



KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Excellence built on traditional Grammar School values

H e a d m a s t e r ' s L e t t e r t o P a r e n t s Summer 2011





HEADMASTER'S INTRODUCTION



As we come to the end of another busy year the Newsletter gives opportunity to reflect on the work of the school since our last publication in February. I know many of you refer to the website for up-to-date news and I hope that the new framework for the site is proving easier to access and navigate. We are steadily upgrading different aspects and hope to add new features next year in order to give it further impact. The aim has been to maintain a 'classic' look but to make it quick and easy to navigate and hopefully easy to read and indeed to update. One never fully realises the extent of the work required to develop the material and we are still working on some aspects alongside updating material for the new academic year.

Recent weeks have been dominated by public examinations and no less than four year groups have been engaged with these assessments. The press has made much of mistakes made by examiners and clearly many students have felt the impact of this. One has to feel that given the number of examinations at A2, AS, GCSE and SATS that such episodes will become ever more common and just as worrying the standard of marking will once again come into question. It must be an imperative for the current government to ensure that the awarding bodies are consistent and thorough in their examining procedures and that they eradicate the discrepancies of recent years.

This year has seen my involvement in the National Committee of HMC. I realise many parents will be unsure of this body's purpose but school is proud of its accreditation by HMC. This association of over two hundred Independent Schools is the group which contains the leading Independent Schools in the country including Eton, Harrow et al and affords us all to have some influence on the national debates over education. My year as Chairman of HMC in the North West has allowed me to hear first hand the aspirations of the current government in their education policy through meetings with Michael Gove and Nick Gibbs. Their admiration for the Independent Sector is clear and it is complimentary that their policy for maintained schools is to follow the formula of Independence in the new Academies. Nevertheless the cuts in funding generally make it difficult for them to provide the breadth either of curriculum or extra-curricular activity which HMC schools pride themselves. There is no doubt though that in the current political and economic climate that the school must not rest on its laurels as competition is the order of the day.

Conscious that all the discussion of national issues diverts us from the key issue - that of the students themselves. What we must never lose sight of is the day to day work of our youngsters and once again I am very proud of the continued enthusiasm and dedication of both our staff and pupils. Our youngsters' commitment both to their studies and to their activities outside the classroom continues to be a hallmark of KGS. This year has seen the continuation of all that has gone before alongside new initiatives which have offered new opportunities. Mr Wheatland has initiated the Archery Club (photo bottom left) as a new exciting activity while also setting up our first overseas Physics Trip to Cern,

(European Laboratory for Particle Physics) Geneva. Other trips have provided varied experiences this year with our hockey players enjoying success in Barbados, our historians revisiting the First World War battlefields, our rugby players taking on the resurgent Italians and our linguists and artists enjoying the culture of Paris. Such expeditions provide lifelong memories and I hope our pupils realise how fortunate they are that parents continue to support these trips even in the current stringent economic climate. Next year there are further opportunities with the geographers returning to Iceland, the rugby players to South Africa while the artists enjoy the attractions closer to home in London. No doubt there will be many other opportunities to varied destinations in the UK all with the aim of providing extension and challenge in many different ways.

Next year will bring change for my family as we move into School House. The tradition of the Headmaster living on campus is being restored in a major restructuring of our boarding facility. We are looking forward to no longer having the often tiresome commute in order to attend the multitude of events in school and it will provide me with more time to focus on the needs of the pupils. The Governors are looking to me to further the refurbishment of the Boarding House and to review our activity programme in order to ensure boarding remains a central and vibrant part of the KGS community. It has always been clear to me how important the House is to the whole school community and I will be proud to be a part of the House in the next phase of its development. We are, however, sad to say goodbye to Mr Marmion, Head of Boarding, after three years with us as he takes on new challenges in Ascot. He has made a significant impact in his short time with us and we wish him and his family well for the future.

Departures are always a part of this Newsletter and it is always sad to say goodbye to loyal servants of the school. This year sees the retirement of Ian Scott (photo top left) from his teaching commitment. Mr Scott will continue to lead the Cadet Contingent but steps down after 37 years teaching Geography at KGS. He led the department for many years but also exemplified the role of a schoolmaster, taking rugby and cricket teams while also enjoying his commitment to the CCF. He took over from Colonel Sayer as Contingent Commander in 2004 and his contribution has been recognised by the award of the Lord Lieutenant's Medal. He is to continue in his position as Contingent Commander and it will be good to see him retain his contact with us.

Mrs Benter (photo centre left) also leaves us, returning to her roots in Lancaster. Mrs Benter has been with us for seven years, initially in charge of all Girls' PE and Games but after the birth of her daughter Chloe, she has reduced her responsibilities but overseen all the Girls' PE Curriculum and the department's A-level work. She has always been a caring and dedicated professional, as well as heavily involved in all sporting activities especially hockey and tennis. I know the girls will be devastated to see her go which is testimony to the high regard in which she is held and we will miss her enthusiasm and commitment. We wish her and her family well as they move on to the next phase in what will continue to be a highly successful career.

We also say goodbye to Mrs Paterson and Mrs Hamilton. Both have been with us a short time but have made their mark and their contribution to Modern Languages and Science has been valuable and both have exhibited a genuine concern for the welfare of the pupils which is so important in our school. I wish them both well as they move on from KGS. We also say goodbye to Miss Shona Welch who has supported our scientists so well as technician during a maternity cover.

This period has also seen a new arrival. Mrs Osborne celebrated the arrival of her baby daughter Imogen. Ian Holme our groundsman also 'tied the knot' this term as he celebrated his marriage. It is appropriate to recognise here the fact that I have never received as many positive comments about the grounds. Ian and Edward have both worked consistently hard to improve the look of the school and their work is bearing fruit.

We are planning discrete developments over the summer but important areas nonetheless. I have been delighted to see the impact the refurbishment of the cricket pavilion has had this term and it first emphasises how important it is to keep the momentum of development going. I am indebted to the Old Kirkhamians for their contribution here. We will complete our work on the Sixth form Centre with the upgrade of facilities upstairs. New wi-fi access will be included and we hope this will provide improved workspace for our Sixth Formers. We are also upgrading a number of classroom areas both in term of their ICT provision and general facilities. The Governors are also progressing with the planning of the new Music Centre and parents will be able to view the draft plans next term.

In looking forward to next term I am staggered to realise that it completes a decade for me at KGS. I just cannot believe how quickly the time has passed but the fact that our pupils show such boundless enthusiasm ensures that time passes quickly and long may it remain so.



PREFECTS 2011-2012



Katie Penrose

Fraser Burnie

Anna Rigby

Craig Whalley-Hunter



Jack Loxham

Sarah Quarmby

Jack Linley

Charlotte Lucas

Joe Wareing

Emily Bourne

Phil Cringle

Helen Kelsall



Bronte Edgar

Rosie Spedding

Eleanor Schuller-Smith

Jacob Lewis-Leeson

Amy Lawler

Adam Galley

Sam Hall

Tom Hurst



Kirsten Martin

Laura Mason

Chad Bentley

Emily Crowther

Ashley Bradshaw

Nathan White

Rachel Cara

Will Fleuriot

SUCCESS

RUNAWAY



Eleven staff and some of their partners ran in the Blackpool 10K Fun Run on Sunday 8 May. The team ran for Brain Tumour UK in memory of David Hall, the father of Grace Hall, who sadly died in January this year. Everyone enjoyed the event and all crossed the finish line with a real sense of pride. It is hoped that through sponsorship the team will have raised in the region of £1166.



Recently Lottie Bell, Darcey Bray and Sophie Moss (photo above) took part in Cancer Research's "Race for Life" 5k run in Southport. As a team they raised over £600 for the cause. As well as raising money for all people personally affected by cancer, the charity helps the families with loved ones who are suffering. More than 1,600 women took part in the 5k run in Victoria Park. Hopefully next year there will be even more!

New York, Here I Come 2012

Melanie Koth (photo left), who joined our Dining Hall staff in January, recently ran the London Marathon in 3 hrs. 21 mins. & 13 secs., which qualifies her for the New York Marathon.

Melanie is a member of the Lytham St Annes Road Runners and has completed eleven marathons – Sydney, Berlin, Dublin, Frankfurt, Blackpool and the London Marathon six times.

Her next big run is the Welsh Castles Relay in June.



Doubletime

On Thursday 16 June KGS had both their Junior and Intermediate Girls Athletics teams competing in the North West Round of the English Schools Athletics Cup. This is a complete team event where athletes have to compete in both a track and a field event and points are awarded for times, distances and heights that are achieved in each event. Position isn't necessarily the key but the combined individual totals of all twelve athletes in each team are combined to give a team total.

The KGS girls were well prepared, highly motivated and determined to give their absolute best for each other. The team atmosphere was evident from start to finish; the girls supported each other throughout the day and were an absolute credit to KGS.

Twelve schools competed in the junior competition, some of which were very big schools, Canon Slade, Bolton, Stockport Grammar School, Queen's Chester, King's Macclesfield, Merchant Taylors', St Julie's, Nelson Tomlinson, Cockermouth, QEGS Penrith, Helsby and Archbishop Blanch.

Eleven Schools competed in the intermediate competition, Canon Slade, Cockermouth, QEGS Penrith, Nelson Tomlinson, Altrincham Grammar, Keswick, King Edward and Queen Mary, Lytham High School, Manchester Girls and Ormskirk Grammar School. Both KGS teams competed to the highest level, each and every athlete put in some outstanding performances with numerous personal bests on the day. There were too many to start mentioning all of them.

The bond between the staff and the girls is a strong one and together the day was a resounding success. The Junior team scored a very high 381 points and the Intermediate team scored a equally impressive 369 points to ensure victory in both age groups and a place in the English Schools Athletics Cup Final in Abingdon, Oxford on July 9th.

Congratulations to both teams:-

Junior - Olivia Anderson, Lauren Bailey, Sophie Copplestone, Beth Everson, Annalise Hughes, Fiona Lockhart, Jess O'Neill, Nicole Thompson, Sophie Warden, Mollie Kerrane, Lucy Keelan, Samantha Hollings, Sian Atkinson and Cammi Spector.

Intermediate - Nicole Wainwright, Courtney Spector, Harriet Price, Imogen Pierce, Lindsay O'Brien, Alexandra Hastie, Nicky Charter, Hannah Butler, Emily Carpenter, Heather Crook, Kate Lawler, Lucy Meagh, Lucy Gardiner and Grace Reddy.





VICKY PETERS MEMORIAL MATCH

SATURDAY 26 MARCH 2011

Another beautiful morning, the pavilion was busy with students and parents past and present socialising in the sunshine. The Astroturf was an array of pink and gold and the atmosphere epitomised everything that makes Kirkham so special.

Mr Peters and his family were on the sideline together with the parents who stood shoulder to shoulder every Saturday for over ten years.

As the girls walked out I still felt an overwhelming feeling of pride – to see my present 1st XI together with past 1st XI girls was wonderful. The game was competitive as always, but the 1st XI had the upper hand in the possession stakes this year, though the 1st XI had numerous chances Hannah Spacey showed that she had still enormous talent with some super saves and the final score was 0-0.

The Old Girls reminisced; they were back in force, some with husbands, partners and babies, and it was lovely to see and be a part of. Our present hockey girls could see that the loyalty of our girls and the treasured memories stay with them forever. The hockey girls move on and play top university and club hockey, but little compares to the days at school playing top hockey with your school friends. 'Once a Kirkham Girl always a Kirkham Girl'.

THE SOUTHERN REUNION DINNER 2011



SATURDAY 9 APRIL 2011

This year's dinner took place for the third successive year at Lady Margaret Hall in Oxford. In both previous years we had been very well looked after by the college so expectations were high.

Pre-dinner drinks and canapés were served in the Deneke Common Room where, as per last year, 17 members with age ranges from 1948 leavers to 1987 were gathered. Introductions were made and acquaintances renewed, ahead of the main dinner. The food, wine and service were all excellent and the Headmaster provided an update on the progress of the School and responded to a seemingly limitless supply of questions from interested parties around the table.

Once again this was an excellent evening which I would recommend to any members wishing to attend.

Mrs C S Nicholson, OKA Committee Secretary

Diary Dates

A-level Results
Thursday, 18 August

GCSE Results
Thursday, 25 August

1st Year Induction Day
8.50 am, Tuesday, 6 September

New School Year begins
8.50 am, Wednesday, 7 September

Senior School Annual Prizegiving and Speech Day
7.15 for 7.30 pm, Thursday 22 September at the Guild Hall, Preston

Friends of KGS AGM
Monday, 26 September

The Bruce Craven Memorial Rugby Match OKA v Wooden Spoon AA's
Sunday, 2 October

Open Afternoon
Sunday, 9 October

New Parents' Welcome Evening
Wednesday, 12 October

Old Kirkhamians' Association AGM & Northern Reunion Dinner
Saturday, 15 October

Open Evening
Monday, 7 November

Friends of KGS Winter Ball at The Villa, Wrea Green
Saturday, 19 November

Friends of KGS Christmas Fair
Friday, 25 November

"Young" OKA Reunion at the Grapes, Wrea Green
Monday, 19 December

Senior School Entrance Exam
Saturday, 28 January 2012

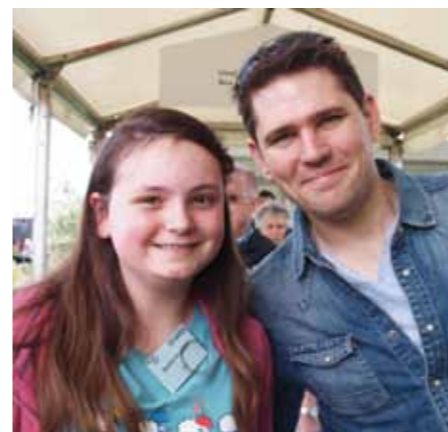


SUMMER ACTIVITY CAMPS

David Shaw Tennis Camp 8-22 & 25-29 July 2011
David Shaw 07770618148

Andrew Flintoff Cricket Academy 1-5 August 2011
www.andrewflintoffcricketacademy.co.uk

Kings Camp 8-19 August 2011
www.kingcamps.org



BBC AWARD

Rachel Horsfield, a Year 7 pupil at KGS, entered the BBC Radio 2 "500 Words Competition", launched on the Chris Evans Breakfast Show back in February. 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, under the caption 'Sweet', 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. Rachel had a book signed by Eoin Colfer which she has presented to Mrs Copland for the school library.



The school website continues to be a source of information for parents with news, letters, calendars and school information at hand. All the latest news can also be followed via the school's twitter at:

<http://twitter.com/kirkhamgrammar>



Music

"But Sir, we can't hold the Finals on April 1st!" Even our Adjudicator, Mr Chris Wootton, rang me on the morning of April 1st to check that his invitation had not been an 'April Fool'. And so, after over 36 hours of auditions, the field of close on 400 performers was whittled down to the finalists of the 2011 House Music Festival. We had an excellent day, with Sophie Midgley (clarinet) being declared the winner of the Solo Section, receiving the Rosemary Greaves Trophy. Lucy Fielding (piano) took second place, closely followed by Chloe Walker (singing). The Ensemble Final was closely fought, with the eventual winners being a Kirkham House vocal group, Septimus, comprising of Helen Kelsall, Lucy Fielding, Jodi Gaston-Ross, Joe Martin, Jonathan Davies, Oliver Carpenter and Rob Malings. Joe Martin went on to win the Composition class and Fylde House were the worthy winners of the House Choir competition. The overall winners of the House Music Festival were Kirkham House, with a strong field of very able musicians. After the tension of the Finals we enjoyed an excellent Gala Concert on the final night of the Spring Term, when the finalists had chance to perform to a packed Old Hall.

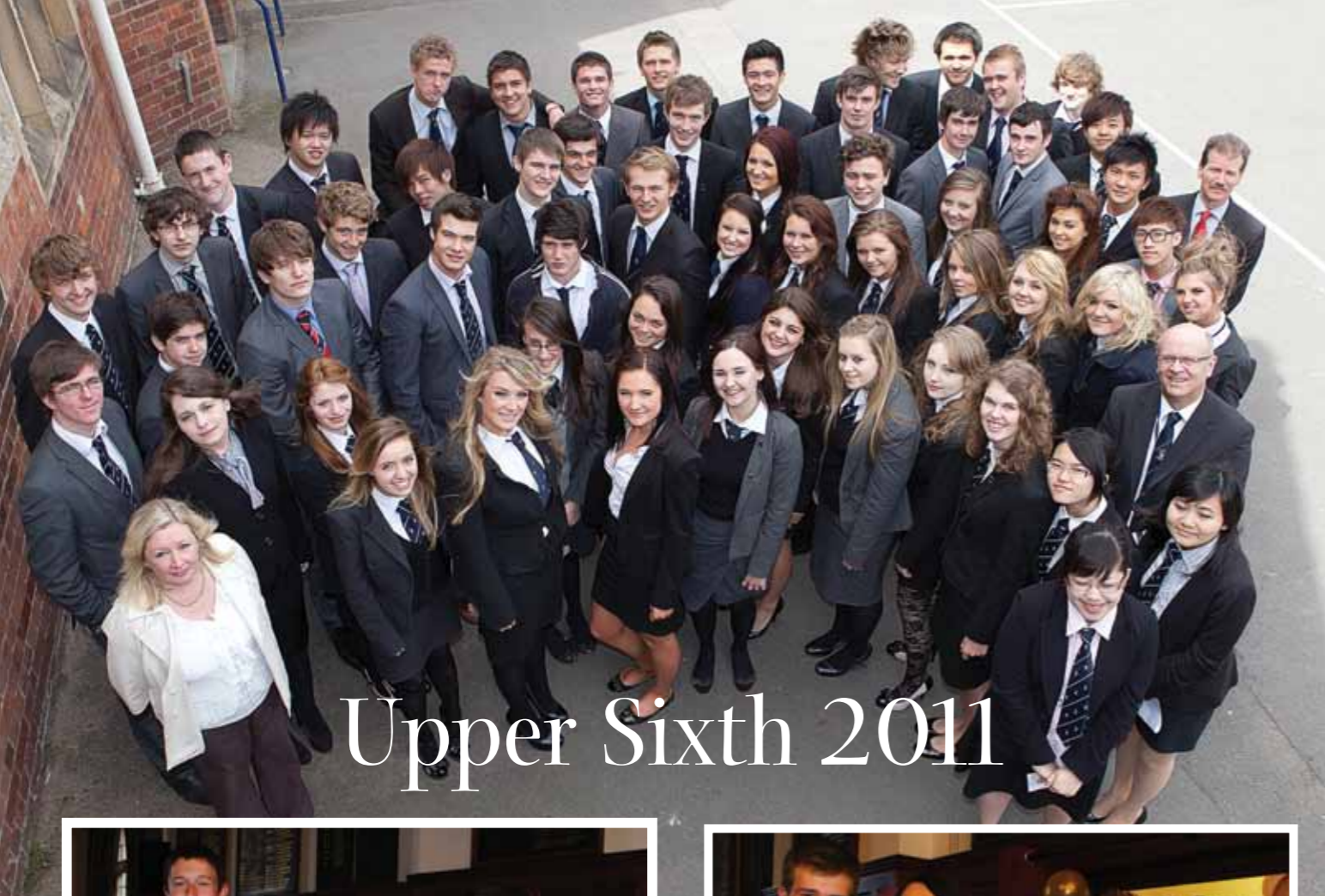
During the Easter holiday our Choir took part in a performance of Carl Orff's Carmina Burana in the MPH with members of Lytham St Annes Choral Society. This exciting work drew an excellent performance from the Choir, and also gave the opportunity for two very talented musicians from the first year, Elliott Gaston-Ross and Arron O'Neill, to shine in the percussion section.

Once again the school was invited to perform prior to one of the prestigious Guild Hall concerts presented by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. The Swing Band performed excellently in the Guild Hall, attracting many compliments from the large audience.

The Spring Concert marks the point in the year when we acknowledge the tremendous contribution made to school music by our Upper Sixth musicians. Many of those performing on 10 May had been involved in music throughout their time in school, in Choirs, Orchestra, Concert Band, Swing Band and String Group. Whilst acknowledging the debt we owe to all our leaving musicians, I would like to give our special thanks to Jonathan Davies who, in his role as Music Secretary during his final year, worked hard both in the background and publicly, at Concerts, to assist in the smooth running of this year's events.

Andrew Barratt





Upper Sixth 2011



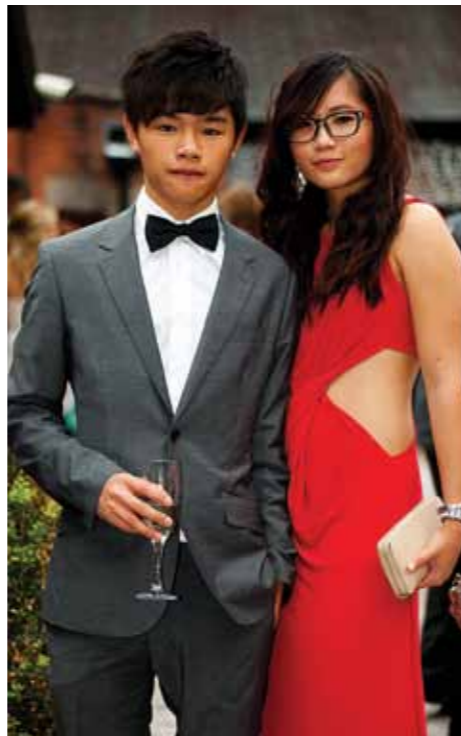
Sixth Form Leavers Ball 2011





the 5th element

Fifth Year End of Exams Celebration
Bartle Hall – Monday 27 June



FRIENDS

Last year at our Annual Fun Day we needed sunglasses and factor 50 sun cream! Just to keep us on our toes, the wonderful British weather decided to treat us to gales and torrential rain for Fun Day 2011. This did not stop us from having a great time indoors, as we made the most of the gym and the MPH with all our stalls being inside. Some of our brave men battled outside with the BBQ which was greatly appreciated. Although the Army were not able to erect the Zip Wire, due to health and safety issues, the lads were a great help when one of our bouncy castles took flight across the 1st XV Rugby pitch and they ran after it and pinned it down. We had lots of prizes sent in to school and with wonderful support on the day we made around £1900. Many thanks to all our helpers and main organiser Mrs Annie Ward.

It was only weeks later that the annual sight of a marquee being erected on the lawn in front of school meant that our Summer Ball was on its way. The Sixth Formers, as is the usual tradition, held their Ball on the Friday with our event on the Saturday evening. The marquee looked stunning in shades of summer flowers of lilac and pink and after a delicious meal themed on "Tastes of Lancashire" we danced to The Hoopers Band until 01.00 am. It was a new committee organising the event and we were absolutely thrilled for the event to be a sell out. It really is the highlight of the school year and we are extremely proud to be continually involved with it.

As exams are over and school closes for the summer break, may I thank all parents, staff and friends for their continued support to the Friends of Kirkham Grammar School. We really appreciate all you do to help our fundraising.

Finally may I wish you all a healthy, happy and restful summer holiday.

Lorraine Wareing
Chairman of the Friends of Kirkham Grammar School





Library News



WORLD BOOK DAY

The focus here at KGS is on storytelling, celebrating the rich diversity of literature across continents and time. The Library provides a comfortable space in which to enjoy a wide variety of storytelling. As usual, staff gave up time to read to all pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 and it was good to welcome some new faces this year.

The staff who gave up their time provided a wonderful range of stories, from the published to the unpublished. The pupils appreciated seeing two new faces. Mrs Parkinson read extracts from an Enid Blyton adventure (a favourite of her own children) and then an extract from "Point Blanc" by Anthony Horowitz – this striking contrast demonstrated to the pupils how adventure stories have changed over the years! Miss Vicquelin entertained the pupils with "The Little Prince", a famous story which has never been out of print since it was published in 1943 (in French); it has been translated into more than 190 languages and sold more than 80 million copies making it one of the best-selling books ever.

There were contributions from Mrs Heney, Mr Painter, Mr Sampey and Dr Luker, who gave an interesting history and geography lesson – complete with maps! – as he explained the background to Shackleton's 1914 – 1916 expedition on 'Endurance'. Mrs Fearn chose to talk about her love of scary stories and read her own story, which was very scary and atmospheric. The audience begged her to continue writing and it is apparent that we have a talented writer in our midst.

As always the stories prompted a desire to borrow some of the books and waiting lists developed – always a gratifying outcome to this very successful event.

PUPIL LIBRARIAN EVENT

Five pupils from Kirkham Grammar School participated in a Pupil Librarian Conference on Tuesday 14 June which was organised by the Lancashire branch of the School Library Association. Charlotte Cross, Siva Dwarampudi, Beth de Klerk, Caroline Paley and Jonathan Parkinson-Swift were able to take part because of their sterling work with the Carnegie Award shadowing. Mrs Jo Harwood, Librarian at Broughton Business & Enterprise College, kindly hosted the event which attracted forty seven pupils from fourteen schools across Lancashire and was supervised by fifteen librarians!



Mrs Harwood welcomed us all to the event and refreshments were served, giving everyone an opportunity to meet other people. She employed Kagan Strategy to build teams so that the pupils got to know each other without staying with their own school group. Each team had to then build a free standing structure, including at least one cube/square, using cocktail sticks and midget gems! The group who built the highest structure was judged the winner and received prizes; Siva was in the winning group! There then followed an amusing literary quiz, with questions on opening lines, book characters and film clips. This was followed by a 'Speed Dating' event with a difference – it involved books, not people! Each pupil brought along their favourite book and had 30 seconds to sell it to their 'opposite partner', who then reciprocated. They then changed partners. The pupils awarded points to their 'date' and these were totalled up at the end. Two books earned the maximum possible number of points (80) and these pupils were awarded a prize each. The first winning book may come as a surprise to some people – 'Rebecca' by Daphne du Maurier, is famous for its opening line but was published in 1938 – proof that older books can still appeal to younger readers. The second book was 'The curious incident of the dog in the night time' by Mark Haddon, an unusual book which won Whitbread Book of the Year when it was published in 2003.

Lunch followed, after which we were able to enjoy the warm weather by walking outside and enjoying the grounds – the wildlife pond was very popular! The afternoon event took place upstairs in the Library, watched with silent benevolence by the Book Worm, a huge worm which is suspended from the ceiling. The Reading Game is an opportunity for the pupils to sit in groups of their own choosing, and look at a selection of books from a variety of genres. Quite a few of us found books which we hadn't read and which will now be requested for our own libraries. Abby Welsh, a Yr 9 BBEC pupil, spoke about the Lancashire Book of the Year Award and read out her speech which she is giving at County Hall, Preston on Saturday 25 June when the final presentation is made to the winner – 'When I was Joe' a debut novel by Keren David.

The afternoon ended with everyone being given a 'goody bag' containing books, stationery and other items; a personalised Certificate of Attendance was presented to each participant. The event was voted a success, with the only complaint being that we arrived back in school in time for the last two lessons of the afternoon!

CARNEGIE AWARD

Six books were on this year's shortlist and our judging took place on 23 June, on the day of the actual result! The enthusiasm has been outstanding again, with some new readers joining our 'regulars'. The judging meeting saw pupils from all year groups, including some who have officially 'left' the school – a sure sign of the popularity of this annual event. Ice creams were purchased and we took over the Library to debate the merits of each book and the scores were added up. The final result was a win, for the third successive year here at KGS, for Patrick Ness. His book "Monsters of Men" is the last part of a trilogy and all his books have been on the shortlist of this very prestigious award (something that not even Philip Pullman could manage!). Each year our readers have voted his book the winner and we have been disappointed with the judges' decisions. It is certainly a case of '3rd time lucky' for this very talented young author. His book garnered twice the number of votes of any other title and our only complaint is that the result was not published officially on the website until after the meeting ended and the readers had left for lunch!



RANVIR MAKES NEWS

Former KGS pupil Ranvir Singh paid a flying visit to school. During her time at the school she talked to her former teachers, Mr Long (Head of Sixth Form), Mr Gardiner (Head of Art), Mr Melling (Head of Politics) and Mr Watson (Senior Master). "it's fantastic to see so many familiar faces, and reminisce about my school days". In fact her time at KGS was brought to life by a recent find of an A Level English text book that had her name written in, which was presented to her by Mr Long. Ranvir found time in her busy schedule to talk to current Sixth Formers in the newly refurbished Sixth Form Centre, and also visit one of her old school friends, Mrs Aldeen who teaches the infants in the Junior school.

Ranvir co-presents the nightly news programme, BBC North West Tonight. Preston girl Ranvir attended KGS where she studied A Level French, German, Drama and English, before going to Lancaster University to study English and Philosophy. She then gained a postgraduate qualification in journalism at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston whilst presenting on BBC Asian Word, a live news and entertainment show for the North West.

After graduating she undertook work experience at BBC Radio Lancashire and was quickly offered a six-month contract to produce and read the station's news bulletins. She subsequently moved on to BBC GMR (now BBC Radio Manchester) and worked as a newsreader, reporter and drive-time presenter during her time there. During the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, she fronted the station's flagship show at breakfast, leading the news updates, and undertook numerous outside broadcasts from the games.

In 2004, Ranvir moved to work in television, working as a reporter for North West Tonight and BBC News 24. In 2006, she played a key role in presenting the BBC Three live programme, Manchester Passion, and reported from Blackburn for the Election Night Special with David Dimbleby on BBC One. Later that year she was appointed as the Education Reporter for North West Tonight. Ranvir joined North West Tonight's Gordon Burns in 2007 as the programme's co-presenter and has become a familiar face on the award-winning show. She has recently presented the late night phone-in slot on BBC Radio 5 Live as well as the weekend breakfast show.

Ranvir also visited the school on Friday 1 July to present the prizes at the Junior, Infant & Pre-School Annual Prizegiving.



Got Rhythm

Rachel Ward, a third year pupil at KGS, recently won the Junior Novice North West Championships in Manchester for her skills in Rhythmic Gymnastics, Rope, Ribbon, Ball, Hoop and Clubs. Rachel's club is based at Ribby Hall Leisure Village and at the moment she is learning a new routine for the next round of championships.

Rachel (the tallest in the photo) is pictured with her team mates.



Let them eat cake!

2W raised a fantastic £138.96 in a charity cake sale which took place in their form room on Thursday 19 May. All the money raised has been donated, as sponsorship, to Mrs Atkinson who is entering 'Bark in the Park' (charity walk with dogs) to raise money for Brian House.

Brian House provides care and a 'home from home' environment for children and young adults from within the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre areas who have life threatening and/or life limiting conditions. Brian House provides the much needed support for the families and care for the children/young adults who will not be cured of their illness.

Mrs Atkinson would like to say a huge thank you to her form for their dedication to such a worthy cause, and of course to all our customers.



The boarders celebrate the wedding of William and Kate!

This term has seen LAMDA speech and drama pupils continue to develop their communication and performance skills. Three pupils in particular have recently shown devotion above and beyond the call of duty! Catherine Moss, Lucy Fielding and Chad Bentley have worked for, and taken, not one but two Medal exams each this academic year. In November 2010 Catherine and Lucy took, and passed with distinction, their Duologue Acting Gold Medals. In May they followed this up with a Solo Acting Gold Medal. Not to be outdone, Chad took two Medal exams in the same examination session in May – an Improvisation Bronze Medal and a Solo Acting Silver Medal. The Medals involve a great deal of theory and background research as well as practical work so to attempt two of these high grade exams in one year represents an achievement worthy of pride.

Geography Fieldwork

It has been a busy term so far for the Sixth Form geographers, and they have been getting to grips with some of the best available geography in the county. February saw the AS and A2 students visit Lancaster University for two workshops with volcanologists in the Environment Centre. The first session focused on the nature of plate tectonics and the formation of different rock types and tectonic features. The second session was undertaken in one of the research laboratories, where the students were able to witness and ask questions about an experimental model of a volcano conduit. The key emphasis was on how predicting and understanding volcanic events can be linked to how gases separate from molten rock. All students came away with a better understanding of tectonic processes and landforms, and were privileged to have had access to recent research ideas and techniques.

Early March then saw the AS students embark on two days of work 'in the field'. Building on their previous theoretical studies, and in preparation for their AS module exams they started off their first day with a detailed comparison of different settlements to the North of Preston. The afternoon then saw them undertake a practical look at coastal processes and landforms, and gave them an opportunity to make an informed opinion of some of the recent coastal defences along the Fylde coast.

The second day saw a bitterly cold but enjoyable study of the River Wyre, and how it changes from source to mouth. The teachers were very impressed by the efficiency of the students as they collected their primary data in what were rather chilly waters. Chocolate cake and coffee helped to revitalise everyone in the afternoon, and the group returned back to school with a thorough understanding of a river system, and how it doesn't always behave as it should.

For many of these students, their next fieldwork experience will see them visiting Iceland in October.



Biology Trip

Biology Field Course at Malham Tarn Field Centre June 2011

The Lower Sixth Biologists made a great start to their A2 course through outdoor investigations, using a variety of sampling techniques. Wading into the tarn, to position light and dark bottles containing plankton, was entertaining when some students found that their footwear was not waterproof. Fortunately the Field Centre was able to lend us more wellingtons and waterproof trousers for the next investigation based on the invertebrates in Gordale Beck. Standardised kick sampling allowed a comparison of the species found in fast and slow flowing sections of the stream.

The highlight of the course was the unusually large success rate of the small mammal traps. These capture the animals without harming them so that they can be marked with tags and released – allowing an estimate of total population size to be made from the proportion of marked animals recaptured. Most of the traps had caught either a mouse or a vole which is unusual because the mice are nocturnal and voles are diurnal so they are not normally active at the same time.

The last day involved a study of succession on the bog at the edge of the tarn. Over time the tarn is gradually getting smaller as more plant communities become established. This is a natural process which would eventually lead to the development of woodland. Our transect showed a surprising number of different species of plants in the early stages of succession which contrasted well with our previous study at Ainsdale sand dunes.



ski 2011 TRIP Tignes

Our coach left school very early on Sunday morning 20 February. We were a party of 42 plus four teachers. There was great excitement on the coach journey en-route to Tignes in the French Alps via Manchester Airport. We all wore our fluorescent green hoodies made especially for the trip so we were easily spotted in the airport! The flight went smoothly, arriving in Grenoble Airport on time, ready for a three hour transfer up the winding mountain road to the vast ski resort of Tignes the ski area known as L'espace Killy. Tignes share this ski area with the neighbouring resort of Val d'Isere and it is known as one of Europe's premier ski resorts due to its extensive 300 kilometres of piste, high altitude and reliable snow record and numerous challenging runs. As we carried our bags to the hotel, the snow began to fall, a great start to our week.

It is fair to say the hotel was not pretty from the outside, but warm and comfortable inside. We shared bunk bed rooms for (4 or 6 people) many of which had balconies with super alpine views. The ski hire shop was chaotic but we quickly gathered our equipment and returned to the hotel for our first night in Tignes.

Monday was our first ski day, the lessons were 11.00 am until 1.00 pm breaking for an hour's lunch. The afternoon sessions were 3.00 pm until 5.00 pm. This worked really well as the slopes were virtually empty in the late afternoon. We were split into four groups and introduced to our respective instructors. The week's skiing had begun.

All the groups enjoyed the fabulous skiing conditions Tignes had to offer. Most groups travelled on the Funicular which carried us up to the Grand Motte mountain where it was 3500 ft and freezing cold reaching -20°C. Tignes offered some amazing blue, red and black runs which all the groups took full advantage of. Alongside this Tignes offered the snow park, half pipe, air jumps, mogul fields and off-piste power which was all great fun.

The après-ski activities were just as much fun. On Monday we went bowling, Tuesday we enjoyed a quiz night, Wednesday saw our sledging put to the test and Thursday we went ice skating on the frozen lake in Tignes - fantastic fun.

Friday evening we had the end of holiday disco - but by Saturday we were absolutely exhausted and stayed in to watch DVD's in the hotel lounge. A lot of us went into town on that night to buy gifts for family back home. This was a wonderful holiday to enjoy with our friends and I am sure all of us will have happy memories of this terrific holiday.

The journey back home was a little tiring especially as we had skied hard all week. Most of us managed to grab some sleep before we landed in Manchester. The ski trip was absolutely superb and surely there cannot be a better resort, but let's see what next year brings!!

I am sure all of us who went on the trip would like to give a massive thanks to Mr Whalley, Mr Hancock, Mrs Cheyne and Mrs Walker for their enormous contribution towards this superb ski holiday.

Edward Lavelle





SCIENCE

spotlight



The science department is burgeoning with additional sets required in A-Level physics and chemistry. Large numbers of students are following courses in this area owing to successes at GCSE and the department's philosophy of a high proportion of practical experiments done by the students themselves. The laboratories lend themselves to this and provide our scientists with a very active learning environment. These pictures give a glimpse into this exciting world of Junior Science.





NEWS

CADDET



It has been another very busy period since the last School Newsletter. KGS CCF certainly is no sleeping giant: being one of the largest in the Brigade at over 250 cadets, we lead a very full timetable – especially towards the end of last term.

In March we had what has become our Biennial Regimental Dinner. This is to 'dine out' our SNCOs as a thank you for all their help and time given up for the Contingent – voluntarily. Brig Bill Aldridge came along and was very impressed with our organisation and the behaviour and appearance of our senior cadets. Indeed, all our guests commented favourably on the evening. Col Beatson, Deputy Lord Lieutenant and former OC of 4LANCS (also a parent!), gave an excellent and amusing recollection of his (less successful) times as a cadet at school. Later in the term, our SNCOs reciprocated with a more informal gathering at China Red and, again, all who attended enjoyed a very well organised and much appreciated, evening.

Our Potential NCO training / selection weekend at Holcombe Moor Training Camp, near Bury, was, yet again, a very successful venture. The weather was kind, but a little cold, much was learnt from both sides about leadership potential and self-confidence and simple field cooking!

Straight after that, we had our Adventure Training Camp at Capel Curig, in Snowdonia. Again we, surprisingly, had excellent weather, which enabled the more experienced climbers to take the Crib Goch route up Snowdon. We also did some mountain biking and orienteering, along with some 'easier routes' up Tryfan! The newest experience this year was the Gorge-Walking. It had been quite dry the weeks before so this

was not as daunting as it would have been in full spring torrent – but fun all the same!

The Fourth Year Field Day at Halton on Lune, was again a good day. The weather was fine; most of the cadets were keen and enjoyed their first experience of live firing along with some fun command tasks and a testing obstacle course. Another full and testing day was enjoyed by all. At the time of writing we are organising a similar day at Altcar.

Although no Lower Sixth NCOs opted for the annual Nesscliffe Cadet Leadership Course this year, we have had success with two Fifth Formers being selected for the Cadet Leadership courses at Frimley this summer. Liam Marrows and Josh Hoyles will enjoy a full and testing time in July. Liam will attend before our annual camp and travel directly to Wathgill, but Josh will go to Frimley later in July.

I have recently just had confirmation that Liam, (who is considering a military career)

has passed a selection weekend at Halton, to enable him to go forward to prepare for an expedition to Kwa-Zulu Natal in South Africa, next summer. This is a very similar trip to the one that last year's RSM, Alice Whitehead, attended when she met Prince Harry! Congratulations must go to Liam, and now he needs to raise some funding!

We are very busy preparing for our summer camps. Both Sqn Ldr Callister and myself are deeply involved in the copious admin and organisation involved in taking 60 cadets to Wathgill, Catterick Garrison, in early July and a smaller group of RAF cadets to Lincolnshire to visit RAF Waddington. Despite the military cutbacks, these annual camps are still going on, with some reduction in numbers and financing, but I am sure all participants will have experiences that they have never enjoyed before.





In the spring, the club made regular visits to the indoor climbing walls at Preston, Lancaster and Blackpool. Rowan Leech improved his leading skills, coping well with the demands made when climbing at the "sharp end" of the rope. Vivian Cheng was a very welcome addition to the club and she quickly demonstrated a natural flair for climbing as well as a noisy enthusiasm for the sport. The better weather of the summer term enabled visits to be made to the gritstone quarries of Troy, Denham and Anglezarke. Helen McManamon, Sevy Carrel and Heather Hooper were the best of the young climbers in the school, Heather showing particular promise. Amongst the senior members of the club Jack Loxham excelled, but then he does live within easy reach of the superb sandstone boulders of Fontainebleau!

Stuart Spencer and Rowan Leech have been very good officers of the club this year, helping to encourage pupils new to the sport and setting an excellent example when climbing indoors or on real rock.



Since the last Newsletter we have had a number of students complete their Duke of Edinburgh Awards and we are delighted to announce the following Awards:

- Bronze:**
 Callum Bamber
 Will Fleuriot
 Lydia Kolb
 Brian Liu
 Charles Sheard
 Emily Crowther
 Joe Martin
 Callum Paley
 Liam Swithenbank
 Lydia Gascoigne

- Silver:**
 Charlotte Lucas
 Matthew Donaldson



to face the challenges ahead. Over the next few days we were faced with many obstacles but managed, as a team, to overcome them all. We discovered and developed many skills that we never knew we had; resulting in the whole team coming away with a great sense of achievement. We returned to school exhausted but all feeling relieved that we had successfully completed our expedition." Elsie Linley and Jess Riley

"It was fun and a different experience that I would highly recommend for everyone to try", Kiran Bahra 4S

"My DoE expedition was a great experience. I had fun with my friends and learnt a lot and overall it was an excellent experience", Livi Hindmoor 4S

"DoE expedition was a great experience. I enjoyed having time to talk and getting to know others in my group better." Ellie Higham 4K

All the above have worked very hard to achieve their Awards and all have gained a great deal from their experiences. We are looking forward to hearing about their challenges and adventures that they encounter as they move on to the next level of their DoE.

Mr Callister organised a Bronze and Silver DoE expedition during the Easter break and it is very pleasing to report that all 28 participants completed their routes, demonstrating sound map reading skills and fitness, what is even more pleasing is that they also completed their expedition with great camaraderie and enjoyment throughout. Add to this the best weather of the year, enjoying the Southern Lake District in blue skies rather than the usual grey, wet conditions and the staff can hardly remember the panic of the lost mini bus keys or the difficulty trying to park minibuses in the much busier car parks!

A few of the students have put their experiences into words:

"When we set out for the Lake District over the Easter holidays none of us were really sure what to expect. We set off in high spirits; eager

We have had a large number of students start the Duke of Edinburgh Award this academic year and although the new eDoE record system has created a few headaches, we seem to be finding our way through the new record system and we will hopefully be receiving our first eDoE certificates and achievement packs during the summer. We wish those taking part in their expeditions over the summer the best of luck and hope the weather is kind once again.

Photo below Toby Townsend at Buckingham Palace with his Gold Award.



FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ART AND DESIGN

PARIS, JE T'AIME

APRIL 2011

DREAM A LITTLE BIGGER

A KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL PRODUCTION



THE CITY OF LIGHTS

Looking back on the Paris trip, it is almost impossible to find words to describe it except to say that it was totally unlike any other school trip I have ever been on. Standing at the train station with an unusual mix of people from the Sixth Form, looking at the arrivals board which said that our train didn't exist and trying to practise my unconvincing French accent, I would be lying if I said I wasn't slightly anxious about the next few days. Little did I know that I was going to make so many new friends, visit so many art galleries and climb so many stairs...

After arriving in Paris on the Monday evening, we walked to our hotel and were greeted by a pretty seven storey building with one tiny lift, the Hotel Est. We were all given rooms on the sixth and seventh floors but the immense effort it took to carry our cases up all those stairs, an experience I'm sure none of us will forget, was certainly made worth it by the views across Paris from our balconies. That evening, following our first somewhat dodgy taste of French cuisine, a trip on the metro took us to the Sacre Coeur (photo right with Mr Gardiner's light orb) and the beautiful sight of Paris at night was certainly interesting quiche and fuel us with a desire to explore the city. We continued on to Montmartre, where many of us indulged in what would

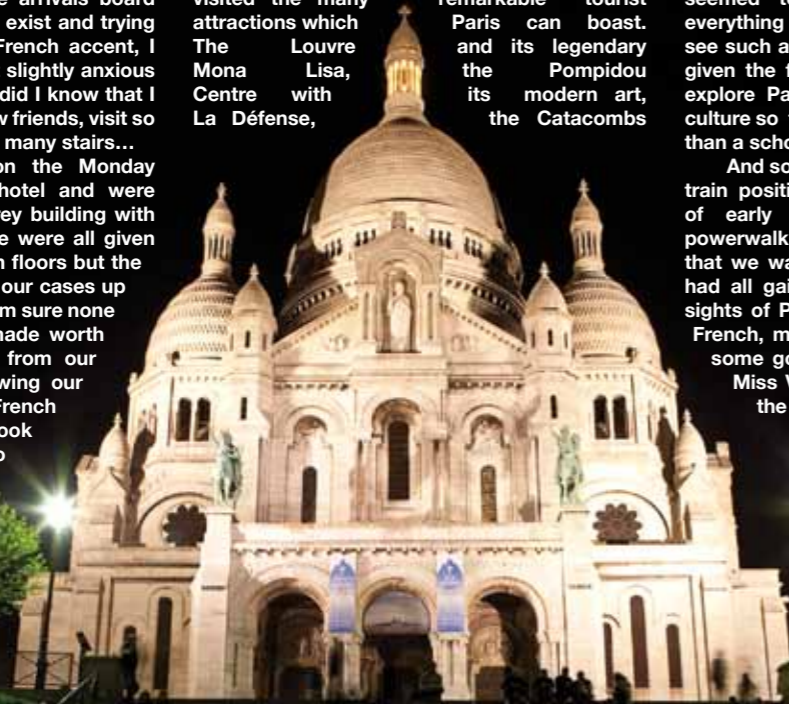
be our first of many delicious crepes whilst the teachers enjoyed a cheeky glass of French wine before all reluctantly returning to the hotel in the early hours of the morning.

Over the days that followed, we visited the many remarkable tourist attractions which Paris can boast. The Louvre and its legendary Mona Lisa, the Centre Pompidou with its modern art, La Défense, and the Catacombs.

with its myriad of underground tunnels lined with bones and of course the famous Eiffel Tower. We browsed the shops, basked in the gorgeous Parisian sun and devoured hundreds of baguettes and pastries, whilst Mr Gardiner seemed to be taking pictures of almost everything we passed. We managed to do and see such a vast number of things yet were still given the free time and responsibility to truly explore Paris for ourselves and soak up the culture so that it felt almost like a holiday rather than a school trip.

And so, waiting on the station for the return train positively shattered from a combination of early mornings and late nights and powerwalking around Paris to fit in everything that we wanted in, it can't be denied that we had all gained something more than just the sights of Paris: an opportunity to practise our French, make new friends and hopefully take some good photos. Thanks to Mr Gardiner, Miss Vicquelin and Mrs Lovell for making the trip so successful and enjoyable.

Ashley Bradshaw
Lower Sixth



photography portfolio



William Shakespeare's
MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING



A KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL PRODUCTION





A performance "As merry as the day is long"!

"Sigh no more, ladies, sigh no more,
Men were deceivers ever-
One foot in sea and one on shore,
To one thing constant never."

Shakespeare has often suffered with an image problem: that of actors in tights spouting incomprehensible words from an unfamiliar epoch. The challenge for all directors is to show the audience the contemporary relevance of the plays: and this is a challenge to which Ms Barrie triumphantly rises each year.

Transporting Kirkham Grammar School's Multi-purpose Hall to Messina in Italy, her production of *Much Ado about Nothing* was nevertheless firmly rooted in contemporary issues. From the moment of the audience entering the Hall, the projected Facebook pages (provided by Chad Bentley, who also made the demanding role of Don Pedro his own) of the major characters proclaimed that *Much Ado about Nothing* has a great deal to say about our world: the play is focused on relationships and the way that these can be strengthened or disrupted by rumour, malice and scandal: something very pertinent to today's cyber-generation.

The twists and turns of young love were persuasively demonstrated by the paired lovers. The "Merry War" between Beatrice (Jodi Gaston-Ross) and Benedick (Fraser Burnie) was intense and vividly portrayed with real spite and energy, making its segue into love even more moving. The relationship between

Claudio (Aaron Davies) and Hero (the suitably vulnerable Lydia Gascoigne) acted as a foil to this, moving from a deliberately unrealistic "love at first sight" to a more considered and deeper relationship once Claudio had experienced the trauma of false suspicion and remorse for his harshness towards Hero.

This is a play that has a real dark side: indeed, its theme of jealousy is one shared with the tragedy of *Othello*, and there are strong links between the two. It is a credit to the performers that they were able to show this side too: the calculated evil of the lago-like Donna Juanita (Lydia Kolb) assisted by her (rather more inept!) side-kicks Borachio, Guiseppe and Conrade (Oli Carpenter, Callum Wilkinson and Gus Graham) which threatens to destroy the fragile Hero; and the culpable cruelty of Claudio and Don Pedro must have struck a chord with all those aware of how bullying and spitefulness (whether on-line or face-to-face) are fostered by rumour, malice and lack of trust.

However, this is a comedy, and in comedy harmony is always triumphant. Shakespeare's comedies often highlight music to show this: and *Much Ado about Nothing* is no exception. The dancers, choreographed by Elizabeth Cross and Rosie Spedding, gave us a visual representation of the beauty of this harmony; and the Band also played a major aural role here. Jake Baxter as band leader, organiser and bass player produced a wonderful ensemble that supported the visual and verbal pyrotechnics on stage: Olivia Duxbury and Joe Martin, ably supported by the rest of the musicians, interlaced the play with musical harmony, contemporary love songs which served both to counterpoint the angst of young love on stage and to highlight again the fact that Shakespeare deals with issues that are still a major part of our lives. Both dancers and the Band received well-deserved applause after each number.

Another example of this harmony was the Garden: a true coup de théâtre wildly appreciated by the audience. A garden is a metaphorical representation of the harmony of people working with nature, and Ms Barrie's anthropomorphising of the garden with Living Statues, Fantastic Flowers, Angry Apple Trees and Perky Privet Hedges added more than simple enjoyable comedy to the staging:

there was a clear message here about the relationship of humans and the universe.

Comedy was also reinforced by the bumbling Dogberry (Josh Burrows), Mrs (!) Verges (Amy Garland) and the Watch – in this production a cross between the Keystone Cops and Inspector Clouseau clones! It is of course typically ironic that their chaotic ineptitude is finally responsible for the restoration of order in the play!

This is an appropriate moment to comment on a Ms Barrie trademark, the cross-gendering of characters. Mrs Verges and Heidi Oatcake (Hannah Lewis) from the Watch were good examples of this; but allowing Leonato to become – in the person of Olivia Butler – Leonata made an excellent pairing with Donna Juanita, and extended the female roles so that more focus could be placed on the relationships within the play.

However strong the Principals, this was not a play carried by individual performance. This production was very much an ensemble piece, and the strength in depth of the large – and young – cast was the major factor in the success of the play. Success depended of the vital contributions of all concerned, from the many actors (including another of Ms Barrie's trademarks, the additional characters, such as the villainous Guiseppe and the hilariously incompetent Mandy Crackers) to the Garden, the dancers and the band, and of course the backstage Crew, with Katie Simpson as Stage Manger. Congratulations all.

The play, of course, leaves a number of questions unanswered: the most fundamental perhaps being that posed by a seven year old who had loved the play but asked "So why did Hero marry Claudio when he called her those names?" Perhaps the answer is given elsewhere by Shakespeare: the aspirational "Love is not love which alters when it alteration finds / Or bends with the remover to remove."

Ultimately, then, *Much Ado about Nothing* depends on the redeeming power of love – and, of course, in this production the genius of Ms Barrie and Mrs Walker: bravo; bravisse!

Chris Hawkes







Battlefields trip



Waking up at 4 o'clock in the morning is often thought of as an impossible task for teenagers, but didn't we prove them wrong? Forty students slowly but surely piled on to the coach and we soon made ourselves comfortable for the long journey ahead. Even with mild sleep deprivation, spirits were high as we all looked forward to seeing in real life what we have previously only seen in black and white photos. After a smooth sailing across the channel, we quickly realised we were going to be blessed with fantastic weather; what a shame nobody listened to Mrs Atkinson, (or Boss as she liked to be called) about bringing sun cream!

On our first full day in Ypres, we visited our first site which was Essex Farm, one of many casualty clearing stations. It was a useful way to start the trip, as it painted a picture in our minds of the challenging conditions medical staff had to work in and how women also played a big role in the reserve trenches. Whilst there we visited the grave of V. J. Strudwick, a 15 year old soldier who sadly died on the front line. This really hit home as he was a similar age to us, and we could never imagine being in his position at such a young age.

After settling into a steady routine of seeing Commonwealth Graveyards all around the Belgium countryside, we noticed a lack of German graves. So when we pulled up to Langemark, we all experienced a different type of sadness which we didn't expect to feel. Perhaps this was because 45,000 German soldiers hadn't got the burial they had deserved. In 1918, only a small piece of land was given to the Germans to lay their soldiers to rest as the people of Belgium blamed them for starting the War. Due the lack of space, these soldiers were buried upright and in parts of the cemetery, up to 40 unknown men share a headstone. For 25,000 German soldiers they didn't even receive that type of grave as they were buried in one mass pit. This was a real eye-opener for everyone, as it reminded us that there were two sides to this war and many innocent Germans died too.

We had a very intense and emotional morning, so you can imagine our relief when we were told by our tour guide Dave that we could go for a bit of 'choccy shopping' and walk through the beautiful town of Ypres. We were able to indulge ourselves in Belgium's famous waffles, and they definitely lived up to their reputation! Later that evening we walked a short distance to the Menin Gate for the 8 o'clock ceremony,



which happens every evening. We were lucky enough to be represented by four pupils who laid a wreath on our behalf. This was a great honour as there were over 400 people present to pay their respects to those who died in the War.

Whilst on the trip, it seemed only sensible to visit some of the preserved trenches and experience the cramped conditions that the soldiers not only had to fight in, but live in. Around the Ypres Salient we visited British, French, Canadian and German front lines, but for us the most poignant were the Irish trenches of the Somme. We appreciated the time given to us by the curator, Teddy, but enjoyed the light relief that Julia Glynn and Jonah Winn provided when they dressed in complete WW1 outfits (photo left). Julia sometimes took her role too seriously as she pretended to resuscitate poor Jonah!

A fitting end to our day on the Somme was with a visit to Thiepval. This memorial was dedicated to the missing of the Somme and was truly breath-taking in size, but had to be fit on all the names. We had 45 minutes there to enjoy the afternoon sun and, in the quiet, reflect upon our experiences.

Of course these sights were only a fraction of the war on the western front, but they emphasised the sheer scale of which the war was fought and what we had never been able to truly imagine until seen first hand.

The visits out were only part of a brilliant four days as we also enjoyed our free time in the hotel where we fully took advantage of the ping pong tables, with matches of truly epic proportions! And of course no one can forget the murdering of the karaoke which we will never be able to remove from our memory. As well as being able to try the Belgium waffles, we also had the unusual chance to experience the bizarre speciality of "Chicken, Chips and PEACH!"

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all teachers for accompanying us and helping make this fantastic trip possible. We would also like to say a massive thank you to Mrs Atkinson (aka Boss) for taking so much time to organise this amazing experience and for also putting up with all of us! I am sure this is a trip we will never forget.

Elaine Chiekrie, Kate Meagh and Laura Johnson (Fifth Year)



MARK MENZIES MP VISITS KGS

Mark Menzies, MP for Fylde, paid a visit to KGS recently. After a brief meeting with the Headmaster, he addressed the Fifth and Sixth Formers in their Assembly and gave them an outline of the work he does as their MP. He then answered questions from the A Level Politics group. The group enjoyed his account of his experiences as a new MP in the House of Commons and the way he likened it to being a new boy at school. Inevitably he was asked about his pay and expenses and his feelings about the coalition government. He was very open in his replies and had some interesting points to make. The impression he made on the students was very positive and his comments provided useful topics for discussion. Above all, it opened everyone's eyes to the sheer volume of work an MP has to do but it was clear that he relished his work and the difference he can potentially make to people's lives.



Public Speaking

On Saturday 5 March, the Public Speaking Team of Lucy Fielding, Gemma Coleman and Lewis Holden took part in the regional round of the BPW Public Speaking Competition, having been victorious in the first round. This event was attended by schools from all over the North West, so provided tough competition for our speakers. I am delighted to report that the team came second and were highly commended by the judges for being only a few points away from going through to the national round. The team must be congratulated on an excellent performance.



Thirty five pupils took part in World Maths Day on 1 March 2011. By answering as many mental maths questions correct in a time limit. They helped nearly 1.3 million pupils from 212 countries from around the world reach a total of over 400 million correct answers. All this took place on one day. Eight pupils even managed to achieve the World Maths Day Platinum Award for completing over 60 games.

Next year we are hoping to enter many more pupils to reach a total of half a million questions answered correctly.



business matters

The Shop Direct Group is one of the UK's largest multi-channel retailers, with brand titles such as Littlewoods, Additions, Isme, K& Co and more recently Very and Woolworths.co.uk, aiming their products through catalogues and the internet at more than five million active customers per year. The Shop Direct Group offered KGS a unique opportunity to gain a first-hand insight into this award-winning and multi-billion turnover company, where the organisation's strategies were relayed and the day-to-day management of operations was explained and shown to our business studies students.

Group Chief Operating Officer Mr Keith Basnett commenced the day with an overview of the Group's growth achievements over the past 10 years, explaining the benefits in terms of profit and economies of scale that numerous acquisitions of companies such as Marshall Ward, GUS and Woolworthdirect.co.uk have brought to the group.

Staff within specific functional areas such as 'The Lighting Box' demonstrated how important it is for the photography department to fully understand how to display goods appearing in both their catalogues and separately over the internet, in a manner that different target markets can relate to. In "The Greenhouse Room" the emphasis on understanding the changing retailing needs of the Group's customer base was demonstrated in their R&D plans, clarifying the work that is currently being researched and trialed to embrace mobile commerce.

Numerous operational managers provided information on how different variations are employed to effectively communicate with different customers; also research that is undertaken to improve customer satisfaction and operations within the business to achieve greater efficiency and added value to the client, and how product lines are selected and adapted to meet the diverse tastes and incomes of a wide target market.

Managers and staff responsible for areas such as household goods and services, finance and specific brand titles, all gave generously of their time, allowing students to relate their classroom learning and apply it to the live and real world of business.

The final part of the day was down to the students who had been put into four groups, each of which had to present to a Dragon's Den panel on how they would innovate one brand title to enhance the customers' experience. The winning team members were rewarded with £50 vouchers to spend on line with Shop Direct, which was a surprise element to the day.

KGS is always grateful for the opportunities that businesses afford us, and fully appreciate the time, effort and cost that firms give in order for our pupils to benefit. Our thanks go to Shop Direct for making the day so full, enjoyable and interesting. They managed to enthuse and motivate all the students who took part on this stimulating day.



young entrepreneur of the year

The Blackpool Evening Gazette ran a competition for local 'Young Entrepreneurs' and KGS entered five students, with over fifty entries received from local schools in the area we were delighted to learn that Kate Meagh, a year 11 Business Studies student, was selected as one of the five finalists with her entry 'Year Books'.

Kate had the challenging task of preparing a 5-minute power point presentation and then be prepared to answer questions from a panel including local Member of Parliament, Gordon Marsden and management representatives from both Barclays Bank and the Gazette.

On 10 December 2010 she met with the other finalists at the Gazette offices and after a nail-biting wait was finally summoned to the board room, where Kate delivered the presentation and expertly fielded questions from the panel.

Although Kate was not picked as the winner she was highly commended by the panel for her presentation and choice of business. Definitely an entrepreneur to watch out for in the future.



BRINGING FINANCE TO LIFE

Following the success of last year's money skills initiative held at KGS, the team returned to the school again to help bring finance to life for our Fourth Year students with their-interactive character based resources such as 'Finley the Student' and 'Arnie the Army Guy' who are just two of the six fictional characters used in the hands-on workshop.

The programme, developed by West Yorkshire Trading Standards and delivered in partnership with Barclays, provides a fun way for young people to develop the skills that enable them to be financially literate and able to manage their money well.

We hope that all our students came away from the workshop with a better understanding of how to keep track of their personal finances and recognise the importance of staying informed about financial matters.



1st XI CRICKET



SPORTS day





interHouseevents

It has been another busy time for all the Houses with twelve competitions in eight weeks. The weather at the start of the term was, for a change, kind to us and we managed to get all the cross country events completed on time. It is a credit to the school that competitors treat all the House events with enthusiasm and always do their best. This year's cross country races saw all four Houses doing well and gaining valuable points.

The Juniors have again enjoyed the First and Second Year Maths Tournaments, both being well attended and very competitive. The House Shooting competition has, in recent years, seen a strong entry from Fylde House, but it was Preston House who were the keenest shots this year, and thoroughly deserved their victory. Kirkham House once again showed their strength in the debate, and it is clear that there are a number of talented young debaters coming up through the school.

From year to year different Houses have different strengths, and this year Kirkham House have a very strong cohort of third year girls. The Junior Netball competition was fiercely contested, but the overall quality of the Kirkham side gave them a well-deserved victory in the final against Preston House.

The House Music Festival culminated with a 'sing off' for all four House Choirs and it was the highlight of the term to see so many singers, from the 1st years to the 6th form, joining in together. Congratulations to Fylde who won it for the third year on a row and Sophie Midgeley of Preston House who won the Individual first prize for the outstanding musician of the festival. Kirkham House were

again the overall winners of the House Music Festival.

The winners were:

Senior Girls Cross Country
Senior Boys Cross Country
Intermediate Boys Cross Country
Intermediate Girls Cross Country
Junior Boys Cross Country
Junior Girls Cross Country
Music
Shooting
House Debate
First Year Maths
Second Year Maths
Junior Netball

Fylde
Preston
Fylde
Fylde
Kirkham
School
Kirkham
Preston
Kirkham
School
School
Kirkham

The standings in the overall Whitby Cup were:
4th position with 46 points
3rd position with 54 points
2nd position with 56 points
1st position with 64 points

School
Kirkham
Preston
Fylde

Summer Term 2011

This year the whole school was able to take part in, and enjoyed an Athletics Sports Track Day, culminating in the traditional relay events. The overall winners have, at the time of going to press, still to be decided because the Intermediate and Junior field events are taking place in the last two weeks of the summer term.

However, there are some other competitions we can report about, including the Senior Cricket. In the final, Preston House had a strong team and put Kirkham House into bat, scoring 81



runs off 15 overs for 8 wickets, with Preston being victorious when they scored 84 for 2 wickets off 15 overs. The match was played with a tremendous spirit and reflected the true nature of the House System. The recent warm weather was a welcome bonus to the Tennis competitions with Preston winning the Juniors and Fylde winning both the Intermediates and the Seniors.

The last week of term is always a frantic time with the '60 Second Shakespeare', the Technology, the Junior Cricket, the Junior Rounders and the Work Cup still up for grabs.

The overall winner of the Whitby Cup was announced by the Headmaster in the final assembly of the summer term.



Matt Beaty (photos above) a current Fifth Form pupil and member of this year's 1st XV squad recently played for England U16 against Italy and Wales. England turned on the style to ease to their second win in five days in front of a large crowd at Fylde RFC on Easter Sunday against Wales. Family members, friends and staff of KGS were there to cheer him on.

Former students at Kirkham Grammar School were at the forefront of rugby action in May, with appearances at Twickenham and Murrayfield.

Scrum-half Richard Wigglesworth (KGS 1994 – 2001) played in a winning Saracens side in the final of the Aviva Premiership against Leicester at Twickenham.

The forwards at Saracens are coached by KGS old boy Alex Sanderson (KGS 1994–1998).

Kieran Brookes (KGS 2006–2009) was picked for the England squad to take on the Barbarians at Twickenham. He has since signed for Leicester Tigers

In addition, another outstanding KGS pupil and former 1st XV Captain – Richard de Carpentier (KGS 2001–2008) was called up to join the England Sevens Squad. England Sevens head coach Ben Ryan said: "Richard has trained with us and he's a great young talent who's been outstanding for England Students this season." Nick-named 'Chippy' by his teammates, Richard spent his formative years here at KGS and played club rugby for Fylde. He has since become captain at the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff – a university side playing league rugby in the Wales Rugby Union Division One West. Leicester Tigers have signed the England Students No.8 Richard de Carpentier. The Tigers Director of Rugby Richard Cockerill said "de Carpentier has plenty of pace and is a young man keen to impress his new employers and team-mates". Richard has already donned Leicester colours having started at No.8 for the Development team in their crucial 42-7 A League win against final opponents Sale Jets in April.

The above photo shows Richard de Carpentier in action for England Sevens.



Sunday 20 February

The girls arrived excitedly, eagerly awaiting this Caribbean Tour for which they had been counting down the months, weeks and days!

They looked immaculate in their new kit and hurriedly made their way onto the coach to head for the airport. The departure song "Hey We're Going to Barbados", was underway the minute we hit the motorway.

The journey was relaxed and on time. The nine hour flight passed quickly as did the short trip to our hotel, The Butterfly Beach in Christ Church.

Monday 21 February

Body clocks were all over the place with most girls wide awake from 6.00 am onwards. We had a day of leisure to recover from the long journey and to adjust to the four hour time difference. The skies were blue; the sun was blazing, so after breakfast we headed briskly to the beach. A combination of sunbathing, swimming, body boarding and rounders was enjoyed by all. The highlight on the beach was certainly the spectacular 'taking out' of Bronte Edgar. Keen as always Bronte was a deep fielder, as the ball flew past her she set off at speed to retrieve it from the sea. Suddenly,

with not a soul close to her, she hit the deck, as she missed the dip in the sea bed and a wave 'took her out' cleanly. She landed face first - after elegantly setting off in chase of the ball, she returned bedraggled, hair covering every part of her face, sunglasses dangling, sand and stone everywhere but with the ball in hand - it was just a shame she couldn't see fourth base!

Monday seemed to last forever with the time difference. After a lovely evening meal we got the party games started - Bunnies, Ho Down, Pass The Polo to name a few. A great first day was had by all.

Tuesday 22 February

We enjoyed a mixture of both the beach and the pool this morning. Active as ever, the girls were given their first task to sing, choreograph and perform the song "We Go Together" in year groups. The fifth years remained pool side as they waddled through their rendition, the Lower Sixth put on a synchronised performance in the pool. The Upper Sixth were asked to prepare an aerobics session for the rest of the girls and they led it with real vigour and enthusiasm.

After lunch it was match time. The bus left the hotel at 3.15 pm to get us there in plenty of time. In true Baja style two teams sauntered to the Garfield Sobers Sports Complex for the game. However, the minute they stepped on

the pitch they came alive. Our younger team played a combined development side. They started the game well scoring three goals in the first 15 minutes; our fast and workmanlike pace cooled the opposition to start with. However, the Bajans soon started to motor and the game was end to end. The opposition failed to convert their chances and the final score finished 5-0 with Charlotte Corkhill scoring a hat-trick.

The older team competed against a combined club's development squad. It was evenly matched for much of the game with both teams creating chances. In the second half we stepped up a gear and enjoyed a 3-0 victory.

Wednesday 23 February

The sky was grey and rain was in the air, but it did not stop us having a fabulous morning. It was time for the Jeep Safari. We jumped into three jeeps and we had an amazing time as we were driven along the east coast to enjoy some spectacular views. We then enjoyed an exhilarating ride off the beaten track as we were taken on a bumpy ride up and down the slippery slopes. We sang our heads off for three solid hours as we were jolted, bumped and rocked on this absolutely terrific excursion.

After lunch we soaked up the sun before getting ready for our Rhythm and Roots Bajan Night Out.

The girls looked beautiful as always as they stepped out of the hotel and onto the mini-buses. It was on this journey that we learnt and mastered our Barbados Tour Song.

The night was a great success with a delicious meal, local entertainment and dancing. Cat Moss and Chloe Walker performed superbly in the Limbo Competition with Cat being crowned winner.

The atmosphere of the evening was wonderful and the girls were taught some 'Glover' moves on the dance floor and enjoyed the longest Conga ever.

Thursday 24 February

Breakfast followed by aerobics in the pool and a bit of body boarding filled the morning. Relaxation was the plan for the morning in preparation for our second match.

The younger team played an U18 combined team and though in the first half we went 2-0 up with goals from Charlotte Corkhill once again, in the second half we had to withstand a lot of pressure as they created numerous attacks. Alix Townsend proved to be a star in goal, making two crucial saves. Our girls defended solidly and produced a great counter-attack which led to our third goal from Vicky Greensmith - another victory.

In the senior match we had a slow start and struggled to get out of second gear. However, the second half was physical, aggressive and extremely competitive. Our girls rose to the challenge and played some outstanding hockey from the back four, through to the midfield and then the forwards. We had girls being pushed all over the pitch but we raised our game once again and earned a 2-2 draw.

Thursday night was Karaoke Night - the girls were in their element dominating the microphone. As expected Chloe Walker starred and had the guests mesmerised with her rendition of 'Midnight Train to Georgia'.

Friday 25 February

The much awaited Catamaran Cruise. We boarded the 'Tigre' in glorious sunshine and our first step was to snorkel over a shipwreck - this was really enjoyed by all. The second stop was to swim with the turtles - what an amazing experience; the underwater cameras were clicking by the second. This first part was

calm, smooth and relaxed.

As we set off along the west coast the skies turned grey, the rain started to fall briefly and the sea got choppy by the minute. Thankfully most of us rode the seas well; however, there were six or seven of us who suffered shocking sea sickness for this outward journey.

The journey back was much calmer, the sun came out and the party boat started to rock. It was disco time on deck as our girls' blasted out Rihanna and Black Eyed Peas.

Even though the weather wasn't idyllic a fantastic time was had by all.

After dinner we went to Oishins for the Friday night party atmosphere. We rambled through the market stalls and the girls finished the evening partying on stage. Another super day.

Saturday 26 February

This was our busy hockey day. Matches v the Bajan U21 squad and Combermere.

Our younger team played against very good opposition who, though they had numerous highly skilled girls, didn't function as a team as we did. It was great to see Alix Townsend playing for the full game after her shocking injury at the County Tournament. Our girls played well building up play from the back and creating chance after chance. Alix Townsend scored 2, Rachel Williamson and Charlotte Corkhill also scored to give the team a 4-0 victory in their final match.

The older team played the U21 National Squad. The game was end to end with both teams passing well and creating chances. The second half was heated with lots of contact and once again we responded. Totally solid in defence with real flair going forward, we took the lead with a terrific goal from Bronte Edgar as she thundered the ball into the top corner. Ashley Bradshaw scored the second from a well worked short corner to secure a 2-0 victory.

Due to injuries we were fortunate to have Mrs Benter playing in both teams to direct, support and encourage - the girls certainly learnt from their experience.

Saturday night was the final night and we had a great time. Good food, followed by team games. Each team was asked to choose a song, change the lyrics to a Barbados theme and then perform it. They were given props to recreate and reenact their most memorable moments of the week. The final tasks were 'Name the Face' followed by a pop quiz.

The girls were buzzing; the bar was filled with raucous laughter with a hint of sadness because it was our last night.

Sunday 27 February

Glorious sunshine was enjoyed for much of the day followed by our final Bajan Buffet before leaving the hotel at 5.45 pm for Bridgetown.

Monday 28 February

Returned shattered but excited after this amazing tour. The girls were an absolute credit to Kirkham Grammar School. I can honestly say after 22 years of organising and running hockey tours this was certainly the best. The atmosphere, balance of hockey, excursions and leisure time was spot on. One girl summed it up really when she said "It was amazing. It was like one big, gigantic family holidayit was perfect".

I would like to thank all our girls for being outstanding ambassadors for the school. I would also like to thank Mrs Walter and Mrs Benter for their help and support on tour and Mrs Osborne for her help prior to us leaving.

Mrs J Glover



U19 Invitation Hockey

Kirkham Grammar School played host to some of the strongest hockey schools in England and Scotland at their National Invitation Tournament. The stage was set ready for the 9.00 am start and it was a privilege to have British Colleges; Millfield, Somerset; George Watson's College (Scottish National Champions); Sedbergh, Cumbria and Wilmslow High School, Cheshire competing at the tournament.

KGS have battled fiercely year in year out but have always found the competition intense. This year the home side were more than ready for the challenge.

The first game was against Sedbergh, Cumbria. KGS were lively and focused and hit the opposition hard from the first whistle. The back four were solid, the midfield took control and the forwards were threatening with every attack. KGS went 2-0 up early in the first half with goals from Alix Townsend and Vicky Greensmith. A sloppy few seconds at the back led to Sedbergh pulling a goal back - the score was 2-1 at half time. KGS responded quickly in the second half with Alix Townsend scoring again to put them 3-1 up. Sedbergh refused to be beaten and responded once more to make it 3-2. The KGS girls moved into top gear once more and Vicky Greensmith scored the fourth - KGS got off to a great start with a 4-2 victory.

The home team's second game was against the Scottish Champions, George Watson's College. Once again KGS started well, closing down quickly, gaining possession and counter attacking with real speed and force. KGS went 1-0 up with a rebound from a short corner strike by Bronte Edgar. They kept this lead until the last couple of minutes. A defensive error led to the opposition equalising and the KGS girls had to settle for a draw.

The third game was against Wilmslow High School, Cheshire who has had an excellent season with both their U16 and U18 teams reaching the North Finals. KGS went 1-0 down early in the first half with some piercing play from the Wilmslow girls. Once again KGS rose

to the challenge and equalised from a superbly executed short corner. Ally Glover sent the ball out at tremendous pace; Vicky Greensmith received with real skill and control and thundered the ball into the bottom corner. The game was end to end before KGS broke superbly again with the midfield driving forward to set up yet another attack. Alix Townsend picked up the ball well and drove into the D only to be impeded by the Keeper. This was time for the captain Vicky Greensmith to step up and take the stroke. She did this expertly, firing the ball into the bottom left hand corner to put KGS 2-1 up to secure the victory.

The fourth match was against the might of Millfield School, Somerset. The match was end to end, the KGS girls were committed defensively with the Goal keeper Chloe Walker making a string of class saves, everyone got behind the ball, closing them down quickly and were totally disciplined in the defensive D. Driving out from the back was terrific with the midfielders showing exceptional workmanship, flair and vision as they set up the forwards who played with a high level of skill and positivity. The score was 0-0 at half time. The second half was end to end with chances at both goals. KGS's perseverance and constant waves of attack paid off with a superb reverse stick strike by Bronte Edgar to put them 1-0 up and secure a memorable victory.

The final game was against a highly skilled, physically strong Under 19 British College side that got better and better with every game. KGS battled well and defended with everything they had but Colleges closed down quickly making it difficult to relieve the pressure. KGS went 1-0 down in the first half from an outstanding drag flick. They never gave up however and Goalkeeper Chloe Walker made some super saves from a succession of lifted shots. The strength of the opposition was too great and they scored a second just before the final whistle. The KGS girls put up a worthy fight!





No term is ever quiet on the sporting front and this one is no exception although, of course, this Newsletter spans the latter half of the spring term which concludes the hockey and rugby seasons. The breadth of activities is therefore doubly impressive and the "trophy haul" significant. As always, however, what has been most pleasing is the sheer number of pupils involved and gaining from that participation in their own personal development. Team building and self-discipline are vital aspects of sporting commitments and our programme plays a big part in our youngsters' personal development.

This year has seen Golf reach a level of publicity which we have not previously attained. Our team comprising of Toby Roberts, Callum Wilkinson and Macauley Murgatroyd have overcome powerful opposition in North West Lancashire in Lancaster Royal Grammar School and from the whole County to become County Champions. They now go to the National Finals in July. We wish them well.

In Volleyball, while we could not match last year's league win, our senior squad came a creditable third place in the adult league.

Athletics always has a central place in this term and this year has been no exception. Boys and Girls teams reached the Regional Final of the Sainsbury's National Cup and the girls' teams, U13 and U15, once again progressed to the National Finals. This is a remarkable achievement and exemplifies the commitment of the girls and the high standards of the tuition and team selection. No less than eighteen athletes gained top three finishes in the County School Championships. This is the strongest performance by any single school and our best yet. Congratulations to Rachel Williamson, Daniel Jones, Alex Hastie, Ben Eversan, Katy Parker and Adam Whalley on their victories.



At the English Schools Championships held at Gateshead on 1st and 2nd July Rachel Williamson (photo left) won the U17 Girls Triple Jump with a jump of 11 metres 88 cm. She will now go on to represent England in an International Match in two weeks time. In addition Ben Everson finished 4th in the same competition, also a remarkable achievement. All our finalists performed well on the day.

We also received good news with the victory of our U12 athletes in the Vose Cup in Morecambe. Their performance was excellent against very strong opposition.

Our tennis teams have been very active and enjoyed a series of fixtures against local opposition while the cricketers have equally enjoyed a busy term. The 1st XI has had a strong season with Charles Swarbrick, Oliver Jump and Adam Galley setting the lead but ably supported by a strong squad. No less than four players were selected for the North West including Charlie, Oliver and Adam but also Marcus Mollinga. The annual fixture against the MCC was an exciting affair and saw young U13 wicketkeeper James Seward awarded 'the spirit of cricket' medal for his performance.

Individually we have celebrated Matthew Beaty's selection for England Rugby U16. He

played in the International Series at Easter including one fixture at Fylde. Samantha Hollings also excelled on the International stage in Biathlon where she finished third in her age group – an outstanding achievement.

The end of the hockey season saw an exciting U19 Invitational Hockey Tournament at KGS where the 1st XI recorded excellent victories against Sedbergh, George Watson's and Wilmslow High School and a fine draw against Millfield and a sole loss against British Colleges. Their performance earned them the runner-up position which is their best ever performance. Vicky Greensmith and the girls did themselves proud.

On the Sevens circuit our boys came home with three trophies – pleasingly from three separate teams. The U16's gained success at Stonyhurst where they recovered from an early defeat in the group stages to record victories against the hosts and Lancaster Royal Grammar School in the final. At U15 the squad won the trophy at the Arnold Sevens after an excellent series of fixtures. In our own U14 competition the home team became the first ever KGS team to win the competition and did so in fine style. It was a highlight for Richard Wilson (photo left) to present the trophy to a KGS side for the first time.

Four KGS cricketers were selected to play in the North West Schoolboy XI. Adam Galley, Marcus Mollinga, Charlie Swarbrick and Olly Jump (Photo below) all play for the KGS 1st XI.

Overall it has once again been a successful sporting year both in terms of playing success but perhaps more importantly also in the number of players who have represented the school in some capacity and tasted the joy of victory but also, importantly, the despair of defeat.

