



**KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL**  
Excellence built on traditional Grammar School values

Headmaster's Newsletter

Summer 2013



# HEADMASTER'S FAREWELL



It certainly does not seem eleven years since I rather nervously approached Kirkham Grammar School on my first day as Headmaster. I have to say that I have never for a moment regretted my decision to take up my post and have enjoyed a wonderful period leading a school that stands for everything I hold dear in education. The welcome I received then epitomises what is best about the school and I have no doubt that my successor, Richard Laithwaite and his wife Sandra will be afforded that same level of welcome. These last few weeks are something of a whirlwind which will pass by very quickly. One cannot help but recognise that each occasion represents something of a landmark as it is the 'last time' yet the business of the school goes on and certainly this term is as busy as always. There is so much that I shall miss but foremost is the energy and enthusiasm of our pupils reinforced all the time just by watching them in all their work and activities. The manner in which these pupils grasp their opportunities gives me enormous faith in the future. While the educational world outside seems to grapple with mediocrity and make our lives ever more complex the pupils just get on with it and rise to any challenge set for them.

Clearly I made my decision to move on to further challenges, after something of a 'rest period' which I will enjoy, but I shall look back on the continual support of my colleagues who have put up with me patiently through this period and also our parents who give so much in support of their children and the school. I never cease to be astounded by the number of parents here at school on a daily basis, just supporting or indeed transporting their children. That investment of time is an enormous one and for a Headmaster it is humbling, ensuring that your work is always dedicated to making sure the school meets the needs of our parents as much as we possibly can. Notably amongst this group I must single out the Friends who have provided such staunch support for both Sylvia and I over the years.

I shall keep a watchful eye from afar to see how KGS progresses over the coming years, for progress it will. I know the Governors and staff are determined that the central place it currently holds in the educational world in the North West will be further enhanced and that the school will continue its development. I am just proud to have played a small part in that important journey. I thank all those who have contributed so much in what has always been a 'team effort' and wish you all the very best for the future.

Photo top right - Barrie Stacey, Headmaster 1991-2002, Douglas Walker, Headmaster 2002-2013 and Richard Laithwaite.

Photo middle - Margaret Scott, Francine Lang and Carolyn Copland.

Photo bottom - Andrew Barratt.



## Staff Retiring

FRANCINE LANG

Mrs Lang joined KGS in 1997 at very short notice in order to cover for the existing Business Studies teacher. As an NQT this proved an immediate challenge for her but one which she met with her customary dedication and enthusiasm. Numbers in the subject grew under her tutelage and by 2004 further staffing in the department was required.

The Business Studies Department has been notable for its examination success during Mrs Lang's tenure as Head of Department culminating in recognition in the Good Schools Guide in 2005 for the standard of A-level results achieved by students. The department has, however, not limited itself solely to examination preparation as new co-curricular initiatives including visiting speakers and site visits to places such as Universal Products Ltd, Beaverbrooks and other business organisations. Perhaps most memorably a "Go-Ape" visit was organised in the pursuit of 'team building' and initiative. The combination of high quality teaching and sustained levels of interest and enthusiasm has ensured that results have continued to maintain high levels over recent years.

Mrs Lang was also heavily involved in Young Enterprise for a number of years and the group enjoyed considerable success at both local and regional level. As the leader of "Choc for Charity" Mrs Lang was also central to the raising of around £300 p.a. from equipment freely gained from Cadbury's. Her interests also stretched to a further initiative in organising the first "Pop Idol" event at KGS which proved an instant hit and raised a significant sum for charity.

Mrs Lang's contribution to KGS will be missed not least by the Common Room where she has acted as Treasurer over recent years. She has always been willing to assist in new initiatives while remaining determined that her department always reaches the high standards she aspires to. Many Kirkhamians have much to thank her for.

ANDREW BARRATT

Mr Barratt joined KGS in January 2003 taking over the Music Department from the highly acclaimed leadership of John Catterall. Mr Barratt had himself already built a fine reputation locally at Queen Mary's School and more latterly at the combined King Edward and Queen Mary School. As Director of Music at both these establishments he had a wealth of experience to bring to KGS and quickly set about building his department around him. Immediately one sensed the commitment to a breadth of music provision building upon the considerable achievements of his predecessor.

Throughout Mr Barratt's tenure as Director of Music he has ensured a smoothly organised department. Peripatetic teachers and individual music lessons have been arranged without fuss despite the significant administrative burden involved. Numbers opting for the subject have avoided the demise seen in other establishments while the number of ensembles has increased now involving a buoyant swing band and string group, to add to the long standing Choir, Orchestra and Concert Band. The level of challenge involved for all the pupils involved in these different groups has increased markedly over recent years and the numbers involved, of all ages, has seen similar

movement.

The concerts at KGS have become the highlight of the year with an extra-ordinary level of performance. Whether it be the newly instigated First and Second Year concerts, the monthly Coffee Concerts or the main school events. The pupils rise to the challenge Mr Barratt sets. They also love what they are doing which is testimony to the encouragement they receive.

The House Music Competition continues to be a central event in the school year, averaging four hundred entries per annum. The competition is intense but friendly and the recently developed Choir "sing off" has been a huge success. Performances by different ensembles at the Guild Hall at different events has provided a showpiece as did the regular visits of the 'Normandy Band' until its reassignment but throughout Mr Barratt has shown a commitment to all musicians and never allowed himself to become too focused on any one aspect.

One of the greatest challenges facing the department was always the poor accommodation provided. Only in his last year has he had a provision worthy of the standard of music performed. His role in the new development was significant and it is hoped that school musicians will now have a home fit for their status in school.

Mr Barratt has always been busy in the local musical scene as the leader of the Lytham Choral Society and their performances with the school choir have rightly been a matter of conceivable pride. It must also not be forgotten that Mr Barratt maintained his leadership of the department while undergoing thumb joint replacements, a major step for a pianist. At this time he owed a great debt both to Mr Dalton within the department and also to his wife, Pippa, who has played such a central role in supporting him at KGS.

Mr Barratt has come to epitomise music at school and his tutees, and the school as a whole will miss him as he moves into retirement. He has made a major contribution to pupils' lives at KGS and we all wish him well for the future.

MARGARET SCOTT

Mrs Scott joined KGS in 1997 as Head of Biology from QEGS, Blackburn where she had held various positions of pastoral responsibility and taught Biology to all levels. Upon appointment Mrs Scott fitted immediately into the KGS ethos and worked tirelessly to make Biology a flagship department. Numbers opting for her subject have remained strong throughout her tenure as Head of Department both at GCSE and A-level. More recently as the subject has been compulsory at GCSE the results have been outstanding. At A-level three sets in each year group have been the norm and Mrs Scott has always ensured that the teaching and concern for her pupils is of the highest order. Field Trips have been initiated to many different areas and to include different year groups. Visits to Wales, Yorkshire and closer to home have given students an insight into varied aspects of the subject while her oversight of the environmental pond has allowed work to go on much closer to home on this important topic. The Animal Ark Club was very popular until Health and Safety rules undermined its existence and the younger pupils loved looking after the pets and creepy crawlies within the department. Mrs Scott has always pioneered new developments wherever applicable but never lost sight of the personal touch and her care and concern for her pupils and numbers of her department have been a hallmark of

her teachership.

Outside the classroom she has enjoyed a full role in the Climbing Club which has grown both in numbers and scope over recent years. With Mr Gaddes, she has ensured a band of student climbers enjoy their experiences both as part of the CCF and as part of the Climbing Club.

Her dedication to KGS and the Biology Department ensures that her presence here will be missed. She has constantly striven for raising attainment but never lost sight of her pupils as individuals. An ideal combination.

## Further Staff News

Only recently we have received news that Mrs Copland will leave us in order to take up a new appointment in Merseyside, much closer to home. She has over the past fourteen years overseen both the school library and the archives. Her contribution here has been marked by her eagerness to engage the school community in reading books. Careful choice of stock, boundless enthusiasm for enrichment activities such as visiting authors, Carnegie Award and 'Lambanana' have seen her successful in her quest amidst a world dominated by electronic devices. Senior Librarians learn the basics of managing the library and gain broadly from this increased responsibility. Contributions to the learning opportunities of all pupils have been central to her ethos and Mrs Copland has always been eager to get involved in initiatives such as EPQ or any research/project work undertaken by pupils. Contributions to literacy generally have been ensured by strong links to the English Department. All will miss her determined leadership and helpful advice in all these aspects.

She has also found the time to assist in our Boarding House each week where her help with homework sessions has been invaluable and she has contributed to DoF awards, being prepared to risk all weathers on expeditions to all parts of the North West. We now wish Mrs Copland well in the next stage of her career.

Also departing this term is Mr Eccles our DT Technician. Mr Eccles joined us in December 2006 and he very quickly carved a niche for himself in both Senior and Junior Schools carefully preparing the work for students and assisting them in their individual tasks has been the hallmark of his work. Many GCSE and A-level students have much to thank him for and his contribution in the department will mean a real challenge for his successor. He now retires in order to enjoy his many hobbies and we wish him well in his new life.

This year has also been a busy one for admissions to the KGS family with Mrs Williams celebrating the arrival of daughter Ginny, Mrs Fyson her son Max and Mrs Everett her daughter Annabelle. All have had spells on maternity leave this year and we congratulate them on their new additions to the family and look forward to them rejoining us in due course.



# Mr Douglas R Walker

## Headmaster KGS 2002 - 2013

Mr Walker's achievements as Headmaster are numerous and significant. Under his leadership academic results have never been higher and the success enjoyed by school representatives in sport, music, drama, CCF, Duke of Edinburgh and many other extra-curricular activities has been remarkable.

Mr Walker has also made his mark in terms of the enhancements to the fabric of the school: new laboratories, a refurbished sixth form centre, the Waite Building, the Fulford-Brown Sports Centre, the Lawrence House Pavilion and the Robotham Music Centre. All of these developments are a direct result of Mr Walker's vision and determination to leave behind a school of the highest possible calibre.

Most significantly, though, Mr Walker's legacy will be the impact he has had in striving to give pupils the chance to fulfil their own potential. Pupils in the school under Mr Walker's headship have had the opportunity to ingrederere ut proficias – to come in and prosper – in the truest sense of the phrase. His commitment to knowing every single pupil personally and his determination to see the best in everyone has kept him at the heart of the school family and has made a real difference to a generation of school leavers.

The school has also benefited greatly from Mrs Walker's reassuring presence and it has always been a pleasure to see her active involvement in both the Senior and Junior School. In a relatively short period of time they have both made their mark as houseparents and will be greatly missed by all concerned in the Boarding House.

We wish Mr and Mrs Walker every happiness in their retirement and thank them for a magnificent contribution to Kirkham Grammar School

R Luker  
Deputy Headmaster



# THE FULFORD-BROWN SPORTS HALL OFFICIAL OPENING 21 JUNE 2013

KGS celebrated the completion of the next stage of its development programme on Friday 21 June 2013 when Brian Ashton MBE performed the unveiling ceremony at the opening of the school's new sports centre. Mr Ashton spoke briefly about his connections with many members of the school's community and praised the outstanding achievements of the school's sportsmen and women over many years. Nearly 100 guests enjoyed a video presentation outlining the development of sport at KGS over the last two decades as well as a tour of the new facility.

The Sports Centre represents the completion of a phase of development at the school which has included the recently opened Music Centre. These facilities now

constitute an exciting base enabling pupils to enjoy both their curricular and extra-curricular activities in dedicated new areas. The Governors have committed themselves to ensuring that pupils at the school benefit from the continual evolution of the school's buildings in order to ensure the best possible educational environment.

A new Sports Hall, Fitness Centre and Changing Rooms enhance the school's present provision. The all-weather surface and artificial cricket wicket are fully utilised by schools and community groups while the school's playing fields are constantly used by the large number of school teams.

Chairman of Governors, Russell Dawson, outlined that the school is keen to retain the

momentum and that as Governors they are determined to continue this commitment to development. These future ambitions will turn to the Junior School where Governors are already in the planning phases for new facilities designed to enhance various aspects of this area of the campus.

Retiring Headmaster, Douglas Walker, said "The support and vision of the Governors has been central in maintaining the position of KGS in the educational world locally. They and the staff remain committed to ensuring the school retains an outstanding reputation over the next phase of its development. This opening represents the completion of one area of development but also the opening of a new era, one over which my successor Mr Richard Laithwaite will oversee and progress with some relish. I look forward to hearing from afar of his and the school's continued success".





Kirkham and Rural Fylde Fundraisers, together with Kirkham Grammar School support staff, held a Ladies Charity Evening at the school to raise funds for Rosemere Cancer. The event was a huge success with 200 ladies enjoying an informative, though sometimes, emotional evening as three local companies, Cedar Beauty Salon, Amabo Boutique and My Second Image Hair Salon gave beauty, fashion and hair wig demonstrations. During the wig demonstration models currently undergoing chemotherapy and hair loss gave the audience an insight into their second image wearing a wig.

Throughout the evening ladies relaxed enjoying a glass of wine complemented with cheese, biscuits and nibbles. Everyone gave their time freely and donations from generous sponsors contributed to a successful evening raising £2,360.

The Committee was established 14 years ago and in total has raised almost £50,000 for the charity to contribute towards ensuring the very best care possible for local cancer patients, supporting welfare projects, as well as funding additional equipment, facilities and training that the NHS is unable to fund.



## SCHOOL CAPTAINS 2013/2014

Sixth Form students Hannah Culver and Ben Everson have been appointed as Captains of School for the coming year. They bring an impressive breadth of success and involvement in the school community to their jobs.

Hannah is a former pupil of Garstang Community Primary School, and is studying Biology, Chemistry, English Literature and Music at A-level. She is planning to take a degree in Music at university, and would like to pursue a career in music. Hannah is involved in a variety of activities at school, but her passion is for music: as well as studying the subject to A-level, she is also an accomplished instrumentalist, specialising in violin and piano, and a choral singer, who is a member of the School Choir.

Ben a former pupil of King Edward and Queen Mary School, is studying Maths, Further Maths, Physics and Geography at A-level. He is planning to study Accountancy at university. Ben is a traditional "all rounder", being a member of the 2nd XV Rugby Team and was a leading light in the Young Enterprise Company, but his major extra-curricular activity is track athletics, he is a middle-distance runner who has achieved representative honours for Lancashire and England.



## BLACKPOOL MARATHON

Laura Pitkethly, a school secretary at KGS, completed the Blackpool Marathon in 3 hours and 52 mins on Sunday 7 April and will have raised around £1,896 for Brian House. She would like to say a huge thank you to everyone at KGS - staff, students, parents & friends who so kindly donated to the charity and supported her by holding cake sales & raffles. She was also so lucky to have lots of people give up their precious time to come along on the day to cheer her on.

# MUSIC

The New Year has again seen the Music Department extremely busy with a packed schedule of concerts and events as we continue to enjoy our new facilities and find new ways of exploiting them to the full. The first Coffee Concert saw various members of staff exhibit their musical talents, much to the delight of the students who made up much of the audience. The second Thursday in February gave the Second Year a chance to display their talents as many of them delighted us with a wide ranging assortment of performances in the Recital Room. The next Coffee Concert was given by the combined forces of the First and Second Year students who really showed what a prospect they are in a wonderfully varied programme. Late March gave the Senior Choir their annual chance to enhance the school's Founders' Day Service. Not only did they lead the musical side of worship, usually in four part harmony, they performed music by John Rutter delivered to their customary high standard. April saw the combined choirs of KGS join forces with the Lytham St. Annes Choral Society in a performance of John Rutter's 'Requiem' and Karl Jenkins 'Peacemakers', together with an orchestra. This again provided our students with a wonderful opportunity to enhance their musical experience and enrich their musical lives. Perhaps the highlight of the year though has to be the Spring Concert that took place in May. The Orchestra, String Group, Concert Band, Swing band, Senior Choir and various groups and individuals thrilled the audience with some real quality performances. Orchestral standards, Broadway musicals, film themes, contemporary choral and toe-tapping jazz had the audience in raptures by the end of the evening. Congratulations to all the performers, you did your teachers proud!

The Spring Term heralded the annual House Music Festival. Mr Barratt and Mr Dalton again had the pleasure of listening to well over four hundred students. In groups and as individuals, as they sought to secure points for their house, or perhaps even win through to the final. It is a real testament to the school's commitment to music that so many of the student body chose to participate. Once the initial auditions were over, it all came down to a Wednesday in early March and the final. Mr Tim Barratt was the adjudicator for the day and he had the unenviable job of selecting a winner. After an intriguing and exhausting day, Elliot Gaston-Ross was pronounced the winner for the second year in a row, an incredible achievement for someone who is only in the third form! He was pushed all the way by Hannah Culver who was runner up in a thrilling final. The Gala Concert in late March gave us all a chance to hear the winners and those who were highly commended; it was a truly wonderful evening with some outstanding playing. The House Choir competition again took the form of a 'sing off' in the MPH with the four house choirs doing battle in open forum, one in each corner, ably directed by their Sixth Form arranger/conductors. The standard was very good indeed and in a close fought contest, Fylde House emerged triumphant. Congratulations to all the finalists, who were so accomplished in their own individual ways.

Many of our musicians were examined by the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music in March of this year, the culmination of many months of lessons and hours of personal practice. I am pleased to report that they were all successful, many of them passing their exams with merit or distinction, and that at the higher grades too. It is no surprise, therefore, that several of our musicians continue to be regular members of county bands and orchestras, with some also representing the school in the national youth bands and orchestras too.

On a sad note, Mr Barratt retires from teaching at the end of this academic year. He has led the Music Department with distinction over the past ten years and has overseen the broadening of music-making and the expansion of instrumental diversity. He has pursued very high standards of academic achievement, together with very high performance standards and has imbued a love of music in all who have been fortunate enough to have been taught by him. He will be sorely missed by his colleagues in the department, and the students he has encouraged and motivated over the years. He leaves a legacy of excellence, a love of music, and a fantastic foundation upon which the department can continue to build in the months and years ahead.

Paul R. Dalton

## Diary Dates



**A-level Results**  
Thursday 15 August 2013

**GCSE Results**  
Thursday 22 August 2013

**1st Year Induction Day**  
8.50 am, Wednesday 4 September 2013

**New School Year begins**  
8.50 am, Thursday 5 September 2013

**Senior School Annual Prizegiving & Speech Day**  
7.15 for 7.30 pm, Thursday 19 September 2013

**Open Afternoon**  
Sunday, 6 October 2013

**New Parents' Welcome Evening**  
Wednesday, 9 October 2013

**Bruce Craven Memorial Rugby Match**  
Saturday, 13 October 2013

**Old Kirkhamians' Association AGM  
& Northern Reunion Dinner**  
Saturday, 19 October 2013

**Open Evening**  
Monday, 11 November 2013

**Friends of KGS Winter Ball  
at The Villa, Wrea Green**  
Saturday 16 December 2013

**"Young" OKA Reunion  
at the Grapes, Wrea Green**  
Monday, 23 December 2013

**Senior School Entrance Exam**  
Saturday 25 January 2014

**Sixth Form Open Evening**  
Thursday 6 February 2014



## SUMMER ACTIVITY CAMPS

David Shaw Tennis Camp 15 – 26 July 2013  
David Shaw 07770618148  
e-mail: d.shaw223@btinternet.com

Andrew Flintoff Cricket Academy 29 July – 2 August 2013  
www.andrewflintoffcricketacademy.co.uk

Kings Camp 5 August – 16 August 2013  
www.kingcamps.org



On 20 June, many of those who study Latin piled into the minibus and headed North, following in the footsteps (though in much greater comfort - yes, even in the minibus!) of the legionary soldiers from all corners of the Roman Empire who were stationed on the northern frontier of Roman Britain during the period of Roman occupation.

We visited the Roman Army museum where we watched an excellent 3D film of life for a soldier posted to Hadrian's Wall, and then we went on a short walk/climb to see - and sit on - the wall itself.

After our picnic lunch we travelled on to Vindolanda where we saw the latest excavations taking place in the vicus area just outside the camp itself. One of the leading archaeologists on site explained some of the work that was being carried out.

When the (inevitable) rain started we headed for the museum where we saw the impressive collection of artefacts, most notably some of the Vindolanda tablets, which are ancient personal letters and records providing a unique insight into life almost 2,000 years ago. More of these letters are still being found at Vindolanda.

Two years ago the tablets topped a poll on the BBC programme Meet The Ancestors, run in conjunction with the British Museum, to find the UK's top treasure. Most of the tablets are now kept in The British Museum but a few are on loan to the Vindolanda museum.

We had an interesting and enjoyable day which reminded everyone that the ancient world is far from dead and is continuing to give up its secrets.

S.P. Long



# Paris Trip 2013



In February on a cold winter's morning, a group of Fifth and Sixth Form budding French enthusiasts met at Preston Station and prepared for the trip of a lifetime. After the six-hour journey we arrived in Paris, and after quickly dropping off bags at the hotel, set off on a river boat cruise on the Seine. We saw most of the sites that Paris has to offer from the water and enjoyed the informative commentary. Despite the sub-zero temperatures morale was high as we went to dinner at our old favourite Brasserie Weller.

After a much needed night's sleep we went to a traditional Marché aux Puces where we indulged in the local culture. We grabbed lunch from a boulangerie and then in the afternoon we had free time to spend how we wanted. Some visited Notre-Dame and the famous Shakespeare and Company book shop where we caught a glimpse of the actor Owen Wilson (movie *Midnight in Paris*); the other half of the group visited the Trocadéro. Later that evening, we went up the Eiffel Tower and afterwards we went to a Moroccan restaurant where we all sampled the French favourite of couscous.



The next day we visited the Sacré-Cœur and sat in on a Sunday Mass; sheltering from the blizzard-like conditions we sought refuge in a crêperie where some had their first obligatory French crêpe of the trip. After this we visited the Paris Chocolate Museum where the lovely Florian showed us how to make their world famous truffles and chocolates. Some of the group went to the Musée d'Orsay whilst others enjoyed some retail therapy. After dinner we went to a traditional Parisian Café-Bar where we all played pool. (For the record, Joe would like to point out that he let Wardy win!)

On Monday we visited the Gardens of the Palace of Versailles and then returned to Paris and visited the Champs-Élysées; there we marvelled at the madness of the Rond-Point de l'Étoile. After this we were again given time where one group went to the Place de la Concorde and went on the Ferris wheel. We had our final meal in a family owned Franco-Italian restaurant and then took a much needed early night, ready for the train back to England the next day. Fin!

Jessica Riley, Lizzie Jenkinson, Anna Shackleton and Joe Ryan



## First Year Biology Trip to Blackpool Zoo

The First Year Biology Trip to Blackpool Zoo was to support work done on animal classification. Examples of zoo animals were used to recap the classification system and adaptations of animals from a variety of habitats were considered.

Pupils were also given the opportunity to handle a King snake and an American hissing cockroach.

The lovely sunny weather made exploring the zoo, whilst finding information for their question booklets, very enjoyable.

Prize winners - for finding the most answers were:

- 1W Liam Gerrity
- 1X Megan Hughes
- 1Y Clare Anthony
- 1Z Cicely Cook

Some comments from the pupils:-

"Blackpool Zoo is a really fun trip you get to see lots of different animals and displays. You learn a lot and have a good time".

"I really enjoyed the trip, especially when the lemurs jumped on me! I would love to go again".

"It was fun when the lemurs jumped up in the enclosure and the talk was interesting".

"I liked the elephants. When the keepers were feeding them it was awesome".

"I liked the sea lions - they were so clever. I also liked watching the penguins being fed".







upper **6th** 2013



### Leavers Ball







**BAE SYSTEMS**

**ROTARY/BAE TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT**



The 2013 Rotary Technology Tournament was held on Friday 15 March 2013 at Preston Grasshoppers RUFC, attracting over twenty five teams from schools across the local area. This year's task was extremely challenging requiring, the teams to design and build a vehicle that could travel the furthest distance, powered by a falling weight.

In the Foundation Category of the tournament the KGS team comprising of: Oscar Cornah-Burrows, Caitlin Harrison, Theo Randal and Isobel Sanders took 1st prize. Runners up were: Caleb Cooper, Charlotte Murgatroyd, Haydn Price and Victoria Rigby. In the Advanced Category of the tournament the Sixth Form team of: Elizabeth Jenkinson, Benedict Morris, Ryan Powell and Jonah Winn also took 1st prize.



# Geography Fieldwork

The school's geographers have been busy in recent months, with various trips taking place around the region. The Spring Term saw the A2 geographers visit Lancaster University for their annual trip to The Environment Centre. Here they had two practical tutorials, the first explaining how magma de-gases as it rises up within a volcano, and then an experiment showing how lava flows behave using molten wax.

The AS geographers then had two days of fieldwork in the local area. Their work included an urban study of Preston and the surrounding area, as well as a detailed study of the River Wyre and the river flood defences across the Fylde coast. The rivers work continued when the Fourth Years collected primary data for their controlled coursework in the Forest of Bowland. Overall, 109 geographers have been 'in the field' since Christmas, and more trips are on the horizon for the First and Second Years before the department heads to the Bay of Naples in October.

Working in small groups, the Third Years were able to get hands-on experience of sampling techniques and measurement of abiotic factors. At the River Brock we measured flow rate, the river profile and used kick sampling to investigate the diversity of freshwater invertebrates. In the grounds of Hothersall Lodge we observed the adaptations of pond animals and also learnt how to use random co-ordinates to investigate the diversity of plant species and to sample the number of earthworms in different areas of grassland.



On the 15 February 2013 a group of 16 Young Engineers visited HMS Illustrious whilst she was docked at the Liverpool Cruise Terminal. The 2nd and 3rd Year Design Technology students spent a full day on board the Royal Navy Warship to gain an insight as to how the aircraft carrier responds to emergency situations and varying climate conditions.

Recently returned from operations in the Arctic Circle, the staff on board HMS Illustrious introduced the students to their specialist fields of Fire Safety, Engineering, Logistical Catering, Hydraulics, First Aid and Meteorology whilst the Royal Marine Commando's spoke about their recent tour of Afghanistan. Students also had an opportunity to get up close to a Sea King Helicopter that was also on board the vessel.

The Young Engineers thoroughly enjoyed their day on board the HMS Illustrious and wished the Helicopter Carrier and her staff well as she now makes what could be her final call before withdrawal.



### BOARDERS CAKE SALE

Over a weekend in May the Boarders were busy baking with Mrs Rowe and Mrs Walker for a charity cake sale. They raised over £100 which has been sent to Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the baking, both the preparation and the eating!



### SUPPORT THE CLARK BRYDON RADIO SHOW

Clark Brydon, a Fourth Year pupil at KGS, has been given a programme slot for The Clark Brydon Show on Preston FM, 103.2, which started in February and will finish in July.

Clark's 'drive time' radio show will be broadcast at 4.00-5.00 pm. He will be playing the latest chart music but hopes to support local bands by recording interviews with them and playing their music. Anyone at school that is a member of a band or would like a particular band promoted should see Clark.



# JAGUAR d&ttrip

to the Jaguar Factory



During February 2013 a group of seventy eight GCSE Product Design and Electronic Products students visited the Jaguar car factory in Castle Bromwich.

Students witnessed first-hand the state of the art machinery involved in the build process of the XJ, XF and XK models, from the initial assembly of the body shell to the fitment of the driveline. They also appreciated the part played by robots in this modern manufacturing process, with over 140 robots working on the production line.

The GCSE students also took part in a series of challenges including programming their own robots and also a production challenge which saw James Procter, Niyi Brown, Jessica England and Annalise Hughes gaining the quickest time of 2 minutes 34 seconds.

Students were introduced to the latest technology that Jaguar offers to its customers, including a bouncing bonnet, bullet and bomb proofing, heat sensors, and a dashboard screen that allows the driver to watch their satellite navigation system whilst the passenger sat next to them may watch the latest movie all on the same screen both at the same time! Students also enjoyed taking the first glimpse of the new sporty F-type.



Staff also spoke to the GCSE students about the range of career opportunities available at Jaguar including their graduate training programme in both Design and Engineering



### Speak Up!

A popular adage sombrely informs us that many people would rather be on the receiving end of a eulogy than have to be responsible for speaking one! The fear of speaking in public is a powerful one but a group of Sixth Form pupils have recently been working hard to combat this. LAMDA speech and drama lessons now offer Sixth Formers a course in Public Speaking aimed at developing effective verbal communication and public presentation. Pupils work to build skills in clarity of speech and projection supported by a knowledge and understanding of Speaking in Public techniques. An additional benefit of the Bronze, Silver and Gold medals is the UCAS points they carry. Good public speaking skills can increase self-confidence, advance careers and create opportunities and KGS Sixth Form LAMDA students find that something to talk about!





a-level portfolio



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Have you ever watched a Robin Hood film and thought to yourself that you want to be able to shoot a bow and arrow like he does? Were you captivated by the Olympic archers and felt inspired to take up a new sport? We may have just the thing for you! Over the last few years, the Archery Club has grown and expanded to new frontiers and we invite you to join us!

Alongside the usual Friday evening sessions, we're now running taster sessions for both pupils and parents, and beginners' courses for those who wish to take the sport further. We implore you to come along and try it out; you never know, you might have a natural flare for shooting. The Archery Society 2012 saw its largest cohort of beginners since its founding in 2009. Evidently, the prevalence of the Olympic Games motivated people to get in touch with their inner Robin Hoods and come along and join us for one of our beginners' courses. We hope this year will be just the same with just as much victory and triumph, if not more!

If your desire is to represent Team GB in the upcoming Olympics, get excited because we have an Olympic Academy coach with whom many of our members have trained and improved. On Monday evenings, we now receive coaching from him at beginner to advanced levels; all can profit immensely from this valuable resource. Not only have we an Olympic coach, but we're now well embedded into the nationally recognised Archery GB scheme which allows us to win coloured badges, to match our personalised KGS Archery Team shirts, to represent our own level of ability.

Being a part of the Archery GB scheme, we can enter as a team, or as an individual from the KGS team, into serious competitions and tournaments across the UK. A special mention must go to Roland Burt who came a very creditable 3rd in the Chorley Bowmen's Combined FITA. On the topic of competitions, due to the number of members we now have, we had a lively intra-club competition at the end of the Winter term of 2012, with some winning Archery GB badges! We will be entering many more competitions next year and plan to do so with great gusto and zeal! Thanks to a new grant, we now have a vast amount of equipment to use: multiple targets; numerous sets of arrows; bows to suit all ages and levels of ability; arm guards for all and coaching to match that of a professional. We are always open to new members and, with oodles of apparatus, we won't have a problem equipping you with arrows and a bow. We have even more equipment to come! We will be running new beginners' courses next term for anyone who is interested.

Whether you want to take up archery for your Duke of Edinburgh Award, become the next Robin Hood, represent your country in the next Olympics or just for a bit of fun, all are welcome and encouraged to join. Get in touch with a member of the Archery Club or see Mr Wheatland to book your place on an after-school beginners' course now! I look forward to seeing you there!

Clark Brydon  
Archery Club Honorary Secretary



## Visit to United Utilities HQ

Members of the KGS Broadcasting Society were invited to meet the United Utilities Communications team as a result of an entry they submitted for the Reservoir Safety Radio Commercial Competition. Our pupils were tasked with preparing a short presentation about the production of the commercial which was followed with questions taken from the panel. The commercial was also played alongside those from four other schools shortlisted for this occasion. I may be slightly biased but I thought that our pupils, in particular, gave an excellent account of themselves!

The commercial produced will be broadcast on local radio stations as part of the next United Utilities campaign. A presentation disc was awarded in recognition of their efforts.



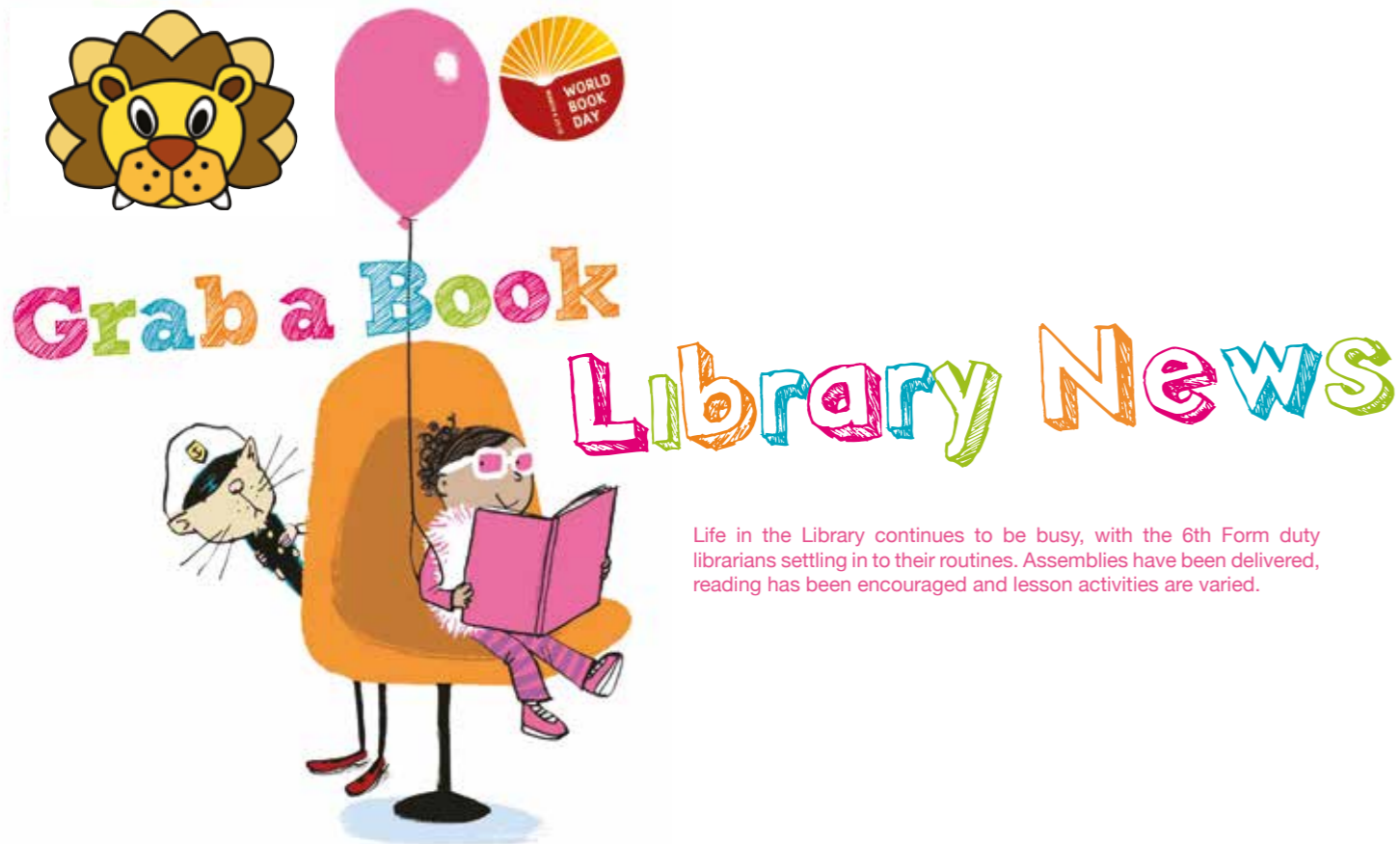
## Preparing students for pressure

Kirkham Grammar School is the first school in the UK to provide the Gr8 Resilience building programme to a group of Sixth Formers to equip them with the thinking skills necessary to deal with challenging situations such as exam time and transition through to further education or the job market. The Gr8 programme (visit [www.gr8wellbeing.co.uk](http://www.gr8wellbeing.co.uk)) is the brainchild of local executive coaching company PurplePotential Ltd and has been delivered to executives and high performance teams in the US, Sweden and the UK for over seven years.

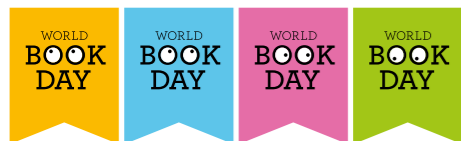
Business Studies teacher, Mrs L Hargreaves, was tasked with looking out for a high quality programme with a proven track record and one that focused on motivating and inspiring students to achieve their true potential. 'We wanted to provide the same quality for our students that blue chip companies give their best people. The Gr8 programme develops the whole person by providing new 'softer' thinking skills that we know increase resilience and are much sought-after by employers. I have seen some of the results for myself and the benefits are fantastic'.

There are five sessions spread over five weeks with groups of up to twelve students. Lead Coach Helen Rhodes MBACP said 'Our vision when we started seven years ago was to provide the Gr8 programme to young people and working with KGS is a real milestone for us. Our work involves focusing on strengths, developing an optimistic attitude and ultimately increased resilience which we describe simply as the ability to truly appreciate life's highs and 'bounce back' from life's lows. To access the same quality of work and facilitation that high performance teams receive is such an amazing opportunity for the students'. Working with employees to develop resilience is becoming more commonplace in the US and UK as studies in some of the world's top organisations provide evidence of the benefits in terms of performance, retention and productivity.

Supporting young people to develop resilience is considered to be the 'holy grail' by many leading academics because of the lifelong benefits these thinking skills can bring to the individual and the workplace. KGS is confident that the benefits will last way beyond school life into the future.



Life in the Library continues to be busy, with the 6th Form duty librarians settling in to their routines. Assemblies have been delivered, reading has been encouraged and lesson activities are varied.



## WORLD BOOK DAY

This annual event is always held on the first Thursday in March. The focus here at KGS is on storytelling, celebrating the rich diversity of literature across continents and time. The difference this year was that it was held in the Recital Room, rather than in the Library. Timetable changes meant that there were fewer suitable 'slots' for the classes and one lesson saw four classes coming in for a story. The physical space cannot accommodate this number so Mr Barratt and Mr Dalton kindly gave permission for the event to be held in this wonderful new room. It felt strange not moving library shelves and furniture but it was so nice to have the space just next door! The pupils enjoy the opportunity of relaxing while enjoying a wide variety of storytelling and their positive feedback is proof that the culture of reading is alive and well here at KGS.

This year there were contributions from Mrs Heney, Mr Painter, Mrs Parkinson, Mrs Atkinson, Mr Wheatland, Mr Partington and Mrs Copland. Mrs Parkinson brought in ropes, crampons, ice axes and other climbing equipment, which added to the atmosphere as she read Ranulph Fiennes' description of attempts on the north face of the Eiger. The Hunger Games and The Hobbit were well-received by the audience and the humour of Roald Dahl led to requests to borrow his short stories.

The school has had a subscription to Britannica Online for many years and this wonderful resource can be accessed from school, where it is available school-wide, and from home. Every encouragement is given to the pupils to use this in preference to Wikipedia, as it is both current and reliable. The website has recently undergone a makeover and I took advantage of the free training sessions to learn how it has been improved. I have since provided a short demonstration to the staff in the Geography department and have also spoken to all the Heads of Department.

Parents and pupils can access this resource via the Library pages on the school website; open ONLINE RESOURCES, click on and type in your child's name in lower case, using this format: h.potter

## BOOK CLUB

This group continues to go from strength to strength. Our reading this academic year has included 'The Hobbit' by J R R Tolkien, 'Department 19' by Will Hill, 'The woman in black' by Susan Hill, 'The Hardy Boys Book 1' by F W Dixon and 'A monster calls' by Patrick Ness. The members met for the summer meeting in early June and decided that they want to keep the group going next year. Their final choices were 'The Spook's Apprentice' by Joseph Delaney, 'Ice Station' by Matthew Reilly and 'The Apothecary' by M Meloy.



A CHANCE TO MEET SOPHIE MCKENZIE AT BAINES SCHOOL, 19 MARCH

Not long after World Book Day our pupils had an opportunity to visit Baines School, in Poulton-le-Fylde, to listen to Sophie McKenzie. She is the author of the award-winning Young Adult 'Missing' series (Girl, Missing; Sister, Missing; Missing Me) as well as Blood Ties and Blood Ransom.

Her books are very popular and she is an engaging and inspirational speaker. Our pupils were able to purchase copies of her books, which were then signed by her.



The CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Children's Book Awards

## CARNEGIE AWARD 2013

For the second successive year there were eight books on the shortlist and our judging took place on 17th June, with the official result announced on Wednesday 20th June. The judging meeting consisted of pupils from all year groups and it was wonderful to welcome back Kathryn Minn, who has shadowed Carnegie again in spite of not being in school this year. Charlie Bradbury and Theo Randall brought in cakes, which were enjoyed by all those able to take part.

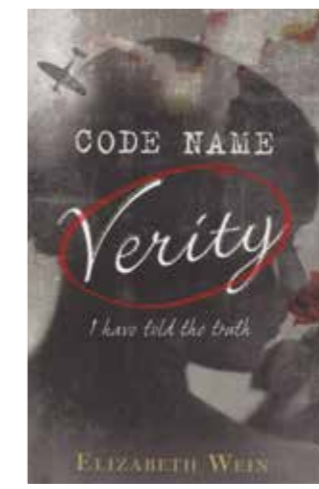
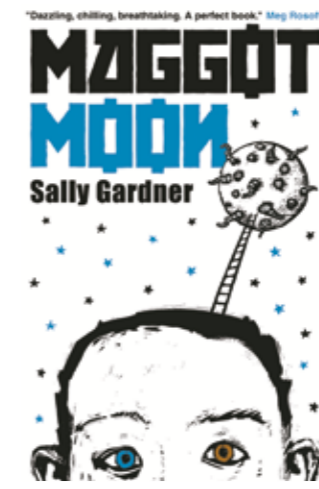
We held our meeting in the Library and a lively discussion took place. We all agreed that the variety and quality of writing was good, although the shortlist was not considered to be up to last year's high standard. The clear winner for our favourite book was "Code Name Verity" by a new author, Elizabeth Wein. This tells the story of two young women who become best friends during World War II. One is a Scottish aristocrat, the other a young girl from Manchester. One is a pilot, the other an agent for the Special Operations Executive. A vital mission goes wrong and one of the friends has to bail out of a faulty plane over France. She is captured by the Gestapo and becomes a prisoner of war. The story begins in "Verity's" own words, as she writes her account for her captors. Is her account truth or lies, honour or betrayal? This book is a 'must read' for those who love a good 'meaty' novel written from an unusual viewpoint.

Applying the judging criteria of the Award our winner was "Wonder", another debut novel. It tells the story of a ten-year-old boy who has been born with a terrible facial deformity and has been home-schooled. Sent to a real school, Auggie has to cope with the stares and cruelty of the outside world and a sly and insidious bully. Our readers said it reminded them of "The curious incident of the dog in the night-time" by Mark Haddon. They felt that the story was powerful and descriptive, with a fascinating central character

And the actual winner? Well – the Carnegie judges have done it again and chosen the wrong book, in the view of our readers! Our panel voted this one of the strangest books they have ever read. It is a dystopian novel with a difference. A ruthless regime is determined to beat its enemies in the race to the moon. When his best friend Hector is suddenly taken away, Standish Treadwell realises that it is up to him, his grandfather and a small band of rebels to confront and defeat the ever-present oppressive forces of the Motherland. The subject matter and terminology suggests that it is placed in Russia but the actual place is kept deliberately vague and this annoyed several of our readers. It was NOT a popular winner here at KGS!

It will be interesting to see what appears on the shortlist next year – but one thing is certain. KGS pupils will 'shadow' with enthusiasm and will continue to prove that books are not dead! The quality and quantity of children's literature grows each year and it is so rewarding to see our pupils enjoying the richness of modern literature. Year on year the Carnegie Shadowing Group has grown in numbers and enthusiasm

and I thank them, most sincerely, for their commitment and enthusiasm. I count it as one of my successes and I will miss all the pupils who make it such a fun experience. Rest assured that it will continue, finances permitting! Elsie Linley and Lizzy Jenkinson have offered to run it next year and will ensure that it continues to be an important part of life in KGS Library.



PUPIL EVENT AT ROSSALL SCHOOL FOR CARNEGIE READERS

by Cameron Hartley, Rachel Horsfield and Maria Varley, Year 9

On a very warm and sunny June day Mrs Copland took us to the Pupil Librarian Conference at Rossall School, where we met pupils from schools across Lancashire. We started the day off with an icebreaker activity, designed to get to know the pupils from the other schools.

The weather was so good that we were able to take our chairs outside, where we were put into mixed groups and played the 'Fishing Game'. This game included fishing for coloured bobbins which contained pieces of paper with authors and titles on. We then had to match up the authors' names with the book titles.

Following that, we grabbed our favourite book to take part in 'Speed Dating' – with a difference! This version involved books and we had thirty seconds to convince the person opposite to read our book, then the listening person had to give us a mark out of ten for how well we did. We then listened to them as they tried to 'sell' their book to us. We then moved to the next person to start the process again. Everyone spoke to eight people then we all added our scores, then the winners with the highest score received a free book. Cameron was one of the winners!

After our lunch, in the huge dining hall at Rossall, we took part in a quiz which involved matching authors and characters to books, with a variety of prizes for the winners. Mrs Copland seemed to have lots of fun, although she got told off for cheating slightly in the quiz (she helped one of the groups with an answer!)

We were given 'goody bags' with free books, stationery and sweets before coming back to school. We all voted it a good trip.

## And finally...

On a personal note I would like to thank the many pupils, and their parents, who have shown me so much support and encouragement during my fourteen years at KGS. I have been privileged to meet some amazing young people, whose company has lightened up many a gloomy day and who have enriched my life in so many ways. Parents have supported author visits, the Book Club, trips to book shops and even a visit to London for a book launch at the Royal Institution. The memories are many but very varied: DofE trips in freezing weather, wet weather, hot weather – in fact, every type of weather known in Britain; meeting authors such as Joseph Delaney and Patrick Ness; sharing ideas and suggestions of good authors and good reads; spontaneous political and ethical discussions with Sixth Form students; even a resident Superlambanana! Much remains to be done in the Library, not least the active use of Web 2.0 technology (which was to have been my project in September) and the digitisation of the school archives. These challenges will now fall to other people and I wish them well

As I prepare to move on to a fresh challenge at a primary school I would like to paraphrase Bruce Forsyth... "Keeeeeep reading!"

Mrs Copland



# B E R L I N

## A-level Art Trip

In April I was lucky enough to accompany Sixth Form art students to Berlin for the second year running. I have visited Berlin many times but it was wonderful to see the city afresh from two new perspectives – an arty one and a Sixth Form one. Mr Gardiner again organised a fantastic range of activities that kept us all on the hop whilst making us think, question and explore. This year the focus was some magnificent street art through two main experiences; an alternative art tour guide by the name of Bart and the work of international street artist JR. First to Bart, a grungy Dutch eco-warrior type with outstanding English and an intimate knowledge of the city's best street art. During a scorching hot morning, we hopped on and off the trams and the S-bahn as he took us on a three hour tour of the most exceptional work. He explained the social and political expression behind the work, gave us quirky facts about the artists and their techniques, and took us to murals whole buildings high. Berlin is an exceptional place in many ways but for street artists it is a dream; after the terrible devastation during World War II, many buildings were shored up by concreting any exposed gable ends. This means the city is still full of "blind" concrete walls with no windows, on a massive scale – a street artist's delight. The students were impressed with what they saw and heard, and were inspired to create their own work from this.

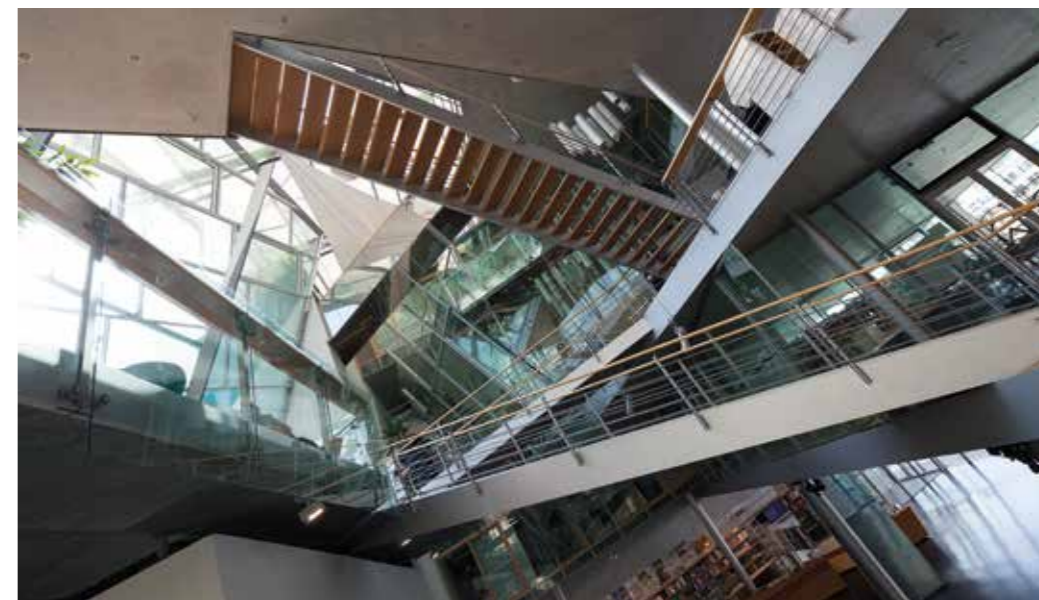
At the beginning of the trip Mr Gardiner ushered us into a tiny gallery on a quiet side street near the Hackersch Markt. The gallery comprised of four modest rooms and was featuring the work of international street artist JR and his international project "Wrinkles of the City". In the first three rooms were photographs of his work around the world – giant photographs of ordinary old people pasted across buildings and then embellished with wonderful abstract swirls and curls which, we discovered, represented the person's thoughts and memories. This was all fine but then the work came alive as we huddled in a darkened room to watch a fascinating film of his work "Wrinkles of Havana, Cuba". The film was extremely moving, interviewing the old people who were so alive with the lives they had led. His photographs showed the beauty of their lined faces and the energy behind their eyes despite lives often defined by poverty and hardship. At the end of the film they showed these ordinary people, often bemused as to why they had been chosen, coming to see their photographs, many three storeys high and broad papered on walls and structures; their responses and the emotion in the art itself made me cry.

So we emerged from the small gallery, all of us affected by this unusual and inspirational work. Mr Gardiner directed us all to follow him and we did. At the end of an ordinary street, not much traffic, not many people, an empty play park, was one of Berlin's own JR "Wrinkles of Berlin" pieces (photo right). A magnificent piece of work that truly brought home the power of art to demand that we look at the ordinary, the everyday and the easily overlooked in a new light. A wonderful experience for all.

JR work can be seen on his wonderful website at:

<http://www.jr-art.net/news/the-wrinkles-of-the-city-takes-over-berlin>

Jane Barrie





# ski TRIP 2013

## New Hampshire Ski Trip, February 2013 A fantastic experience!

After a very early start and almost a day's travel, our group of 50 pupils and staff fared well as we arrived into Logan Airport, Boston. We were still nearly two hours away from The Beacon Resort, Lincoln, New Hampshire, which was to be our base for the next week. The journey went quickly however, as we observed the changing scenery and deepening snow.

The first thing I noticed about the hotel was the wall of hot air that hit you, in comparison to the freezing temperature outside. Most days of our holiday, we experienced temperatures as low as -25 degrees.

The group quickly settled into their accommodation with the boys and girls on different floors. Our rooms were big, with large, comfortable beds. In the evenings, we could swim in the pool, take a dip in the jacuzzi, or meet up and take advantage of the free wi-fi.

Our first taste of a real American dinner was on our first night. We soon realised it would bode well for the rest of our holiday, as the Americans share our dislike for vegetables. Instead, a wide variety of fried chicken, pasta, fries, and a carvery would turn out to be sufficient to replenish our depleted energy levels after the hard days skiing that were to come.

For our first day skiing we were all slightly apprehensive but also ecstatic about what lay ahead. Following a hearty breakfast, we were soon kitted out at the ski rental facility located at the bottom of Loon Mountain, where we would

be skiing all day. Loon is a large tourist resort mainly popular with foreign tourists. It consists of a North and South Peak. The South Peak was our favourite, it opened in 2007, and currently boasts 7 trails, and two lifts, with nearly 70 acres of skiing and riding.

The party was soon split into groups based on ability and experience. Many of us were beginning to feel that those visits to the Chill Factor were paying off now! We met our instructors who provided vast knowledge but also brought good humour to all our lessons. In Loon, we had a different instructor each day. On day four, we moved to Cannon and each group had one instructor for the three days that we skied in this resort. Everyone agreed that we learnt a lot about the surrounding area, as the instructors often pointed out local landmarks in our lessons.

Cannon had a completely different feel to Loon. It was state-owned so there were fewer tourists, shops and advertising hoardings, but much trickier skiing terrain to negotiate. Unlike Loon, it was snowing there when we arrived, making it much harder to ski on un-groomed powder. Everyone rose to the greater challenge and we felt as if the mountains were our own as we came across very few other skiers on the pistes. We were particularly glad of this on the last day, as our "inside-out" theme had most of us displaying our underwear to the world!

Not only did we enjoy spending six full days skiing, but we had action-packed evenings too. These involved a variety of different activities; tubing, bowling and we even watched an ice hockey at Plymouth State University, which looked like rugby

on ice! Finley Burnie looked as if he had been playing, having to return home in a cast, after meeting an ice wall whilst tubing. One evening, most of us visited a local cinema where you won't be surprised to learn that Mr Walker was the only one who was still awake at the end of the film.

All in all, the trip was phenomenal, full of variety, and was certainly worth the long journey. A special mention must go to Dr Whalley, for whom this was his last ski trip as manager. Before our return, the group expressed their sincere thanks to him and all the other staff for organising such a memorable experience.

I think everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves. There is one problem though - topping it next year!

Arron O'Neill



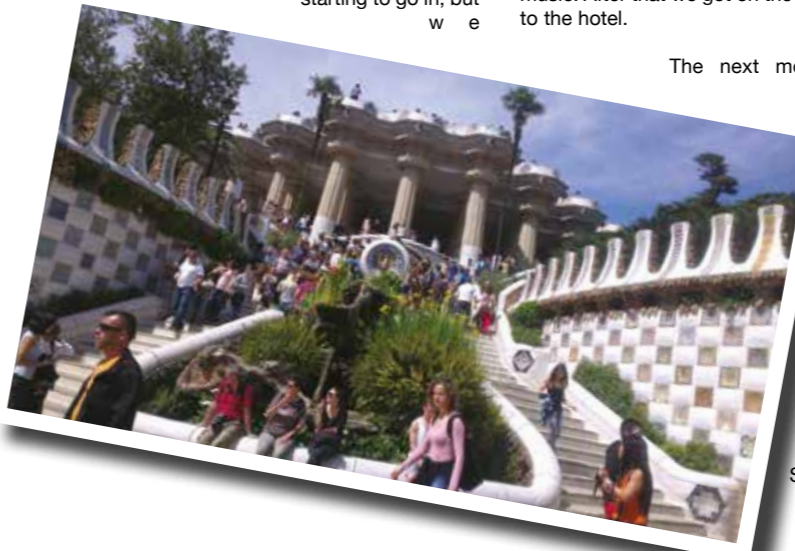
# BARCELONA TRIP

## Third Year Trip to Barcelona – Easter 2013

During the Easter holidays, I went with school to Barcelona. It was a very early Thursday morning when I woke up and got to school full of excitement but also half asleep!

We eventually got to Kirkham and waited for everyone to arrive. Slowly, one by one, my friends arrived, also half asleep. Then we got on the coach for a long journey to Leeds Bradford Airport. After what felt like five hours, we arrived. Everyone was incredibly hungry so we hunted down some fast food. Before we knew it we were on the plane and on our way to Spain! The flight consisted of lots of photos being taken and lots of chocolate being eaten. Surprisingly the flight went really quickly and we were off the plane. As we walked down the stairs off the plane, everybody's eyes lit up in the gleaming sunlight, like a cat staring at goldfish. We all suddenly forgot that we'd been awake since 3:00am and got through the airport a quickly as possible.

It didn't take long before we were at the hotel, and we were taken to one of Gaudi's greatest creations, Parc Guell. The view down the coastline of Barcelona is one I will never forget. We spent the day at the park, eating ice cream and getting amazing tans! The sun was starting to go in, but we



wanted to stay outside, so a few of us decided to go in the pool. Twelve of us squeezed into the smallest of pools but it was still great fun! At 8.00 pm we walked down to a small restaurant in Gracia. The air was still and warm which made the walk down very relaxing. We sat outside at the restaurant and ate our food in the jardin interior. After that we walked back and got an early night...

The next day was Friday and we were all anxiously waiting to go to the home of Barcelona Football Club, Camp Nou. We were amazed by the size of the stadium and how fantastic it looked in the sunlight! Then we went in the trophy room, which was pretty much as big as the stadium, thanks to Lionel Messi and his 4 player of the year trophies.

After that we went for lunch just outside the Sagrada Familia, which is also an incredible creation by Gaudi. The sight of it from outside alone was stunning, but that was nothing compared to the inside. The colours streaming through the stained glass windows and coming together on the floor. Truly the most beautiful place I have ever been to.

As the sun was setting, we went to the Ramblas, which was a high street where we were free to shop and relax with our friends, but we were all waiting to eat in The Hard Rock Café. It was an amazing way to have tea; whilst listening to loud music! After that we got on the tube and went back to the hotel.

The next morning was rather relaxed, until 10.00 am when we got on the bus and set off for Port Aventura which was a giant rollercoaster park in Barcelona. The mood on the coach was quiet, until we saw the top of the highest rollercoaster. Some filled with

excitement, others with fear. Either way it got everyone talking. We got there to see the sun shining once again. I couldn't wait to get on this rollercoaster but I kept quiet. Then eventually the others came round and we ran towards it. The ride was great and I was filled with adrenaline! Next to this giant rollercoaster was a smaller, rather windy one. But we decided to eat first. Looking back, that was the worst decision I've ever made, as I felt sick throughout the whole ride. But the only cure for that is to go on it five more times! As the day drew to a close we all had good fun and we were sad to leave.

The final morning it was time to go and we were very tired and upset. We knew we would miss it, the weather, the activities, everything, but we had to go. The journey back was fun and I was certainly missing the comfort of my own bed. The flight still went quickly but everyone was tired.

Finally, we arrived back in England to the usual English weather. It was a brilliant holiday to remember and we all had a fantastic time. On behalf of everyone I would like to thank the staff who took us and looked after us. They were Mrs Cheyne, Ms Johnson, Mrs Parr, Mr Wheatland, Mr Watson and trip leader, Mrs Walker.

Chris Walker





## REGIMENTAL DINNER

2 MARCH 2013

The Officers and Staff of KGS CCF recently hosted a formal regimental dinner for our departing Sixth Form Non Commissioned Officers. The event, which began with a reception in the school's historic Old Hall, also included a number of senior regular officers from the Army and Royal Air Force. The dinner itself was a memorable occasion set amidst candles, live music, and historic mess silver loaned from local regiments and museums and was a fitting way to say good-bye to our departing senior cadets.



As this newsletter goes to print the DofE group will be packing their rucksacks, preparing their routes and heading to the Lake District for the summer expeditions. Over seventy KGS students will be undertaking the challenge of completing either their Bronze, Silver or Gold expedition. We hope for good walking weather and another successful adventure.

This was the case during the Easter holidays when forty one students and four staff headed for the Langdales area of the Lake District. Although we had some very cold nights the clear sunny weather in the day made for a very enjoyable expedition. The three Bronze groups benefited greatly from a practice day walking from the Langdale Valley to Ambleside, before starting their expedition leaving the Langdale Valley and heading to Coniston via Tilberthwaite and Tarn Howe. The following day they completed their routes ending their expedition at Hawkeshead. All undertaking their first expedition worked very well as part of a team and tried very hard with their navigation skills. The two Silver groups walked into the Langdale Valley from Ambleside via Grasmere on the first day and then, after a well deserved sleep, also headed down towards Coniston. One group had planned to walk along the tops of the Coniston fells, but the heavy snow meant they had to change routes and walk round the fells instead. Their final day demonstrated real teamwork and motivational skills as a number in the group were feeling the demands of the expedition and needed their friends' help to complete the task. In hindsight all the participants had a great time and are rightly very proud of their achievements.

Hopefully with the large number of students taking part in the summer expedition we will have many Awards to present during the next academic year.

Since the last newsletter we are pleased to announce the following successes:

### Bronze:

- |                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Marnie Ethell          | Alice Allen     |
| Beth de Klerk          | Charlotte Cross |
| Grace Reddy            | Joshua Keelan   |
| Nick Coleman           | Matthew Neill   |
| Michael Lewthwaite     | Joseph Cooke    |
| Megan Crowther         | Charles Hyde    |
| Roland Burt            | Josh Powell     |
| Elizabeth Brocklehurst | Rebecca Old     |
| Heather Barnes         | Thomas Hunter   |
| Edward Lavelle         | Cameron Roche   |
| Ellie Arrowsmith       | James Procter   |

### Silver:

- |                |                   |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Sophie Midgley | Eric Yuen         |
| Helen Perry    | Cohen Yim         |
| Elsie Linley   | Catherine Beesley |
| Kenny Chi      | Callum Paley      |
| Jonathan Day   | Oliver Carpenter  |
| Brian Liu      |                   |

### Gold:

- |                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Liam Swithenbank | Alex Wright |
|------------------|-------------|

# CADET

Since the last report the CCF completed a difficult but enjoyable Field Day at nearby Weeton Camp just before the Easter break. In bitterly cold conditions, over 130 of our Fourth Year CCF cadets ventured to Weeton Training Camp for our Spring Term Field Day. Over seventy students, who have recently passed their Weapon Handling Test, got to shoot on the live range, with large numbers demonstrating superb accuracy and skill. Other activities during the day included a first aid stand, initiative and teamwork exercises, section battle drills, cooking and archery. All the staff were very impressed with the attitude and perseverance of the cadets throughout the day. Special mention must go to the Sixth Form NCO's who not only organised many of the activities, but whose enthusiasm, motivation and involvement with the younger students meant that despite the cold, everyone enjoyed the day.

Our focus now is the forthcoming Field Day at Altcar Camp which will see about 170 cadets involved in a variety of military activities and the two main summer camps. The first will be the CCF central camp at Nestcliffe near Shrewsbury and then the following week the RAF camp which will be at RAF Valley, Anglesey. We are also sending two RAF cadets, Cpl Anne Shackleton and Cpl Ben Morris on the prestigious but very demanding Air Cadet Leadership Course which is held at RAF Cranwell, Lincolnshire We wish them good luck!"

Wing Commander J W Callister  
Contingent Commander



CCF Shooting this term introduced a brand new and exciting competition to the cadets. We entered two teams of five into 'The CCRS Country Life Small-bore Rifle Competition 2013'. This involved using the old No.8 rifles with sights as issued (Dad's Army style rifles!) and no - we didn't need to wear our Barbour jacket, Hunter Wellies and Tweed.... although I think some members of the team quite fancied it!

The competition had four different rounds, all shot in our 25 yard indoor range at school. Round 1 was the usual grouping of 5 rounds (ubiquitous to cadet competitions). Round 2 was a rapid shoot, 10 shots in 60 seconds, which is surprisingly difficult being the rifle is bolt action and the

cadets are not too familiar with it. Round 3 was a snap shoot where we had a disco effect of switching the lights on and off, revealing the target.

Round 4 needs a new paragraph! This was the landscape round which involved 4 shooters firing at a landscape picture at 4 very small and pretty much invisible targets. It was up to the fifth member of the team to locate these targets using a scope, and then verbally describe using target recognition where the shooters should aim! This proved difficult, exciting, frustrating and left some of us in despair! But it certainly was the most enjoyable. Can you find any of the target circles in the pictures? Any Luck? There are four in each. Entries on a postcard....

Well I suppose you want to know how we did - very well in fact. There were 121 teams entered nationally consisting of ACF, CCF and ATC. Our first team achieved a very respectable 33rd with our second team making 40th. Both in the top 40 nationally! Well done teams! This bodes well for next year, when hopefully we will have more practice, shooters and experience. We also hope there will be more equipment and coaching available, to allow pupils the opportunity to broaden their target shooting experience at KGS.

We look forward to this forthcoming Field Day at Altcar Ranges, where we can practice using the cadet GP rifle at 100 metres outside, in preparation for the Cadet Skill at Arms Meeting in September. This is certainly one of the highlights of the year for shooting.

Lt D Lloyd



# FRIENDS



The Spring and Summer Terms are traditionally a busy time for the Friends of Kirkham Grammar School, and this year has proved no exception. We thought that we would ring the changes this year. The Spring Fair was held at the Junior School towards the end of April, in place of the Summer Fun Day which was traditionally held at the Senior School in May. We were blessed with a bright, sunny, blustery day which allowed us to stage the event exclusively out of doors. The usual bouncy castle, slides, tombola, and toy stalls, were joined by craft stalls and such games as "beat the goalie", a horse racing game, lucky dips and "guess the name of the large cuddly teddy", to name but a few. As always, the BBQ proved popular, with the gorgeous smelling beef-burgers and hot dogs; and the cakes, Pimm's, tea stall, as well as the ice-cream lady, kept everybody refreshed for the afternoon. The atmosphere in the playground was happy, smiley and full of fun, which is just what we hoped for. In addition, the event raised just over £2,000, which is fantastic. Many of the games and stalls were arranged and run by the children themselves, their families, teachers, as well as the members and families of the Friends. My thanks go to everyone who contributed to make the day such a success, and particularly to Mrs Annie Ward and her team of helpers, who did such a terrific job of planning and organising the fair. It is no easy task to pull it all together, and it was such a lovely afternoon that I am sure we will repeat the event in the same way next year.

The Friends' event of the Summer Term was the Forget-Me-Not Summer Ball 2013. As ever, we are proud that our special night could be held in a marquee on the school lawn, and that we could enjoy live music and delicious food, in a truly magically decorated setting. Mrs Jaine Burnie and her team did an amazing job this year, to ensure that this event was memorable - thank you all. Obviously, this year's ball was an especially poignant one for us, as it was the last that we will be celebrating with Mr Walker as our Headmaster. Mr and Mrs Walker have both been active members of the Friends during their time at KGS, and their support, guidance and contribution have been invaluable to us over that time. We would like to express our sincere thanks to both Mr and Mrs Walker, and wish them a long and happy retirement.

In addition to these two events, we have managed to squeeze in a Ladies' Lunch at Bartle Hall. It is always nice to catch up with friends for a couple of hours, and know that we are raising money at the same time. My thanks to Mrs Yvonne Malings and Mrs Sam Wilson for making sure that these lunches take place every term.

We are always trying to think of new ways to raise funds within the Friends Team, and so I wanted to introduce you to a new initiative. If you shop online you can now benefit the Friends of Kirkham Grammar School at no extra cost to you, by registering at [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk). For every purchase you make at a selection of over 2,000 retailers (including

Amazon, ASOS, John Lewis, Marks and Spencer, Next, Play.com, Tesco, Waitrose) via [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) you'll raise a donation for the Friends of Kirkham Grammar School. You simply need to select "Friends of Kirkham Grammar School" as the cause that you would like to support. Please spread the word!

Another way that you can help us is to become involved in our fundraising events, whether by passing new ideas to us or by helping in preparation for, or on the day, of our fundraisers. All help and ideas are great fully received.

We also support school where we can in any particular initiatives taking place, e.g. the whole school sponsored walk in aid of Alastair Carter. Here we were pleased to be able to offer refreshments to the walkers. We can always benefit from extra help at such events, so please let us know if you would like to be placed on our "helpers' list".

I must thank all the FKG committee for their tireless work over the last school year and for their support to me personally in my first year as Chair.

May I wish you all a wonderful summer.

Michelle O'Neill  
Chair

# interHouseevents

The Spring Term always starts with the cross country races, and the usual KGS spirit was on show as all four Houses competed fiercely for the points that were available. All six races were hotly contested, and despite this being one of the less glamorous events, many competitors turned out to don the House colours. All four Houses gained valuable points, and started the year in a very positive fashion. The First and Second Year Maths Tournaments once again proved to be highly enjoyable and competitive events, and Mr Lloyd's classroom was once again packed out for the 'Countdown' style competition. Fylde House won the Second Year competition, and Kirkham House the First Year competition.

The House Shooting competition was a relatively close affair, but School House had the strongest team on paper, and they deservedly won the trophy that Preston had won last year. However, Preston House were to score maximum points in the debate competition, beating Kirkham in the final.

In recent years Kirkham House have had a very strong cohort of girls move up through the school, and this year they formed a formidable senior hockey team. The other Houses played valiantly, but could not compete with the combined skill of Kirkham this year, who deservedly won the hockey competition.

The House Music Festival was as big as ever, with a large number of participants from all year groups. The quality of the music on display is fantastic, and hundreds of auditions took place

during the competition. The much-coveted House Choir competition was once again won by Fylde, as was the overall competition. Congratulations to Elliott Gaston-Ross of Kirkham House who won the individual first prize for the outstanding musician of the festival.

The Summer Term has begun in earnest, and all Houses are as busy as ever. So far the Senior Cricket competition has been won by Kirkham House, the Senior Tennis competition by Fylde House, and Sports Day by School House. One thing that is worthy of note this year is the number of Sports Day records that have been broken:

- Rachel Greenwood (F) – Junior Girls Discus
- Rachel Williamson (K) – Senior Girls Long Jump and Triple Jump
- Kieran Wilkinson (S) – Junior Boys 100m
- Jess O'Neill (S) – Intermediate Girls 100m and 300m
- Ella Moulding (K) – Junior Girls 1500m
- Bradley Yates (P) – Intermediate Boys 400m and 1500m
- Ben Everson (P) – Senior Boys 1500m
- Jonathan Taylor (S) – Junior Boys 300m
- Kate Lawler (K) – Senior Girls 400m
- Fylde House (Luke Lund, George Parkinson, Josh Keelan and Charlie Abbott) – Intermediate Boys 4x100m Relay

There was also a great deal of competition for honours across all age groups. Individual totals meant that:

- Victor Ludorum**  
Junior Boys – Kieran Wilkinson (S)  
Intermediate Boys – Charlie Abbott (F)  
Senior Boys – Rob Lockhart (F)
- Victrix Ludorum**  
Junior Girls – Ella Moulding (K)  
Intermediate Girls – Jess O'Neill (S)  
Senior Girls – Rachel Williamson (K)

However, there are still many competitions to come, and the overall Whitby Cup standings are far from decided.

The Winners have been:	Fylde
Senior Girls Cross Country	Fylde
Senior Boys Cross Country	Preston
Intermediate Boys Cross Country	Fylde
Intermediate Girls Cross Country	School
Junior Boys Cross Country	Fylde
Junior Girls Cross Country	Fylde
Music	School
Shooting	Preston
House Debate	Kirkham
First Year Maths	Fylde
Second Year Maths	Fylde
Senior Tennis	Kirkham
Senior Cricket	School
Sports Day	School
Junior Cricket	School
Junior Rounders	Fylde
Intermediate Tennis	Fylde
Junior Tennis	Fylde
Work Cup	Fylde

The standings in the overall Whitby Cup are currently:

3rd (joint) position 61.5 points	Kirkham and Preston
2nd position 67.5 points	School
1st position 83.5 points	Fylde







# KGS sport

The recent official opening of our Sports Centre gave the opportunity for a Celebration of Sport in front of around 100 guests. We welcomed Brian Ashton MBE who entertained us with his reminiscences of his international experiences but also his background as a schoolmaster. He was adamant that as a coach, his greatest assets were those skills he had utilised when teaching. As a coach of such repute that was inspiring for an audience made up of current or ex-schoolteachers who constantly try to develop our pupils in their fitness and technical prowess. The future of KGS sport is however in good hands and the review of the successes over the last decade is testimony to this.

This term has seen some outstanding successes beginning "out of season" as the U13's (photo right) competed in the National Finals of their hockey competition. Such an outstanding achievement suggests this is very much a team to watch for the future. The end of the hockey season saw the Senior Girls win the Cheadle 7's and complete a fine season in their own tournament where they came close to toppling the mighty British Colleges XI.

In the concluding stages of the rugby season all teams registered success with pride of place possibly resting with the U15 XV in reaching the semi-final of the Daily Mail Vase (photo bottom right), losing narrowly to the eventual winners. In the Lancashire Cup the U16 and U13's were both runners-up, while the U14's won the Richard Wilson Sevens. Further Sevens success came at AKS where the U15's were winners and at Fylde National Sevens where the 1st VII were once again finalists.

The summer term is all too short and truncated by the long examination season. Cricket has, however, been blessed by some better weather in the earlier phases of the term and some fine matches. The 1st XI pitted themselves against the MCC (photo right) in a match of nearly 500 runs, ending in a dramatic draw. Junior sides have progressed well in the County Cup and it has been good to see the B teams perform in the local league, usually against local school A teams. Our tennis players have also made progress in their competitions and we look forward to hearing of their fate in the later stages.

It is with Athletics that we must give most plaudits for our Junior and Intermediate athletes have excelled in all aspects. Both girls and boys were overall champions in the Fylde and Wyre District each winning three of the four age groups. Further trophies were gathered by the U12 boys in the Vose Cup where they outfought the strong teams in North Lancashire. At the TSB Competition local competition, all the school boys and girls teams won through, but at Regional level the girls (photo top right) battled remarkably to reach the National finals at both Junior/Intermediate levels once again. This is the eighth consecutive year that KGS has been represented at this level and illustrates the continued commitment of the girls and their coaches in this area.

Individually we have also seen our athletes gain conspicuous success at the County Championships. A total of eleven KGS students were victorious and became County Champions. Rachel Williamson and Nicole Wainwright in the Triple Jump, Kate Lawler in the 300m, Bradley Yates in the 800m and Jake Lonsdale in the 1500m all gained National qualifying times, while Jess O'Neill (200m), Annalise Hughes (Long Jump), Lauren Bailey (Discus), Alex Hastie (High Jump), Josh Burrows (Hammer) and Will Bruce (Long Jump), (1500m) became County Champions. A remarkable haul for one school. Special mention to Rachel Williamson who was crowned English Triple Jump Champion at Bedford International Stadium on 15 June with a Personal Best of 12.55 m. In the the English School's Track and Field Cup Final on the 29 June both teams performed at the highest level. Our Junior team finished a creditable 8th place and our Intermediates were outstanding finishing in 5th place 11 points behind third.

The aim of sport at KGS has always been to try and include as many pupils as possible in our activities while still aspiring to compete at high levels. This year has been a challenging one with a new build meaning temporarily reduced facilities and awful weather curtailing fixtures. School is now in a much stronger position to develop the breadth and depth we seek and I hope next year will see both further success and even greater breadth. Finally, I would like to thank all the parents who have dedicated so much of their time in supporting and transporting their children in the pursuit of their activities.



Photographs on this page feature from the top clockwise:

The Girls National Athletic Finalists 2013, U13 Hockey Team National Finalists, U12 A&B Teams County Champions, U15 Hockey County Champions, U12 Winners at King's Chester Tournament and action shots from Stanley Park during the Fylde Coast Schools' Championships.

# U19 Invitation Hockey



## U19 National Invitation Tournament Saturday 9 March

As always our tournament was a massive success and a terrific way to end the season! Five great teams and a large crowd arrived early on the Saturday morning looking forward to another fantastic display of hockey.

KGS met British Colleges in their first game. We hit them hard from the first whistle and went 1-0 up with a super goal from Sophia Crawshay. KGS were solid at the back with Jenny Malings organising and controlling the defence. Kiran Bahra made a string of first class saves and Lindsay O'Brien, Sally Robinson, Beth Everson and Courtney Spector worked tirelessly in midfield. Sophia Crawshay and Ele Greenhalgh were outstanding up front. KGS were 1-0 up at half time. In the second half KGS lost their composure for a spell and paid the price, British Colleges equalised to make it 1-1. Again the game was end to end as the College team got stronger and stronger. With 20 seconds on the clock it was still 1-1, a defensive error led to a Colleges break and a short corner, the final whistle went. With the last shot of the match British Colleges scored to seal a 2-1 victory.

The second game was against Sedbergh, KGS bounced back and dominated from start to finish with four goals from Sophia Crawshay and one from Taegan O'Hara to make the final score 5-0.

The third game was against Wilmslow, again KGS started well and went 1-0 up with another terrific goal from Sophia Crawshay. An ill disciplined couple of minutes let Wilmslow off the hook as they equalised to make the score 1-1. Again KGS attacked and put pressure on the Wilmslow defence - KGS were awarded a penalty stroke in their last minute but unfortunately missed the opportunity. The final score was 1-1.

The final match was against a strong Millfield team, the girls knew that they had to work very hard against a highly skilled set of girls. KGS battled superbly but unfortunately lost the game 1-0.

Individual awards were won by two of our girls;

Sophia Crawshay was Top Goal Scorer of the tournament and Kiran Bahra was awarded Goalkeeper of the tournament. Well done!!

Jane Glover



## RUGBY PRESENTATION EVENING

On the 26 April, KGS rugby hosted its first presentation evening. The aim of the evening was to celebrate the fantastic season that all the KGS junior rugby teams have had. Every team that entered the Lancashire Cup went to at least the semi-final, many games against top rugby schools were won and there was also success in national competitions, a lot to celebrate!

The support that KGS rugby receives is magnificent, it is the foundation on which all the success on the pitch is achieved. The presentation night demonstrated this support with over two hundred people attending to support the players and coaches. There were also some magnificent prizes donated to the evening from Mr K Rawlinson at Sale Sharks and Mr S Wilkinson of Guys Thatched Hamlet.

The celebrations started with a feast of fish and chips provided by Mrs Hodgkinson and her team from the school dining hall. The prize giving then started with each coach making awards for 'Player of the Season', 'Most Improved' and 'Clubman'. Dr Whalley referred to the U12's magnificent first season, in which they had only lost one game. Mr Lyon referred to the U13's magnificent cup run and performance at Rosslyn Park 7's. Mr Walker Jnr. talked about the U14's cup run and magnificent performance at the Richard Wilson 7's tournament (photos below). Mr Roddam had plenty to talk about with the U15's having reached the semi-final of the Daily Mail Vase and the semi-final of the Lancashire Cup.

In a rugby school like KGS it is a magnificent achievement to win an award because there is so much good competition, each member of staff has many boys who he would like to pick for each award. It is essential therefore that every player in the team is congratulated on their efforts this season; rugby is after all the 'ultimate team game'. Every coach commented on the fantastic approach of their large squads, a great testament to all A and B team players!

The evening was rounded off with a KGS rugby quiz (we all discovered that Mr Wu is much older than we thought!) and the drawing of the raffle. The raffle was a tremendous success with Sam Minten leaving with a signed Sale Sharks rugby shirt, a fantastic prize!

We are all looking forward to seeing all players and parents together at next year's presentation evening!

Photos on this page are:

Ben Swift with the Lancashire RFU Rugby School of the Year Trophy, 1st Sevens finalists at the National Fylde Sevens, Lancashire Honours - George Blackwell, George Carter, Jack Edwards and Jack Campbell, the U17 Development squad Winners of the Manchester Grammar School Development Festival and the U14 Sevens team winners of the KGS Sevens.



# WALK ON THE WILD SIDE



## Whole School Sponsored Walk, June 28th 2013

A far-from-summery day at the end of term saw the school undertake a logistically challenging but ultimately uplifting and inspirational 20 kilometre sponsored walk in support of a former pupil who has suffered a particularly cruel misfortune. We had learned earlier in the year that Alastair Carter (KGS Leaver in 2008) had been the victim of a hit and run accident whilst cycling, which has left him substantially paralysed and in need of significant adaptations to his home, a modified wheelchair and other specialist equipment in order to resume an independent life and his job in the IT industry.

Assistant Head of Sixth Form Mr Mark Gaddes, who knew and taught Alastair, felt that this presented an opportunity for the school to undertake a sponsored challenge in order to raise some of the much-needed funds whilst at the same time providing a chance for the whole school community to pull together as a team in response to such a



deserving cause. Mr Gaddes devised a 20 kilometre circular route along the coastal path between Lytham Green and Squires Gate, and together with a team of

colleagues, set about devising a plan which would allow pupils of all ages to be transported, supervised, fed and watered whilst undertaking the walk, sponsored by friends and family.

As Friday dawned with pouring rain across the Fylde, and a second weather front poised out at sea ready to attack the coast, we all wondered whether it was going to prove to be a disaster. In the event, it proved to be quite the reverse: a day which left pupils, teachers, support staff and parents with that rare but precious feeling of a job well done, with adversity conquered and an overwhelming sense of pride and achievement.



In the morning, the rain stopped for a couple of hours as the older pupils, joined by former students from Alastair's year group and some Upper Sixth and Fifth Years currently on exam leave, set off Northwards from the Beach Café on St Anne's Promenade. By the time the fleet of coaches, provided by our school transport contractors Coastal and Holmeswood, had returned with the younger pupils for them to start their shorter walk along the Southern part of the route, School Captain Ben Everson, a long-distance runner of proven international class, had completed the 20 kilometre course in a remarkable 1 hour 13 minutes. He obviously knew the rain was coming back with a vengeance. And how right he was!

And yet, in a strange sort of way, the increasingly foul weather somehow enhanced the sense of achievement. First of all in ones and twos, and then soon in wave after wave, pupils - boys and girls, 11-year-olds to 18-year-olds - appeared through the driving rain, soaked to the skin despite their waterproof clothing, tired but elated and smiling. As they checked in at the finish line with Head of Sixth Form Mr Long, Alastair himself was on the phone from his desk at work in London to thank some of them personally. A sense of



togetherness was on show everywhere: the parents of Alastair's fiancée, Heather Morgenroth (KGS Leaver in 2007), who was herself severely injured in a separate cycling accident a year earlier, completed the walk with the pupils and a number of members of the teaching and support staff; a group of mums from the Friends of KGS provided free sweets and drinks at the halfway mark and at the finish; parents and grandparents were on hand at various points along the route to lend support and encouragement; a young couple unconnected with the school, out for a walk to celebrate their own engagement, heard the story of what we were doing for this other, less fortunate engaged couple and handed £10 to a member of staff on Lytham Green; and perhaps most touchingly, an elderly lady in the Beach Café emptied the 80p worth of loose change from her purse into the hands of another teacher, apologising that she was unable to spare any more. Truly, a modern-day version of the widow's mite!

The coaches returned everyone safe and sound back to school, and everyone concerned felt that a day without lessons in the classroom had in fact taught us far more powerful and important lessons: about caring for those in need, supporting and encouraging one another in adversity, and overcoming discomfort in pursuit of a worthwhile goal. The spirit of KGS, which has been so effectively nurtured by retiring Headmaster Mr Walker, has never been so vividly illustrated.

