



KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Excellence built on traditional Grammar School values

Headmaster's Letter to Parents

Spring 2013



HEADMASTER'S INTRODUCTION



As the end of the first half of the year approaches the opportunity to reflect on a busy year is a welcome one. The year has been marked by some exciting landmarks and, despite the best efforts of the weather, a very hectic programme. Our public examination results provided a highlight in the summer holidays with an outstanding set of GCSE results. Amidst national uproar of declining results we recorded our highest ever set of grades at this level with over half the grades at A*/A. This represented the culmination of a great deal of hard work from pupils and staff alike and we are pleased that so many have stayed on into the Sixth Form. At A-level our candidates also performed well, with almost two thirds of the Grades at A*/B level and the majority of our students gaining access to their first choice university. Although the summer seems a distant memory now it is important to throw down a challenge to our current examination cohorts. While it may be difficult to replicate these levels amidst the Government agenda to regulate results there is no doubt this must be the aspiration for all concerned. The next few weeks will be crucial in this as the summer examination period looms.

The early weeks of the year are always taken up with the preparations for our Prizegiving. This year Dr Barrie Johnson (photo bottom right) returned to his old school to present the prizes and address the school. In addition to being a pupil, he has also been a Governor and he was able to entertain us with reminiscences both from his schooldays and the history of the school. I was somewhat taken aback, however, by the intervention of the School Captains during their usual request for the annual holiday. A barrage of barrackers appeared from within the audience who turned out to be previous Captains (photo far right centre) and who had returned to celebrate, this, my last Speech Day. It was something of a shock but wonderful to see them and I thank Gemma and Lewis for their initiative!

The year thus far has suffered from the disruption of a major building programme amidst horrendous weather conditions. The new developments receive coverage elsewhere in the newsletter but we were thrilled that Lynne Dawson, a soprano of international renown, was able to join us at our official opening of the new Music Centre. The Governors have determined that this development will be named the "Robotham Music Centre" in recognition of the work of Professor Barbara Robotham, Past Chairman of Governors and a member of the Governors Committee for almost thirty years. A singer of international repute herself, Professor Robotham sang at "The Proms" and on the international stage with all the major conductors of her time. Her teaching career has spanned the decades and involved her passing on her expertise throughout Europe. Her contribution to KGS has run concurrently with this busy career of performance and teaching, ensuring that Professor Robotham remains a very busy lady. Her contribution is therefore deservedly recognised and the centre will ensure that it is honoured in a lasting manner.

On a purely practical note the facilities are already being well used and we have enjoyed concerts in the Recital Room and our teachers have recognised the excellent facilities. We hope it will provide further impetus to this busy area of school.

Alongside this we have just taken occupation of the new Sports Centre after a rather prolonged handover. The wintry weather and examination period have made the completion process very difficult but the pupils are now using the facility and it is proving very popular. We hope it will ensure that our indoor sporting space allows greater flexibility and will encourage the minority sports such as basketball and netball. Certainly we are all pleased to be able to forget the old boys' changing rooms!

Every Winter Term sees new arrivals at school and we were pleased to welcome a further hundred pupils into our first year and a healthy intake into the Sixth Form. We hope all will enjoy their experiences at KGS over coming years. We also welcomed a number of new staff who joined our ranks. Mr Gonzalez joined the Languages Department and teaches Spanish through the age groups. Mrs Halloran joined the Biology Department as maternity cover for Mrs Williams. She is a familiar face to our students and we are pleased to see her join us once more. Miss Honnor joined the Physics Department and we hope she will enjoy teaching this important subject at KGS. Mrs Latham is covering for Mrs Fyson's maternity leave, alongside some important supply work during staff illness. We also welcomed Mrs Woodhouse to KGS but unfortunately illness has truncated her stay with us and we have been grateful to Mr Harrison who has assisted.

Next year will of course see the arrival of my successor Mr Richard Laithwaite (photo far right), currently Second Master at St Alban's School. He attended the opening of the Music Centre and will make further visits to meet members of the school community next term. Inevitably much of the detailed handover will occur over the summer period and I am sure Mr Laithwaite will look forward to meeting as many parents as possible in the autumn with the commencement of the new term.

The year has seen the usual plethora of activities and trips. Midsummer Night's Dream once again entertained large audiences and received plaudits from far and wide. The musical concerts provided a wonderful platform for our musicians and the Christmas Concert was memorable and even Mr Barratt was heard to say "his best ever"! Our sportsmen and women have had a very difficult year with the weather intervening throughout. We have kept hoping matters will improve but it appears a very forlorn hope!

Kirkhamians continue to venture far and wide and pupils enjoyed a wonderful tour of South Africa where sixty rugby players pitted their skills against the best. The tour proved a marvellous success and I commend all those involved. The hockey players enjoyed Holland and France. Perhaps the greatest excitement was reserved for our Artists and Drama students on their trip to New York. Hurricane Sandy intervened and ensured that the staff had an anxious phase in preparation for the trip which was cancelled owing to the storm. I was actually in New York on the day they were due to arrive and certainly can confirm that this was the correct decision! I was pleased that the rearranged visit did ensure all had the opportunity to enjoy this wonderful experience. I would like to register here our gratitude to parents in supporting these visits. One is always very conscious of the demands made on parents but also balanced with a wish to provide opportunity. It is only through the commitment of parents that students can enjoy these activities and I would like to record my gratitude for your support.

On a personal note I enter the final phase of my KGS career. I remain as committed to the school as always and my family continue to enjoy life in the Boarding House. I have come to fully realise how central this community is to the school and my family continue to enjoy the day-to-day challenges which it brings. It has been good to see a number of pupils transfer successfully from day status to boarding and there is no doubt it adds to the KGS experience. Certainly seeing Sixth Form boarders making Gingerbread Houses for the Christmas Competition throws a whole new light on our pupils. It is their energy and enthusiasm that keep us going and we remain determined that school will continue to create the variety of challenges which they seek.

J.R. Walker

Captains & Senior Prefects 2012-2013



Photographs on this page include - The official foundation stone for the new Sports Hall at KGS being laid on Friday 28 September by Chairman of Governors, Mr Russell Dawson (above and right). Included in the photograph is the Headmaster, Mr Fulford-Brown, ex-chairman of Governors who has led the project and the representatives of the school's partners in this venture, Melrose Construction and Croft Goode Associates.



Mr Richard Laithwaite successor to Mr Walker (top right), previous Captains of School (right centre), Dr Barrie Johnson at the annual prizegiving (bottom right) and School Prefects 2012-2013 (top).





Lessons in Music

KGS celebrated the official opening of their new Music Centre on 29 February 2013 marking the completion of another phase of development at the school. The Music Centre has added a new Recital Room, Technology Suite, Interactive Classrooms and first class practice facilities. Headmaster, Mr Douglas Walker, highlighted "Music is such a central part of our school and it is wonderful to be able to provide all our musicians with the facilities they deserve. This addition opens up new horizons for the Music Department and also adds further to the exciting new developments the school has to offer".

At the opening, Chairman of Governors, Mr Russell Dawson (photo left) outlined that the new development represented a key part of their long term vision for the school. "Over ten years we have evolved the infrastructure of the school in order to ensure our facilities offer our pupils a modern and exciting environment. We are keen to retain the traditions of the school but acknowledge fully that pupils need a modern school in order to prepare them for a bright future in an ever more competitive world. The recent programme comprising the new Science Centre, Interactive Classrooms, Drama Studio, Sixth Form Centre and Sports Hall are testimony to the Governors commitment. Yet alongside that we believe we have retained those core values so admirably represented by Professor Robotham after whom the Centre has been named".

The Robotham Music Centre is named in recognition of the work of Professor Barbara Robotham (photo top left), a Governor at KGS for almost thirty years. As a past Chair of Governors, Professor Robotham has made an enormous contribution to the success of KGS but she has also enjoyed a highly successful career both in teaching singing at the Royal Northern College of Music as well as coaching many of the world's top performers in opera studios as widespread as Amsterdam, Munich and Chicago. An international singer herself, appearing at the Proms and other prestigious venues around the world she has been honoured with a fellowship of the Royal Manchester College of Music, Royal Northern College

of Music and UCLAN. Professor Robotham was thrilled with the recognition of her services to school and spoke about how she had enjoyed her connection with the school over many years. "I am honoured to have my name associated with this wonderful new development. I have thoroughly enjoyed my long association with the school and it is gratifying to see this advance in the school's music provision. I look forward now to listening to many concerts in the new Recital Room".

The Centre was opened by Lynne Dawson (photo top left), International Soprano. Mrs Dawson has enjoyed a highly successful singing career. Her position as one of the UK's most versatile and popular soprano's was confirmed by her performance as a soloist in "Liberia me" from Verdi's Requiem with the BBC singers at the funeral of Lady Diana, Princess of Wales in September 1997. She still continues a busy music schedule alongside her role as Head of Vocal and Opera Studies at the Royal Northern College, as well as the University of York and as a Professor at Leeds College of Music. Her solo recital discs include "My Personal Handel Collection"; "On This Island" and "Voyage à Paris". Chairman of Governors Russell Dawson emphasised the school's excitement in greeting Lynne Dawson and their gratitude for her appearance. "It is a real pleasure to welcome Lynne Dawson to KGS and we thank her for taking time in her busy schedule. To have such a prestigious name to open our new Centre is a privilege and it is fitting that it is also in recognition of the work of a close colleague".

The new Music Centre is now fully operational and used by school ensembles and is also available for use by the community upon request.

Please contact Mrs C Nicholson
e-mail cs.nicholson@kirkhamgrammar.co.uk.



"music is such a central part of our school"

HISTORY

The Third Year pupils have recently been to visit the International Slavery Museum on the Albert Dock in Liverpool. The museum was really interesting, and not only did it increase our knowledge of the issues we have studied in class, it also taught us new things such as the extreme racism of the Ku Klux Klan and the fight to abolish slavery in Britain. The visit also got us thinking about racism and slavery in our modern society.

Part of the day was spent in a museum classroom where we were able to complete in-depth studies of the topics in the museum. We got to hold many objects which we had only seen in pictures including shackles and a metal collar. We were all surprised how heavy they were and it made us think more about

the suffering people went through because they were seen as inferior. As well as the shackles we also had the opportunity to look at items from tribal groups, the clothing slaves had to wear once they were working on the plantations, and artefacts from the time of abolition.

The museum felt really modern in its approach and the exhibits were fascinating. There was a vast amount of information but each display was well set out. The worksheets allowed us to, not only to break down this difficult topic, but helped us to gather vital information for our future studies.

Going to the museum was a really good day out but at the same time it was very thought provoking. The way the slaves were treated was unimaginable and incredibly inhumane.

Molly Kerrane (3Z)



SWIMATHON

A group of nine pupils (Todd Davies, Danny Davies, Ben Everson, Rob Lavelle, Will Lockhart, Hadley Price, Alex Kearsley, Harriet Price and Hannah Butler) completed the Lions Club Swimathon in aid of the Lions Charities on Sunday 27 January. The swimmers completed 180 laps in the fifty minutes, raising £400 overall. As a consequence of their efforts the Lions Club are to donate a defibrillator to school to add to the one already funded by the Friends'.

Both Senior and Junior School will be fully equipped and the grant includes staff training also. A sincere thanks to all those involved for an excellent contribution to the community.



Since the last Headmaster's newsletter our Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Form students have been very busy working towards their DofE Awards. We are delighted to announce the following DofE Awards which have been achieved between July 2012 and January 2013:

Bronze:

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Julia Glynn | Sophie Midgley | Siva Dwarampudi |
| Olivia Butler | Nicky Charter | Olivia Bence |
| Gemma Broomhead | Fenella Gabrysch | Robert Lavelle |
| Stephen Esmond | Nicola Seechurn | Charlotte Bell |
| Benedict Swift | Benedict Morris | Andrew Anderson |
| Rebecca Old | Helen Perry | Jessica Bevington |
| Tom Hunter | Jonathan Day | Lydia Bourne |
| Alex King | Emily Carpenter | Lindsay O'Brien |
| Rachel Ellis | Vivian Cheng | Olivia Fuller |
| Megan Kitchen | Caroline Paley | |

Silver:

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Jennifer Malings | Gemma Broomhead | Chris Williamson |
| Gus Graham | Andrew Best | Lewis Holden |
| Alex Wright | William Dickinson | Ryan Powell |
| Oliver Carpenter | Elizabeth Jenkinson | Lewis Leach |

Gold:

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Gemma Coleman | Laura Mason | Matthew Donaldson |
| Emily Bourne | Venkata Dwarampudi | |

Completing each Award level requires a great deal of hard work and commitment. Some of the activities undertaken by the successful students mentioned above included, assisting with local Cub/Brownie groups, coaching at local sports clubs, working for their local church, fundraising for Derian House, helping at the local charity shop, baking, reading, shooting, playing the drums, badminton, cricket, horse riding, running and exercise classes.

The expeditions last July were very wet as were the expeditions during October half-term. Our students however showed true determination, initiative and team work to keep going despite the difficult conditions and always arrived at their check points with a smile on their face!

Some of their comments about their expedition experiences:

"I completely under-estimated the amount of work the Gold expedition involved both in planning and physical/mental strength! Even though it was incredibly hard, I learned so much about myself and am so very



proud of everyone in my team for working together and doing such a fantastic job".

"The expedition was a fantastic experience. Our team worked very well together especially during the thunderstorms when our singing kept morale high!"

"I have never been so wet and cold in my life, but on reflection the expedition was a superb experience and one that I will never forget".

"I really enjoyed my expedition even though the weather was very unpleasant. The wet weather actually really improved the relationships within the group as we really had to motivate each other to keep going".

"After bailing out the tent on the first morning; it was a huge relief to hear that Mr Callister had managed to book us into a camping barn for the second night. Never has a stone building and dusty wooden floor with added ventilation been so inviting for a night's sleep – still cold but at least it was dry!"

With nearly a hundred of our present Fourth Year signed up to do their Bronze Award. A large number of expeditions have been planned for the Spring and Summer Terms and we hope for good weather to allow all our students to enjoy and complete their Award. I would like to thank all the staff who so graciously support the DofE, especially those who help run the expeditions. Your time and efforts are very much appreciated by the DofE participants.

DofE information sessions take place in T5 every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday lunchtime and Expedition Training takes place in the CCF Hut on a Tuesday lunchtime.

Mrs Sutcliffe



On Wednesday 14 November, five former Kirkham Grammar School students, accompanied by their very proud parents, travelled down to London to receive their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The Awards Ceremony took place in the grand Queen Anne Room at St James's Palace. Vincent Grumme, Johnathan Pickbourn, Joe Wareing, Georgia Cheyne and Jonathan Davies were presented with their Gold Award certificates by the Duke of Edinburgh himself.

From all reports it was a magnificent experience and an amazing reward for all the time, dedication and effort that our students have put into completing the Award Scheme. We at KGS are very proud of their achievements and wish them every success with their university courses.

Photo left to right: Johnathan Pickbourn, Jonathan Davies, Georgia Cheyne, Joe Wareing and Vincent Grumme

Last term 3Y decided that they wanted to raise money for the Salvation Army once again. The pupils decided to sell sweets and each pupil in the form would spend £5 on a gift which they would wrap and label. The form raised over £100 and on the last day of term Mrs Glover took three members of the form to hand over the money and the two big sacks of presents.

The staff at the Salvation Army were very appreciative and they showed the children the preparation room for Christmas and gave them examples of families that struggle to live, never mind enjoy Christmas. This indeed was a very humbling experience for all of the form.

SIXTH FORMERS RAISING MONEY FOR CHARITIES

The generosity of Sixth Formers in the tutor group 6JS has meant that a number of charities have benefited over recent months. £52.50 was raised for "Save the Children" fund, £55 was collected for "Back Up" (a charity helping young people who have severe spinal injuries) and £50 was sent as part of a larger donation to Donna's Dream House. The tutees also helped to collect over 170 cans of dog and cat food from staff and Sixth Form students which was donated to Easterleigh Animal Sanctuary at the end of the Christmas term.

Gemma Coleman and Celia Hindley recently held a coffee and cake event for Amnesty International in the Old Hall during the morning break (photo right). They raised an amazing £150.



**OLD
KIRKHAMIAN'S
ASSOCIATION**



NORTHERN REUNION DINNER

The Annual Dinner and AGM was held on 20 October 2012 in the Old Hall where over sixty guests enjoyed meeting friends old and new. Everyone enjoyed a superb five course meal which had been prepared and served by the school catering team.



YOUNG KIRKHAMIAN'S CHRISTMAS GATHERING

On Monday 17 December 2012, a large contingent of Young Old Kirkhamians gathered at the Grapes Inn, Wrea Green for the annual Christmas reunion. All who attended had a great time and it was lovely to hear the tales of university courses, academic achievements, new interests, gap years, sports highlights, the beginnings of lifelong careers and the like, but most of all it was wonderful to see the KGS family enjoying their Christmas get-together.

Library News



The pupils at KGS were fortunate to meet G. P. Taylor (photo below), the best-selling author of the Shadowmancer series and other supernatural and Gothic adventure stories. His work has been compared to that of C S Lewis and he combines fantasy, mysticism and reality, together with very scary villains. He now writes screenplays for films and television series and is currently involved with the production of "Mariah Mundi", adapted from his best-selling book.

During his visit to school on Monday, 24 September, he spoke to all the First Year pupils and held two writing workshops for older pupils. He combined humorous reminiscences with practical advice on how to create realistic characters, stressing the need to make the characters believable – even villains should have some redeeming features!

The audience spent much of the time laughing as he spoke about his 'exploits' at school and how he struggled because of his problems with reading. His description of how he became a reader, thanks to the intervention of a truly fearsome school librarian, has caused Mrs Copland to consider changing her strategy! He worked in the music industry before becoming a policeman and then being ordained into the Anglican priesthood, where he was much in demand as an exorcist. He told some wonderful ghost stories, which elicited screams from the audience.

Waterstones brought copies of his books in to school and these proved very popular with the pupils, who then had them signed by the author himself.



Festival of Remembrance The Royal Albert Hall



On Friday 9 November I was woken up at 4:30 am to catch a very early train out of Preston. I was on my way to London to represent KGS CCF (RAF) and all other RAF Cadets at The Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance taking place at the Royal Albert Hall.

My schedule started with a 1.00 pm check-in at the Hall for familiarisation with the venue and the event's proceedings. The place was buzzing with Army, Navy and RAF and, of course, some celebs. I met up with Major Hayter and the other cadets and did our quick run through of our part for Saturday's event.

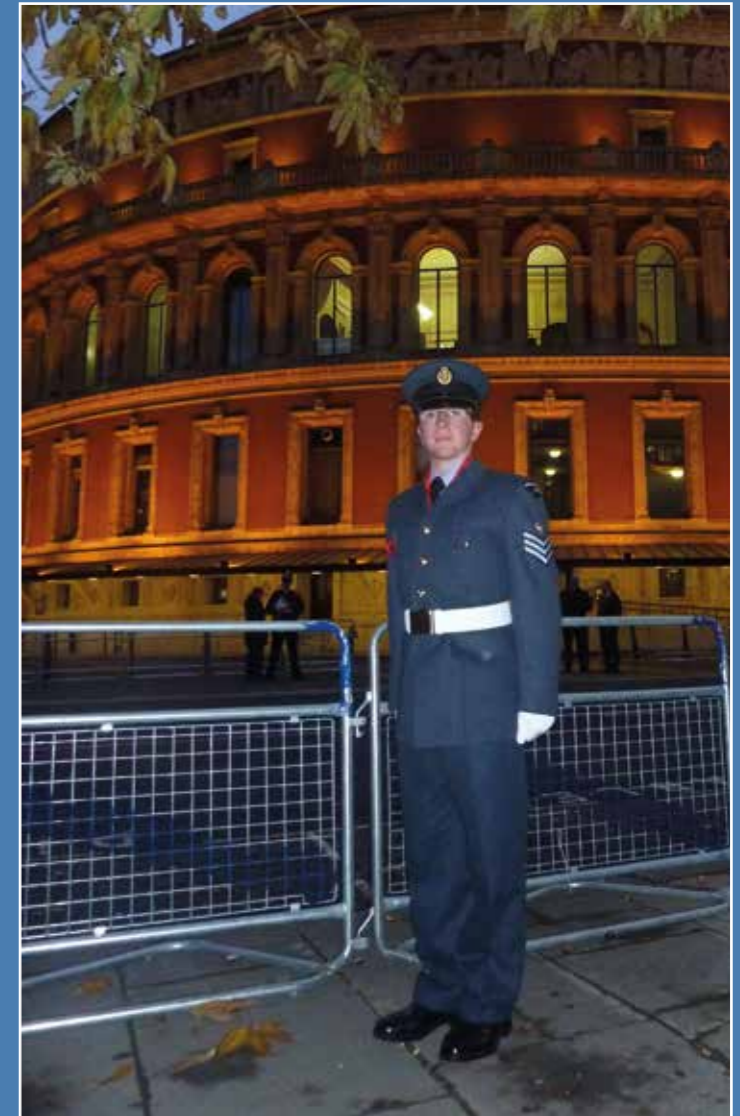
Saturday was, again, another early start – but not as early as the day before – we headed out through Hyde Park, in the rain, to The Royal Albert Hall for the dress rehearsal. Everything went well and to plan, of course, and then I spent the rest of the morning meeting other participants and waiting around for the main event at 2.00 pm. Rod Stewart was 'in the building' rehearsing his 'walk on' to stage. I said hi to Alexandra Burke and Russell Watson, spotted the Military Wives Choir in the distance and bumped into (almost literally) Derek Derenalagi, the Paralympic discus thrower.

After lamb pie and chips for lunch we headed back to the Hall for the afternoon performance. It was awesome! The hall was full, every seat taken. The orchestra was loud, and the RAF Queens Colour Squadron was very impressive. The other cadets and I were the first to parade through the Hall and then took our place in the box to the right of the stage so we had a very good vantage point to see the whole show.

The evening performance started at 7.00 pm – or as near as, once the Queen had arrived and taken her seat. The Queen did arrive a little late but I guess that's allowed. The evening show was flawless and the whole event was an experience I won't ever forget. My late great-grandma paraded in the performance in her younger years when she served in the Medical Corp. The only thing we still have are the poppy petals she managed to keep hold of which had fallen onto her during the silence – I managed to bring a handful home too.

We left a very crowded London on Sunday morning, leaving it to get ready for the Cenotaph March Past with the Queen and other VIPs attending. It was a tiring weekend but very enjoyable and something I feel very privileged to have been asked to do for the school.

Flight Sergeant Matt Donaldson – KGS CCF (RAF)



news

CADET



Despite a very wet Autumn Term the CCF has continued to thrive and undertake a wide range of activities. The term began with excellent feedback from our senior cadets who undertook challenging expeditions over the summer to the Canadian Wilderness (see Josh Hoyles Canadian Adventure article) and the highlands of Lesotho in South Africa. This was followed by an enthusiastic team who took part in the Cadet Skill at Arms Camp at Altcar under Lt D Lloyd and, despite not winning any trophies, they all hugely enjoyed the event. We then had our first Field Day and overnight exercise at nearby Inskip and Weeton Barracks. Some fifty of our new Fourth Year cadets learnt all about "bivvies" and army rations and getting muddy, while the Fifth Year cadets fired weapons and completed a variety of challenging tasks. The second half of the term saw Matt Donaldson from our RAF Section take part in the prestigious Festival of Remembrance (see Matt's full report) held in the Albert Hall in front of the Queen; and our senior cadet RSM Lily Long organised a World War II style training afternoon (photos right) for fifty pupils from the Junior School.



The planning for the Spring Term is now well underway, with a Regimental Dinner for SNCO's, NCO Training Weekend and Field Day scheduled to take place before Easter and the annual Adventure Training in Snowdonia immediately after the Easter break. All of these activities, as well as the routine weekly CCF training each week, would not be possible without the enthusiasm and dedication of the many staff that support the CCF, and the Sixth Form NCO's who make everything happen. Without them we would not have a CCF.



J W Callister
Wing Commander
Contingent Commander






Canadian adventure

The Rocky Mountain adventure was an experience I will never forget. When I first applied for the Cadet Leadership and Challenge Course in the Rocky Mountains I doubted I would be selected as only twelve cadets from across the UK are accepted onto the course. When I received the email from Lt Col Scott saying I had been chosen a feeling of excitement rushed over me and a reply of "wow that is awesome" soon followed. I then had much paperwork and fitness training to get through!

The seven week course in Canada is one of the top courses a cadet can experience and you are thrown into a completely different world. Twelve cadets from the UK are selected, from different areas representing different brigades, at the start of the seven weeks you meet at Frimley Park to get to know the other British cadets as well as the escorting officers, Major Balmra and Lieutenant Randle.

Following a week at Frimley which involved numerous kit inspections and "instructional talks" for our behaviour out there, we left for Heathrow Airport. After a five hour delay our flight was able to depart and the eight hour flight to Calgary International Airport could begin. The first thing all of us noticed on landing was the heat and beauty of the place. Even from the city you could see the foot of the Rocky Mountains and all we could think was that we would soon be climbing to the top of some of those peaks. Arriving at the Military Camp, designed and built for this course, we had to check passports and finances. By then it was 11pm Canadian time and we had been awake for 24 hours now!

The British arrive the night before the Canadian cadets and we were set into our platoons. There were six in total so two Brits in each. I and RSM Robbie Jones were placed in "Bow". All the platoons were named after mountains in the Rocky's and the other twenty eight places

would be made up of Canadians from across Canada. We were all well and truly to be thrown into a new world, a new home and new routine of life for the next six weeks.

During the six weeks there were six different "cycles" and each one hosts a new adventurous training activity. Bow platoon's first week consisted of white-water canoeing and kayaking. I had done a little kayaking on flat water before but nothing like this. I chose to do canoeing, and myself and my partner, Sutton, had a responsibility to look after each other and make sure we didn't flip the canoe. However, we soon found out that on grade 3 water in the Red Deer River this was a harder task than anticipated. On a rapid called Double Ledge we had to punch straight through the middle but this was not to be! We ended up a little too close to the rocks on the side of the river and flipped. Sutton was able to grab onto the bank of the river and get up on the rocks. He looked down the river and I was

no-where to be seen as I was underwater! I passed through the rapids and at the end I was pulled into a stopper along with the canoe. We were pushed out at the same time and the canoe almost landed on my head but I made a lucky escape! We soon laughed about it and the rest of the platoon said it was a worrying yet awesome thing to watch as I emerged 10 metres down river with the canoe. The second week had trekking in store for Bow platoon and it was our task to go from Exshaw Peak to Cougar Peak in Banff National Park. We had been split into four groups, each tackling different peaks, and fortunately I was in the "extreme" group. We peaked at 8500ft and nothing could beat the feeling of being that high, looking down on Banff National Park. Well, I thought so!

The third week consisted of first aid and horse riding. By now the fitness every morning at 0600 in the freezing cold had kind of become normality and the altitude was becoming less and less of a problem! Canadian weather can be crazy. In the morning it was freezing cold and during the day there was clear blue sky, sun and heat.

I had never been on a horse before so this week was going to be interesting. We were wild camping and had been warned about the bears. No food was to be near our sleeping area at all so when one guy forgot he had sweet drink powders in his pack a nervous night lay ahead for us. The horse week was a relaxed break between cycles which enabled us to recharge for what lay ahead.

Undertaking a multi-pitch climb was a challenge I'd always wanted to complete and this week my goal was about to be accomplished! We started on small rock faces for climbing and worked our way up, mastering the climbing commands, in both English and French. We did this in order to communicate with the French-speaking Canadians from Quebec which is the French province. Towards the end of the week I was informed that I was one of the cadets who would take part in an 8 pitch multi-climb on the rock face "Kid Goat". However, due to bad weather it could not take place.

Plans soon changed and we headed to Lake Louise in Banff, a beautiful place full of tourists, and we were there to go climbing. The multi-pitch climb took place but only had 3 pitches due to the size of the rock face, however it was still amazing. Hanging on a rope on the side of the rock face looking over Lake Louise is not something I will forget soon.

Next was glacier week. I had waited with anticipation for this. I was lucky to be in the "extreme" group again and I could not have been more pleased with the outcome. We would be climbing Peyto



Glacier and summiting Mt Habel, 10,000ft above sea level. The journey across the Glacier was epic and being dressed up as some kind of Doctor Who character to travel was an experience in itself. We travelled to Peyto hut at the bottom of Mt Habel and stayed for the night, partly. We had to wake at 4am to ensure the ice and snow was hard enough so that we didn't fall down a crevasse... It was a three hour trek to the summit. When we peaked I felt amazed. At this point of the course this was the greatest view I had the privilege of taking in. Looking across the Alberta and British Columbia border was breathtaking.

In our final week we were mountain biking and we set a target to summit a small mountain at 3000ft by 2pm. We managed to complete our target by 11am after an 8am start. Bow platoon's determined attitude was evident throughout the whole summer and as a result of this we won the Platoon of the summer award. A fantastic achievement!

Throughout the six weeks in Canada we were given down-time on the weekends as platoons and we took the opportunity to visit cities, museums and attend many events such as the Calgary stampede, an unforgettable event made better by the fact it was the centenary year.

The Cadet Leadership and Challenge course was the best seven weeks of my life so far. I made some great friends and was able to visit some of the most amazing and spectacular places in the world.

The course continues to have an impact on me and due to my love of canoeing and kayaking that developed I am now a Level 1 BCU kayak and canoe coach and shall continue to enhance my skills. Following university, my ambition is to be accepted into the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and become an Infantry Officer. I hope the skills I learnt over the summer can help me to do this.

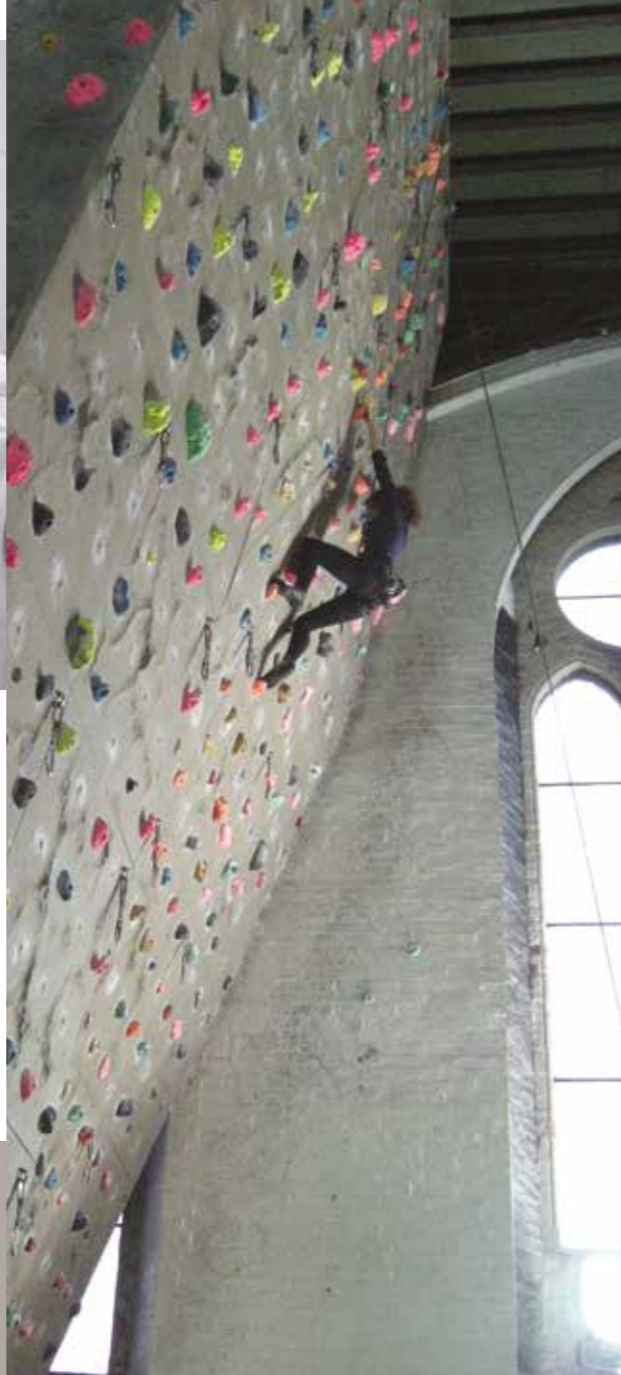
Josh Hoyles (Upper Sixth Pupil)





nowgen

Upper Sixth Biologists learnt some biotechnology techniques in a day workshop at the Nowgen Centre, Manchester. After extracting DNA from their cheek cells, the students used restriction enzymes and the polymerase chain reaction process to make billions of copies of specific genes. These DNA fragments were then separated using gel electrophoresis to analyse which alleles of the specific gene were present.



The Boarding House

Diary Dates

CCF Regimental Dinner
2 March

Third Year Parents' Evening
5.00 pm, 6 March

U19 Invitation Hockey Tournament
9.00 am – 6.00 pm, Saturday, 9 March

Second Year Parents' Evening
5.00 pm, 14 March

Richard Wilson U14 Sevens Tournament
12.00 noon, 14 March

OKA Southern Reunion Dinner
Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, 16 March

Founders' Day Service
2.30 pm, 27 March

David Shaw Tennis Camp
8-12 April

Friends Spring Fair & BBQ
27 April

Sixth Form Ball
Friday, 21 June

Friends of KGS Summer Ball
Saturday, 22 June



SUMMER ACTIVITY CAMPS

David Shaw
Easter Tennis Camp 8 -12 April
David Shaw 07770618148

David Shaw
Tennis Evening classes Friday evenings 19 April - 21 June
6.00 - 8.30 pm

David Shaw
Summer Tennis Camp 15 - 26 July

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

Kings Camp 5 - 16 August
www.kingcamps.org



MUSIC

The Music Department at KGS has just enjoyed its first term in brand new accommodation. The new Music Centre has given us a suite of rooms that allow all our music-making to occur in rooms that have been specifically designed for performance. They have been acoustically engineered to give us the optimal environment to enjoy our music making. We have two fully equipped teaching rooms bristling with technology to create a fantastic environment to explore and discover the world of music. There are also five practice rooms that have been tailored individually to suit different instruments and performance requirements. There too is a music technology room that houses eight computer workstations, loaded with the latest software for music composition, as well as a facility for digital recording and processing. The jewel in the crown, however, must be the Recital Room that affords us a wonderful space for rehearsals and concerts, aesthetically and acoustically conceived to enhance the experience of the performer and the listener alike.





The Autumn Term has seen numerous concerts both during the day and in the evenings. The Third Year musicians delighted us with their Coffee Concert in September. This was followed by the Upper Sixth music scholars who showed us just how accomplished they have become in their final year. The GCSE musicians of the Fifth Form evidenced their many hours of hard work at their Coffee Concert in November. Our new intake in the first year gave the first evening performance in the new Recital Room and enchanted us with a real feast of music, which ranged from some wonderful singing to a really diverse range of instrumental performances.

The Concert Band was on show very early in the term at the annual Speech Day at the Guildhall, Preston. As always, these young musicians rose to the occasion in providing all the music for this prestigious event, which included music from the great American composer, John Williams. The Carol Service was again held at St. Michael's Parish Church in Kirkham. The Senior Choir performed brilliantly, expertly directed by Mr Barratt. Christmas was celebrated in some style in the Christmas Concert held in the MPH. Numerous individual performances were augmented by the Concert Band, the Lower School Singers, the String Group, the Orchestra, the Senior Choir and the KGS Swing Band in a real cornucopia of festive fun. This brought the curtain down on another great term of music making. In conclusion, mention must be made of the tremendous achievement of those who entered the ABRSM exams in November. Not only did they all pass, but many did so with either merit or distinction. Special mention, however, must be made of Hannah Culver who achieved Grade 8 piano with distinction, and Elliott Gaston-Ross who, at the tender age of 14, achieved Grade 8 percussion with distinction. Elliott has also gained a place in the percussion section of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. Congratulations to one and all.

We look forward to 2013 as our musicians continue to achieve at the highest level and further delight us with many more performances to savour and treasure.





Artist and photographers in the Lower Sixth undertook a one day Field Trip to Liverpool as part of their AS Art & Design course. The trip included visiting the rival to the Angel of the North, 'Dream' (photo below) by Jaume Plensa which is located on a former colliery near St Helens. They also visited the Runcorn bridge (photo left), Tate Liverpool and Liverpool One (photo left). The Lower Sixth are now working on researching material for their five day trip to Berlin in April.



LIVERPOOL ART TRIP

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ART AND DRAMA
EMPIRE STATE OF MIND PART III

DECEMBER 2012

A POCKETFUL OF DREAMS

A KIRKHAM GRAMMAI SCHOOL PRODUCTION



STUDENTS STORM THE CITY

KGS artists, photographers and theatre studies students finally visited New York City in December. After the original trip was cancelled due to the storm "Sandy" in late October the long awaited trip was back on. A smaller group of students and staff from the original trip flew out to explore the famous streets and avenues as the city prepared itself this time for the festive season. This was the school's third trip to the city that is famous as a place of movie scenes and the bustle of city street life. Strolling through Central Park: dining out in world famous diners and standing where many thousands have stood in Times Square.

The group (photo above) saw two of the best shows on Broadway, "Newsies" and "Avenue Q" and attended workshops run by the actresses and actors from the Broadway shows. Some of the group explored the city by foot and subway, stopping at many famous landmarks ranging from The Rockefeller Centre and its world famous Christmas tree to the MOMA (photo above). There was some serious shopping done in Manhattan at Abercrombie and Fitch and Bloomingdales, so it wasn't all hard work! Pupils certainly returned with many wonderful experiences, memories and lots of brand new goods, inspired by the bright lights of the city! We now look forward to part IV as Ms Barrie and Mr Gardiner are planning a re-run of The Empire State of Mind, in October 2013.



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S
A MIDSUMMER
NIGHT'S DREAM

The stage is a magic circle where only the most realistic things happen. For many of us drama is life only with the dull bits cut out, but you soon come to learn that when taking part in the performances, drama is no longer a hobby; you have now got to develop it into an art. You soon learn this when you are handed an acting part, no matter how big or small a part you play, you are crucial to the play. You find it hard to balance school life, a social life and extra-curricular activities on the side, but on the last night, after you have given blood, sweat and tears, you tend to look back and want to go through the hours of rehearsals all over again.

Many people would be confused about this but it is such a great feeling to be handed a part in the play; whether you are Egeus or Hermia, you are honoured that you have been selected as one of the few to represent the school with something you adore. You don't have to be a sportsman, you don't have to be a genius, acting is for those who live outside the boundaries of everyday life and who wish to contribute to society through entertainment.

The first rehearsal is always tense, especially when you are new, you don't know who will turn up and you don't know what's going to happen, much like a first day at school, but this insecurity is soon met with a great warmth as Ms Barrie welcomes you all and you introduce yourselves to one another, soon forming that bond of being a theatre company. Of course you can't ignore the duller moments such as learning lines, but looking back on my time in the school performances it is not the sitting there, with my mum, for hours on end learning line after line, it is the standing on the stage and receiving a thundering applause for what you have just done.

But people ask me time after time "Are you nervous?" and my answer this year was "No!" I wasn't lying (but if you had asked me when doing Macbeth, when I was a more inexperienced actor you wouldn't have needed to ask me the question, only look at me).

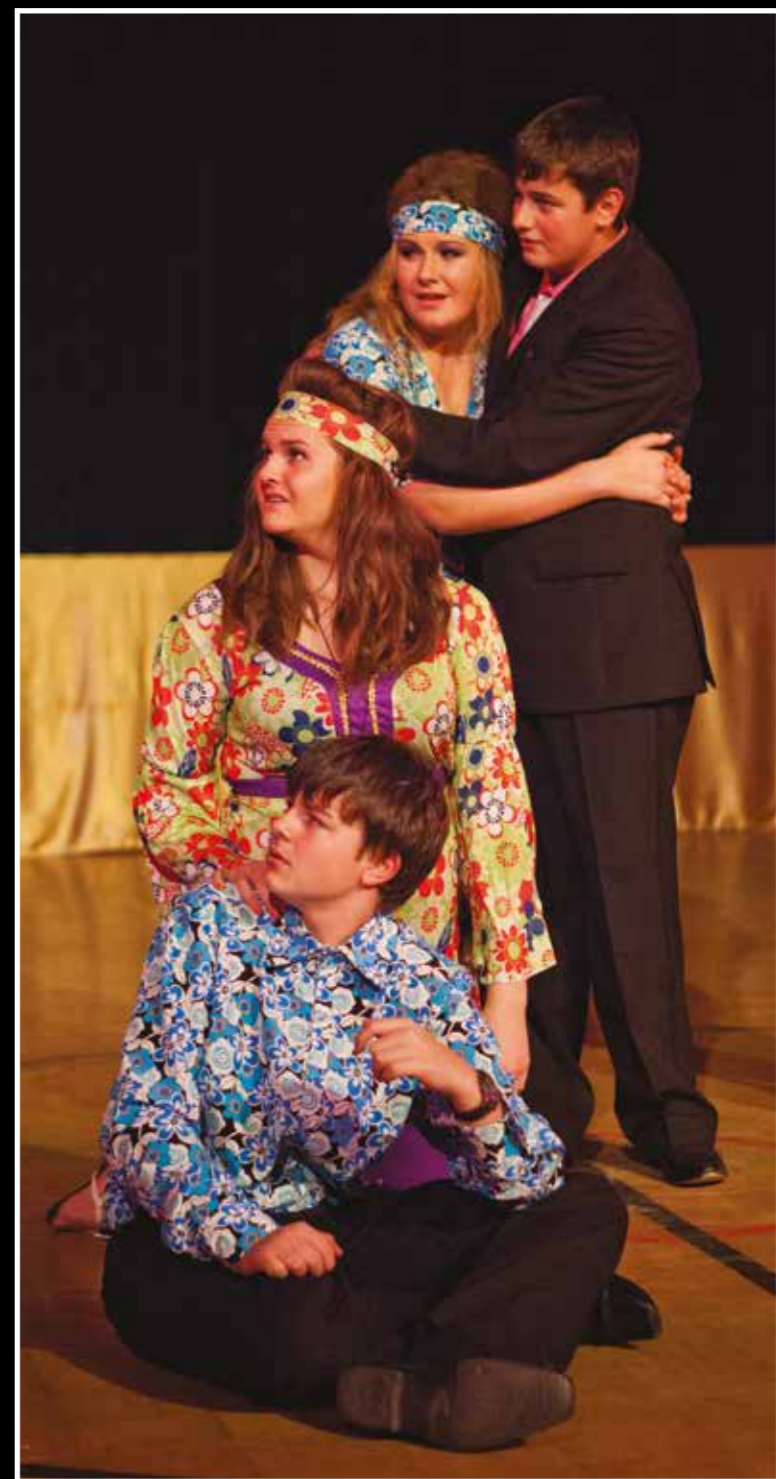


You didn't need to ask the question when I performed in 'Macbeth' – it was obvious from looking at me! It is nerve-wracking to perform to hundreds of people, in a language which is hard to understand. This is the case with many actors. Nerves are always going to be there, and I am sure they will return to me, but you have to ask yourself would you be nervous if you were about to go out and perform to hundreds of people which could at any time go wrong; yes it is nerve racking, yes it is scary, but once that first line has rolled off your tongue, you have broken the ice and you are on a high for the rest of the week.

It is a great honour to be in the play; you can only take away good memories, despite weeks of pure stress and you soon realise after that first night what it was all for. I have tried my best to tell you what it is like for an actor at this school but I can guarantee this is only a small part of our story, and if you come to see the play, or be part of it, you will soon find out a lot more!

Josh Burrows
(Lower Sixth)

A KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL PRODUCTION





A KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL PRODUCTION





We enjoyed a wonderful start to the festive season at our Ball at the Villa, and Singleton Lodge saw us return for a lunch towards the end of term. Both Christmas celebrations were a big success and I thank Jaïne Burnie and her team for the Ball organisation, and Yvonne Malings and Sam Wilson for their work on the lunches, not only at Christmas but throughout the year.

A relatively new initiative, which is now firmly entrenched in our calendar, is "Bags2School", which raised a significant sum over the last year. Our next collection is 26 April 2013 and I urge you to fill at least one bag for us if you can.

Looking forward, we have changed our summer event this year to a Spring Fair and BBQ, which will be held at the Junior School on 27 April 2013. Our wonderful Summer Ball will be held as usual in a marquee on the school lawn on 22 June 2013. It is expected that demand for tickets will be especially high this year, so look out for application forms on our return to school after the Easter holidays. The Friends are also planning an extra event this summer, which is still under wraps so, as they say, watch this space!

FKGS always welcome new contributors and ideas. Please don't hesitate to get involved if you can, whether as a formal member, a periodic volunteer, or by supporting our events.

Thank you for your kind generosity, and I look forward to seeing you in the Summer Term.

With warmest wishes.

Michelle O'Neill
Chair FKGS.

FRIENDS

It is with great pleasure that I open my first newsletter as Chair, being able to inform you that donations from FKGS over 2011/2012 school year totaled £18,355.98. Specifically, donations were made for IT in both Senior and Junior Schools, as well as smaller contributions towards a new PA system, prizes, sports tours and the Sixth Form Ball.

Furthermore, we were also able to contribute £15,000 towards the Grand Piano which was purchased for the new Recital Room in September 2012.

The success of our year was due to the strong leadership of Mrs Lorraine Wareing, the hard work of the committee and volunteers too numerous to mention, and the wonderful generosity of our parents and friends. Thank you!

We moved into 2012/13 therefore feeling that we had a great deal to live up to. Our target this year is to raise £15,000 for a few smaller, yet no less important, projects; these include defibrillators to be available for both Senior and Junior Schools, music banners, and a

state of the art interactive white board for Pre-School, to name but a few.

So far, we are progressing well. Our Christmas Fair at the end of November certainly seemed to be enjoyed by the children. Special thanks must go to the Junior School children who designed such beautiful chocolate wrappers for donations to the chocolate tombola, and who ran the colour stalls. Fun, games and refreshments were enjoyed in a packed MPH, and we were even lucky enough for Father Christmas to call in and see us. Thank you to Vanessa Barrow and her team who organised such a wonderful, festive afternoon.

The Friends of KGS are aptly named as many of our events are based on friendship. Both our Mistletoe Ball and Christmas Ladies' Lunch were examples of friends, old and new, joining together to enjoy delicious food, in beautiful surroundings. It is lovely to see new friendships made at these events, as we do try to seat parents of similar-aged children together, so please do not think that you have to be part of a big group to come along.

interHouseevents

All four Houses have been very busy since the start of the year, and all competitions have been hotly contested. With all the Houses back on equal points, and all House Leaders and Captains eager to make a good start to the year, there has been an impressive level of participation from all year groups.

The term started with the quiz competitions, and Preston won the junior quiz and Fylde the senior version. The two basketball competitions then followed, and the round-robin nature of these events means that all Houses play each other and both competitions were hotly contested. Preston won the intermediate competition quite easily, and Fylde managed to win the senior event, despite some excellent play from Kirkham.

The Chess competition is run over two lunchtimes, and the semi-finals saw Fylde beat School, and Preston beat Kirkham. Having both junior and senior boards makes this competition an excellent way to involve different year groups, and the quality of play on show from all ages was good to see. In the final, Fylde managed to beat Preston, and School beat Kirkham.

The netball competitions normally herald the arrival of more wintry conditions, and this year was no different. The junior competition was played in its entirety, and a strong Fylde team won the trophy. However, the senior games were affected by the icy conditions, as was the junior hockey final. These competitions will be completed at a later date.

The senior volleyball competition was an

almost identical copy of the senior basketball, with a strong set of Fylde boys winning the trophy, closely followed by Kirkham, School, and then Preston. However, the games were extremely close, with Houses tied on points. The final event of the term was the swimming gala, and it was testament to all the Houses that so many boys and girls turned out to swim. Following a great number of events, School eventually regained the title that they had worked so hard for last year.

So, at the Christmas break, the Whitby Cup standings are:

1. Fylde 29 points
2. School 24 points
3. Preston 21 points
4. Kirkham 18 points

The House Recorder



French workshop



On Wednesday 10 October Mrs Walker and Ms Vicquelin took the AS and A2 students to the A-level French Workshop at the Cornerhouse Cinema in Manchester. This event was organised by FILTA, Film in Language Teaching Association as part of Projector Modern Foreign Languages.

This study day contextualised French popular comedy using 'Intouchables' as a recent example of a box office hit in France. 'Intouchables' took the French box office by storm when it was released in November 2011.

Students considered the cultural context of the film, discussing ideas of family, social classes, the world of work, and the issue of disability. Following the film screening, students used written and spoken French to complete A2 language and grammar exercises and discussed the film's issues and themes in detail. The workshop was led by Isabelle Vanderschelden, Senior Lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University.

All students thought that the film was immensely enjoyable and also asked provoking questions about prejudice, racism, friendship and ultimately life.

Paralysed from the neck down following a paragliding accident, millionaire Philippe lives a quiet life in a stylish Parisian apartment. When he hires Driss, a forthright ex-con as his carer, their unlikely friendship and growing bond give Philippe a new lease of life.



**1st XI HOCKEY
2012-2013**

Junior Hockey Tour



On Wednesday 24 October a mixture of thirty six U13 and U14 hockey girls departed KGS excitedly looking forward to the adventure that lay ahead. The coach was vibrant as they numbered off and then belted out the tour songs – 'Build Me Up Buttercup' and 'Live While We're Young'.

The ferry crossing was a great way to start this tour, after sorting out cabins we went down to the restaurant and enjoyed a five course meal before changing to explore the ship. The girls entertained fellow passengers with their singing and indeed their dancing at the disco later that night. The comments from the public were very complimentary indeed!

On Thursday morning after what seemed like an unbelievably short sleep and a hearty breakfast we docked and then headed for Valkenburg on the coach. The lack of DVD player and CD player left the staff acting as 'Red Coats' entertaining and singing all the way to the

needed. We didn't have much time in the hotel before we had to leave for our first set of matches against Hockey Club Vrijenbroek. This set of opposition was extremely strong, a big group of fast, powerful girls. We were a little fazed as we arrived but once we had warmed up we were certainly ready for action! Our U13's were outstanding; after a fairly even start our girls got stronger and stronger and proved too much for the Dutch opposition – they won 4-0 in a fantastic display. Our U14's were up against a team that was a year older than them and they froze in the first half and played with no real determination, hence they were 3-0 down at half time. However, after a pep talk at half time and a few adjustments to our tactics the Kirkham girls were excellent! They closed down quickly, they were totally committed in every challenge and they counter attacked with real drive. What a second half display!! Though we lost 4-0 this team really grew in strength that night. Our 'B' team, which was a mix of U13 and U14 girls, were up against it. This team battled really well but were well and truly beaten. The girls were absolutely physically worn out – it was only after the game that we were told we had played 35 minutes each way, 20 minutes longer than a normal game at home. On return to the hotel the evening's entertainment began – Prize

Bingo. A perfect way to end an exhausting but extremely enjoyable day!

Friday morning was another very early start, 8.00 am breakfast and then a one mile walk to the local astro-turf pitch for our World Cup Hockey Tournament. Team colours, together with matching face paints, we set off looking like Zulu Warriors. The weather was shocking, cold, wet and driving winds but the Kirkham girls stuck it out and, after some wonderful

hockey, Australia emerged as World Cup Winners. A hot lunch was just what we needed before heading off to visit the Marl Caves – a little train excursion through the underground air raid and nuclear shelters – a very interesting and informative experience – again it was enjoyed by all. In the evening we travelled to Hockey Club Blerick for our second set of fixtures. Our B team played extremely well in an evenly contested match. They got stuck in to all challenges and attacked with real speed, in fact they were very unfortunate to lose 1-0! Sadly, confusion by the club led to our U13 and U14 teams being let down, and although we were furious it turned out fine because we managed to get in a good training match instead. On returning to the hotel we had a pop quiz, enjoyed a mass of Halloween sweets and then it was time for 'Stars in Your Eyes'. All the girls performed on stage and truly entertained everyone in the hotel. We had dancing and singing and a real array of costumes – in fact they were all so good it was terrific. To finish off the night the staff taught the girls our tour song and we thoroughly enjoyed singing our song in a four-piece harmony – Mr Barratt would have been so proud!!

Saturday morning got off to a very early start with breakfast, followed by packing the coach and then a trip to the bobsledding – a real treat for everyone. After a tentative start by some who crept round the slopes they soon got the hang of it and started to fly round. Rosy-cheeked and on an absolute high we then left the bobsledding to head to Disneyland Paris. As you can imagine the atmosphere on the coach was electrifying – what could be better than going to see Mickey Mouse with all your friends!! Though the coach journey was long we at least got the CD player working and we sang Disney songs for much of the way there. Girls really can keep entertained in any situation- its great!!

We were soon at the Disney Kyriad, a lovely Disney hotel right in the heart of the atmosphere. After a delicious 'all-you-can-eat' buffet we set off on the little yellow buses for the Disney Village – this was heaven - so many shops!! Hats, gloves, scarves, teddies and all sorts of souvenirs filled everyone's bags as we headed back to the hotel in anticipation for the next day's fun.

On Sunday morning we were up bright and early, followed by an 'all-you-can-eat'

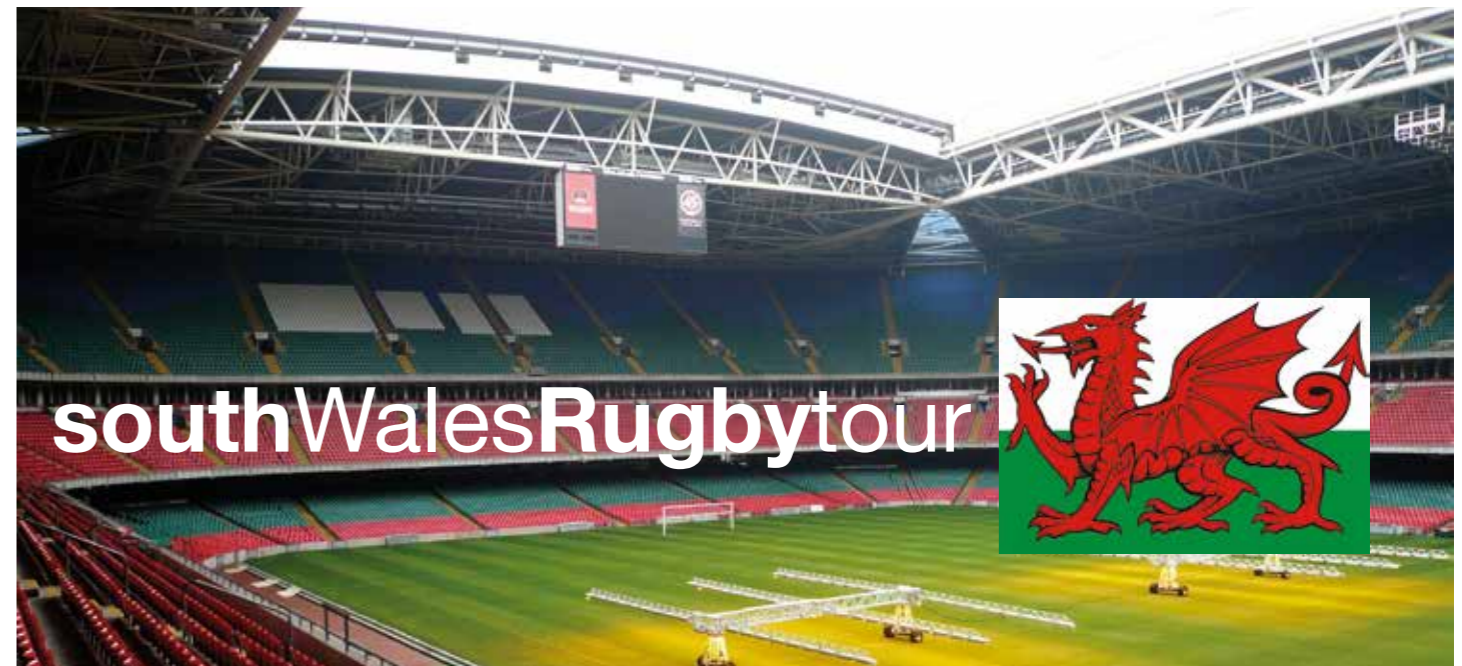
breakfast, we headed for the Magic Kingdom – the girls had a fabulous time meeting the characters, on the rides, in the shops and watching the parade. Again we whizzed back to the hotel for an evening meal and then headed back to the Magic Kingdom for the 20th Anniversary Tinkerbell Firework display – it was breathtaking – a perfect end to a fantastic day!!

Monday morning again was a hearty breakfast followed by packing the coach and heading to the Studios Park – the Hollywood Tower of Terror, The Rocking Rollercoaster and Armageddon proved real hits with all the girls. After using their Pluto Lunch Voucher again we headed back to the coach for the journey home. The girls were so disappointed, they didn't want it to end!!

We arrived back at Kirkham at 4.00 am on the Tuesday morning – what a fantastic tour!! The girls were terrific and a real credit to Kirkham Grammar School. The staff were equally fantastic and I would like to thank Mr and Mrs Walter, Miss Hatch and Miss Spacey for all their support in the organisation of the tour and their tireless work whilst we were on tour. It certainly is the staff that make the tour so enjoyable and fun-filled for the girls.

Finally I would like to thank Mr and Mrs Cameron and Mr Preston for organising sponsorship for the jackets and Mr and Mrs Huyton and Mr Wilson for organising sponsorship for the training tops – we really do appreciate it!!

Photo right the hockey staff during the annual Team Christmas Fancy Dress Competition.



South Wales Rugby tour

The Kirkham Grammar School U13 Rugby Squad, comprising of twenty-two boys and four staff, embarked on their annual four day Tour of South Wales as soon as the winter term ended. The aim was to play two matches, have a guided tour of the Millennium Stadium (photo above) and watch the Cardiff Blues v Llanelli Scarlets Pro 12 game. After the long journey to Roath, a Cardiff suburb, with two stops en-route, the party were dispersed to their dormitories for the night anticipating an exciting few days.

The next morning after a hearty breakfast the squad gathered their match kit and headed for Cardiff and the magnitude of the Millennium Stadium where they browsed the changing areas, press room, hospitality areas and even a close-up view of the famous turf. The most impressive view was observed from the Royal Box which the Queen and her family had graced just a few days before: people clambered to sit in Her Majesty's seat. After some souvenir hunting in the stadium

shop the party travelled the short distance across Cardiff to the first game at Ysgol Gyfun Plasmawr, a Welsh speaking school with whom Kirkham have now forged close links. The matches against Plasmawr have always been close and this was no different, both teams had to make the short journey to a neighbouring school to play, as the incessant rain flooded the Plasmawr pitches. Kirkham defended admirably as the hosts enjoyed much possession but Kirkham held firm until an interception inside their own half led to Kirkham giving the ball away which allowed the home centre to speed away to score under the posts. Kirkham hit back with a fine individual effort from Kieran Wilkinson to close the gap to 7-5. However Plasmawr took advantage of two lapses of concentration in defence to pull away to an unassailable 19-5 lead. Wilkinson reduced the deficit as he barged over but the hosts had the last word with a final interception try to win 24-12.

The party returned to the Youth Hostel

after refreshments to change and then travel to the nearby Cardiff Bay for a meal and Ten Pin Bowling. The following morning came the news of the cancellation of our second fixture at Monmouth School as the rain continued to fall through the previous night. All was not lost as we decided to contact Cardiff City, who have a new 3G indoor pitch, so we could hire it to play a game amongst ourselves. The boys enjoyed an hour or so of full contact rugby and a game of soccer. After lunch we returned to Newport to check into the Holiday Inn as the trip entered the last evening. The boys enjoyed the hotel pool before a shower and change saw the staff and boys head back to Cardiff City Centre for some retail therapy. Later that evening we headed for the famous 'Arms Park' to watch Cardiff take on rivals Llanelli Scarlets, which gave the boys an insight into the rigours of professional rugby. Everyone returned to the hotel tired and went straight to bed before the long journey home the following day.





SOUTH AFRICA TOUR

SUMMER 2012



On the 10 July sixty Kirkham Grammar School boys departed on an eighteen day tour of South Africa. The tour contained five matches and many sightseeing highlights including Robben Island, Table Mountain, a Super 15 game, Kings Park Natal and Langa township. The first match was against Kasselsvei High School in Cape Town. The 1st XV won comfortably 48-0. The development team won 22-14 and the U15 won 23-19. The rugby at Kasselsvei was enjoyable because their teams played expansive attacking rugby, often playing from inside their own twenty-two metre line. The after-match hospitality was friendly with two roasted lambs and a series of presentations.

The second match was against Hamilton Sea Point Rugby Club, which is situated in the grounds of the Cape Town World Cup 2010 stadium. Sadly the weather was not as magnificent as the surroundings; the rain was reminiscent of a November day in Kirkham! Pleasingly the three teams managed wins with the 1st XV winning 38-0, Development Team 24-0 and the U15 XV 39-5.

The third match was very tough, played against SACS of Cape Town, the oldest school in South Africa. SACS regularly register in the top twenty of South African rugby so it was extremely pleasing to see the 1st XV win 29-28 with a last minute conversion. The Development Team lost narrowly 13-5 and the U15 team managed to win 10-8, with a dramatic try in the dying seconds. This was without doubt the best rugby experience of the trip and in many ways the best day.

The fourth game was another hard one, falling just four days after the SACS game. The opposition was Glenwood High School who, at the time of the game, were in the top fifteen in South Africa. The 1st XV game was a tremendously physical encounter, bruising from start to finish; with five minutes to go Kirkham were unlucky to be 19-5 down, sadly Glenwood were able to pull away and finish the game 33-5 which was not an accurate reflection of the game. The development team lost 32-11 in what was a very competitive encounter, but Glenwood were more clinical on the whole. The U15 XV found the going tough after the SACS game and lost 41-0. A tough day, playing in front of huge crowds in a rugby-mad country, but this was still a great experience for the boys.

The final game was against a KZN Country XV. The 1st XV won comfortably 50-3 with Marius Jonker, an international referee, officiating. The development team won convincingly 34-14 and the U15 won 19-15, tiring after racing into a 19-0 lead.

The tour on the whole was a massive success. The boys had a great time on and off the pitch and experienced a new country and a very different culture. A sports tour of this nature is a once in a lifetime experience, one we are all lucky to have shared in.



Many thanks to Mr J Walker for these photos.

We must finish by saying a huge thank you to our sponsors:
 Warburtons Family Bakers, Bailey Financial Services, Elleven Sports Media, Guys Thatched Hamlet, DJ Drink Solutions, Hargreaves Garages, Inghams Solicitors, DANBRO Accounting Solutions, The Mill Wheel Bar Co. Cork, Summit Physiotherapist, SMF, Wareing Buildings, The Richard Wilson Sports Foundation, Swifts Hardware, Burning Desires Preston, Colourbanners and Bright Print.





Many thanks to Mr K Wilkinson for these fantastic action photos.



JUNIOR RUGBY 2012-2013



**1st XV RUGBY
2012-2013**

This has been a very difficult season for our sportsmen and women with the awful weather beginning in the autumn and continuing with a mixture of rain and frost to decimate much of the sport organised for the boys and girls. This was exacerbated by the new building which did cause some dislocation and I am grateful for the forbearance of staff and parents through this awkward period.

Nonetheless our young sportsmen and women have enjoyed considerable activity despite the disruption. It has been nice to see the continued success in sports such as Tennis, Cross-Country and Swimming. Our girls' junior tennis team gave us a huge boost with their march to the National Quarter Finals. The team of Rachel Greenwood, Rachel McCrae, Charlotte MacDonald, Lucy Keelan and Poppy Morris (photo right) finally lost to Scottish school George Heriot's in an exciting contest, having defeated Queen Elizabeth's, Penrith in the last 16.

The Cross-Country season reached a crescendo as the Lancashire Schools Championships took place recently. Jake Lonsdale won his race to become County Champion, while many KGS runners gained podium placings at this high level. At the Fylde level, Chris Linton, Ella Moulding, Jake Lonsdale and Samantha Hollings all won their age groups as KGS were crowned champions at four of the six levels.

In the pool our swimmers gain strength each year and their second place in the Blackburn Hexagonal Competition was exciting as have been the number of fixtures which now result in success where some years ago they were beyond our reach. In the main sports we sustain the level of activity of recent years although the attempts to play a full array of B team games has been thwarted by the weather. On the hockey front the 1st XI gained success to regional level in the National Competition and recorded a magnificent 5-1 victory over Millfield. No mean feat for a young inexperienced side! At Under 14 level the girls were crowned County Champions (photo centre right) and performed well at regional level. A number of important competitions are soon to be played and we wish the girls well.

On the rugby field both the 1st XV and 2nd XV registered only one defeat this season. Their success has been down to hard work rather than individual performances and both teams have developed well through the season. At Under 12 (photo bottom right) level the team has enjoyed great success with only a single defeat thus far. In the Cup competitions both the Under 13 and Under 14 teams are in the latter stages of the County Cup while the Under 15 XV take their place in the last eight of the National Daily Mail Vase. We look forward to hearing of the culmination of all these competitions.

I do hope that the weather relents and also that our new facilities now afford greater flexibility for all our sporting members, allowing them to enjoy a far less disrupted period over the remainder of the year.

