



KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL

HMC Co-Educational Independent Day and Boarding 3-18 years

Headmaster's Newsletter to Parents Summer 2014



HEADMASTER'S INTRODUCTION

As I write this introduction, the exam season is in full swing and our pupils are hopefully rising to the challenge; the amount of work and time that goes into running examinations both internal and external is huge and I am very grateful to all out staff involved with the process. I always look forward (with a little trepidation) to August when we see our pupils achieve what they have worked so hard for. To all those who go on from here to the next stage in their education, good luck.

Sport has been as good as ever and all our teams have enjoyed success in all sports and disciplines. One stand out success was our 1st XI's draw against the MCC. On a wicket that offered something for everyone, we held on to achieve a result that not many schools who have the privilege to play the MCC can say they have managed. Judging by the age of many of our players, the future is bright. Athletics and tennis continue to excel and despite the weather we still managed a very enjoyable and productive House Sports Day. There have been all sorts of tours and away matches going on and I know that the Games Department are busy preparing for the major tours that are now not that far away. It is perhaps worth noting here that it is our commitment to sporting excellence and the opportunities we can provide for all our boys and girls that pay dividends beyond school. To have three Old Kirkhamians currently on international rugby duty is impressive and I wonder if any other school can currently say the same thing?

We have made a lot of progress with our plans for a new timetable and changes to the length of lessons and next year will be one where we continue to work on what will be a very exciting, innovative and forward looking plan. There will be a lot more communication on this from September and we will ensure that everyone has plenty of information on what we are doing and when. Do keep an eye on the website and social media feeds for updates and opinions.

There are a few notable staff changes for September and we are saying goodbye to Dr Luker who goes on to a very well deserved Headship at Highclare School in Birmingham. Richard has been an excellent Second Master and I owe him a personal debt of gratitude for making my first year run smoothly; his organisation and wise counsel have proved invaluable. The specific roles and responsibilities will be covered by other members of our senior team ahead of some restructuring ready for September 2015; I will report more on this in the autumn term.

CCF and DofE have both had a very busy year and we are grateful to the continued commitment and time given by all our staff both in term time and in the holidays. Mr Callister will be retiring from teaching from September but will remain on as Contingent Commander CCF.

The summer break will bring a very busy period when our support staff can finally get to the works planned that need a school without pupils and staff. We are doing a lot of work on our IT provision and there will be the usual maintenance and refurbishment programme. As I write, we are gearing up for the summer ball(s) and the lawn is being readied for the marquee. Let's hope the sun stays shining and we avoid the rain.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to thank the Governors for their work behind the scenes and their support for me in this my first year. I would also like to thank all in the Kirkham Grammar community for making me and my family so welcome in school. I hope you all have a good summer break and for those waiting on results, good luck and see you all in August.



Just where has the year gone? It doesn't seem nine months ago that I delivered my very first address at Speech Day and commented on how strange it was to talk about a school I had yet to really discover and to celebrate the success of pupils I did not know. As we near the end of the summer term, I can at least now reflect on a year of success, change and planning with a lot more knowledge and understanding of how our school ticks.

This has been the first full year we have had the new music facilities in place and the building and the feel of the space have contributed to a real rise in popularity, participation and quality. We have, of course, to mention one particular success, more of which will be said later in this publication, namely Elliott Gaston-Ross who won the Percussion Category of the BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition and went on through to the final as one of only three musicians. To see him perform on television in front of such an audience was an absolute thrill and we are all very proud of his achievements. Elsewhere there have been concerts, recitals and informal sessions, all showcasing the depth and range of talent we have here. Our Choir grows almost weekly and I know that our Director of Music has some bold plans for next year. Our organ is played again (I wonder how many people even knew we had one until the first assembly when it was brought back to life?) and we now start our working week with a service and the 'thought for the day' of Reverend Bunday. The educational landscape seems to be losing sight of the value of tradition and history and is constantly under threat from all sorts of short term and ill-conceived notions on what our children need in schools. It is, therefore, vital that we remain a school that inculcates the values of respect and tolerance alongside drive for success and personal achievement. The very fact that the independent school model is being used as the yardstick for the new school movement is telling indeed.

Dr Richard Luker, KGS 2005 – 2014

Richard Luker was appointed as Deputy Head in 2005, coming from Denstone College in Staffordshire, where he had been Director of Studies. He joined at a time when the role of Deputy Head was evolving from the traditional, rather vaguely "second in command" post to a much more specific and demanding responsibility for the academic life of the school, notably as a leader of all the academic departments and as the person responsible for developing the quality of teaching and learning.

Richard has carried out this broad and complex role with great skill over nearly a decade with us, demonstrating both a mastery of fine detail but also an appreciation of the bigger picture. Much of a Deputy Head's work is indeed about infuriatingly fine detail: compiling the termly calendar of all school events and activities; overseeing Departmental budget allocations; managing, costing and evaluating staff training; devising and implementing end-of-year examinations for the whole school; organising Speech Day and making sure all prize-winners get the correct prize – and much, much more besides. Yet alongside all this is the need to lead and encourage teachers in developing and teaching lessons of appropriate scope, challenge and content for pupils ranging in age from those just out of primary school to those on the verge of university degree level.

Richard's tenure in this demanding post was characterised by an exemplary level of conscientiousness, together with constant good humour. He is always patient and approachable in dealing with the many issues which cross his desk, and can be relied upon to make a meticulous and thorough assessment of a situation prior to reaching a decision.

Sixth Form students Jessica Bevington and Alex Whalley have been appointed as Captains of School at Kirkham Grammar School for the coming year. They bring an impressive breadth of success and involvement in the school community to their jobs.

Jessica is a former pupil of Kirkham Grammar Junior School, and is studying Biology, Chemistry, Geography and Physics at A Level. She is planning to take a degree in Medicine at university, having throughout her school career achieved top grades across all school subjects. Jessica is involved in a variety of activities at school, and is particularly keen on athletics: she acts as a coach to younger students. She is also a keen participant in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

Alex is also a former pupil of Kirkham Grammar Junior School and is studying English Literature, PE, Politics and Psychology at A-level. Alex is an "all-rounder", who is active in many areas of school life, but his major extra-curricular activity is sport, in particular rugby league: he is attached to the Warrington Wolves Academy, and aspires to a career in the professional game.



Moreover, he has been a tireless supporter of school events, be they cultural, academic, sporting or social, and has always taken the time and trouble to get to know all sections of the school community: Kirkham pupils have found that he is fair-minded and always on the side of the pupil. His wise and considered approach has been a feature of the many committees and meetings that he is required to lead, and he always brings a lightness of tone to even the most serious of discussions when appropriate.

He is also a much admired classroom teacher, who has certainly practised what he preaches in terms of the teaching and learning process. He is committed to maximising the potential of each and every pupil, and has taught Maths, Business Studies and latterly Economics in an original and committed manner. He enjoys new approaches to teaching and learning, and is committed to innovation in the classroom. He has

set up and led an informal "teaching and learning" group, consisting of teachers from both senior and junior schools, who have much enjoyed learning off each other.

We wish Richard every success in his new post as Head of Highclare School, Birmingham, where we know that his many qualities will be deployed to good effect in a school of similar values and traditions. We hope that he will keep in touch with KGS and look back on his years here with affection

A R Long
Director of Studies/Head of Sixth Form





Barbara Robotham Memorial Gala Concert Thursday 27 March 2014



A dazzling array of musical talent was on show at the Gala Concert in memory of the late Professor Barbara Robotham, after whom the Music Centre is named.

In the presence of her widower, Old Kirkhamian Eric Waite, and a number of her family and friends, current students from the

First Year to the Upper Sixth entertained an invited audience with items from the Final of the House Music Competition.

Beneath a poignant slideshow of images of Barbara, taken at the opening of the Music Centre a year ago, our students impressed with the range of their talents and repertoire.

Led by our two Upper Sixth A-level musicians, both of whom have secured prestigious offers to further their careers in music, our students performed on strings, guitar, brass, piano, recorder, saxophone and vocals. Head Girl Hannah Culver, who has an offer to read music at Oxford University for next year, displayed her versatility and virtuosity by performing on piano and violin, whilst fellow Upper Sixth Former Aimee Bilsborrow, who has an offer to study as an oboe performer from the Royal Welsh College of Music, demonstrated her mastery of that most difficult of instruments.

It was particularly appropriate to see Professor Robotham's grand piano, which she bequeathed to the school being used by so many of the performers and accompanists. The audience was treated to a full range of styles of music, as is traditional from the House Music Festival, and it was fitting that the concert closed with a striking performance on the flute by the individual winner of the Festival, Alexandra Clarke of the First Year. The quality and maturity of her playing, together with that of many other participants of all ages, confirmed that the future of music at KGS is indeed very bright, and we look forward to many years of concerts in the Music Centre of which Professor Barbara was so proud.



BARRY JOHNSON SWORN IN AS HIGH SHERIFF OF LANCASHIRE

By special invitation from the The Chairman of Lancashire County Council, County Councillor Michael Devaney; the Headmaster and four pupils were invited to the Installation Ceremony of Dr Barry Johnson BVSc DVSc (h.c.) MRCVS as High Sheriff of Lancashire. The invitation was by personal request from Dr Johnson (Former Pupil KGS 1957-1964 and Former President of the Old Kirkhamians' Association 1999/2000) to join him, his family and friends to watch him officially sworn into the prestigious post, after which the guests were invited to Afternoon Tea. During the Installation Ceremony Barry

was supported by two sponsors including Peter Hosker (Former Pupil KGS 1951-1958 and Former President of the Old Kirkhamians' Association 1974/1975) who officially witnessed and signed the Royal Patent. The school representatives were delighted when Barry gave them a special mention in his speech and spoke proudly of his school days at KGS with his best friend Peter Hosker; both have served on the school Governing Body in recent years. The role dates back to Saxon times and the office of High Sheriff is an independent non-political royal appointment for one year.

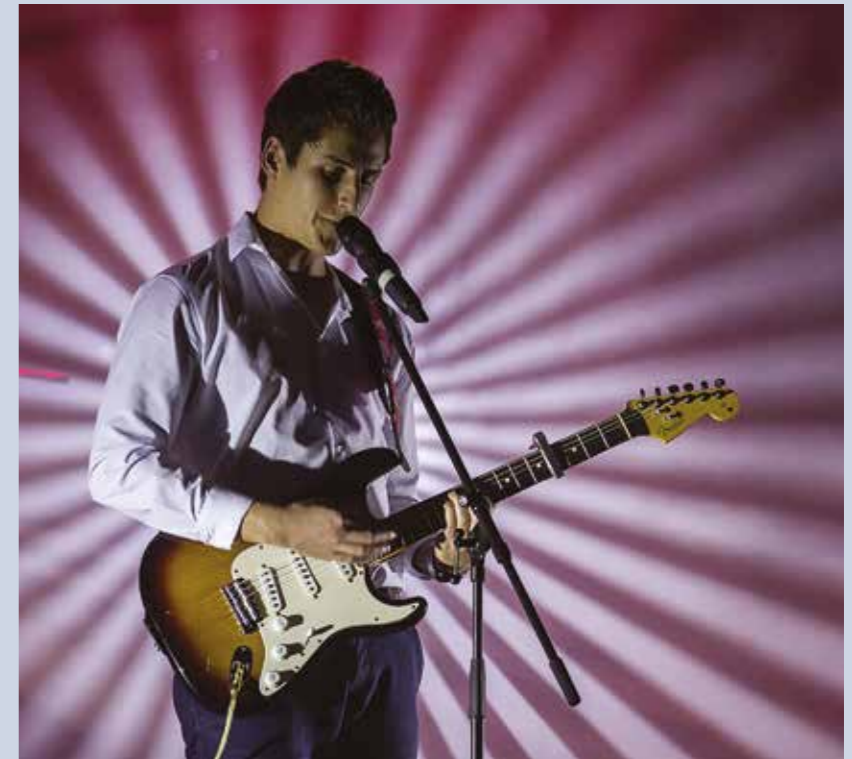
Barry is a retired Vet and current Chairman of the World Horse Welfare which rescues and re-homes horses. During his veterinary career Barry was the Chairman of the Royal Veterinary Association and Vet to Lancashire Constabulary's mounted section. Dr Johnson was sworn into his new role at County Hall on 11 April 2013. In the photograph Barry is pictured with left to right: Will Johnson, Jonah Winn, Fenella Gabrysch and Captain of School Hannah Culver.

Ex KGS pupil James Edgar achieves Proms dream

James Edgar was inspired to aim for a spot on the Lytham Proms Festival stage by a visit to the event last summer – now he is set to achieve his dream.

The 24 year old singer-guitarist, from Lytham clinched a place on the bill for this summer's big musical highlight in his home town by winning the Fylde's Got Talent Competition at Lowther Pavilion. It is not known which act James will be supporting – but with Sir Tom Jones, Michael Ball and a host of 90s acts James grew up listening to appearing on The Green over the three-day festival, the former Kirkham Grammar School student really has no particular preference. James said "I am just so delighted to have won a chance to be part of the Proms." James who has a law degree to his name, but works as a full-time musician, regularly performing around half a dozen gigs a week around the Fylde area. "After university, I spent a year travelling the world with my girlfriend Sarah, and soon after we got back last summer, we went to watch the Rita Ora night at the Proms. I only live just up the road and always knew it was a big event, but it was only by actually being there that it really brought home to me just how big. The atmosphere was tremendous, and I knew then that I had to try and get involved, which is why I entered Fylde's Got Talent."

James emerged the winner from a field of twelve hopefuls at the Fylde's Got Talent final. Along with the place on the Lytham Proms bill, he won £500, a website and photo shoot.



Aussie rugby legend re-visits Kirkham

Australian Rugby League Legend John Dorahy and his wife Linda made a nostalgic return visit to KGS during a recent visit to the UK. Their three children all attended the school back in the mid 1990's when John enjoyed successful spells as coach of first Wigan and then Warrington.

John and Linda called in to school to present copies of John's recently published autobiography "Cool in the Cauldron", and they met up with Head of Sixth Form Adrian Long, who knew the Dorahy children well during their time at school, and retired Headmaster Barrie Stacey and his wife Catherine.

John said how the children, all now in their 30's and living back home in Australia, remember KGS as being the best school of many they attended in both Australia and the UK during their family's itinerant life following his career as a player and coach in both countries. Twins Jason and Dane represented the school at Rugby Union whilst their younger sister Cara enjoyed two of Mr Long's school trips to France during her short time at the school, and still keeps in touch with the friends she made at Kirkham.

John is pictured meeting Headmaster Richard Laithwaite with Adrian Long and Barrie and Catherine Stacey.



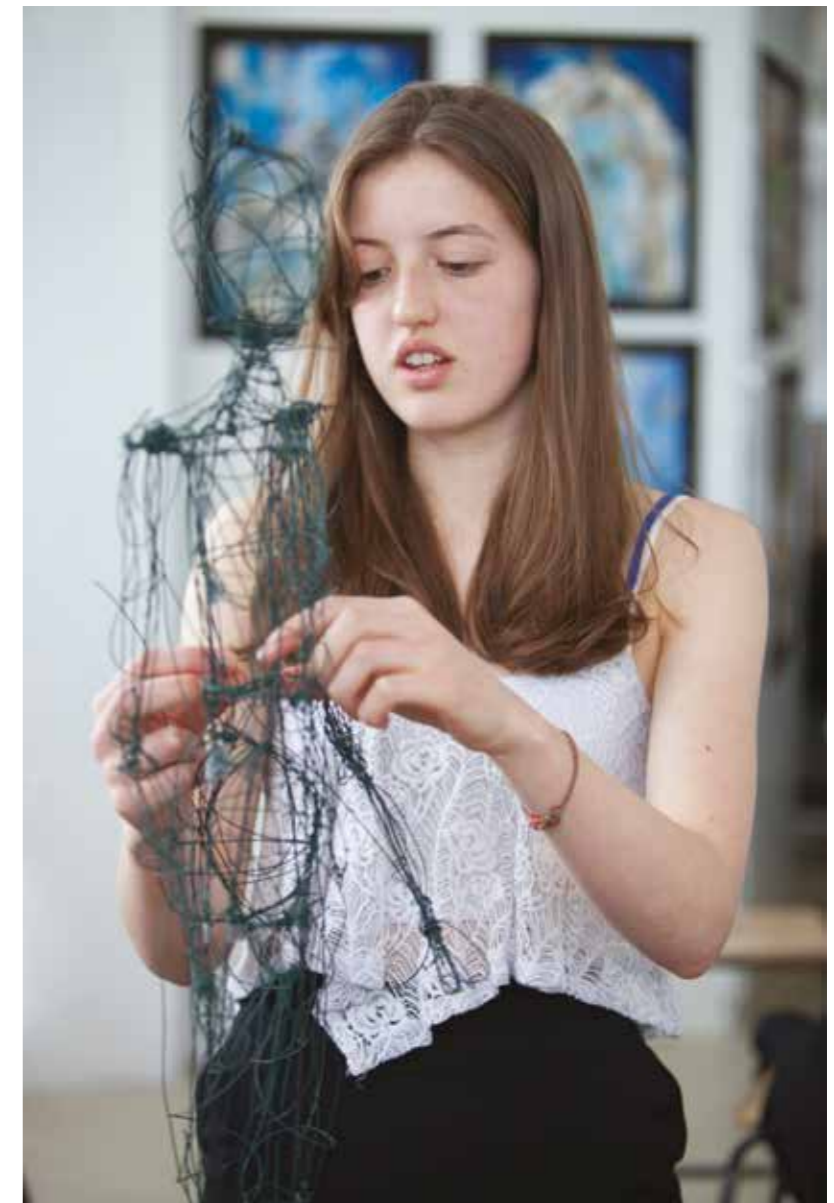
Successful students point Sixth Formers on the path to success

Ambitious Lower Sixth students and their parents attending the annual "aiming high" evening in school on April 24th were addressed by current and former students who have successfully trodden the path to success.

Luke Taylor, who left KGS last summer, talked to students about his experiences as a medical student at Liverpool University, where he is nearing the end of his first year. Those Lower Sixth students aspiring to courses in Medicine heard from Luke about the challenges they will face in securing a place at Medical School, as well as the enjoyment and satisfaction that he is experiencing on the course at Liverpool.

The group also heard from Elsie Linley, a current Upper Sixth student, who has secured an offer at St Anne's College, Oxford to read Classics. Elsie recounted her experience of the arduous aptitude test and interview process, but also the immense satisfaction gained from being challenged at this level.

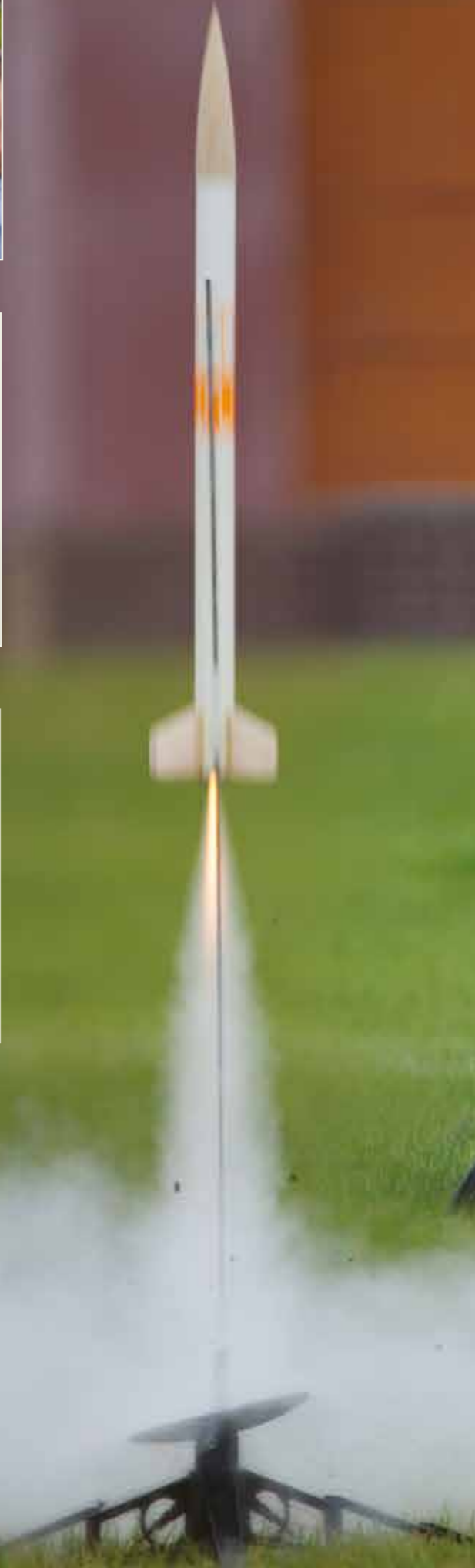
Students and parents then discussed their own plans and ambitions with the guest speakers and Heads of Sixth Form Mr Long and Mr Gaddes, and left with the strengthened ambition that comes from meeting successful young people who had been in their place only recently.



KGS in focus



KGS Taster Day





KGS Taster Day 2014





LADY GOLF WINNER

Emily Shea, an Upper Sixth pupil at KGS, has made rapid progress since taking up the game of golf four years ago, during which time she has reduced her handicap from 36 to four. Emily, who is a member at both Fairhaven and Royal Lytham hopes to get her handicap down even further and her ambition is to play on the "European Tour."



Carla Burfitt

Just two years after a seven hour operation to fix a double scoliosis of her spine Carla Burfitt, a fourth year pupil at KGS, has completed a gruelling 10k run for charity. Carla first learnt of the curvature in her back when the teacher at the dance school she attended pointed it out to her parents. Now she is setting out to raise hundreds of pounds for a charity which supported her through the "difficult" time and in May completed a 10k run in Liverpool. She said "Doing the run has helped me, the build-up was difficult but it feels good to raise money for others."

Carla set out to raise £300 for Scoliosis Association UK, but has already almost tripled that raising £834. Carla is now gearing up for a 5k run in Manchester in July.

To sponsor Carla, visit: www.justgiving.com/carlaburfitt

Kirkham's First Year Pupils Scoop Top Prizes in Prestigious Creative Writing Competition

Hannah Standley and Alexandra Clarke impressed judges of a local Rotary Young Writer Competition with their imaginative stories, based around the stirring theme of "making a difference to someone's life."

Hannah's emotive piece was awarded the top prize and was described as "a very worthy winner" by Rotarian Tim Leeson. Alexandra's entry was also successful and saw her gain a well-deserved runners up award. Both girls will receive a certificate in due course and Hannah will receive a gift voucher. Hannah's entry will also be forwarded on to the District round, where she will have the opportunity to win further prizes and may even be invited to read her story aloud on BBC Radio Lancashire.

Both the girls were very pleased to hear of their success in the competition. Hannah said "I am really excited and happy that my story was chosen as I really wasn't expecting it! I would love to have the chance to read it aloud on the radio and help inspire other children to

write." When asked what inspired her to write the story, which centres on a dog, Hannah explained "I wanted to do something different and thought that telling the story from the perspective of a dog would be an interesting idea."

Alexandra was similarly very happy to hear that her gripping and tense story about a pending Tsunami had taken second prize in the competition. She said "I am really happy and proud of myself and it has encouraged me to keep writing and enter further competitions." When asked what she thought the success of her piece was down to, she added "I ended the story on a real cliff hanger while the waters were still rising and I think that this worked well."

All the students who submitted entries from Kirkham were thanked for their time and effort and were praised for their high standard and quality of work.

Mrs C Fearn
English Teacher



Creating a more peaceful society

Luke Randall has won second place in a writing competition that proved an unusual challenge! As part of his AS English Language course Luke had to demonstrate wide journalistic abilities. The syllabus asks that he manipulates his writing for a particular audience and purpose. A local Quaker society came up trumps by launching a writing competition at just the right moment.

The competition asked students to write an essay entitled 'Creating a more peaceful society' and was run in honour of conscientious objectors in World War II. The piece needed to be a personal view with reference to real situations and ideas on how to change the world for the better. If successful the piece would be published in the Quaker's magazine, 'The Friend' in celebration of its 170th anniversary.

Luke had no knowledge of the Quaker society, its aims or beliefs and spent a good deal of time researching his audience before putting pen to paper. After drafting and re-drafting he submitted his entry and has been rewarded with second place and a £50 prize.

Luke and his parents joined the judging panel for lunch at the Southport Quakers Meeting House where he was presented with his prize. His work has been submitted as part of his coursework file, has been published on the web and features in 'The Friend' magazine. A great example of work completed in school that has had a wider impact!

Runaway success



Blackpool 10k Run –Sunday 11 May 2014

An enthusiastic team of 23, made up of 12 pupils, 11 staff and their partners, represented KGS in this year's Blackpool 10K on Sunday 11 May. The team ran to raise money for Brian House and Trinity Hospice in Bispham. Everyone crossed the finish line with a real sense of pride, many achieving personal best times. Ben Everson in particular ran a great race, coming third overall.



Mrs Whyman teaches Psychology in the Sixth Form and was diagnosed with Breast Cancer aged just 28 last year. Mrs Whyman underwent an intensive regime of treatment beginning with six rounds of chemotherapy, radiotherapy and three lots of surgery; the longest of which lasted seven hours. Mrs Whyman maintained a healthy lifestyle throughout her treatment and could regularly be seen cycling and running in the third "good" week of chemotherapy. Mrs Whyman has a two year old daughter Annabelle, whom she credits as the best medicine for any illness. Mrs Whyman completed the Race for Life in Preston this year on the 16th June and ranked seventh with a finishing time of 23 minutes 13 seconds, but was beaten by what "appeared to be a seven year old boy in an England kit and I just couldn't chase him down. I'm mortified". Mrs Whyman vows to spend the next year training to beat the young boy at the next race, but admits "My efforts this year were not that bad for a cancer patient".

Mrs Whyman is back in school and enjoying the final weeks of school life. Mrs Whyman comments, "The love and support I received from everyone at KGS was genuine, unrivalled and unwavering. I am in awe of the devotion of my colleagues and felt part of our family throughout the entire journey. My colleagues would regularly send me tokens of love and support which always made me smile. I am so fortunate to be part of the KGS family and forever indebted to my friends here for their kindness. I will never forget their kind gestures."

Mrs Whyman would like to add that she had no family history of the disease and that 80% of all cancer is not hereditary and urges everyone at the school to research the signs of cancers, she adds "early detection is key and that above all else saves lives". Mrs Whyman has so far raised over £850 for Cancer Research UK because "money funds research and research kills cancer". If you would like to help Mrs Whyman achieve her £1000 target please go to <https://www.justgiving.com/the-thrivers>

Diary Dates



A-level Results
Thursday, 14 August 2014

GCSE Results
Thursday, 21 August 2014

1st Year Induction Day
8.50 am, Wednesday 3 September

New School Year begins
8.50 am, Thursday 4 September 2014

Senior School Annual Prizegiving & Speech Day
Thursday, 18 September 2014

Open Afternoon
Sunday, 5 October 2014

New Parents' Welcome Evening
Wednesday, 8 October

Headmaster's Lecture
Friday, 10 October

Old Kirkhamians' Association AGM & Northern Reunion Dinner
Saturday, 11 October 2014

Sixth Form Open Evening
Monday, 10 November 2014

Sportsman's Dinner
21 November 2014

Friends Christmas Fair
Friday, 28 November

"Young" OKA Reunion at The Grapes, Wrea Green
Monday, 22 December 2014

Friends of KGS Burns' Night
The Villa, Wrea Green, Saturday 24 January 2015

Senior School Entrance Exam
Saturday, 31 January 2015



SUMMER ACTIVITY CAMPS

Summer Tennis Camp
David Shaw

14-25 July 2014 (10 days)

Andrew Flintoff
Cricket Academy

28 July-1 August 2014 (5 days)

www.andrewflintoffcricketacademy.co.uk

Kings Camp

4 August-15 August 2014 (10 days)

www.kingcamps.org



the **5th** form



end of year prom

Fifth Year End of Exams Celebration
Bartle Hall - Monday 27 June









BAE SYSTEMS

ROTARY/BAE TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT

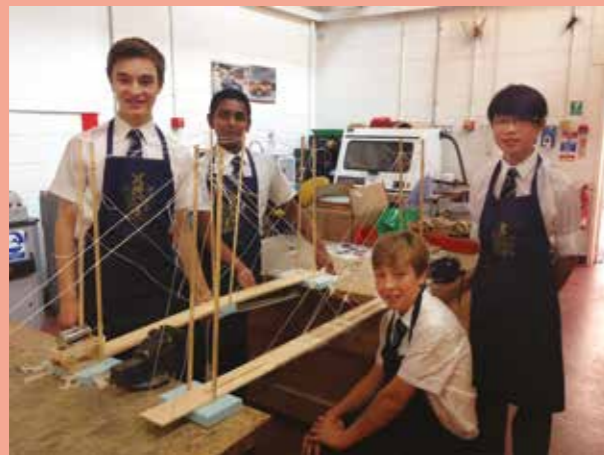


The 2014 Rotary Technology Tournament was held on Friday 14 March 2014 at the Lancashire Police Headquarters at Hutton near Preston, attracting over twenty five teams from schools and colleges across the local area. Once again this year's task was extremely challenging, requiring the teams to design and build a device that could remotely pick up and move a 'radioactive meteorite'.

In the Foundation Category of the tournament the Kirkham Grammar School team comprising of: Danielle Begley, Charlie Bradbury, Callum Queen & Theo Randall took 1st prize with the team of: Emily Clifford, Freya Parkinson, Ella Townsend & Lydia Williamson securing 2nd place.

In the Intermediate Category of the tournament the team of Hannah Fingleton, Charlotte Murgatroyd & Isobel Sanders also won 1st Prize with the team of Sian Atkinson, Freya Bennett, Michael Caton & Alex Mayhall achieving 3rd place.

In the Advanced Category of the tournament the Sixth Form team of: Scott Collins, Siva Dwarampudi, Elliot Evans & Ben Mason were a little unlucky only to attain 3rd place.



BUILDING BRIDGES

Third Year Design Technology students have undertaken a design and make challenge to produce a bridge that will span 1 metre and support a moving car bearing a 1kg weight. The students opted for a suspension bridge design using a set material and equipment pack. Marco Wong and Nicky Pilkington-Lowe made up the winning team followed closely by Andrew Platt and Venkata Karri of 3W.

Physics enrichment activities

On 13th May a group of keen amateur astronomers attended a lecture in Lancaster given by Dr Fran Bagenal. The lecture entitled 'New Horizons Mission to Pluto' discussed many fascinating topics such as: How are Dwarf planets detected? What is the Kuiper belt? and Why isn't poor old Pluto classified as a planet anymore? Dr Bagenal is part of a team that launched a space craft to carry out a 'fly-by' of Pluto, the shuttle was launched in 2006 and should reach Pluto on 14th July 2015. The aim of the mission is to find out more about these strange objects that orbit so far away from the sun. What are they made of? How did they get there? What's happening to them as they orbit the Sun? Discussions were even held on the possibility of finding life on Pluto the likelihood of which something Dr Bagenal thought was 'zip'. All the students were inspired and were planning future missions to orbit Pluto or to colonise other parts of our solar system such as Europa one of the moons of Jupiter.

Miss Honnor

MALHAM TARN FIELD CENTRE



A group of Lower Sixth Biology students visited Malham Tarn Field Centre for a three day residential course. Malham Tarn Field Centre is situated in the Yorkshire Dales National Park and within the boundaries of the stunning National Nature Reserve. The Tarn is an internationally recognised wetland habitat and a SSSI.

The students had the opportunity to work in a variety of habitats and field sites nationally recognised for their ecological importance. They hopefully gained an understanding of ecological concepts and learnt skills to help them with the practical elements of their A Level.

During the three days students covered all the practical aspects of the A2 ecology topic, including techniques such as belt transects, measuring abiotic factors, sampling and identifying living organisms in their habitats. Habitats studied include woodland, moorland, streams, bog land and the tarn itself. The field trip was taught by the Field Study Centre's own specialist staff. In the evenings there were facilities for recreation and relaxation in the Centre's beautiful and comfortable accommodation.

Highlights included mammal trapping, where Siva Dwarampudi was lucky enough to capture a Wood Mouse. And a river transect where all student waded in the river to record the speed of flow, conductivity, pH, temperature and a kick sample. They then identified the invertebrates they collected.



d&ttrip
to the Jaguar Factory

During February 2014 a group of GCSE Product Design and Electronic Products students visited the Jaguar Land Rover Car Factory at Halewood.

Students witnessed first-hand the state of the art machinery involved in the build process of the Range Rover Evoque and Freelander 2, including the assembly process including the sheet metal press, robotic body construction and final preparation before delivery of the finished product.

Geography Fieldwork



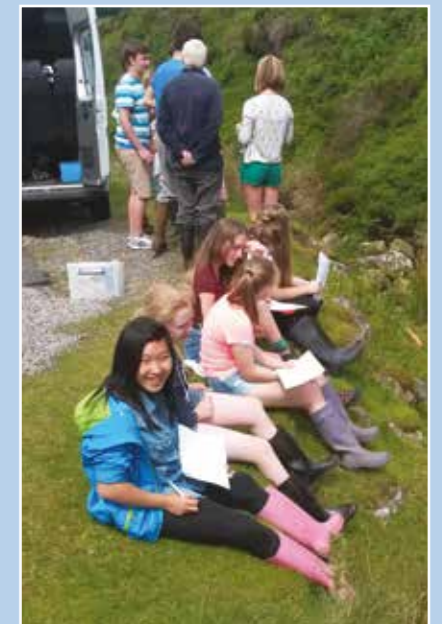
Why Do Geographers Study Rivers?

The KGS 4th year geographers have just completed their primary data collection for their GCSE coursework. They spent the day travelling down the River Wyre looking at how the river changes. We were blessed with good weather, and the students looked at how the river should change as it flows downstream. We started up in the Trough of Bowland near the source of the Marshaw Wyre, and we moved down towards Abbeystead collecting data about the river's width, depth, velocity, gradient and wetted perimeter. The afternoon was spent further downstream in Garstang looking at river features and flood management schemes.

This is a piece of fieldwork that has become a 'classic' day in the field for the geography teachers, and literally hundreds of Kirkham geographers will have completed a similar study over the years. A Kirkham Geographer will finish their time at the school knowing the ins and outs of the River Wyre's processes, landforms and behaviour.

But why do we get our wellies on and study them in the first place? The main reason is that rivers remain an important part of the exam specification at both GCSE and AS level, and we have to study them. However, there is clearly more to it than this, and when you start to stand back and look at your environment and how it affects people, rivers are very important, and understanding how they work is of benefit to anyone looking to further their understanding of the processes shaping the world around them.

Rivers are dynamic, they change, they need managing, they are not the same from one day to the next. The river that was flowing relatively peacefully for the 4th years this week was almost unrecognisable from the rushing foaming river that was so full of water only a few months ago. We should look to understand what is happening around us, and to ask questions, and maybe the bottom line is that it is genuinely good fun to be outdoors in your wellies trying to figure out if the bedload really is getting smaller.



The ironing won't get done on its own you know! It needs a family effort.

It's been a really demanding year with twin boys starting in the first year at KGS. No amount of previous knowledge of the school prepared us for the stamina and tenacity that, as a family, we have needed. Well-seasoned parents gave us advice but the reality has been more intense, more frenetic, more challenging and rewarding than anyone could have described. However, we have been asked to try. So here is how it's been for us. (Please note dad and boys have vetted and passed this account.) We've written as objectively as possible which, when it comes to your own family isn't that difficult a thing to do.

Parenthood: the state of being a parent. Well I am a parent and quite often I have been in a state! We've learned KGS is about commitment. You can't pick and choose-you can't opt out. We knew the theory of this (as we say it to children all the time don't we?) but if we wanted to get the most out of this school, as adults we needed to follow the advice we were dishing out to our sons. We haven't found this easy.

There has been a rigorous homework routine to get used to. The boys needed help organising themselves but they have coped and improved enormously. Those long weeks of the autumn term could be rainy and dark. My car boot wouldn't close with all the games kit and the rucksacks. At times, with the boys sat warm

and dry in the car, I've stood, almost weeping, in the howling rain repeatedly slamming the boot which wouldn't shut no matter how hard I tried. We've needed a reliable washing machine as any problem here would result in domestic meltdown. They needed that kit clean and dry even before we'd forensically identified it.

Please don't be mistaken into thinking this was a couple of mad parents running after lazy children. It's been a team effort, a united front, a togetherness in contributing to school life and it's changed our family dynamic for the better. We've got up much earlier than we'd like on a Saturday morning - but they have played the rugby. We have checked their planners - but they have written up the experiments and learned the vocab. We've seen the boys learn lines from Shakespeare whilst they play football in the back garden and they've taken photos of Lytham front for a Geography competition while I've done the weekly shop.

They have watched the R.S.C. perform live and looked at the stars with Science club. They've skied, tackled, batted and bowled their way through ice, rain, wind and sunshine. In a single day they were taken to the zoo to study animal adaptations (Did you know there's a cockroach that can live for 2 weeks without its head?), returned to school for a drama rehearsal, had tennis coaching and played extras in 'Lord of

the Flies' production.

On the flip side, at times the homework has ground them down and we've struggled to claim family time at the weekend, which we have resented occasionally. I've worried that they have become too tired to really concentrate on the basics. They have found the academic work demanding and sometimes have been overwhelmed by the amount of things they have to juggle.

In the last week they visited Clitheroe Castle, Brockholes Visitors' Centre and have been performing in the 60 second Shakespeare competition. They've played football on the field with Fifth Years and boarders just because they weren't in a hurry to go home. KGS is a place they have gradually come to own and as that has happened things seemed to have got easier. The learning curve has been as steep as the ironing pile but the slog has been worth it!

Current parent of First Years

It would be interesting and therapeutic to hear from other parents and children on their experiences of school life. Please consider contributing and contacting the newsletter team at school.



THE YOUNG INVESTMENT BANKER PROGRAMME

The Careers Department offered the opportunity for students from year 11, 12 and 13 who were aspired to be investment bankers. The investment Banker programme brought top professionals from world class investment bank to share their experience of these professions. As always our students participated fully in all the activities of the day. I have told them to remember me when they make their first millions! Here James Penrose writes about his experience of the day:

"On Sunday 30 March @ 4.30 am we met a school read to head to London for the Young Investment Banker Programme. Even with the early start everyone was looking forward to the day ahead. After a long trip down to London we arrived at UCL for the start of the program. We were then split into groups with pupils from other schools and colleges for the day's activities.

During the morning sessions we were given an introduction into the general workings of an investment bank and taken through the different jobs and what each job entails, such as traders, investment bankers (the glamorous jobs) sales and research. After some lunch we went back for the two sessions planned for the afternoon. The first was on the workings of Private Equity and Hedge Funds where there was a case study about how we would each spend £10 billion in today's market. This was then followed by a session on universities, job applications, interviews and importantly, the different types of interviews we could expect. This was really insightful and useful for the future. We then finished off a great and interesting day with pizza in a small organic Italian before starting the long coach trip back to school."

FRIENDS

The Friends of Kirkham Grammar School have hosted a full programme of events over the Spring and Summer Terms. We have decided that we will try and intersperse new style events along with the old favourites, to encourage parents and friends who would not normally join a Friends' social to come along.

Our first such event was a wine tasting quiz evening, held in the Old Hall. Hosted by Majestic Wines, we were treated to wines from around the world, the quiz centering upon their countries of origin and grape varieties. Nibbles of cheese and biscuits kept our palates clear while we quaffed our way across the globe. I think that it is fair to say that everyone attending had a great evening. Thanks to Mrs Stina Thompson for arranging the night and providing the cheese and biscuits!

The Ladies Lunches are always popular gatherings and the two this year has proved no exception.

In March we ate at Rowley's at Blackpool Football Club where we were joined by ladies from Kirkham and Rural Fylde Tangent, who gave us a hat and fascinator fashion show. These ladies are also hiring out numerous beautiful hats at very low rates, for charity, so if you have a summer wedding on the horizon ladies, look no further.

The final lunch of the school year was held at an old favourite of ours, Bartle Hall. Once again, great food and good company were shared for a couple of hours, in the name of fundraising for the children. As always, thank you to Mrs Yvonne Malings for organising these lunches for us.

We were hoping that the Easter holidays would give everybody a chance for spring cleaning and filling our Bags2school. Although the blue bags themselves did not seem as numerous for the spring collection, the weight must have been, as we had another bumper pay cheque from the collection company.

Thank you to everyone who filled a bag (or 4) for us and especially to Mrs Jaine Burnie who organises the collections. Look out for details of the next collection which is scheduled for Friday 21 November 2014.

Spring would not be complete without a fair (photo right), and this year we wanted to try something a little different by offering a circus skills workshop, free of charge, to all the children who attended. A beautiful May spring morning therefore saw us at the Junior School with unicycles, diablos, balancing balls, jugglers as well as the usual games, stalls, beefburgers and refreshments.

Thanks to the generosity of all who attended and those who sent in raffle tickets and contributions prior to the event, the fair raised over £2,500. Many thanks must go to everyone who worked so hard on the day, and leading up to the fair, Friends, helpers and School members. Especially, I would like to thank Mrs Estelle Noblett who did a fantastic job as "Fair organiser in chief". We are already looking forward to the winter fair scheduled for 28 November 2014.

The highlight of our summer calendar is always our Ball in the School grounds (photo top), which this year fell on the summer solstice and so was themed A Midsummer Ball. Summer



colours adorned the beautiful marquee, where good food, a little fundraising, and dancing the night away to live band Smooth Chalk, was the order of the evening (photos next pages).

I always miss someone on my list of thank you's for the Ball, as the number of people who work hard to make this event a success is huge. I thank Mrs Vanessa Barrow who has led and worked with a formidable team of people to ensure the success of this night - thank you all.

Again, to ring the changes slightly, we have decided not to host our Winter Ball in November this year, but to hold a Burns Supper and Céilidh night on 24 January 2015.

This is planned to be no less spectacular an evening, with a piper, haggis, poetry and dancing, although it will be a more relaxed setting, and we will be keen to keep the ticket price as reasonable as possible. Please put this date in your diary, and watch out for details which will be coming out towards the end of the year.

Details of all our events, along with copy letters, are on the KGS web site. In addition to this we

have a FKGS twitter account (@friendsofkgs) which we use to keep you reminded of what is going on. I am grateful to Mrs Jill Clayton who keeps this up to date, so please follow us, and make it worth her while.

Our fundraising this year has allowed for donations to school which include: equipment for and the refurbishment of a P.E. facility for a whole school inclusive strength and conditioning program; 3D printer for the technology department, monogrammed school cloths and portable kiln for the Junior School, as well as other smaller donations.

We still have a list of gifts we wish to make however and so your support continues to be vital to us.

Thank you for all your contributions this year, whether you have donated time, prizes, or spent money at our events.

I wish you all a happy summer break.

Mrs Michelle O'Neill
Chair - Friends of Kirkham Grammar School

Grab a Book Library News



Photo above: Calum Kerr speaking to the Fourth Year about Flash Fiction

Photo below: Lindsey O'Brien, School Laureate, with Calum Kerr

Photo bottom: Tayla Mee-Bishop meets Dick and Dom, who fronted this year's World Book Day event, The Biggest Book Show on Earth.



The last term has been extremely busy in the library. The main exciting change has been the introduction of the new library management system, Eclipse.net. This now enables pupils to search the library from home and use some of the e-resources remotely. (There is a link to the library site on the library page of the school website). In addition pupils can also write reviews electronically and using the free app that is linked to the system, they can suggest books they would like to borrow from the school library and put them in a virtual wish list.

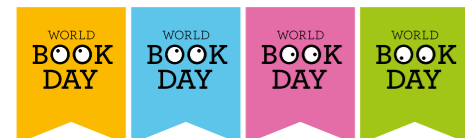
Meres, Curtis Jobling, Lauren St John, Alex T Smith and Lauren Dockerill. At the end of the event they were able to have books signed by the authors and ask them some questions. Following on from this 1X were able to watch the PuffinLive broadcast with Jeff Kinney, author of the popular Wimpy Kid series, as it was streamed during their library lesson – they were very impressed to see Kirkham Grammar School in the credits!

The avid readers in the first year also participated in a new national project called Read for My School, which was promoting reading both traditional books and e-books. The group did so well and read so many books that the school has won 100 books to add to the library stock. Many year groups were inspired by the visit from author Calum Kerr, a former pupil of Mr Hawkes. He came into the library to read from his books. He is renowned for writing very short pieces, known as Flash Fiction, which the pupils enjoyed hearing him read. He has also written study guides for literature and the Lower Sixth was eager to hear his views on one of their set texts, The Kite Runner, for which he provided some very useful ideas prior to the examination. As I write pupils from all years are once again engrossed in reading the shortlisted titles for the Carnegie Award. There does not seem to be strong favourite emerging yet, although Rebecca Stead's Liar and Spy, which won the Guardian Children's Fiction Award at the end of last year, is quite popular, as is Katherine Rundell's Rooftoppers.

Just before Easter we held a Charity Secondhand Book Sale and a Cake Sale. There were lots of donations of each, although the cakes didn't last quite as long! The charity we are supporting is BookAid International, who provides books for children in developing countries. With the

combined sale of cakes and books we raised almost £200, many thanks to all who donated and bought items.

During the Summer T erm the library has been busy with pupils revising for examinations, however, there are also lots of books that are suitable for relaxing with after all the hard work, whether you are reading on a beach or somewhere more adventurous. As a summer challenge perhaps you could bring in a picture of you reading in an unusual location? Enjoy the summer and make time to read.



World Book Day always falls in Spring Term and this year the Scribblers Club hosted a lunch time recital of readings. Some were passages which had inspired them from books they liked and others were their own creations. All the members of the Scribblers Club have been winners this year in the Young Writers Competition, A Twist in the Tale and several were also winners in The Poetry Games. We have copies of the book in the library. I'd like to thank Gabi Smith from the Upper Sixth for all she has contributed to Scribblers over the years and I am delighted that she was one of the winners in the A Twist in the Tale competition. Gabi is hoping to go on to study creative writing at university this autumn.

Another memorable event to mark World Book Day was the visit to King George's Hall in Blackburn for the World Book Day Biggest Bookshow on Earth. All the first year pupils went to Blackburn by coach where they were entertained by authors Cathy Cassidy, Jonathan

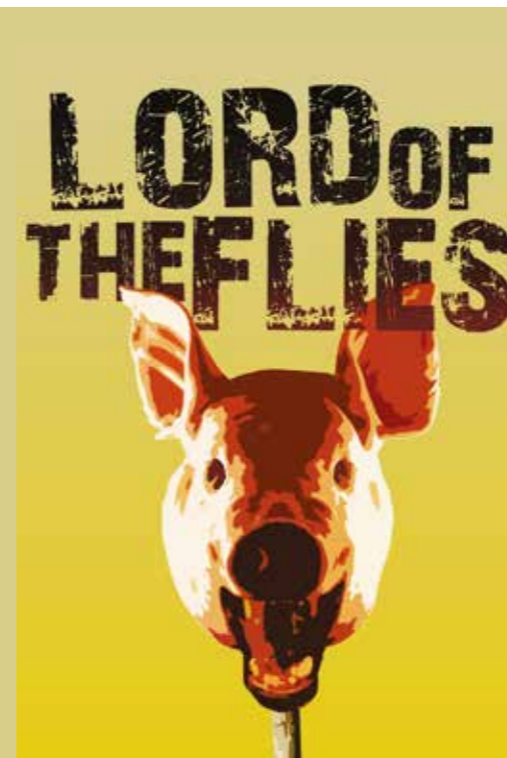


On 26 June, many of those who study – or have studied - Latin piled into the minibus and headed North to visit some of the Roman sites along Hadrian's Wall.

This year we visited Vircovicium (aka Housesteads) fort, which lies in a spectacular location on top of a ridge from where there are clear views towards the territory of the 'barbarian' Scots. We then moved on to Cawfield quarry where we had our picnic lunch in some very pleasant hazy sunshine. Once we had regained our strength following lunch, and a surprise and very well-received visit from an ice-cream van, we made the short walk to investigate milecastle XLII (42!), one of the mini-forts situated at Roman mile intervals in between the larger forts. A Roman mile was slightly shorter than a modern British mile; it was the distance that could be covered by the average legionary soldier in a thousand paces ['mille passuum', whence the word 'mile'].

Finally we visited Birdoswald Fort, another of the better-preserved of the sixteen forts along the Wall. It lies adjacent to a particularly long and well-preserved section of the wall.

Thanks to all members of the party for making it such an enjoyable day out.
Mrs S P Long



This term saw a new artistic event; a lower school production of William Golding's Lord of the Flies. The play is a complex examination of the nature of cruelty and loyalty set during World War II. We selected a talented group of boys and demanded an awful lot of them; three acts to learn in just over two weeks! This really was a 'stretch and challenge' event. The performance was excellent with the boys ably assisted by a crack technical team of girls backstage.



MUSIC

The New Year has once again seen the Music Department extremely busy with a packed schedule of concerts and events in our fantastic facilities. The first Coffee Concert saw the Fourth Year GCSE music group showing their talent and musicianship, and delighting the audience with a wide ranging assortment of performances in the Recital Room. The second Thursday in February gave the Second Year a chance to display their musical skill and they really showed what a prospect they are in a wonderfully varied programme. The next Coffee Concert was given by the Fifth Year GCSE music group impressing the audience with their ensemble pieces in preparation for their GCSE practical.

Many of our musicians were examined by the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music in March, the culmination of many months of practice. I am pleased to report that they were all successful, many of them passing their exams with distinction. Our musicians continue to be regular members of county bands and orchestras, with some representing the school in national youth bands and orchestras too.

The Spring Term advertised the return of the annual Music House Festival. Miss Crook and Mr Dalton had the enjoyable experience of listening to close to four hundred students. As individuals and in groups they sought to secure points for their house, or maybe even progress through to the final. Every year so many of the student body choose to give of their time and participate in this annual music making festival. After the initial auditions, it all rested on a Thursday in early March and what was to be a thrilling final. Mr Daniel Howard was the adjudicator for the day and had the unenviable task of selecting the winner. After a compelling and exciting day, Alexandra Clarke was declared the winner, an absolutely incredible achievement for someone who is only in the first form! She was pursued all the way by Hannah Culver who was runner up in a sensational final. The Gala Concert in late March gave an invited audience an opportunity to hear the winners and items from the final. The concert was especially poignant this year as it was in memory of the late Professor Barbara Robotham, after whom the Music Centre is named. In the presence of her widower, Old Kirkhamian Eric Waite, and a number of her family and friends, it was particularly appropriate to see

Professor Robotham's grand piano, which she bequeathed to the school, being used by so many of the performers and accompanists. It was a truly wonderful evening, with some outstanding playing and confirmed that the future of Music at KGS is indeed very bright. The House Choir competition again took the form of a "sing off" in the Recital Room with the four House Choirs doing battle. The standard was very high and in a close fought contest, Fylde House emerged triumphant once again. Congratulations to all the finalists, who are so talented in their own individual ways.

Early April gave the Choir the chance to enrich the school's Founders Day Service. Along with leading the musical side of worship in the customary four-part harmony, they performed accompanied and unaccompanied pieces by John Rutter. Soprano Sarah Padley gave an emotionally moving performance of Faure's Pie Jesu from his Requiem. The end of April saw our Upper Sixth formers delivering their A-level Music recital in the form of a Coffee Concert. Hannah Culver and Aimee Bilsborrow both showed musical maturity and technical prowess of both their instruments and their programme was wonderfully exciting and varied. We would like to wish Hannah and Aimee who are both going on to study Music at Oxford and Cardiff respectively, all the best in their musical pursuits in the future.

An annual highlight of the year was the Spring Concert which took place in May. The Orchestra, String Group, Concert Band, Swing Band, Choir and individuals captivated the audience with some high some quality performances. Orchestral standards, West End Musicals, firm themes, contemporary pop and laid back jazz transported the appreciative audience to other worlds and the tremendous applause was gratefully received by all the performers. It was gratifying to see how mature and well poised all our musicians were. Congratulations to them all!

This year has been a very special year for our percussionist Elliott Gaston-Ross who is currently in the Fourth Year. As previously reported in the Spring Newsletter Elliott reached the Percussion Section finals of the BBC Young Musician Competition. I am very proud and pleased to report that Elliott won the Percussion Final and subsequently a place in the Semi-Final. His well-balanced programmes and outstanding performances



saw him progress to the Final in May at Usher Hall in Edinburgh. He competed against Sophie Westbrook (recorder) and Martin James Bartlett (piano) and gave an outstanding and musically dazzling and mature performance of Dave Heath's African Sunrise/Manhattan Rave. Although the winner was the 17 year old pianist Martin James Bartlett, we are so proud of Elliott who held his own in this prestigious competition. I am sure that he will continue to go from strength to strength.

Miss J Z Crook

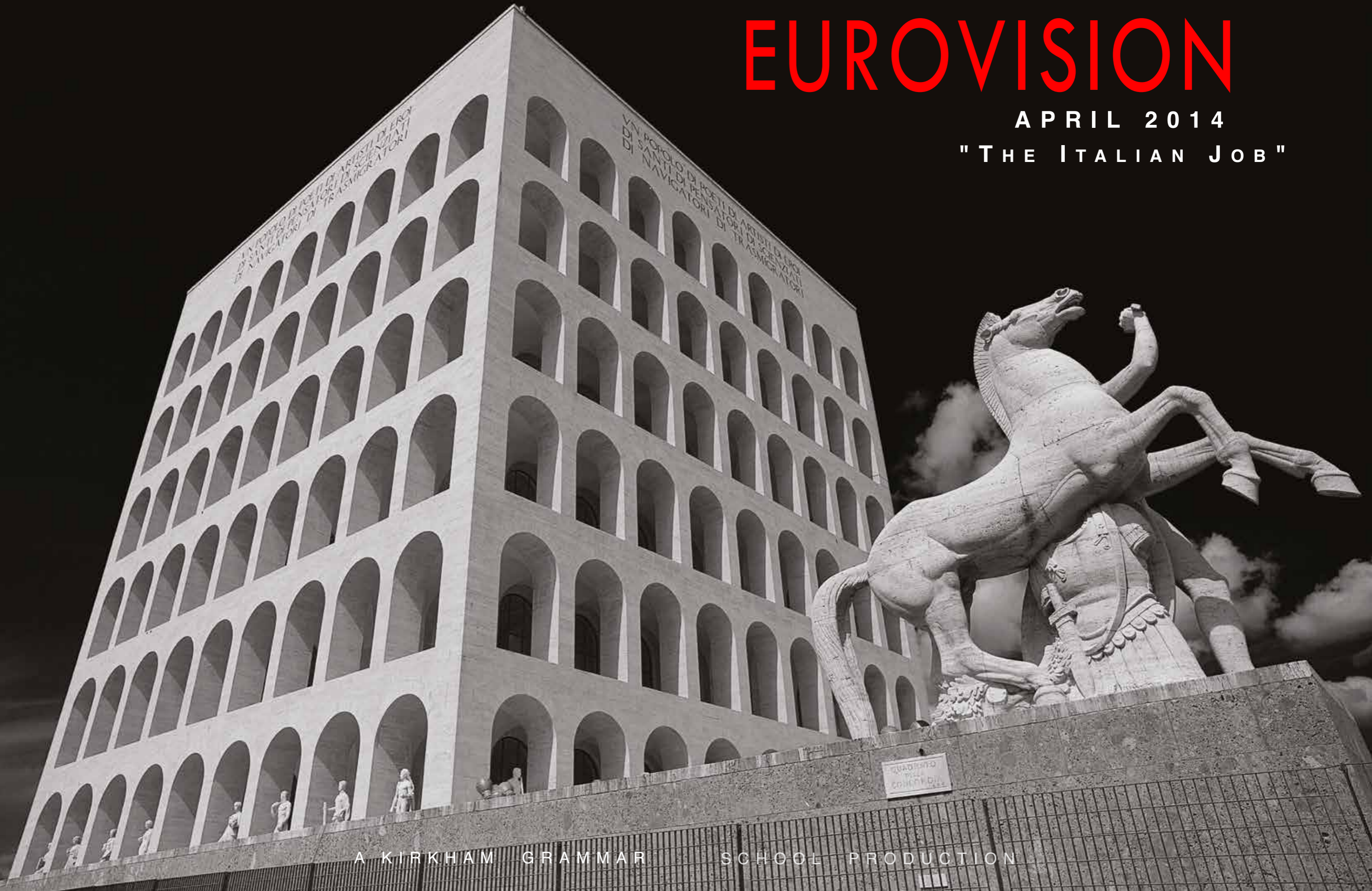


FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ART AND DESIGN

EUROVISION

APRIL 2014

"THE ITALIAN JOB"



A KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL PRODUCTION



ROME ART TRIP

For some years now the Sixth Form Artists and Photographers have travelled to Europe as part of the preparation for their A-level examinations. Cities visited include Paris and Berlin. This year was different as the emphasis was classical art and architecture so Rome was the destination of choice. It was to be visually rewarding for everyone including staff, Sixth Formers and a small group of GCSE photographers (photo above).

A visit to Rome is a step back in time; from the magnificent Colosseum (group photo top

right), one of Rome's greatest architectural achievements, to the feeling of centuries of turbulent history under your feet. A visit to the Eternal City is not complete without experiencing the opulence of the Vatican with its vast museums, dark tombs and, of course, Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel where you can gaze upon one of the most renowned artworks of the high Renaissance.

In all we were only there for 3 nights and 4 days but we packed such a lot in there was never a dull moment! As soon as we had arrived and

unpacked we headed out to see the famous Spanish Steps, where most of the party had their first taste of Italian Ice cream before walking to the Pantheon where we sat inside looking up at the domed ceiling with the circular opening in the centre (photo bottom middle and left). The Pantheon was commissioned by Marcus Agrippa during the reign of Augustus (27 BC - 14 AD) and rebuilt by the emperor Hadrian about 126 AD.

The next day was spent looking at the classical architecture of the Colosseum (group photo

top right) and Forum then in the afternoon we walked through the markets and alley ways of this historical city.

Day three was very different in that we travelled to the south quarter of the city to see Esposizione Universale Roma (EUR) the city that Benito Mussolini had built in the late 1930's and early 1940's. The most notable building being the Colosseo Quadrato (photo previous page). The design of the "Square Colosseum" was inspired more to celebrate the Colosseum, and the structure was intended by Benito

Mussolini as a celebration of the older Roman landmark. Similar to the Colosseum, the palace has a series of superimposed loggias, shown on the façade as six rows of nine arches each. At the top of each of the four façades there is an inscription in capital letters:

(In English)

A nation of poets, of artists, of heroes,
Of saints, of thinkers, of scientists,
Of helmsmen, of transmigrants

Where did you see it? You have seen it in a Nike's advertisement of the nineties, where

famous football players retrieved a ball kept inside the building.

On our last day we visited the Vatican City (photo bottom right) to see the Sistine Chapel and St Peter's Square and duomo and were amazed by the sheer scale of the architecture and the intricate decor.

All too quick our adventure was over, but the memory lives on in the students artwork and photographs.



ART & DESIGN DEPARTMENT
 INVITATION TO
ART EXHIBITION
 SURROUND YOURSELF WITH CREATIVE PEOPLE
FINE ART
 SEE THE COMPLETE CREATIVE PROCESS
PHOTOGRAPHY
 BE INSPIRED BY VISUAL GIFTED PEOPLE
 LISTEN TO MUSIC

GCSE A-LEVEL



THURSDAY 19 JUNE 2014
 THE DINING ROOM E6 E7 E8
18:00 — 19:30
 A MUST FOR ALL INTENDING TO DO ART & DESIGN

A-LEVEL FINE ART

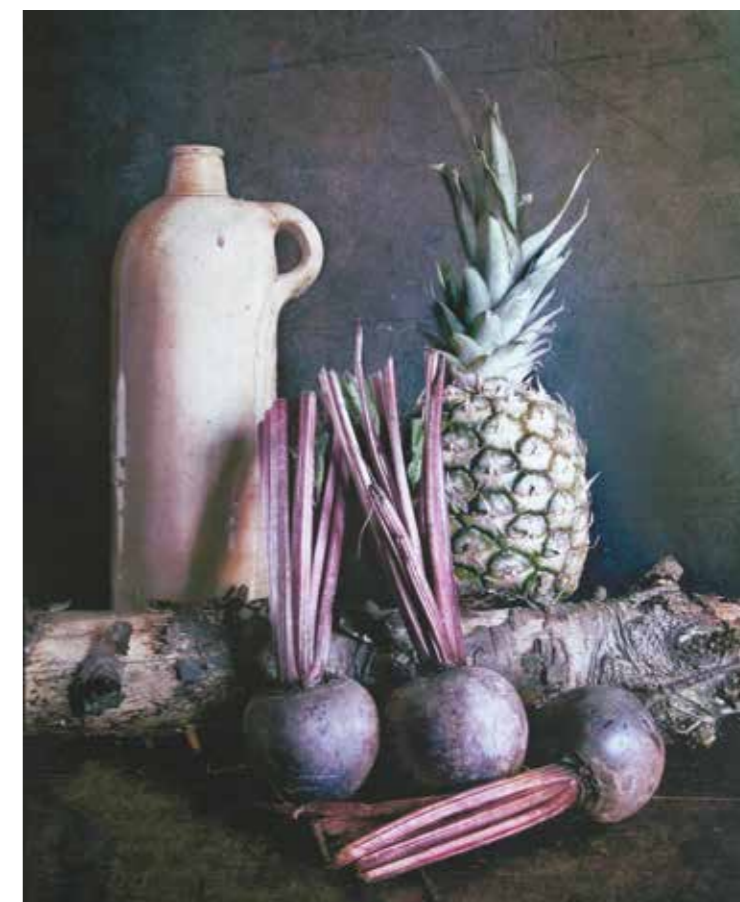


This year we have seen some very creative artwork being produced by all the U6 Fine Artists. The end of year show was one of the strongest exhibitions the department has hung, with many people commenting on how impressed with the work. Ellie Higham's cockrel pieces (photos on this page) were very popular. A good number of our students will be going on to art school to further develop their work. Fennela Gabresch's sculpture (photo opposite page far right and above) showed great maturity and she has been offered a place at Glasgow School of Art. Joe Probert (photo right) has truly developed a very strong style of portaiture work in the style of artist Guy Denning is also set to go to Art School.

Parents, pupils, friends and staff attended our recent exhibition (top). Sculpture by Fenella Gabresch (above) and portrait by Joe Probert (left)



A-LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY



Photography as an A-level subject continues to be very popular with the standard of work increasing each year. The variety of themes also continues to grow as was evident in this year's end of year exhibition. Works of note were a series of still life photographs by Tom Middleton (photos above right) who composed some very well taken images that were digitally processed in photoshop to have the feel of a master painting. Also of note was a series of work on people at work by Gabriel Thompson and fashion photography by Sally Robertson (photos top left this page and top left on the opposite page) that includes spot colours in one series and a lot of paint being liberally applied to her models in another.

The addition of 4 iMacs funded by the Friends has been a fantastic boost to the department as we now have industry standard computers and software. A big thankyou from all the department staff and students. Watch this space for more exciting work!





FINE ART

This year we have seen the number of students taking GCSE Photography increase by five times compared to last year. From previous exhibitions students have been inspired to take up the medium with great enthusiasm. Trips to London and Rome have catapulted our students to be bold and creative in their approach to taking shots. Students of note this year include the creative use of photoshop processes, and organising model shoots by Georgia Ansell (photo bottom) and the vibrant portrait work by Christie Bucklow. Again as with the Sixth Form the addition of four new iMacs and software was a huge boost.

Fine Art is also very healthy as a GCSE option which is evident by the standard of artwork on display in the dining room. There is a huge array of different subjects that show of our students skill and dedication. As a department we encourage individuality and independent learning that has come to fruition with this wonderful colorful exhibition. There are many stand out pieces but perhaps one big favorite is the work by Sequoia Desatage (photo left).



PHOTOGRAPHY



60 SECOND SHAKESPEARE



This year our annual House Drama competition, Sixty Second Shakespeare, was another rip-roaring success. With a slight change to previous years, each form focused on one play giving the audience a brief snapshot of four different plays, Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, Twelfth Night and A Midsummer Night's Dream. The level of understanding was outstanding and there were many compelling, charismatic and accomplished performances. As in the previous three years, Fylde were victorious but the drama department was thrilled that every single first year pupil performed; a real success.



TWO



AS Drama performance



ski TRIP 2014

On Saturday 15 February we arrived at school in the early hours of the morning with our suitcases ready to board the coach, which would take us to Manchester Airport. We reached the airport in morning drizzle then checked in, waited for and boarded our Flybe flight. The two and a half hour trip to Milan was comfortable but we all dreaded the three hour transfer to our hotel. The hotel was traditional and warm and thankfully only three minutes walk from the slopes. After unpacking and settling into our rooms we then went for our ski fit, ready for the morning. Around the hotel the snow wasn't lacking so we looked forward to our first day of skiing.

Throughout the week we experienced many different conditions thanks to the changing weather. For the first two days a fog hung over the pistes but a bright clear day followed. Tuesday we saw Passo Tonale for the first time. After two days of thick fog we finally saw all the slopes and our instructors took us down lots of new slopes. On Wednesday we saw the return of the fog but now as thick as ever and the mountain was still mainly hidden. However as our group went so high up we were above the clouds where it was all clear. On the last two days the sky was clear and we got to enjoy the slopes being able to see the bottom of the pistes. Our instructor took us down our favourite slope three times just so we could see the huskies.

On the first night there was no evening activity but we had time to settle in and unpack but the next night divided into different teams and had a quiz. Together we answered many questions

on many different topics. On the third night we all took part in a town trail. We all ran around the town answering a series of questions until we arrived back at the hotel. Afterwards we all went next door to enjoy either ice cream or hot chocolate. Tuesday night was skating night and everyone put on their ice skating boots and went sliding around the ice rink. It was an enjoyable night as we even managed to get Mr Walker on the ice! On the Wednesday night we decided to taste the most loved Italian food, pizza! We all ordered our favourite and then finished with some delicious ice cream. The following night was bowling and everyone played for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. In the end Mrs Parkinson beat us all! After we had packed all our cases on the last night, we enjoyed the ski presentation and everybody was awarded with a medal; first, second and third places were awarded in each group for the timed slalom. We then enjoyed our last dinner before going to the disco which was the final night activity. The disco was a lot of fun with loud music and everyone dancing together!

Overall this year's ski trip was amazing. Passo Tonale was a great resort with good variations of snow and slopes for all levels. Plus our ski instructors were the best we have ever had! We would love to go back again and it certainly rivals the other trips we have been on.

Charlotte Allan, Giorgina Britton, Rachel Horsfield and Millie Schreiber



First Year Biology Trip to Blackpool Zoo

On Thursday 19 June the First Year travelled to Blackpool Zoo. After quick welcoming talk from Mrs Cottle in front of the giant tortoises we all went off to explore the zoo. The first section we investigated was the dinosaur safari, then the lions and tigers. The female tiger had just given birth and the zoo keeper told us all about them and showed us some pictures. We just had enough time to see the giraffes and tapirs before we hurried off to the education centre to listen to a talk on animal adaptations. Khadijah was a little bit ahead and managed to fit in seeing the elephants, camels and creepy crawlies. During the talk we were able to hold a cockroach, stick insect and stroke a snake. We then had lunch and then went to watch the sea lion presentation. The penguins, zebras, wolves, kangaroos, monkeys, lemurs and elephants were then investigated and we enjoyed learning all about their habitats and behaviour. After a long trek around the zoo we decide to go up the huge climbing frame which was quite a challenge! We then had an ice cream and a walk around the gift shop and then it was time to leave. Once we had said good bye to the giant tortoises we headed back to school. It was a beautiful sunny day and we all really enjoyed our day at the zoo.

by Catherine Coffey 1Y



Nice, Côte d'Azur 2014

Touching down in sun-kissed Nice on a Sunday morning may sound heavenly to you, shivering over here in England. But after a semi-hysterical trip from school to Liverpool airport at 3:30 am, a group of KGS French students weren't quite so sure...

Faced with the somewhat daunting prospect of a week staying with a French-speaking family, the doubts seemed endless:

"What if I forget all my French?"

"What if they don't like us?"

And, halfway through our take-off:

"Are we still on the ground?"

(The latter was admittedly not my finest moment, but I shall blame it on sleep-deprivation).

Upon arriving in Nice, we shed our woolly jumpers and donned our sunglasses. One could almost pretend that it was a holiday...

A mere half-hour later, we met a representative from France Langue (the language school through which the trip was organised), and, one by one, we were collected by members of our host families, the Fifth Year pupils in pairs and the Sixth Formers on their own.

One week on, returning to the airport was tinged with sadness. After an exhausting and eventful week of lessons, trips around the city (including visits to every boulangerie along the way) and day-trips further afield (of which our excursion to Monaco was probably the highlight for me) we were all very sad to be saying goodbye to the place that we felt we had grown to know so well. Having to find our own way to France Langue each morning and walking home from the centre of Nice each evening, I grew impossibly fond of the beautiful city (upon returning, my enthusiasm was infectious enough to persuade my parents to organise a trip to Nice this summer so I can give them a tour!), and I honestly believe that our week gave us the most authentic experience of life in the South of France that a tourist could hope to find! Our lessons at France Langue were really useful

and entertaining – our teacher Greg looked on with amusement and polite bemusement as we carried out the tasks he set us – not only lessons in class but activities like visiting the local vegetable market and speaking to

nothing. Dinner-times were the highlight of each day for me, and by our final night we managed to sustain an hour-long discussion, which felt like a real achievement!

We returned home slightly sadly, full of cake and with our purses slightly lighter (in my case,

probably because of all the cake...), but nonetheless satisfied that we had made the most of our week. Many, many thanks are due, for one of the most interesting and enjoyable weeks of my life. On a personal note, thanks are due to the Antipas family for all their hospitality and warmth, and their general helpfulness (and excellent cooking!).

On behalf of everyone who went, I would like to give thanks to everyone at France Langue for their friendliness and for organising such a



wonderful experience, most notably to Greg and our guide Jean-Seb for all their help. Also, to all the other host families, who everyone bonded with immensely, and who I'm sure we will be keeping in touch with!

Many thanks to Mr Wheatland (for the chocolate churros but also for putting up with a group of teenage girls and our incessant teasing for a week). And most of all, thanks to Mlle Vicquelin, for keeping us all sane and putting up with having to eat chicken four nights in a row in order to keep us company, but, more importantly, for all of her hard work in organising such a valuable experience, which has vastly increased our knowledge of the French culture and language. C'était une semaine inoubliable!

Spending our time with a French family was fascinating, and I was really taken by surprise by how easily we connected with the Antipas family, our hosts. Conversation flowed easily, with gentle encouragement from the family when we forgot a word or had to resort to exaggerated hand-gestures to explain what we were trying to say! We were very quickly put at ease and I could not help but think that all my worrying had been for

Grace Cook

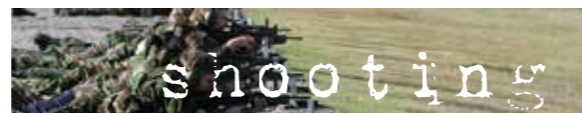


news

CCAF

Since the last newsletter the CCF has completed a very successful Field Day at Halton near Lancaster when our Year 4 cadets had the opportunity to fire on an army range and complete an army obstacle course. Some of them also discovered just how wet some of the fiendish initiative exercises can be! Our next field day, at nearby Weeton Barracks promises to be even more exciting with the chance to fire the full bore cadet A2 rifle as well as to try the massive army DCCT video range simulator. We even have an inflatable obstacle course provided by the army to further challenge the cadets.

Beyond the field day our focus is now moving quickly to the annual CCF summer camp which will be held at Wathgill near Catterick, and the RAF cadet camp which will be held at RAF High Wycombe near London. Both camps promise to be both exciting and exhausting and at the end of them all the CCF cadets and staff can have a well-deserved rest over the summer. That is all except Cpl Sophie Warden who plans to attend the prestigious but very demanding Air Cadet Leadership Course at RAF Cranwell straight after the RAF camp. We all wish her good luck!



CCF shooting this year has been excellent, due mainly to the cadets themselves. As mentioned earlier in the year, we had great success at the North West Cadet Skill At Arms Competition at Altcar back in September. Joe Teasdel took best CCF cadet in the North West of England, followed closely by Anna Shackleton in second place. The B Team also won one of the five prestigious trophies, namely 'The Marling'. Moving from the large cadet rifle to the old wooden no.8 rifle, we entered two postal competitions, shooting them from January through to April. The first was the 'Country Life Competition' which consisted of four different rounds, finishing with an A1 Landscape picture where a spotter had to identify the targets and explain where the firer was to aim. Every cadet enjoyed this immensely, with some fantastic scoring taking place. Last year we managed to get two teams into the top 40 in the country..... this year was a different and disappointing story. Unfortunately, the targets disappeared somewhere from within Brigade Head Quarters to the scorer. So no scores were registered. It is such a shame from all the hard work of everyone involved.

To finish on a positive note though, we entered a Territorial Army competition using the no.8's again and with some great scores once again, we finished top of the league, winning Gold medals (attached photo). Congratulations go to Charlotte Muir, Becky Ingham, Rachel Ellis and Joe Teasdel.

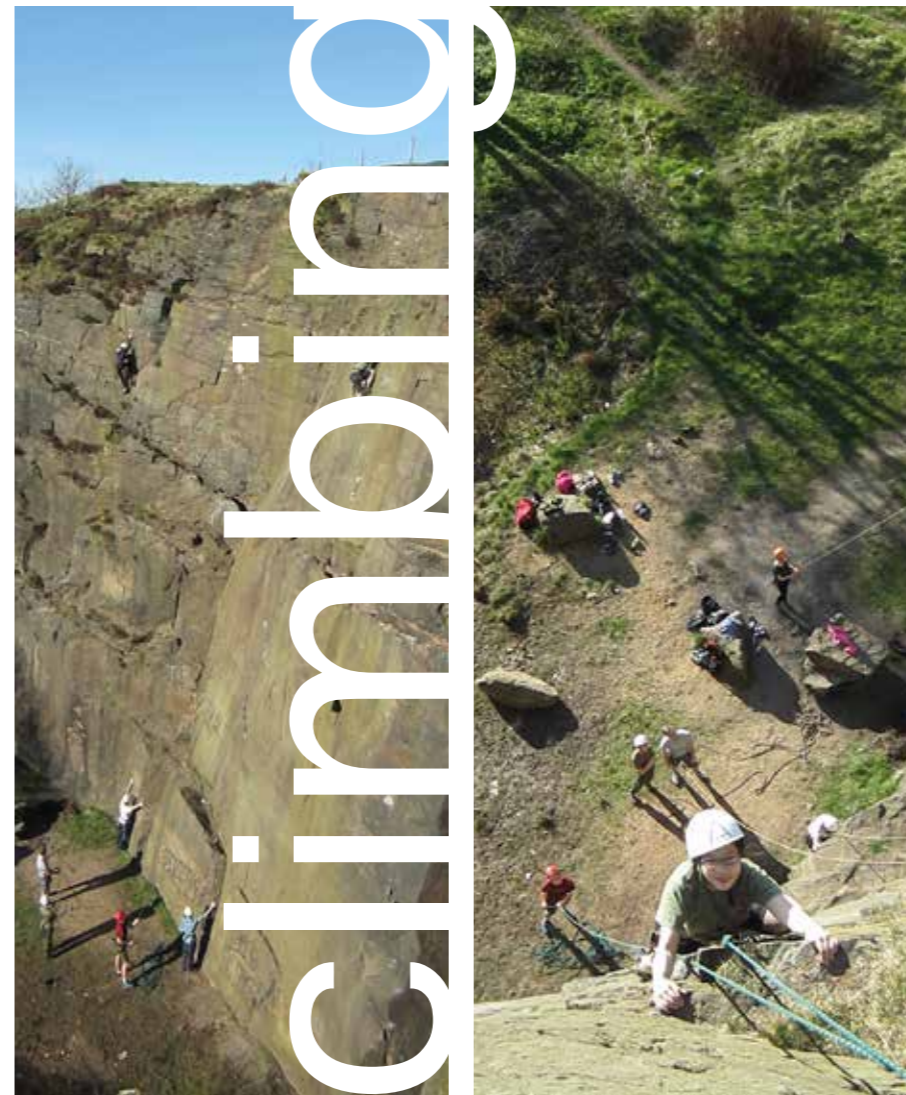
Hopefully next year we can repeat our success even though we will be losing several of our top shooters. Well done to all cadets who represented the school, and many thanks go to Major Miller for helping run the range every lunchtime for several months, so that all cadets could fire their cards. Lt. D Lloyd



Plant a poppy

As part of the Royal British Legion's campaign to commemorate the centenary of the First World War, members of Kirkham Grammar School's CCF contingent have been busy planting poppy seeds in six locations around the school site. The aim of the campaign is to cover the UK with poppies during the centenary period in commemoration of all those who lost their lives in the First World War. We hope the poppies will flower later in the year. (photo above)

The centenary of the outbreak of the war in August will mark the beginning of a hugely important national moment, one which brings schools and communities together to reflect upon the sacrifices that so many brave men and women made for us. A committee has been set up in school to plan and organise a series of events of remembrance and educational activities over the next four years. Chairman of the Commemoration Committee, Mr. Simon Duncan, said, "It is imperative to teach our pupils how the war came about, and how political alliances and rivalries could have such an impact on the lives of individual men, women and children across the world. It is also important to tell our students why this is relevant to them and how crucial it is to remember how much we owe to those who fell."



On the 19 March, four former Kirkham Grammar School students and one present Upper Sixth Former travelled to London to receive their Gold DofE Certificates. Rosie Spedding, Jacob Lewis-Leeson, Alex Wright, Liam Swithenbank and Nicole Wainwright received their certificates at St. James's Palace in the presence of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. The certificates were presented by TV presenter, Gethin Jones, he passed on this message to those receiving their awards:

"It's an absolute pleasure to be here today to present your Gold Awards. You have been on a journey of self-discovery. Many of you may have felt like giving up but you didn't. You worked hard and challenged yourself. Today is about celebrating your achievements but tomorrow is the exciting part - if you put your minds to it, you can achieve anything you want."

We wish all the above all the best as they continue with their University courses or in Nicole's case start the exciting journey.

" This Easter saw nearly 40 pupils complete their Bronze and Silver DofE Expeditions in the picturesque location of the fells above Clitheroe in the Forest of Bowland. Due to the numbers involved we actually completed two mini expeditions using the same campsite and routes over a period of four days. All the groups quickly demonstrated excellent team work and navigation skills and despite some bouts of rain all groups successfully completed their routes as planned."



RACHEL HOWARD WINS SCHOLARSHIP

Rachel Howard has won the Dickenson Poon Scholarship is worth £6,000 per annum for three years. The scholarship is open to anyone starting a Law undergraduate course at King's College, in the University of London.

The awarding body set an essay title (it was a problem concerning the relationship between Law and Ethics) Rachel submitted a 1000 word essay about two months ago. The overall standard of Rachel's University application was taken into account.

Rachel hopes to pursue a career in International Law and her undergraduate law course will include a year at an American University,



U19 Invitation Hockey

On Saturday 8 March Kirkham hosted their prestigious Annual National Invitation Tournament. Once again the competition was first class with British Colleges, Millfield Somerset, George Watson College Edinburgh and Wilmslow Cheshire battling it out and displaying a fantastic standard of hockey. The atmosphere was vibrant and the day proved to be a real spectacle of hockey once again.

Kirkham started the day with a match against Wilmslow – after a slow start Kirkham were fired up in the second half with four goals in ten minutes to win comfortably 4-0 with two goals from Kourtney Spector and two more from Taegan O’Hara and Rachel Greenwood. In the second game we took on the mighty British Colleges U19 side, this team were strong all over the pitch. In the first few minutes of the game KGS panicked and conceded an early goal which then put them on the back foot. Though our girls settled they never recovered and they were comfortably beaten 3-0 by this extremely strong side.

Millfield was our third game and once again a couple of defensive errors in the first few minutes put us on the back foot, however, KGS came back fighting, dominating long periods of the game. Just after half time Kourtney Spector put us back in the game with a super goal place beautifully in the far corner. Though we dominated Millfield had a great counter attack and scored – the final result was a 3-1 defeat. Our last game was against Scottish National champions George Watson College. The Kirkham team were determined to play with the style and the skill that they had played with all season. Hence we hit George Watson hard from the first whistle, dominating for much of the game and putting four goals past their keeper. Goals from Kourtney Spector, Rachel Greenwood, Ellie Greenhalgh and Taegan O’Hara sealed a terrific 4-0 victory.

Congratulations to all of our 1st XI for a fantastic effort in our tournament and in fact for a terrific season.

Captain Kourtney Spector, Vice Captain Kiran Bahra, Alex Hastie, Grace Reddy, Becky Ingham, Lucy Gardiner, Emily Carpenter, Sally Robinson, Ellie Greenhalgh, Rachel Greenwood, Beth Everson, Taegan O’Hara, Millie Foley, Kim Kirkham, Josie Coffey and Amelia Dalzell.



TOUR DIARY

Friday 14 February

And so it's that time.... Let's board this coach and get to Manchester airport to board our virgin jumbo jet to sunny Barbados! The girls are ready in their new kit with what looks like plenty of clothes for a week's Hockey Tour. The flight is on time and off we go! On arrival we check in and settle into our rooms.

Saturday 15 February

Game day!

We travel to the pitch to meet the Abakan National Team! Ok.... So a tough fixture to start but we like to set our standards high! It is very very hot and the girls worked hard throughout the match fighting against the heat!

Results: 1st Team Lost 4-3
2nd Team Lost 4-0
U16 Team Lost 4-2

Karaoke night - I'm not sure the hotel knows what it's in for? Twenty one singing hockey players (singing being a very loose term). You couldn't knock us down.... From Britney to Beyoncé the girls had all bases covered!

Sunday 16 February

The jeep safari - a rocky road? Three jeeps and lots of hockey players! Music blasting and the jeeps on a very rocky road.... Some laughed all the way whilst others didn't feel too clever!! A nice stop. A picturesque location for some sightseeing and lunch. Bingo night tonight, eyes down for the house with lots of prizes to be won.



Monday 17 February

Game day number 2

And so we take on the top school side on the island! Combermere School. They are fit, fast and used to the heat!! The girls cope well and manage to attack the opposition using their skills and knowledge of the game. Great leadership skills from Courtney Spector, Lottie Whittle and Beth Everson ensured victory for all three teams.

Results: 1st Team Won 7-0
2nd Team Drew 1-1
U16 Team Won 5-0

Time for our quiz night! With holiday makers wanting to join in the pressure was on Mrs Osborne and Mrs Glover to make this quiz challenging! And they didn't disappoint!!



BARBADOS TOUR 2014



Tuesday 18 February

A free day! The girls' are up nice and early to ensure they get a good spot round the pool! With a trip to the beach planned and a game of rounders the girls were entertained and still active!

We met a representative from the Barbados Hockey Association to mark us touring the island for the past 15 years.

The evening's entertainment involved each age group performing their own dance to their choice of music! They then completed various tasks which included composing their own song about the island.

Wednesday 19 February.

The girls spent the morning by the pool before leaving for our third and final game! We face the University of West Indies in a temperature of 32 degrees. All matches were fiercely contested and played with real passion

Results: 1st Team Won 6-3
2nd Team Won 2-1
U16 Team Won 2-1

In the evening we enjoyed another fantastic Karaoke evening where our girls, once again, entertained the other hotel guests.

Thursday 20 February

Time for the Catamaran Cruise - A perfect end to a perfect tour! Along the way we met various guests who were complimentary about the girls and the school!

House Cross Country is always a good way to dust off the cobwebs following the Christmas period, and this year provided the usual array of team spirit and commitment as well as some superb runs. It is always heartening to see how many members of the Houses relish the opportunity to do their bit, and all six races were fiercely contested. The boys' races were dominated by Fylde, and the junior boys' race saw Niall Higham, Ben Preddy and Nathan Wood making it a 1,2,3 for their House. In his final race, Ben Everson won the senior boys' race for Preston.

Kirkham House had the strongest team on paper for the House Shooting competition and they deservedly won the trophy that School House had won last year. There is increasing strength in depth in the school's shooting abilities, and this was very evident in this competition with all Houses scoring well. The debate final saw Preston House take on Fylde House in a close contest. With Mr Hawkes controlling proceedings the two Houses spoke with passion and were not afraid to defend their points of view, with Preston House eventually coming out as winners.

Mr Lloyd's classroom hosted the annual Maths Tournaments, and the 'Countdown' style competition was once again a thoroughly enjoyable and challenging affair. Fylde House won the 1st year competition, and Kirkham House the 2nd year competition. It was good to see the combination of enjoyment and intellectual challenge that is so often the hallmark of the House events.

The House Music Festival once again attracted

a large number of participants from all year groups across the Houses. The overall quantity of entries combined with the quality of the pieces played make this a fantastic time of year to be walking around the school. Most lunch times had House Choirs singing away, and recital rooms were highly prized. It is difficult to avoid humming a tune as you pass from lesson to lesson. The amount of work that goes into this competition is enormous, and the students and staff involved put a great deal of time and effort into making it work. The much coveted House Choir competition was once again won by Fylde, as was the overall competition, much to the dismay of some of the other Houses. The ensemble final was won by Clark Brydon, Jessica Riley, Elizabeth Brocklehurst, Elizabeth Jenkinson, Michael Lewthwaite, Julian Shield, Grady Rawlinson and Elsie Linley, and the overall individual title was won by Alexandra Clarke, playing the flute.

Kirkham House still had the strong cohort of girls that allowed them to win the Senior House Hockey competition last year, but in theory Preston House could have won the competition. Following a tremendously competitive afternoon of hockey the teamwork and skill of Kirkham House came out on top, and they regained the trophy. Fylde House came a valiant second place, which is particularly impressive as injuries forced them to play with fewer players for the majority of the tournament.

The summer term began with a very intense set of sports day prelims, but we were lucky with the weather and it was good to see so many pupils representing their Houses during the

various lunchtime competitions. Completing the majority of field events before the day itself, Sports Day was primarily focused on the track events, and despite the rainy finish, the competition was completed in its entirety.

The overall competition was won by Fylde, with a very small lead over School House of 688.5 to 681 points. Kirkham House came 3rd with Mrs John in charge for the first time, and Preston came 4th. In the individual competitions the winners were as follows:

Victor Ludorum
Junior Boys - Evan Powell (P)
Intermediate Boys - Kieran Wilkinson (S)
Senior Boys - Ben Everson (P)

Victrix Ludorum
Junior Girls - Evelyn Turner (S)
Intermediate Girls - Olivia Huyton (K)
Senior Girls - Kate Lawler (K)

The senior cricket competition saw Fylde beat School and Preston beat Kirkham in the semi-finals, with a victory for Fylde in the final, with a really strong squad mentality and appetite for the title. The senior tennis competition was unfortunately rained off this year. So, with summer term well underway and still a number of competitions to play out, the current Whitby Cup standings are:

4th position with 51.5 points.....Preston
3rd position with 66.5 points.....Kirkham
2nd position with 68 points.....School
1st position with 88 points.....Fylde





ITALY TOUR

After a long successful season the boys were ready for a jam packed and exciting week in Italy. The tour started very early at 4 am at Manchester airport. A typical lunch of pasta was waiting at the hotel when we arrived, followed by a gentle beach session before our first game of rugby.

The first game against Motelbulluna RUFC was a tough encounter despite the result. The usual big Italian forward was dominating all the set pieces of play, and on top of that the Italians play on a reduced pitch at this age group, and the fast Kirkham backs was unable to go round their opponents. KGS eventually won the game 47-17, and Evan Powell got man of the match, however full credits must go to Thomas Giles and Sam Davies for their courageous defending.

The next day, apart from soaking up the sunshine on the beach, the boys managed to have a recovery session in the sea to ice those cuts and bruises from the previous day, and to also get ready for the second game of the tour. The second game against Piave RUFC was a very similar encounter, and the KGS boys lost 33-24. The after match reception was very enjoyable for all and as usual the Italians were very generous with gifts for our boys, and the school exchange plaques with the club as well as the famous "Italian speech" by Mr Harrison.

The next two games didn't get any easier. The thrilling match against Tarvisum in which KGS battled until the last minute to win 32-29. The last match against Castlefranco was the best match for spectators. The exhausted U13 boys did not start well and gave 19 points in the first



twenty minutes. After a constructive team talk at the break, the KGS boys started to play. The opposition couldn't score and the U13's were unlucky on the line twice, being held up on both occasions. That gave the boys a lot of confidence and in the last twenty minutes KGS managed a penalty kick in front of the posts and the final score was 19-3. It was a tremendous performance from a fine Kirkham side.

Apart from playing rugby and sunbathing on the beach, the boys did manage to squeeze in some trips such as the Go-Karting and sight-seeing at Venice as well as Gardaland Theme Park. The boys were particularly excited to see the driving skills of Mr Partington and Mr Harrison, battling it out on the track.

Overall the tour was extremely enjoyable and finally the boys, staff and the school would like to thank the following people/companies for their kind contribution by way of sponsorship for the season and the Italy Tour 2014.

- St Annes Specsavers
- HalfJd Limited Engineering Design
- Honeywell Farm Shop
- Moore and Smalley Healthcare Services
- Burning Desires Fires & Fireplaces of Distinction
- Watson Specialist Shopfitting Manufacturers
- Electric Centre
- Read and Errington Gas, Heating and Renewable Energy Engineers
- Business Turnaround Group
- Choice Hotels



JUNIOR RUGBY PRESENTATION EVENING

On Friday May 2nd, KGS hosted the second junior presentation evening in the MPH. Around two hundred parents and players were in attendance to celebrate another fantastic KGS rugby season, a season that had seen an unprecedented trophy haul.

The presentation evening offers the team coaches for the U12 to U15 teams an opportunity to congratulate all their players on their season's work. Each coach also has a chance to hand out awards to the Player of the Season, most improved players and clubman, in addition to this there were representative awards for those who have played representative rugby. All the staff also took time to thank the U15 players who move from junior to senior rugby next season, this particular group have been magnificent servants to KGS junior rugby with several long runs in the Lancashire Cup and many sevens tournament wins, a specially edited video of some of the team's finest moments in the last season was shown, displaying some stunning tries which certainly pleased the large audience! There was also a raffle which was once again well supported. Sale Sharks very kindly provided some excellent prizes including a signed shirt which was won by Oliver Fearn.

Each coach had many tales to tell and successes to celebrate. Before Dr Whalley started proceedings with the U12 side all two hundred guests were served with a fish and chip supper by the KGS catering staff. To feed so many people so quickly and efficiently was a fantastic effort, every member of staff is grateful to Mrs Hodgkinson and her staff for their efforts and for their fine food! Once plates had been cleared and glasses refilled the U12 awards were handed out, Dr Whalley made reference to the huge effort levels of all the U12 squad who improved hugely through their first season in KGS colours. Mr Wu followed with the U13 report which described a highly successful season winning sixteen out of eighteen fixtures at A team level and several Sevens tournaments. Mr Wu also praised the U13B team for being an extremely competitive side on a difficult fixture list. The audience then heard how Mr Walker's U14 squad had worked tirelessly through the season to reach a Lancashire Trophy Final and win the prestigious Giggleswick 7's, the U14B

team had also achieved some notable results most impressively away at King's Macclesfield. Lastly Mr Roddam spoke of an extremely rewarding season, enjoyable and successful, with a Lancashire Cup Final appearance and no less than four Sevens trophies. The U15 season was certainly one to remember! Mr Roddam praised Dr Rollins' U15B's for winning several games but also for playing a fantastic brand of rugby.

The evening is not just about the presentations, for the only time in the year every KGS junior team is in one place. Boys and parents have a chance to socialise away from the pitch and spend time talking about their successes during the rugby season. KGS has an extremely healthy rugby section. The progression through to senior level is always enthusiastically encouraged and a huge number of boys go right through the school playing high quality fixtures every week. The link between junior and senior rugby is demonstrated by the fact that the senior players spend voluntarily their Friday evening selling raffle tickets, serving food and soft drinks and also importantly cleaning up afterwards! This is certainly appreciated by the KGS rugby staff.

Lastly, well done to every player, especially the prize winners! Also thank you to every supporter of KGS rugby, this event demonstrates the massive amount of support we receive, it is very much appreciated.



Cricket

Kirkham 1st XI v MCC
MCC 138 - 9
Kirkham 74 - 9
Match Drawn

The youngest side for many a year represented the Kirkham 1st XI against a very experienced MCC. With the MCC traditionally batting first the team, under the excellent leadership of James Seward, set about their task of restricting our visitors as best they could. Some extremely tight bowling by Sam Dugdale (2 for 37) and Bailey Harwood (3-42) throughout the day set the platform for an excellent spell by man of the match Aarin Chiekrie to take 4 wickets for 29 runs. The fielding throughout was superb and the opposition were restricted to 138 for 9.

The Kirkham innings got off to a poor start with James Dixon (England Deaf XI) removing Alex Whalley and Josh Eales without there being any score on the board. James Seward battled in his innings before receiving an unplayable ball and departing for 7. Wickets tumbled on a very slow pitch and at 22 for 5 all seemed loss. However Connor Wilkinson (31 not out) and Aaron Chiekrie (19) came together and batted superbly for 80 minutes, putting a crucial partnership of 40 together. With a few worrying overs at the end of the team, through Dugdale and Wilkinson "parked the buses" on the wicket and managed to survive some torrid bowling. At the end the MCC congratulated the team's grit and awarded Aarin Chiekrie "The Spirit of Cricket" award for the year. This was an incredibly tough match for the youngsters and one that was incredibly pleasing to witness. With Merchant Taylors' and the National 20/20 this side continue to improve.

SPORTS day



Girls Sport

Although the summer term is much shorter than others, both staff and pupils manage to cram plenty of activity into it.

With the main summer competitive sports being Athletics and Tennis we rely on some sort of decent weather to allow competition to commence.

In Tennis the girls have had both friendly fixtures and the Aegon National Tennis Competition to look forward to. We encourage as many pupils as possible to train and compete in friendly fixtures which has resulted in the majority of girls participating in some competitive Tennis this term against Westholme, AKS and Merchant Taylors'.

In the Aegon competition both the U13 and U15 squads have qualified beyond their group section and await the draw to see who we meet next.

In Athletics the girls continue to strive for top spot and hopefully achieve a place in the ESAA National Finals which are held in Bedford this year. Reaching the National Finals this year would put us on the national map for the eighth consecutive year. Reaching this level enables us to compete against the likes of Millfield, Somerset, Portsmouth Grammar and Southend High to name just a few.

In the Lancashire round KGS performed well achieving top spot in both junior and intermediate age groups. This leads us to the Regional Final to be held at Stanley Park on Tuesday, 17 June where we are hoping to compete well as a result of very thorough preparation.

In the Fylde Coast Athletics Championships we have trophies to defend in all age groups. Once again, thorough preparation and commitment from the girls will help to ensure we achieve the best results possible on the day!

It is down to the hard work and commitment of the girls that summer sport at KGS is so successful. I would also like to thank Mrs Glover, Mrs Walter, Mr Sampey and Ms Ferguson for all their hard work this term.

BOYS' SPORT

As the year comes to an end, we reflect on the sporting achievement from boys' PE. The spring term saw the boys excelling themselves in yet another very successful Sevens season. Again success was spread through the age groups. At 1st VII level the team were runners up at the National Schools Sevens at Fylde and reached the second day of the National Sevens in London. The U15's were champions at the Bolton tournament while the U14's were runners up in the Richard Wilson tournament. The U13's were also victorious at Packwood Haugh, AKS and Stonyhurst. The success was celebrated at the end of season presentation dinner. Congratulations to all concerned. The U13's and the U15's both reached the final



of the Lancashire Cup (15-a-side) whilst the U14's reached the plate final. The following pupils also represented Lancashire County U17's - Ryan Williams, Sean Marsden, Adam Joyner, James Robinson, Luke Randall, Connor Wilkinson and Connor Dever.

In the summer term although the cricket fixture programme has once again been affected by the weather, particularly at weekends, we have managed to play a reasonable number of games. At the time of writing there are still plenty of fixtures to come. There is plenty of talent in our teams and it is pleasing to see them display their skills on the cricket field.

The 1st XI is very young this year, a result of continued unavailability of players due to exam pressure but also a plan to bring on many of our talented younger players. Although this takes players away from their own teams, exposure to 1st XI cricket allows them to experience a high standard of schoolboy cricket and prepares them for tough games when they come of age. The team has struggled on in some games as a result this season, but notable wins against AKS, Merchant Taylors' School and a creditable draw against the MCC give us a glimpse of their potential. At the time of writing, there are still plenty of games to go and we hope to see further progress towards the end of term. The team has been superbly captained by James Seward, only a Fifth Year himself. His ton against Merchant Taylors' was fine reward for his efforts.

Our junior teams train and play with commendable enthusiasm, matched by their coaches and supportive parents. The U15 XI has progressed well and remains a competitive outfit. Messrs Bailey, Walton, Newby and Culver have played 1st XI this season. It is hoped that many of these players will figure in next season's outfit.

The U14 XI has also made good progress after



a shaky start. Having lost Kieran Wilkinson and Sam Dugdale to the 1st XI they have had to rebuild, but this has been achieved and they are now making sound progress.

The U13 XI is extremely talented and we have high hopes for this team. They remain in the Lancashire Cup and there will be disappointment if they do not make the latter stages. Evan Powell and Nathan Wood have represented the 1st XI this year.

The U12 XI has struggled with the demands of Senior school cricket but are starting to make progress. There is a nucleus of good players in this team so we look forward to seeing them perform as they move through the school.

Let's not forget our 'B' teams who have a small number of fixtures each year. These fixtures allow more boys to play and give the coaches a glimpse of any potential 'A' team players. Most importantly, these games give the players an opportunity to enjoy cricket and to motivate them to continue to practice and play.

