for the KGS.

Angela's journey through KGS mirrors much about the development of the School during recent years. Having moved from her role in the Boarding House to that of Head Catering Supervisor at the Junior School in 1998, she was encouraged to investigate the possibility of an in-house catering operation at a time when the Governors were looking to change catering contractors. With characteristic thoroughness, she and the Bursar, Christine Brown, put together a pitch which won the day in a dragon's den of three Governors and the Headmaster, and took up the challenge as the first Head of in-house catering across the whole foundation in August 2000.

As if this wasn't challenge enough, she took up her post at the very moment when the School was at long last demolishing the aged, leaking canteen and starting to build the dining complex that we all know and love to this day. Throughout the lengthy period of this build, meals were served in what was then known as the MPH, adding yet another purpose to the multi-purpose hall. With meals cooked at the Junior School, and transported over the road by caretakers in a van, queues snaking around the Hall, and payment by cash into a biscuit tin, as 'Jill on the Till' became 'Jill with no till', the in-house operation was launched in the most trying circumstances imaginable. Yet right from the start, Angela's unflappable 'can do' attitude set the tone for what was to follow.

And once the Dining Hall opened (with a ceremony performed by OKA celebrity chef Alastair Little), every single member of the school community saw the benefits of the Governors' investment in facilities and above all of their faith in the individual at the Head of the team. At the time of Angela's retirement in 2015, the Bursar calculated that over three million midday meals had been served under Angela's watchful eye, not to mention the all-day catering in the Boarding House and the tens of thousands of teas, hotpots and other refreshments for sports fixtures. Angela built up a team of people in her own image, always willing, versatile and above all cheerful.

Angela was never content to just do the minimum, nor to accept the status quo as being 'as good as it gets'. Throughout her time, she was constantly on the lookout for new initiatives, new ways of doing things, and above all new challenges. The Dining Hall, housed in such a state-of-the-art complex, was much, much more than a school canteen, serving as a venue for catering events of the highest calibre, such as the CCF Regimental dinners, or lunch for visiting VIPs including the MCC Cricket team, whose members always took some persuading to finish their meal and resume play. She served afternoon tea to HRH the Duke of Gloucester when he visited the school during its 450th anniversary celebrations, showing the same care and attention to detail as she showed to her everyday work. When the Dining Hall wasn't suitable, for example in the case of the Old Kirkhamians' Dinner, she could serve a three course meal for eighty diners in the Old Hall despite being nowhere near the kitchens. And as with so much else, she could do so despite not knowing final numbers until only hours before the event.



Angela's affinity with pupils of all ages was notable, but she will be particularly remembered by Sixth Formers: for some years, she shared her kitchens and her expertise to teach General Studies students the rudiments of cooking in the year before they headed off to university, whilst she also ran both the catering and the bar at the Sixth Form Ball. This again was a massive challenge: up to 250 young people determined to have the time of their lives, yet served in a style which ensured that it was a sophisticated and civilised experience. She always held a meeting with Sixth Formers ahead of the event, to plan the menu, and to ensure that the bar stocked whatever that year's tippable of choice was for the age group. The legendary chocolate fountain, instead of a desert, was entirely her idea. The Bar, under her watchful eye and that of her husband Geoff, served enough to make the evening go with an appropriate flow, yet like any good landlady, Angela knew how to ensure that everybody had just enough to drink that it was a night to remember, and not so much that it became a night to fail to remember.

Her intuitive affinity with Sixth Formers also came to the fore when in 2010, the School decided to develop a Sixth Form Café: 'Six Degrees', housed where the Common Room conveniently adjoined the Dining Hall, was every bit her project and had a transformative effect on the day-to-day life of senior students, serving as a hub for their social lives throughout the day, and providing a perfect escape from the classroom. It sounds trivial, yet again speaks volumes for her attention to detail and intuition, to be reminded that on the very day the café opened, she came up with the idea that the catering staff should be addressed by their first names, and not as 'miss'. That single decision set the tone, meaning that the catering staff who worked in Six Degrees became not just purveyors of the finest cooked breakfasts, paninis and coffees, but also purveyors of pastoral care of the highest order, friends to all students, known to and by every one of them.

We all like to think that we leave behind some tangible legacy when we leave a workplace, and more sadly, when we leave our life on earth. Angela Hodgkinson's legacy is right at the heart of KGS as we know it today, for the youngest child in the Nursery, through to the oldest Sixth Former, for all teaching and support staff who ever enjoy a snack, a drink or a full meal whilst at work. And just as 'Betty's Hotpot' lives on in the fictitious Rovers' Return on Coronation Street, so 'Angela's shortbread' will surely live on forever in the life of KGS.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family and friends, and our warm gratitude for all that she achieved and left behind at the school which she served so well and for so long.

Adrian Long



Lawrence Abram

The Old Kirkhamians' Association flag flew at half-mast on Thursday 9 January in memory of one of our oldest and most distinguished Old Kirkhamians, Lawrence Abram, who died on Thursday 2 January at the age of 93, after a period of ill health.

Lawrence was KGS to the core; a local boy with family connections to the School both preceding and succeeding his time at the school under Rev'd Cresswell Strange. He last visited School in 2018 and regaled the Headmaster and Mr Adrian Long with wonderful tales of school life in the 1940s, and he clearly loved the school and its values dearly. His grandchildren Rosemary and Jack Ward were at KGS in relatively recent years.

He served as President of the OKA in 1997-98 and was a loyal supporter of School and OKA events prior to his passing.

Tony Lewis



Tony Lewis, MBE: legendary cricket statistician, Old Kirkhamian

It is with great sadness that we report the death on Wednesday 1 April, at the age of 78, of one of our most distinguished and eminent former pupils, Tony Lewis (KGS 1955-62) a retired university mathematics lecturer who is famed as the co-inventor of the Duckworth-Lewis method for resolving rain-interrupted one-day cricket matches.

Tony's achievements as a sports statistician have been recorded and recognised in the many obituaries

(see below) that have appeared in the past two days, but to us at KGS he was a loyal and supportive member of the OKA who always kept in close touch with the school which he loved so much.

He was an attender at the old Oxford Dinner and more recently always came to our London drinks meet-ups where he thoroughly enjoyed the company of the younger generation of former students. He always travelled alone by bus from his home near Oxford, introducing himself to others as just 'Tony' and chatted to them about their lives and their time at KGS. Even in his seventies, he would stay until late in the evening, happily catching the all-night bus back to Oxford. Many times, others attending were amazed to learn after he had left that they had been in the company of such a legendary name.

There was always much more to Tony than mathematics and sporting statistics: at the 2016 OKA lunch at Henley-on-Thames,

Tony enjoyed meeting up with his KGS friend and contemporary, the opera singer Graham Clark, equally eminent in his own field. Tony and Graham enjoyed reminiscing about their schooldays, and Tony produced a copy of the 1961 KGS Easter Concert at school in which he and Graham had performed 'The Two Beggars'.



In 2016 Tony was honoured as the Guest Presenter at our Speech Day and Prizegiving, and enjoyed visiting the School for the first time in many years, asking to be pictured in front of the portrait of 'his' Headmaster, Dennis Norwood - see across.

Tony embodied all that is good about KGS, notably in the breadth of his interests (sport and music were his two passions at school), but above all in his love of, and interest in other people.

For a man whose public fame lies in the world of numbers, it is a privilege for us at KGS to remember far more importantly a warm, caring man, always interested as well as interesting who never forgot the most important lesson that he learned at KGS, that we are all people first and foremost, and that who we are is far more important than what we are.

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of this legendary Old Kirkhamian, whose name will, quite literally, live forever.

Robert (Bob) Whitby



Bob Whitby, who died in January, was, along with his wife Anne, a well-known figure in the local community of Kirkham and Wesham, and had a long and close association with KGS, most notably as a school governor.

Bob was for many years Manager of the NatWest Bank in Kirkham, back in the days - not that long ago - when to be the manager of a small-town branch of a high street bank was a position of influence and responsibility at the heart of community life. He was

the School's Bank Manager at the time when it was finding its feet as an independent school, with all the financial uncertainty that came in those years following the governors' gamble in choosing to go independent. His shrewd, supportive and friendly advice was

much valued, and it was a natural move for him to be recruited, following his retirement, to the governing body. His appointment came as the School was taking another significant gamble, opening a junior school before even having any buildings in which to house it. However, as with the move to independence a decade earlier, this gamble proved to be shrewd and successful, and Bob took a particular interest in helping to establish KGJS in its new buildings across the road from the Senior School.

At the same time, he continued to take an active interest in the life and work of the Senior School, and indeed his name lives on as the instigator and donor of the Whitby Cup, which was introduced as an overall 'Champion House' trophy, now always keenly contested between the four houses.

We extend our condolences to his family and friends, along with our gratitude for all that he did for KGS.

Adrian Long



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