



# KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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

Headmaster's Newsletter to Parents Spring 2014



# HEADMASTER'S INTRODUCTION



It doesn't seem like seven months since my family and I moved up to Kirkham to start the new job. Once the move itself was completed, thoughts turned to preparing for the task of leading one of the best schools in the North West and all the challenges that it would bring.

The Autumn Term began with the usual whirl of exam results, success and personal milestones for our students but this time I had the task of navigating my way round a new school, both physically and administratively and the fact that my introduction to life here at KGS was made relatively straightforward is, in no small part, down to the welcome and help I received from the KGS staff and the wider community.

The summer break is always the busiest time for the support staff and they were at full stretch with site works, repairs and renovations. I must thank the Bursar and her team for all their efforts ahead of this academic year.

Early on in September I had the enviable task of presenting the Headmaster's report at Speech Day in the Preston Guild Hall. The opportunity to address a full auditorium as a new Headmaster is a rare pleasure and the entire evening was one I will remember. News of impending changes to the ownership of the Guild Hall shouldn't change our routine for next September and hopefully those in authority will secure the venue for the future as it is such an important centre for regional arts and events. It was a strange experience because though I wrote the report, I was very aware that I was celebrating the success amassed under the leadership of Doug Walker and it is to him that I owe the largest debt of thanks. To take over a school in fine shape with so much to build upon is indeed a privilege and it is down to Doug's tenure that KGS can be rightly proud of all the personal and collective achievements mentioned that evening in September and written about here in the newsletter.

But nature abhors a vacuum so we have much to do and you as parents will see changes to teaching and learning over the next academic year, some of which will be 'behind the scenes' but nonetheless vital to our future provision and improvement in all curriculum areas. There will be more on this in due course so do please keep an eye on the website and of course our new and flourishing social media sites.

Looking back at last term, I have been enormously impressed by the way our pupils embrace the KGS ethos whole heartedly. To report on exam results from last summer where A Level results showed a 99% pass rate and our A\* to C pass rate of 86% is our best to date. Over a third of all A-levels sat achieved an A\* or an A with two thirds achieving an A\* to B. These combined with GCSE results were nearly half of all examinations sat we graded A\*A and 94% of all our pupils achieved 5 or more passes is extremely pleasing and shows what academic potential

we have in the school. When you combine this with the plethora of extra-curricular success our pupils gain here, it is clear that we have an environment that lends itself to personal and collective achievement.

At the time of writing I am delighted to report on an impressive list of Upper Sixth Formers with offers from their first choice University and this includes three pupils with Oxbridge offers, as well as a whole host of others with offers from leading universities in their chosen fields. As a year group I hope they will set the standard this summer for the year below and that younger pupils look to them and see what can be achieved with hard work and determination. The world of education is changing and it is incumbent upon all schools to prepare their pupils not just for higher education but for the world of work and here at KGS we have a vibrant and flourishing careers department where all our pupils have access to advice, work experience and careers analysis. It is something that will need to grow in the future as education becomes more diverse beyond secondary school level.

Starting at a new school gives you the opportunity to see things with fresh eyes and I am delighted to report that KGS is, as you will read in this newsletter, flourishing in all areas. Our academic success is there for all to see and we remain the envy of many schools when they look at our sporting prowess. Our music and performing arts continue to produce incredible talent at all levels and our extra-curricular programme is as good as any school in the region. Kirkham Grammar School is a vibrant all-through school and it is important that I mention just how successful our Junior School is as well.

Every Winter Term sees new arrivals at school and we were pleased to welcome our First Year pupils and Lower Sixth pupils. We also welcomed new members of staff who joined our ranks. Mr Ferguson joined the Biology Department as Head of Biology, Miss Crook joined the Music Department as Director of Music. Mrs Latham took over the Library as Academic Librarian and Mr Eagle joined the D&T Department as the new DT Technician.

I hope you enjoy the Newsletter and I must take this opportunity to thank Fran James and Simon Gardiner for their efforts in producing the publication.

*Barbara Robotham*



## Professor Barbara Robotham (1936 – 2013)



The school community was greatly saddened to learn of the death, aged 77, of Professor Barbara Robotham, who served as a governor for 30 years, attending her last Governors' meeting only two days before her death, at the end of a long and brave struggle with illness.

Barbara was closely connected to KGS, having married an Old Kirkhamian Eric Waite (brother of long-serving governor John Waite), and her son Jonathan was a pupil at KGS from 1977 to 1984 (photo below right features Barbara with Eric and John at the opening of the Barbara Robotham Music Centre).

Barbara Joyce Robotham was educated at the Collegiate School for Girls in Blackpool. While still there she sang with Blackpool Girls' Choir and was noticed by Sir David Willcocks, who advised her to make singing her career. She studied at the Royal Manchester College of Music, where she won several prizes, including the Imperial League of Opera and the coveted Curtis Gold Medal. She sang several operatic roles while at the RCM, and also worked at Aldeburgh with Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears. She refused, however, to let opera take her over and was much in demand for choral works such as Verdi's Requiem and Elgar's The Dream of Gerontius. She soon discovered, however, that teaching was her true calling, and therefore abandoned her own highly successful career as a mezzo-soprano to become an inspirational singing teacher.

She matched the hard work and self-discipline of her pupils with equal dedication, advising them on roles they were singing long after they had left college. In 1974 she became Professor of Voice at Lancaster University, then joined the staff of the Royal Northern

College of Music (successor to the Royal Manchester) in 1979, becoming Principal Lecturer in 1995. She retired from her full-time role in 1999, thereafter teaching at the RNCM several days a week. Among her last commitments was a day of song based on Britten, on whom she gave a master class.

Barbara was appointed as a Governor of KGS in 1982, and proved to be a loyal, dedicated and valued member of the Governing Body, who took a keen interest in all aspects of the life and work of the school, and especially in its musical and cultural activities. She served a term as Chair of Governors, and gave a memorably inspirational address as a Guest Speaker at Speech Day in the Guildhall in 1999, the School's 450th anniversary year. At the time of

her death, she was still Chair of the Curriculum and Pupil Affairs Committee, a group she had led for many years with great insight and wisdom.

She encouraged the growth and success of music in the school in recent years, and only months before she died, she delighted in attending the opening of the new Music Centre (photo above and below) which bore her name, and which was opened by her protégée, the soprano Lynne Dawson (photo above). To see a dedicated set of music rooms in the heart of the old school buildings was truly a dream fulfilled for her, and the Recital Hall is now graced by her grand piano, which she bequeathed to the school on her death.

A R Long



# OLDKIRKHAMIAN'S ASSOCIATION



## OLD KIRKHAMIAN'S V ANTI-ASSASSINS

This was the seventh time KGS had hosted the biennial rugby fixture between the Old Kirkhamians XV and the Anti-Assassins XV. The game once again produced a very high standard of entertaining rugby in which the first half saw the OKAs run in a series of well worked tries including two by Mr Roddham 1st XV and U15 Rugby Coach (photo left) whilst the second half was a more even affair with a number of OKAs playing for the Anti-Assassins.

The match has done much to raise funds both for the AAs charity and the Myfanwy Townsend Melanoma Research Fund ([www.melanoma-fund.co.uk](http://www.melanoma-fund.co.uk)). The AA's charities support disabled and disadvantaged children around the country while the Myfanwy Townsend Melanoma Trust assists in research against this terrible disease.

Played in memory of Old Kirkhamian Bruce Craven, who tragically died of melanoma in 2005, the fixture attracts players from all over the North of England. Kirkham Grammar has a proud tradition of rugby and numbers amongst its old pupils such luminaries as Richard Wigglesworth, Kieran Brookes, Kieran Marmion, Richard de Carpentier and many others involved in the National Leagues. The Anti-Assassins meanwhile draw widely from players throughout the North of England and play in a number of exhibition fixtures, often against old boys' teams.

A large crowd consisting of Old Kirkhamians, AAs, officials, players' families and friends all contributed to a very warm atmosphere on a cold winter's afternoon. The after-match tea and coffee, along with drinks at the bar, went down very well as old friends re-acquainted themselves.



### Young Kirkhamians Christmas gathering

A wonderful Christmas reunion was held at the Grapes Inn, Wrea Green, on Monday 23 December. All who attended had a great time and it was lovely to hear the tales of university courses, academic achievements, new interests, gap years, sports highlights, the beginnings of lifelong careers and the like, but most of all it was wonderful to see the KGS family enjoying their Christmas get together.

## Where are they now?

### Tristan Brooke KGS 2002-2007

Profession: Actor  
AS Subjects: Art & Design, Drama, English Literature. AS Subject: French  
After KGS Sixth Form: London Drama Centre



Tristan was a true all-rounder at school, juggling the demands of representing the First Fifteen at rugby with those of taking lead roles in the School's annual Shakespeare production, including a memorable lead in "Romeo and Juliet" in 2006. After school, he studied at the London Drama Centre, and has since appeared in a variety of stage roles, most recently at Bolton's Octagon Theatre, where he is currently appearing in "Hobson's Choice".

### Joanne Box KGS 1999-2006

A2 Subjects: Biology, Chemistry, English Literature, French, Mathematics.  
After KGS Sixth Form: Cambridge University (New Hall) and completed an LLM at Harvard Law School.  
Degree course: Law



Joanne was involved in virtually every aspect of school life during her time at KGS, and was particularly prominent in debating, a clear indication of her future career direction. She studied a broad range of subjects, and retained a keen involvement in sport (hockey) and CCF right through her time in the Sixth Form. After studying at Cambridge and then Harvard, she is now a barrister at Brick Court Chambers, London specialising in commercial litigation, arbitration and intellectual property law.

## Old Kirkhamians Rugby Honours

- |                       |                                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Richard Wigglesworth  | England Squad for the Six Nations |
| Daniel Bibby          | England Sevens Squad 2013/2014    |
| Kieran Brookes        | England Saxons Squad              |
| Kieran Marmion        | Irish Rugby Squad for Six Nations |
| Phil Cringle          | Scotland U20                      |
| John Windle           | Lancs U20                         |
| Richard de Carpentier | Worcester Warriors                |
| Matt Parr             | London Irish                      |
| Brett Wilson          | Nottingham                        |
| Glen Townson          | Bristol                           |
| Andy Kyriacou         | Cardiff Blues Coach               |



### Whole school Sponsored Walk in support of Alastair Carter - update

As reported in the last edition of the newsletter, the whole school community undertook a 20 kilometre sponsored walk in support of Alastair Carter (KGS 2001 - 2008), who had been the victim of a hit and run accident whilst cycling, leaving him substantially paralysed and in need of significant adaptations to his home and other specialist equipment in order to resume an independent life and his job in the IT industry.

We are pleased to report that the final total raised by the walk was a remarkable £12,000, and we were delighted that Alastair visited school on the last full day of term in July to speak in full assembly and thank pupils and Old Kirkhamians for their efforts on a hit and run accident whilst cycling, leaving him substantially paralysed and in need of significant adaptations to his home and other specialist equipment in order to resume an independent life and his job in the IT industry. They are pictured here with Head of Sixth Form Adrian Long.



# BROADER HORIZONS





Find us on:

facebook  
twitter  
flickr

The school now has further developed its social media streams with many departments having their own twitter accounts running alongside KGS's main twitter feed. In addition we have a Facebook page and flickr photography gallery with all the latest news to compliment the school's website. Access all feeds from:

<http://www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/social-media-links>



Artists and photographers in the Lower Sixth undertook a one day Field Trip to Manchester as part of their AS Art & Design course. The trip included visiting the Northern Quarter, the City Art Gallery and various architectural areas of interest.

The Sixth Form artists and photographers are now working on researching material for their five day trip to Rome in early April. Material for this trip will go towards their examination and coursework units with their work being on display in the art rooms and in the next newsletter.



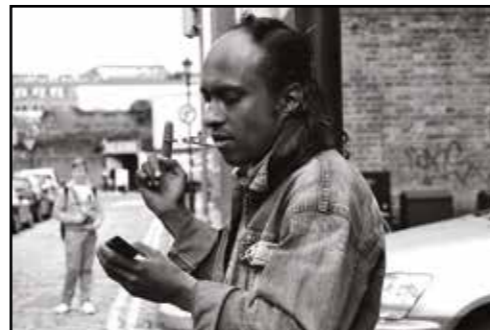


**MMXIV**

# photography portfolio



GCSE artists and photographers in the Fifth Year visited London as part of their Art & Design course. The one day dash down to the capital was spent on Brick Lane, Spitalfield Market and on the South Bank by the Town Hall. Students have intergrated their photographs into their coursework with some work due to feature in their forthcoming GCSE Exhibition. The work featured on these pages are by Georgia Ansell and Monica Pastor who wish to continue photography at A-level.





I am sure I speak for all the students and staff when I say that getting up in order to be at school for four o'clock in the morning was definitely the most challenging part of the trip! Plus, for the more superstitious, flying on Friday 13 provided a sense of disquietude to add to the inevitable apathetic torpor.

Having arrived at Manchester Airport with a coach full of sleepy Third, Fourth and Fifth Form students, we checked in and headed for the shops before boarding the plane. At eight o'clock, we were airborne and heading for Germany. Excitement was in the air, quite literally, as, for many, this was their first school trip abroad; however, a lot of people took this two hour flight as an opportunity to catch up on their forfeited sleep!

Touch down. A thick body of fog layered the ground resulting in a rather surprising landing. We alighted and began the trip through Berlin-Schönefeld Airport. Before we had even left the building, we were already surrounded by German signs and speakers, as one might expect, and I overheard numerous people pointing at signs and giving their best attempt at a fairly literal translation.

From the airport, a short tour through the centre of Berlin led us to our hotel for the weekend. We were staying in the very heart of political Berlin, with the Reichstag and the Brandenburg Gate (photo above) just a two-minute-walk away. Such a prime location meant we got a whistle-stop tour of some of the key tourist spots just from the coach on the way to the hotel!

We dropped our bags off at our hotel and headed for Hauptbahnhof, the central railway station in Berlin, in which there are many shops. We were given an hour or so to ourselves to get some lunch. Some were venturesome and went to an obscure German café and ordered 'auf Deutsch'; others settled for a very typically continental McDonald's... Dare I say that "Sprechen Sie Englisch?" became one of the most spoken phrases of the weekend!

Successfully stimulated by our 'German' cuisine, we walked from the station to the Reichstag building. Unfortunately, due to a long waiting list, we couldn't go in but we certainly admired the stateliness and grandeur that the building beholds, also taking a group photograph with the Reichstag (photo top far right) as the background! Its history is also most compelling: an arson attack on the Reichstag building on 27 February 1933 rendered the building severely damaged and the event is seen as pivotal in the establishment

of Nazi Germany. From a personal point of view, I found walking through the grounds in front of the Reichstag very surreal because I have a healthy interest in the battle in Berlin. I had only ever seen filmic recreations of the final steps to the Communist capturing of the Reichstag, but being there in person felt most palpable.

Walking from the Reichstag to the Brandenburg Gate, one crosses the old boundary of the Berlin Wall. Where the wall no longer stands, there runs a line of cobbled bricks marked with, "Berliner Mauer 1961-1989." As someone who has no first-hand experience of pre-unified Germany, I simply cannot comprehend what a significant feat it is to cross between the divisions of Berlin without the impediment of the Wall. On our travels, I saw many crossing the territorial demarcation without a thought; however, I could not help but feel that it should be considered a privilege to be able to do so, considering the country's modern history. Similar sentiments also applied to passing beneath the Brandenburg Gate: a conspicuous symbol of a divided city.

Just down the road from the Brandenburg Gate is the Holocaust Memorial site (Photo below). It is a place of remembrance for the Jewish victims of the Holocaust. As I walked through the stelae, I felt my surroundings get more and more enclosed and the further in I got, the more detached from humanity I felt. The whole sculpture aims to represent a supposedly ordered system that has lost touch with human reason. We spent a few minutes at



the memorial, not only walking through it, but also looking for the entrance to the attached museum which was hidden on the other side of the memorial! As a group, we walked through the museum, taking the time to read about the persecution of the Jewish peoples. It is clear that Berlin, and Germany as a whole, accepts the guilt of the war and is evidently very apologetic and deals with the remembrance very seriously.

Afterwards we were given some time for ourselves in a nearby shopping complex where we were all given a chance to practise our German in practical situations. It's the basics which are drilled into you, for example, transactions in shops and ordering something from a menu. Berliners, however, do have an inconvenient skill of recognising foreigners. For example without saying a word to the cashier, you approach them and they ask, "Hello, how are you?" It's most frustrating when you're trying to improve your own German!

Soon the city was shadowed with darkness and night fell. The weather was cold enough in the daytime and would only get colder (unfortunately, there was no snow!). We headed back to the hotel, via a traditional German Christmas Market, the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag. These, might I add, look even more august lit up in the night! We got back to the hotel, had tea and went to our rooms. It was the end of a very busy day and we needed as much rest as possible for the day after!

6am. Another harsh awakening. But it certainly was worth it! Fuelled with a

continental-style breakfast, we departed from the hotel and went on a frosty morning walk to the DDR Museum. Located right on the banks of the River Spree in the East of the city, it shows daily life in East Berlin (Deutsche Demokratische Republik). Our very helpful museum tour guide, Edo, made the experience very interesting and gave an insightful look into the day-to-day lives of East Berliners.

From here, we had a quick look in the Berlin Cathedral before heading to Alexanderplatz to experience a real German Christmas Market by day. In every direction there were stalls selling Bratwürste and other stereotypical German foods, all of which were shadowed by the tall Fernsehturm. How one cannot sample such German delicacies when in Germany, I do not know, because they were extremely delectable indeed!

A U-Bahn ride away was Kaiser Wilhelm's Church, a church which was damaged in a bombing raid in 1943. We went inside the new building, adjacent to the old, and took this opportunity to have a well-deserved rest; we had been on our feet for about six hours. On the other hand, I, as an organist, chose to

fog resulting in a rather anticlimactic view of the night time Berlin cityscape, only being able to make out hazy lights in the distance.

Back on terra firma, we caught the U-Bahn back to Hauptbahnhof and back to the hotel. Whilst I am on the topic of the trains, I feel as if I must point out that the transport system in Germany is exceptionally efficient. Many may joke about it; however, I really could not believe the accuracy of the timetables: if it said a train was due in three minutes, a train arrived three minutes later! This came as a shock to most of us as, in Britain, one rounds up the estimation to the nearest hour! We arrived back at the hotel at about ten o'clock that night, having left at eight in the morning. Another day over; another exciting day ahead.

Day Three. Our final full day in Berlin. We were granted a later morning rise, breakfasting at nine o'clock. Another visit to Hauptbahnhof saw us get the train to Warschauer Straße. This is where part of the Berlin Wall remains standing and has been divided into sections with artists commissioned to paint onto the Wall. The paintings, here, at the East Side Gallery document a time of change and

were rolling, I thought that I was then about to go home! It soon dawned on me that I was miles away in a different country! Leaving the cinema, we caught the start of a film premiere show in the atrium of the Sony Centre.

As night rolled in, we took another train to a 50's American-style diner, cunningly entitled "Route 66". On offer were such dishes as spare ribs, chicken wings and enchiladas - all very typically German, of course! Later that evening, we had some more free time in another German market. Some of us elected to go on the Ferris wheel and, as the sky was clearer than when we were up the Fernsehturm, we got a brilliant view of the city. Back to the hotel, we went, for the final time!

The last day. Rising at the crack of dawn, we packed our bags ready for later and headed for the Hackesche Höfe, a rather bizarre courtyard complex filled with unusual shops and museums in an art nouveau style. One can buy lots of small, memorable tourist items here, perfect for buying gifts for friends and family at home!

After browsing through some of the interesting shops, we reconvened for a quick bite to eat before heading back on the train



gaze in awe at the grand set of pipes the organ boasts in the new church!

As a service was about to start, we left the church and went to the internationally famous KaDeWe shopping centre, second largest only to Harrods in London. This reminded me very much of Jenners in Edinburgh; the type of items on sale and the way the store was laid out seemed very familiar to me! Again we faced the problem of being recognised as English speakers!

After some shopping, we went to "Der Alte Fritz", our dining place for the evening. This time, I'm being deadly serious when I say the food was typically German! Post-food, we then made the short walk to the Fernsehturm. Thankfully, the lift was working; otherwise we would have to have scaled the 203 metres up to the observation deck on foot! The lift got us there in just 50 seconds. Despite the weather being glorious for the entire trip so far, sadly it let us down that evening, with low cloud and

express the euphoria and great hopes for a better, free future for all people of the world. It is possibly the largest and longest-lasting open air gallery in the world.

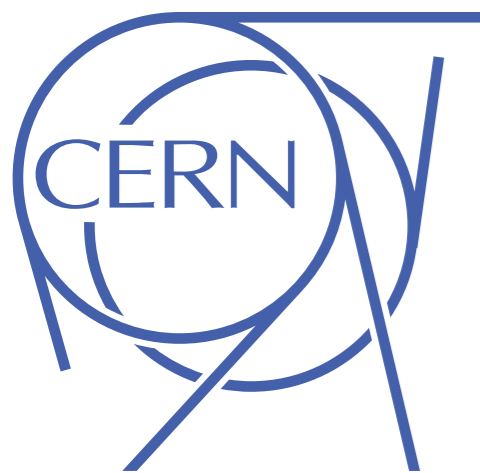
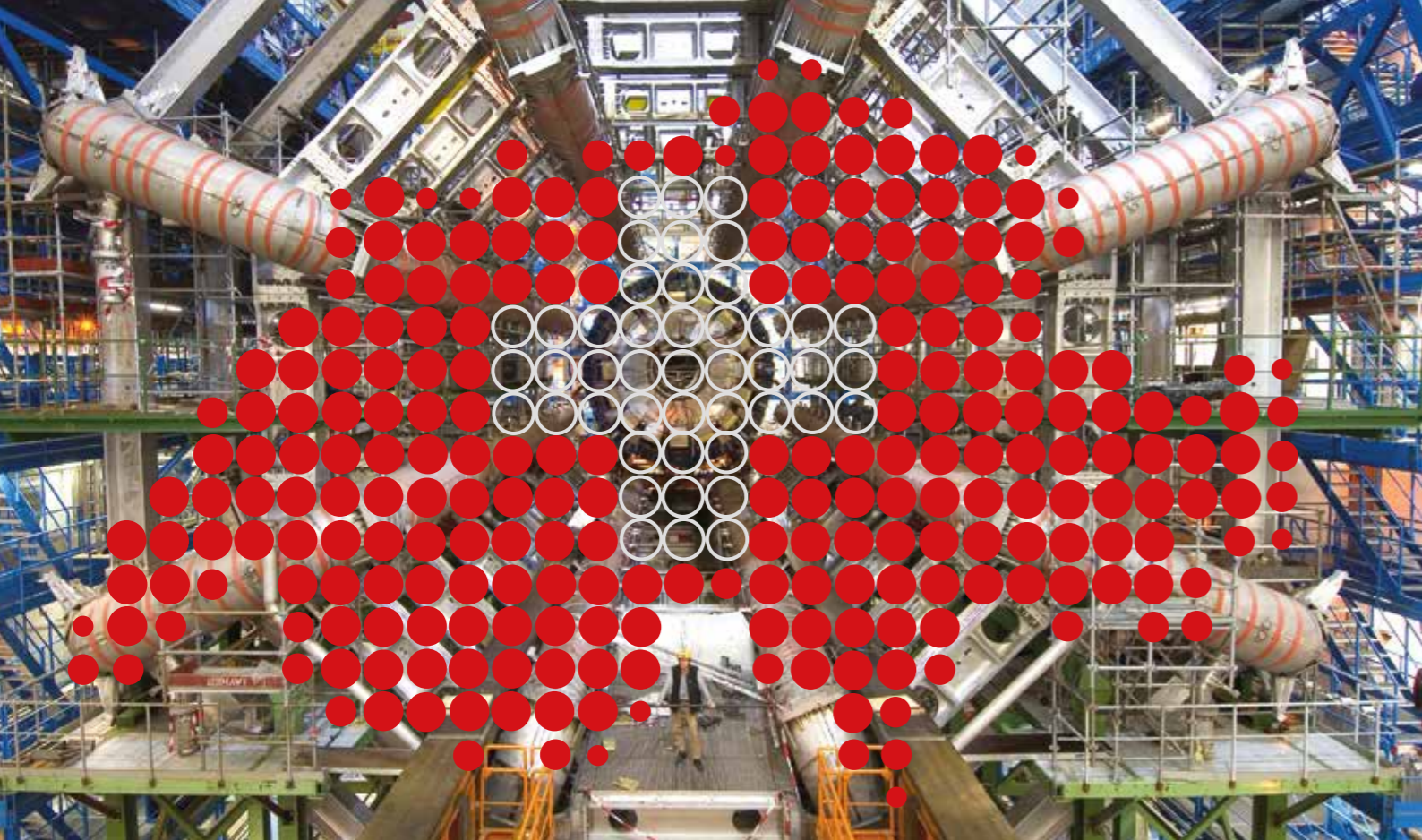
The point I made before about simply being able to walk over the boundary is made even more poignant with the wall physically there in front of you. The thought running through many a person's mind was the small, insignificance of the remainder of the Wall. However, one ought to remember that during the years of division, there would have been armed guards and a 'no man's land'. Even though we could simply cross the boundary at breaks in the wall that certainly was not possible a few decades ago.

After lunch at the nearby train-station-come-shopping-complex, another train away was the Sony Centre at Potsdamer Platz. Here, we watched a film at the large cinema complex within the building. As the film was in English, I forgot we were in Berlin and, when the credits

to the hotel to collect our bags. Completing our arrival journey in reverse, we got back on the coach to the airport. It certainly was a forlorn journey past the now-familiar buildings; however, all good things have to come to an end. We arrived at the airport to be greeted with an hour or so delay. Nevertheless, the duty free allowed for any last minute shopping to be undertaken before jetting back home to good, ol' Blighty.

We arrived back at school on Monday evening, exhausted but full of stories and much more confident in spoken German. May I take this opportunity, on behalf of all the students, to thank the members of staff involved and especially Mrs Parr for all of her hard work in organising the whole trip, which proved to be utterly enjoyable as well as enhancing of our German knowledge. Thank you for one exceptionally phenomenal weekend!

Clark Brydon



It was early Monday morning in half term; the dawn had not yet come and the sky was clear and crisp. Fourteen students and two staff stood waiting in the cool morning air, their excitement palpable. They had been waiting all year for this day to come. Finally the day had arrived. They were about to board the minibus which would take them on the journey of a lifetime, a voyage of adventure and of discovery, a journey which would take them right into the very heart of the universe, which would allow them to glimpse at the beginning of time and which would bring them face to face with the very people that sit right on the cutting edge of human endeavour and discovery. They were going on a journey to Cern!

At this point it is probably worth elaborating on what Cern is in case there are readers among you who are not familiar with cutting edge of particle physics research. Cern, or the Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire (or European Council for Nuclear Research in English) is a village on the Franco-Swiss border which sits atop the greatest achievement in human engineering ever constructed: a 27km tunnel underneath France and Switzerland

which houses the largest particle accelerator ever created by mankind, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). It is capable of accelerating particles to 99.9999% the speed of light and colliding them together in massive detectors, the size of large houses, in order to discover new particle physics and to reconstruct the conditions of the early universe a few billionths of a second after the Big Bang. It is both our window to the beginning of time (quite literally) and a machine which will usher in a new dawn in particle physics. In short, it's really cool and quite exciting!

The students were about to take a two hour flight to Geneva for the purpose of touring the Large Hadron Collider and spirits were high. The discussion on the bus was, of course, all physics related as the pupils discussed new theories of particle physics, the Higgs Boson, antimatter and supersymmetry. They were also taking the opportunity to brush up on their French which they thought they might need in Geneva.

As the group approached the security gate at the airport Mr. Wheatland dispensed advice on how to get through the scanners without setting them off, he removed his shoes and his belt, emptied his pockets of all metal objects and ensured that his group of students did the same. One by one they filed through the scanner, failing to set it off because they'd followed his advice so well, so it was with confidence that finally he approached fully expecting to waltz straight through and to continue the journey. He walked up to the gate, stepped into the scanner and "BING" off it went. The students were rapturous in their laughter as Mr. Wheatland was scanned by hand and frisked. This was not something he was going to live down for the rest of the trip. The rest of the flight was without issue and the group finally arrived at Geneva airport, collected their travel passes for the Geneva public transport system and, after a quick search for the correct train, (including some excellent French speaking by Mr Wheatland asking for directions), they boarded the train

and were on their way into the city. The hotel turned out to be excellent and the students were soon unpacked and ready and raring to explore their surroundings. Led by Miss Honnor and Mr Wheatland the group set out from the hotel on a mission to explore, to discover the best bits of Geneva and to finally get to grips with the public transport system, which by the end of the trip the group leaders were pros at navigating!

The first afternoon in Geneva consisted of a tour of the beautiful city centre. The group took in the wonderful architecture, the spectacular views across lake Geneva, the incredibly impressive fountain that constantly shoots a jet of water around 100 ft into the air, and rather a lot of coffee. By the time the evening came they had thoroughly explored all of the Starbucks' branches in Geneva centre and were more than ready for their evening meal.

The group was free to choose their own eating establishment that night and many chose the delights of the local McDonald's. However, one group of Upper Sixth Formers chose to eat in a rather nicer restaurant where they could put their best French to the test. The best French of the trip was spoken by James Penrose when he ordered his meal by telling the waiter, 'Je suis pizza' (I am pizza). Despite the initial confusion of the waiter and George Allison's failed attempts to engage the attractive women on an adjacent table in conversation everyone got what they wanted and the evening went swimmingly.

Since the trip couldn't all be scientific we felt that taking in some cultural sights was high on our list of priorities, so the plan for day two was to visit the majestic UN Palais des Nations, the headquarters of the UN in Europe. As the group approached the huge entrance to the Palais they were met by a security guard who explained that the group leader had to pass through security (and more of those blasted metal detectors), collect the tickets and then return to the group. After some more binging, frisking and queuing on Mr Wheatland's part

the group was admitted and began their guided tour of one of the most impressive pieces of architecture in the city.

It is not only the outside of the UN Palais des Nations that is impressive; everywhere you look inside you will find some exquisite artwork donated by one of the member states of the UN, from the thick, hand woven carpets which adorn the floor to the imposing but intricately carved iron doors which mark your entrance into a chamber. From beautiful artworks and sculptures, from all corners of the world to a ceiling from Spain that made one of the conference rooms look like the inside of a multi-coloured cavern complete with stalactites which seemed to glow in all the colours of the rainbow.

The guide was extremely knowledgeable about the activities of the UN and about the Palais itself. The group left feeling like part of a brotherhood of man, safe in the knowledge that all our leaders are working together for the betterment of humanity.

After the Palais was scheduled the 'Cruise of the Mermaid'; a spectacular boat tour around the Geneva side of the lake. The air was cool, the wind swept through the hair of the students as The Mermaid cut its way majestically through the waves on Lake Geneva. The beauty of the city was far more apparent from this vantage point. All of the architecture, all of the greenery and all of the sights were clearly visible as the

ensued as the pupils realised what happens when two rather large physics egos collide on the battlefield of academia! The pupils went to bed that night feeling like they had been enlightened, educated and that they were thoroughly prepared for the adventure that lay ahead tomorrow.

The pupils woke up excited. Indeed, most of them had been so excited all night that they hadn't been able to sleep. This was especially apparent with Rob Lavelle and George Allison who had to be dragged out of their beds five minutes before the group was due to depart for Cern because they'd turned off their alarm and gone back to sleep instead of getting up on time. The trip leaders were unimpressed but the group still managed to catch their bus and arrived at the Cern visitors centre bang on time.

The tour began with an enlightening talk on the activities taking place at Cern, given by a top physicist. They were told that Cern accelerated particles around a 27km accelerator ring in order to collide them at four detector sites, ATLAS, ALICE, LHCb and CMS. They learned that the particle beam is persuaded to move in a circular path by incredibly strong superconducting magnets and that the physics and engineering skill that has had to go into building the LHC has advanced both physics and engineering techniques across the globe. To those who question the benefit of large, incredibly expensive physics experiments like

the LHC our lecturer listed just some of the things it has given back to the world including: educating generations of physicists; boosts to the economies of the member states because the people who work there still need chairs, lightbulbs, paper etc; new breakthroughs in accelerator physics which has made advanced medical techniques in fighting cancer possible and above all the internet, which wouldn't exist but for Cern.

The students were then whisked off to see the ATLAS detector, where the search for the famous Higgs Boson has been taking place. Peter Higgs was awarded the Nobel Prize for physics in 2013 for his theoretical predictions. The pupils enjoyed seeing real physicists at work on cutting edge physics before being shown to the magnet hall.

From the outside the magnet hall did not look like much, it was just a large drab grey warehouse which wouldn't have looked out of place on any industrial estate in the world. From the inside, however, it was a treasure trove of wonder and amazement for physicists and physics students alike. Spare parts of the LHC adorned the walls and floor spaces. Huge particle accelerator testing devices stood like giant sentinels in the centre of the building, their lights flashing tantalisingly, their readouts displaying what looked like a foreign language of units and numbers (probably French). It was there that they saw some real sections of the LHC beam line, where they saw the inner workings of the most advanced machine ever constructed by mankind, where they saw what went into testing it and where they learned exactly how the magic is done inside the LHC itself.

After the excitement of the magnet hall and after a delicious and reasonably priced lunch at the Cern refectory the students retired to the Cern visitor's centre - a giant wooden globe which housed some exciting exhibits that explained how the LHC did what it does. Inside the globe was dark, an almost dusky dark, soothing and welcoming after the trials and excitement of the preceding day. It was also quiet. The quiet was the kind of quiet you might find in a museum, which was apt because that is what it is. The pace was more sedate, more relaxed and it helped the students to consolidate what they had seen at the LHC on that magical day.

When they returned home the students had had the best time of their lives and they were a little sad when they realised that nothing they could experience in the future could ever match the magic and wonder they'd experienced on their visit to the LHC at Cern. The physics department is already thinking about its next exciting adventure to far flung realms to introduce students to the cutting edge of physics - so watch this space!

C Wheatland



students viewed them as they were meant to be seen. The fountain reared up out of the lake like a powerful serpent; its roar becoming deafening as the Mermaid drifted closer to it. Sunlight shone through the tiny water droplets it produced in the air, scattering, refracting and reflecting the light into its constituent parts and producing a beautiful shimmering rainbow which stretched out over the city. The whole cruise was a superb affair and the group was more than ready for dinner at the spaghetti factory as the day drew to a close. That evening the staff decided to prepare the students a little better for their visit to the LHC. The group gathered in the hotel corridor outside their rooms where they sat and listened enchanted by two members of staff delivering an engaging and enthralling lecture on particle physics. Hilarity quickly





# Bay of Naples Trip



A 3:30 am departure on the Tuesday morning was not an ideal way to begin a five day visit to the Bay of Naples, but thankfully, the journey out to Naples was relatively hiccup free. Leaving the airport we were delighted to be greeted by sunshine and temperatures in the mid-20s, as well as some of the biggest pizzas we had ever seen! Giuseppe, our coach driver was there to meet us, and our initial scepticism of his abilities would turn into wholehearted respect as he would guide us safely around the often ridiculous driving conditions of the Naples area.

Our stops on the first day were very reflective of our visit as a whole. In a very small area, we had access to fantastic geography and sites of historical relevance, all wrapped up with an underlying theme of classical civilisations and Neapolitan life. Between Cumae, Lake Avernus and Monte Nuovo we wandered around our first volcano, as well as seeing at least one entrance to the underworld. We then entered our first full Neapolitan traffic jam, and the teachers spent a long time trying to interpret the various gesticulations that were in evidence. From here, we drove down to our hotel in Sorrento.

Once we had checked in and had a quick dip in the swimming pool, we had our first evening meal, before setting out into Sorrento for a demonstration of ice cream making. Having donned natty net hats we soon found ourselves in the kitchens of a famous ice-cream shop. Giles Leeks and Olivia Mulrone led the way as we were shown how to make sorbets from the famous local lemons and oranges. This was followed by a further tasting in the shop. It would be no exaggeration to say that the citrus based sorbets had some of the finest flavours the party had ever tasted.

The second day saw us set off back towards

Napoli to visit the Vesuvius Observatory. Vesuvius is one of the most closely monitored volcanoes in the world due to its potentially explosive nature and the fact that so many people live around it. Following an excellent insight into the volcano's previous eruptions, behaviour and monitoring, we were led to the conclusion that although there is an evacuation plan in place, the highly urbanised nature of the Bay of Naples is going to make this very tricky. From here we set off up Vesuvius itself. Led by our guide Maria, we trekked up the side of the volcano and up onto the crater rim. We had fantastic views over the surrounding area, as well as being able to peer down inside the crater itself. Having studied the theory of volcanic features, all 44 students could see for themselves the characteristics of such fascinating landforms.

From Vesuvius we moved on to Herculaneum, the small, rich coastal retreat for Rome's elite, which was overcome by pyroclastic flow from Vesuvius in 79 A.D. Although not as famous as Pompeii, and certainly much smaller, the quality and ornate nature of the remains of the town are something to behold, and it did not take much imagination to see how this settlement must have functioned. Carlos, our animated guide added to our experience, and Herculaneum was well and truly explored. The evening was spent exploring Sorrento, which is a first class example of a touristy resort with alleyways, shops, cafes and restaurants. People watching and window shopping were both very easy to do.

Day three was all about Capri. Setting off from Sorrento port, we headed over to Capri on a hydrofoil for what was to be a memorable day. Once on Capri we took a boat ride around the island to explore its coastline. We all fully appreciated the natural features such as rock arches, caves and the most mesmerising blue

waters; but were equally fascinated by the houses of the rich and famous, such as Sophia Loren and Giorgio Armani. Once back at the harbour we caught buses up to Anacapri, the village at the top of the island, where we had lunch amongst designer shops and expensive cafes. However, our guide knew where to find very reasonably priced fresh pizza, as well as very strong coffee! We then headed back down the vertiginous road that snaked its way down the island amid shouts of 'mamma-mia!!'. By now, students and staff alike were in need of some free time and retail therapy, and a splendidly civilised afternoon was spent wandering the backstreets of Capri town. Mrs. Atkinson found a sublime lemon granita with fresh orange juice squeezed on top.

We eventually returned to the mainland feeling as though we had all been part of a very



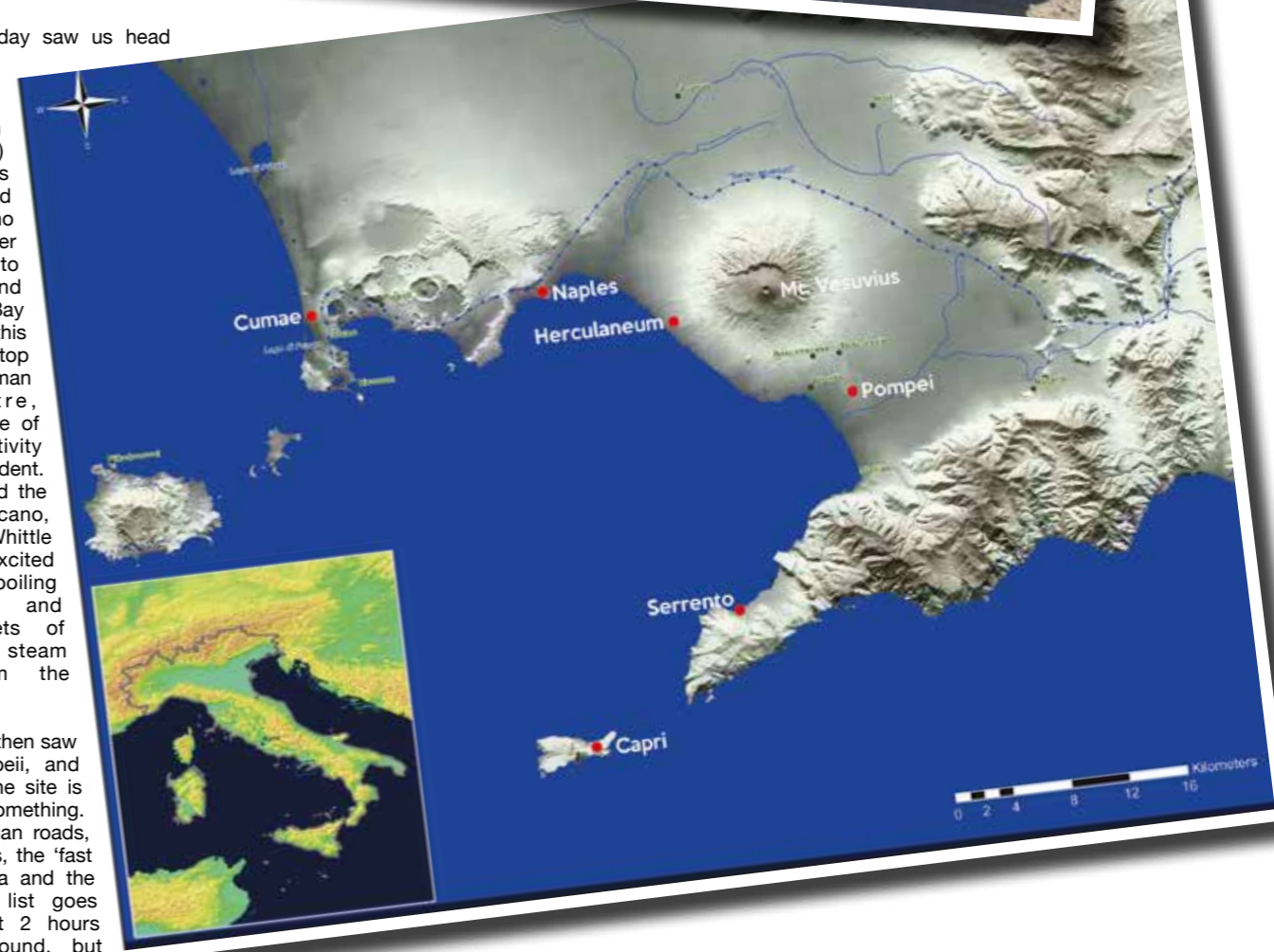
interesting and sophisticated day. The evening saw us wind our way back to the hotel via a precipitous road, and the usual stop for water and fresh fruit, before we embarked on our evening activity of bowling. The local bowling alley doubled up as a pizzeria, and it wasn't long before some very competitive bowling was taking place, accompanied by some delicious aromas. The standard of bowling on show was really quite something, and special mention has to be made of Aarin Chiekrie and Joe Ryan for their excellent scores, and Mrs. John for winning her own personal battle.

Our final full day saw us head

back up through Naples to the Phlegraean (burning) Fields. This is basically a kind of supervolcano extending over a wide area to the North and West of the Bay of Naples. In this area our first stop was at a Roman amphitheatre, where evidence of gladiator activity was all too evident. We then visited the Solfatara Volcano, where Mr. Whittle got rather excited about the boiling mud pools and solfataras (jets of sulphurous steam coming from the ground).

The afternoon then saw us visit Pompeii, and the scale of the site is really quite something. From the Roman roads, to the frescoes, the 'fast food' terracotta and the gardens, the list goes on. We spent 2 hours wandering around, but could easily have spent many more. The site was not only fascinating, but given the fact that Vesuvius was an ever looming presence, the visit gave us a real sense of perspective on how complex Roman life was, as well as how precarious life in this part of the world has been.

The evening then saw us hit Sorrento for a final bit of souvenir shopping, mostly based on lemon products (limoncello, lemon infused oil, lemon pasta) before some packing and room tidying. The following morning we were up at 5am in order to catch our flight and head back to England, where the cool, damp weather was rather a shock! The Bay of Naples area had been a fantastic place for a fieldtrip, and with its mix of geographical features, history, food and weather, it is somewhere that we would definitely like to go back to.



# HISTORY

The Third Year history trip to the International Slavery Museum in Liverpool was really interesting and educational. In the morning we had the opportunity to handle a number of artefacts that slaves would have made or used on the plantations in the Americas. We also looked at objects used for torture which made a big impact on all of us. In groups we prepared presentations on the objects that had been placed on our desks and learnt a lot from listening to the other groups. We learnt about the jobs that the enslaved Africans had to carry out, what they wore, and also what their lives were like before being enslaved.

After lunch we walked around the gallery taking particular interest in the interactive

displays. We managed to learn more about the experiences of slaves and learnt more about their culture and lifestyles. The video presentation on the conditions of the middle passage was particularly brutal and showed the horrors of slavery at this time. We were particularly interested to learn about the legacy of slavery in the modern world and looked at interesting displays about issues that affect the world today.

Overall we really enjoyed our visit and look forward to learning more in class where we will complete a project and produce some display work.

Isabel Kavanagh (3Y) and Rachel McCrae (3Y)



Since the last Headmaster's newsletter we have had a very busy time with the DofE Award Scheme. The summer expeditions provided a real mix of weathers for the participants, with a very wet day thrown in to make sure those waterproofs were required, but with spells of sunshine requiring the need for sun cream and lots of water refills. With bronze, silver and gold groups enjoying the North Lakeland Fells, Mr Callister and his team of conscientious staff had a large number of checkpoints to cover and it was lovely to hear how all the groups worked hard to complete their planned routes and that navigational errors were kept to a minimum!

The expeditions at October half term were difficult from the off, there was definitely no need for the sun screen and waterproofs were a must. Unfortunately the weather conditions took a turn for the worse and for the safety of all concerned the group returned to school a day early. These students are looking forward to completing their expeditions in March and are busy planning their routes so that they can complete their awards.

Over eighty of our present Fourth Year have signed up to do their Bronze DofE Award. Many of the participants are already well underway with their volunteering, skill and physical sections and with over thirty five of the Fourth Year working their way through the expedition training package in preparation for expeditions during the Easter holidays.

We are delighted to announce the following successes:

## Bronze:

Matthew Woodburn	Jake Teale	Josie Coffey
Jessica England	Elizabeth Green	Maddie Kearsley
Georgina Lawson	Ni Brown	Ellen Whitehead
Rachel Davies	Joshua Milton-Barker	Ele Greenhalgh
Rebecca Jones	Joshua Teale	Becky Ingham
Elliot Turnock	Tyrone Cartmell	Aarin Chiekrie
Andrew Sanderson	Benedict Le-Saint	Lauren Bailey
Sathya Nantheesan	Anna Southworth	Isabella Ritson

## Silver:

Savannah Des-Etages	Josh Powell	Sam Norris
Alex King	Ben Morris	Ellie Taylor
Emily Carpenter	Jessica Bevington	Andrew Anderson
Nicole Wainwright	Caroline Paley	Amber Reid
Alex Cook	Vivian Cheng	Siva Dwarampudi
Adam Kantharia	Charlie Hyde	

## Gold:

Nicole Wainwright	Rosie Spedding	Precious Nwaokomah
Jacob Lewis-Leeson	William Dickinson	

we hope to have a number of completed awards to report on in the next newsletter.



# Library News

"Libraries are anything but quiet: they resound with centuries of knowledge and human experience -- and I can think of no more perfect music!"

Kristen Kittscher, USA Novelist

September 2013 marked a change for The Friends' Library at Kirkham Grammar School. It was a privilege to be able to take over managing such an awe inspiring place, following Mrs Copland's departure last summer.

The library is the hub of the school; it houses information for all. Whilst it has its own unique and calm atmosphere, it is a place of energy where knowledge is acquired, fantasy lands explored and discoveries made. Every day is a different, but exciting, journey. This term the Scribblers Club, led weekly by Gabi Smith, has expanded and there have been excellent contributions to the creative writing sessions. The group is currently awaiting the results of some competitions that they have entered, whilst working on more poetry and short story ideas.

Linked to the Scribblers Club is the opportunity for pupils to take part in the Arts Council Award Bronze and Silver Levels. This is being overseen by Andrew Hurley, manager of Kirkham Library and soon to be published novelist. He came in to lead one of the sessions for the Scribblers, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

The Book Club has also proved to be popular this term. It has been pleasing to welcome not just new First Year pupils, but many new pupils from older year groups too. The format has changed slightly and the pupils are now the pioneers for reviewing New Fiction before it goes into the library for general loan. The fiction is selected from the shortlists for several literary awards. It is rare that the group's choice corresponds with the critic's choice of winner! At Christmas the Book Club went to SilverDell Bookshop in Kirkham, for a festive treat. For the avid readers it was like a trip to Santa's Grotto! The First and Second Year continue to have weekly lessons in the library. This term they started the new challenge for reading fiction. There are already several pupils who have achieved their Bronze and Silver Awards and are working towards the Gold level. They had a special lesson to mark National Poetry Day, for which the theme was Water. There was a Japanese theme to the display of origami boats decorated with water-related Haiku.

The current Upper Sixth are coming to the end of their time as librarians and their help has been extremely valuable. The new Lower Sixth Librarians are now in the process of being trained to help with the day-to-day running of the library.

There are exciting changes ahead as the system is about to be upgraded to allow all pupils to access the library remotely and a selection of ebooks is going to be trialled.

"Without libraries what do we have? We have no past and no future"  
Ray Bradbury (1920 - 2012)

## Spooky visit

Some people may start to worry as the thirteenth day of any month approaches, but February 13 2014 was especially "Spooky" for the pupils of KGJS and KGS Seniors. The day dawned eerily; even the weather had been wild overnight, with wind tearing through the trees and buildings causing chaos and havoc. However, this was a very appropriate atmosphere for an afternoon learning about tales of mystery and terror set in Lancashire. (map below right)

This was the day that the pupils met the creator of the Wardstone Chronicles, Joseph Delaney (photo below). Joseph is the author of the acclaimed Spooks series, which was completed last December, with the publication of the thirteenth title, The Spook's Revenge. Joseph spent the afternoon reading from his books and talking about his inspiration for writing. It was a fascinating afternoon, as pupils learnt about



creatures from local folklore, such as Boggarts, and how to rid the area of witches once and for all. Joseph also talked about some of the other characters, especially the main ones, Tom and Alice, although the one I found the most interesting was the evil librarian from book seven, The Spook's Blood!

The pupils were also privileged to see some of the footage from the forthcoming film, Seventh Son, which is due for release next year. After Joseph had finished speaking there was an opportunity to ask questions and it was fantastic to hear from so many pupils who are already fans of series. Everyone was riveted to their seats for the whole afternoon and very pleased to hear that Joseph is already working on a new trilogy to be published later this year. I would like to thank Joseph for his time and also Elaine from, SilverDell Bookshop, for facilitating the event.



## 2X AND SECOND YEAR PUPILS GIVE TO SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS APPEAL



Since half term 2X have led the second year in their support of the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal. As a form 2X decided that they would like to buy a gift and wrap it for a person of a similar age to themselves and through their assembly they asked other second year pupils if they would like to join them. The response was superb and they collected sacks of presents over a two week period. In addition they also asked if anyone could bring in any unwanted gifts or used games and jigsaws etc., again the response was wonderful.

From mid-November 2X also started bringing in bags of sweets so that they could produce as many mini bags as they could to sell at break time. The sweet sale raised £127. With help from some of the pupils from other forms they raised £300 to donate to this worthy cause.

In their form periods they had been talking about how fortunate they were and how out there in this big world there are so many people that are less fortunate and who are in need of care, support and a little help from those who are willing to do so.

KGS is very proud of 2X and all of the pupils who kindly donated money or gifts. On 16 December they visited the Salvation Army in Harrington Street Preston and passed over their donations. Clare, who is in charge, and the wonderful staff that help her were very, very appreciative.



news

# CCF



It is only when you are asked to reflect and summarise what the CCF has done since the last report that you realise just how much has happened in the space of six months! Over the summer we had the benefit of very warm weather for both the Army CCF camp at a new location; Nescliffe near Shrewsbury, and the RAF camp, at RAF Valley on Anglesey. Both camps were a delight to be part of and in both cases our cadets did us proud, with many awards including shooting, tug-of-war and even a flight in a Hawk fast-jet for Todd Davies, one of our RAF cadets, as the best cadet on camp. Once again Company Sergeant Major Alice Allen was found to be the best cadet in the shooting competition from the 600 plus cadets and thirteen schools on summer camp. The summer also saw Ben Morris and Anna Shackleton undertake the demanding Air Cadet Leadership Course at RAF Cranwell and both received excellent reports on their performance.

The start of the Autumn Term brought new challenges. The large Fourth Year and Fifth Year groups, and unheard of numbers of Sixth-Formers, swelled our total to over 340 cadets. This is the largest the contingent has ever been. Despite this Lt Sutcliffe and our new Regimental Sergeant Major, Megan Kitchen, along with her enthusiastic team of Upper Sixth Form SNCOs, quickly organised the weekly training to ensure that the routine CCF programme proceeded smoothly from the start. Our first outside event of the term was the annual Skill At Arms competition held at Altcar near Liverpool and ably led by Lt Lloyd. The teams involved had considerable success and won a number of trophies and due to Lt Lloyd's ongoing efforts the number and range of shooting competitions undertaken by the CCF will increase throughout the year. We then had a combined overnight and Field Day held at Waddecar Scout Camp just before the October half-term. The overnight took place in quite appalling wet weather but this did not dampen the enthusiasm of our new Fourth Year cadets, or the Sixth Form SNCOs leading the activity. The next day saw better weather and the arrival of the rest of our cadets, along with a large number of Army and RAF officers who came to inspect what we do. Every two years all school CCFs are inspected by a senior officer as part of the ongoing checks carried out by the MOD and on this day we had Group Captain Derek Johnston. I know that our cadets always do us proud but it is always nice to hear it from a senior military officer and to quote from the final inspection report: "I had a thoroughly enjoyable day and was sincerely impressed by the enthusiasm and energy of all involved in the Review. The day started with a well turned out and drilled Guard of Honour and finished with a full parade of the contingent, which with the numbers involved was an impressive sight. In between I was ably hosted by the

Cadet RSM, Megan Kitchen and Flt Sgt Ben Morris, the senior RAF cadet, who were thoroughly professional, clearly enjoying themselves and a credit to both their CCF and the school." Group Captain D Johnston RAF

I was also impressed with how our cadets reacted to the events around this year's Remembrance Day events. Not only did our cadets take part sensitively in the usual solemn school service we hold each year, but beyond this they volunteered to attend similar events in Kirkham and Preston and even made the national news for wanting to attend the funeral held in Lytham for a Mr Harold Percival, a former soldier who was due to be buried without anybody in attendance.

The Autumn Term ended on a lighter note with two events. The first was an "Army Day" organised by the SNCOs for the whole of J3 from the Junior School (photo top far right). To the sound of WWII air-raid sirens the J3 pupils learnt all about crawling in the mud and completing obstacle courses on planks of wood and tyres. To this was added army rations, marching drill, and a ride in a Second World War jeep armed with machine guns! They loved every minute of it! The other event was brought about by the relentless days of rain on the approach to Christmas, which made the prospect of training outside very difficult during the last week. I therefore made the decision to suspend normal training on the last parade day and instead have a pantomime called "Snow White and the Seven Cadets". The remarkable thing was that the script, props, music and sets were all produced within a week by the senior cadets of the contingent. This was alongside everything else they were doing and is once again a testament to the commitment and passion that our cadets have for making the CCF as good as possible. The pantomime was so bad it was actually very good and certainly kept 300 cadets and staff amused. The RSM Megan Kitchen played the evil queen and Flight Sergeant Ben Morris played Snow White! (photo right)

As I write this article the Spring Term is now underway and already the detailed planning for the next Field Day at Halton near Lancaster is well advanced, along with the Summer Army and RAF Camps to be held in July. The CCF is also now gradually changing its skin as we swap from the old Disruptive Pattern camouflage uniform to the new Multi Terrain Fabric. This will take a number of months to complete. As ever I remain grateful to all the staff and pupils at school who directly or indirectly support what we do in the CCF. Without them it would not happen.

John Callister  
Wing Commander  
Contingent Commander



## North West Cadet Skill At Arms Meeting 2013, Altcar

Nine cadets from the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Forms (photo above right) went to Altcar near Southport to represent KGS at the North West CSAAM. Thirty-three teams and over one hundred and thirty cadets from the North West of England and Isle of Man took part in five different and exciting shooting competitions spread over a very sunny weekend in September.

The Cadet Skill At Arms Meeting is the most prestigious, difficult and hard fought competition in the annual shooting calendar. It brings together the very best from ACFs, ATCs and School CCFs.

Our first competition for both A and B teams started on the 'Montgomery of Alamein' which consisted of three components. The first was a deliberate group of shots scored; the second a time limited rapid shoot; and finally a popping up and down snap shoot. The A-Team, led by CSM Alice Allen, produced some excellent deliberate shots with both L/Cpl Joe Cooke (photo top left previous page) and L/Cpl Charlotte Muir hitting dead centre and Sgt Sarah Padley averaging well across all three rounds.

The second competition of the day was The Deliberate; however the distance was increased from the 200m of the first competition, to 300m. Although this may not seem a great change, with a strong, variable wind blowing across the coast at Altcar, it made shooting and coaching very difficult. Both teams found it hard to achieve a similar standard to that at 200m, but at least all other teams struggled as well!

The third and final competition of the day was 'The Marling'. This involved running 100m, diving down to ground into the prone position, before loading the weapon and engaging a target at 100m. If this wasn't hard enough, they only had 30 seconds from setting off to

hit the first target before it disappeared! After the first exposure at 100m, there was a further 30 second exposure of a target, but this time at 200m, and then the same again at 300m. Having run 100m it is very difficult to control breathing enough to get 10 accurately placed shots on the targets.

'The Marling' is where our B Team showed their skills, led by Sgt Anna Shackleton, with L/Cpl Danny Davies, L/Cpl Joe Teasdel and L/Cpl Ben Mason. Even with one shooter failing to hit a target, the other three managed to shoot so impressively that it placed them 3rd out of the 33 teams in this competition: An excellent achievement!

The night was celebrated in style following Mrs Atkinson's recommendation for Nando's. Good choice Miss! It certainly converted Mr Lloyd and Mr Miller! It was also Happy 18th Birthday for CSM Alice Allen! With Alice relinquishing her position to L/Cpl Becky Jones on Sunday, both teams set out to achieve highly in the final two competitions, the 'Team Snap' and the 'Falling Plate'.

Maybe it was due to too much 'never-ending frozen yoghurt' at Nando's, or the 'Extra Hot Chicken', but our shooting on the 'Team Snap' was nothing memorable to write about. 'The Falling Plate', however, is always worth a mention. Similar to 'The Marling', it involves running 100m before diving down, loading and engaging the target. This time there are 10 small plates which each team of four needs to knock down. They fall when hit (supposedly!).... I am sure someone had super-glued some of ours up! The A-team unfortunately dropped out early, with the B-Team following two rounds later.

So how did we do? Well actually the best we have ever done. On presentation of prizes, we were dumbstruck and ill-prepared to find that our B-Team had beaten all other CCFs

to win 'The Marling'. If that wasn't enough, L/Cpl Joe Teasdel (4th year, and CSAAM first timer) had achieved the highest possible award for Champion Cadet CCF. This is for attaining the highest cumulative score from all 3 competitions on the Saturday. What a feat, what a score..... what a guy ".

Hold on..... we haven't finished..... Sgt Anna Shackleton obviously wanted a piece of the action too, and she achieved 2nd Champion Cadet CCF. The two best CCF shooters in the North West of England!!

Well, how do we finish? It was a fantastic weekend of shooting. The Cadets loved it, the weather was perfect, it was an excellent experience for all and something to always remember. Behaviour was exemplary and every child represented the school as true ambassadors should. As teachers, we were very proud.

Many thanks go to Mrs Atkinson for guiding us on the true path to Nando's, for Captain Miller who didn't swallow a wasp, even though there were enough to keep him going for the year, for Wing Cmdr Callister who wore his Virgil hat and rallied the troops on; and finally to the Headmaster who came down to support us and risk his life with the 'curry avec desiccated coconut'. We hope we did you all proud too.

1. Top 2 CCF shooters in the NW England and Isle of Man.
  2. B Team ranked 6th overall amongst all ACF, ATC and CCF in the North West and IoM.
  3. Both teams ranked in the top 15 overall.
  4. The only 2 CCF cadets ranked in the Top 10 amongst ACF, ATC and CCF.
- What an achievement..... What a challenge for next year..... BRING IT ON.

Lt. Lloyd



competition day started at 9.00am. We were up against Merchant Taylors' again in the first event, the gun run. This was a physical teamwork challenge and our team of 10 did superbly. We then had a team in the DCCT shooting competition and a team doing the observation stand. Finally, we had the tug-of-war competition, here we had two teams in the competition: a team of boys and a team of girls.

The boys were unfortunate to meet Merchant Taylors' (the eventual winners), in the 1st round and with the scores at one all, they put everything into the final pull, but the Merchant boys just got the edge. Our girls on the other hand, with very little experience of tug-of-war, learnt quickly and got through round one with pure grit and determination. The final was so tense, but with Mrs Sutcliffe and the whole crowd screaming "pull", they beat Alleyns' School and were crowned the winning (and most glamorous) Tug-of-War team ever!

We had a final parade with the Brigadier awarding the prizes for each competition. Our Gun Run squad came out on top with a fantastic time and very few penalty points and our Observation Stand team came 3rd. Alice Allen was awarded best shot on camp, with Georgina Lawson coming 3rd. Out of nine schools and over 500 cadets on camp this was an amazing achievement and one that we know made Mr Lloyd very proud.

We finished the day with our own presentation of awards and thanks. Everyone was in agreement that it had been an outstanding week and one that will be remembered for a long time.

The Sixth Form NCOs

The camp was a success for a number of reasons, but the biggest factor was the behaviour and attitude of our cadets. They all gave their best throughout the week, their manners were exemplary and the teamwork and encouragement of others was outstanding. The efforts of our Lower 6th were very noticeable and bode well for the coming academic year.

# CCF Annual Camp Report 2013

The CCF travelled to Nesscliffe Training Camp near Shrewsbury during the first week of the school summer holidays and from all accounts it was an excellent week.

On Saturday 6 July we set off with anticipation and excitement to try out Nesscliffe Training Camp for the first time. We arrived to warm, sunny weather which was the forecast for the week ahead.

After settling in to our accommodation, we got a good night's sleep, but we were up early for our 6.00am breakfast. The Full-English Army Breakfast was a great start to an intense but entertaining day of Section Battle Drills and Field Craft. We spent the morning honing our skills on camouflage and concealment, patrolling and battle skills and then after a quick lunch break we prepared for a final exercise. The final exercise was full of surprises, as unbeknown to us the route to the enemy site contained a water-filled, muddy ditch which gave us great cover, but also very muddy trousers and boots.

Monday was a non-military day of adventure training, but we were still up early and eating our Army Breakfast by 6am! We travelled to Ellesmere Lake, which is a beautiful lake about seven miles away from the camp. Here we spent the day using a climbing tower, competing in Archery, where Mrs Atkinson proved to be the best Archer on camp, even better than Mr Wheatland! We also got to work in teams with a laser-tag battle in the woods. However, the highlight for all, possibly due to the gorgeous weather, was taking to the water, in kayaks, canoes and white-water rafts and working together to build our confidence with our water skills.

On Wednesday we had another early start and hearty breakfast and set off to the training area to work on our military skills. We worked in small sections to improve our cooking skills, map and compass skills and our first aid skills. We also learned a great deal about harbour areas and sentry duties, honing our skills of the NATO phonetic alphabet, judging distances

and sketch drawing. After a day in the sun we were pleased to spend the evening in the DCCT, practising our weapon handling skills and improving our aim before the following day on the Ranges.

The day on the Ranges saw the more experienced shooters head out to Sealand Range, to fire on the 100m and 200m ranges. The rest stayed at Camp and used the DCCT and 30m range. Out at Sealand the competition was fierce and so was the sunshine. However, we had some amazing shots, with Alice Allen gaining 95 out of 100, Georgina Lawson 90 and Matthew Carroll 85, all three of these received their Marksman badges. Following this, we were told to get a very early night, as the next day was our 24hr exercise.

Awake at 5.00 am, weapons picked up by 6am, issued with a 24hr ration pack we were on the transport and out of camp by 7am. We arrived at our harbour area and the day's training began. The plan was for us to form a harbour area and send out patrols to gain information on Merchant Taylors' CCF camp. They were doing the same to us. As the day progressed and we put the skills we had learnt over the week into practice, everyone's confidence and communication skills improved. Our shelters were inspected by Sgt Devaney and in most cases were given the thumbs up. Our cooking skills and patrolling skills were certainly used and as dusk fell Sgt Devaney led us on a full patrol where we were ambushed by Merchant Taylors' School. We escaped and then set up an ambush for them. With trip flares and smoke grenades going off it was a very interesting experience! We were in our bivvies by 11.45 pm and most people slept soundly till Sgt Devaney started shouting at 5am. However, many of us spent a good one and half hours awake as the RAF were practicing night time low-level helicopter manoeuvres in the same area; Mr Callister said he'd ordered them especially to make it more realistic!

We returned to camp. Once there we cleaned the weapons and had a well deserved breakfast, but there was no rest for us as the



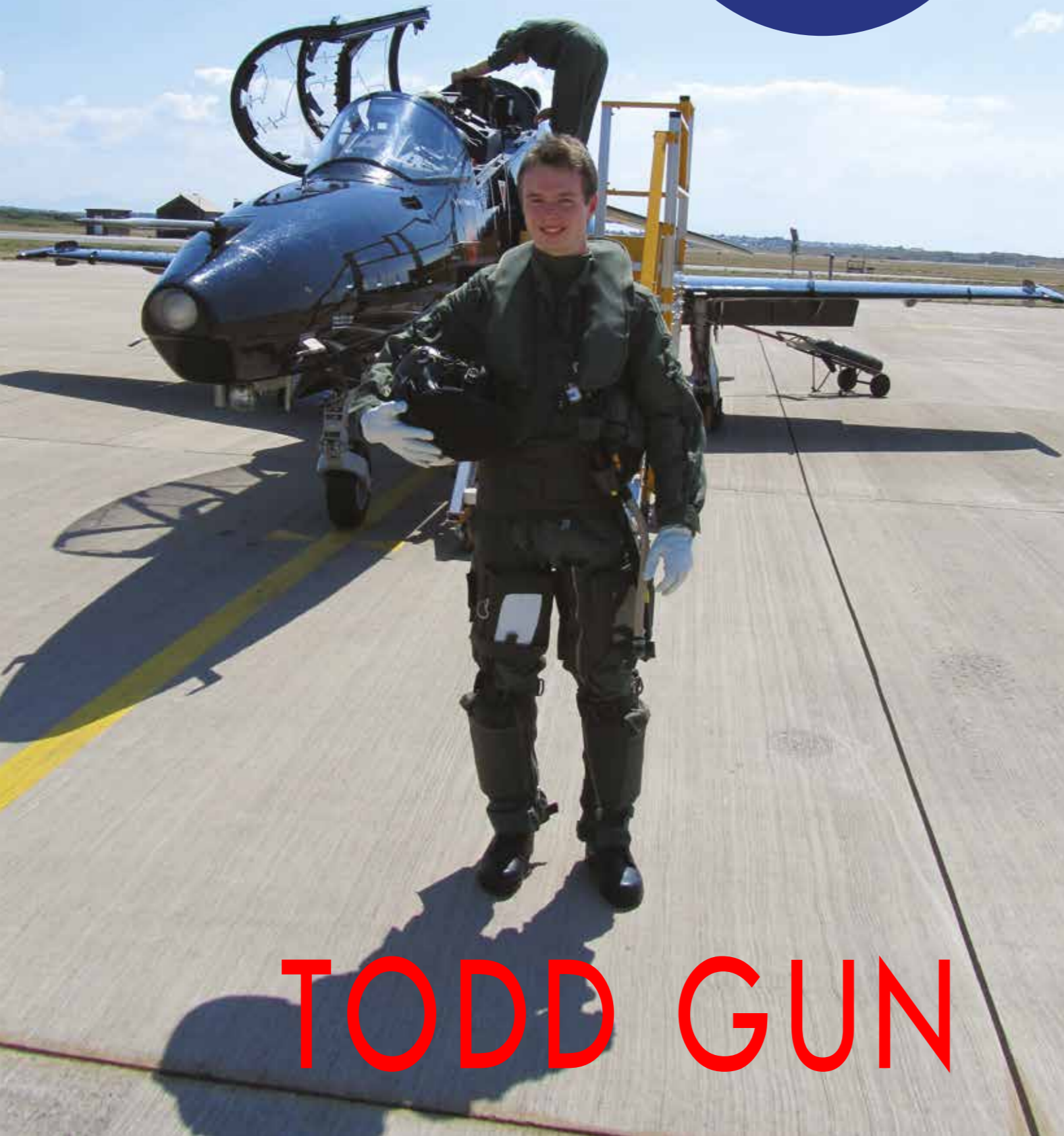
**We will remember them**

Remembrance Day services were held around the UK to commemorate those who served the country in two world wars and in more recent conflicts. KGS NCO CCF cadets had the honour of representing the school in Kirkham's Remembrance Day service (photo above). The NCO's were supported by staff, parents and Old Kirkhamians. In addition Kirkham Grammar School sent four RAF cadets to play an important part in the Remembrance Day Service held at the Cenotaph in Preston (photo below) on Sunday 10 November. On Monday 11 November the whole school held their own Remembrance Day Service (photo bottom right) which was led by our Senior NCO's.



On the same day as the School's Remembrance Day Service hundreds of well-wishers turned out for the funeral of a Bomber Command veteran who died without any close family. Harold Jellicoe Percival, who helped with the Dambusters raid during the Second World War, died in October in a local nursing home aged 99. He was laid to rest on Armistice Day, at exactly 11am, when Britain fell silent to remember those killed in war. Fifteen KGS NCOs (Photo right) attended the funeral as part of the School's response to attend the funeral.





TODD GUN

CCF was almost certainly one of the best things I did at Kirkham. Having been in the RAF cadets since Fourth Year, I feel privileged to have done so much. The range of activities I have done through the CCF is staggering, and includes shooting, paintballing, climbing, kayaking, mountaineering, bouldering, mountain biking, visits to Army and RAF bases, tours around military hardware (including spy planes that were used in Libya) and many other such pursuits.

However, the latest and greatest of this long list of activities was definitely when I went flying in a Hawk T2 jet on the 2013 RAF Valley Camp. It's every RAF cadet's dream to fly in a Hawk, so I was overjoyed when I found out that it was me that had been picked.

In order to fly, I had to pass a stringent medical test. The nurses wanted to know everything, from whether my ears were blocked, to quite literally, my inside leg measurement. In fact, I found out just one day before I was due to fly, that I was 1kg under the minimum weight requirement for flying in the jet, so I spent that night and the following morning eating pizza, drinking loads of water and not doing much else!

On the morning of the flight, I was taken into a Hawk simulator and given a safety brief, which included how to activate my ejector seat, what to do inside an inflatable rescue dinghy and, of course, how to use my parachute!

Since the Hawk is primarily used as a training jet, there are two cockpits; one for the instructor and one for the student. They are identical in nearly all respects, and both have control of the jet, however, the student cockpit can be turned into dummy mode, where pressing buttons doesn't affect the flight of the jet. This meant that I could play around with the radar and other equipment from inside the jet and not have to worry about messing things up.

Just before I got in the jet, I was dosed up with anti-sickness tablets. Apparently, most people are sick the first time they fly in a Hawk, and so anti-sickness drugs are prescribed as a standard procedure. They seemed to work on me though, and I didn't need to use a certain brown paper bag (also prescribed).

The actual flight was an experience that I'll never forget. I flew from RAF Valley, which is in Anglesey to Blackpool in little over five minutes. The cockpit of the Hawk affords a tremendous view of both the sky above, and the clouds below.

For the first couple of minutes after take off, my instructor Scott talked me through maneuvering the plane, how to use the throttle and stick. We also had a general chat, he was such a nice guy! We then flew towards and over Blackpool, where I was amazed to see the tower, which normally seems sky-high, reduced to the size of a matchstick.

We then flew back to Valley, and rose to eight thousand feet to perform some aerobatics. Scott took the jet through a barrel roll first, which is surprisingly easy to do, and then he did a loop the loop.

While the barrel roll affords the pilot very little g-force, the loop the loop couldn't be more different. We 'pulled' around 5 g as we did the loop, which lasted for about 10 seconds or more. I had to strain my legs and abdomen as I'd been taught by the medics back at camp to assist my flight suit at squeezing blood back from my legs towards my brain. If I didn't do that, I would experience a grey-out (when you lose colour vision), a blackout (when you completely lose your vision) or I could even faint. When I was doing this, ten seconds seemed like ten minutes!

After I'd been 'taught' how to pull these manoeuvres, I was then allowed to try them for myself. A sharp pull left or right on the stick will result in a barrel roll, and pulling back on the throttle causes the jet to go into a loop. The hardest thing about aerobatics was keeping my loops straight, I'd often tend towards a spiral, however, the HUD display on the dashboard had both vertical and horizontal levels so I could see if I was straying off course.

After that, Scott gave me free reign to steer the plane wherever I liked, so I spent the next ten minutes flying into clouds and doing more loops and barrel rolls.

Descending was a little painful on my ears, but they soon adjusted to the pressure with no issue. Scott landed the plane with hardly a bump.

Tod Davies





### SUMMER ACTIVITY CAMPS

- David Shaw Easter Tennis Camp 7- 11 April 2014 (5 Days) David Shaw 07770618148
- David Shaw Summer Tennis Camp 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




## Blast Off

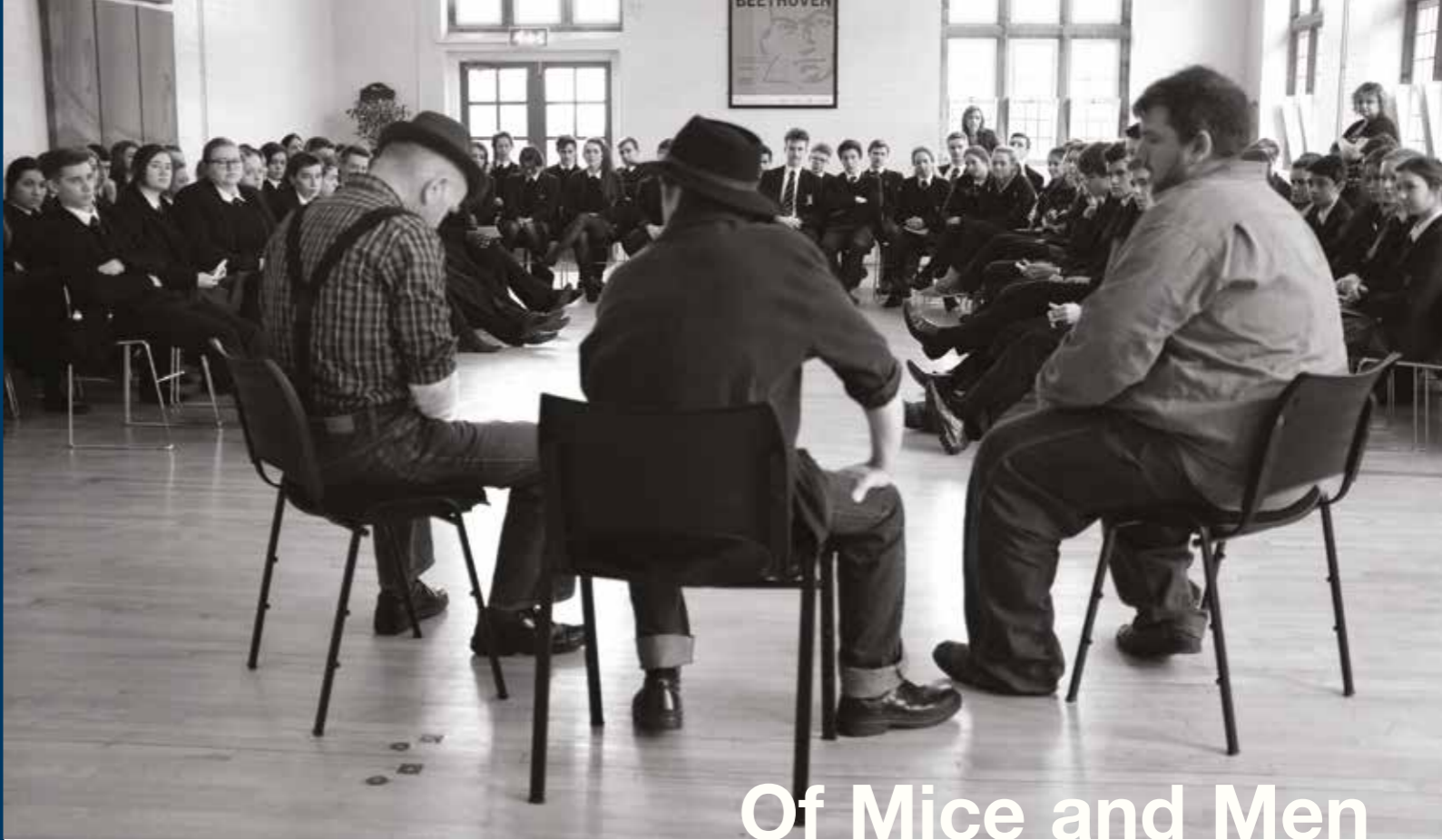
This year has seen the arrival of new opportunities for students interested in Astronomy and Physics outside the classroom. In association with the Ogden's trust, Miss Honnor has organised various trips and events for pupils of all ages. In October a group of Sixth Form students attended a lecture by Brian Cox at Manchester University. Many topics were discussed including how the Large Hadron Collider has influenced the technology of the world and the role of particle physics in treating cancer. Professor Cox also answered students' questions, such as "What is your favourite particle?" and "Will gravity ever be unified with the other forces?". The talk was informative as well as inspirational and really got students excited about taking their study of Physics further.

Another group of students attended a Christmas lecture entitled "How to Find a Planet From Your Sofa" at the University of Central Lancashire. The lecture was given by 'The Sky at Night' presenter Chris Lintott and various topics were covered including how planets form and the many stars that have planetary systems. He also described how astronomers are finding new planets every day, some of which are said to be Earth-like. Audience members were encouraged to participate in Zooniverse (an online exercise in galaxy classification) and to help astronomers analyse data that is used to establish evidence of new planets.

The first week of the Spring Term saw the arrival of Stargazing Live on the BBC and as part of this the University of Central Lancashire organised stargazing evenings at Alston Observatory. On 7 January five First Year pupils attended an exciting evening of astronomy where they learnt about the powerful and colourful sun alongside talks from real astronomers about technological developments that we take for granted which originated in astronomy. During breaks in the clouds the pupils observed the moon and were able to see the fine details of craters on the surface. Pupils were also lucky enough to see Jupiter as well as three of its moons. Pupils came away from the evening feeling inspired and looking forward to future astronomy events.

Finally, after a successful grant application to the Institute of Physics the department now has a professional grade telescope so that future astronomers at KGS have the opportunity to experience the wonders of the universe first hand.

Miss A Honnor



## Of Mice and Men

A novel worth reading? A play worth watching?

Centre Stage Theatre Company brought ordinary English lessons alive this January, by sharing scenes from their production 'Of Mice and Men' with the Fifth Years. In advance of a trip to see the production, the actors gave up some rehearsal time to bring Steinbeck's California to the recital room at KGS.

'Of Mice and Men' is a novella written by John Steinbeck and published in 1937. It tells the story of George Milton and Lennie Small, two displaced migrant workers. Despite their 'best laid plans' the two men never manage to realise their dreams and the story ends in sacrifice and indifference.

After watching a selection of scenes, we were able to talk to each actor about the role he played and the difficulties that he faced. Pupils wanted to know how emotional the actors found the shooting scene that ends the novel. Others asked about the differences between the novel and play version of the text. The director voiced her own enthusiasm for Steinbeck's description of setting and character. We noted the child-like qualities of Lennie and the compassion of his shrewd

friend George. Candy gave us some hope with his excitement at their plan to pool their money...but there's always that nagging doubt that dreams are not going to be realised.....

At times, the hopelessness in the novel has felt a little pessimistic but Chris Campbell gave us food for thought when he said, for him, reading Steinbeck is 'uplifting'. The quality of the writing is so powerful that that can only be an optimistic experience.....there's another English lesson idea in there somewhere!

Our students studying the text were next treated to an afternoon away from lessons to watch Centre Stage Theatre Company's production at Lowther Pavilion. The childlike Lennie and the frustrated George played out their complex relationship against the backdrop of the tranquil Californian riverbank. Lennie pulled at our heartstrings from the beginning mimicking George's every move with his flatcap. His desperate pleas for something to love foreshadowed what was to come-a cycle of life and death that starts amongst the reeds and ultimately ends there. We enjoyed the flirtations of Curley's wife. She was bold

and colourful but just as lonely and desperate for affection as anyone else.

Seeing the characters in front of us we appreciated the realism of Steinbeck. He was writing about real people, real experiences, real life. The language of the book has been considered as offensive and racist but the dialogue is authentic-Steinbeck heard it, used it, lived it. It is one of the most challenged books of the twenty-first century because it poses a raw truth. As Steinbeck said himself, by telling an honest story and by getting to know a man-we understand each other better.

As Michael Gove re-invents the examination system and slashes Steinbeck from the set text list at GCSE, I wish he could have sat with me and those eighty Fifth Year pupils who remained motionless and hushed as Lennie died. Does it matter whether a writer is British or American? Worthy literature should be about children holding their breath, hoping and willing the ending to be different.

M Mills



### Diary Dates

- U19 KGS Invitation Hockey Tournament** 8 March
- National Schools Sevens Tournament at Fylde Rugby Club** 8 & 9 March
- Third Year Parents Evening** 12 March
- Richard Wilson U14 Sevens** 13 March
- Whole School Photo** 25 March
- Founders' Day Service** 2 April
- OKA Southern Reunion Dinner** Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, 5 April
- Bags2School** 25 April
- Friends of KGS Summer Fair** 17 May
- Sixth Form Ball** 20 June
- Friends of KGS Summer Ball** 21 June

## Open Afternoon 2013

The best way to learn about KGS is to come to one of our Open Events. The Open Afternoon in October was the first in a series of such events that included an address by our Headmaster, Mr Richard Laithwaite who talked about how KGS prides itself in the way it cares for individuals and, to this end, benefits from being a truly independent school. He also went on to talk about his belief in the traditional values of education being reflected in the ethos of the school and how we celebrate the value of sport, art and drama and believe in education as a complete experience. A "Free Range" education as opposed to the "Battery Farm" so many other schools offer.

The Headmaster's Address came at the end of the day after prospective parents and pupils had the opportunity to tour the school, take part in various activities and to meet subject specialists whilst being guided by senior pupils.

The new Music Centre and Sports Hall were open to the general public for the first time and clearly demonstrated the school's ongoing development programme over the last sixteen years that has reached a figure of £10,000,000 of investment. Many prospective parents conveyed how impressed they were with the way that our guides conducted themselves with confidence and pride in their school.



Music



# Lessons in Music

Students delighted a clearly appreciative audience who soaked up the ambience and enthusiastically participated singing carols. It was also a first outing for our new virginal, which was expertly played by Music Scholar, Hannah Culver.

The Annual Christmas Carol Service at St. Michael's Church, led by the Reverend Bunday, included solo pieces from the Choir and the customary nine lessons and carols, which were delivered to their usual high standard. It was lovely to hear the clear soprano voice of Becky Ingham, ringing out, who sang the solo in Once in Royal David's City.

Aimee Bilsborrow is celebrating an offer to study music from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama based in Cardiff. These are very coveted places and naturally Aimee is over the moon with the offer, and looking forward to studying with oboists John Anderson, Murray Johnston and Catriona Mackinnon. Before attending KGS, Aimee attended St Pius Preparatory School in Preston where she began to study both the oboe and the flute. As she progressed Aimee decided to concentrate on the oboe as her main instrument of choice and has played in numerous concerts and ensembles in school throughout her time here. Aimee is also first oboist in the Lancashire Youth Orchestra and has played in concerts with the Blackpool Symphony Orchestra.

By way of conclusion, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Elliott Gaston-Ross on reaching the Percussion Section finals of the BBC Young Musician of the Year. The standard of this national competition is extremely high and competitive. Only the best young players in the country are accepted. This is yet another fantastic achievement. I would like to wish Elliott good luck for the final in March 2014.

Miss J Z Crook



The first engagement of the academic year for the Music Department was at the Preston Guild Hall, with a performance of toe-tapping Rogers and Hammerstein classics from the Concert Band for Speech Day. The Sixth Form performers demonstrated their musical talents in the Recital Room, under the title of "Music Through the Ages," for the first coffee concert of the term. The second Thursday in November gave the younger pupils a chance to display their talents and promise in their own concert, when many of the First Year captivated us with a wide ranging assortment of performances. At the end of November, Fifth Year GCSE students impressed the audience with a diverse programme for varying instruments for the second coffee concert. These concerts provide the students with an opportunity to enhance their musical experience within the school and show their many musical skills. Several of our musicians were examined by the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music in November, the culmination of many months of practice. I am pleased to report they were all successful, many passing with merit or distinction.

In liaison with the Kirkham and Rural Fylde Rotary Club, we hosted the local heat of the RIBI Young Musician Competition in our new Recital Room on Wednesday 27 November 2013. The competition was organised by Rotarian, Tim Leeson, for local schools. Audition pieces were taken from a wide variety of composers, which added to the interest of the evening. The standard from all candidates involved was extremely high, and after much deliberation the adjudicator, John Reeman, who is a renowned local composer, awarded Kirkham Grammar pupil, Elliott Gaston-Ross (who played repertoire for the marimba and drums) the instrumental place in the next round. This takes place in February at Lancaster Girls' Grammar School.

On the 1st December members of the BBC Philharmonic led a String Masterclass for the string players of the Lancashire Youth Orchestra. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and dedication of the students throughout the day, and the high standard achieved in the resulting performance for the public in the Recital Room in the afternoon. Students were motivated and inspired by their mentors and clearly enjoyed the experience.

The Christmas Concert was a wonderful celebration of all things musical and a highlight of the term, featuring festive performances from the Choir, Orchestra, String Group, Swing Band and Concert Band, alongside soloists and readings from LAMDA students.







**Elliott Gaston-Ross is raising the roof – literally. The 15 year old has been selected for the BBC Young Musician Percussion finals.**

A camera crew visited him at school to film him rehearsing with the swing band. After undergoing an extensive and gruelling audition process, he was named as one of only five contestants for the percussion category final of the prestigious competition. Places are coveted, and organisers said it is testament to Elliott's commitment and hard work that he has achieved this level of success.

The finals take place between March 3 to 7 at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff, when entrants will perform in front of an audience and a panel of adjudicators. The category finals will be broadcast on BBC Four and the finals, planned for May 18 at Usher Hall in Edinburgh, will be broadcast on BBC Four and Radio 3.

Kerry Clark, BBC Young Musician Competition Manager, said: "The category finalists show a remarkable level and breadth of talent. We're looking forward to continuing to work with these outstanding young musicians over the coming months and watching their progress through to the 2014 final."





*Prize Giving*  
**Speech Night**  
**2013**





## Upper Sixth A-level Politics students visit the Conservative Party Conference

Mr Melling and the Upper Sixth Politics students recently spent a day at the Conservative Party Conference in Manchester. They were lucky enough to be there when the main speaker was none other than the political phenomenon that is Boris Johnson. They were reliably informed by the security men that he might be feeling the after-effects of a riotous night. Unfortunately, they did not elaborate further. Nevertheless, he entertained a packed auditorium for half an hour, rousing the Tory troops with his unique brand of oratory. He left the conference hall surrounded by the usual media scrum. The Sixth Formers then spent the rest of the day mingling with cabinet ministers and journalists and collecting as much useful "stuff" as they could from the various trade stands. They also met Sir Robert Atkins, one of the MEPs for the North West, who was interested to hear our impressions of the Conference. It was an enjoyable day and a rare chance for the students to experience the hurly-burly of the political world and to mix with the headline-makers.

A Level Politics students outside the Conference Hall; the students meet Sir Robert Atkins MEP

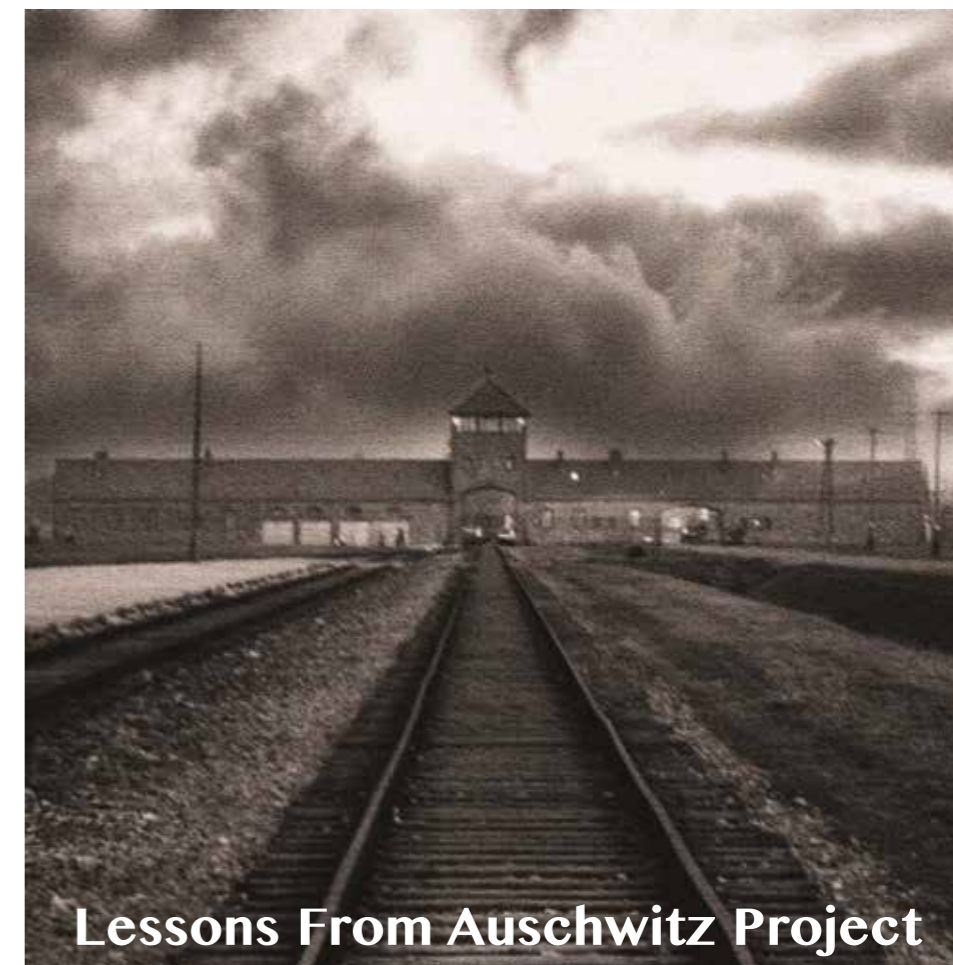


As part of a nationwide construction industry Open Weekend, three of our Sixth Formers, accompanied by Mr Melling (Head of Careers) recently paid a visit to the Vinci site at The Harbour in Blackpool a state of the art mental health inpatient unit. The three students are interested in careers in architecture and construction and they were keen to hear about Vinci's sponsorship programme. After an introduction to the various worldwide careers available through Vinci, the students were given a tour of the £40 million site. They were very impressed with what they saw and are now actively looking at the possibility of applying to Vinci for university sponsorship. We are very grateful to Nigel Plant and his team for taking the time to allow us this opportunity to visit the site.



Last year I, along with Rachel Howard Upper Sixth, was fortunate enough to be chosen to represent KGS at the Lessons From Auschwitz Project, organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust. The LFA Project is based on the premise that 'hearing is not like seeing', and offers the chance to go to Auschwitz and truly understand the Holocaust not just at a textbook level with nothing but cold statistics, but at a truly human one. Before the trip the HET had organised for us to hear a survivor's testimony, allowing a completely new perspective to be gained. The experience was truly invaluable. We met Zigi Shipper, an Auschwitz survivor.

After the trip, the LFA Project asks its new ambassadors to complete a Next Steps, in which the students are given free rein to decide on a project that can convey the lessons we have learnt. Rachel and I developed a three part plan: a first year assembly, a whole school assembly, and 'aspiration locks'. The first year assembly saw the Headmaster give a speech that we had written to the first years, saying that pupils with brown eyes were to be segregated and put on a completely different timetable, as well as being forbidden from talking to anyone who did not have brown coloured eyes. As the first years have not learnt about the Holocaust, this seemed like the best way to convey nonsensical discrimination: it made the experience truly personal. We ensured that the group were fully debriefed at the end but it caused a stir for a short time. Next was the full school assembly, in which we contacted a Rabbi and asked him to give a talk. Rabbi Lewis was nothing short of inspirational, and both Rachel and



## Lessons From Auschwitz Project

I have received many accolades from both pupils and staff that herald it as one of the best assemblies that has ever been given. The Rabbi's personal account of his own family's experience during Nazi Germany rehumanised the Holocaust and had everyone listening in rapt attention. Rachel and I then followed the wonderful speech by branching out from the Holocaust to talk about discrimination and intolerance in the present day, and why the lessons we can take from Auschwitz, as well as places like Rwanda and South Africa and even local examples like Sophie Lancaster, are critically important.

Our final idea is the 'aspiration locks', inspired by the love locks in Paris. Just as one will lock in the name of a loved one to a fence in Paris, we are encouraging students to bring in a lock to place on a fence-like structure to lock in any aspirations they have for the future, be it 'tolerance' or 'equality' or simply writing their name as proof that they have listened to and learnt at least some of the lessons we have aimed to convey.

Savy Des-Etages

## Entrepreneur Live



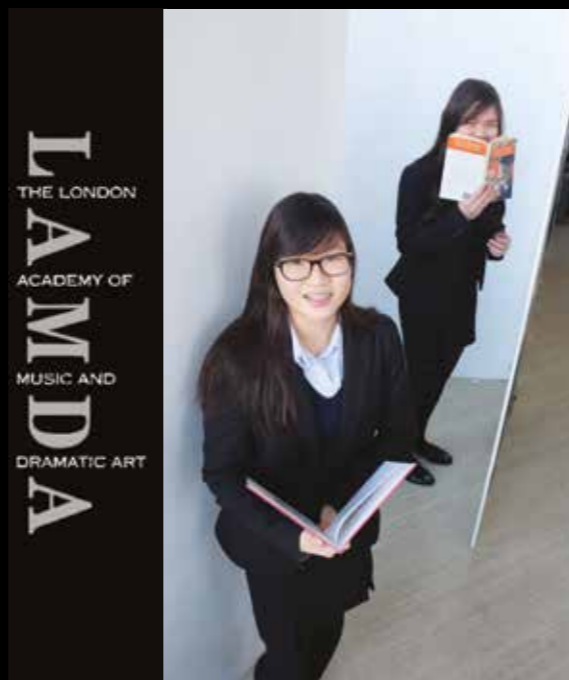
Eight of us including Mrs Hargreaves and Mr Lyon, went to Manchester VUE Cinema for a day to watch Entrepreneur Live 2013. The day consisted of six entrepreneurs presenting their story about how their business came about and what it's like to run and own their own businesses.

One of the entrepreneurs was Kate Castle who was successful on "Dragons Den" in 2011. Another entrepreneur was Jacob Hill who is well known for the invention of "The Lazy Camper". I thought that Jacob's presentation was good because he is only 20 years old and has secured £270k worth of investment and has landed a contract to be the main sponsor of one of the UK's leading music events!

Another aspect of the day was that we were all able to get involved by asking the entrepreneurs questions and also take part in a group activity about how old certain businesses were. Sophie and Damon were allocated an entrepreneur each to ask questions in front of the rest of the cinema. This was a great opportunity for them and ourselves included, because it allowed us to get first-hand knowledge from those in the business about relevant topics that would be in our exam in the summer.

We all learnt a lot from the day and it was a great way to find out about the different entrepreneurs and their separate businesses and how they got to be as successful as they are today. We all found this very interesting and it was of great relevance to Business Studies Unit 1 at A-level.

Rachel Ward



Gaining a LAMDA Gold Medal is no small achievement. It requires focus and determination as well as hard work and talent and usually takes a full academic year to prepare to the required standard. So when a pupil undertakes this exam in considerably less time it becomes even more of a challenge. That is just what Upper Sixth students Vivian Cheng and Lillian Ip have done though. In their Lower Sixth year they both passed their Bronze and Silver Medals in Verse and Prose Speaking and are currently working for their Grade Eight Gold Medal in the same subject. Three medal exams in their two Sixth Form years – as the Bard says 'action is eloquence'. Well done, girls!





# FRIENDS

As we move into spring, the 2013 Autumn Term seems almost a distant memory. It was a particularly busy term for the Friends however, and I didn't want to lose the opportunity of thanking our parents, friends, and school staff for your support during this time.

The Friends enjoyed hosting two very different social events in October, with our New Parents evening in the Old Hall, and our Junior Disco at the Junior School. As you might expect, the first event was much more sedate than the second, although we hope that it was equally enjoyable for all who attended.

The main social event of the Autumn Term was the Winter Ball held at The Villa, Wrea Green. We thought that we would try something a little different this year, with a 'Night at the Kasbah'. The marquee pavilion looked stunning dressed in rich, Moroccan colours, with candle-lit table lamps. The food was delicious; and with only one major fundraising activity, our guests had plenty of time to dance the night away. I must express my thanks to Mrs Jaine Burnie, and the Ball Committee who worked so hard in putting the evening together.

Once again, we asked for your old clothing for a bags2school collection in November, and you kindly donated generously. These events are key fundraisers for us, with over £700 being raised in November alone. Please keep storing your old clothes for our next collection, 25 April 2014.

Personally, my favourite event of the Autumn Term is always the Christmas Fair, which was held at the end of November in the MPH. We were lucky that Father Christmas had time to stop in and hear the wishes of 200 children, who also enjoyed games, snacks, lucky dips, and some shopping. We were once again grateful to the Junior School entrepreneurs who did a marvelous job organizing and running their own House colour stalls - thank you all. Thank you also to Mrs Vanessa Barrow and her team of elves for putting on such a wonderful afternoon.

November also saw the Friends assisting in an evening talk with Sir Alex Ferguson, from which a donation was made to the Friends' funds.

After such a busy month, it was nice to relax at the Ladies' Lunch, held at Singleton Lodge. The Christmas lunch always has a special feel, and this year was no exception. My thanks go



to Mrs Yvonne Malings and Mrs Sam Wilson for organising the year's lunches, once again.

Fundraising for the term totaled £9,227, which I find incredible in what still seem to be difficult times. This has allowed the Friends to donate funds so far this academic year for: the purchase of rifles to allow the formation of a rifle team; presents for Father Christmas to distribute to the children at the Junior School; funds for the significant repair of the cricket nets in the MPH; a donation to the senior girls' hockey tour and a donation to secure a defibrillator to be used at the Junior School.

Once again, may I thank all those who have supported the Friends through working on the events, supporting the events, or simply buying our raffle tickets!

Please look out for the information on our Spring Fair, which is scheduled for 17 May 2014 and will be held at the Junior School site, and our Summer Ball, to be held on 21 June 2014, in a marquee on the school lawn. I look forward to seeing you there.

Michelle O'Neill  
Chair, Friends of Kirkham Grammar



# interHouseevents

The year has already seen heated competition between the four Houses, and pupils have been very keen to participate and do their best in whatever way they can. The Autumn Term traditionally sees the Houses battling the elements as well as each other, but we have been rather lucky with the weather and all competitions have so far been completed. Mrs Atkinson, Mr Wheatland, Mr Whittle and Mr Wu have all been able to call upon the many talents that exist across the Houses.

The term started with the quiz competitions, and Preston won the junior quiz and Fylde the senior version. The was the case last year, but there was genuinely not much to choose between the Houses, and Mrs Parkinson's questions were as varied and challenging as ever. The senior basketball competition was won by a strong and skilful School side, whereas the squad rotation and strength in depth of the Fylde team saw them win the intermediate competition.

The chess competition was as close ever, and it is great to see juniors and seniors sitting next to each other engaging in battle with Mr Melling presiding over proceedings. Fylde managed to regain their title, following a 3-3 draw in the final against Preston. Special mention should

be given to Harry Mason's win on senior board 1, which proved to be decisive. Harry leaves the school unbeaten in this competition.

The netball competitions were played out in traditionally chilly conditions, but the surprising lack of rain allowed all games to go ahead. The senior competition was dominated by Kirkham, who played with their trademark skill and competitiveness. The junior tournament was comfortably won by Fylde House, who also won the junior hockey trophy. This year's competitions have so far highlighted the importance of skill and participation from the Houses, but also the importance of year group strengths, as trophies can be won and lost according to maturity and decision making in addition to raw talent.

This year saw the introduction of the House Writing Competition, a new venture that saw an overwhelming response from all year groups in the school. Challenged to write a short piece of writing, the number and quality of entries made judging difficult. School House won the overall competition with an impressive number of entries. Lindsay O'Brien was declared the individual winner, and was awarded the title of 'School Laureate'.

As the nights closed in and energy levels began to fade, the volleyball competition was a breath of fresh air, and was played out with excellent skill and teamwork. The round-robin

format of the event and inclusive nature of the game allowed pupils from all Houses to take part in one of the most enjoyable of the year's competitions. Expertly officiated by Mr Roddam, Fylde's experience saw them turn out as eventual winners.

The last event to take place was the swimming gala double-pointer. On paper, School House was the favourite, and did turn out to be a worthy defender of its crown, with too much strength in all age groups for the other Houses to challenge it seriously. As always, the passion, intensity and slightly unpredictable nature of this competition leaves it as one of the most exhausting, yet rewarding, competitions of the year. It certainly represents a test of organisation, patience and diplomacy for the House Captains, who have once again done a great job in helping the House system to flourish.

At the Christmas break, the Whitby Cup standings were:

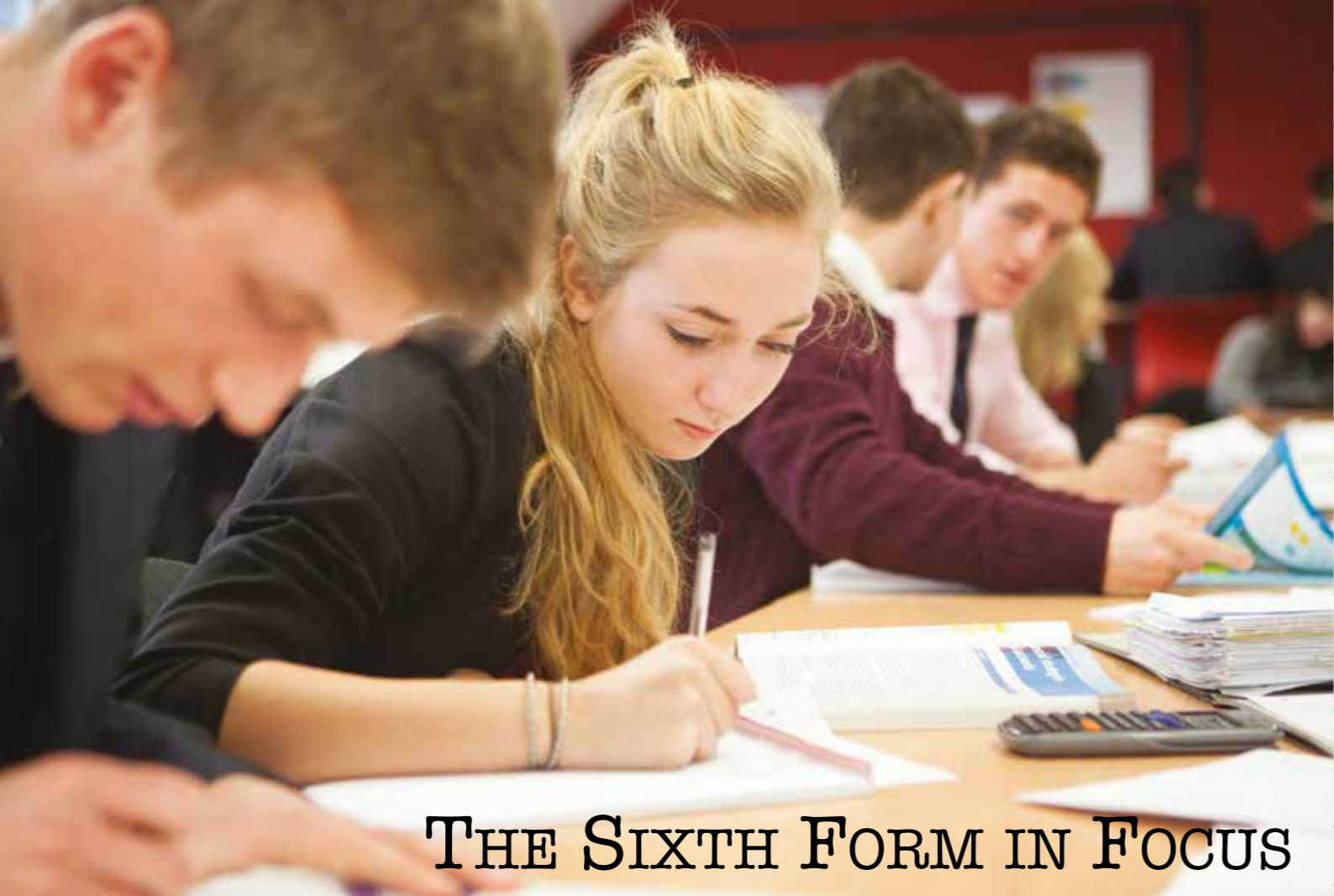
- |    |         |             |
|----|---------|-------------|
| 1. | Fylde   | 36 points   |
| 2. | School  | 33 points   |
| 3. | Kirkham | 27.5 points |
| 4. | Preston | 25.5 points |



## Riding High

Three KGS girls are horse riding stars. Ellie Jolleys aged 17 (photo left) competes at National Level Dressage, Emily Gaynor Smith aged 13 (photo right) competed at the Horse of the Year Show and Georgia Blakemore aged 13 (photo above) won a place at the Horse of the Year Show.





# THE SIXTH FORM IN FOCUS



## Captains & Senior Prefects 2013-2014



# “One more step along the road I go....”

We look forward to welcoming our present Fifth Year students to the Sixth Form in September, at the start of what we hope will be a happy and successful senior school career. With the right mix of hard work from the pupil and support from the school, this is the first step on a road which can lead to an exciting and fulfilling future. So where might your child be in two years' time? We asked several of our Upper Sixth students to look back on their journey through KGS as they prepare to take the next step in their lives. For them and their families, it seems like only yesterday that they joined us...

## ELSIE LINLEY

“I have just received an offer to study Classics at St Anne's College, Oxford. Throughout my nine years at Kirkham Grammar, I have been a dedicated linguist. This enthusiasm was propelled in the First Year during Language Awareness lessons which provided a glimpse into the Latin language. Intrigued, I chose the subject as one of my GCSE options, and it was Mrs Long, my Latin teacher, who encouraged me to attend a Latin Summer School. Having attended the summer school twice, I realised my desire to study the world and literature of antiquity. A Geography trip to Naples last year proved to be a fascinating insight into the ancient civilisations of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

My love for acting was sparked in the Junior School's production of Aladdin. I thrived in the role of the mischievous parrot, Iago. In the senior school, I was able to continue this passion during Mrs Heney's Speech and Drama lessons. Not only have these lessons given me the chance to explore Greek tragedy, but they have also given me the opportunity to be part of the school's successful public speaking team and to participate in school concerts. In my spare time, I am a keen horse rider but I am hoping to soon exchange four legs for four wheels by passing my driving test! I would like to express my gratitude for the continuing support provided by my teachers and fellow pupils throughout the university application process.”

## HANNAH CULVER

“I joined the First Year at KGS in September 2007 from Garstang Community Primary School. My parents and I decided on KGS because of the wide variety of extra-curricular activities on offer, alongside a supportive academic environment. My passion is music and I have greatly enjoyed the wide variety of musical activities at KGS. I play in the Orchestra, String Group and Concert Band and sing in the Choir, as well as regularly performing solos in school concerts. I have also enjoyed participating in the school CCF during my later years here and am now a Senior NCO. After highly successful GCSE results I chose to stay on for the Sixth Form at KGS and received the honour of being appointed this year's School Captain. I hope to pursue a career in music and have gained a conditional place at Oxford University to read this subject next year.”



## BEN EVERSON

“I joined KGS in the Third Year from King Edward & Queen Mary School, to take advantage of the challenging academic environment and the wide range of sporting opportunities. The school's hardworking ethos made sure I reached my full potential in all areas of school life. The strong sporting background appealed to my competitive nature and with KGS's reputation for fielding strong and successful teams, I knew I would clearly have something to aspire to. I soon gained sporting success at the school, representing England in Athletics. The House system, CCF and extensive extra-curricular activities were also appealing, and I have taken part in many over the past few years. KGS has created an environment in which I have thrived and been motivated to give my all. The high aspirations that all students share at the school make sure each student strives to succeed. My growing self-belief and my desire to work hard were an influence on my success in being appointed School Captain. KGS has inspired me to succeed and given me the confidence to take every opportunity offered.”

(picture right)

## BEN MORRIS

“I have been a member of the school for 10 years, first joining the Junior School and then progressing to the Senior School. I decided on KGS because of its reputation for an all-round education and excellent academic results year on year. I have joined in with all KGS has to offer through being a member of the rugby teams, the Archery Club, secretary of the Climbing Club, member of the Debating Club, participant in the Duke of Edinburgh Award and regularly taking part in house events. Having received a string of excellent GCSE results thanks to hard work and the excellent teaching environment, I decided to continue into the Sixth Form to build on my success, choosing strongly scientific and mathematical subjects. I have attained the title of Senior Prefect in the Sixth Form in recognition of my leadership qualities, and I am also jointly in charge of the school's RAF unit in CCF where I regularly attend camps and events in a senior capacity. My Sixth Form success has been based on my consistent and thorough additional help from teachers, leading to a conditional offer to read Natural Sciences (Physical) at Cambridge University next academic year.”



Left to right: Elsie Linley, Hannah Culver and Ben Morris

# ROMEO & JULIET



A KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL PRODUCTION





"See, what a scourge is laid upon your hate "  
Kirkham Grammar School Dramatic Society's  
Romeo and Juliet:  
December 2013

"These violent delights have violent ends  
And in their triumph die, like fire and powder  
Which, as they kiss, consume."

Friar Laurence's words have powerful resonances for us today, in an age where fanaticism and the works of extremists of all political persuasions feature heavily on the front pages of our national newspapers. Perhaps to underline the importance of shared contexts, the magic of the theatre and the talents of Kirkham Grammar School's Dramatic Society saw the audience transported, not to fourteenth century Verona, but to a modern school playground. Living drama needs to be seen as relevant to the audience of today, and Ms Barrie's production of Romeo and Juliet firmly forefronted the relevance of Shakespeare's concerns to us today.

Romeo and Juliet is a play founded on oppositions, and Ms Barrie's production focused on this. The decision to cast the Capulets as female and the Montagues as male emphasised the importance of gender, and the staging of opposites based upon colour for school uniform – red for the Montagues, blue for the Capulets – immediately fixed the impressions of sectarianism and group identity.

From the opening scene, the audience was plunged into this world of violent opposition: a beautifully choreographed high-school dance that quickly segued into a violent gang-land brawl. This opposition between the harmony of dance and the chaos of battle was epitomised by Tybalt (Sophie Warden), whose fluidity as a dancer was complemented by the poised and studied violence of her conflict scenes. Ms Barrie's trademark gender role reversal worked brilliantly here through the opposition of Tybalt and Mercutio (George Shuttleworth-Brown).

The brilliant choreography of Laura Barnett was supported by the talented musical accompaniment of the Swing Band and The Band, under the musical directorship of Graeme Barrie and Paul Dalton: the harmony of music elevated the tragic descent into chaos that typifies tragedy.

Counterpointing the violence of Shakespeare's play is unexpected comedy: the sexual innuendo of the cowardly servants of both houses in the opening scene; Eliza Parr's blushing Petra/Peter. And in particular, the character role of the Nurse, brilliantly played by Georgia Ansell who maintained audience belief in her catalytic role throughout, and the mercurial Mercutio, played with sprezzatura by George Shuttleworth-Brown, served as a brilliant foil as the tragedy unfolded.

"Violent delights have violent ends": the play clearly questioned extremism in all its forms. Romeo, convincingly played by Josh Burrows, here found societal roles mapped out for him that he could not escape: as lover, the intensity of his passion for Juliet in this production served only to make more extreme his violence as gang member. Indeed, the staging of his throttling of Tybalt was one of the most violent scenes this theatre has ever witnessed, shocking in its intensity – whilst the almost casual killing of Paris underscored the violence inherent in extremism. Love in this play is not a gentle balm.

The contrast between Romeo and Juliet here became even more poignant. Juliet, the fragile and vulnerable thirteen-year old played with ten-







der pathos by Sophie Coppleston, graphically illustrates that innocence is no defence against the ravages of a fractured society. As in all conflict, it is the innocent who are the true victims, and this was emphasised by the transformation of the wedding bed into catafalque, symbolising the destruction of youth, society, and perhaps hope for the future.

The concluding scene formed a chilling conclusion for this tour de force, calling into question the trite resolution offered by the Prologue, "A pair of star-cross'd lovers take their life; Whose misadventur'd piteous overthrows

Do with their death bury their parents' strife."

Circling the "star cross'd lovers", the supposedly newly united Montagues and Capulets re-enacted in a stylised dance the opening of the play to Nick Cave's lyrics sung by Ute Lemper :

"Under here, I am made ready  
And under here, I am washed clean  
And I glow with the greatness of my hate for you."

However, the real testament of success is audience reaction. As all who were fortunate to be members of the audience will attest, as ever, the production was a triumph: and Ms Barrie, Mrs Walker and all who played a part, either literally or behind the curtain under the control of Stage Manager Ruby Barrie, in ensuring the success of Romeo and Juliet deserve congratulation on this tour de force.

Following the success of this production of Romeo and Juliet, three of our pupils were nominated for NODA awards. NODA is the National Operatic and Dramatic Association who send representatives to a whole range of amateur performances who then put forward the shining stars for an award. Josh Burrows was nominated for Best Actor for his role as Romeo, Sophie Warden as Best Supporting Actor for her role as Tybalt and George Shuttleworth-Brown as Most Entertaining Actor for his role as Mercutio; just being nominated was a wonderful achievement. The awards ceremony was on Saturday 25 January and the Drama Department were delighted that George Shuttleworth-Brown won in his category of Most Entertaining Actor; an outstanding achievement and very well deserved. Disappointment for Josh and Sophie whose performances were fantastic as well.

Chris Hawkes





# U14XIhockey





1stXI hockey



# U12XV rugby





Many thanks to Mr K Wilkinson for these action photos.

# U13XVrugby





1ST XV rugby



## Hockey

This season has been particularly successful for our hockey players with regards to friendly fixtures and National Competitions and Cups. Our 1st XI has won 16 out of the 18 games played and progressed through the first Lancashire round of the National Hockey Competition and we were crowned regional champions which led us to the North Finals where they finished in third place. The 1st XI also won the Lancashire Hockey Tournament beating AKS 2-1 in the final (photo right 1st XI including the U16XI and U14XI). The senior girls' have recently enjoyed a magnificent Hockey Tour to Barbados. Photos and a full tour report will feature in the Summer Newsletter and website.

A special mention should go to Ellie Greenhalgh who reached the final stages of the England selection process. She is currently involved within the England Development Squad and will continue to do so throughout the rest of the season.

Junior Regional Performance Centre selection was achieved by Rachel Greenwood, Beth Everson, Ellie Greenhalgh and Becky Ingham. From this, Ellie Greenhalgh and Becky Ingham were selected to represent the Pennine Puma's in the Futures Cup at Cannock Hockey Club. A competition which the Pennine Puma's won!

The U16 XI progressed through the first Lancashire round of the National Hockey Competition to the Regional Finals at Timperley Hockey Club. At this stage we were crowned regional champions which led us to the North Finals at Leeds University where they finished in fourth place.

The U15 XI played 13 matches losing only one! Unfortunately the U15 squad have been plagued by injury this season which has affected the fluency of their development. However, they have persevered and at times have had to work extremely hard to grind out the right result.

The U14 XI has also had an extremely successful season winning every game played so far! They progressed through the Lancashire round of the England Hockey Competition to reach the Regional Finals. At this stage we were crowned regional champions which led us to the North Finals where we finished in fourth.

The U13 XI and 7-aside squad have been undefeated so far this season. They have enjoyed success against Wakefield, Altrincham Girls' Grammar, AKS and Stockport to name just a few. In the 7-aside National Mini Hockey Tournament they finished equal 1st place with AKS defeating all teams in their group, Rossall in the semi-final and drawing 1-1 with AKS in the final. They now move onto the Regional Final in early March where they hope to progress even further within the competition.

A very promising start from the U12 7-aside squads. With some players only just learning to play they have done extremely well to achieve some very successful results! Both their tournaments are yet to come where we are hoping for great things!



## Netball

The Netball squads have experienced much success. All teams have won the majority of their matches against local opposition. The U12A reached the semi-final of their tournament whilst the U12B team won their tournament. The U13A team finished third in their tournament whilst once again, the B team won.

## Swimming

The swimming squad have experienced much success this season in both friendly and competitive fixtures. The girls' teams have beaten Westholme and Hulme Grammar School outright whilst our mixed teams have been undefeated in all eight galas. In the QEGS quadrangular gala, KGS came third against some very tough opposition. The team now look forward to the Wyre and Fylde Championships in May. A special mention should go to Samantha Hollings who was selected for the ASA National Championships this year in both relay events.

## Cross Country

Congratulations go to Bradley Yates winning a medal in the AAA National Championships and Ben Preddy (photo right) being crowned County Champion and also gaining a silver medal at the NW Biathlon Championships. Jake Lonsdale has been selected to represent Lancashire in the Inter Counties Cross Country Competition after finishing 1st in the U15 boys age group. Once again the cross country teams have been very successful in the Blackpool and Wyre Championships. Our 1st year girls' team won the event outright whilst our 2nd & 3rd year combined team were runners up. The 4th and 5th year combined team led by example with a fine team win and individual victory for Sam Hollings. Several runners represented Fylde in the Lancashire Cross Country Championships at Witton Park.

## Tennis

Year 7 & 8 Aegon Tennis progressed to the final eight in the country. (photo middle)

## Rugby

Rugby at KGS has continued to flourish. Both the U13's and U15's have reached the Lancashire Cup finals to be played later in March, whilst the U16's narrowly missed out in the semi-final. The 1st XV has had some



exciting wins over King's Macclesfield, Old Swinford Hospital School and St Ambrose, and 1st XV scrum half Richard Whiteside has been selected for The English Independent Schools U18 side.

During last term 1st XV players Lewis Leech, Theo Harvey and Nick Riding represented Lancashire U18's and Jamie Brookes represented the North Independent Schools side. Nick Riding has also gone on to represent Lancashire at U20. A number of 1st XV players were also selected for the Lancashire U17 squad, Connor Wilkinson, Ryan Williams, Sean Marsden, Luke Randall, Connor Dever, James Robinson and Adam Joyner. KGS U16 George Blackwell had a North U16 trial and fellow U16's George Carter and Jack Edwards represented Lancashire U16's. U15's Kieran Wilkinson, Sam Dugdale and Henry Pearson have been selected for Lancashire U15's squad. Whilst Kieran has also been playing for the English Independent Schools U14 side. Finally U13's Evan Powell and Joseph Shields have represented the North Independent Schools side.

