



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

Headmaster's Letter to Parents

Spring 2012





## HEADMASTER'S INTRODUCTION



This year has marked a significant change for my family and I with the move into the Boarding House. My family moved into the House in July and we are now resident in school full-time. Certain adjustments have been necessary, not the least of which is getting used to not commuting into school each day! It has allowed me to become even more immersed into the day-to-day life of the school and equally to gain a deeper insight into the place of boarding within KGS. As a family we have settled well into our new lives and in fact the whole family has become engaged with life here, as my wife assists with House administration, my daughter, Clare, fills in temporarily as Assistant Matron while my son, James, helps on the duty rota. A real family affair! What it has reinforced is that while the Boarding House is only a small minority within the school (65 in total this year) it adds value in so many ways and its presence enriches the life of the school. KGS is very much a day school with boarders but it is imperative that the boarding life is an enjoyable one and that the House benefits the school as a whole. My experiences this year have done much to confirm both are the case.

This year has also brought significant changes in the Independent Sector locally with news of mergers and changes in status at a number of schools. KGS has positioned itself clearly and looked upon events externally with a diplomatic distance. I am sure there are many parents both current and prospective who have had a concern regarding the viability of Independent education locally and therefore the position of KGS in the light of these changes. Suffice to say the school is in a very healthy position. Numbers are strong including a healthy Sixth Form, the curriculum expands and the school is very well governed by a wholly independent group of trustees. The future looks bright indeed, with further developments in facilities very much on the agenda. What is very clear, however, for all involved with the school, is that no one can have any complacency in the current economic climate.

Our examination results have been well documented in the Kirkhamian this year and our students who left us last year are now well established at University. The changing structure of university fees has had a great deal of press coverage and affected applications to some degree in other schools. What has been further emphasised, however, is that while fees for university have risen the system of repayment of loans is very favourable for students and the evidence is that, in fact, their position has improved in the long term. The message is to look carefully at the detail and we will be advising parents on these issues next term. Our hopes

for this year's A2 cohort are high and it is notable once again the demand for traditional subjects at this level, such as in Mathematics and the three sciences.

In curriculum terms the school continues to evaluate amendments which may benefit our pupils. A-level Philosophy now appears well established and the first external examinations were highly successful. Spanish will become a GCSE option this year and we will be looking closely into its availability at AS level for the future. Other initiatives including A-level Economics form a part of our discussions and are reviewed each year with a view to implementation. It is evident that there are changes in demand at this level and it is always important that we listen to the students' wishes, given also the assurance of a sustainable position within our curriculum planning. It is the case in all areas of school life that one must constantly evaluate the current position in order to plan the next move forward.

News of further changes to the examination system has reached us recently and this will impact upon our new Fourth Year next year. No longer will they undertake modular examinations, as the Government has directed that all examinations are to be linear once again. While our students have adapted very well to the modular system, I cannot but sigh with relief that the overall examination burden is to be reduced and further time therefore available for teaching and the broader life of the school.

We have this year welcomed four new staff to KGS and seen the return of some familiar faces. Mrs Brook has joined the Technology Department to assist with the increased demand for this subject. Miss Holder and Miss Morrissey have taught PE and Psychology respectively covering for maternity. As Mrs Osborne returned at Christmas, Miss Holder has moved on to the Junior School where she is covering this term for Mrs Baxter. Our students will still see Mrs Holder, however, as she continues assisting on the hockey front. Mr Roddam has also joined the staff teaching both in the Geography Department and in PE. All have already made an impact to life at KGS and we hope they will continue to enjoy their time here. We have welcomed back some familiar faces as Mr Shackleton and Mrs Glover returned to KGS for the year. Mr Shackleton has helped us in the Physics Department while Mrs Glover has taken on A-level PE this year. Both colleagues have approached their work with their customary professionalism and it has once again been a pleasure to have them on the staff here at KGS. There have been changes also on the support staff where Mrs Joanne Renwick (Surgery Manager) has celebrated her marriage and is now Mrs Goodman. Sadly we also say goodbye to three long term members of the KGS staff.

Mrs Monica Ormerod, Mrs Christine Kay (photo right) and Mrs Maureen Preston (photo right), all retire after approximately 84 years' service. Mrs Kay enjoyed a nice send off in the Boarding House in October, Mrs Ormerod bade farewell to all her friends on the support staff in December, while Mrs Preston leaves in February. We wish them all well for a long and happy retirement.

It is always nice to hear of colleagues gaining personal success, for we concentrate so much on our pupils, and I was thrilled to hear that our own Mr Whalley (photo below) has progressed to his doctorate. Dr Whalley gained his EdD in November and he has our congratulations on this prestigious achievement. No mean feat when he is involved for so much of his time looking after the sporting and pastoral interest of our pupils.

So as we look at the changing educational horizon locally, we continue with our evolutionary progress here at KGS endeavouring to develop the school while retaining a traditional focus on our family values and ensuring that the school continues to promote the opportunities and challenges for our pupils.



J.R. Whalley



Katie Penrose  
School Captain



Fraser Burnie  
School Captain



Heidi Wattam  
Boarding House Captain



Jack Ingham  
Kirkham House Captain



Anna Rigby  
Kirkham House Captain



Craig Whalley-Hunter  
School House Captain



Jack Loxham  
Senior Prefect



Sarah Quarmby  
Fylde House Captain



Jack Linley  
Senior Prefect



Charlotte Lucas  
Fylde House Captain



Joe Wareing  
Senior Prefect



Emily Bourne  
Senior Prefect



Phil Cringle  
Boarding House Captain



Helen Kelsall  
Kirkham House Captain



Brontë Edgar  
School House Captain



Rosie Spedding  
Senior Librarian



Eleanor Schuller-Smith  
Senior Prefect



Jacob Lewis-Leeson  
Senior Prefect



Amy Lawler  
Senior Prefect



Adam Galley  
School House Captain



Sam Hall  
Kirkham House Captain



Tom Hurst  
Fylde House Captain



Kirsten Martin  
Preston House Captain



Laura Mason  
Senior Prefect



Chad Bentley  
Senior Librarian



Emily Crowther  
Preston House Captain



Ashley Bradshaw  
School House Captain



Nathan White  
Preston House Captain



Rachel Cara  
Senior Prefect



Will Fleuriot  
Preston House Captain

# Library News



## Prize Winning Pupil

### Author visit

We were delighted to welcome back to KGS an author who first visited us in 2008, following publication of his first book "The Midnight Charter". David Whitley from Chester, asked if he could return to speak to pupils in the third and

fourth year about the second book in the trilogy. "The Children of the Lost" returns to the themes of Utopia and Dystopia, interesting philosophical and sociological concepts.

In a lively talk David explored the idea of Utopia from ancient times to the present day, from deadly serious to utterly bizarre, and explained how these ideal lands had helped him to create his own fantasy worlds. He showed some beautiful images of dreams, visions and fantastic places, including works of art by Breughel, Salvador Dali and Rene Magritte to illustrate the perennial fascination with fantasy worlds.

He involved everyone in an inventive game where the students helped him to build their own "perfect city" – this involved little gremlins living in a volcano, ruled over by the Inbetweeners, with Britney Spears as their Queen. They were at war with the Smurfs and had to placate the gods of the volcano by making a weekly sacrifice! Who said that literature was boring! He has promised to write up these ideas on his website.

David then conducted a lively question and answer session, in which he was asked about his hobbies; these included singing, which prompted someone to ask him if he would perform something – he proceeded to give an impromptu performance (unaccompanied!) of a few lines from "The Beggar's Opera".

Kirkham Grammar School has its' own prize-winning author! Rachel Horsfield, now in the second year at Kirkham Grammar School, is pictured presenting a signed copy of one of Eoin Colfer's books to Mrs Copland, Librarian at the school. In front of them are almost fifty excellent fiction books, which were awarded to the school Library as part of Rachel's prize.

While she was in the first year, Rachel entered the BBC Radio 2 "500 Words Competition", launched on the Chris Evans Breakfast Show back in February 2011. The competition was part of the BBC Year of Books and aimed to inspire children aged 13 or under to get creative and write a story with a maximum of 500 words about any fictional topic of their choice. The closing date was 3 March, World Book Day.

Almost 30,000 entries were received, among them Rachel's story called "Teeth", a tale of 'trick or treat', with a neat twist at the end. The story, which can be read on the Breakfast Show website (500 Words 2011), was selected to be on the final shortlist of 50. All these writers were invited to attend the Hay Festival on Friday 3 June, from where the show was broadcast. A remarkable and inspiring panel of expert judges selected five finalists from these 50 stories and these five finalists had their story read out live on the programme by a celebrity.

Rachel was one of these five finalists, winning £50 in book tokens and having her story read on the radio by John Culshaw, the impressionist. She also announced the next finalist. She and her family spent two days at the Festival and met quite a number of celebrities.

Radio 2 have launched the 2012 competition – so come on, budding authors, get writing!

#### FOOTNOTE

I am sad to say that Mae, the wonderful guide dog who visited us twice in 2010, passed away in November 2011. She had continued to work well into her eleventh year (a very good age for a working guide dog) and she had a happy retirement with Marsha Corper, her owner. She was still enjoying walks with my own dogs until a few weeks before she died.

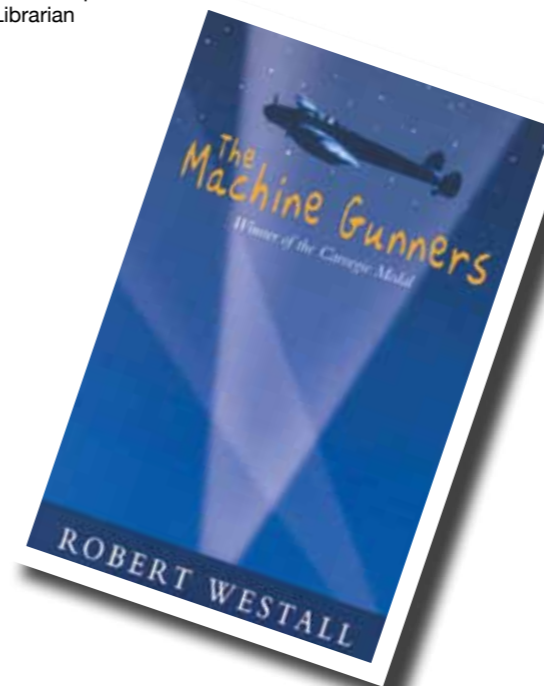
## Scribblers Club

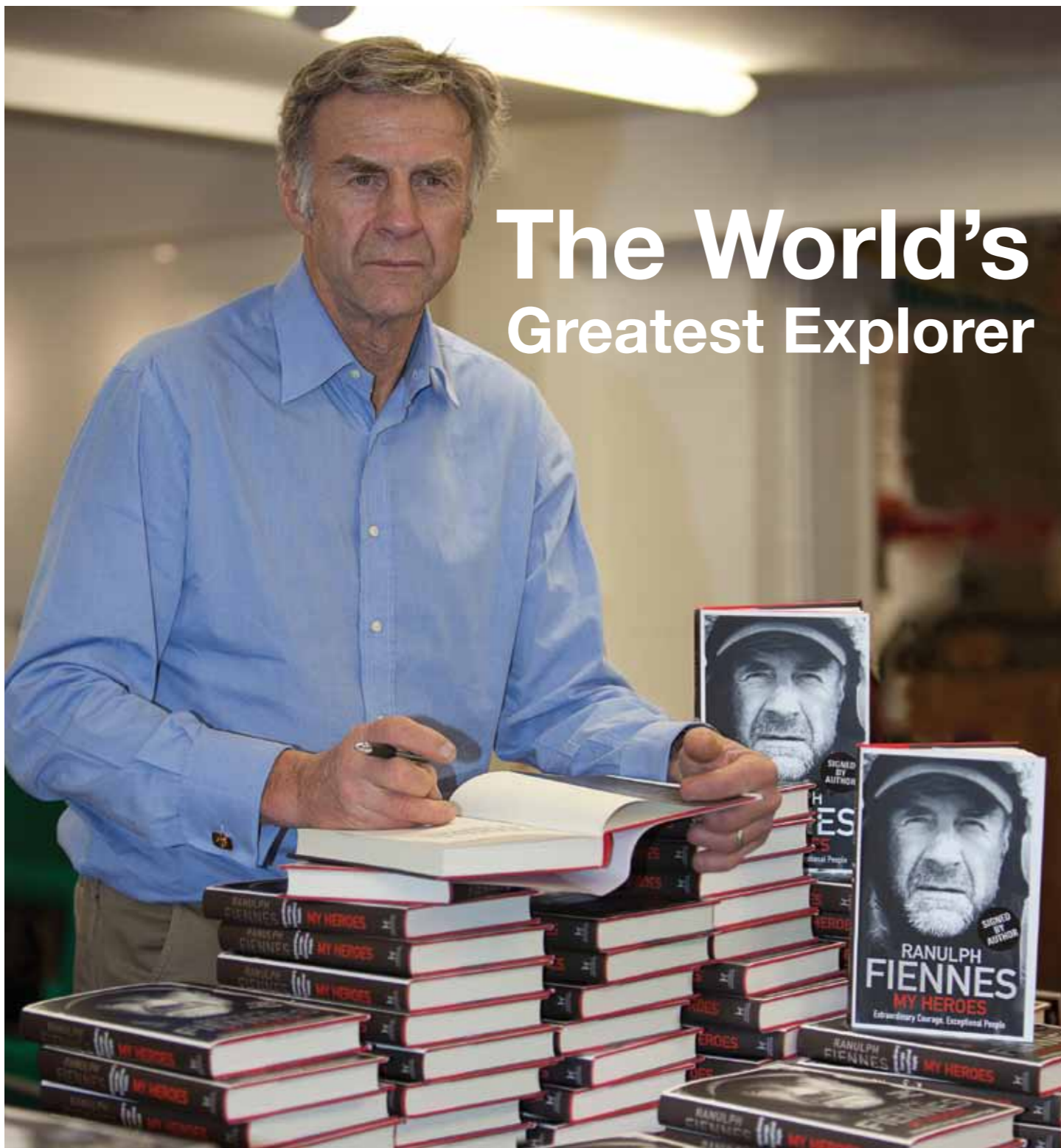
There was another successful Recital in the Library in December. Chad Bentley and Emily Bourne, the Club Secretaries, organised a lively and varied event, complete with festive refreshments. It was good to see so many pupils enjoying the creative skills of their friends.

## Book Club

It was good to welcome some new faces to this Group, following the Societies Fair in September. The meetings have been well-attended, with all pupils contributing to the book choices and discussions. We have read books by Cornelia Funke (The Thief Lord), Robert Westall (The Machine Gunners) and Amy Kathleen Ryan (Glow).

Mrs C Copland  
Librarian





# The World's Greatest Explorer



Arctic adventurer Sir Ranulph Fiennes came to KGS to talk about his latest book, 'My Heroes: Extraordinary Courage, Exceptional People'. When he arrived he never expected to come face-to-face with another Ranulph. The 67-year-old met KGS pupil, Ranulph Parkinson, when he personally signed his book. The first former who was named after the adventurer was thrilled to meet a "true hero" and enjoyed talking and posing for photos with him.

Sir Ranulph Fiennes or "Ran" as his editor called him, held a questions and answers session. He signed 550 copies of his latest book ahead of the event attended by an audience of 500 people and then stayed until after 10pm to personalise two-thirds of them. Organiser Elaine Silverwood, who runs SilverDell Books in Kirkham, said the author's publisher was "thrilled" with the event. She said: "It was unbelievable and Sir Ranulph was fantastic."

This event was the latest in a series of "big name" book signings at the school that the Friends of KGS organised with SilverDell Bookshop. Last year we saw Sir Michael Caine and Sir Michael Parkinson. We look forward to the next event!





# KGS HAS ★ TALENT

Kirkham Has Talent 2011 turned out to be an excellent afternoon of entertainment for the whole school. It has become a regular fixture at the end of term before Christmas and something for us all to look forward to. The pupils of KGS never disappoint and year after year we are surprised and delighted at the range and quality of the talent at our school.

Tom Newton opened our show, playing a Christmas medley on the cornet. This really got the crowd in the Christmas spirit. We had several excellent female singers, such as Tiffany and Alicia from the fourth year, Lottie Bell, Molly Kerrane, Maddie and Elisa, Natalie Yates and Alex Hastie. Last year's winners, Sophie Copplestone and Sequoia Des-Etages performed one of their own compositions. Elizabeth Brocklehurst from the third year sang, accompanied by Clark Brydon on the piano. We had two solo drummers, Amrit Bahra from the second year Harry Wilson and our only first year performer. We had two rather more light hearted acts from the third year, The Sex Bombs and Elliot Turnock who all certainly entertained us! Jonah Winn sang and played guitar and we also had two groups. These were Sound the Alarm and a group of sixth formers including Chloe, Olivia, Lydia, Jack and Ollie. Other sixth formers showing off their talents were Rosie Spedding who did ballet and Gemma, Gemma and Charles who sang and played the piano. Our final act was TOB and FDB featuring Chloe Walker. They ended the show in some style with a rap.

Prizes were awarded in final assembly on the last day. TOB and FDB with Chloe Walker were announced the winners, with last year's winners, Sophie and Sequoia, as runners-up. Thank you to everyone who helped on the day and to all our wonderful performers for making Kirkham Has Talent 2011 such a huge success.



# OLD KIRKHAMIANS' ASSOCIATION



## Old KIRKHAMIANS V ANTI-ASSASSINS

This was the sixth time Kirkham Grammar School had hosted the biennial rugby fixture between the Old Kirkhamians XV and the Anti-Assassins XV. The game produced a very high standard of entertaining rugby in which the first half saw the Spoon OKAs run in a series of well worked tries whilst the second half was a more even affair.

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

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

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



## NORTHERN REUNION DINNER

The Northern Reunion Dinner took place on 15 October 2011. Seventy members of the Association joined the President and his guests to celebrate the evening. This year the Association has given a substantial donation to the refurbishment of the Cricket Pavilion and has also awarded two Sidney Crane Travel Grants to Sixth Form students undertaking charitable work abroad during their gap year. Nathan Hawe (KGS 1983-1987) handed over his chain of office to the incoming President Michael Davies (KGS 1982-1989).

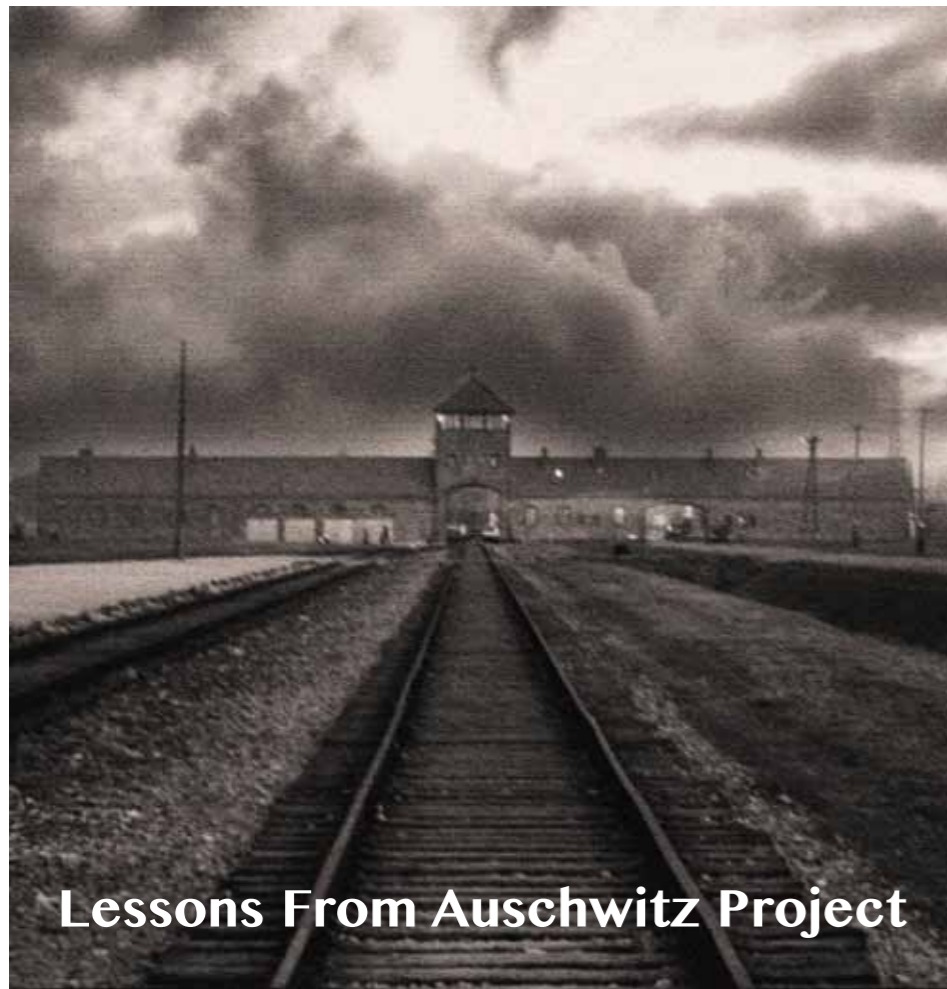


## YOUNG KIRKHAMIANS CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Once again, this was a wonderful, informal, social gathering with many former pupils from recent years enjoying the chance to catch up with friends and KGS staff, whilst soaking up the hospitality of The Grapes in Wrea Green.

The atmosphere sparkled with the smiles and laughter of all present. There was much chatter about the university courses presently being studied, career plans and relationships, but most of all everyone just wanted to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and find out when they could meet up again over the festive period.





## Lessons From Auschwitz Project

For the second year running the Religion, Philosophy and Ethics Department have participated in the Lessons From Auschwitz Project, an educational visit scheme run by The Holocaust Educational Trust (HET). Funded partly by the government and partly by the students themselves the scheme gives two post 16 pupils the opportunity to take part in a four-stage project where they have the chance to visit the former Nazi concentration camp of Auschwitz in Poland. The pupils then complete follow up work on their experiences in order to disseminate lessons learnt.

Interest was high when the project was advertised late in the summer term of 2011. It was decided to run an application process for the two places and students were asked to write an essay on the importance of Holocaust education in the 21st century. After deliberation from Mrs L Bowles and Mr Long, it was decided that the two best essays came from Katie Penrose and Francesca Gaeta Craven and the girls were given the news that they would be the school ambassadors for the project.

The project started in October with a seminar in Manchester where students from all over the North West met up to find out about the scheme, its aims and objectives. It was here that the girls met a remarkable woman... Kitty Hart Moxon. This amazing lady had been sent to Auschwitz at the age of 16 and had survived, despite the inhumane and intense cruelty of the place. Both Katie and Francesca remarked that the meeting with her was humbling and that hearing her emotive testimony was an extraordinary experience that put a very human spin on a story they had only studied through secondary sources up to that point. After this incredible meeting the girls met their group for the trip to Poland and leant of the plan for the day.

The cold day in November soon came around when the two girls had to set their alarm very early to catch their chartered flight to Krakow. An hour's transfer from Krakow took them to Oświęcim. (Oświęcim is the Polish term for the German 'Auschwitz'. It is still an existing town in Poland and the concentration camp is situated within it). At Oświęcim, the coach party looked around a Jewish cemetery to explore the idea of pre war Jewish life in the town. All of the graves stones had been desecrated during the war and used as building material but post WWII they had been restored and returned back to their original site, although sadly probably not their original place. Although it may seem odd to say, as it's a grave yard but it actually showed a vibrant pre war Jewish community. Quite poignant now, as there are no Jewish residents of Oświęcim anymore. The last Jewish resident to live there died in the year 2000. He had been born there, spent time and survived the concentration camps and returned to his home after liberation.

A quick five minute coach trip took the girls from the cemetery to Auschwitz I. Here they met their Polish guide and were taken through the infamous 'Arbeit Mach Frei' gates. Several hours were spent there looking around the exhibitions which have been put together in the brick barrack buildings, including the infamous block 10 with reference to the despicable medical experiments which were carried out, and rooms full of Jewish belongings; bags, suitcases, shoes and probably most disturbing of all, human hair. It was at Auschwitz I where the girls could actually enter a gas chamber and see the crematoria and give their respects to the countless number who died there. Not far from the gas chamber was Rudolf Höss' house (the Commandant). Here, he lived with his wife and children, yards from the genocide. Another short coach trip took the girls to

Auschwitz II, more commonly known as Auschwitz-Birkenau. Here the red brick buildings gave way to something more sinister. The watch tower and train line leading straight down to several ruined gas chambers which were demolished by the retreating Nazis who were attempting to cover the full extent of what went on at the camp. The sheer size of this camp really affected the girls, as did the state of the wooden barracks which housed the prisoners but were more suited to housing animals. Here, with the early Polish November day chilling them and the light fading, the girls got an insight into the awful conditions. The day concluded with a gathering of all involved in the trip that day. A service was then led by a rabbi, who had travelled with the group, in memory of the six million who died in the Holocaust. This service was a moving experience for both Katie and Francesca. After the ceremony, the students were encouraged to walk back to the watch tower, up the train track and leave a candle in memoriam for the victims of the genocide.

A coach trip to Krakow took them back to the airport for their late night flight and so the girls were back in the UK within an exhausting and emotionally draining 24 hours. The project didn't end there though. A follow up seminar in Manchester a week later had Katie and Francesca discussing their experiences and planning their Next Steps Project. This is a follow up to the main trip which encourages the pupils to spread their experiences to a wider audience and promote Holocaust education.

Both Katie and Francesca chose to plan and put on an assembly to the Fifth and Sixth Form students at KGS. It was expertly put together and professionally produced and proved to be a real eye opener for their peers. In recent weeks the girls have been putting together all the correct paperwork to submit to the University of Hull, where they will receive ten transferrable undergraduate credits, which they can use for their own degree.

The girls were deeply moved by their experiences and have been excellent ambassadors of both the school and of the Lessons From Auschwitz Project. They deserve to be congratulated for their dedication to the scheme and for producing an excellent end project.

The department hopes to continue to run this scheme in future years, alongside the Holocaust Educational Trust.



## 2Y FUNDRAISING

During the month of December 2Y worked really hard to raise money for charity. After much discussion it was decided that the money raised would be donated to the Salvation Army in Preston. The pupils sold bags of sweets, did a 'guess the name of the teddy' and sold donated drinks and chocolates at the Junior Disco. The amount raised was just short of £300, a fantastic achievement. In addition, each form member bought and wrapped a present suitable for a teenager and also presented two sacks of presents to the Salvation Army.

On Thursday 15 December Mrs Glover took Beth Preston, Hannah Davies, Dan Turner and Hayden Price to the Salvation Army on Harrington Street in Preston to present the money and presents. The staff were very appreciative and showed the pupils what they were doing with all the donations this Christmas.



DOING THE MOST GOOD™



## Sixth Formers visit Nowgen

Nowgen is a genetics research group based at The Wellcome Centre in Manchester. Upper Sixth Biologists were led through a series of experiments to investigate their own DNA to link the ability to taste PTC (a bitter chemical found in Brussels sprouts) to their genotype. By extracting DNA from cheek cells and using gel electrophoresis to separate fragments of different sizes, the presence or absence of 'taster' genes could be established. Comparisons were made between human DNA and that of primates such as chimpanzees.

Being able to use specialist equipment and have access to the enzymes used to cut DNA in specific places gave a memorable experience

## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

### CLUBS AND SOCIETIES FAIR

There was an enthusiastic buzz in the Old Hall with the annual Clubs and Societies Fair. Pupils were finding out about the many Extra Curricular activities they can participate in, ranging from Archery (photo left) to Young Engineers.

### Open Day iPad2 winner

Pictured with the Headmaster (photo right) is Emily Peet from Lytham Hall Park Junior School.





news

# CADET



Early July; all exams finished; prepare for camp(s). Wathgill, part of Catterick Garrison in North Yorkshire, was this year's venue for our Central Camp. One of the best weeks for many years was experienced by sixty cadets and several officers and adult volunteers.

The weather was most kind, which added to the week's enjoyment, despite the horrendous downpour that we experienced as we arrived. Was this to be the weather for the week? No, we managed to remain dry and even enjoyed some Yorkshire sun at times! We were straight into action as the first day involved initial infantry training to prepare us for the next 36 hours of our own exercise. We were transported back to camp to pack for the overnight ex and the following day ex. The delights of army composite rations were to be our staple for the next 24 hours.

A suitable bivvy site was prepared and the evening activities were enjoyed in a beautiful area only to be disturbed by squadrons of Royal Engineers and their Armed Recovery Vehicles on exercise! It did add to the reality of the scenario to have all those big green vehicles hurtling around! The day ex was just as enjoyable as recce patrols searched for the enemy locations, which culminated in an attack on several old tanks occupied by 'Feldonian Freedom Fighters' (the SNCOs plus Capt Miller, who unfortunately had to spend the night in Middlesbrough Hospital after an encounter with a wasp!)

The next day saw a continuation of our own training. Lt Col Scott had arranged a visit to Somme Barracks, where our parent regiment (The Duke of Lancaster's) is based. 1LANCS looked after us very well indeed and from 0900h till we departed at 1600h, we had a very full programme, which even included 1 hour's battle fitness PE conducted by Sgt Evans - a very fit PTI! Cadets seldom have the chance to handle such weaponry as heavy machine guns, sniper rifles and grenade launchers. We even played with the very expensive 'fire and forget' shoulder-launched anti-tank missiles, which costs over £95K!). We had a lesson with radios and participated in an excellent casualty evacuation ex with

some realistic Kingsmen 'playing' injured casualties. This excellent and very full day culminated with an evening on the DCCT range and also a 12-bore clay shoot.

We were only half way through the week and seemed to have done so much already. The next day was on the ranges at Bellerby. Everyone shot, using not only the A2 cadet rifle, but also the LSW (machine gun), firing in bursts. The day was made even better by the arrival of the Salvation Army, in the form of a burger van! Army haverbag rations are never really very good but the supplement of a cheeseburger made them passable!

In the evening Sgt Maj Coates (Coldstream Guards) treated us to an excellent drill session, which he made fun and very enjoyable. Even some of the NCOs learned a little more about the basics of foot drill. One cadet even asked why we couldn't do more like that at school!

Orienteering next morning, in hot sunshine, was an enjoyable contest. Even some of the adults attempted the course, but the best time was posted by Sgt (now CSM) Fraser Burnie. That afternoon the command tasks, again run by Sheffield UOTC (including Old Kirkhamian Nicola Clough), were excellent activities. These kept everyone amused and culminated in a competitive race. Who said that children should not compete? The evening continued with a very strenuous Obstacle Course, which was run in tandem with High Wycombe RGS, and in true KGS style this became very competitive and we won the singing (as there was more of us!). No injuries and some very tired cadets by 2100h!

The final day came too quickly. But it was another really well organised and good fun adventurous training day at Ellerton-on-Swale. We enjoyed canoeing, kayaking and rafting in the morning - all involving races and almost certainly 'getting wet!' The afternoon saw archery, climbing on a mobile tower and volleyball (and chilling!) - What a way to end such a wonderful week. It

was made even better by the arrival of ... yes, another ..... Burger Van!!

Finally our most important event (the Biennial Inspection) was very successful in October. It was conducted by Brig John Thomson (OBE QVRM TD DL) a former Deputy COS at Brigade HQ and now Hon Col of 4 Mercian Regiment. We initially toured the school where the fourth year cadets were training, after most of them spent the night under the stars and then took the inspection team to Weeton where the fifth form were shooting, performing on the obstacle course and doing several initiative exercises. Our review report was 'excellent' in all areas and Brig Thomson was particularly impressed with all the cadets he spoke to and how positive they were in their responses to him. He thought the Guard of Honour 'were smartly turned out and demonstrated a bearing well in excess of their years'. He also received "a most professional presentation" from our two SNCOs, RSM Joe Wareing and F/Sgt Sam Donaldson.

He concluded by saying 'This was an excellent review. All members of KGS CCF are to be congratulated on their commitment to ensuring the very high standards witnessed'.





The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme continues to thrive with students from Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Form working hard towards completing their Awards. Since the last newsletter Mr Callister has organised expeditions for Bronze, Silver and Gold groups and a large number of students have developed their leadership, teamwork and initiative skills whilst navigating, exploring and camping. Our Gold group in particular had to think quickly and react to a challenging situation when one of their group had an accident which required the services of the Ambleside Mountain Rescue Team. This DofE group were praised by both their Gold assessor and the Mountain Rescue Team for their first aid skills, teamwork and cooperation. An account of their experiences is below:

#### Monday 17 - Day 1

A new day, a new start, the sun was shining and the rain was coming – typical DofE weather. Morale was 10/10. We set off on our first day's journey from Coniston campsite to the base of our first mountain. However, half way up this massive mountain the phrase "if it ain't raining it ain't training" became a cold (snow, hail), wet (torrential rain), windy (70mph), reality. Morale was 8/10. We stopped for a lunch break on top of Weatherlam and then we followed the path down the other side of Weatherlam to where we met the assessor at the base of the next valley.

#### Tuesday 18 - Day 2

A new day and the weather was not great. We left the Langdale National Trust campsite and set off up the valley along the Cumbria Way like men possessed. However this came to an abrupt end at around 10:30am; Venkata Dwarampudi tripped and collapsed in a heap while crossing the stream. With Ven lying helpless on the far bank of the stream we had to think quickly and all our DofE and CCF training kicked in. Once we had established how much pain Ven was in, we immediately reacted to the situation. We ensured Ven was in a warm environment by pitching up a tent in a sheepfold (close by to the accident), we took off his wet kit and subsequently gave him dry clothing and a sleeping bag. Sam Donaldson and Joe Wareing made the key decision to find mobile phone signal further down the valley to make the call for the emergency services.

The rest of the team (Vincent Grumme and Johnathan Pickbourn) remained with Ven, to ensure he stayed warm and to maintain a good amount of morale. After a few hours, the Mountain Rescue Team arrived and ensured Ven made it down the valley safely. Vincent and Johnathan were then packed into the Mountain Rescue vehicle with all the team's equipment and hurried to the Langdale and Ambleside Mountain Rescue Centre, where they rendezvoused with Sam and Joe.

#### Wednesday - 19 Day 3

A new day, the sun was shining, the wind wasn't blowing and it was for a change relatively warm. Once again we left the Langdale National Trust campsite with the aim of completing the previous day's journey. We walked up the valley without incident and after a short break set off up the mountain at the valley's head. We carried on the day's journey and stopped for lunch at Sprinkling Tarn. After an hour's lunch break and exploring we walked to Styhead Tarn and then down the valley and into Wasdale where we briefly met the assessor before heading to our campsite.

#### Thursday 20 - Day 4

We set off from Wasdale National Trust campsite at 7:30am, on our way to Ravenglass. We travelled towards the saddle between Scafell and Illgill Head. The team limped across the mountain until we met the foot path which eventually led us past Burnmoor tarn. We continued on our route until we got to our next check point, following the route down the valley to Eskdale Green where we had lunch. After this we headed to the base of Muncaster Fell, followed the path over the mountain and descended down the other side and headed to Ravenglass.

The expedition was a truly amazing experience and our thanks go to Mr Callister for his time and support throughout the planning and undertaking of our trip.

During the past 6 months we have had notification of a large number of successes and would like to express our congratulations to the following students on completing their DofE Awards.

#### Bronze

Jodi Gaston-Ross  
Gus Graham  
Jenny Malings  
William Dickinson  
Eric Yuen  
Alex Wright  
Elsie Linley  
Cohen Yim  
Kenny Chi  
Lewis Leech  
Theo Harvey  
Elizabeth Jenkinson  
Ryan Powell

#### Silver

David Seaman  
Liam Swithenbank  
Jonathan Box  
Jordan Nelson  
Jodi Gaston-Ross  
Laura Mason

#### Gold

Vincent Grumme  
Jonathan Pickbourn  
Samuel Donaldson

We are very proud to hear that four former KGS students recently met up with one another at their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award ceremony at St James' Palace. All four had completed their award in the previous year and were awaiting their invitation to the Palace to receive their certificates. They were not aware that the others were going to the same ceremony and it was an added bonus to meet up with friends at such a prestigious event. The DofE participants and their guests were escorted into a grand banqueting hall, which incidentally contained the fireplace in front of which William and Kate announced their engagement! Paul Wood from the Warrington Wolves Rugby League team then presented their certificates and HRH the Earl of Wessex spoke individually to all of the young people. It was evidently a very enjoyable day for all involved and we wish them all every success for their futures.

#### Gold DofE Award holders:

Alex Lister  
Michael Bennett  
Lucy Fielding  
Edward Askew



## Bonjour Geneva

During the October half term a group of enthusiastic A-level physicists travelled to Geneva to visit the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, the world renowned international centre of scientific research. Accompanied by Mr and Mrs Wheatland, Mr Gaddes and Mrs Walker, the group were treated to a fascinating tour around the facilities located at CERN, just outside of Geneva. Whilst there, tour guides explained the history of the experiment to find the elusive "Higgs-Boson Particle" – the particle responsible for all mass.

After the exciting encounter at CERN, we were treated to a traditional Swiss Chocolatier tour, which everyone found extremely interesting, especially the chocolate tasting session. Mr Gaddes even managed to avoid getting the melted chocolate in his moustache! This was followed by some free time in one of Geneva's twenty public parks in the shadow of the Palais des Nations, the headquarters of UN operations in Europe. Despite the fact that every guard at each entrance seemed trained in telling us "it's the next entrance" (up a rather large steep hill) we managed to arrive on time for the guided tour. This was a fascinating experience in which we were told about the history of the Palais des Nations, and its many coveted roles in hosting important peacekeeping discussions.

In the evening, the group sampled traditional Swiss cheese fondue, accompanied by, of course, yodelling and horn blowing, where Mr Wheatland and Patrick Callery entered into competition with each other, as to who could "blow the horn" the best.

The following day we visited the Science Museum, overlooking Lake Geneva, before we were granted some free time to explore Geneva where seemingly the most popular place was McDonald's! Our next adventure was an enjoyable boat cruise around the Lake, taking in some of the history of the surrounding area, including the world-famous fountain of the lake. On the Saturday evening, we enjoyed our final meal together, in one of Geneva's many Italian restaurants, enjoying pizza and pasta by candle light.

On our final morning before travelling home, we had a guided tour on foot of the old town in Geneva, visiting many historical monuments, including its beautiful Cathedral, and even the world's longest wooden bench! There was also a chance for the group to show its political views, as there was an "anti-capitalist"

demonstration being held outside Geneva University. It caused much consternation as this was swiftly followed by yet another visit to McDonald's, Capitalism never tasted so good!

All in all, it is safe to say that everyone had a wonderful time, and were reluctant to come home, considering many people had a Physics lesson at 9 o'clock the next morning! A big thank you to all the staff involved for making the trip possible. We were provided with unforgettable memories and a unique experience in the study of Physics. Viva Geneva!

Nathan White and Lewis Holden



# TACHE FORCE

Teachers Chris Wheatland and Chris Butterworth raised over £330 for the Movember Campaign for men's health.



## Diary Dates

**Third Year Parents' Evening**  
5.00 pm, 7 March

**U19 Invitation Hockey Tournament**  
9.00 am – 6.00 pm, Saturday, 10 March

**Second Year Parents' Evening**  
5.00 pm, 14 March

**Richard Wilson U14 Sevens Tournament**  
12.00 noon, 15 March

**Founders' Day Service**  
2.30 pm, 28 March

**Final Vicky Peters Memorial Hockey Match**  
9.30 am, Saturday, 31 March

**David Shaw Tennis Camp**  
10-13 April

**Friends of KGS Family Fun Day**  
Sunday 20 May

**Sixth Form Ball**  
Friday, 22 June

**Friends of KGS Summer Ball**  
Saturday, 23 June



## A Level Politics Students at the Conservative Conference

The Upper Sixth A-level Politics students spent a day at the Conservative Conference in Manchester. The highlight of the day was the speech by David Cameron, for which the students managed to persuade the ushers to let them sit in front row seats. The students were also met by Mark Menzies, MP for the Fylde, who explained how the Conference provides an opportunity for party members and various lobbyists to mix with the movers and shakers of British politics. Cabinet ministers were spotted – Theresa May (Home Secretary) was there in her trademark leopard-print shoes; Iain Duncan-Smith (Work and Pensions), as well as the larger than life Eric Pickles (Local Government). The numerous trade stands unloaded a variety of 'freebies' and students collected all sorts - pens, mints, chocolate, t-shirts, stress balls, golf tees, cupcakes, a yo-yo and other essentials. It was an interesting day and a rare opportunity to witness the hurly-burly of real politics.



## Architectural Glass Painting Installation

The recent successful refurbishment of the Sixth Form Centre has provided KGS students with new state-of-the-art facilities. The inspired interior space is uncluttered and functional, optimising the space available and providing a modern, sleek and welcoming environment.

To add a touch of 'personality' and 'identity' to the interior, individual architectural coloured glass panels were commissioned. A group of dedicated Sixth Form students volunteered their artistic services to provide unique hand painted designs capturing the essence of life and experiences at KGS.

Jodie Gaston-Ross (photo above) engaged herself in an ambitious task of designing a theme for a collection of four panels. Her resulting work is both elegant and lyrical with fluid organic lines flowing throughout the scheme reminiscent of the Art Nouveau era.

Celia Hindley (photo below), Olivia Fountain and Alison Glover took a different approach and followed a more urban theme. The work is constructed with a dynamic use of contrasting lines, shapes and forms reflecting bold architectural structures.

The accommodation on the first floor now benefits from swathes of subtle colour filtering through the natural light softening the atmosphere and providing a real sense of identity. The detail of the designs and the quality of presentation is to be commended with exquisite results from all four students. The students have worked in their own free time to a strict deadline, using a new media, and are to be applauded for their efforts and commitment.



## Public Speaking

KGS won the South Fylde round of Youth Speaks, Rotary's National Speaking Competition for young people at the Assembly Rooms in Lytham.

Five teams entered from KGS, KEQMS, Carr Hill High School and Lytham St Annes Technology and Performing Arts College.

St Annes Rotary Club organised the event, while the adjudicators were provided by Fylde Speakers' Club.

The winning KGS team were Jodi Gaston-Ross, Lewis Holden and Gemma Coleman with LSA (Anil Velivela, Sam Hunt and Connor Birchenough) runners up. The Bill Ward Trophy was presented by Rotary President Peter Jones who also gave certificates to all the participants. The winning team will now represent the South Fylde in the district competition in February.



## SUMMER ACTIVITY CAMPS

David Shaw Tennis Camp	10 -13 April David Shaw 07770618148
Tennis Coaching	Friday evenings 20 - 27 April 6 - 8.30 pm
Tennis Evening classes	Friday evenings 24 May - 29 June 6.00 - 8.30 pm
David Shaw Tennis Camp	16-20 July 23-27 July
Andrew Flintoff Cricket Academy	30 July - 3 August www.andrewflintoffcricketacademy.co.uk
Kings Camp	6-10 August 13 -17 August www.kingcamps.org



# The Boarding House



The Boarding House has seen a change this year with the arrival of the Headmaster and his family. The revival of the old traditional management structure was something of a leap into the unknown for the current boarders but one that they appear to have taken in their stride. There was also a good deal of continuity with Mrs Rowe and Mr Harrison maintaining their roles as Matron and Assistant Housemaster respectively, while the sessional staff continued in support with the addition of Mr Trenhaile. Jonathon Mahon also joined the team as a gap student helping with weekend activities. A new team has therefore set about developing the boarding experience alongside over twenty new boarders who have joined a house that is now virtually full with sixty five pupils.

successful ice skating trip. Colleagues have been generous with their time in helping and we are indebted not only to the boarding staff but also to others like Mrs Parkinson who has organised the boarders Ski Club enjoyed over six Friday evenings at the Chill Factor. Theo Wattam ensured an exciting first visit with his broken collar bone but everyone else has enjoyed their experience thus far! We have also increased the scope of things going on in House, from Chinese suppers to Christmas cake decorating; from a Halloween party to the restoration of the Christmas dinner into the Boarders' Dining Hall; from the Christmas bingo to Zumba sessions! Overall the ambition to extend the activity programme is well underway and will hopefully continue to thrive over coming terms.



The refurbishment of the Senior Girls rooms provided a positive start to the year and on-going improvements such as the new furniture in the Sky Room, the wi-fi network and even the Wii have sustained the momentum which will be continued next summer with further improvements. The House remains a close-knit community but requires constant review of the fabric of the building and the facilities to ensure we provide a pleasant and comfortable environment.

Most recently the House ran an outing to Manchester in order to join the celebrations for Chinese New Year. All members of the House were invited and over forty enjoyed a fantastic meal and saw in the Year of the Dragon in fine style. Mr Wu and Mr Duncan once again came to the fore in leading this highlight of the term so far.



A priority for the year has been to provide greater enrichment for the boarders outside of school time. The year so far has seen a variety of activity with some of these proving highly successful in terms of mass participation, while others have provided enjoyable experiences for smaller groups. The year started with a trip locally to the Laser Quest in Morecambe, while a minibus full of boarders spent the following Sunday in the Lake District enjoying a trip on Lake Windermere itself. It was pleasing to see a full coach load go off to Alton Towers late in September while smaller numbers visited the museums in Liverpool and did a little shopping. Young Rhys Wong fulfilled his dream in a trip to Old Trafford while Mr Harrison wasn't even aware he was going to a football ground, never mind the Theatre of Dreams! Two firework displays provided entertainment for many, one in Blackpool during the illuminations with another on bonfire night in Preston. Christmas shopping was on the agenda also but thwarted when Manchester was so busy Mrs Rowe couldn't find parking for the minibus! The cinema and regular trips to Preston on Saturday afternoons meant that the winter term was an active one while the current term has started well with a





# BOOM RADIO.CO.UK

97.4 rockfm

On 19 and 20 September eight Junior School pupils along with eight Senior School pupils spent two days at Rock FM putting together the school's radio commercial and their own radio programme.

With over 120 entries from the school to apply for Boom Radio, the select group of children ranging from seven to sixteen years old undertook roles of newsreaders, presenters, creative directors, team leaders and marketing officers.

The children had a fantastic couple of days writing, producing and recording their own commercial advertising for the school's Open Day. Study Zone Manager Caroline Emmerton of Rock FM helped on Open Day to create another show interviewing prospective pupils: asking them about their thoughts of the school and experiences during the day. The Rock FM team were marvellous, introducing the children to all the staff at Rock FM and showing them around the various departments and live radio studios!

The team also produced a Kirkham Grammar radio show featuring film reviews, a cookery feature, a quiz, school information and, of course, what radio show wouldn't be complete without music?!

After an editing workshop in January, the school's Boom Radio team now know how to create their own shows without any help from Rock FM. Every month, for the next year, a new, hour-long show is aired on Boom Radio (an online radio) that the children have created, directed and edited themselves.

Be sure to tune in to [www.boomradio.co.uk](http://www.boomradio.co.uk) now and every month to listen to the shows our Boom Radio team have created, including a Valentine's Day Special and music request shows! As we near the summer term, there will be many Olympic-themed shows!

Clark Brydon, Boom Radio Team Co-Director



# Music

The Autumn Term always starts as a sprint in the Music Department, as the musical contribution to Speech Day is rehearsed in record time. This year the Concert Band rose to the challenge and performed excellently in Movie Themes by John Williams, also leading the singing of the school hymn.

The round of Autumn Term concerts started at the beginning of October with an excellent Coffee Concert given by Music Scholars of the fourth and fifth forms. A month later we were entertained by the Lower Sixth Music Scholars, whose number has been augmented this year by the addition of the first 16+ Music Scholars. We have awarded Music Scholarships at 11+ for a number of years but September 2011 saw the first award of 16+ Music Scholars. String players were well represented, with Todd Davies and Celia Hindley (violins). Jodi Gaston-Ross and Gemma Broomhead sang, Matt Donaldson played the trumpet and Maddie Robinson and Oliver Carpenter played the flute and saxophone respectively.

The first year Concert, A Celebration of Talent, saw twenty four young musicians perform to a large and appreciative audience in the Old Hall. For many of the musicians this represented the first time that they had performed before a large audience and they acquitted themselves excellently, illustrating the range and depth of musical talent we have at KGS.

For GCSE musicians, performing accounts for 30% of their total marks for the subject, and the Coffee Concert at the beginning of December is traditionally given by Fifth Year music students. In this concert we were treated to a range of group performances, demonstrating the essential skills required to perform with other people. Jessica Riley and Hannah Lewis both took on the role of piano accompanist, Nicola Charter played part of a piano duet and Aimee Bilsborrow (oboe) was accompanied by Hannah Culver (piano) and Mr Barratt (cello). Theo Harvey (drums) accompanied a guitarist, and the concert ended with a vocal trio of Sarah Padley, Hannah Culver and Jessica Riley,

The end of the Autumn Term is always extremely busy as the Choir prepares to lead the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, after which all the various ensembles join to present the Christmas Concert. This Concert, on the final night of term, saw a large audience in the MPH enjoy a very varied offering of different styles of seasonal music plus readings from Mrs Heney's LAMDA pupils. One of the highlights of the concert was a performance of Leopold Mozart's 'Toy' Symphony. Members of staff joined the Orchestra to perform the 'toy' instruments, with memorable performances on the Nightingale by the Headmaster and on the Duck Call by Dr Luker. Dr Luker has since informed me that he is so confident of his ability on the Duck Call that he will be missing out the early grade examinations and starting straight away with preparations for the Grade 4 examination.



# DRAGONS DEN

Young Entrepreneur of the year



KGS pupils Jack Smith and Demi Akinpelu scooped the top prize of £5,000 in the Lancashire Evening Post's Young Entrepreneur of the Year competition in association with Barclays Money Skills with their idea of the essential university "survival package" of utensils for first year students. Preston-based entrepreneur Kirsty Henshaw, who won the backing of tycoons Peter Jones and Duncan Bannatyne when she appeared on television's Dragon's Den with her frozen dessert range last year, was very impressed with the boys' ideas. She said: "There was some real flair there, particularly from the top two, and I know they are hoping to go ahead and make them into proper businesses. I hope they do well".

Rachel Herbinson, the Regional Community Liaison Manager for Barclays, said the competition was part of the bank's Money Skills programme focused at helping young people handle their money. She said: "Barclays Money Skills aims to help young people overcome the hurdles they have to face when they begin to deal with their own money".

In preparation for entering this competition there was the task of getting past the KGS

Dragons. As part of an introduction to the KGS AS Business Studies Course, students were divided into teams and asked to come up with an idea for a product or service that filled a gap in the market, thus showcasing their business acumen, entrepreneurial talent and creativity. Students were given two weeks to come up with their idea and present it to the class. All the students took part and each was asked to vote for the product or service that they felt had the best chance of succeeding if it were brought to market.

The final three then had to face the KGS Dragons, Mr Gardner, Mr Hancock, Mrs Hargreaves and Mrs Lang who made it their job to ensure the students had to endure a ruthless and gruelling question and answer session designed to identify any weakness in their offerings. After much debate and careful consideration two finalists were submitted by the school. Ultimately, one of the finalists, UniStart (Jack Smith and Demi Akinpelu) was selected as one of the finalists by the competition's selection board, and from there they went on to win the competition as a whole.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ART AND DESIGN

# LONDON CALLING

OCTOBER 2011



A KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL PRODUCTION



delight of this tourist trap before having their evening meal in a French restaurant. It was only now that they had time to reflect on the day's events as their next stop on this whirlwind tour was the Lyceum Theatre's 'Lion King'. For many the Lion King was the better of the two shows with a visual feast of set design, puppetry and costume design.

The third day's expedition was a visit to the British Art Collection at Tate Britain. The work on display features centuries of British art, the highlight being Turner's masterpieces such as the Burning of the Houses of Parliament and Rain, Steam and Speed - The Great Western Railway. After leaving here the group continued their site seeing tour stopping to take in Rodin's sculpture, The Burghers of Calais (outside the Palace of Westminster) and proceeded on past Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament.

The final art experience of the day was a walk down Brick Lane an area often described as London's cultural quarter, home of the Curry Mile and alternative fashion and street art. The area was formerly the hunting ground of Jack the Ripper and is now a big tourist draw for world famous graffiti art featuring artists such as Banksy, D\*Face, Roa and Conor Harrington. The lane has been used in many music videos such as 'Glory Days' by Just Jack and 'All these that I've done' by The Killers. Unfortunately

we ran out of time and had to leave to travel across town for our evening meal at The Hard Rock Café followed by a spin in the London Eye which revealed some very interesting views!

On the final full day the girls and boys were very excited as they were unleashed on Oxford Street to do some serious shopping all morning. Once back together the main concern was that they did not have enough time! The day was still young as we had a boat to catch outside the Tower of London. A third of the group managed to meet the connection as the group got separated in the underground. Mr Gardiner's group making it to the jetty and ultimately cruising up the river to Greenwich whilst Mr Painter's group got caught up in the tube repairs weekend disruption and thus ended up in Trafalgar Square! Both groups kept in contact via mobile phone and regrouped later at Planet Hollywood for an evening meal followed by an hour's shopping at Harrods. It was then back to the hotel to pack up suitcases, watch Britain's Got Talent and collapse in a heap!

All in all it was a very enjoyable trip with some great experiences and lots of photos to help with GCSE project work for both fourth and fifth formers. The department has two further trips planned for 2012, one for the sixth form to Berlin at the end of April and a joint trip with the Drama Department to New York during the October half term.

one hundred years with excellent examples of the greatest artists in the world including works by Picasso, Rothko and Damien Hurst.

The group then crossed the Thames using the Millennium Bridge which featured in the 2009 film 'Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince'. In the film it was destroyed and subsequently collapsed due to an attack by Death Eaters. Luckily for our Art students the bridge remained intact! As we reached St Paul's Cathedral we came across the Occupy London protesters who had set up camp after being prevented from staging a demonstration at the Stock Exchange. The event in London was one of 951 around the world. It was all very interesting to see democracy at work!

Next the group headed for Covent Garden where they had time to once again enjoy the



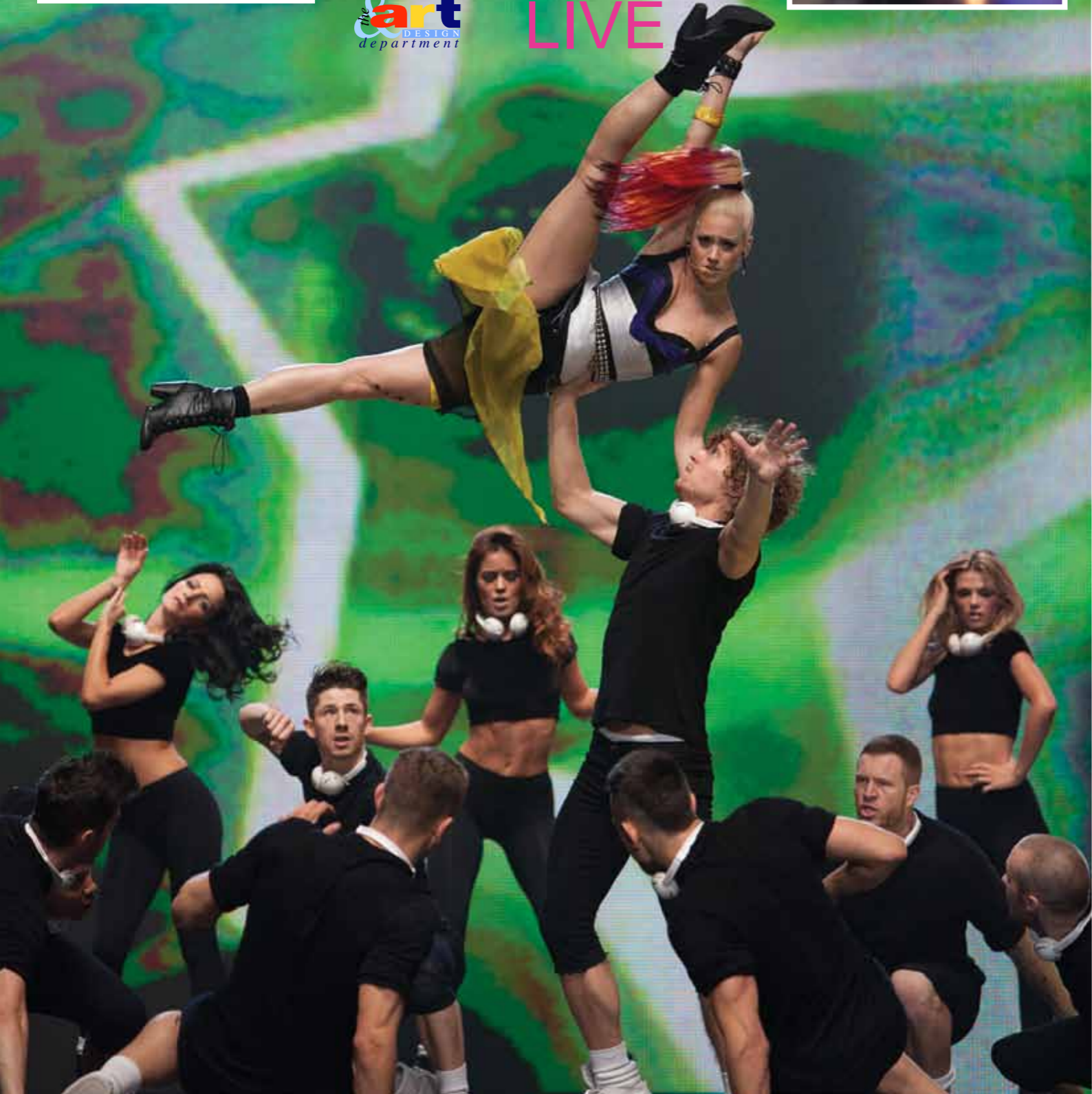
During October half term 2011 the Art & Design Department took a party of thirty GCSE pupils and staff for a five day trip to London. The visit started with a logistical challenge as we negotiated our way across London via the Underground, with suitcases in tow. After checking in at the hotel the group barely had time to catch breath before they were off to Covent Garden for a quick shopping session followed by a meal at Wagamama. After tasting the delights of the orient the group made the short walk to the Theatre Royal where they watched 'Shrek the Musical'. The show was a first class adaptation of the Shrek movie with a fantastic performance by Nigel Harman who played the vertically challenged Lord Farquaad.

The second day started with a walk from Waterloo Station to Tate Modern, via the London Eye along the south embankment. Every few minutes the group stopped to take photos of the visual feast of landmark buildings, street performers and street art. By early afternoon the group had arrived at the power house of Modern Art. The Tate has a huge collection on display that spans the last





# CLOTHES SHOW LIVE



## A Night at the Department Store

Once again the Art Department embarked on its annual trip to see the UK's largest and most talked about fashion and beauty event of the year, the Clothes Show Live at the NEC Birmingham Arena. The highlight of the day was the forty-five minutes fashion show of pure glamour strutting up and down the runway. There were over forty top models and dancers, bringing fashion to life wearing high street, designer, and couture and boutique fashion collections. Dance routines stole the catwalk as a music mix tape played and models, with their hot makeup and hair trends, got the audience in a mood for partying.

Clothes Show Live 2011 gave you a "A Night at the Department Store" which showcased exactly what goes on behind closed doors after closing time at your local department store. The fashion really came alive! In forty-five minutes, eight scenes and over three hundred and fifty outfits were shown off to the audience, giving you a show of a life time.

It was "shop till you drop" at the Clothes Show, with exhibitors showing all the latest hair and makeup products and new designer clothes lines. Discounts and free gifts enticed and filled the shopping mall. It was an experience to step up into the world of models and be pampered by the hair and beauty experts and cosmetic gurus, offering you tips on how to apply makeup and beauty products. No matter where you turned, it was all about hair, tan, gloss, varnish and glitter! It was truly a woman's paradise. There were top brands like Rimmel, Tigi, Lipsy, Barry M and many more that made the Clothes Show 2011 worthwhile. It was true cosmetic heaven!

Lucinda Burdett







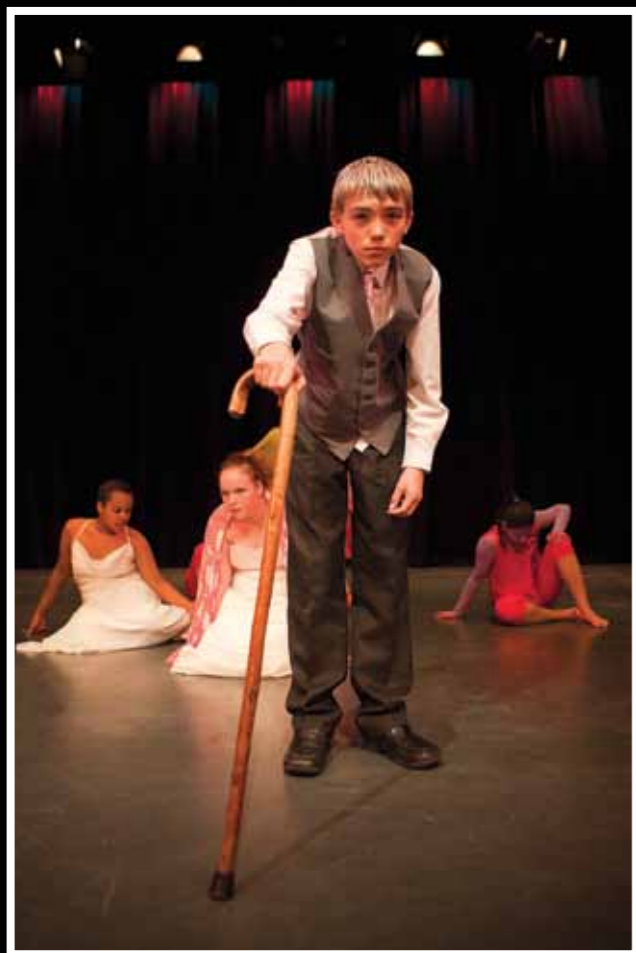
# Shakespeare at R

## Schools Festival

Since 2000, 4,248 schools have taken up the challenge to become a Shakespeare School. Shakespeare Schools Festival is the largest youth drama festival in the UK. For the last few years KGS has risen to the challenge of rehearsing and ultimately performing in our local professional theatre, The Charter Theatre, Preston. In 2011 we put on a spectacular colourful "The Tempest"

The production was especially exciting as here at Kirkham Grammar School the cast was entirely made up of second and third year pupils. It gave them a real taste of performing to a large audience and an excellent preparation for their GCSE Theatre Studies. A small number of our A-level & GCSE Theatre Studies helped with costumes and makeup.





Shakespeare Schools Festival

A KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL PRODUCTION

# MACBETH



It is winter: a season both foul and fair, and Kirkham Grammar School, courtesy of the Magic of the Theatre and Kirkham Grammar School's Dramatic Society, has been transported to a Scotland itself both foul and fair – a Scotland that has taken on the hues of Macbeth's psyche, emphasised by the stage dressing in threatening blacks and reds, echoed by the lighting (directed by Mrs Walker.)

As always, Ms Barrie's production was characterised by the numbers of people actively involved in realising the performance: the wide cast – well over 50 – as well as the large backstage crew, integral to the play's success. Special mention must be made of Katie Simpson, whose work as Stage Manager was key to holding the play together: her leadership of the back-stage crew, demanding at all times but especially for such a fast-moving production, was a real testimony to her strength and ability.

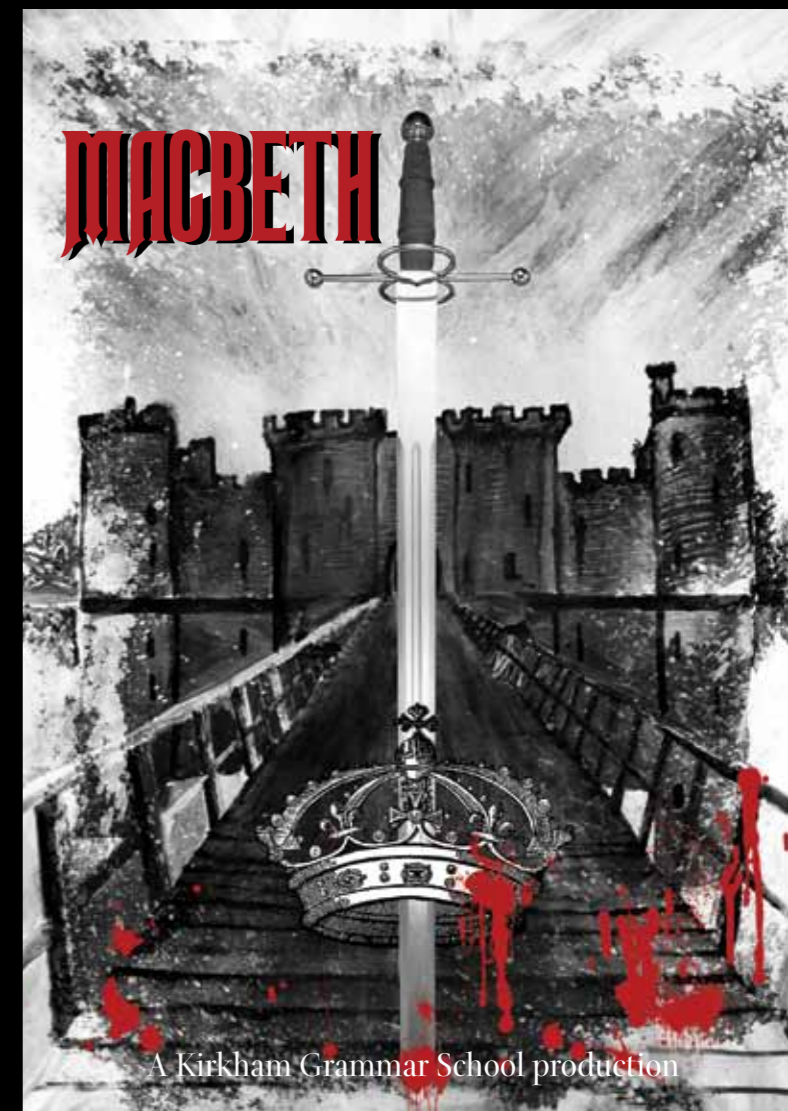
With such a large cast, it seems invidious to pick out individual performances. However, it would be remiss not to applaud the talents of the principals. Macbeth is a hugely challenging role, and a challenge to which Josh Burrows rose triumphantly. Macbeth is never off-stage, even when not physically present, and the lead must stamp his authority on the play from his first mention in Act 1 Scene 1. Josh bestrode the paradox of Macbeth's character, the antithetical elements of "noble Macbeth" and "butcher"; "brave Macbeth" and a dwarfish thief", like a Colossus.

Lady Macbeth is no less demanding: the "fiend-like queen" who spurs Macbeth to his evil actions and calls upon the "murdering ministers" to fill her "from the crown to the toe top-full / of direst cruelty" must nevertheless allow the audience to see her essential humanity. Sophie Breedon's Lady Macbeth managed this difficult feat, retaining the empathy of the audience despite its horror at her rejoicing at the blood of the murdered "gracious Duncan" – blood which would too literally return to haunt her.

On the subject of horror, Aaron Davies as the murdered Banquo produced a character "Whose horrid image doth unfix my hair / and make my seated heart knock at my ribs, / against the use of nature": reactions further detailed by the tableau of Macbeth's Dead that crowned the stage.

Other parts that must be noted are Frasier Burnie's gentle and ultimately vulnerable King Duncan, and Chad Bentley's Macduff, whose loss of his wife (Catherine Beesley) and children (Oliver Fearnle and Jack Higham) transforms him into a soulless figure of horror to match Macbeth himself. And the addition of Charlie Hyde as Chorus allowed the central themes of sin and damnation to be made explicit, making direct the links to the musical score that was such an important factor for the play's success.

The music (directed by Mr Barrie) highlighted Macbeth's - and Scotland's - descent into Hell; the carefully-chosen numbers were brilliantly performed by the Band, underpinned by the torchy, haunting vocals of Chloe Walker and Olivia Duxbury. It was fittingly ironic that the descent into chaos should be accompanied by such harmony.



A Kirkham Grammar School production



However, no-one surely would argue that the witches were the real show-stealers. Ms Barrie's decision to cast three troupes of witches was a visual triumph, and Rosie Spedding's masterful choreography created an ironic foil to highlight the chaos and horror of the play with their movement and dance – quite simply stunning. Principal witch Sherriden Wells was another riveting addition to the display: her bravura gymnastics routines, with apparent disregard for danger or injury, had the audience literally on the edges of their seats.

Coup de theatre is Director Ms Barrie's middle name; and she fully justified her reputation in this production by the visceral staging of the culminating battle scene. The troupe of witches gleefully plunged into a stage of carnage, revelling in the chaos that they had engendered. Aristotle argued that the purpose of tragedy was to evoke "pity and fear", and these twin emotions were wrenched from the audience in this cathartic climax.

Another production (the tenth in Kirkham Grammar School's Shakespeare cycle) and another triumph. The only possible reaction is to emulate the audience on all three performance nights with genuine applause. Bravo; brava; bravisse!



## Day 1

Saturday 22 October 2011 saw thirty one geography students, three geography teachers and an honorary geographer set off for Iceland for 5 days of fieldwork. Reaching Manchester in plenty of time for the flight, there was enough time for a spot of lunch before boarding the Icelandair flight to Keflavik airport. On arrival in Iceland the landscape of the South Western peninsula was immediately an eye-opener to many, as we crossed moss-covered lava fields on our way to what, for many, would turn out to be one of the highlights of the trip, The Blue Lagoon. The lagoon is a large geothermal pool and has an amazing milky blue colour. We all swam, had a sauna, steam-roomed and frolicked around the pool for a good hour, covering our faces in the silica-rich mud that is meant to wonders for your skin. The lagoon also boasts some of the most hi-tech lockers and comedy named drinks in the world. By this time, darkness had fallen and it was time to make our way into central Reykjavik to check in to our hotel for night. Following a hearty and surprisingly healthy buffet dinner and a brisk stroll along the sea, searching in vain for the Northern Lights, we all crashed out back at the hotel for a good night's sleep, not forgetting Macauley's first Subway

## Day 2

Day 2 started with breakfast down in the hotel restaurant. Lots of Icelandic coffee and bread were going down nicely when suddenly water came pouring through the ceiling of the restaurant, making a huge mess. 'Oh dear', we all thought, what a terrible thing to happen. Little did we realise that the unfortunate protagonist behind this was one of our fifth year students, whose shower had overflowed. Having met Soffie, our Icelandic guide for the trip in the foyer, and having collected our packed lunches, complete with inedible green bananas, we set off to see the 'golden triangle' of sites. First off was Pingvellir, the only place on the planet where the Mid-Atlantic ridge is visible on the surface. As the Eurasian and North American plates are pulled apart at a rate of 2cm per year, huge cracks have opened up in the crust. Walking through 'no-man's land' between the two plates we were amazed at the scale of the boundary. However, maybe even more impressive were the gargantuan sea trout that were torpedoing around the nearby river!



thunderous waters of the river. Mrs John set up the first of many group photos, and everyone potted around the area marvelling at the amount of spray and noise being produced. After having failed to eat our bananas despite our best efforts, and wondering what the filling was in our sandwiches, we set off to Geysir. Every 4-5 minutes, a jet of steaming water is thrown into the air as the water in the ground is heated by magma. This area of Iceland gives its name to all 'geysers' around the world. The area is littered with blue pools of boiling water and sulphurous pongy steam. 'That's so cool!' went out the shout as Stokkur, the most active geyser, bubbled, gurgled and spat away. By now we were all getting rather cold, and a nearby café and gift shop gave us all the chance to warm up, eat a lot of chips, and watch some premier league football.

From



After Pingvellir we headed to Gulfoss, an impressive waterfall and gorge. Following Mr Whittle's pleas to 'stay away from the edge', we all descended down the side of the gorge and next to the

we moved back towards Reykjavik via Kelid, a beautiful example of a caldera volcano. Throwing stones into the crater lake and running around the caldera rim seemed to be the preferred pastimes, but the eerie red rocks certainly made the whole place seem rather unworldly. Back in Reykjavik we headed straight for the main

public swimming baths. The boys clearly got it a lot easier than the girls in terms of the enforcement of the local 'naked shower before entering the pool' policy, but once inside we got a taste of Iceland's favourite pastime: soaking and socialising in hot outdoor pools. Everyone seemed to find something different to keep them occupied. Gemma Coleman, Rachel Howard, Gemma Broomhead and Emily Gornall were quite happy playing floating chess in the Jacuzzi, whilst Mr Taylor and the 6th form boys seemed to be practising line-outs down by the water slide. Mr Whittle tried the hot tubs, but could not beat the efforts of John Windle and Will Fleuriot who went straight into the 44 degree tub. Back through the changing rooms and out into the freezing evening air we then made our way to a fantastic dinner at the very trendy burger bar. Mr Taylor was very happy as he tucked into his meal, and the whole experience was made even better by the existence of a free Wi-Fi connection. Manic facebooking ensued and everyone was very happy to find themselves in this very upmarket corner of the city.

## Day 3

Having packed to leave our hotel we left Reykjavik to head down towards the South coast. Our first stop was the geothermal town of Hveragerdi where inside the post office was an extremely noisy and jiggly earthquake simulator, as well as some excellent pastries and coffee. Moving on from here we soon arrived at Seljalandsfoss, an impressive waterfall falling off an old sea cliff. With waterproofs donned, we all walked round the back of the waterfall and saw the full force of the water crashing into the plunge pool below. We were supposed to then go onto to a second waterfall, but the excellent weather meant that we were rushed along for our trip on top of the ice cap. Myrdalsjokull is a huge ice cap in the South of Iceland and we met 'Benni', our guide, who put us all in big thermal suits and packed us off into 4x4 jeeps to drive up to the base of the ice cap. Once at the base of the ice cap we got into the snow groomer, a kind of large, glorified sleigh that then dragged us all up onto the top of the ice cap. As we travelled up onto the ice there was clear evidence of last year's Eyjafjallajokull



eruption that caused so much disturbance across Europe. Big black ash cones were scattered everywhere, and nearby glaciers that were normally hidden beneath metres of snow had all their icy crevasses exposed. The views from the top were fantastic and we had breath-taking views across to the Westman Islands and Surtsey. However, silence did reign as Benni explained to us that we were on top of Katla, one of Iceland's most eruptive volcanoes, that was currently well overdue to erupt!

Moving away from the icecap we drove down to Vik to see some fantastic basalt columns on a stunning black beach. Following many photos and the bizarre arrival of a bride and groom on the beach we engaged in a rather energetic game of bulldogs, Will Dickinson being the eventual winner. From the beach we went to our hotel for the night. Looking more like a military camp from the outside, the hotel turned out to be warm and comfortable, and most of us were pleased to see that sheep's head stew was, in fact, not on the menu. Following a hearty meal and a spot of football on the football pitch/field, we all settled down for Mr Taylor's quiz night. In groups of four or five, round after round of questions were answered, with Mr Harrison moving round the room being guest of honour for several groups. The team of upper sixth boys were the eventual winners, with Joe Wareing's knowledge of military history proving invaluable.



## Day 4

The morning's breakfast was plentiful, and included a kind of dark rye bread that is cooked using heat from a nearby volcano. Once everyone's bags were on the coach we set off to the coast to look at some sea arches and blowholes. The luck that we had had been having with the weather had now gone away, and typically wet and windy Icelandic conditions did not encourage us to get off the coach. Soffie tried to cheer us up with Icelandic songs and tales of the 'hidden people' that lurk around the countryside. However, nothing could make the rain stop. We were now making our way slowly back towards Reykjavik. Our second stop of the day was for a walk on the Solheimajokull glacier. This tongue of ice and snow that comes off Myrdalsjokull has been retreating rapidly in recent years, and the extent of its retreat since our last visit was quite a shock to Mr Harrison. We had three guides for our glacier walk, and they fitted us all with crampons and ice axes before we set off onto the glacier itself. The glacier itself was quite amazing.

Moving away from the melting snout and the piles of black moraine we moved up onto the main glacier where we found all sorts of different features. Cracks and crevasses were everywhere as the glacier moved and curved. There was also a great deal of black ash, deposited over the years by numerous different volcanic eruptions. Much to our amazement, our guides could pick up the ash and by feeling it tell us which eruption it had come from according to size and texture. Snaking up the glacier in single file we saw huge 'moulines', deep holes in the glacier that have been eroded by melt water, and can descend tens of metres. As our guides explained their formation and danger, most people's ice axes were busily hacking away

at the glacier. Eventually, wet, but happy and full of knowledge, we walked back down the glacier and took off our crampons, and laid down our ice axes.

Travelling westwards, our third stop of the day was at Skogafoss, a tall, thunderous wall of water that falls off another old sea cliff. The plunge pool at the bottom of this waterfall emits so much spray and noise that it is a challenge to get near to it. Following a soaking at the bottom of the waterfall we then all climbed up the side of it. Matt Donaldson got rather close to the waterfall itself, and Charles Redshaw was the official step counter. At the top of the waterfall there was no patterned ground, but excellent views out to the sea and the surrounding area. Lunch was eaten at the waterfall with some edible fruit and lots of 'skyr', a type of Icelandic yoghurt. Our last stop of the day was at a farm nestled at the base of the Eyjafjallajokull volcano. In a brilliant example of diversification, they had turned a farm building into an exhibition centre about their own experiences during the 2010 eruption, including a short film. This experience really brought home the power and destruction of the volcano, as well as the resourcefulness of the people living in the area.





# FRIENDS

By the time you are reading this Newsletter, autumn and winter 2011 will seem a long time ago. However, I am very pleased to be able to report on an extremely busy and successful autumn term by the Friends of Kirkham Grammar.

We held a disco in October for our Junior School children and they had a wonderful time, as usual being entertained by DJ Tazz. We tried a new event with our Bags2School, and a very big thank you to everyone who filled up their blue bags and black bin bags and came to the drop off areas at both the Junior and Senior School. We raised a fantastic £815 from this and will be repeating it again in the spring term.

The Friends were delighted to be invited to help host another book signing by SilverDell of Kirkham, and we welcomed Sir Ranolph Fiennes to the MPH to talk about his expeditions and challenges in life and introduce us to his own "Heroes". We are so pleased to be involved with these events and thank Elaine Silverwood and Sue Wardell from SilverDell for this opportunity.

Our Winter Ball this year saw a change of venue to The Villa, Wrea Green and what a wonderful sight greeted our guests in The Pavilion on that November evening. Thanks to Margaret Mason and her team, they had created a twinkling golden vision and the room looked fantastic. Nigel Smith and his staff provided us with delicious canapés for our cava reception and then a sumptuous four-course dinner was served before our disco and fundraising events. This was an extremely successful evening for the Friends and we made a record breaking figure of over £5,800. Many thanks to all our parents, guests and sponsors who made this possible.

The following Friday, still feeling in a party mood, the MPH was host to our annual Christmas Fair. It was lovely to welcome some new craft stalls alongside the familiar stalls that the children enjoy. The Junior School provided vibrant colour stalls which sold out very quickly. Thank you Mrs Roberts and the House Captains of the Junior School and also to all the parents for sending in the coloured items. Father Christmas was once again in the Grotto and the Fair had a lovely festive atmosphere. Lots of work goes on before this event with a team of "little helpers" and we are very grateful for your continuing support.

Our final Ladies Lunch of the year was held at Singleton Lodge on 8 December. This was extremely well attended and enjoyed immensely by all who came along. The Ladies Lunch has gone from strength to strength and we meet each term. Please look out for the dates and come along and join us. Everyone is made very welcome and we enjoy a delicious lunch whilst raising money for our school at the same time.

I am sure that 2012 will be just as busy for the Friends of Kirkham Grammar School and I look forward to seeing you at our Fun Day on Sunday 20 May and our annual Summer Ball, held on the lawn in a marquee at the front of school, on Saturday 23 June.

Lorraine Wareing  
Chairman



# interHouseevents

Last year was another intense but enjoyable year in the House system with the winners of the Whitby Cup, Preston House, only gaining the victory in the final week of the summer term. Fylde House had been leading from the autumn term but were pipped at the post in the last event of the year 'Sixty Seconds Shakespeare' in which the First Years for Preston were outstanding. So, as we returned in the autumn term we had to ask 'Could the two new House Leaders of Kirkham and School, Mrs Atkinson and Mr Wu respectfully, break the domination of Preston and Fylde this year?'

With trepidation the junior members of the houses started the proceedings, the quiz competition being the first event for the year 2011-12. Preston House was the victor in a very close competition which was thoroughly enjoyed by an enthusiastic group of pupils. The senior event was won by Kirkham who held their nerve during the individual questions and worked at lightning speed during the buzzer round.

The basketball competitions are always close affairs, and the round-robin nature of the tournament allows all Houses a chance to play each other. The senior

competition saw a physically strong and talented Kirkham House win by playing some very direct and skilful basketball. The intermediate competition was won by Fylde House, who played with great team spirit, rotating their squad and playing with composure and intelligence.

The Chess Tournament also had a new look, with a shorter, quicker style of contest supervised by Grandmaster Melling. Preston won their semi-final easily but came across a strong School team in the final with School gaining a well-deserved first victory of the season.

The netball and hockey competitions were much more traditional in nature and highlighted that 'if you wanted to be successful' you needed a positive team spirit; Kirkham winning the Senior netball and Preston both the Junior netball and the Junior hockey, despite the best efforts of both School and Fylde Houses.

The final event of the autumn term was the Swimming Gala, traditionally held in the coldest week of the year. The freezing weather did not dispel the enthusiasm of the competitors and there was intense contest throughout the morning at Kirkham baths. As ever it was a very close competition and School House won in the last race of the day, the senior boys

relay. Mr Wu, to his surprise, was unaware of the tradition of the winning House Leader being thrown into the pool fully clothed.

Winners for the Autumn Term 2011

Senior Basketball	Kirkham
Intermediate Basketball	Fylde
Junior Quiz	Preston
Senior Quiz	Kirkham
Chess	School
Senior Netball	Kirkham
Junior Netball	Preston
Junior Hockey	Preston
Swimming	School

In summary:

Kirkham and Preston have 3 wins, School have 2 wins and Fylde have 1 win.

Overall Standings for the Autumn Term 2011

4th position with 23 points	Kirkham
2nd position with 25 points	Fylde/School
1st position with 29 points	Preston



Recently nineteen Lamda speech and drama students have been immersing themselves in the works of the Bard of Avon in preparation for their first RADA Shakespeare Certificate. Plays have been read, prose and blank verse examined and sonnets perused in the quest to develop a greater understanding and appreciation of Shakespeare's writing. An examiner from the prestigious RADA drama school had a great day visiting and examining our actors who performed to a high standard and thoroughly enjoyed their experience.

U15XI



# HOCKEY 2011-2012

2ndXI



U14XI



Christmas Fancy Dress Hockey Teams



**1st XI HOCKEY**  
**2011-2012**





## SOUTH AFRICA SUMMER 2012

After nearly one year fundraising the boys and staff are getting ever closer to embark on a tour of a lifetime. For the players it marks an opportunity to test themselves in another country and to realise how the game is played worldwide. The last time the school toured South Africa was in 2007. The South African High Commissioner, Her Excellency Ms Lindiwe Mabuzza wrote in her foreward in the tour programme that "this visit will be a unique opportunity to experience the beauty of our country, the warmth of its people and the vibrancy of our diverse cultures. It will be an opportunity for your players to test their skill and endurance in the game of rugby against well-trained and formidable opponents. Needless to say, matches against the host teams will be tightly contested, entertaining and hopefully generate considerable interest from spectators. However, as is always the case, it is the best team that will win".

Just as importantly it is also an opportunity to experience another culture and in this case the outstanding beauty of a country such as South Africa. To do this with one's school friends is a never to be forgotten experience (see photo below left of Mr Harrison riding an ostrich in 2007). They will play hard and make the most of the experience making new friends who will enrich their lives in the future.

We must not forget that when the tour party sets forth in July they leave behind nearly one year of preparation. From the initial launch of the tour to the final preparations has been hard work for all concerned. Much of the work has centred around raising money in order to make the financial burden a little easier for the boys travelling on tour. Simply said, this tour would not have been possible without the planning and execution of fundraising activities born out of the work of the Fundraising Committee.

Many activities have been undertaken with the most recent being the Zumbathon. The Zumbathon has to be the event of the term so far, bringing together Kirkhamians from every House, every sport and every year group. There were even some old Kirkhamians there in support of the fundraising for the South Africa Tour 2012 and the charity 'Building Lasting Hope'.

From first years to sixth formers, rugby players to hockey players, all pupils arrived with a sense of fun and team spirit. Dressed in everything from tutus to baby-grows, the pupils of KGS danced and sweated their way through samba and salsa routines. There was a great deal of enthusiasm and a lot of laughs along the way. Mr Roddam even performed a solo Samba with lots of encouragement from the wings!

The prize for best fancy dress went to our very own Bat Woman, Wilfred Rhodes and the best Zumba prize went to Adam Galley. Much thanks goes to Mrs R Woodward who made our Zumba experience so enjoyable and to Mrs J Swift for helping organise the event.

### Further fundraising events include:

#### Business Brain of Britain Quiz

Friday 9 March at Owd Nell's Tavern at 7:30pm  
Team of 4 - Quiz, Great Prizes and Supper

#### Golf Classic at Garstang Golf Club

Friday 11 May at Garstang Golf Club

#### Love Lancashire Great Balloon Race at Guy's Thatched Hamlet

Friday 22 - 24 June from 12 noon each day

For more details contact Mr R Wu



1stXV



## Millennium Magic

The U13 XV marked the end of the rugby term with a four-day tour of South Wales. The eventful trip which involved a guided tour of the Millennium Stadium and attending a Heineken Cup game, besides playing two matches. At the national stadium in Cardiff, they visited the changing areas, press room and hospitality boxes, and enjoyed the chance to view the pitch from the royal box. They then travelled across the city for the opening match against school side Ysgol Gyfun Plawmawr, who have hosted KGS teams for several years. The matches are usually close but on this occasion the home team scored four tries to race into a 26-0 lead. KGS hit back with three tries of their own through Chris Walker, Jack Bruce and Henry Pearson to make the final score a more respectable 34-17. They then travelled to Swansea to watch Ospreys entertain Saracens at the Liberty Stadium.

KGS old boy Richard Wigglesworth played for Saracens, whose forwards are coached by another old boy, Alex Sanderson. The second game was at Monmouth School, where the head of rugby is former British Lion John Bevan, a former Fylde coach and Arnold School teacher. Bevan refereed the game, in which his Monmouth side were too powerful and won 48-0. After a final evening in Newport, the party returned home with plenty of precious memories.

## County Honours

A number of KGS pupils have celebrated receiving their County rugby kit, in the U18, U17, and U15 age groups. Selection is now taken from all players within the County, whether in schools or not and represents the first step on the ladder of representative honours:

Congratulations go to:

### Lancashire U18

Elliott Crowe, Sam Hall, Tom Hurst, Sam Peet, Charlie Swarbrick & John Windle

### Cheshire U18

Phil Cringle

### Lancashire U17

Dominic Basley, George Brookes, Sam Hargreaves, Dominic O'Connor, Ben Swift, Ryan Wilkinson & Luke Woodward

### Lancashire U15

Wif Rhodes, Alex Whalley & Connor Wilkinson

### North U18 Suad

Charlie Swarbrick

### North Trial U18

Tom Hurst, Sam Peet and John Windle





**1st XV RUGBY**  
**2011-2012**



The sporting year has once again been a busy one with a wide array of successes both team and individual. So many pupils participate in the programme and it is difficult in a few words to reflect the breadth and depth of this contribution. As an 'occasional' referee I witness first-hand the endeavours of the 'B' teams on the rugby field, often against much bigger opponents. The determination and endeavour displayed is so much of what school sport is about and it is a matter of pride that so many of our youngsters want to play their part.

Pride of place in terms of accolades this year must go to the Senior Girls Hockey XI (photo above), closely followed by the U14 XI. The 1st XI have reached the National Schools Hockey Finals and we look forward to the competition in March. They have gone through as Northern Champions and this group of girls have grown together over recent years enjoying success and experiencing disappointment and they thoroughly deserve their current status. The U14's also became regional winners but unfortunately fell just short at the final hurdle. Nonetheless their performances have been first class and made Mr Sampey very proud. The U12 team remain undefeated reflecting a promising year for our young hockey players. Beth Kenny was selected to represent Pennine Pumas at the Futures Cup last year. The team consisted of the best U16 players in the North of England.

On the rugby front it has been a busy year

although the 1st XV met with mixed fortunes. Some outstanding performances against Millfield and Llandoverly did not always result in victory and there have also been lesser moments. Overall the juniors have had a strong season with the U15's still in the Lancashire Cup while the U14 and U12 teams have had notable successes.

In the pool our swimmers continue to develop and the fixtures are well supported. Our teams now meet with considerable success. This aspect of school sport is relatively unusual now in many schools and something we are proud to sustain. In the John Parry Relays, the KGS teams qualified for the finals which is a tremendous achievement given that soe of the top swimming schools in the country were competing. Further activities in Netball, Volleyball and now Basketball have meant a busy programme of team sport.

Individually it is pleasing to see the progress of Jake Lonsdale and Ben Everson to the England Schools Cross Country Championships and this success represents a reflection of the depth of talent in this area. Lucy Keelan gained similar success in the Club's equivalent at County level finishing third and going forward to the next level. In the Fylde Competition the school team did extraordinarily well with Sam Hollings and Ben Everson individual winners but team success at U12 girls, U14 girls, U14 boys and U17 boys. Samantha Hollings finished 5th at the Lancashire Schools Cross

Country Championships. This should give her automatic selection for the Lancashire team, alongside Ben Everson and Jake Lonsdale to run at the English Schools Championship in Somerset, in March. Victory at four of the six age groups was a mighty achievement and encompassed many excellent individual performances, from those who achieved places in the top three to others who played a vital role without reaching the top places. Enduring the pain of the long distance runner while gaining points for the team amongst the field is an unglamorous but important role and one to applaud in these successes.

Many in school may never play a full role in a team or ever wish to and it is interesting to reflect on the use of Ribby Hall on Wednesdays to provide healthy and enjoyable activities for seniors who want to broaden their sporting experiences but do not wish to pursue the competitive pathway. This promotion of a healthy lifestyle must always be a part of our school culture and these opportunities enhance this.

I am sure all are, as winter begins to subside, looking forward to the spring and summer and therefore the onset of summer activities which will bring new challenges for our young sportsmen and women.

