

THE KIRKHAMIAN

KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



KIRKHAM
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2019



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GRAMMAR SCHOOL

As we celebrate all of the achievements of our pupils, it is noticeable that sport and co-curricular activities have long been the bed rock of a KGS education. This aspect of school life is possibly one area of independent education that continues to thrive and produce such well-rounded individuals. KGS has a long history of sporting excellence and of promoting a wide range of co-curricular activities because we value and invest time in them. Having experienced Headship in both state and independent schools, the area of additional opportunities is one of many areas that clearly stands out.

Sport has always been an important focus for independent schools and this has been supported at KGS with significant success at local, national and international level. Further complimenting this has been the plethora of awards achieved by students in music, drama and DofE. In fact, all aspects of co-curricular activities demonstrate success across many areas of school life and beyond. KGS is not the place to come for a quiet life - it is the opposite! Yet this enables us to 'educate the whole child' and celebrate the talent in all children.

It is this spirit and continued philosophy that has seen all of the KGS community share a common pride in our school as we continue to cherish the tradition of a warm, friendly and cheerful close-knit community, where each individual feels secure, is valued and team spirit is fostered.

Ingredere Ut Proficias

Derry

HEADMASTER'S ANNUAL REVIEW

LOWER SCHOOL SPEECH DAY 2019

The impact that independent education has on the British education system and our pupils' economic success is significant on making high quality schooling a choice for many, alongside schools that support the needs of a community and ultimately a child. Quite apart from the 275,700 jobs provided by independent schools as local employers and the places for 600,000 children, who have no additional cost to the state, I can confidently state that the independent sector continues to support more pupils from a wider variety of background, transforms communities and life experiences. We continue to offer a diverse education across Britain to ensure failure is no longer entrenched in today's society. Many independent schools are at the heart of local communities, cultural life and, as a result, give back, in unquantifiable terms, so much more. As we enter a brave new era of British independence, we should look more towards what unites us in education than what divides us.

MATHEMATICS SUCCESS

The Intermediate UKMT National Mathematics Challenge undertaken by Fourth Year set one mathematics pupils delivered six Bronze Awards and six Silver Awards. On the Junior UKMT National Challenge completed by Second Year Set 1 mathematics pupils there were 8 Bronze Awards and 6 Silver Awards.

The joint Second and Third Year Team Challenge was held at Lancaster RGS and involved around twenty five schools from the county. The KGS team achieved the school's best result on record, being placed third overall.

The Fourth Year pupils attended six Mathematics Masterclasses at Lancaster University on Saturday mornings in the Spring Term. This was a fantastic opportunity and enabled the pupils to gain numerical skills above and beyond the curriculum, whilst mixing with many of the best young mathematicians in the North West of England.

ENGLISH SUCCESS

It has been another busy year for the English Department. Numerous poetry competitions have been entered by pupils from all year groups and we await the results of the prestigious Poetry Society's Foyle award with eager anticipation. A significant number of our pupils entered the BBC Radio 2 five hundred word creative writing competition. A group of Third Year pupils volunteered to review a large number of books for the 'Book of the Year' award in liaison with the Library. Pupils will be involved in the final judging at County Hall and the winner will be revealed at the University of Central Lancashire in July. And once again we are proud that a number of our pupils have beaten competition from across the country to have their writing published in the annual Young Writers publication.

A number of pupils were fortunate to take part in the BBC Young Reporter project. They enjoyed a day at Media City in Salford Quays where they learned about fake news, how to become a broadcast journalist and how to use new technology in a Blue Room. On the day itself, the pupils wrote, filmed and edited their own stories on tablets and these were uploaded to the BBC.

The entire First Year went to the Lowry Theatre in December to see Doctor Dolittle and enjoyed an inventive production just before the end of term. In the Spring Term half of the Fourth Year

visited The Grand Theatre to watch Romeo and Juliet. Their behaviour was exemplary and the performance helped to cement understanding of the text, ready for their Shakespeare assessment.



MUSIC SUCCESS

Another successful year in the Kirkham Grammar Music Department. So many of our First to Fourth Years have participated in many events, the Christmas Carol Service, Christmas Concert, Founder's Day, Spring Concert and House Music.

The Gala Concert in late March gave an invited audience the opportunity to hear the winners and items from the final. It was a truly wonderful evening with outstanding contributions from all performers, many of them in the younger years, in the rather more relaxed environment of a concert. With talent like this, KGS music is clearly producing some of the highest standards of music making in the northwest and it continues to be a beacon of excellence in traditional instrumental and vocal performance.

A special highlight for many of the pupils this year was a first for the Kirkham Grammar School Choir, a performance of the mighty Elijah by Mendelssohn alongside Lytham St Anne's Choral Society and the Orchestra in late March in the Summerlee Hall to a sold out audience, directed by Miss Helen Harrison. What a thrilling concert it was and the younger members of the choir did an amazing job. The choir should be so very proud of the immense amount of effort and work they put into this performance, a real evening to remember!

This year saw the addition of a new concert evening. It featured many of the First to Fourth Year singers. They delighted a large audience with a varied repertoire that sent the crowd home with much to savour. This looks like becoming a permanent fixture on our calendar.

Further successes: - Two pupils have been awarded a place at the Junior Royal Northern College of Music, where pupils attend every Saturday to further their musical education. This is a great achievement! Four more are members of the Lancashire Youth Symphony Orchestra and will be going on tour in the not too distant future.

We saw many successes in the Lytham St Anne's Festival of music and performing arts in March, with lots of winners coming from Kirkham Grammar.

GIRLS' SPORT

It has been another extremely successful year for Girls' Sport at KGS. The girls have competed in a variety of sports including hockey, swimming, netball, cross country, athletics and tennis.

HOCKEY

In hockey KGS cleared up at the Lancashire Hockey Championships with nearly all age groups being crowned champions in the 11

aside game. The U12 A and B squads narrowly missed out on the trophies this year and finished runners up after an extremely successful season. On the national front our U14 squad progressed to the regional finals but fell short in their hopes of qualification into 2019 national finals.

A large number of pupils were selected for the England Hockey Junior Academy Centres in a variety of age groups whilst some went on to the Junior Regional Performance Centres.

We must congratulate two U14 pupils on their selection into the England Hockey Performance Centre, which works towards their potential selection into the Futures Cup Competition.

The Junior players enjoyed a very successful Tour to Valkenburg, Holland in February half term and our Senior players look forward to a tour to Barbados this coming spring.

SWIMMING

In the pool several swimmers competed against Westholme, QEGS, St Edward's College and Hutton Grammar and in the prestigious Stanley Cook Trophy hosted by QEGS Blackburn.

NETBALL

The U12 netball squads have played locally this season against QEGS, Ripley St Thomas and Westholme in friendly fixtures. They have worked hard during training to work towards the U12/13 VII combined SMH Tournament where they finished as runners-up.

CROSS COUNTRY

At the SMH Invitational Championships, both the U12 and U13 teams were crowned champions taking away the gold medals.

Several runners represented the Fylde at Witton Park leading to selection into the county team. Performances to note under very tough conditions.

ATHLETICS

In the Fylde Coast Athletics Championships the girls continued their winning ways with victories in the U13, U14 and U17 age groups. The U15 squad finished runners-up.

In the Regional 'A' Finals, the girls performed well on both the track and in the field. The junior girls scored a very impressive 400 points which secured their place in the ESAA National Athletics Finals in Chelmsford in July.

The inter girls also performed well and finished a creditable 11th place overall in the region.

Junior and inter girls teams were crowned Lancashire Champions in the 2019 ESAA Track and Field Cup. This lead to both teams qualifying for the Regional 'A' Finals in June.

Several pupils represented their club, the Fylde & Wyre team and Lancashire. The girls produced some outstanding individual results on both the track and in the field.

Performance of the season though, must go to Darcey Lonsdale who qualified for the New Balance ESAA English Schools' Championships (July 2018) in the 800M event and has achieved a 2019 'seasons best' so far of 2.09.87 at the Trafford AC Grand Prix Open in May which ranks her third in the UK.

TENNIS

The U13 and U15 teams competed in the AEGON National Tennis Championships. The competition consists of both singles and doubles matches which accumulate points within a league system. Unfortunately this year, the girls have not progressed beyond the county rounds but have enjoyed some excellent tennis.

Special recognition should go to Ella McDonald who was selected into the GB Tennis squad – we look forward to following Ella's journey.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

The Design and Technology department have had a great year starting on the back of excellent GCSE and A Level results. Lower school pupils are enjoying the new schemes of work and producing exceptional projects showing great hand skills as well as intelligent use of CAD/CAM.

Young Engineers have the highest recorded numbers attending. They have thoroughly enjoyed the extra enrichment activities. The Third Year pupils enjoyed a super trip around Jaguar/Land Rover where they could see robots and skilled people building vehicles. They also visited the design office where they could see Computer Aided Design (CAD) in action.

The Young Engineers attended the Rotary/BAE competition and won the Beginners and Advanced section.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

This academic year, over eighty of our Third Year pupils have signed up to start their Bronze DofE Award and are currently working hard on their volunteering, physical and skills sections. We are delighted to hear that many have found volunteering opportunities that they are not only learning new skills from, but that they are thoroughly enjoying and finding very rewarding. The Third Year end of year trip to the Lake District combines outdoor pursuits with a practice for DofE and our Third Year really impressed with their attitude and camaraderie. We are sure they will thoroughly enjoy their assessed expeditions in October.

Eighty six of our Fourth Year completed their Bronze expeditions last October and well over half of them have continued to their Silver Award. All the participants on the recent expeditions have really impressed with their teamwork, navigation skills and excellent behaviour at the campsites.

Our current Fifth Year have been working very hard on completing their Bronze and Silver Awards and a number have started their Gold Award and will be undertaking their residential section this summer.

Our current Lower Sixth Gold cohort are currently on their assessed expedition having completed a demanding practice expedition in April.

This year we have had twenty two pupils/alumni completing their Gold Awards. All will receive their awards at the Palace with six attending the recent awards ceremony at Buckingham Palace in May and five more off to Holyrood Palace this month.

As you can see from this very short, somewhat succinct account of life at KGS I am unsure how we can repeat and even better our previous best....but we will always try.



ENTER TO PROFIT across many different disciplines.

UPPER SCHOOL SPEECH DAY 2019

The Headmaster expressed a very warm welcome to our annual Senior School Speech Day and Prizegiving and especially to the guest speaker, Mark Wheatley.

Mark is a former old boy who survived the demands and trials of the Boarding House in a very different era to today. Mark was elected to represent the Ward of Dowgate in March 2013. He was born and brought up in Africa and took his secondary schooling at KGS before reading for a degree in History and Politics at Edinburgh University. He relocated to London in 1989 and started working in the City as a banker before moving into consultancy services. In the mid-1990s he joined Parkwell Management Consultancy, a firm which is based in the City and serves financial services clients. He is a Freeman of the Drapers' Company and lives in South East London with his family.

We started the academic year with the traditional whole school assembly and the theme for this was travel and how it can often be one of the best forms of education. This reminded me of tonight and all we are about to celebrate during the previous academic year. Although we do not technically go on holiday, we do go on a journey. It is this experience that makes an education at KGS so well rounded and best prepares our pupils for the real world. The skills and expertise that they will gather during the journey through KGS is incredibly rich, varied and rewarding. They really do 'Enter to Profit'.

As we celebrate the end of another successful academic year, it is important to remind all of us about the purpose and ethos of KGS. This is even more pertinent for the 2019 academic year as we celebrate two anniversaries. The first is the 470th year anniversary of the school and the second is the 40th anniversary of girls joining KGS.

This is never more evident than in the organisation known as the OKAs, which has been in official existence since 1919 according to the 1934 KGS Chronicle. However, the interest in Old Kirkhamians in their School was a living force long before any Association came into being. The OKA was formed for the purpose of concentrating that interest and to give a channel for such an organisation whereby it could find expression. It is an attempt to associate and bind together those old members of KGS who have one common aim and desire: to continue their association with the school and to do all in their power to further its best interests.

It is this spirit and continued philosophy that has seen all of the KGS community share a common pride in our school as we continue to cherish the tradition of a warm, friendly and cheerful close-knit community, where each individual feels secure and valued and team spirit is fostered.

This tradition and history clearly continues as

we move to this evenings awards and celebrate the previous year's successes:

The annual GCSE and A level results during August have once again witnessed whole school and individual successes. The overall A level results have demonstrated the best outcomes in the past five years with every category improving against the previous year. With more than 50% of the cohort achieving A*/A/B grades and more pupils attending leading universities. Once more, the number of pupils being able to move forward and begin the next exciting part of their futures is always the most pleasing outcome. At GCSE the results have also been just as pleasing. At both A*/A and GCSE pass rates the outcomes have been significantly higher than national averages once more.



In chemistry they achieved excellent A level results- 44% A*/A. Pupils now studying natural sciences, chemistry and engineering at top universities such as Oxford, Durham and Nottingham. Three pupils were entered for the Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad, a prestigious but very difficult examination and were all awarded silver medals (the highest we have ever attained).

Design Technology continues to be one of the fastest growing subjects. They have been selected as winners of the Advanced and Intermediate Sections at the Rotary Competition. And have undertaken visits to various Engineering Companies, CSM Fabrication & Jaguar Land Rover. Introduced 2 new A-levels and 100% pass rate. And continued to invest in CAM machinery in the department, including extra Laser Cutter and 3D Printer.

The academic year was very busy in the Geography Department starting off with pupils once again visiting the West Coast of the USA



during October half term. Led by Mrs Taylor, the trip, based in California, not only allowed pupils to see a wide range of different geographies, but afforded them a genuinely special trip. With San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas and The Grand Canyon on the itinerary, pupils and staff alike knew that they were visiting some amazing places. January then saw the department's first public lecture, held on a Saturday morning. Mr Whittle gave a talk about glaciers as part of what we hope will be a series of public lectures moving into the future in a bid to take life-long learning and subject specialism to a wider audience.

Latin has continued to prove it is far from a dead culture or language. KGS provided the 2019 Champion from the current Lower Sixth awarded by Prof Scott and Chair of LSA CA, Katrina Kelly. He also won the People's Choice award, voted for by members of the audience, and presented by the Mayor and Mayoress of Fylde. The challenge was 'to find your three favourite artefacts from the Ancient World poses a real challenge, with literally thousands of options. My chosen three are taken from across the Roman Empire and I hope will give you sense of our own local significance and how these artefacts have a lasting legacy in the modern world'.

In mathematics, the National Senior UKMT Mathematics Challenge involved all the Sixth Form mathematics pupils, with an array of Bronze, Silver and Gold awards achieved. A level results were outstanding with over half (55%) achieving one of the top 2 grades of A*/A and 80% achieved either A*/A/B, which far exceeds the national averages.

SENIOR SPORT HOCKEY

The First XI had a very successful season. Their fixture list was extended which included new opponents such as Royal Grammar School, Newcastle, Hymers College, Kirby Lonsdale and Kings Taunton. They enjoyed victories against most opponents. In the England Hockey competitions a change in the structure of competition for the U16 and U18 squads saw the First XI compete in a 'Super league' whilst the U16 XI competed in a knock out cup. The First XI reigned victorious against Altrincham GGS, Wakefield and Hymers College. Whilst the U16 XI progressed to the final stages of the National competition after defeating Sedbergh,



Altrincham, Withington Girls School and St Peters, York. The Second XI enjoyed several friendly fixtures and an annual trip to Millfield.

SWIMMING

In the pool several swimmers competed against many schools and in the prestigious Stanley Cook Trophy hosted by QEGS Blackburn. One pupil achieved regional qualification in the 400m, 800m and 1500M freestyle and the 400M. She has also qualified for the Open Water Regional and National Championships.

ATHLETICS

Amongst many successes one pupil went on to qualify for the English Schools Track and Field Championships in July at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham where she won the bronze medal.

RUGBY

The First XV had another successful season only losing three games, however the highlight of their season was winning the Colston's 7s and being runners up in the Sedbergh National 10s. The Headmaster's First XV won five out of eight fixtures with some notable victories along the way beating The Second XV had an encouraging campaign which allowed Kirkham to field some younger players. Two losses at the start of the season did little to deter any of the boys who gradually came to terms with the physicality required to match future opponents. The U16s had a good season setting themselves up for senior rugby. After a tough start they managed to record wins which resulted in them reaching the semi-final of the Lancashire Cup.

CRICKET

The unusually short Summer Term and some adverse weather, which didn't dampen the boys' spirits, still saw some competitive cricket. The annual MCC fixture took place in late April with the First XV batting out a draw after some early struggles against tight bowling.

MUSIC

All year groups have taken part in coffee concerts and evening recitals during the course of the year. The annual Carol Service at St Michael's Church was a chance for the Senior Choir to impress, and this they did in some style, with music from Chilcott, Rutter and Williamson.

The Autumn Term was rounded off by the Christmas Concert that produced a dazzling array of individual solos, combined with contributions from the Orchestra, String Group, Concert Band, Swing Band, Flute Group, Soprano Group and Choir. Early April delivered the annual Founders Day service, in St Michael's Church, where the Senior Choir again led events, with emotional and rousing performances of numbers from Mendelssohn's Elijah. The blessing 'Lift Thine Eyes' was beautifully sung by the Soprano Group. Another highlight of the year has to be the Spring Concert which took place in early May. The Orchestra, String Group, Concert Band, Swing Band, Flute Group, Soprano Group, Choir and individuals thrilled the audience with some very accomplished performances.

This year saw the addition of a new Concert Evening. It featured many of the fine singers we have in school, many of them Fifth and Sixth Form pupils. They delighted a large audience with a varied repertoire that sent the crowd home with much to savour. This looks like becoming a permanent fixture on our calendar. The Spring Term saw the return of the annual Music House Festival. As individuals and in

groups they sought to secure points for their house, or maybe even progress to the final. The Gala Concert in late March gave an invited audience the opportunity to hear the winners and items from the final. Saturday 30 March saw a first for the Kirkham Grammar School Choir, a performance of the mighty oratorio 'Elijah' by Mendelssohn alongside Lytham St Anne's Choral Society and the Helios Orchestra. The Choir should be so very proud of the immense amount of effort and work they put into this performance, a real evening to remember! The Rotary Club of Great Britain held its annual Young Musician Competition again this year. The local round was held in November at Kirkham Grammar School and youngsters from numerous local schools participated. However, by far the largest number of entrants came from KGS. Of the four placings, Kirkham secured three of them. One pupil was invited to play for Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace in May, one of a small select group that included winners of the BBC Young Musician Competition. It is clear to see that music at Kirkham Grammar School continues to go from strength to strength as our musicians continue to impress both at home and nationally!

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

This academic year over one hundred and fifty pupils have participated in the DofE Awards and are currently working hard on their volunteering, physical and skills sections. We are delighted to hear that many have found through volunteering opportunities that they are not only learning new skills but that they are thoroughly enjoying this aspect.

CCF

The hard work of all staff and pupils has not gone unnoticed. Large numbers have continued to participate on weekly basis and at all of the camps and opportunities undertaken over the year including a short ride in an RAF Helicopter.

To conclude, I cannot stress how proud I am of all of the achievements of our pupils. They are a pleasure to work with, be with and celebrate with. The unconditional support of the Governing Body, staff and parents is never taken for granted and must continue to work in partnership. It is this combination that ensures every child who travels through this school only once, deserves and gets the best.





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SENIOR PREFECTS 2019-20



SCHOOL CAPTAINS 2019-20

Oliver Barnett

Oliver is a former pupil of Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School. He is studying psychology, physical education and biology at A level and hopes to study psychology at university and sports psychology in the future. Oliver is currently completing his gold DofE and is captain of the 2nd XV and Headmaster's 1st rugby squads.

Koko Taylor

Koko joined Kirkham Grammar School in the Third Year. She is studying politics, religious studies and history at A level and hopes to study law at university. Koko is a music scholar and plays an active role in the Concert Band, Orchestra, Choir and Soprano Group.





KGJS PRIZEGIVING



Our annual Kirkham Grammar Junior School Prizegiving was held in the Summerlee Hall at the end of June which saw the whole school family gathered together for one of the highlights of the academic year.

The afternoon began with a few words from KGS' Headmaster, Mr Berry followed by the KGJS Orchestra performing 'The James Bond Theme' and 'Thank You for the Music'. After Mr Kollard's address, the Vocal Ensemble performed 'Can You Hear Me' which led perfectly into Mrs Roberts' 13th and final Prizegiving speech.

Part way through her speech, the infant children sang 'Try Your Best' and this year's Music Scholar, Brooke Medhurst sang 'I Have a Bonnet Trimmed with Blue' and 'Maybe', entertaining the audience with their beautiful voices.

A film featuring KGJS pupils from Pre-School through to J4 superbly summarised the academic year.

Dr Jennifer Patel, an Old Kirkhamian, then presented this year's prizes and trophies before delivering an inspiring speech to the audience, concluding with 'Everything is possible, even the impossible'.

Head Boy, Alexander Davies and Head Girl, Leoma Gill, gave a vote of thanks and the penultimate performance was from the School Choir, performing 'The Time I Spent With You' and 'The Prayer'.

The whole school then finished the afternoon by performing 'Anything Can Happen' from 'Mary Poppins' and the School Hymn, 'Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God'.

Afterwards, a delicious buffet was served for all the J4 children, their parents and invited guests in the Senior School dining room.

This occasion was a fitting conclusion to the J4 children's time at the Junior School.





Old Kirkhamian

appointed as

Junior School Headmistress

Having said a fond farewell to the previous Headmistress who retired at the end of the summer term, Kirkham Grammar School welcomed Mrs Kirsten O'Donoghue as the new Junior, Infant and Pre-School School Headmistress in September 2019.

Her Headship at KGJS is particularly special as she has come full circle, returning to the school that she attended between the ages of 10 to 18. Undeniably her time here shaped her into the leader that she has become today. She was one of the first pupils to attend the Junior School when it opened in 1990. The experiences that she garnered at KGS, and the influences of those that she was educated by, have naturally transferred to her passion and drive for offering pupils an education that is beyond excellent. "I am confident that KGS continues to offer an unparalleled education and it is clear that every pupil thrives here. They achieve their academic potential in an environment significantly enhanced by the extensive provision of high-quality co-curricular education. The pupils within the school are unobtrusively aware that they are part of a rather prestigious community, yet somehow they maintain a charming modesty that sets them aside from other independent school pupils. I am proud to have joined such a special setting."

Mrs O'Donoghue has previously worked as an officer in the Army contingent at Bedford School Combined Cadet Force, leading and assisting expeditions such as field weekends, camps and ski trips with Senior School pupils. She is married to Mark and they have two children, her eldest now attending KGJS in I2. She is acutely aware of the capabilities of young children, noting that, "It is enthralling to observe the acquisition of knowledge and vocabulary, their skills, talents and potential. Their capabilities, even at such a young age, should never be underestimated. Given the right start in life, our children are capable of great things."

Mrs O'Donoghue has commented on the commitment and energy that the staff and pupils exude in every aspect of school life. Along with the dedicated staff and caring parents, she is extremely proud to be part of such a dynamic community where the pupils are happy, adeptly supported and encouraged to achieve.

As the academic year progresses, she is looking forward to continuing to extend her positive influence and believes that "every child should know that they are valued and realise that what they say and do, and who they are, matters. Even from Pre-School, KGJS encourages independent thinkers that feel safe to test out ideas, make errors and find a route to success. They experience a curriculum here that is academically rigorous and packed with variety. Every child thrives at KGJS."





FUN DAYS

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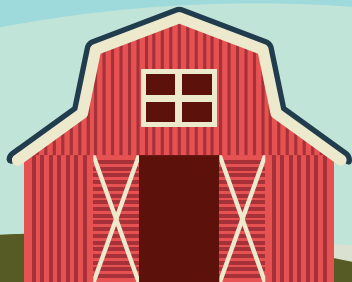
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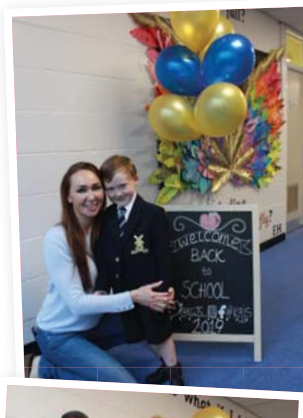




PRE-SCHOOL FARMERS DAY

Kirkham Grammar Pre-School children had a wonderful 'Farmers' Day' in mid-October, all arriving at in the morning dressed as farmers. Mr Hargreaves visited with his huge 'John Deere' tractor and the children were delighted to be given the opportunity to see what the view was like from the farmer's seat. They had a go at welly throwing, milked a cow to make milkshake and also made animal cakes. A very busy and thoroughly enjoyable day!

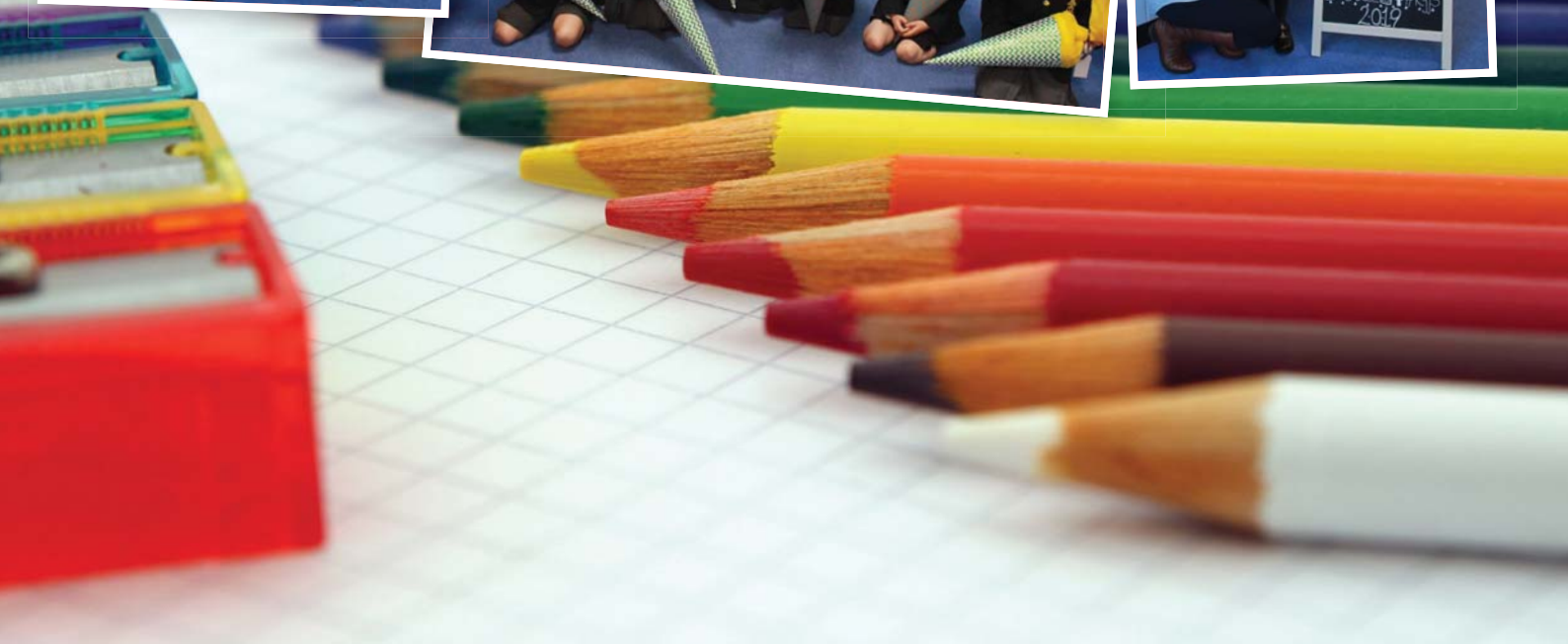
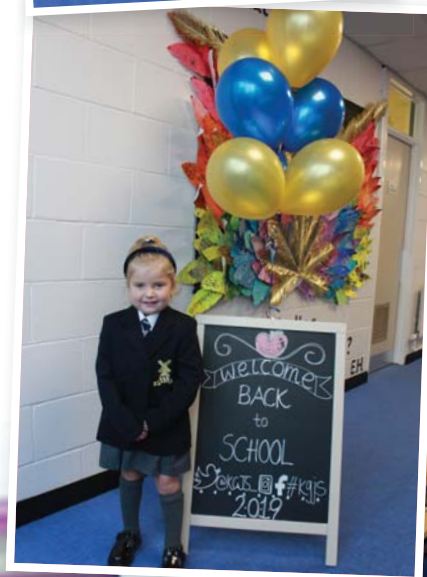




FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL

It was wonderful to welcome our new I1 pupils at the start of the academic year.

They all had a super first day at the Junior School and were delighted to receive their Schultüte cones at the end of the day. The cones are a symbol of the time that children are ready to start school. There is an old German story which says teachers put cone shaped bags on the ends of their trees in the garden. When the bags are full of goodness and ready to drop, then it is time for school.





I2 HISTORIANS

Kirkham Grammar Junior School I2 pupils had a memorable trip to Towneley Hall at the beginning of November, related to their history topic of Houses and Homes. They took part in an informative visit around the gardens; learning about autumn and nature. They even performed some 'worm charming' and were very excited to see them appearing from the ground. They were given the opportunity to look around the house, learning about the Towneley Family and looked at the rooms from the past, including a real mummy. They were also lucky enough to look in the museum of local history and took turns to see what it would have been like to sit in a tin bath and use some of the items that would have been in a home of the past. I2 were wonderful Historians!



KGJS BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair visited the Junior School in September and the pupils enjoyed browsing the huge array of books for sale. Thank you to Mrs Hughes for your help with the book fair.



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J2 CASTLEHEAD

At the end of November, J2 set off bright and early for their one night trip to Castlehead in the Lake District. Once they had put their belongings in their bedrooms they took part in an orienteering activity. Initially, this activity took place inside to allow time for the pupils to familiarise themselves with their surroundings, before moving outside and learning how to use a map. Some of the pupils enjoyed running down the hill as fast as they could to return their answers.

After orienteering, the pupils tackled the obstacle course. They loved getting muddy, going on the rope swing and crawling through the tunnels; with the best tactic being to pretend they were superman and sliding through! They found crawling under the cargo net tricky and the hurdles were very high! J2 also had to work in teams to make a jigsaw puzzle with pieces they collected from around the obstacles.

Following this, they moved to the low ropes; climbing along poles and going on a mini zip wire swing, where they had to pull their teammates from one side to the other. Balancing on the swing beam was difficult and if they touched the floor, they had to go back and start again.

Upon returning to the Old Manor House, they made their beds (some need more practise in this area!) and enjoyed a delicious evening meal.

In the evening, the pupils were delighted to be given the opportunity to make lanterns. This was very challenging and they had to work really well in a team of three, communicating a lot! They enjoyed lighting up their lanterns, which they decorated using leaves that they had collected earlier in the day.

A number of pupils were so excited about sleeping at Castlehead that they asked if it was bedtime at 4 pm! Mrs. Heatley read a bedtime story and then it was off to bed after a very busy day.

The following day began by singing Happy Birthday to Sam Asquith to wake him up, with a further rendition at breakfast time when his cake was brought out.

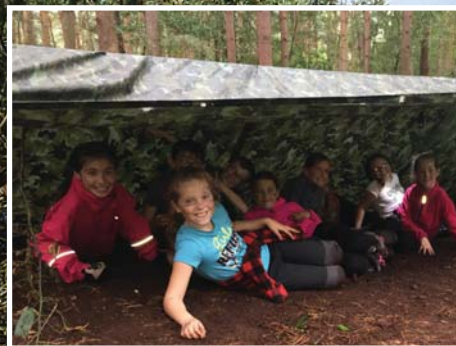
The first activity of the day was making mammal traps. Putting the food and nest materials in was fun, although finding a good place to hide the trap proved challenging. Harry Rawlinson and Tumi Milligan caught a vole and they named it Sammy Jnr VI.

After going on a minibeast hunt, a very welcome hot chocolate warmed everyone up!

Before lunch, the pupils looked through owl pellets to see what they had eaten and John wanted to keep one of the skulls! They liked seeing all of the bones and identifying them against a key and also found live maggots in a few pellets, which wasn't very pleasant! All the J2 pupils thoroughly enjoyed their trip and were sad when it was time to head back to school!



J3 BUSHCRAFT



On Wednesday 25 September, Kirkham Grammar Junior School's J3 pupils travelled to Cholmondeley for a trip into the deep forest for three days of Bushcraft adventures. When we arrived, we were met by our fantastic leaders; Sam, David, Dylan, Mark and Kaz. They showed us the way to our new home, Base Camp! We settled in by playing some fun games called Manhunt, Catch the Lantern and Hide and Seek before we learnt how to make fires safely and then cooked our lunch over them. Next, we had an excellent time creating our very own shelters to sleep in. Our chef, Mark, made us a wonderful feast in the evening and we had a jolly sing song

around the campfire. Some of us chose to sleep outside in the shelters and brave the outdoors while others preferred to sleep in the tents.

On Thursday morning we woke up to a tasty breakfast. Later, we had an amazing time hunting and tracking in camouflage paint. Next, six chosen brave volunteers had an experience to remember as they all ate a fish eyeball after the teachers had removed the bones from three large salmon for lunch! Some wept, some gagged, but they all had empty mouths by the end! After collecting sticks, we were shown how to use knives safely

and carved the sticks into tent pegs. That night, we heard exciting stories around the campfire.

Our final day was spent making survival bracelets out of Paracord and learning basic first aid. I will treasure my survival bracelet to remind me of my wonderful time at Bushcraft. Our last activity of the trip came when we had to put our new first aid skills into action when we bandaged our teachers after their fake plane crash!

I would like to thank all the leaders at Bushcraft and the teachers for a trip to remember!

By Freddie Wiltshire J3X



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WORLD'S BIGGEST
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MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

The annual Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School Macmillan Coffee morning was, yet again, a huge success with pupils, parents, staff and the wider school community supporting this very worthwhile cause and raising a fantastic £500.



ROTARY RESPECT AWARDS

Kirkham Grammar School are delighted to announce the school will be hosting the second annual Rotary South Fylde Respect Awards 2020, taking place on Wednesday 1 April 2020. The Respect Awards shine a light on the fantastic positive attitude and selfless acts of young people across the Fylde community who make a real difference to the lives of others.

Photograph: Back row left to right, Mrs Nicki Walter (Kirkham Grammar School), Mr John Edwards (Rotary Lytham), Miss Emily Scott (Kirkham Grammar School & 2019 Rotary Respect Award Winner), Mr Matthew Willey (St Anne's-on-the-Sea Rotary)

Front row left to right: Master Seb Burgess (Ansdell Primary School & 2019 Rotary Respect Award Winner) and Mrs Hilary Green (Kirkham & Rural Fylde Rotary).



LIBRARY NEWS



'Through Their Eyes' Young Writers' Poetry Competition

During the autumn term, our Scribblers Club took part in the 'Through Their Eyes' Young Writers' Competition and we are delighted to announce that seven of our students have been successfully chosen to have their poems published on Friday 3 January 2020. Well done to Karabo Abu Muharib, Jacob Mason, Haarith Bapu, Jack Flomer, Esme Whitfield, Abigail Wu and Lewis Simpson.



International Games Week

Our KGS Library supported 'International Games Week' which took place from Monday 4 November to Friday 8 November. It was great to see many of our Fifth Year pupils enjoying this light relief from their studies during the lunch break.



Tom Palmer Author visit

In September, First and Second Year pupils were joined by J2, J3 and J4 pupils from the Junior School as author, Tom Palmer visited KGS.

Tom explained how he wasn't keen on reading when he was younger but his parents encouraged him to read about football in newspapers, magazines and books. Gradually he grew to love books and from that point his life changed. He wanted to know everything about books, began writing and was lucky enough to have one of his football books for children accepted by Puffin.

The pupils took part in a reading quiz as Tom talked about the books he had written and the winners of the quiz took part in a rugby shoot out with Tom presenting a rugby trophy to the winner, First Year pupil, Poppy Carey.

Inspired by Tom's talk, pupils took part in writing sessions in the Library and over at the Junior School and were also given the opportunity to purchase Tom's books.





EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES 2019

On Thursday 24 September, First and Second Year pupils celebrated European Day of Languages. Pupils were invited to wear costumes with a 'European' theme, and they certainly rose to the challenge with an array of creative ideas. Congratulations to joint winners Esme Whitfield for her imaginative 'Leaning Tower of Pisa' costume and Jack Flömer for his entertaining impersonation of Albert Einstein, both these winning costumes showed great effort and originality.

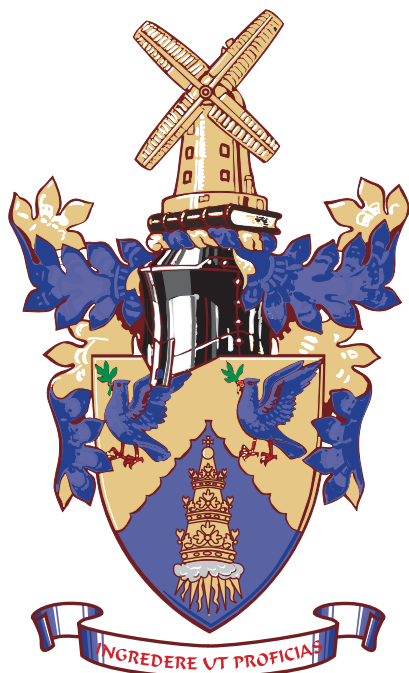
Pupils also had the opportunity to enter a cake competition. There were some marvellous creations, including a Mont Blanc cream cake, paella cakes, Norwegian and Polish cupcakes, a German intercity train, and the Eiffel Tower. With an all-round superb standard of presentation, Mr Berry had rather a challenge in deciding the winners! First prize went to Sarah Chatwin and Alexa Anderson for their very realistic pizza cake.

Lunchtime saw all our pupils enjoy a delicious European themed lunch with Spanish musical accompaniment whilst a number of first years entertained with their Spanish 'Macarena' dancing. Mr Vevers and his team provided an array of culinary delights from across Europe, including Bockwurst with Sauerkraut, Beef Stifado with Vegetable Rice, Potato Tortilla, Roasted Peppers, Manchego Cheese or Croque Monsieur, with Apple & Sultana Strudel for dessert!

During the school day there were various European-themed activities. Mrs Halsall's Fiction Addiction group read 'Beauty and the Beast' in Spanish, Mr Whittle's geography classes discussed geographical features in French, and there was also a Treasure Hunt Quiz, won by Eva Berry and Chloe Mustow.

Merci beaucoup, muchas gracias and danke sehr to all our parents who supported the European Day of Languages. A wonderful day was certainly had by all!





The Old Kirkhamians' Association

It is important to remind all of us about the purpose and ethos of KGS. This is even more pertinent for the 2019 Academic Year as we celebrate two anniversaries. The first is the 470th year anniversary of the school and the second is the 40th anniversary of girls joining KGS.

This is never more evident than in the organisation known as the OKAs, which has been in official existence since 1919 according to the 1934 KGS Chronicle. However, the interest in Old Kirkhamians in their School was a living force long before any Association came into being. The OKA was formed for the purpose of concentrating that interest and to give a channel for such an organisation whereby it could find expression. It is an attempt to associate and bind together those old members of KGS who have one common aim and desire, to continue their association with the School and to do all in their power to further its best interests.

We never take your support for granted and you will always be welcomed at KGS.

Mr D H Berry
Headmaster

OKA Cricket

On Friday 28 June, the annual cricket match between the Headmaster's XI and the Old Kirkhamians' Association XI took place. For the second year running, the weather gods were kind and both teams turned out resplendent in their whites on a balmy summer's evening.

The toss was won by the OKA Captain, who elected to bat. The OKA batted steadily during their innings, with a couple of players retiring and amassing a total of 118, less than anticipated as a consequence of some conservative bowling, by the Headmaster's XI, especially his 'guest' player! However, the OKA considered they had accumulated enough to defend.

After a short interval for refreshments, some partaking in a beer, it was the turn of the Headmaster's XI to bat, all confident they could make the 119 to win and gain revenge for their defeat the previous year. The Headmaster's XI made a solid start and were confident they would achieve the win but, despite those early efforts, they lost a few quick wickets and for the second year running the Headmaster's XI's professional failed to make much use of the scorer.

Nevertheless, they rebuilt their innings and seemingly with 4 overs remaining, it did appear that the Headmaster's XI would comfortably make their target. However, that was without the OKA Captain pulling out his masterstroke and bringing on his 'Young' Kirkhamian to bowl 2 maidens, leaving the Headmaster's XI to score 12 off the last over. Without any fielding restrictions, the OKA Captain placed his fielders on the boundary to prevent any fours or sixes, resulting in a 6 run win for the OKA.

A great competitive game of cricket was had by both teams, who then joined together for a delicious barbecue and a chat over a few beers.

Let us hope the weather is kind again in 2020!



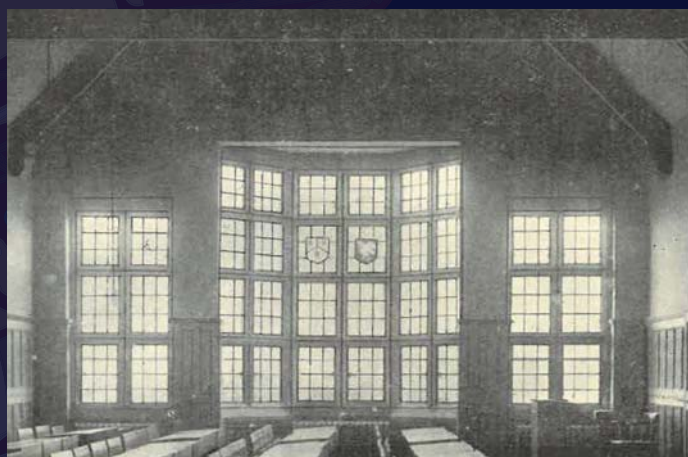
OKA *Annual Dinner*



The Old Kirkhamians' Annual Dinner took place in October in the stunning venue of Kirkham Grammar School's Old Hall. Guests enjoyed a sumptuous meal prepared by Mr Vevers and his catering team before the formal part of the evening which saw Headmaster, Mr Daniel Berry take over the role of President of the OKA from Mr Michael Snape. Many thanks to Mr Vevers and his team for their wonderful catering.



100 Years 1920-2020



“In the long history of Kirkham Grammar School, from 1549 to the present day, the founding of the Old Boys’ Association is an outstanding event”

These words are the opening line of the first ever KGS Chronicle and were written just short of 100 years ago.

The Editor of the KGS Chronicle goes on to explain how an announcement for a meeting to discuss the formation of an Old Boys’ Association of Kirkham Grammar School was made in the local press, and on November 3rd 1919 a meeting was held at School. The outcome of this meeting led to the organisation of an Old Boys’ Dinner on the 21st January 1920 and at this dinner resolutions were passed: - That the Association be formed and that the annual subscription be 5/-. A committee was appointed to draw up the rules. The Headmaster was elected president and Mr. J.H. Rigby Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.

As you read through the First KGS Chronicle you don’t need to be a historian to understand the catalyst which propelled the formation of our association. The Bronze War Memorial to the Old Boys and Masters of Kirkham Grammar School who fell in the Great War 1914-1919, honoured each year by our present students, on the 11th November, was under construction.

The appeal for information on corrections or omissions of names of those who fell and for funds towards the memorial was requested from the Old Boys’ Association. The War Memorial was unveiled and dedicated in a service in the School Hall in March 1922.

As we celebrate 40 years of co-education at KGS, we do have a slight change of name to the association – The Old Kirkhamians’ Association (1980) is the more inclusive and some would say more identifiable name of our association, but a name change does not deter from the fact that the Association is 100 years old in 2020.

We are hoping to digitise the KGS Chronicles we have in the school Archives and publish them fully on the School Website 100 years after they were written. We of course will also use articles from the Chronicles within our current newsletters.

Nearly one hundred years on I am sure

the words of the editor of the 5th KGS Chronicle, July 1924 will ring true to many old Kirkhamians:

Our School is more than a generation of scholars - more than a series of governors, boys and masters. We are like unto a mighty river whose sources lie far back in the sixteenth century - a river which gathers volume each year, and whose waters flow into the ocean of eternity. When we leave school we do not shake off the dust from our feet. There are ties which can never be severed. There is an impulse that draws us to return and revisit the old familiar places, an inspiration like that which draws the traveller home - a call which we hear, however far we may wander. There is a magic ring for us in the sound of those letters “K.G.S.” and when we find an Old Boy of our Old School, unconsciously we slip back, ten, twenty, thirty, forty years, and live again those days of joy and fun, and youthful freedom.



40th Anniversary Celebration



At midnight on Friday 31 August 1979, in an original stunt now commemorated by a stained glass window in the Headmaster's Study, a group of governors marked the School's return to independence by breaking a window pane in the Study with a bottle of champagne and summoning a startled Headmaster Malcolm Summerlee from his bed in School House, to toast the new era in his dressing gown and slippers.

As Headmaster, the late Mr Summerlee presided over two of the most significant changes to the school in its 470 year history: the reversion to independent status and the admission of girls into a school which had long been a bastion of masculinity like so many schools of its type. Thirty girls joined First Year in September 1979, along with a few Sixth Form girls. Within seven years, the school was fully co-educational, with girls quickly rising to prominence in the academic, cultural and sporting spheres, inspired by a growing number of female staff and a supportive and egalitarian Headmaster.

Forty years later on Saturday 31 August 2019, present and former KGS staff, governors and students met in the Old Hall at KGS to raise a glass to mark the anniversary of independence and the start of co-education at KGS. We were delighted to welcome back seven of those first KGS girls and numerous former staff who were working at KGS during the return to independence. The day also incorporated 10 year, 20 year and 30 year reunions and as always on these occasions it was a great pleasure to welcome back specific year groups to the school.

After a wonderful trip down memory lane, looking at photos through the years, the Headmaster and retired teacher Adrian Long took groups on tours around the school campus. There was much reminiscing of favourite lessons and teachers in rooms that have not changed much over the years, but also a positive understanding of how the school has embraced change whilst retaining its traditional values. All were in agreement that the beautiful Recital Hall still bought back memories of PE in the Old Gym.

This joyful celebration of a milestone in the School's history served to demonstrate the remarkable affection in which it is held: numerous pupils and teachers who have spent only a few years of their careers at KGS frequently express enduring affection and respect for this very special place.





The Old Kirkhamians' Association Pupils



**Dr. Soraya Louise
Salahi Dunn
BSc, ARCS , MSc, PhD.
Former Student Now
Researching the Brain**

Most days, Dr. Dunn commutes the 25 minute rail journey from Hertfordshire into London and then walks the short distance to University College London (U.C.L.) to her laboratory.

Nearly every day is different; whether it is setting up an experiment, writing analytical computer programmes, performing operations or reviewing data; the science goes on and she loves it. Neuroscience was not her decisive career path from a young age. In fact, Soraya only made that choice after her degree; she had wanted to be an astronaut at the age of three.

When Soraya came to KGJS aged three, she spent at least an hour on a mat fast asleep in the afternoons. This regular occurrence prompted the teacher to suggest that she and three other pupils, all the youngest in their form, to remain down a year.

Not only did this give them an extra year of childhood, it enabled them to mature and gain greater confidence. This boost was all that Soraya needed and she excelled in her studies and won the 'Academic Scholarship' award to enter the Senior School. She was also in the school's hockey team and played throughout her time at KGJS and KGS.

The astronaut ambition diminished in her teens and she was at a loss on a career path. She made her GCSE selection based on the sciences and humanities and obtained nine A*s. Her selection of A level subjects reflected a science based career as she chose: physics, chemistry, maths and in contrast psychology. This latter subject may have had a subconscious influence later, but she dropped it after one year in favour of further maths, though she did gain an A at AS level.

Soraya gained four As (the highest at that time) and was accepted as a physics undergraduate at Imperial College, London and captained the Ladies 2nd hockey team. Three years later she gained a First Class Honours degree. Imperial College also awarded her Associate of the Royal College of Science which is a degree-equivalent award presented by Imperial College London to students who excel in an undergraduate course of study in science.

Still undecided on her next steps, Soraya went to South Korea to teach English as a foreign language. It was there that she decided Neuroscience was the subject she wanted to pursue and so applied to UCL for her Masters. They accepted her, providing she self-studied the human nervous system, the blood and the brain.

Two years later she entered UCL and gained the highest mark in her year and gained her MSc in Neuroscience. There she caught the attention of one of the Project leaders and offered a four year PhD course. Having completed that last year, Soraya decided to remain in academia for the present time and accepted a Post doctorate to continue the work started in her thesis. Who knows her future.



**Dr Tegan Roberts
Competes in Ironman 70.3
World Championships,
Nice, France**

Maths and physics were more Tegan Roberts' bag than sport when she was at Kirkham Grammar School. After leaving KGS, Tegan went to St Catharine's College, Cambridge reading Chemical Engineering. After B.Eng & M.Eng degrees and a PhD, Tegan secured a position for

BP as a chemical engineer in their research and development facility in Hull, East Yorkshire.

Now, alongside her chemical engineering career at BP, Tegan has progressed from 'park runner' to international triathlete. Achieving third place in her category in an 'Ironman 70.3' triathlon in Haugesund, Norway on Sunday 30 June 2019, Tegan won a place in the 2019 Ironman 70.3 World Championship event in Nice, France.

Athletes began with a beach start and embarked on a 1.9 km swim in the Mediterranean Sea. The 90 km bike course passed through villages and mountains of the Côte d'Azur and athletes enjoyed beautiful panoramic views. Finally, the 21 km run included a flat and fast two-loop course along the Promenade des Anglais, Nice. Tegan completed the course in 5:25:39 and finished third in her age group.

After Nice, Tegan went to Calella, Spain on Sunday 6 October 2019 to compete in the Ironman Barcelona event consisting of a 3.86km swim, 180.25km cycle and a full marathon of 42.20km. The Ironman is widely considered one of the most difficult one-day sporting events in the world. Tegan completed the course in 11:03:44.



Chloe Fidler

Old Kirkhamian, Chloe Fidler has beaten global competition to land a place at a prestigious nanny college. Chloe realised her dream come true when she was awarded a place at the prestigious Norland College in Bath. Famous for their 'Mary Poppins-style' uniforms, Norland nannies often work with celebrities and royals – Prince Charles famously had a Norland nanny.

Chloe has dreamt of becoming a Norland nanny since she was eight, when her mum mentioned it because she enjoyed looking after children. She has spent the last two years working at a residential home for children with autism while studying an access to Higher Education: Children and Young People's Services course.

Chloe said: "I have always wanted to work in childcare and I am determined to reach the very top, so there was only Norland for me. It has got a brilliant reputation and has been training nannies for 125 years. It was a very proud day when I was measured for my uniform."

Jim Roberts

Old Kirkhamians from the late seventies and eighties were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Jim Roberts, who has died at the age of 68 after a period of ill health.

Numerous tributes were posted on the OKA Facebook group to a man who is remembered with enormous affection and respect by all who were at KGS at such a transformative time in the School's history.

It is impossible to speak or write about Jim without smiles, laughter and resorting to the "don't make 'em like that anymore" cliché. Jim was a true maverick of the sort no longer found in education: a man of mercurial talent, wicked humour and a disguised yet very real love of the job and those whom he taught.

When I arrived at KGS in September 1981, the English Department, consisting of Richard "Doc" Watson, Jim Roberts and Anne "Aggie" Boll (whom Jim later married), was a beacon of inspiration and humour in their smoke-filled corner of the Staff Room. The School was in a state of transition from a robust boys' state grammar to the co-educational independent school that it is today, and the teaching staff was also in rapid transition as the School expanded and evolved. Among the staff there were still many men whose stern manner and uncompromising teaching style evoked a very different era of short back-and-sides and stiff upper lips. Jim, with his long hair, shambling gait and John Lennon glasses was clearly made from a different mould, that of the baby-boomer generation.

Whilst as a young teacher I looked upon those older teachers with great respect and admiration, it was to Jim that I looked for a model of how to teach with humour and humanity. He clearly loved his subject - an English teacher whose first priority every day was to complete the Times Crossword



- but his love of the classroom, of the fun and banter of school life, was equally apparent. The tributes from former pupils refer in equal measure to First Year lessons with terrified eleven year olds and Sixth Form lessons with sophisticated literature students, yet have in common that it was Jim who inspired them to think, and to love language and literature.

Yes, he was inclined to empty the contents of a pencil case over the head of an inattentive First Year, or to throw a board rubber missile in anger, but that was just part and parcel of his passion. His knowledge of pupils, and his perceptive insight into their personalities, was remarkable and betrayed a deep concern and affection for their welfare. He flourished in the friendly atmosphere of a school in which by some unwritten code, the "them and us" divide between teachers and pupils is so conspicuous by its absence. Many will remember with great warmth his performances in those Christmas charity concerts in which he fully indulged his love of rock music. A performance of the

Pet Shop Boys' "Suburbia" in the late 80s springs immediately to mind.

"They don't make 'em like that anymore": it was no surprise that Jim left school teaching at the dawn of the era of an over-prescriptive National Curriculum, box-ticking inspection régimes, micro management and the over-standardisation of classroom technique. Jim was a free spirit, who inspired by improvising and ad-libbing, and the likes of him are no longer found in schools, or if they are, their personality is subservient to the demands of an infinitely more structured and regimented profession which has lost something very precious in that process of change.

After leaving KGS, Jim found happiness in his personal life near the Sussex coast with Anne Boll, very much a kindred spirit from their time as colleagues at KGS, and we at the school, along with hundreds of former pupils, send our condolences to her and to Jim's family and friends.

Adrian Long (KGS staff 1981 – 2017)



Jack Culver

Participating in Investec's annual Student Week was a fantastic experience for me, and one which I am grateful to Paul Doughty for providing the opportunity. After meeting at the Old Kirkhamian's Dinner during my last year at KGS and expressing my desire for experience in the financial industry, Paul outlined the potential for me to gain an insight into Investec over the summer of 2018. The week was extremely useful, with informative aspects providing me with a thorough understanding of the Wealth Management industry. Furthermore, activities such as delivering an individual presentation and conducting market research at two major retailers in Liverpool One's shopping centre were a great way to apply what we had learned to the real world. Following the week, I met with Paul who provided me with invaluable advice regarding my CV in anticipation of applying for internships for the following summer. I feel sure that the confidence I gained from attending the week, alongside Paul's expertise, were helpful in my securing an internship with KPMG for July 2019. Many thanks to Paul and the Old Kirkhamians' network.



CCF REMEMBRANCE DAY



Remembrance Day services were held around the UK to commemorate and remember those who served the country in two world wars and also in the more recent conflicts. This year also marks 100 years since the first two-minute silence was held in 1919, one year after the war ended.

Kirkham Grammar School held their own Remembrance Day Service on Monday 11 November led by our Senior NCOs. During the service, School Captain, Oliver Barnett read from the Gospel of St John and Reverend Bunday led prayers before the whole school fell quiet for two minute's silence, followed by 'The Last Post' played by Lower Sixth Form pupil, Reuben Bond. At the end of the service, the platform party moved to the Old Hall to lay wreaths at the First and Second World War plaques.

After the school service, CCF Cadets represented school at a Remembrance Service at the Bilsborrow War Memorial.

The previous day, CCF cadets attended a very thought provoking Service of Remembrance at St Michael's Church in Kirkham. Daniella and Reuben read beautifully during the service. Following the service, the cadets marched to the Cenotaph in Kirkham to observe two minutes silence and mark the moment World War One officially ended, at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month, in 1918.

It was a busy few days for our young cadets yet a wonderful experience and honour for all of them.





GUARD OF HONOUR

On Friday 8 November, sixteen KGS CCF Cadets took part in a Guard of Honour for 101 year old World War II Veteran, Ernest Horsfall. The cadets proudly represented school as Mr Horsfall arrived at Preston Train Station to embark on his journey to London for the National Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph, Whitehall.

Ernest Horsfall was born on 21 April 1918, the very day that the First World War ace, The Red Baron was finally shot down - and the same year the Royal Air Force was formed. After more than half a century piloting light aircraft, aviator Ernie, who has more than 3,000 flying hours to his name, is still working at the grand old age of 101. Despite having to stand down as a Pilot In Command at the age of 93, only because insurance companies would no longer cover him at the controls, Ernie still gets up in the co-pilot's seat and is still working as an official aircraft inspector for the Light Aircraft Association. His current airworthiness project is a plane built over the past eight years by an enthusiast in Lancashire.

Cadets, Reuben Bond, Jonny Latham and Margaret Hodgson were interviewed by BBC News, ITV news and Radio Lancashire, all commenting what an honour it had been to be part of today's proceedings.



CCF FIELD DAY



On Thursday 14 November, our Fourth and Fifth Year cadets, along with the Sixth Form NCOs, headed off to our first CCF Field Day of the year, in trepidation awaits. It was a very cold day, but we were thankful that it wasn't raining. Upon arrival WO1 Moffatt split us into our sections and we moved onto our first activity.

I was in section four and our first activity was harbours with Reuben Bond. We learnt how to set up a harbour without being seen by the enemy. Our second activity was shelter building with Mrs Russell. We found that our shelter was very good at keeping us warm against the elements and our shelter was definitely the best! Next,

we did cam and concealment with Major Taylor and we particularly enjoyed this activity. We had the shock of our lives when Tom Hewitt emerged from the bushes less than five metres away, completely hidden, wearing a camouflaged suit! We then had to apply the cam cream to our faces, which is allegedly made by Max Factor, and find a suitable hiding place where we had full 360° vision of the enemy base, but had to be completely hidden. Someone from the other group got too carried away and hid for an hour and a half!

After lunch we went to do first aid with Mrs Sutcliffe. We learnt how to carry someone safely on a stretcher, although I would

definitely not volunteer myself. After that we did cooking with Mrs Marsh. We were taught how to cook a ration pack and taste some of the delightful concoctions! We then did patrol with Johnny Latham and learnt hand signals and how to communicate covertly.

It was a perfect introduction to the next two years and we will be fully prepared for our activity on Thursday afternoon. Overall we had an amazing day with our friends and learnt lots about what the Army and CCF has to offer.

Hollie John 4K



On Thursday 14 November, KGS had their annual autumn CCF Field Day at Weeton Army Camp. As a Fifth Year student, I had already been to this last year in the Fourth Year and had very much enjoyed it, so I had been looking forward to this year's return, where I would encounter new skills. The day was going to be filled with amazing opportunities using blank rounds while learning how to take out an enemy position and learning and then taking part in a house clearance.

The day started with everyone loading up at school and climbing into the buses to make the short journey from school to Weeton camp. On arrival at Weeton Barracks, we were split into RAF and Army cadets. I am in ARMY section and to start the day we went to do F.I.B.U.A, (fighting in built up areas). To get ready, we had to load the magazines, carry out NSPs (a required safety procedure) and do a full walk through of the course planned. In our two separate groups within ARMY, we also decided respectively who was going to be

the team's commander and who would be 2IC (second in command). In my group I was 2IC, which involved being in charge of delta in deliberate fire, whilst Charlie was going forward. At the end of the operation I also had to check for injuries and how much ammunition my fellow cadets had. This activity was led by our instructor WO1 Moffett, who made it a very fun and enjoyable experience. As I didn't go on the Summer CCF Camp, this was new for me and I found it very interesting to be able to carry out F.I.B.U.A, having previously learned about it at school.

After lunch, we moved on to house clearance. Our instructors, WO1 Trevor Barrow and Sgt. Robinson shared their experiences with us and my group learned about how to safely organise and carry out the clearance. Although there are many other forms of CCF, a house clearance can only be done by soldiers on foot (Infantry Units) so this was an important task for us to learn. For this, we all split into pairs and put on our protective gear (goggles,

ear defenders and helmet) as we were going to have blank rounds fired at us to replicate the real situation soldiers would face. The task started by grenades being thrown in to the first room and then the first cadet climbing in through an open window and their other cadet in the pair following. When the first pair yelled all was clear, all the other pairs climbed in carefully, one after another and from there we went upstairs, into the house and then cleared all the rooms, with each pair going into one room, one after another.

Before finishing for the day, we unloaded all magazines from the guns and packed up all equipment that had been used. After thanking all instructors at Weeton, it was time to return. Thank you to all the teachers, and NCOs that helped throughout the day, it was a very informative and incredible day, with a learning curve scaled from 1 – 100, this was a 100.

Kirsty Williams 5K

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CSAAMS

Shooting Weekend

In September, eight Kirkham Grammar School pupils took part in the annual CSAAMS shooting competition in Southport. Below, Lower Sixth pupil, Cpl Emma Nuttall writes about their exciting, yet exhausting action packed weekend!

On Friday 22 September 2019, eight shooters accompanied by six range admin party members and three members of staff set off to the sunny coast of Southport, to take part in the annual CSAAMS shooting competition. This is a regional shooting competition for cadets, composed of 150 junior shooters from across the North West of England.

The two shooting teams and their company loaded the minibuses in a mad dash after the final bell and promptly made a beeline for Southport's very own McDonald's and KFC, the cadet's 'angelic' singing voices entertaining the staff for the duration of the journey. After a fast food stop, where hunger was satisfied and thirst was quenched, it was finally time to endure the last push of the journey and arrive at camp to unload weapons, bergans, webbing, magazines, bags and more bags. Once admin was completed it was time for the cadets to undergo an intense test of speed, intelligence and endurance, a competition that raises tensions to the highest degree... it was time to play Uno! After a lot of disagreements and a quick briefing from the staff, it was time for the cadets to retire to their bunks to prepare and rest for the taxing weekend ahead.

Saturday morning greeted us with a scorching sun as temperatures rose well into the 20s. An early 6.45 am breakfast was soon followed with our first shoot of the day, where a 100 yard range was used for the cadets to fire off five rounds in order to zero the rifle's sights to the shooter. With a money prize for the best shot, the shooters were challenged to shoot three rounds at a small white disk which unfortunately our cadets didn't win.

The rest of the day consisted of: 'Advance and reorg' which included a 100m sprint, targets at 100m, 200m and 300m with the shooters shooting in both prone position (lying down) and standing up in a trench; 'Advance to contact' which had the shooters running between 300m, 200m and 100m from the target testing the cadet's rifle drills under pressure and their ability to shoot after physical activity; 'defence match' where participants shoot at 300m while stationary, testing their precision.

Saturday night was one of Pizza Express, Tesco trips and high spirits as our cadets and teachers got a well-deserved break from the intensity of the competition, restoring us for the next day of hard work.

Not so bright and early Sunday morning we were treated to strong wind and even stronger rain, keeping the CSAAMS weather tradition alive. This final day tested our shooter's ability to work in teams, starting with the 'rifle pairs' portion of the competition where cadets are expected to communicate and work together. However, it seems Lance Corporal Makenzie made more contact with the ground than his partner, as he fell face first within a matter of seconds in the initial sprint. The final and favourite round, known as the 'falling plate shoot', requires the teams of four shooters to run 100m, load and shoot ten plates (or as many as they can) within sixty seconds with a magazine of ten rounds each, the satisfying sound of a plate smashing being the best reward! Our competitors weren't the only ones to have fun as our range admin party also got the opportunity to fire their first live rounds.

All the teams can hold their heads high with the results we achieved. Some of the teams in the competition practise for this all year round, so have a slight advantage. Our highest finishing position for an individual shoot was 6th overall out of 26 teams, a very credible effort that we aim to beat next year. After our exciting and exhausting weekend, I think it's safe to say the bus ride back was significantly quieter, much to the staff's delight.

Cpl Emma Nuttall







CCF ANNUAL CAMP

It was that time of year again... CCF Summer camp, the highlight of the CCF calendar! With a hectic arrival of the contingent at Warcop Training Centre, on the Saturday, admin was organised, bags were unpacked and cadets were put into their sections.

Sunday morning came and it was an early rise, all were up at dawn but raring to go and full of energy for the activities ahead: TIBUA 'Training in Built-up Urban Areas'. In preparation, we marched to the armoury to collect our rifles for events ahead. As NCOs, the Fifth Year were tasked with assisting the less experienced cadets with their slings and BFAs. With a short shuttle to the training area via coach, we arrived at the elusive training house and TIBUA stand. In difficult circumstances, we overcame the challenges of good communication and house clearance! We had the task of learning how to properly enter an enemy establishment, with grenades... BOOM, BOOM! The afternoon brought the special mission, in which we had to save Boris Johnson (James in a wig) from the farmer's rebellion. As a platoon we approached the target building...

After coming under fire, Charlie gave cover and Delta round the flank, full steam ahead, into the building through smoke, we went. Attack! Grenades were flying. Bullets were blasting. And Boris was saved!

After a good sleep, we were ready for the next day ahead. The early morning procedure was much similar to the day previously, with an early rise, and heading to the armoury to collect our weapons for the day ahead. A quick trip by coach took us to where the Training in Woods and Forests (TIWAF) stand would be. For the first part we did a dry exercise in a field where we learnt the procedures for the platoon attack which would take place later that day; doing this allowed us to be more fluid when the exercise came around. After

a quick preparation the exercise began, and using specialist equipment such as radios, we cleared the stretch of forest which was under enemy control, taking out multiple enemy operatives and searching them and their positions.

Then came the afternoon which involved DCCT where we were able to work on our shooting principles including moving targets, this allowed us to greatly develop our skill levels using this facility. The latter part of our day was spent learning about, and handling, various weapons through the ages - some of which were used in World War 1.

Day three commenced with extra helpings of breakfast, the early mornings starting to get to us. The activity for this day was Close Quarter Battle drills, which the staff were energetic which boosted our morale. This day followed a similar format to TIWAF as we spent the morning rehearsing the required skills needed for the afternoons events. After a quick scramble for sausage rolls, we began our preparation stages for the Warcop zombie epidemic. For this we had to clear the immediate area, obtain intel from the scientists and we got a fright from Mrs Atkinson, Queen of the Zombies!

Wednesday entailed of the activity day for which I opted for doing mountain biking around Ullswater, although there were many other activities available for us to do such as: ghyll scrambling, gorge walking, water activities and mountain walking. The amount of options allowed us to all have fun as we could all choose an activity that suited us best, resulting in a really entertaining day for all. I personally really enjoyed the mountain biking as we saw some amazing views and had really good weather for it.

The next day was back in the cadet swing with the highlight of the week; Warcop Wanderer. This involved a full scale platoon attack with

multiple enemy positions to fight through and clear. In my opinion, this gave us the best way to use all the skills we had learnt throughout the school year and during the earlier parts of the week. This was particularly good for me as I was an NCO meaning I could take on a leadership role and command the people in my section. We all successfully destroyed the enemy.

By the Friday, tired faces were beginning to show in the morning from the cadets, emphasizing the exhausting week we had undertaken. However, as soon as it came to being at the stands the last reserves of energy were summoned to fulfil the tasks to the best. This showed on Friday morning when we had the first aid stand where we learnt about how to deal with casualties and how to treat various different levels of injuries. We also did The British Heart Foundation's certificate 'Heartstart' which taught us how we would respond to an unconscious casualty. Our very last activity of the week was the ranges, which allowed us to use the skills we had learned on DCCT earlier on in the week in practice and a less physical final activity to wrap the week up.

That evening we had our end of week prize giving in which we celebrated the achievements we had made during the week and a collection of prizes for individual cadets. We also thanked the staff for their time and efforts without which we would not have been able to have such a fabulous week.

The next morning was our last, we had to pack up our kit and get the bus home. Although we were all completely worn out and wanted a good sleep in our beds, everyone said that they had thoroughly enjoyed the week. I as well as others am definitely looking forward to next year's camp.

By Jonny Latham



Air Experience Flights

Eight RAF cadets travelled to RAF Woodvale for their first Air Experience Flights. This is an opportunity granted to all RAF cadets to be taken up into the air in a Grob Tutor plane by an experienced RAF pilot.

Each cadet had to first pass a safety and aircraft evacuation test before donning their flight suit and helmet. They were then individually escorted onto the apron area where they went through pre-flight checks with the pilot and took one of only two seats in the cockpit.

After taxiing and take off they were all given the opportunity to control straight and level flight and experience various simple manoeuvres. The idea is to give the cadets the chance to deepen their understanding of the principles of flight and the control surfaces that are available to them.

The cadets were very fortunate to also have the chance to experience and control acrobatic manoeuvres such as barrel rolls and loop-the-loops. Needless to say, every cadet exited the aircraft with a huge grin and a desire to do it all again.

One cadet said 'that's the best experience I've ever had'.



Summer Camp



On Saturday 29 June, Pilot Officer Russell and five cadets were collected from school and driven to RAF Shawbury in Shropshire. This is an active base which is the home of The Defence Helicopter Flying School. Aircrew for the Royal Navy, British Army and the Royal Air Force are all trained here.

The cadets were housed in a makeshift camp within a hanger and were teamed up with cadets from Maidstone Grammar and Oundle CCF Units.

The cadets received their RAF 'blues' and with the help of other cadets, were taught how to iron them and polish their parade shoes – one of the first lessons of the week.

The cadets had the chance to practice their weapons handling skills during a variety of activities - these included an evening using the DCCT (Dismounted Close Combat Trainer), a morning of weapons handling refresher training and an afternoon on the range. Harry Snape achieved his Trained Shot badge and Theo Bucklow achieved his Marksman Badge.

Cadets had the opportunity to talk to the RAF police stationed on base and they discussed their day to day job. On the same day they had a visit from a team from the West Mercia Police's Armed Response – this allowed the cadets to see how much equipment they actually have to carry both within their vehicle and on their actual person.

All the cadets got the chance to fly in a Juno Helicopter – cadets went up in pairs and were flown around the base.

A further opportunity arose when a Puma helicopter landed to refuel and cadets managed to get a tour inside with one of the newly qualified captains (he had just qualified the day before!).

The cadets also witnessed an Apache land, and had the opportunity to see how air traffic controllers were trained and saw some of the new technology used for training both pilots and ground crew.

One of the other highlights was the visit to West Mercia's Riot Police Training Ground. The cadets were taught how to hold shields and hold set formations. The cadets were involved in a mock peaceful protest – the staff who were running the session were very impressed with them. They all had a great day.

Other activities included a morning climbing High Ropes, a Visit to a Bird Of Prey Sanctuary (looking at principles of flight in birds!) and a visit to RAF Cosford Museum.





THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD



The DofE Award at Kirkham Grammar School aims to inspire, guide and support our students in their self-development. It allows new skills to develop, existing skills to flourish and gives further opportunities for our students to develop teamwork and leadership skills that are so important in life today.

It is always a delight to hear about the activities our students undertake for each area of the Award and the lunchtime sessions work well for ideas to be shared and for evidence to be added to the record system. It is humbling to note the number of hours our students give to the school and local community for the volunteering section. We have students raising money for Streetlife in Blackpool, collecting coats for the Rotary Wrap up Lancashire Campaign, organising fun runs for Cancer Research UK and marshalling at local parkrun events. Others are working in local animal sanctuaries, charity shops and many help run the junior section of their sports club or help with the running of their local Brownie or Cub Scout group.

By the end of the expedition season 2019, over 150 students had completed the expedition section of their DofE Award, (82 Bronze, 54 Silver and 18 Gold). This is no easy task for the students or the staff; the teamwork involved is very impressive. Route cards, kit and transport can be organised well in advance, but the weather not so. However, adaptability is also an important life skill and our Bronze participants were exceptional at accepting a few last minute changes to routes to allow the expeditions to take place safely. Staff supervision on the expeditions is so important and we would not be able to run our expeditions without the time, efforts, encouragement and expertise of those who volunteer their time. Our sincere thanks to Mrs Sutcliffe, Mr Gardner, Mr Possamai, Mrs Latham, Mr Hancock, Ms Russell, Miss Chiekrie, Miss Leeming and Mr Fuller.





GOLD

| | |
|-----------|----------|
| Ewan | Armer |
| Ben | Armstead |
| Robert | Burrow |
| Finn | Gordon |
| Alexander | Hill |
| Isaac | Hill |
| Jessica | Maggs |

SILVER

| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| Libby | Baxter |
| Harvey | Berry |
| Reuben | Bond |
| Tanisha | Butt |
| Isabella | Damp |
| Zak | Gooderham |
| Lucas | Hartley |
| Zoe | Harvey |
| Margaret | Hodgson |
| Emily | Holdsworth |
| Emma | Nuttall |
| Thomas | Peet |
| Max | Pendergest |
| Thomas | Pickervance |
| Eleanor | Rockey |
| Lydia | Sanderson |
| Ria | Sharma |
| Matthew | Sutcliffe |
| George | Thompson |
| Amy | Wildish |
| Khirstine | Williams |

BRONZE

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Elisha | Amirkhani |
| Gregor | Anderson |
| Max | Bailey |
| Amelia | Berry |
| Phoebe | Caunce |
| Madeleine | Chaya |
| Ethan | Crompton |
| Alex | Eastham |
| Mollie | Green |
| Caitlan | Greenwood |
| William | Hooper |
| Hollie | John |
| Jennifer | Jones |
| Olivia | Jones |
| Madeleine | Mustow |
| Saul | Rogers |
| James | Sutcliffe |
| Sam | Taylor |
| Bailey | Whitehead |
| Grace | Wong |
| Peiwen | Xia |
| Jessica | Zhou |

Trip to Borrowdale Valley

Charles Partington, Joshua Baxter, Seb Roche and Charlotte O'Neill



Congratulations to all of the DofE students who recently visited St James's Palace in London to collect their Gold Awards. A fantastic achievement!



At the end of the Summer Term, our Third Year pupils ventured up to the Borrowdale Valley in the Lake District to enjoy their end of year trip. Over two days, the pupils had the opportunity to try ghyll scrambling, canoe on Derwent Water and enjoyed a glacial geography walk and talk with Mr Whittle. In preparation for their Bronze DofE expedition, they took part in teambuilding activities and learnt some outdoor first aid. They also put up tents, cooked on the Trangia camping stove and enjoyed a night under canvas. Our thanks must be expressed to Mr Gardner for orchestrating this exciting, yet very educational, end of year trip and to all the staff who attended and took part in the activities too.

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KGJS Vocal Ensemble's Festive Cheer



At the beginning of December, Kirkham Grammar Junior School Vocal Ensemble were delighted to be given the opportunity to go 'on tour'. The pupils have spent many hours at lunch time and break time practising for their Christmas Concert and this gave them a fantastic opportunity to showcase their wonderful voices in preparation for the concert.

The pupils returned to The Moorings Residential Care Home, for the third consecutive year, to bring some festive cheer to the residents.

Following this, the pupils travelled to nearby Jubilee House to entertain visitors at the Christmas Forget-Me-Not café. The organisers of this annual event support the Alzheimer's Society Dementia Friends and Age UK Lancashire and the pupils, who have attended the event for many years now, always thoroughly enjoy spreading a little festive cheer to their captivated audience.





KGS MUSIC





A number of music events have taken place during the Autumn Term including the Sixth Form and Fourth Year Coffee Concerts and our First Year pupils' 'Celebration of Talent'. These events showcase the abundance of musical talent we have at Kirkham Grammar School. Thank you to family, friends, staff and pupils for joining us for these events.

Congratulations to Lower Sixth Form pupil, Brioni Crowe who has been awarded a place in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. What a wonderful achievement to be playing with the best musicians in the country.

On Wednesday 27 November, Kirkham Grammar School hosted the annual Rotary Young Musician Competition. The local heat of the 2020 competition, which featured nine KGS pupils, saw Charlotte Cross win the vocal category and Thomas Peet runner up and highly commended in the instrument category. Charlotte will now compete at the District Final on Sunday 9 February at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Penrith. Congratulations to everyone who performed... a wonderful evening of musical talent!





KIRKHAM
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Proudly presents
Simon Reade's

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Based on the novel
by Lewis Carroll





During the Summer Term, Mr Moore and I began preparations for staging Simon Reade's version of Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. In the hazy summer months, the prospect of picnicking and rabbits freely frolicking seemed quite apt!

However, the story of Alice is a far darker one than most people remember, as Carroll explores the transition between childhood and adulthood. The cast had to suspend their disbelief at times and take on the roles of a table, door, pots and pans, flowers, flamingos, pig-baby and playing cards to name but a few.

Many parts were cast over the summer, giving the pupils learning the lines for Alice, the White Rabbit, Mad Hatter, Duchess and Queen of Hearts a head start. After the departure of Mr Moore to Malaysia

to take on a new teaching role, this year saw the arrival of the first cohort of Drama Scholars in the first year and they were incorporated into the cast when they arrived in September. Rehearsals were held weekly until 6pm every Wednesday and Friday as well as two days in half term and a couple of Sundays – trying to find a time for the busy cast to all be present was a challenge in itself!

The staging of the play followed a simple black and white theme, allowing the characters chance to interpret their vision of Wonderland, as it is in Alice's imagination. The audience enjoyed the atmosphere in the Summerlee Hall, as they were seated "cabaret style" and treated to Wonderland themed refreshments. The cast, at times, interacted with the audience, even asking them to "rise" for the entrance of the Queen of Hearts. The addition of the music,

sourced from an early children's nursery rhyme book and traditional English folk tunes, added an extra dimension to the play.

It was a delight to see the confidence of the younger pupils grow, friendships develop and to have a cast that spanned the whole senior school from First Year to Upper Sixth. Each and every member of the cast, musicians and backstage crew showed discipline and dedication and should be justly proud of what they achieved. Additional thanks are also extended to Miss Leeming, Mrs Sutcliffe, Mrs Tickle, Mr Curtis, Mrs Hancock and Mr Vevers.

Mrs G Latham
Head of Drama



CITY DREAMS

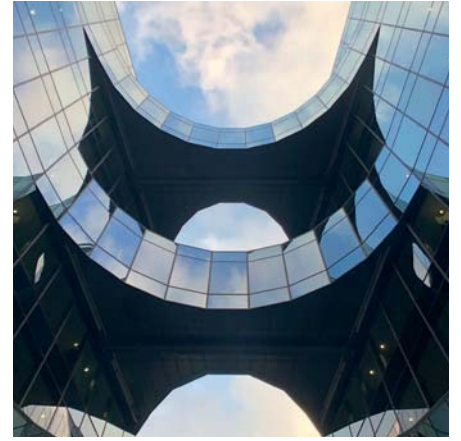


The Art And Design Department has a tradition of organising annual visits to the most famous museums and galleries of the world. The most recent was a trip to New York where we visited the MOMA and Guggenheim museums and walked the length and breadth of Manhattan (read Mrs Lovell's report). This term has been exceptionally busy with a one day Fourth Year GCSE trip to London visiting the thriving art scene in Shoreditch whilst the Sixth Form artists and photographers have visited Manchester and London on two separate trips. For the two day London trip our students visited the critically acclaimed Antony Gormley Retrospective at the Royal Academy, photographed various South Bank locations and Borough Market, experienced the panoramic view of the city from the Sky Garden and explored the area around Seven Dials.

In the past we have visited Berlin, Florence, Paris and Rome. It is always exciting to experience art at first hand as these trips are linked to the Art and Design Department curriculum and enable our students to have high quality visual and research materials, which go directly into their sketchbooks and portfolios. Our next big venture is a joint trip with the Computer Science and Design Technology Departments to Tokyo, Japan. Watch this space...



LOWER SIXTH LONDON TRIP





There's Nothing You Can't Do, Now You're In New York

Well, what didn't we do? The itinerary had been meticulously planned by Mr Gardiner, now on his sixth visit to the Big Apple, so we all knew the trip would be unforgettable.

We touched down at JFK airport just as the sun was setting. The coach transfer took us along the freeway and as the sun dipped below the horizon, the silhouette of the approaching Manhattan skyline was revealed with splendour. We all suddenly felt rejuvenated after the long flight.

Big Lights Will Inspire You

We didn't waste a minute. After dropping off our bags, we headed out to explore the city and savour our much anticipated meal at the Hard Rock Café, in the heart of Times Square, Midtown. The big lights beckoned and before long we couldn't resist the lure of the bright lights and delights of Times Square. The dazzling sights, sounds and street performers enthralled us all.

We were to traverse the many neighbourhoods across Manhattan and each left a unique, charming impression on us all. Our first of many subway rides took us Downtown to visit the 9/11 Memorial Museum and Plaza. It is difficult to put into words the emotions felt after visiting the museum, all of us were somewhat silenced, a humbling and moving experience that continues to resonate.

There was a short interlude of shopping (the first of many of course) at the Fulton Street Centre followed by a walk through the World Trade Centre Oculus hub, designed by the Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava, where organic form morphs into futuristic architecture. A surreal experience that felt like we were walking through a sci-fi movie set.

The financial district was immensely impressive, and we couldn't wait to visit the One World Trade Centre Observatory found on the 102 floor. The WTC dominated the landscape being the tallest building in the western hemisphere at a precise 1776 ft tall. It took us just 47 seconds to reach the 102 floor

travelling at a speed of 10 metres per second. The 360-degree view was spectacular!

Contrasting the old with the new, leaving Manhattan and the Statue of Liberty in the distance, a ferry ride took us to the recently developed DUMBO area in Brooklyn. Many a movie scene has been filmed on location here with the cobbled streets and converted warehouses, the beautifully engineered Manhattan bridge and the dramatic Manhattan skyline in the distance. After exploring the delicious culinary delights of Time Out Market, we headed back for an evening stroll along one of the oldest roadway bridges in the United States, Brooklyn Bridge. The views were stunning against the inky sky with the city's lights offering a magical lure back to Manhattan.

The evening was not over yet: we travelled back Uptown to visit the iconic Empire State, where Mr Gardiner had booked us in for a night view from the outdoor observation deck. It offered enchanting views of the city where famous landmarks were still recognisable.



The City That Never Sleeps

Day three was a more relaxed affair with a stroll through Central Park, a particularly beautiful autumnal walk which lead us to the Frank Lloyd Wright Guggenheim Museum. A gallery where radical art and architecture meet celebrating 60 years as an architectural icon of New York.

A subway ride back Downtown called for lunch at the magnificent Grand Central Station. A wonderfully ornate structure with Cathedral like proportions and yet again it is easy to see why it has featured in many a movie scene over the decades. After a shopping pit stop along the famous Fifth Avenue and the New York flagship stores we were all ready for some more New York cuisine.

Ellen's Stardust Diner was an experience like no other where the waiting staff perform and sing as they deliver your food. We all found our voices and couldn't resist in singing along - truly memorable, just to get us into the spirit of Broadway. We were primed for the hilarious Broadway musical 'Mean Girls' on 52nd, superbly performed and choreographed; a joy from beginning to end.

These Streets Will Make You Feel Brand New

Day four was another adventure of cultural sophistication. A visit to Hudson Yards, a re-development project on Manhattan's far west side, was a photographer's paradise. The centre piece of the area and dwarfed somewhat by the surrounding skyscrapers, is 'The Vessel', a public art structure designed by the British firm Heatherwick Studio and Thomas Heatherwick. It is like no other: 16 floors of staircases, 80 platforms, mirrored copper finishes reflect the cluster of architecture surrounding it. Its form has generated many a description like a true work of art, from 'the hive' to the 'pinecone' to name but a few.

After more retail therapy we walked along the Highline, a linear park built on an old railway viaduct offering a chance to view New York from a different perspective. An excellent example of urban landscape architecture and more photographic opportunities. The route leads us to the rather hip Chelsea Market for further culinary delights. From here we headed East to see another iconic landmark, the Flatiron building, at one time the tallest in the city at 20 floors high. A further stroll along Fifth Avenue lead us to Greenwich Village, through Washington Square Park and into a more bohemian neighbourhood of the city. Here there isn't a skyscraper to be seen, many of the brownstones and townhouses date from the beginning of the 19th century.

A quick snack from the Bleecker Street Pizza which lived up to its reputation as 'the best slice of pizza in NYC', energised us for the final location of the day, Soho. An area of charming elegant cast-iron- buildings and cobble stone streets and again with much to offer as an artist, photographer and shopper!

Our final day included a visit to the \$450 million newly refurbished MoMA, New York's Museum of Modern Art, where iconic pieces of twentieth and twenty-first century art, sculpture and installations were a joy to behold.

New York: Exploratory, exhilarating, inspirational, and truly unforgettable!



SUMMER HOCKEY CAMP





During the summer holidays, Kirkham Grammar School organised a fully residential four day Summer Hockey Camp, delivered by Susannah Townsend, Olympic gold medallist with current GB Hockey and Fiona Pocock, World silver medallist with England Rugby. The camp, open to girls in the First Year through to the Fifth Year, included technical hockey sessions with Susannah and fitness, strength and conditioning sessions with Fiona.

Susannah and Fiona both shared their hockey and rugby journeys and inspired the girls with video footage of their sporting achievements. They learnt about the importance of nutrition and thoroughly enjoyed the yoga and trigger point sessions, with many of the girls commenting how they hadn't realised the importance of strength and conditioning to prevent injury.

Susannah and Fiona showed the girls footage of the Rio 2016 Hockey final which saw Great Britain's women win their first Olympic hockey gold medal by beating defending champions, the Netherlands, in a dramatic penalty shootout. The girls were asked to analyse the game and highlight to Susannah and Fiona any game-plans and strategies, as well as the team and individual player strengths.

The final day saw a tournament take place in front of the girls' parents and family members which gave them the opportunity to put into practice everything they had learnt over the four days.

After the tournament, a prizegiving presentation took place with all of the girls sharing their goals and Susannah and Fiona presented three awards: Best Player to Natasha Hartley-Smith, Best Athlete to Helena Woodbridge-Harris and Best Team Player to Jessica Cole.

A fantastic experience for all of the girls!

The hockey camp will take place again next summer from Monday 24 August 2020 to Thursday 27 August 2020 for girls from J4 through to Lower Sixth Form. Please email m.tickle@kirkhamgrammar.co.uk to book a place.



HOCKEY TEAMS

1st XI



2nd XI





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Guys Thatched Hamlet

Kirkham Grammar School 1st XV travelled over the first weekend of October half term to participate for the first time in The St Joseph's College National Schools' Festival. Many of the top rugby playing schools from England and Wales were in attendance. Despite the long journey to Ipswich, Kirkham started the first day well with a last minute Corey Bowker try to give them a 7-3 victory over Hampton School, this gave the team confidence for the rest of the day to try and make the Cup Competition on the second day.

Next up was Dulwich College, but from the start Kirkham dominated with Captain Ethan Caine and fellow back row player Oli Leatherbarrow controlling the match. Caine helped himself to two tries and an Elliot Gourlay penalty took KGS to a 15-0 victory. Last up in the group were Yorkshire side QEGS Wakefield. This time it was the KGS backs who got on the scoresheet with winger Keir Gordon opening his account followed closely by a try from centre Owen Fisher to complete a 12-3 victory and entry into the Cup Competition for the second day.

Kirkham next faced the hosts St Joseph's College who had a huge support from the touchline but KGS showed confidence and power to put the Ipswich team on the back foot and again it was Ethan Caine and forwards who grinded out a 22-0 victory.

Next up were Whitchurch High School (former school of Sam Warburton, Gareth Bale and Geraint Thomas) one of Wales's top rugby schools. Despite creating opportunity after opportunity KGS failed to get on the score sheet and half time it was 0-0. Kirkham started the second half and eventually got their rewards with a catch and drive try but only a 5-0 lead. Very late in the game Whitchurch came alive and threatened for the first time and eventually scored to draw level. The Whitchurch player then magnificently converted from the touchline for a 7-5 lead with 1 minute to play. The game seemed lost but somehow KGS managed to get the ball back and forced a penalty, under immense pressure Elliot Gourlay stepped up and slotted the kick and gave KGS an 8-7 win. Kirkham were now close to making the final and with tries from Sam Carleton and Keir Gordon against Denstone they gained a 10-0 victory which took Kirkham into the final of this fantastic tournament. The final versus Wellington College was well contested with KGS having chances early but it was the Berkshire side who took a 12-0 half time lead. Kirkham responded and took on Wellington and were rewarded from their endeavours with a Marcus Blake try. Kirkham tried everything to close 12-5 margin but with time running out Wellington broke away to complete a 19-5 victory. Despite this loss KGS had played outstanding rugby and gained a place in the final of this top tournament.



1st XV at St Joseph's National Rugby Festival



RUGBY TEAMS

1st XV



2nd XV



U16



U15



U14



U14



U13



U12



U12





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EDDIE JONES **BOOK SIGNING**

On Tuesday 19 November, ten very excited First Year pupils were delighted to be given the opportunity to attend a breakfast book signing with Eddie Jones, Australian rugby union coach and former player, who has been the head coach of the England national team since 2015.

After a lovely breakfast, the pupils were given the opportunity to meet Eddie and each of the boys received a signed copy of his latest book, 'My Life and Rugby'. Lucas also asked Eddie to sign his Japan 2019 World Cup rugby ball and Charlie his World Cup shirt.

'My Life and Rugby' draws on his coaching experience of Australia, when he lost in the final to Clive Woodward's 2003 World Cup-winning team, and coaching Japan to the greatest upset in Rugby World Cup history when they beat South Africa. Eddie also shares leadership lessons that are equally applicable off the pitch, as well as how he has managed success and learnt from failure to now be rated one of the top sports coaches in the world. The story of a rugby legend, told with unflinching honesty, 'My Life and Rugby' is the ultimate rugby book for all fans of the sport.

Thank you to Eddie Jones, Plackitt & Booth Booksellers and Fylde Rugby Club for a fantastic morning.



CRICKET REPORTS



1st XI

The late Easter meant a fairly short cricket season with the 1st XI managing to play only seven matches. The annual encounter against the MCC in late April gave the team a chance to play a longer form of the game which allowed time at the crease for the batsmen and a chance for the bowlers to bowl more than one spell. As tradition dictates, the MCC elected to bat to set Kirkham a challenging total to chase down. Will Gregory and Harrison Ross bowled two tight spells and were very ably backed up by Louis Johnson and Callum Doyle. In fact all the Kirkham bowlers acquitted themselves with credit and managed to restrict the visitors to 176-6 from 46 overs before their declaration. In reply Kirkham lost Janse Van der Ryst for a first ball duck from a delivery that cut back sharply. Captain Nathan Wood followed soon after for three but Fred Hackett dug in and set himself to bat for a long period by restricting his shot to some well-directed pushes and prods. Louis Johnson joined Hackett and proceeded to play with maturity and formed a promising partnership. Three more players reached double figures after Johnson was dismissed, Joe Thompson (11),

Callum Doyle (15) and Daniel Smith (13no). Hackett fell for an excellent 37 before Smith and Harry Snape saw Kirkham to a well-deserved draw, ending the game on 115-8.

The following day the boys succumbed on a very different pitch which was hard and bouncy to AKS, only posting 106 all out in their 20 overs, with the hosts surpassing the total for the loss of two wickets. The Nat West 20/20 regional round against Lancaster, who were particularly strong, left our opponents chasing only 81 for victory, however Will Gregory hit a very good 42 with some clean hitting in the Kirkham innings.

Stonyhurst, always a great venue, looked a picture in mid-May as Kirkham posted a respectable 156 all out with Van der Ryst top scoring with a fine 63. He was backed up well by Fourth Year pupil, Louis Johnson with another mature knock of 25 and Captain, Nathan Wood with 21. Stonyhurst lost an early wicket before a partnership of 42 took them to 47-2. Another wicket fell on 50 before a 20 run partnership steadied the ship for the hosts. Two more wickets fell on 70 to leave the game interestingly poised at 70-5. Ben Haworth bowled with lively pace, as did Charlie Partington, however, a couple

of dropped catches didn't help the Kirkham cause as Stonyhurst crept over 100 and at 122-8 Kirkham sniffed a great chance of victory. Nevertheless, a superbly gritty effort from the home batsman Clarke and number 10 Bullock with 32 and 13no respectively guided them home leaving Kirkham crestfallen. Sedbergh won our now annual encounter four days later by 41 runs in a 30 over game, with Van der Ryst top scoring with 20. The last two matches, after a break for the examinations saw two more defeats to Myerscough and Rossall, both Kirkham teams featuring younger players from the Third, Fourth and Fifth Year age groups.

Once again an encouraging season which allowed me to blood many young players and work with six boys who represented the 1st XI for four seasons. The team was very well captained for the second consecutive season by Nathan Wood who brought a calmness and maturity to the side.

Many thanks to all!

Mr J R Lyon

Under 15

Played 6 Won 4 Lost 2 Tied 1

Wins

Our Lady Preston (Lancashire Cup)
Hill House School (Yorkshire) (Cokethorpe Tournament)
Hampshire Collegiate (Cokethorpe Tournament)
Lancaster Grammar

Defeats

Rossall (Lancashire Cup)
Cokethorpe (Cokethorpe Tournament)

Tie

AKS

4 rained off or cancelled - Stonyhurst, Rossall, QEGS Blackburn and Bury G.S

This ultimately proved to be a really successful season, as the team raised its game in the key encounters.

The season showed major commitment to pre-season training by Captain Charlie Hodgson, Theo Mihell, Harry Snape and Henry Smith.

This proved its value and Henry Smith won man of the match in the first match of the season v Our Lady.

Thursday night training session showed results as Tom Hoad developed as a most effective batsman and competitor, time and time again throughout the season.

Training gave pointers to improvement as Charlie McNamee's batting stance and strokeplay has greater core stability and balance and Michael Mellon, will be a terrific asset as a fast bowler, as witnessed to brilliant effect v Lancaster. Congratulations to Alex Eastham, whose application to improving his batting has brought a fine reward.

In Pope and Parkinson, we had destructive batsmen and in Mihell, we have a key allround performer. Lynch has much promise and contributions from Sutcliffe and Read from the third year were immense. I should like to thank Charlie Hodgson for captaining the side this season and praise Harry Snape for being the Player of Season, which was capped by an imperious 57 not out to win 3rd place in the Cokethorpe festival.

Mr R Young

Under 13

The U13s have come a long way during the 2019 season. Despite the usual rain affected season, the group showed excellent bowling ability, with Luca Mihell, James Stacey, Zander Kane and Luca Green showing excellent control with their line and length. Batting is still the nut to crack with this team, however Jack Chapman, James Stacey and Oliver Greenwood all made good contributions throughout the season. The highlights of the tour were the Oxfordshire Tour where we took place in an indoor invitational



festival and the Rossall tournament, where we came runners up, losing only one game to the winners Giggleswick School by 1 run.

Mr G Partington

Under 12

In a season badly affected by the short summer term due to a late Easter, the number of scheduled games relied upon favourable weather. Sadly, the elements intervened, and, what could have been a season to remember was peppered with too many rain affected games. Wimbledon now has two totally enclosed courts should bad light or rain arrive. A little investment here and there would easily solve the problem!

The first game of the season took us to A.K.S. (our nearest rivals) for an eagerly anticipated game. Upon winning the toss, Kirkham elected to bat on a dry and quick outfield. The running between the wickets of A. Guthrie and H. Barber was quite a revelation as a strong understanding grew from the onset. Guthrie, Barber and Ribchester all scored freely in a total of 137 off 20 overs. In reply A.K.S. could only muster 74 runs off their 20 overs as the seam attack of K.G.S. posed many problems.



Rain then curtailed any chance of regular fixtures as the games with Lancaster and Bury perished! The Lancashire County Cup fixture against Ripley St. Thomas had to be played in poor weather conditions. A below par score of 54 from Kirkham was never going to be enough. Kirkham applied good pressure with the ball to make the opposition stumble past our total with only 3 overs left. The conditions were not in our favour as we bowled throughout with a very wet ball. The last game of the season pitted us against Q.E.G.S. Blackburn. As a contest, it never got going, and K.G.S. ran out very comfortable winners as we passed their total of 42 in the eleventh over. Once again, our seam attack proved too strong; H. Barber took a 5 wicket haul, no mean feat in just a 4 over spell.

Aside from the tour of Oxford, the team were badly restricted to just 3 games, one of which, was a cup fixture. The short term and poor weather hinders proper development for all year groups. Next season Easter is again late therefore the number of games will be few and far between.

On the positive side, several players shone with either bat or ball, and sometimes, both. The team were well led by H. Barber who, as an all-rounder, displays an astute mind for our summer game. With both bat and ball he had some excellent performances, none more so than his 5 wickets against Q.E.G.S. Blackburn. In A. Guthrie, the team possesses a bundle of enthusiasm and positive thinking, for it is he who leads the chorus of "Come on Kirkham; wicket for us"! Someone who is going to enjoy his cricket for many years to come. The pace attack

of A. Smith and H. Case was well supported by the seam bowling of Guthrie, Barber, Huck and Ikram. Behind the wickets lies the growing confidence of O. Kollard who developed nicely as the season progressed. The ground fielding was very pleasing and was backed up with some fine catching. With a spinner this team will prove to be a fine advert for cricket in the coming years.

Under 12 Cricket Tour to St Edward's, Oxford

At the end of the summer term we came to a rainbow and, at the end of it, was a pot of gold in the form of a two day cricket tour to Oxford. With the sun beating down we set off to Oxford, home of some fine Dons but none better than the late great Sir Donald Bradman. With Mr Emerson "Harrison" Fittipaldi at the wheel, we ventured out into new territory for our school.

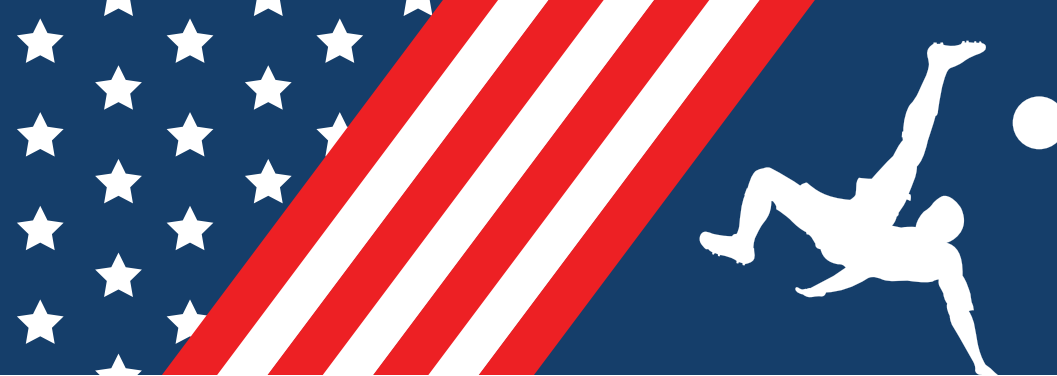
The game at St. Edward's was played on the "Piggeries" pitch. This was a keenly fought contest as Kirkham played against a combined state team selected from the schools across the County. The Oxford boys won the toss and elected to bat on a flat deck. Kirkham's early bowling soon set the tone for the innings as runs were not easy to come by. The six player bowling attack of K.G.S. all played their part in a fine bowling display. Our opponents were restricted to 64-7 after 20 intriguing overs; A. Guthrie was the pick of the attack as his line, length and enthusiasm never wavered. In reply, our innings stumbled as our batsmen contrived to get themselves out. A lack of batting practice over the summer certainly hampered our attempt to pass our opponents score. Nevertheless, we came within 15 runs of winning the game by the close of play. To be able to pick from a variety of schools enabled the Oxford team to select slow bowlers who were very effective on the day.

Following our morning efforts, another game was arranged during the afternoon and both teams reversed their batting and bowling line-up. From Kirkham's position little was gained as wickets fell far too easily as the sun continued to bore down with relentless ease.

Both teams played with excellent spirit and showed enthusiasm and zeal for the game. The background of St Edward's (Kenneth Grahame's school) added to the experience as the sound of bat and ball could be heard played against a backdrop of a nearby tributary of the Thames, quietly burbling to itself. The two day tour was a resounding success and special praise must go to Mr Unsworth for the contribution he made in organising such an enriching experience and to Mr Harrison for his traffic duties. Here's to Oxford late June 2020 when I hope the weather is kinder throughout the entire season.

Mr S Painter





Orlando, Florida Football Tour

Thursday 17 October 2019 to Thursday 24 October 2019

DAY 1

A 2am meeting time at school was not necessarily the most ideal start to a trip, but so it was that the twenty seven Third and Fourth Year boys as well as the staff congregated in front of the school to 'check in' before beginning the journey down to London Gatwick to catch the flight out to Orlando. 'Getting some sleep' was never really going to be an option as the excitement was palpable and the boys and staff were really looking forward to the week long 'soccer' tour out in Florida. Resplendent in our new kit, the group eventually checked in, and before we knew it we were settled into our British Airways flight and happily watching films on our way West across the Atlantic Ocean.

Arriving at Orlando airport saw the group passing through customs with a minimum of fuss and the boys dealt with the border control process in an impressively good natured and well-mannered way, and with a clear willingness to 'take in the experience'. Once through border control we were onto the coach and quickly checking in to our hotel, the Rosen Inn at Pointe Orlando. From there it was the first of our evening meals, a fantastic choice of food, some of it known to us, and some of it less so. However, the first apple cobbler of the trip was consumed and all was well as we settled in for the night.

DAY 2

Day 2 saw us establish what would become our morning routine, namely a team breakfast and catch up followed by 'the bank' being open for pocket money and an outline of the day. Cereal, 'special eggs', toast, bacon, pancakes, Mickey Mouse waffles and banana bread were just some of the options, and all the boys filled up for the day. Universal Studios was today's destination and everyone was looking forward to it. Once into the park the boys split up into groups and headed off in search of whatever ride they fancied. The Incredible Hulk Coaster, Jurassic Park, King Kong, Hogsmeade, Spider-Man, Hagrid's Motorcycle Adventure...the list goes on. The staff thoroughly enjoyed the rides as much as the boys, and rumour has it that Mr Gardner is going to try and recreate the Butterbeer recipe in DT Exhausted but happy, the party then returned to the hotel for a relaxing evening.

DAY 3

Saturday saw the group travel to MSL Club Orlando Soccer to train with the pros at their brand new training facility. Under the watchful eye of the Orlando coaching staff, the boys were put through their paces with drills, games and a range of skills-based activities. Everyone agreed that the quality of coaching was excellent, and it was great to be hosted by the MSL club. However, the session was far from simple; Tropical Storm Nestor was moving from the Gulf of Mexico across Northern Florida. Even though we were nowhere near the centre of the storm itself, we experienced torrential rain and on a couple of occasions we had to retreat to the 'chicken sheds', not necessarily due to the rain itself, but due to the risk of lightning strikes in the 'lightning capital of the world'.

It was then back to the hotel before Mr Berry, Mr Gardner and Mr Whittle spent a couple of hours in the hotel's washing rooms manically trying to dry 31 sets of kit before the evening fixtures. The downside to this was the stark reminder that slightly damp football kit does not smell good... the upside was the chance to chat to the various guests in the hotel! During the trip we would come across and chat to people from Puerto Rico, Brazil, Jamaica, Peru, Argentina, Haiti, Guatemala, Canada, Mexico, and Cuba. There was a truly international flavour to our time in Florida. Once the kit was a tad drier and less perfumed we set off for our first set of fixtures against a club in Southern Orlando.

The U14s played first and came away with a commanding 5-1 victory. Wills Gut opened the scoring and was quickly followed by Sam Gornall and Xander Cane. The opposition did get one back, but a brace from Alex Greenhalf saw the U14s cruise into the final part of the game with ease; Harry Tomlinson deservedly being named Man of the Match. The U15s then played under the watch of the Jamaican referee in what was a tighter affair. Ben Wiggins opened the scoring before Saul Penn added a second. However, a penalty for the opposition and an own goal soon evened things up. However, despite two goals for the opposition late on making the score line closer, the start of the second half proved to be decisive as goals from Josh Langley, Charlie Read and Tom Shuttleworth enabled the U15s to come out as winners. Man of the

Match for the U15s was Tom Shuttleworth, and for the U14s it was the outstanding Will Davies for his goalkeeping.

DAY 4

The Sunday saw the boys visit the local Mall for some retail therapy. The journey there was undertaken on the Orlando I-Ride trolley and was certainly driven by the build up to the Manchester United-Liverpool game that was taking place later on in the day. Following on from the shopping the group headed West for the second set of fixtures. Unfortunately, due to a little mix up and some awful Orlando traffic, it was not possible for the U15s to get their game organised; instead they had a very enjoyable training session under humid floodlights. The U14s game did go ahead, and it turned out to be an excellent game of football, and literally, rather than just metaphorically, a game of two halves.

A rather disjointed first half saw the boys play a little bit as individuals rather than a cohesive team, and as a result let the opposition into the game when really there should only have been one winner. Going into half time there was a rather frank team talk from the coaching staff, but this was seemingly to no avail as the opposition scored just after the break, leaving the Kirkham boys 3-4 down. However, the boys then seemed to heed the advice of Mr Berry and started to play football through the opposition in a calm and technical way, rather than trying to rush things pressing forward. Once the Kirkham boys began playing football with structure and genuinely thoughtful approach work they were so much more effective. This soon reaped its rewards as the boys started to dominate the opposition and eventually ran out 7-4 winners. Alex Greenhalf scored a well-deserved hat-trick, Harry Tomlinson an absolute screamer from long range, Xander Kane, Wills Gut and Sam Gornall were also on the score-sheet, all ably backed up by Jack Gorton and Finn Chaya who held things together at the back.



DAY 5

Monday saw the group return to a Universal Studios Theme Park, this time 'Volcano Bay', the waterpark located just 20 minutes away from the hotel. The wait to get into the theme park allowed some of the boys to have a good chat to a local police officer and get their bearings on the park map; with such a huge array of slides and rides it was clearly important to have a plan for the day! Having established a base camp on the beach at the foot of the Krakatau volcano the boys set off in search of adventure. Not so lazy rivers, slides, tubes, rides.... a very full day of aquatic fun ensued and everyone agreed that there was something for everyone.

The group then left Volcano Bay and returned to the hotel for a quick change before the final set of fixtures. On a ridiculously hot and humid evening all the Kirkham players were sweating before kick-off, but the atmosphere under the floodlights at the Falcons' 4G pitches was superb with a very healthy showing from the home supporters. With both teams playing against more experienced opposition, everyone knew that the games would be extremely difficult.

The U14s under Coach Gardner played their socks off with a superb, never-say-die performance, but unfortunately the opposition were too strong. Sam Gornall once again got on the scoresheet, and everyone in the team gave everything they had, with Sam Medhurst, Ollie Greenwood, Sam Dunnington and Oscar Harkins particularly busy in the first half. However, despite the Kirkham industry and attitude, they could not prevent a 1-3 defeat, with Luca Mihell and Jack Gorton sharing the man of the match award.

The U15s game was a tight affair to begin with, with an early Charlie Read header following a great assist from Ben Wiggins being the only thing separating the teams for a quite a while. However, the physicality and fitness of the U15s soon started to come into play and the more the match went on the more it was clear that only one team was going to win. The opposition did score a

goal, following a mistake, losing possession on the half-way line. But a hat-trick from man of the match Tom Shuttleworth, including an absolute screamer, ensured a 4-1 victory. Clearly the most improved player was Jorge Zacharias who was dominant in the centre of the defence along with Noah McKnight, Will Mathison and Josh Langley. A genuine strength of this team throughout the tour was the midfield, with Saul Penn and Ethan Woodcock always looking for work and strong in the challenge. To their great credit Jonny Goodacre, Charlie Cope and Fintann Doyle always looked to get their foot on the ball and look for a pass, and Ioan Condon developed significantly as the team's goalkeeper. Harry Jones also deserves a special mention; unable to play due a pre-tour injury, his positive attitude throughout the tour set the tone for the rest of the team.

DAY 6

Tuesday was the final day and it was off West to Tampa and Busch Gardens. Whilst Mr Whittle picked and choosed his rides it would be fair to say that the boys made the most of their final theme park day. The mix of rides and wildlife was a great way to pass the final day, and there was something for everyone, including alligators and a very impressive Nile Crocodile! The evening then saw the group visit Disney Springs for a fabulous final outing. Dinner at Planet Hollywood was followed by a bit of souvenir shopping, and everyone was happy to wander around the streets listening to the various singers and musicians; a truly magical and fitting end to what had been a wonderful trip.

Day 7

Day 7 saw a quiet morning as everyone packed and chilled out by the pool. We then transferred to Orlando Airport for a quick rendezvous with Tyson Fury and then we boarded our flight to take us home. Various amounts of sleep were had on the way back, before we reached school tired, jet-lagged but very happy and reflecting on what had been a memorable trip: Orlando 'Soccer' Tour 2019.



ON THE ROAD TO



Kirkham Grammar School were delighted to welcome accomplished tennis player, Yandy Shek as a Third Year boarder from Hong Kong.

The County Finals of the 2019 Road to Wimbledon took place in July at South Ribble Tennis Centre with junior players from across Lancashire competing for a place in the National Finals. In the Girls' Singles, Yandy won through to the National Finals to compete on the grass courts of the All England Club the following month.

In the LTA 'The Road to Wimbledon' National Finals event, Yandy was crowned both the County Girls' Singles Champion and County Girls' Doubles Champion with her partner, Megan Ransford. Yandy was delighted to receive her trophies from British professional tennis player, Tim Henman.

Yandy's aim is to go pro and compete at Wimbledon. An inspirational young lady and a rising star in the tennis world...watch this space!



ECB Award - Mr Painter

Over October half term, Kirkham Grammar School Art and Games Teacher, Mr Simon Painter travelled down to Birmingham for the ECB Coach Awards 2019 held at the Test Match Arena in Edgbaston. Mr Painter proudly received the 'Outstanding Contribution for Lancashire 2019' award.

Mr Painter started coaching as a 19-year-old back in 1977 when he was asked to take over the running and coaching of Darwen's Under 15 team. He has had numerous roles within the club, first team player/captain, second team player/captain, third team player/captain and Sunday team player/captain, Northern League representative for twenty four years and currently Palace Shield representative for the third team/Sunday team.

As a teacher here at Kirkham Grammar School, he is currently in his twenty third year as a teacher and cricket coach where he has had the distinction of coaching both boys and girls. He has been an art teacher and sports coach for over thirty years. Throughout his forty years involvement at Darwen Cricket Club he has provided inspiration to many generations of Darwen cricketers and families. He supports the development of players and teams throughout the club at all levels. An inspirational teacher/coach who has increased player participation for many years both at club level and within his teaching role at Kirkham Grammar School. A legend of Darwen Cricket Cricket Club who supports the town and people of Kirkham grammar school to the best of his ability.

Congratulations, Mr Painter.



AJIS CROSS COUNTRY



Kirkham Grammar Junior School travelled to Rossall School at the beginning of October to take part in the annual Association of Junior Independent Schools Cross Country Championships. All of our athletes had trained hard for the event at lunchtime and weekends.

The AJIS Championships are always very competitive with over 20 schools taking part and 125 runners in each race.

Pride of place goes to the U11 boys who came home with bronze medals in the team event.



Listed below are the individual positions:

| U11 Boys |
|--------------------------|
| 15th Bertie Jones |
| 24th Evan Twose |
| 26th Adam Jackson |
| 42nd Tom Barton |
| 66th Jack Dawson-Gerrard |
| 73rd Henry Allison |
| 100th Tom Bellamy |

| U11 Girls |
|------------------------|
| 20th Zara Gilchrist |
| 29th Issy Gut |
| 47th Emily Greenwood |
| 49th Poppy Pickervance |
| 60th Evelyn So |
| 62nd Alice Bunday |

| U10 Boys |
|-------------------------|
| 11th Freddie Wiltshire |
| 16th William Thompson |
| 17th James Wileman |
| 44th Jonty Faith |
| 45th Tumi Milligan |
| 71st William Margerison |
| 78th John Watson |

| U10 Girls |
|-----------------------|
| 26th Philippa Hancock |
| 28th Hollie Bailey |
| 34th Hermione Edwards |
| 60th Raia Trend |
| 63rd Rosa Gill |
| 74th Sophie Gough |
| 77th Olivia Norcross |



SOUTH AFRICA

J U L Y 2 0 1 9



Its setting, in the oldest working harbour in the southern hemisphere, is simply spectacular: it has Table Mountain as a dramatic backdrop as well as extensive views of the ocean, city bowl and the mountain peaks of the Hottentots-Holland Mountains.



The end of the summer term was marked by an incredible adventure, for a number of our KGS Upper School pupils, with a Biology tour to South Africa to explore the sights, wildlife and culture that the country has to offer.

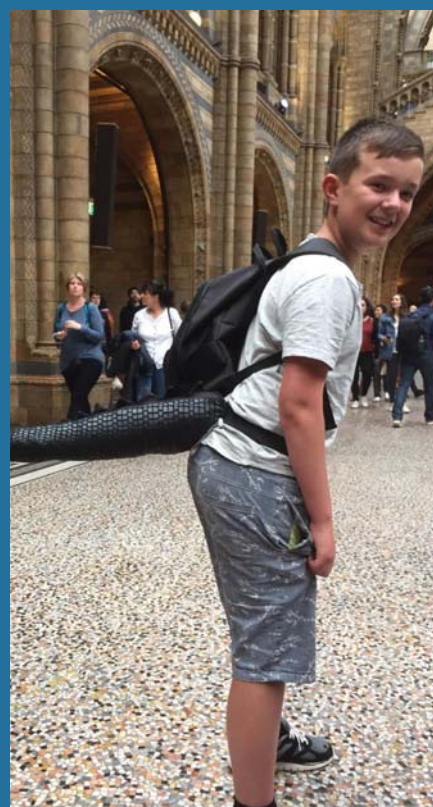
Our adventure began with four days at the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, the oldest working harbour in the southern hemisphere, which boasts of spectacular views of Table Mountain and the ocean together with a vibrant city atmosphere. Our stay here included a visit to Robben Island, Table Mountain and Boulders' Bay and was remembered particularly for the reality of Nelson Mandela's cell which was tremendously moving.

Our taste of the South African wildlife began with visiting the penguins at Boulder's Bay in Simonstown and then the cheetahs and ostriches in Oudtshoorn. The highlight of the tour for many, however, was a four day safari to the game reserve at Knysna where both day and night safaris brought us into close proximity to lions, herds of elephant and white rhinoceros, hippos and a beautiful four hour old giraffe. The tour was an incredible trip of a lifetime which I am sure everyone will look back on with great fondness. Friends were made, experiences shared and as tour leader I know it was an experience I shall never forget.





LONDON TRIP



London was the destination once again for our First Year pupils this summer, when they travelled to the capital to visit some of the fascinating scientific sights the city has to offer.

The Natural History Museum, the Hard Rock Café, London Zoo, Covent Garden and the Lion King were just a few of the places we visited on our hectic three day tour. A fabulous few days with superb KGS pupils.

Thirteen Third and Fourth Year pupils had an early start on Thursday 3 October to begin the inaugural Computing Department trip to Bletchley Park and CISCO Systems UK. Their first visit was to Bletchley Park, the home of the Codebreaking pioneers of the Second World War, and the Computing students were keen to understand the role that computers had to play. They began with a wander through the history of Bletchley and codebreaking and enjoyed getting up close and personal with Enigma and other period coding devices. They were impressed with the sheer scale of the codebreaking problem that our men and women had to face every day and the Bombe machine that was invented to overcome it.

The pupils enjoyed a guided tour for an hour during the visit and were given the chance to hear the personal side to life at Bletchley, including the hard work and sacrifices the men and women working there made to keep their work a secret and contribute to the massive success of the Normandy landings. This was especially evident during an immersive video presentation which brought Bletchley to life.

The pupils finished their visit with a Cyber Security lesson from an ex cyber-crime police officer where they impressed him with their knowledge of online dangers and safe practises. The favourite part of the day had to be the chance for each of them to use a genuine Enigma machine and understand the complexity of its design.

After spending the night in a hotel right next to Heathrow Airport (very excited to see all the planes!) they set off to CISCO HQ at Bedfont Lakes looking forward to the day ahead.

The day started with an introduction from the Collaboration Team who talked to the pupils about what CISCO was all about and what technology they were involved in and developing.

Pupils had the opportunity to speak to members of different teams about their individual 'journeys' to CISCO. It was amazing to see how different their careers paths had been and how long some of the staff had actually worked for CISCO as well as hearing about the jobs they had done along the way.

They had the opportunity to speak to several members of the team based in the US via WebEx – from Heidi based in San Jose (Collaboration Team Leader- originally from the UK) to Sarah based in Illinois who has only ever worked remotely and only for CISCO!

The pupils were split into teams and given a problem to solve, to devise a product to help in healthcare using technology.

All the teams were enthusiastic and developed some great ideas which they each had to present to the 'Dragons' both within the room and in the US via WebEx.

It was an amazing experience and the students gained really valuable feedback with regards to their development of ideas and presentation skills.

We were also all looked after throughout the day and had the opportunity to sample their amazing restaurant facilities.

A massive thankyou to Heidi and her team for all the planning involved, it was an amazing experience for all involved. We are so grateful that they took the time out of their day to be involved in the event – with the time difference it was 5am for Heidi!

The pupils were a credit to the school and the school has been invited to bring twenty girls to Manchester next May to be part of a CISCO 'Sponsored United Nations Girls in IT' initiative event. The event is actually running in London – the girls will be taking part virtually!

CISCO have been voted the number one 'Great Places to Work in the World' and we can see why!





WATER & CARBON CYCLES FIELD TRIP



The end of September is normally an ideal time to be out 'in the field', with the remnants of the summer warmth still around and the full impact of winter weather yet to be felt. It was therefore an interesting week leading up to their day in the field, with the sheer amount of rain that had fallen. However, in many ways this turned out to be to their geographical advantage, as the purpose of their day was to study the Water and Carbon Cycles, and the amount of rainfall that they had witnessed over the previous days reinforced and evidenced many of the theories that they had set out to test.



Starting at Beacon Fell, they conducted a line transect down a slope looking at changes to infiltration rates, soil type and vegetation cover. All students were excellent in their approach to the work, and were very quickly making astute observations about what they were seeing and how it linked back to the theory that they had learnt in the classroom. The weather had turned out to be rather sunny and they soon found some very picturesque places to complete their field sketches.

The afternoon saw them move their way down to the River Brock. They were unable to take measurements from the river due to the velocity of the water travelling downstream, but they could clearly see the idea of the drainage basin as a 'flashy' river with a very quick response time to any rainfall. Quadrat sampling of vegetation cover, discussion of coniferous versus deciduous vegetation type and the subsequent effect on both Carbon and Water Cycles ensued, as well as more photographs and field sketches of the study area.



All in all an excellent day was had by all. Lots of very good geography was observed and measured; many different fieldwork techniques were learnt and used, and all of this took place in a beautiful local environment. Highlight of the day for many were the scones and statues at Beacon Fell, but for others it was seeing the transformation of two millstone grit pebbles from the River Brock into the sand of Morecambe Bay.



LANCASHIRE CHESS CONGRESS



In November, Kirkham Grammar School was host to the first Lancashire Association Junior Chess Congress of the season. The Junior School have recently set up a new chess club and the event saw a number of KGJS pupils taking part, alongside pupils from other local schools. The congress is an important event to evaluate players for the Lancashire U9 and U11 county teams. In addition to a full timetable of chess games, the event also included coaching sessions before the day concluded with a prizegiving.





CHRISTMAS FAIR



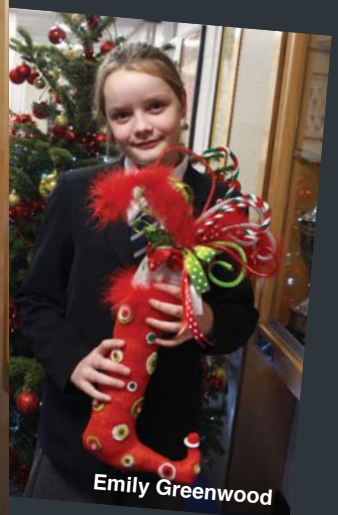
GRINCHMAS Stocking Competition



Freddie Butler



Darcey Borrow



Emily Greenwood



What an absolutely amazing start we've had to our fund raising this year!

Our first event, new to the Friends of Kirkham Grammar School's calendar, was the Sports Celebration Dinner in November, held at Preston Grasshoppers. We enjoyed a fabulous informal evening of fantastic food, fun entertainment and an amazing auction with generous donations from Mr Bill Bailey, Fylde RFC and Campbell & Rowley. Thank you to all the parents and teachers who supported the event to raise money for our Junior and Senior School Sports Departments.

Our first Bags 2 School Collection also took place in November and we are hoping to have a further collection in the spring term, so continue saving all the clothes and shoes that you no longer need. A huge thank you to Mrs Sutcliffe and the Duke of Edinburgh volunteers for helping coordinate.



Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without our annual Christmas Lunch and the wonderful Christmas Fair.

The Christmas lunch, this year held at the new Boulevard Hotel in Blackpool, proved to be a wonderful start to the festive season with delicious food and the company of friends old and new.

Our worries that the Grinch could have stolen the Christmas spirit at our Grinchmas themed fair was unfounded, as a magical and festive afternoon was had by all. As always the highlight of the afternoon was the visit from Father Christmas.

We are currently planning a school disco for our junior children on their return to school, a gin tasting evening for parents and with our annual pre-loved uniform sale, the beginning of the new year is shaping up to be another busy term.

None of these events would be possible without the FKGS committee and I cannot thank you all enough. I am also overwhelmed by the support of our many additional groups of helpers, teachers and pupils. Thank you.

Since returning to school we've introduced a newsletter to keep you updated on our future events and fund raising efforts. This is issued by email so please keep a look out; you can also find it on our Facebook page.

We are always looking for extra help. Whether this is by joining our committee, ad-hoc time helping at our events, fundraising ideas or donating raffle or auction prizes, your help would be greatly appreciated. Supporting the FKGS is very rewarding, fun and a great way to make new friends in the Kirkham Grammar family.

The Friends of Kirkham Grammar School wish you all a very merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Kerry Greenwood
Chair, FKGS



If you struggle to attend our events but would like to get involved in our fund raising efforts there are plenty of easy ways you can help. In addition to our Bags 2 School collections we have our 100 Club Prize Draws and the Easyfundraising shopping facility that you can get involved in.

An annual fee of £25 enters you into our 100 Club monthly draws and the chance to win up to £250.

For more information please contact y.malings@kirkhamgrammar.co.uk.

Registering with Easyfundraising turns your everyday online shopping into free donations for the FKGS with no cost to you. Simply register with www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fokgs/ and start shopping with over 4000 online retailers.

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The HIFU Face lift is now on **special offer** till the end of January, with the Full Face and Neck for just £325 (Usually £650!) Individual areas can also be treated, please get in contact or see the website for prices.



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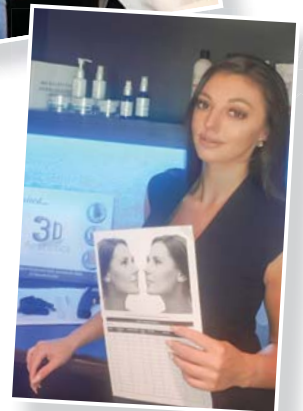
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Diary Dates



Monday 23 December 2019
Young Kirkhamians' Christmas Gathering
The Grapes, Wrea Green 7.30 pm

Tuesday 7 January 2020
Full school term begins

Friday 17 January 2020
Sixth Form Taster Day for current Fifth Year

Saturday 18 January 2020
Lancashire Schools' Cross Country Championships, Witton Park

Friday 24 January 2020
Third Year Coffee Concert, Recital Hall 1.05 pm

Monday 27 January 2020
11+ Music Scholarships
11+ Sports Scholarships

Wednesday 29 January 2020
11+ Drama Scholarships

Thursday 30 January 2020
Second Year Concert, Recital Hall 7.30 pm

Saturday 1 February 2020
11+ Entrance Examination

Friday 7 February 2020
FKGS Junior School Disco for J1-J4 pupils

Sunday 9 February 2020
LAMDA Examinations

Tuesday 11 February 2020
Third Year GCSE Option & Careers Evening, Summerlee Hall 7.30 pm

Friday 14 February 2020
First and Second Year Coffee Concert, Recital Hall 1.05 pm
Half Term 4.00 pm

Monday 24 February 2020
School commences

Thursday 27 February 2020
Third Year Parents' Evening

Monday 2 March 2020
National Careers Week
STEM, Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing & Veterinary Workshops
6.00 pm - 7.30 pm

Wednesday 4 March 2020
National Careers Week
Commerce, Law & Accountancy Workshops 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm

Friday 6 March 2020
House Choir Final
House Music Festival Final
FKGS Black Powder Ginsperience Night

Thursday 12 March 2020
Gala Concert, Recital Hall
Current pupils, parents and wider community welcome

Wednesday 18 March 2020
FKGS Mothers' Day Gift Shopping for Junior School pupils

Thursday 19 March 2020
Richard J Wilson Under 14 Sevens' Tournament
CCF Field Day, Fourth Year, Fifth Year and Sixth Form

Monday 23 March 2020
FKGS Committee Meeting

Saturday 28 March 2020
Concerto Recital, Summerlee Hall 7.30 pm

Wednesday 1 April 2020
Founders' Day Service, St Michael's Church Kirkham

Tuesday 7 April 2020
End of Term 12 noon

Tuesday 28 April 2020
School commences

Friday 8 May 2020
Public holiday

Friday 22 May 2020
Half Term 4.00 pm

Monday 1 June 2020
School commences

Thursday 18 June 2020
Fifth Year End of Exams Party

Friday 19 June 2020
Sixth Form Ball

Saturday 20 June 2020
FKGS 470th Anniversary Ball

Friday 3 July 2020
End of Term 12 noon





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