

Dear Parents,

After listening to feedback from our pupils, we decided this term to tweak our Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School Values to be more in line with their understanding. They are now: Be Kind, Be Curious and Be Determined. I spent some time talking through these values with our pupils and how they could be applied to everyday life. It has subsequently been lovely to speak with your children in passing about how they are ensuring that they stay focussed on these values on a day-to-day basis both in and outside of School.

It has been wonderful to see how our Pre-School pupils are also embracing our values at the starting point of their journey with us. They will now affectionately be known as a Kirkhamigo: Spanish for 'Kirkham friend'. You may see their School mascot popping up on social media – a penguin! Penguins demonstrate determination, patience, and endurance in the face of the extreme conditions in which they live. They do everything together: eating, hunting, nesting and huddling together to keep warm. They are also highly adaptable creatures and true team players. We hope that this mascot will serve as a reminder of the Kirkham Grammar School values of kindness, curiosity and determination as they move onwards through school, building strong friendships along the way – all key to their future success.

In line with our School Development Plan, we currently have a particular focus on Mathematics within Pre-School and beyond. After a recent visit from Penny Watson, the Early Years Foundation Stage Consultant for Lancashire, I am excited to announce that Mrs Anyon has been asked to be a Leading Mathematics Practitioner for EYFS in light of the outstanding and inspirational learning environment that has been created. We are presently working towards a 'Lancashire Quality Award' that will support early excellence in this curriculum area and build upon our already strong provision, which then continues into I1 through to J4.

Our aspirational curriculum and the high standards of learning observed were of particular note, as was the engaging and energetic way in which our pupils approached their learning. Mrs Anyon and Mrs Aldeen will also be attending a forum at the end of term to disseminate and share the good practice at KGS within Lancashire, South Cumbria and Greater Manchester. I am sure that this is something that the whole KGS community will feel incredibly proud to be a part of.

After a week filled with multiple enriching activities and learning at KGS, I do hope that you now have time together as a family to reconvene, relax and have fun. *Eid Mubarak* to all of our families enjoying Eid celebrations this week/weekend. Thank you for the lovely cakes that have been kindly baked and brought around to the staff and pupils: they have been very well received! I wish you all a celebration filled with joy, laughter and happy moments.

With best wishes

Mrs K L O'Donoghue
Headmistress