



**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**

Spring 2011





## HEADMASTER'S INTRODUCTION



It seems probably that when we come to recollect the winter of 2010-11 our thoughts will be dominated by the 'big freeze'. While we have been fortunate not to suffer any school closures we have nonetheless shivered amidst freezing temperatures and sadly lost a large number of sporting fixtures to the weather. The life of the school has gone on regardless and thankfully we have managed to keep warm and safe despite the icy blasts!

Our year opened with the news of record GCSE and A-level results. We have never gained such a level of success in both levels simultaneously and were consequently delighted with the very high pass rates and the high number of top grades achieved. The details have been posted within the Kirkhamian but we were once again in the news when the Government tables were published in January. This confirmed the high level of Value Added gained at A-level where we outperformed all our rivals including the highly selective state grammar schools. Equally at GCSE the figures indicated how well our students perform relative to other schools in traditional subjects. When the core subjects are included pass rates are made more realistic and KGS students once again did extremely well. One interesting introduction this year was the English Baccalaureate at GCSE. Typical of Government initiative this appeared suddenly and without real warning. As yet it does not appear to have much credibility because the humanities section is too narrowly based resulting in many students falling outside its parameters. It remains in its infancy and no doubt will receive refinement over coming years but we believe it has not yet been sufficiently embedded to direct our curriculum. Overall we enjoyed a successful year but I remain convinced that League Tables do not identify the quality of schools and that they remain prey to statistical manipulation and misinterpretation.

We also enjoyed the visit of the Inspectors last term on two occasions! Their current regime run by the Independent Schools' Inspectorate involves a regulatory visit and a standard inspection visit. You will by now have received the report and I would like to thank the many parents who responded to the questionnaire. The outcome was very positive. The Inspectors issue no overall judgement as in the maintained sector and it is the case that the benchmarks are very high as we are putted against the top schools in the UK for comparison. It is in this context that we celebrate the high number of excellent grades achieved and continue our work in

trying to further develop the school. Given the large increase in Government regulation it was somewhat of an achievement in itself to satisfy this aspect of the Inspection.

While we have not undertaken a major building project this year we did refurbish the Sixth Form Centre creating new recreation facilities and a 'bistro' downstairs. We are now turning our attention to the study facilities upstairs and asking the students once again to assist us in this pursuit. The Governors are also in the planning stages for a new music centre. This aspiration will see exciting new practice facilities, capacity for music technology and dedicated classroom areas. While this is in its early phases it represents the next major development in our plans and confirmation that the Governors remain committed to further evolving the school campus without impacting on costs to parents.

Over this term we have been redeveloping our website. The Web Team of Mr Gardiner, Mrs James and Mr Fairey have been working hard to both create the new web-pages and re-populate this new site. I do hope that the reconstruction has not caused any inconvenience. We hope that when complete our website will prove informative, up-to-date and easy to navigate providing an insight into the whole school community from Pre-School through to Sixth Form. If anyone has feedback I would be only too pleased to hear from you!

Our new staff is already well established and appear well settled in their new environment. Mrs Parkinson has taken over the leadership of pastoral matters while she also teaches physics and mathematics. Also joining the Physics Department has been Mrs Hamilton who has quickly established herself. Mrs Vicquelin has taken over the leadership of the Modern Languages Department. She has had to move quickly for she has already overseen the introduction of Spanish and we now look forward to the natural development of this option through the school. Mrs Taylor has joined the English Department in a part-time capacity while Mrs Mills has also helped us in this sphere during Mrs Fearn's illness.

Within our Learning Support Department, Mrs Blackburn has taken over the reins and ably assisted by other colleagues she has ensured the continuity of a highly successful department. She oversees all aspects in this area and I know she meets many parents on a regular basis.

Our support staff has also seen some change with Mrs Dunne's maternity and the further appointment of Miss Pikethly as a School Secretary. Miss Pikethly has had to quickly learn the intricacies of electronic reports and IT programmes for parents evening but we have also been pleased to have the assistance of Mrs Heginbotham during Mrs Dunne's maternity.

The year so far has also seen some younger new arrivals with the birth of Evie May, Mrs Dunne's new daughter, Aleksandra, Mrs Chmura's daughter; Mrs Cylde's son Lucas and Phillipa, Mr Hancock's daughter. Congratulations to all and we look forward to many more new Kirkhamians in the future! Congratulations also to Mrs Janet Cannell on her marriage in the autumn.

We once again have seen further new developments in the examination system whereby traditional coursework has been replaced by controlled Assessments held in school at GCSE alongside more modular papers at this level. We are adapting policies and systems to best provide for this changing environment but none of this is made easier by further changes enforced by government very much on the horizon. We shall always endeavour to ensure that we manage such changes in the best interests of our pupils and in the attempt to gain the best results they can. It appears that no set of examinations is free from interference and we live in hope that the 'powers that be' allow some stability and continuity to develop.

With belated best wishes for a successful New Year.

# OLDKIRKHAMIAN'S ASSOCIATION



## Young Old Kirkhamian's Christmas Reunion

Despite the heavy snow, change of date and venue, the 2009 Young Old Kirkhamians' Christmas Reunion (photos right) was a huge success.

Many Old Kirkhamians congregated at the Grapes Inn, Wrea Green to meet up with friends and former teachers. The KGS staff supported the occasion in great numbers and all enjoyed hearing how life had changed for their past students. Recent leavers discussed their first term at university whilst others told of their leap into the real world of work. However, the biggest topic of conversation was of course, who had built the biggest snowman and where to meet up to go sledging.

Make a date in your diary for Monday 20 December for the 2010 Christmas Reunion at the Grapes Inn Wrea Green.

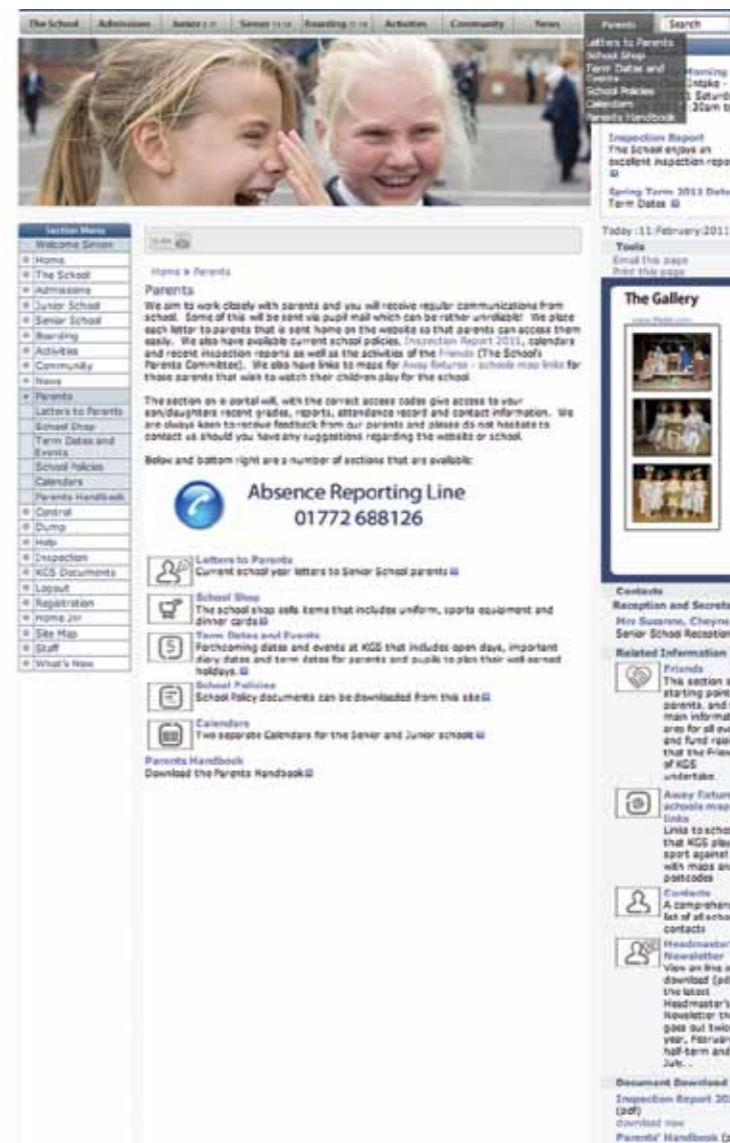


## NORTHERN REUNION DINNER

Once again the Northern Reunion Dinner (photos left) which was held in October 2010 proved a most enjoyable event. The hall looked wonderful, lighting subdued, candles lit, glasses gleaming, flowers on every table and the piano. The new white seat covers (very kindly loaned to us by the Friends of KGS) made the room look like a very expensive restaurant and the meal we all enjoyed was certainly worthy of such a restaurant. Some 65 members and their guests sat down for the meal and from comments made, all seemed to enjoy themselves. All too soon the time came for the speeches and Lt Col Ian Scott, acting once again as the Toast Master, called for the Loyal Toast, after first carefully defining its form, history and content!

As ever, the speeches were short (well 'shortish') and well delivered. Of note here is a first for the OKA. The retiring President Chris Malings is the father of the current School Captain, Robert Malings and both had to speak and propose toasts during the evening.

The President handed over to the President Elect (Mr Nathan Hawe) and welcomed him into office and thanked everyone concerned in the organisation and running of the evening, not least Eleanor Schuller-Smith, the pianist who played tirelessly throughout the evening.



## Kirkham Grammar School Website

Our Web Team of Mr Gardiner, Mrs James and Mr Fairey have been busy this year creating our new website. The vision is to provide a classic framework but to allow swift navigation around a site dedicated to providing information and news on the whole school from Pre-School to Sixth Form. With Mr Gardiner's expertise we are piecing together a vehicle which will give a wide scope of information about KGS and Mrs James and Mr Fairey are rapidly upgrading articles on line. News items will be updated regularly and all letters to parents will be placed on the website. As we finalise the text on line we will also be looking to enhance the site with increased numbers of images and other technical initiatives as we progress. Our aspiration is that it is easy to navigate and allows all visitors to access all areas of school life quickly and easily. As this is a quickly changing medium, we always welcome feedback and helpful suggestions.

The two pages featured (left) are the home page and the Parents section.

## Diary Dates

Senior School Production of "Much Ado About Nothing" 2,3 & 4 March

CCF Regimental Dinner Saturday, 5 March

Third Year Parents' Evening 5.00 pm, 9 March

U19 Invitation Hockey Tournament 9.00 am – 6.00 pm, Saturday, 12 March

Richard Wilson U14 Sevens Tournament 12.00 noon, 17 March

Second Year Parents' Evening 5.00 pm, 17 March

Vicky Peters Memorial Hockey Match 9.30 am, Saturday, 26 March

Junior School Production of "Annie,jr" 21, 22 & 23 March

Founders' Day Service 2.30 pm, 30 March

OKA Southern Reunion Dinner Saturday, 9 April Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford

David Shaw Tennis Camp 11-15 April

Friends of KGS Family Fun Day Sunday, 22 May

Sixth Form Ball Friday, 24 June

Friends of KGS Summer Ball Saturday, 25 June



# Library News



# BOOK CLUB

Book Talk Groups was first launched during September of 2009 by staff from Borders Book Shop. There was keen interest in the club, especially with the visit of author Joseph Delaney who was there to support the launch. He talked about his new book called "The Spook's Stories: Witches" and answered questions from the audience, which included pupils, staff and the Headmaster. It was very entertaining to hear how Joseph Delaney got inspiration for his books. The event also promoted a visit from BBC Radio Lancashire, where they interviewed the booksellers, students and Mrs Copland. As Mrs Copland said – 'It was a bizarre experience to hear myself on the radio later that day'.

Book Talk Groups continued to meet in the library on Monday lunchtimes with keen enthusiasm from both pupils and Mrs Copland. The aim of Book Talk Group is to choose and agree on a book between the group, read the chosen book and then discuss it a few weeks later. One book that we chose was Suzanne Collins' 'The Hunger Games' which is a thoroughly entertaining novel set in future America and is about an annual spectacle in which a group of children are forced by the government to fight one another to the death on TV. I know that you are thinking it sounds very morbid, but I assure you, it was personally one of the best books I've ever read. Even Stephen King (the author of thriller novels) and Stephanie Meyer (author of Twilight) praise this internationally acclaimed book which has been made into a trilogy with sequels 'Catching Fire' and 'Mockinjay'.

Unfortunately, shortly after finishing this book, the bookshop Borders was forced to close due to the recession. This meant that Book Talk Group no longer existed with the original creator of the group from Borders. However, Mrs Copland and I managed to keep the group running in the library and it is now a successful group with 11 keen members. The first book which we read in the school academic year of 2010/2011 is a modern classic called 'The Magician's Nephew' from the Chronicles of Narnia. This was a brilliant book to read as nobody had previously read it and it gave a real insight into the writing style between authors of C.S Lewis' day and the present day. The group gave positive feedback and enjoyed Lewis' authentic writing style from that period.

We finished the Christmas term with another classic book called 'The Silver Sword' by Ian Serraillier which follows four children's struggle to stay alive throughout the years of Nazi occupation and their epic journey from war-torn Poland to Switzerland in search of their parents. This again was another success within the group and all the members enjoyed the book thoroughly. With the encapsulating storyline being based during the Second World War it certainly was an enjoyable read. Knowing that it was also based upon a true story made the book even more thrilling to read.

Between the group members within the club we decided to read 'Truth or Dare' by Celia Rees which follows the tale of a boy with Asperger's syndrome. It was an informative book to read as it opened our eyes to what people may be going through who suffer from the illness and was also an educational book as well as an enjoyable read. Criticism was varied within the group with younger people not taking to the book as well as older students within the group. This criticism is exactly what we want within the group as it is the varied responses which provide good conversational topics which we can discuss between the members.

After Truth or Dare I recommended a new book by Susan Hill (author of Woman in Black) called 'The Small Hand' which is another great ghost story. It is already doing extremely well in book stores across the country so I thought it to be an ideal time for the members within the club to read. However, on the day I proposed 'The Small Hand' I had a selection of other books to choose from and in particular the female members within the group liked the sound of Malorie Blackman's new book; 'Boys Don't Cry'. So for the first time we are now studying two books with the choice for avid readers within the group to read both books and some people only reading one. As we have not yet had a the meeting to discuss the books it will be very interesting to see how this works out – hopefully it will be a success and provide the keen readers within the group extra reading material which they will no doubt love!

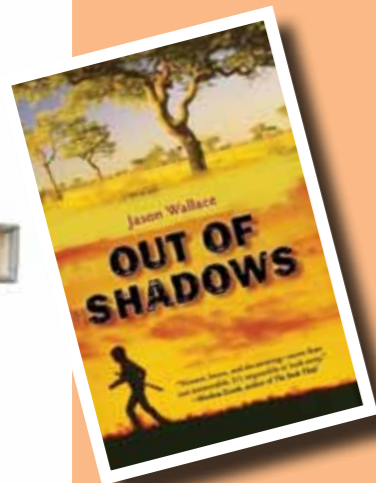
It is a prime opportunity to share our interest and interpretation of the books we read and the continued support of 11 members helps to keep the club alive. We meet every 6 weeks in the library and our next meeting is 4th March.

Please do come and join the club if you are a keen reader! News, Information and dates for Book Club will be provided on the clubs new notice board outside the library. If you have any queries or would like to join the club please contact either Mrs Copland or myself.

Jacob Lewis – Leeson: Secretary of Club

We were delighted to welcome to KGS an exciting new writing talent. Jason Wallace, whose debut novel "Out of Shadows" has been shortlisted for the Booktrust Teen Prize. Jason's family moved to Zimbabwe shortly after Robert Mugabe was elected as President; the 1980's were a time of great change as the country moved from white rule to majority rule. Jason was educated at a tough boarding school in Zimbabwe and his book is loosely based on his experiences while at school.

Jason spoke to all the pupils in 4th and 5th year about these experiences and entertained his audience with some extracts from the book. The pupils enjoyed his visit and gained a valuable insight into a school experience very different from theirs at KGS!



## A VERY SPECIAL GUEST MAKES A RETURN VISIT

The staff and pupils of KGS gave a very warm welcome to a wonderful guide dog, Mae, who visited us in April 2010 and was the star of a school Assembly. The collective "Aaaaahh" which greeted her entrance in the MPH was something to which this special dog has become accustomed during her many visits to schools. Her owner was unable to accompany her because of a recent hip replacement but Mae behaved impeccably as I spoke about what is needed to train a guide dog and how important these dogs are in returning people to independence.

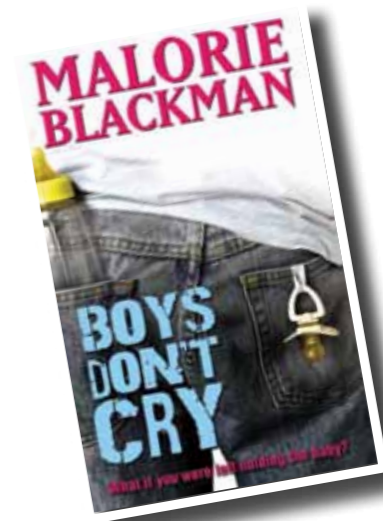
It was a great privilege to be able to welcome Mae back to school in early October, this time with her owner. Their visit took part during Guide Dog Week. Marsha Corper spoke with great humour and honesty about why she had decided to get a guide dog after almost 50 years of relying on a cane. She talked about the trust needed on the part of both the human and the dog and described how it takes time for each of them to get to know each other. Her choice of music – "A hard day's night" – seemed very apt in the circumstances!

Marsha enjoyed meeting some of our pupils during the morning and she commented on the warm and welcoming atmosphere within the school.



## ALL CHANGE ...

Every organisation has to 'move with the times' and KGS Library is no exception. The software package which manages the cataloguing and circulation of all library resources has been in existence for over 10 years. There have been many changes to computer technology during this period, not least of which is the possibility of remote access and external hosting. The library software has therefore been upgraded to the latest version, which enables a more sophisticated and versatile service to be given to all borrowers. A great deal of work has to be done before any major upgrade and libraries are no different. The Network Manager, Mrs Janet Cannell, oversaw the entire process, liaising with the company and setting up the system to enable the new data to be embedded with the minimum of disruption to the school community. We owe a huge debt to her for her hard work and customary efficiency. One interesting side-effect of the upgrade has been the extension of the Christmas holiday period to 8 February – having to produce regular overdures would have added to the complexities of the process, so the holiday period was extended at the end of the Autumn term to avoid having to produce overdures too early in the Spring term. What a shame that our actual Christmas holiday was not as long as the library version!



FROM THE DIRECTORS OF ART AND DRAMA  
**EMPIRE STATE OF MIND PART II**

OCTOBER 2010

A POCKETFUL OF DREAMS

A KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL PRODUCTION





to the East Village apartment block as it featured on the front cover for Led Zeppelin's 1975 Album Physical Graffiti.

There was some serious shopping done in Manhattan at Abercrombie and Fitch and Bloomingdales, so it wasn't all hard work! Pupils certainly returned with a pocketful of dreams with lots of brand new goods, inspired by the bright lights of the city! We now look forward to part III as Ms Barrie and Mr Gardiner are planning a re-run of The Empire State of Mind, part 3 in 2012.



## A P O C K E T F U L O F D R E A M S

**"New York, concrete jungle where dreams are made of, there's nothing you can't do now you're in New York. These streets will make you feel brand new. Big lights will inspire you, hear it for New York, New York, New York."** Inspired by the "Empire State of Mind" song, KGS artists, photographers and theatre studies pupils made their way to the concrete jungle. On the streets and avenues, we walked hard from Mid-town to Brooklyn, Central Park to Wall Street. What an adventure we had! This was the school's second trip to the city that is famous as a place of movie scenes, loud noises, with sirens all around. It is said that the streets are mean and if you can make it here then you could make it anywhere. Well we made to New York after two years planning and what an experience it was! Strolling through Central Park, just north of 5th Avenue's world famous Apple store (photo right), dining out in Time Square and standing where many thousands have stood, including Jay-Z and Alicia Keys on the red steps of Time Square. The whole group saw two of the best shows on Broadway The Scottsboro Boys and West Side Story. The Scottsboro Boys is a new musical by the

legendary song-writing team of Kander and Ebb and explores the infamous "Scottsboro" case of the 1930s in which a group of African-American teenagers were unjustly accused of attacking two white women. As the New York Post put it "If you see one show this season, make it "The Scottsboro Boys." It's as simple as that."

West Side Story transfers Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet to present-day New York. The love story of Romeo and Juliet becomes that of Maria and Tony. The feud between the houses of the Capulets and the Montagues is re-created in one involving two teen-age gangs, the Jets and the Sharks. The famous balcony scene of the Shakespeare drama transpires on a fire-escape of an ugly New York tenement.

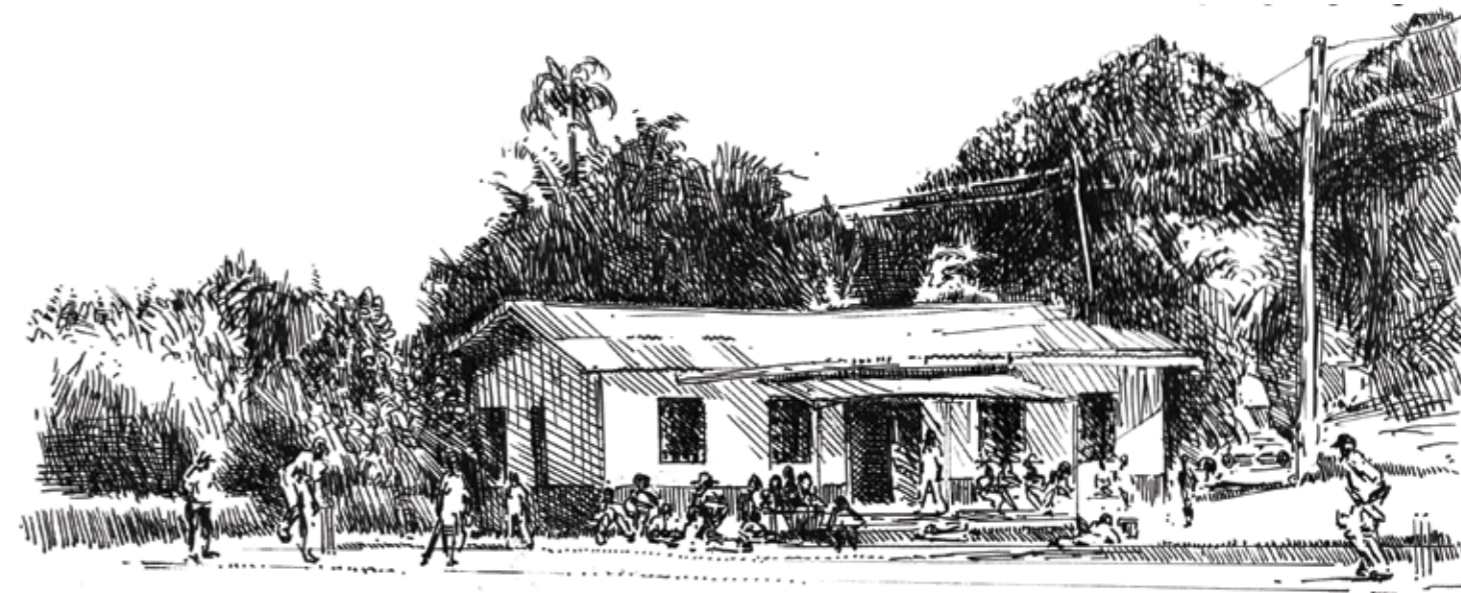
Whilst the Dramatists attended workshops run by the actresses and actors from the Broadway shows, the artists (photo right) explored the city by foot and subway, stopping at many famous landmarks ranging from the Flatiron Building (photo top right) of Broadway and Fifth Avenue, The Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridge (photo top left) and visited 96-98 St. Marks Place (photo right), East Village. Mr Gardiner had to take the group

# Open AFTERNOON





Groundman Hillsborough



GRENADA GOV'S SECONDARY SCHOOL 18.7.10.

# grenadaCrickettour

Kirkham Grammar School's senior cricketers embarked on the school's first overseas cricket tour to Grenada and Carriacou during the summer holidays. Nineteen cricketers and three staff experienced a warm welcome in the West Indies where the boys played four matches in Grenada and three matches on the smaller island of Carriacou. The tour was a great success on the field where the boys managed to win five of the seven matches against local schools. The chance to play cricket in a different country, on more bouncy pitches, and in intense heat and humidity, was a wonderful opportunity for all the boys to test their skills after a successful season of domestic fixtures. All the boys acquitted themselves well with Marcus Mollinga (photo far right) the pick of the batters. Marcus managed to score two successive centuries and averaged over 80 on the tour. George Brookes was the pick of the bowlers where he managed to cope with the heat to produce consistent spells of disciplined bowling. The team also had the wonderful opportunity to play in Grenada's national stadium which was rebuilt for the 2008 Cricket World Cup.



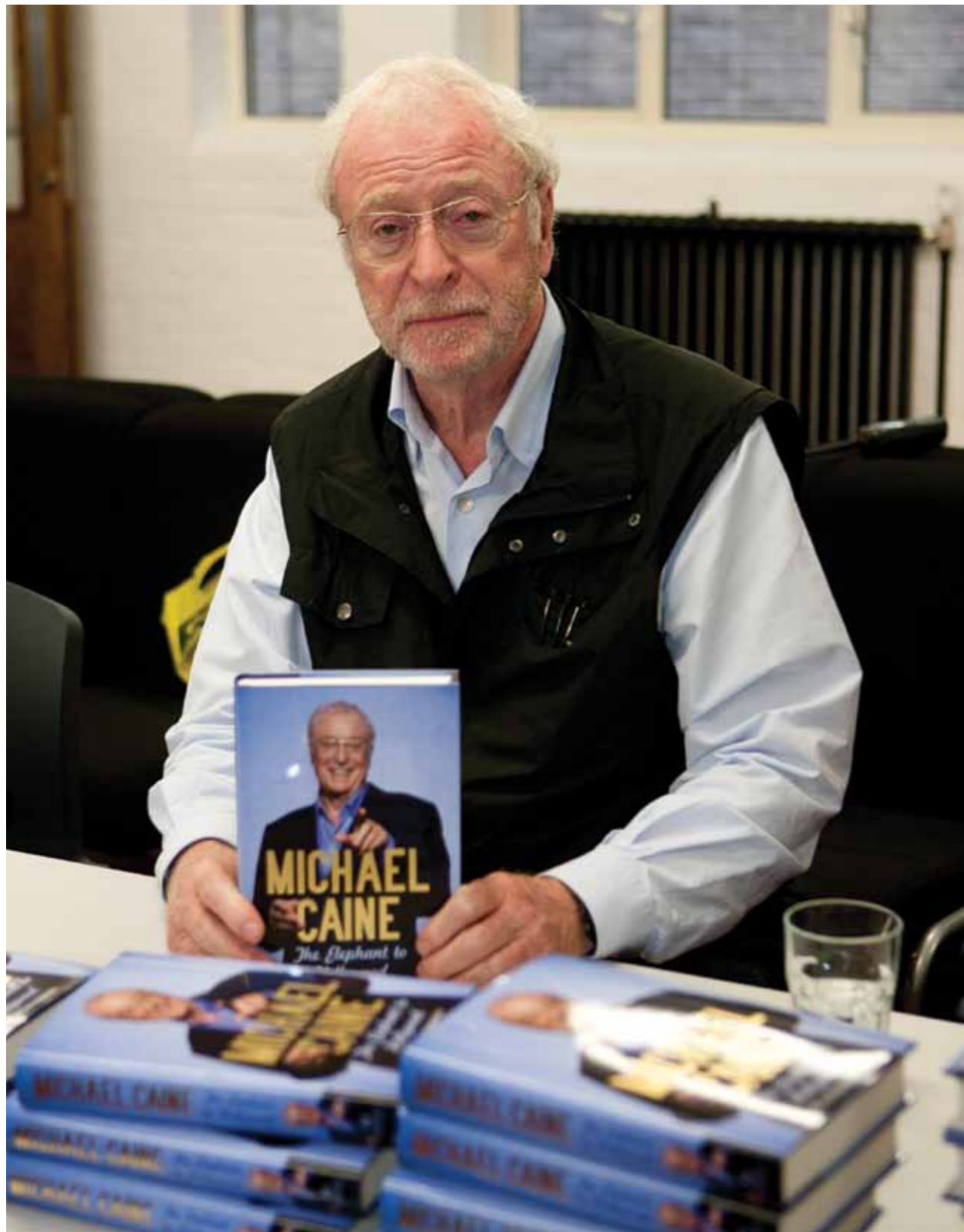
As well as playing cricket the party enjoyed the many tourist attractions the islands had to offer and enjoyed cruising on a private catamaran, diving, sightseeing, swimming and sampling the local cuisine. The daily blog posted on the school's website, written by both staff, pupils and parents accompanying the tour, clearly demonstrated the amount of enjoyment and the unique experience of meeting new friends and experiencing a different culture many miles away from home.



Tour Artist and Media Spin Doctor Mr Painter was on hand to answer questions from the local media and record the tours in pen and ink.







## Hollywood Legend flies into Kirkham Grammar School

It was all we wanted to hear – Sir Michael Caine repeating the immortal words "You were only supposed to blow the..."

The 600-strong audience at Kirkham Grammar School erupted with applause as the legendary star, who was at the school for a special book signing, delivered one of the most famous quotes in British cinema history.

In fact, from the moment he touched down in a private helicopter, Sir Michael did nothing but deliver to his fans – offering them a chance to meet and greet him, get their hands on his autograph and quiz him about his life.

Up on stage in the school's hall, a relaxed and candid Sir Michael talked openly about his rise to stardom from a poverty-stricken area of London, his favourite recipes including a snail delicacy and the emotional moment he discovered he had a half-brother who his mother had kept secret.

It's all features in his new book, *The Elephant to*

*blow* which fans gripped excitedly as they sat listening to their idol talking about his career and offering some insightful acting tips.

Poise, vocal delivery, eye position when looking at your female lead – oh and "never do full frontal nudity".

The reason: "An actor must remain in control at all times and if you're totally nude not even the cameraman is looking at your face!"

On his career, Sir Michael said: "I wouldn't change a thing in my life, even the bad stuff – the tough stuff taught me lessons. "I've got a motto – no matter what happens to you, even if it's negative, if you look at it properly you can find some positive thing about it."

The event was organised by SilverDell, Kirkham's bookstore famed for drawing in the 'A listers' along with the Friends of Kirkham Grammar School.



# NEWS

# CADETS



As usual KGS CCF has been exceptionally busy since the last Headmaster's Newsletter. The Central Summer Camp at Barry Buddon, Scotland, was, again very successful. Over 60 cadets, officers, SNCOs and former pupils enjoyed the vagaries of weather north of the border.

Another Trophy came home (we won the drill competition in 2008) this time for an Inter-Contingent sports knock-out. It was intended as a tug-of-war cup but the grass was too wet, so we had running races instead! We beat Durham School in the final; theirs was an all male team and our team contained several girls – who were not to be beaten by boys! English schools rarely receive trophies from the Highland brigade but KGS now has a reputation as cup-hunters!

This year we were 2nd in the drill comp, and 3rd in the first-aid and Command Tasks competition. This put us third overall behind George Herriot School (with over 70 cadets) and the Canadian Cadets, who were the best 30 in all of Canada. So well done KGS CCF – the best English Contingent on camp! It is rare that an English school wins anything in Scotland but we did exceptionally well.

The week following the Central Camp at Barry Buddon, Sqn Ldr Callister was Camp Commandant at RAF Valley – 'the Home of the Hawk'. Several cadets actually attended both camps so just had time to wash and change into clean, blue uniform! RAF camp differs from the army equivalent as much more of the programme has to be organised by the Commandant. In this area Sqn Ldr Callister excelled as usual. The other school attending was Alleyn's from Dulwich, London and both cadets and staff got on very well.

The highlight must have been (for F/Sgt Toby Townsend) a flight in a Hawk Jet. Most of the cadets had experienced the training simulator and flown (or crashed!) under the Menai Bridges but, as best cadet on camp, Toby was fortunate in being awarded the real thing. After a very thorough medical and kit fitting 'Top Gun Toby' (photo left) was ready to fly. The weather didn't look very promising but RAF jet pilots just fly through the cloud. 'Where do you live, Toby?' asked 'Shep' (the pilot) on answering 'near Blackpool', Shep said he would be there in about 10 minutes! - It took over 3 hrs by minibus!

Toby even took control and did a few rolls over the Irish Sea, from the back seat. Shep also had time for a 'Touch and Go' at Warton aerodrome and was back in less than an hour!

During the summer vacation four potential NCOs from the fifth year also were selected for the Cadet Leadership Courses at Frimley and very good reports were received.

The real coup for KGS CCF was RSM Alice Whitehead's selection on the Cadet 150 Lesotho Expedition and her subsequent invite to London to visit Downing Street, Whitehall

(MoD), The London Eye and she was also invited to a Buckingham Palace garden party, but it coincided with her last CCF camp, so she chose to decline!

As soon as we returned to school in September, it was time to prepare for the Cadet Skill at Arms competition at Altcar. We usually enter two teams but rarely expect to win anything. However, the A team won the 'MONTGOMERY of ALAMEIN' Full Bore Shooting Trophy between all the CCF schools in the NW Brigade.

The team of RSM Rob Malings, CSM Stephen Clough, and from the RAF team, captain, Stuart Spencer and Mathew Dobbins were way ahead of second place rivals Sedbergh (who seem to have had a monopoly on the trophy for the last 15-20 years!).

In addition to this success, from our B Team, CSM Jonny Davies returned the best score in the Individual Marling Shoot, which consisted of running 100 yards and then shooting at targets at 100, 200 and then 300 yards over a timed period. Jonny achieved the best score from over 100 other CCF cadets.

This was an excellent weekend only marred by the atrocious weather which even cancelled Southport Air Show on Sunday! – but in true KGS CCF style, we carried on regardless!!

Waddecar overnight and Field Day was the next large event after kitting out and passing recruits' training for the new, fourth year cadets. Perhaps over 60 volunteer campers were a little optimistic but the weather remained dry and a very full night and day programme was enjoyed by Squadron Leader Manktelow, who also took the opportunity to see any cadets interested in an RAF career.

Many of our sixth form cadets are continuing to gain success in the GNVQ BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Public Services. This nationally recognised award is the equivalent of four GCSEs, without any exams and very little extra work. This qualification continues to grow and now takes place during General Studies lessons.

KGS CCF has gained yet another Sixth Form Scholarship from the Army. Cdt Cpl

Jack Ingham has recently been granted a scholarship after a very tough and thorough selection course at Westbury, where the Army Officer Selection Board sit. This is the fifth consecutive year that a student from KGS CCF has gained this form of financial assistance from the MoD and it is a very prestigious and esteemed award. Not content with this, Jack, and a few of his friends, decided to cycle across the north of England following the Coast to Coast route, in aid of the forces charity – Help for Heroes.

Things do not stop in 2011. Col Williams visited army potentials in early February and was amazed at having to interview over 30 cadets interested in a service career! This is the largest number in his area of NW England and North Wales.

We are currently planning for a biennial Regimental Dinner to dine out our departing SNCOs. The Brigade Commander will be

attending along with our Guest of Honour, Col Beatson, (former CO of 4LANCS and a current parent).

Our potential NCOs from the fifth form will be attending a selection weekend at Holcombe Moor Training Camp in mid March and towards the end of the month, we have over 30 cadets on our annual adventure training camp at Capel Curig, Wales. Finally, before we break up for Easter, we will have all the fourth year cadets on a shooting field day at Halton on Lune training camp. In the meantime all our designated places for our summer camp at Wathgill, Catterick, have already been taken up by volunteers – so we must be doing something right!





# Biology Trips

## Blackpool Zoo (Sixth Form Biology)

Exotic creatures caged but safe.  
Is this ethical or mistakenly cruel?  
Furs and skulls that have been confiscated  
Used to make the zoo guests educated.  
How can customs police such widespread poaching?  
And show the new generations,  
What they are purchasing.

Bush meat is banned,  
But what if you're starving?  
There are decisions to make,  
But what action to take?  
Can the zoo make a difference?  
Preserving the gene pool,  
And breeding new specimens.  
An oasis of life,  
That keeps our children's future bright.

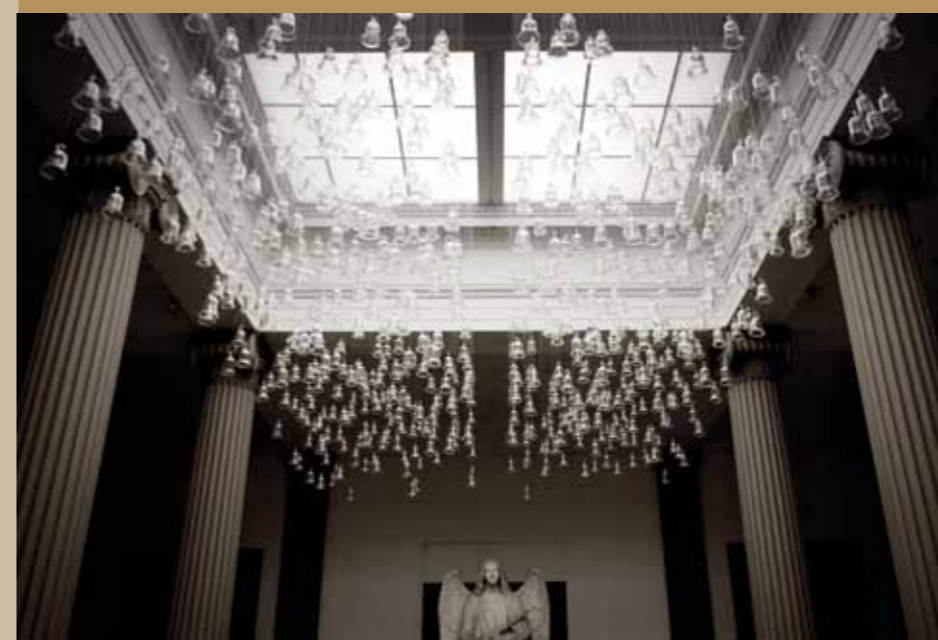


## Malham Tarn Ecology Field Trip

The centre of our field studies,  
With our expert, Robin there  
To open our eyes and show us care,  
We measured how tiny plankton  
Can photosynthesise providing  
The food for all the other lives.  
How do their populations alter?  
So humankind must not falter  
To save the White-clawed Crayfish,  
And the sundew insect eaters.

Also, Malham bog does change,  
In succession, where new plants enter  
And bring forth new environmental factors  
To turn the rich ground green.

Do we really want this though,  
When the environment changes to and fro?  
Not many alkaline lakes exist  
To provide such a habitat as this.  
Will humans realise the cost,  
Or will it's rich diversity be lost?



6th Form Artists and Photographers had to be on their guard recently when they travelled to Liverpool for the Liverpool Biennial Arts Festival. They soon found out that the city was littered with unusual works of art. The highlight was a small church in the heart of Liverpool. The Temple of 1,000 Bells (above) is one of dozens of artworks transforming the city into a vast playground of an art gallery for the 6th Liverpool Biennial International Festival of Contemporary Art (until November 28). This was no stuffy show in hushed rooms, but art in crazy places – empty shops, warehouses, building sites – or art that's fun, teasing and downright provocative.

Artistic director, Lewis Biggs is quoted as saying: "We take art out of the gallery and into public places, so it activates that place."

Our 6th form clearly enjoyed their short visit to the city that was capped by taking photographs around Liverpool One.



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL

2W and 2Z, along with their form tutors Mrs Atkinson and Mrs Bowles, have been busy during the Autumn Term, wrapping and filling shoe boxes for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal, run by The Samaritans Purse. Individually or in pairs, pupils have bought gifts to fill shoeboxes. These are then sent to disadvantaged children worldwide. Both form groups have been helped by their Fifth Form Mentors, (Hannah Davies, Celia Hindley, Joe Martin, Elaine Chiekrie and Callum Paley) who have advised them as to what gifts would be appropriate and ensuring that the organisation of the scheme has run smoothly. The boxes contained toys, hats, scarves, gloves, pens, paper, toiletries, hair accessories and sweets. The boxes were taken to Freckleton Methodist Church by Mr Dalton for collection by the charity. Well done 2W and 2Z.

(photo below) Left to right: Celia Hingley (5th form mentor), Abigail King, Olivia Anderton and Sophie Coplestone (all in 2 Z).



## SUMMER ACTIVITY CAMPS

David Shaw Tennis Camp	11-15 April David Shaw 07770618148
Tennis Coaching	Friday evenings 6 May - 1 July 2011 David Shaw 07770618148
David Shaw Tennis Camp	8-22 & 25-29 July 2011 David Shaw 07770618148
Andrew Flintoff Cricket Academy	1-5 August 2011 <a href="http://www.andrewflintoffcricketacademy.co.uk">www.andrewflintoffcricketacademy.co.uk</a>
Kings Camp	8-19 August 2011 <a href="http://www.kingcamps.org">www.kingcamps.org</a>

# CLOTHES SHOW LIVE



Two KGS girls Alex Hastie and Madeline White (photos right) were selected by Storm Model agency as one of the faces of the show.



## IT'S A WRAP

As the clock approached the 9 o'clock mark on a cold winter's morning, eagerly awaiting Kirkham Grammar School girls boarded the coach for the long journey ahead. The bus filled with lively teenagers and Art & Design staff, the idea of going to The Clothes Show had finally hit them. The NEC echoed with the sound of girls' skyscraper high heels and high-pitched screams. On entering the exhibition centre the excitement was bubbling away when all they could see were seams and seams of endless clothes, goodies and of course the opportunity of seeing topless male models. The minutes counted down, they all queued for the most anticipated fashion show of the year. Seats were filled, cameras were flashing and conversations were stopped. Classics were played and the red carpet was sprung out, an aura of vintage feeling spread the theatre. As George Lamb and Caryn Franklin appeared to introduce the show the silence was interrupted by girls screaming.

The forty five minute show was based around movie genres ranging from the classic, slick James Bond to cowboy shenanigans. Each part of the show was themed to represent today's fashion whether it be Preppy, Geek Chic or Fairy Tale Couture, it was highlighting young designers such as Asyong Choi. The audience was entranced with the music from Injustice who was typically an up-and-coming boy band. Their music set what was going to be experienced, unforgettable! The lights dimmed and the cameras were ready, the first theme was James Bond which was introduced with some spectacular dancing in which the clothes were classy casual, featuring high waisted pants, oversized jackets, grey knits, leather and winter hats. This rolled over into the next collection which revolved around the High school theme, full of Preppy Chic by up and coming designer Lucinda Ailes.

Each collection made the audience feel part of the show and left them wanting to have the clothes they were wearing. The Clothes Show, now in its 22nd year, is completely unique from any other show; it is not only shows clothes from the high street but showcases mesmerising dance moves and music that will make you want to get out your seat and dance. The Clothes Show is an ultimate girls' day out; it isn't just a fashion show, it's a show that will entertain, inspire and excite you from start to finish. A ticket for London Fashion week is much sought after, but a ticket for the Clothes Show is the hottest accessory in any girl's handbag.

By Olivia Bence



THE  
**X**  
FACTOR





It has now become a tradition that heralds the end of term (or almost) at KGS, our extravaganza of talent at our annual charity show. This year it was the turn of X Factor. Following the roaring success of our shows over recent years, our hopes were high as we embarked on our auditions. We were not disappointed. As always, we were delighted and amazed at the array of talent on offer. A short list was drawn up and, as always we had very little time to get the show together.

The day of the concert dawned and sound checks completed, ably assisted by Mr Duncan and Sam Fuentes Moreno. We were lucky to have many offers of help for Mr Rushton behind the scenes, for which we were most grateful. Mr Taylor took on the role as our host for the second year running, assisted by Ben Jones. They kept the whole show running smoothly and kept the audience involved.

Joe, Gus and Oli from the Fifth Form opened the show with a fantastic performance of 'Are You Gonna Be My Girl'. This set the scene for a most entertaining show. The quality of talent really was astounding. There were several performances from the girls of KGS, including Molly Kerrane, Tiffany Toomey, Chloe Walker, Lottie Bell and Gemma Broomhead. Sequoia Des Etage accompanied both her sister Savannah and also her friend Sophie Coplestone in two separate performances on the piano. Steph Ashcroft played the guitar and sang 'Cape Canaveral', whilst Carolyn Evans was accompanied by Joe Edge on the electric guitar.

First Year group 'Her' performed 'Forget You', and Third Year group 'Too Much Talent' sang and danced to 'Proud Mary'. Performances from the boys were rather fewer than the girls but they certainly didn't want to be outdone. We enjoyed a very entertaining and popular performance from Elliot Turnock who was accompanied by Bradley Johnson on the electric guitar as he sang Queen's 'Who Wants to Live Forever?' Grady Rawlinson sang 'Shenandoah' beautifully, whilst Robert Wallace accompanied himself on the piano and sang 'Yellow'. Joe Martin made a second performance of the afternoon with a performance of the Michael Buble number 'All I Can Do is Dream of You'. The whole school enjoyed the performance which took up most of the afternoon. It is such a worthwhile event with so many pupils from across the school involved in so many different ways. The Headmaster announced the winners in final assembly on the last day of term. Runners up were Molly Kerrane who sang 'Take a Bow' and also Elliot Turnock and Bradley Johnson. The winners were Sequoia Des Etage and Sophie Coplestone who were simply brilliant performing 'Empire State of Mind'. Worthy winners indeed and chosen by the pupils themselves.

X Factor 2010 was another resounding success. The Charity Committee would like to thank all of the people involved both on and off stage. We very much look forward to KGS Has Talent 2011.





# Lessons in Music

Individual music lessons make up a large part of the weekly work in the Music Department, with well over a hundred pupils receiving lessons in everything from piano to singing and violin to trombone. Nine peripatetic music teachers give tuition to all grades from beginners to Grade 8 and we greatly value the contribution made to the work of the KGS Music Department by these musicians. The teachers enter pupils for examinations and each term the school is a centre for practical examinations of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM). Singers are also entered for Music Theatre examinations, with guitarists and drummers being entered for Rock School examinations.

It was good, on our return to school in September 2010, to be able to award certificates to fourteen pupils who had taken examinations late in the Summer Term. A further twenty two entered for exams in December 2010 and the results were amongst the best achieved by KGS pupils, with thirteen pupils passing with Merit (more than 120 marks out of a total of 150) and three passing with Distinction, attaining over 130 out of 150. To gain a Distinction in any ABRSM examination is a great achievement. There were many excellent results in the higher grades, with both Jodie Hope (clarinet) and Aimee Bilsborrow (oboe) passing Grade 6 with Merit. Julian Shield (trumpet), Todd Davies (violin) and Ben Anderson (cornet) were awarded Distinctions and Merit respectively at Grade 5. Particular congratulations go to Gemma Broomhead who achieved an excellent Merit in Grade 8 Singing. Grade 8 is the final stage of a path which starts with the Prep Test and Grade 1 and is the culmination of a long period of sustained practice and dedication. The higher grades (6 to 8) are also important in that pupils gaining the higher marks accrue UCAS points against future university entrance.





## My Lord, what a show!

KGS actors showcased Shakespeare before ladies and lords when they were invited to perform at the Palace of Westminster. Our students were astonished when they were asked to show their production of A Midsummer Night's Dream at the House of Lords.

The cast of 30 2nd and 3rd year pupils had performed the themed comedy at Preston's Charter Theatre as part of the national Shakespeare Schools' Festival. More than 550 schools take part in the annual event which encourages schools to look for new ways to interpret the work of the world famous playwright.

But judges were so impressed with the magic of KGS sprinkled over the audience, they invited them to perform in front of some of the country's most influential peers.

Ms Barrie, head of drama at KGS said " I was utterly shocked when I got the phone call inviting the group to perform but probably not as shocked as the pupils. "They were nervous but did a fantastic job and had a wonderful experience, one few of them will likely forget. It was an inventive and comic performance which closed the show and literally brought the house down" George Shuttleworth was an excellent Bottom and got lots of laughs by acting up and trying to sit on the knees of the audience.

KGS was one of five schools in the country invited to perform a small section of the show working with a special school as part of a special montage of the festival's highlights.

KGS's drama staff had worked with the pupils to give a more contemporary twist with characters given a 1950's cross dressing makeover and Titania The Queen of the Fairies had a sassy, musical band of followers who performed a ballet inspired dance.







# CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

## Debating Society

The Debating Society took part in the Cambridge Union Debating Competition at St Francis Xavier's College on Friday evening, 12 November 2010. The team of Alex Edge and Jodie Gaston-Ross, on their first outing, performed very well against strong experienced opposition and came second in their room, gaining special commendation from the judge.

## Public Speaking

The Annual Rotary Public Speaking Competition, 'Youth Speaks', took place on the 17 November in the Assembly Rooms at Lytham. Members of the Senior Public Speaking Group took part in the competition and once again they proved successful. The students representing KGS were: Lucy Fielding who acted as Chairperson, Gemma Coleman who gave the Vote of Thanks and Jodi Gaston-Ross who spoke on the 'History of the English Language'. Their confident intelligent presentations reflected their meticulous research and hard work in preparation for the event. On the night of the competition their performances were practically flawless. KGS is proud of their success. Both Jodi and Gemma are new to the team and must be congratulated on their success. Lucy Fielding, on the other hand, has represented KGS on many occasions at Public Speaking events and the team will miss her next year. We will miss her enthusiasm and willingness to get involved. As a result of the team's many successes over the years KGS have now started a Junior Public Speaking Group in the school and this is growing in numbers weakly.

Photographs on this page are from the annual Clubs and Societies Fayre where pupils signed up for their chosen activity.



Since September over 70 of our fourth year have enrolled on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme at Bronze level. Many have nearly completed their Physical, Skill and Volunteering sections and are preparing for their expedition during the Easter break. A large number of fifth and sixth formers are also working towards their Awards at various levels; and the new eDOE record system, although another challenge for many, does not seem to be deterring completion rates.

Since the last newsletter Mr Callister has run four expeditions. One to the South Lakes area last June, which was immediately followed by one to the Yorkshire Dales; both of these were for Bronze and Silver groups. A Gold expedition to Snowdonia in mid-August for 2 groups of sixth formers was very much enjoyed by all concerned. Both groups completed their demanding routes, but one group seemed to have more success with a map than the other. A report from the less successful map reading group is below:

Barely able to stand straight with the weight of our bags on our back, our group got off the bus full of optimism because we were finally on the last bit of the prestigious Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award! After all, we had spent a number of years working up to this, so it couldn't be that hard. How wrong we were!

Wanting to be put through their paces Jordan, our team leader, and Ben had managed to find our group the most treacherous and hilly route possible. This was shown by the fact that our teachers repeatedly asked, "Is this really the route you want to do?" but in a group with just two girls and four boys it seemed that yes, we did want to do the hardest route possible!

After having had quite a good sleep in our tent, we woke up at around 7am only to be greeted by lashings of rain and several thousand midges. They somehow managed to get everywhere and by the end of the expedition I had bites on my neck, face, arms, legs, everywhere!

Setting off at a quick pace, the group managed to cover a lot of ground in the first two hours. Whilst stopping for a break the girls thought it would be a good idea to check the map and see how far we had travelled and how far we had left to go. It was looking great, until none of the map seemed to match up to where we were sat. Turning the map around (the right way!) we saw that whilst yes we had covered great ground, we had covered it in the completely wrong direction! With having wasted two hours of the day already and with

two hours to get us back to where we had started from we had a long day ahead of us. Finally arriving at the second campsite, it was almost dark and we were starving, having barely had time to stop for lunch.

If we thought our bags would be lighter the next day after eating some of our food, we thought wrong. The incredible amount of water that managed to fall from the sky that day seemed to be aiming straight for us, and our bags for that matter, so when we finally arrived at our third campsite we got to enjoy sharing our tent with a large amount of wet clothing hanging right next to us! The lack of space in the tents, along with having much more energy thanks to not getting lost, seemed to bring our group together. Gathered around a Trangia, we set up dinner.

Waking up the next day, we had a hard, but simple to follow route, which took us down Devils Kitchen. Due to the difficulties of climbing down an almost vertical drop with HUGE rucksacks on our backs we decided to put a couple of spaces between each member of the group whilst still sticking together, which in effect was probably the best idea. Whilst still being able to talk and give encouragement, we were far enough away to allow full concentration on the task in hand. At the bottom of Devils Kitchen the group was in great spirits and on we plodded, but this time with a slight bound in our step as we were all pretty impressed with ourselves for what we had just done.

When we finally arrived that night, our group was doing a wild camp in a small cottage built specifically for walkers, so no need to put up the tents. Or so we thought! The boys once again had to do it the hard way and decided they would put their tent up and sleep outside. Leaving them to it, we (the girls) went straight to sleep.

At last, it was the final day! Waking up bright and early, the girls were ready with plenty of time to spare. Although, to be honest that meant absolutely nothing, as when we were dressed and ready, the boys hadn't even woken up yet. When we set off we were so happy that it was almost over. Once again we got lost, (never again will I let a man navigate!) and so we arrived one and a half hours late. We hadn't even stopped for lunch, so we were very excited to be able to go and buy some food from a local shop. They were all shut. So that night we climbed on the bus exhausted and starving. Never have, and never will, any of us be so grateful to go home again!

A huge thank you to Mr Callister and Miss

Knight (now Cannell) for all their help and encouragement with the expedition. Victoria Rowe U6th

The most recent expedition took place during October half-term. Five groups, working towards either their Bronze or Silver Awards, enjoyed the Keswick scenery and hills, and completed their routes wet, tired and muddy but happy.

On all the above expeditions the participants were a credit to themselves and to the school, showing great team spirit and determination. Their talents, time and efforts have been rewarded and we congratulate the following on their achievements:

### Bronze Award

Sherriden Wells  
Rachel Naughton  
Lydia Gascoigne  
Alex Kearsley  
Andrew Best  
Jonathan Box  
Jonathan Smith  
Lewis Holden  
Jonathan Pickbourn  
Jordan Nelson  
Precious Nwaokomah  
Stuart Spencer  
David Seaman  
John Massey  
Celia Hindley  
Oliver Rowlands

### Silver Award

Gemma Coleman  
Rachel Naughton  
Jonathan Pickbourn  
Sarah Quarmby  
Jake Wilson  
Emily Bourne  
Stuart Spencer  
Jacob Lewis-Leeson  
Vincent Grumme  
Sam Donaldson  
Jack Ingham

### Gold Award

Lucy Fielding  
Alex Lister  
Michael Bennett

Good luck to all those going on expedition at Easter and many thanks to all the staff who make the expeditions happen.

1stXV

# interHouse events

Last year was another intense but enjoyable year in the House system with the winners of the Whitby Cup, Fylde House, only gaining the victory in the final week of the summer term. Preston House had pushed them all the way and it is a credit to the competitive nature of the pupils that it was such an exciting finale. So, as we returned in the autumn term we had to ask 'Which House can stop Fylde winning this year?'

With trepidation the junior members of the houses started the proceedings and the quiz competition was the first event for the year 2010-11. Kirkham House were the inaugural victors of the updated version which included new buzzers and a new quizmaster, Mrs Parkinson. The competition was thoroughly enjoyed by an enthusiastic group of pupils.

The Chess Tournament also had a new look, with a shorter, quicker, almost a

Backgagan style of contest supervised by Grandmaster Melling. Preston, started on the offensive, and with an attack minded strategy, won the tournament convincingly.

The netball and volleyball competitions were much more traditional in nature and highlighted that 'if you wanted to be successful' you needed a positive team spirit; Fylde winning the netball and Preston the volleyball.

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. For instance, in the final relay, Preston senior boys were in the lead and only had to finish the race to win the gala. However, Ben Jones dove in first, losing his swimming shorts; luckily he also had some trunks on underneath and was not perturbed by the mishap, he carried on swimming and Preston came first.

Winners for the Autumn Term 2010

Senior Basketball	Fylde
Intermediate Basketball	Fylde
Junior Quiz	Kirkham
Senior Quiz	Fylde
Chess	Preston
Senior Netball	Fylde
Senior Volleyball	Preston
Swimming	Preston

Overall Standings for the Autumn Term 2010

4th position with 17 points	School
2nd position with 23 points	Kirkham/Preston
1st position with 29 points	Fylde

So, a third of the way through the year, we are still asking the question, 'Who can take the Whitby Cup away from Fylde? Will it be School, Kirkham or Preston?'

## FRIENDS



By the time you are reading this report, the mornings and evenings may be getting a little lighter and hopefully spring will be on its way. When we begin a New Year, we also look back on previous months with happy memories. This is certainly true with the Friends of Kirkham Grammar. From the start of term in September 2010 we were busy planning our exciting events.

We were delighted to be asked by Silverdell of Kirkham to host two celebrity book signings. Our first author was Sir Michael Caine (photo above) and the MPH was filled to capacity. There was great excitement when a helicopter landed on the rugby pitch and the Hollywood actor alighted to spontaneous applause from pupils, parents, friends and delighted fans. This was followed a month later by Sir Michael Parkinson, who gave a wonderful insight into his privileged life, meeting and interviewing such a variety of film



stars, sportsmen, musicians etc. We would like to thank Silverdell for this fantastic opportunity and hope we may be able to work with them again in the near future.

The Winter Ball (photo above) in November was once again held at Ribby Hall, although it could have been Las Vegas! In the beautiful Woodland Suite we were wined, dined and entertained before trying our luck on the Casino tables. Over 200 parents and friends attended and we were very pleased to have raised over £5,000 at this event.

Father Christmas once again visited our Christmas Fair held in the MPH in December. Although the weather was not at its best, a huge thanks to all parents and children who kindly supported us and got into the festive spirit with our stalls and attractions. Attendance was slightly down from previous years but we were delighted to raise £2,500.

Many thanks to the team of ladies who spent hours in the weeks running up to the Fair, wrapping presents and prizes in the Reed Room.

The ever popular Ladies Lunch group met at Singleton Lodge for our December meeting. This is always a chance to meet up with old friends and make new ones, whilst enjoying a delicious 3 course lunch. The room looked beautiful and the afternoon passed very quickly. It was extremely difficult leaving the warmth of the log fires to collect our children from school. We are planning our spring lunch sometime in March, so please look out for this date.

Finally, I wish you all a belated Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you at some of the Friends events in 2011.

Lorraine Wareing  
Chairman

## County Honours

A number of KGS pupils have celebrated receiving their County rugby kit, in the U18, U17, U16 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 U16** (photo above right)

Matthew Beaty, Ben Rhodes-Powers, Ben Swift, Luke Woodward and Ryan Wilkinson

**Lancashire U17 and U18** (photo above left)

Matthew Ellis, Jon Evans, Christopher Kohler, Sam Peet, Charles Swarbrick, Michael Simmons, Elliott Crowe, John Windle, Tom Hurst and Sam Hall.

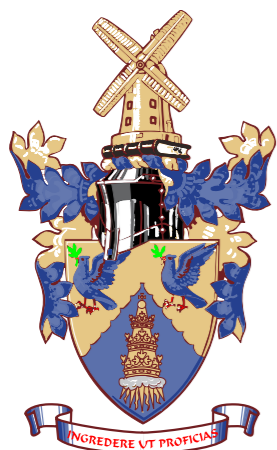
**Lancashire U15** (photo above left)

Lewis Leech

**Cheshire U18** (photo above left)

Phil Cringle

KGS also celebrated the selection of past captain (2007-8) Richard de Carpentier's selection for the World Games Sevens Squad representing Great Britain Students. Recently he has been selected for the English Students side to play against French students in late February.





A group of KGS students, inspired by their time in the CCF, their respect for the armed forces and looking for a challenge for their next DoE Award, took it upon themselves to organise and complete a coast to coast bike ride in aid of the very worthy cause of Help the Heroes. We are delighted to hear they all completed the bike ride in one piece and have raised a huge amount of money in the process. An account of their experiences is below:

On 28 of October a group of KGS pupils navigated, badly at times, the arduous coast to coast bike ride over the scenic hills of the Lake District through county Durham, up and over the Pennines and through to Sunderland. 150 miles in total!

It all started on a rainy Friday morning when, after a hearty full English breakfast, we set off from a windy jetty in Whitehaven with our back wheels dipped in the water (as tradition dictates). Within the first two miles we had realised that we had gravely underestimated the difficulty of this task: I managed to have a bike which refused to change gears, we mistakenly headed North instead of East and Will Fleuriot was sick into a bush!

Our success on the first day continued in this vain as we had numerous punctures and gale force winds as well as massive steep hills which halted our progress to almost a crawl. We took the wrong turn near Keswick and ended up 17 miles off course. We would still be there if it wasn't for a caring local in an amusing hat who rescued us.

The second day began much better even though we started by cycling up to the top of the dreaded Alston Moor. The views were spectacular and we could see how far we had already come. The day had gone far too smoothly, so right on cue Rhys' wheel fell off. We also discovered on that day that I was terrible at going round corners, Marcus was invincible in his concrete helmet, Tom and Harry were mental, Will Roper loved the tracks, Will Fleuriot was cheeky enough to grab the support van to drag him uphill and finally Rhys' "Granite Giant" was a beautiful bike that seemed to be actually made from the material it's name suggests.

We ended this tiring but successful day with a curry at a local restaurant! Even this was eventful as Marcus was nearly murdered as he was accused of stealing the majority of the chicken.

As our final day began we were full of anticipation and excitement. We set off on the flat but bumpy road and were soon on off-road tracks speeding along at 24mph. This was rather scary off-road and it wasn't helped when Marcus and Will Fleuriot took a different path and ended up 5 miles ahead of us at the Stadium of Light. We met up again and finished the route in emphatic style by cycling onto the beach. This resulted in many falls and skids. We dipped the front wheel in the North Sea and ended our epic journey with some fish and chips.

A special thanks goes to Lindsay, (Tom's Dad), who was driving our support vehicle and provided us with many laughs at Marcus' expense, and also to Cally, (Harry's Dad) who helped us navigate when our attempt went dreadfully wrong. We really couldn't have done it without you both and you have all of our thanks!

We have raised around £2000 and will be collecting this all hopefully before Christmas! Help for Heroes is a great charity and we would encourage others to help them out!

Written by Jack Ingham

Members of the fundraiser- Marcus Eaton, Tom Hurst, Harry Moulding, William Fleuriot, William Roper, Rhys Williams and Jack Ingham



# HOCKEY

## 2010-2011

### Junior Hockey Tour York 2010

On Tuesday 19 October, 31 pupils (made up of U13 and U14 hockey squads) left KGS to embark on a three day tour to York. We were to follow a packed itinerary taking in a number of York's famous landmarks as well as playing hockey matches against some top York Schools.

Our first stop en-route to our hotel was an hour's coaching at St Peter's School taken by Bob Maltby, the junior coach at York Hockey Club. We practised a few dodging techniques before focussing on shooting including the taking of penalty strokes. This was a great start to the tour and helped to expend some energy before we checked into the Ace Hotel, in the Micklegate District of York.

The next morning, after a hearty breakfast, we walked to York's Dungeons. We had a brief city tour learning some of the grim history associated with Clifford's Tower and the Magistrates' Court before our 1 ¼ hour "tour" of the dungeons. Our nerves were tested to the hilt as round every dark corner lurked some nasty surprise. For all of us, it was an experience we wouldn't forget.

Jess O'Neill writes, "My most memorable moment was in the Dungeons. Despite being so SCARED I enjoyed every moment!" We all felt a sense of relief and exhilaration once we arrived in the gift shop at the end, knowing we had survived the experiences of torture, witchcraft, the Black Death and the executioner's tales.

With adrenalin pumping we headed for our first matches against St Peter's School. Both the U13s and U14s played some super hockey winning both matches 1-0 and 2-0 respectively. Cundall Manor, who had recently beaten St Peter's, also arrived to play us. We put out a combined U13 and U14 side taking victory again with a 2-0 win. Grace Reddy was proving to be the leading goal scorer even from this early stage scoring four of the five goals. Nicole Thompson was the goal scorer in the U13 game.

After our matches, we enjoyed the hospitality of St Peter's before heading back to the hotel for a brief rest. That evening we watched 'Despicable Me' at the cinema. "It was very funny and an excellent film. I would recommend it to anyone!" Annalise Hughes. Others remembered the cinema for different reasons, namely the food. "Fiona and I both got these massive chocolate sundae ice-creams with chocolate sauce which I managed to get all round my mouth!" Helena Dale-Martin.

On Thursday 21 October we visited the Yorvik Viking Centre (photo right) before three hours of retail therapy in the beautiful city of York. This was a favourite with many of the girls who quickly spent the remainder of their pocket money. We then headed off to Pocklington School. With two astro-turf pitches, both matches were played at the same time. The standard of hockey was high and both age groups couldn't relax their game for a moment. However, with some great teamwork both teams won. The U14s 2-0 and the U13s 1-0.

Caroline Paley who played in the U14s defence said, "My favourite part of the hockey was standing as defence watching the ball being played into the goal by the forwards and rarely coming to me!"

After being warmly hosted by Pocklington, we returned to our hotel where we quickly changed into our Halloween costumes before embarking on a ghost walk around York. We heard about some of the gruesome events that had happened and acted out some scenes ourselves.

Isabel Ritson recalls one of her most memorable moments being when "Lucy Meagh was pretending to be the 'Grey Lady' moving between the bushes on the Ghost Walk". After we returned from our frightful experiences, we settled down to some Bingo in the hotel before collapsing into bed after another eventful day.

Our final morning was spent at Water World. This consisted of 1½ hours of water slides and waves. Megan Hall thought "the water park was the best because everyone was laughing and having fun".

The tour was a great success. The pupils were a credit to the school and were a pleasure to take away. Eliza Parr, the captain of the U13 team sums it up well;- "We were really pleased because we had won all our games on tour and also had great fun doing things like: the scary York Dungeons, cinema, shopping, Ghost Walk and Water World. We all had a great time, played really well and tried our best".

### FANCY DRESS CHRISTMAS HOCKEY!!!

The freezing weather certainly stopped the KGS girls from playing their last couple of matches, but, it didn't stop the girls from having some Christmas fun. On Monday 13 December we held our annual Christmas Fancy Dress Hockey Play for all age groups. It is a great way to end the term and it is an ideal way to get the younger players mixing and playing with the older girls. The atmosphere is always fun-filled as the girls giggle and holler for two hours solid. This year the 1st X1 dressed as Christmas crackers, once again to ensure that we restricted their movement completely and the 2nd X1 were Santa. In addition to this we had a Christmas dinner, snowmen (photo bottom right) and fairies. The atmosphere was certainly festive! What a wonderful way to end the term with the overwhelming sound of laughter on the astroturf.

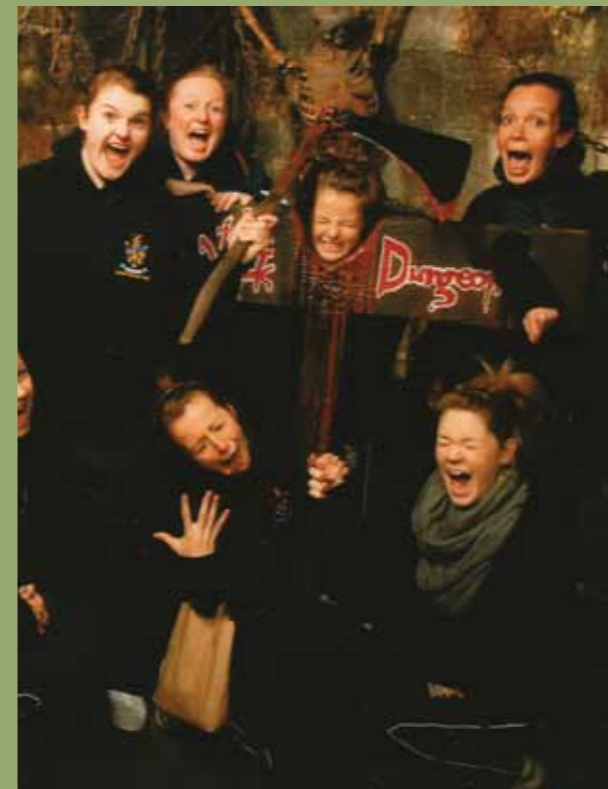
After this the senior girls had their annual Christmas Chinese Banquet at the Ming Dynasty in Preston. Hockey at KGS is not just about training and playing matches, it is about enjoying each other's company off the pitch too. This is something we do regularly throughout the season with team building social nights and team meals. The girls and staff had a lovely evening, eating, chatting and really enjoying each other's company. KGS is about the whole package, the girls are not just positions or numbers on shirts they are 'our girls' both on and off the pitch and we have a real loyalty and bond to each other. To end the term with a festive gathering was a perfect way to finish!



1stXI



2ndXI







It is some years since our sports programme has been so severely disrupted by the weather. It is so frustrating for everybody when preparing for fixtures only to find them called off, often late owing to rapid changes in weather. We are grateful for the patience of all our parents in their response to decisions which have had to be made regarding fixtures - either by ourselves or other schools. Despite all the disruption our students have retained their commitment and recorded many successes.

On the hockey field pride of place at this stage goes to the U16 squad who battled through to the Regional Finals of the National Competition, finishing a highly commendable third. The girls played with real spirit to reach this stage and were only defeated by a very talented Wakefield side. The 1st XI did not

enjoy good fortunes losing a place in the Regional Finals only on goal difference after an ice affected competition. A heartbreaking exit for a team with such potential. I have no doubt they will bounce back in their competitions this term. In the Junior age groups competition remains fierce whenever the ice relents. The girls have also fought through the weather in their netball fixtures. Regular league games, when possible, have seen a stream of good performances and all the teams have continued the development in this sport. We look forward to the outcome of competitions through the remainder of the year.

In the rugby sphere the school has continued to field eleven teams as regularly as we can. We have been thwarted in this unfortunately by the weather and by opposition often calling off B team fixtures late. We remain

committed to affording as many opportunities as possible for pupils to represent the school and commend all those who have trained so well in this pursuit. Our junior teams have all been competing in the County Cup Competitions with both the Under 13 XV and Under 15 XV teams beyond the Quarter Final stage. Competition at this level is strong however and the Under 13 XV's (photo below) met their match in the semi-final encounter with Lancaster Royal Grammar School. At senior level the 1st XV competed in the Western League for the first time recording victories over Colston's and Bromsgrove but defeats, albeit narrow, against Sedbergh and Millfield. Both senior teams have engaged some excellent performances in a demanding schedule while the Under 16 XV's have progressed well in both the Floodlit and County Cups.

It is pleasing to see the breadth of our sporting provision continue to extend and our swimmers have had a highly successful season - pleasingly unhindered by the weather! The fixtures and galas have provided some good competition and it has been encouraging to see the number of pupils participating. Results have continued to improve and the junior teams are now very strong indeed. Similarly the Cross Country teams recently met with conspicuous success in the District Competition. Lucy Keelan, Jake Longstaff, Bradley Yates and Ben Everson all won their individual age group competition while the Under 12 girls and Under 14 boys were team champions. Further success was recorded at County level where Jake Lonsdale was 2nd, Lucy Keelan 7th, Bradley Yates 2nd and Imogen Pierce 4th. Jack Bruce and Oliver Crankshaw also competed well while Ben Everson unfortunately had to drop out ill.

While our Cross Country runners have battled with the winter weather it is important to record here the achievements of three of our athletes last summer. Rachel Williamson, Ben Everson and Daniel Jones (photo left) were all invited to represent their County at the All England Athletics Finals where they all performed to a very high standard. In finishing second Rachel was then invited to represent her country in her event the Triple Jump. A high honour indeed! (Photo left).

The volleyball teams continue to perform in the local leagues each Monday evening while school played basketball fixtures last term which was another addition to the schedule. Certainly these indoor events have provided welcome activity while the weather has been so fiercely against us. We now look forward to the culmination of the winter season and the onset of summer with some eagerness!

