The Kirkhamian 2002

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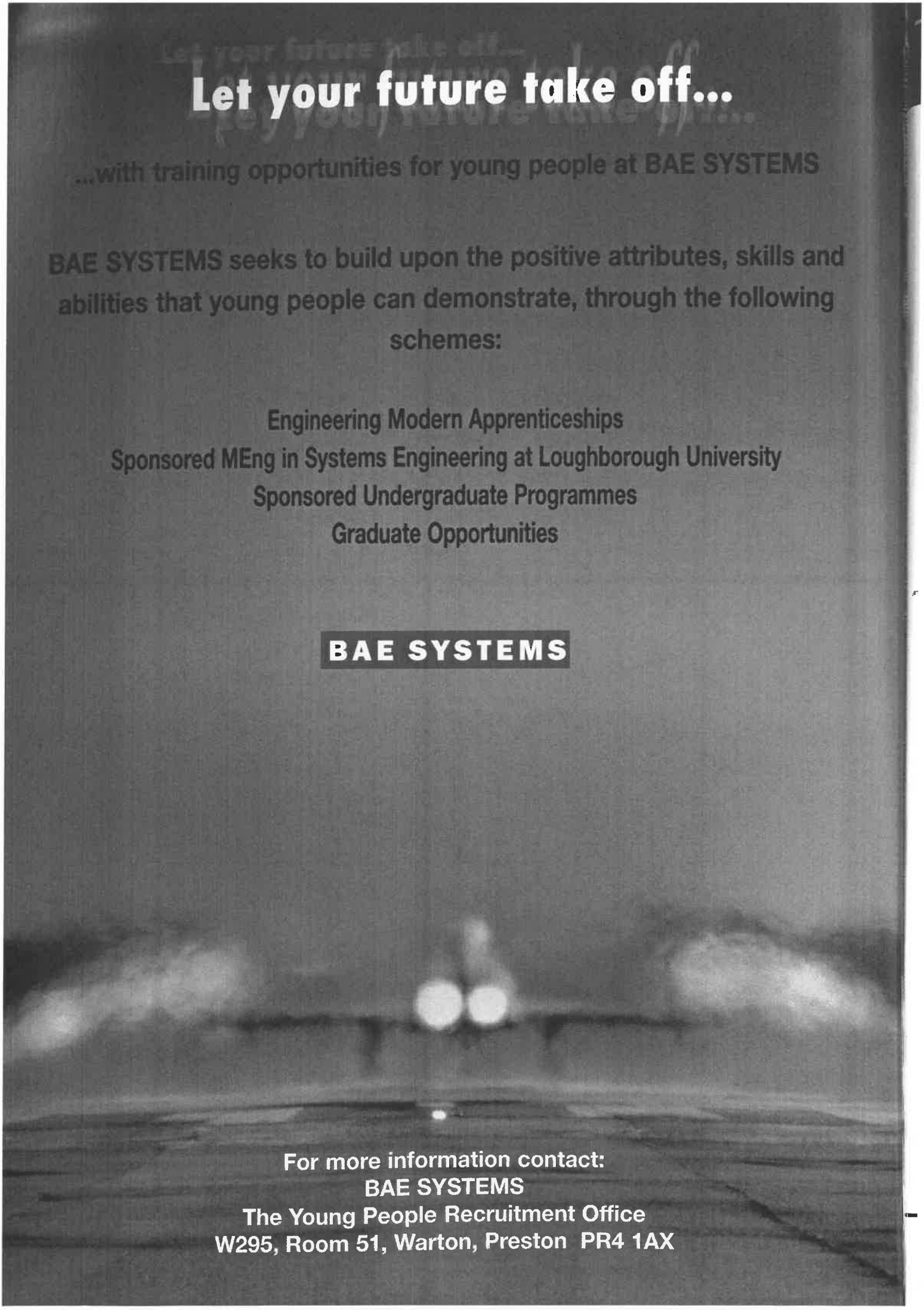
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The School wishes to thank all who have advertised in this magazine

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THE HEADMASTER'S FAREWELL SPEECH FINAL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Friday, 5 July, 2002.

May I begin by thanking you all for going to so much trouble to mark my retirement. I have been overwhelmed by the many events which have taken place and I would like to thank all who have played a part in organising them. I feel I should apologise to you for deciding to retire!

I must also thank governors, staff, pupils, former pupils and parents for their many good wishes, concern and cards. I have had so many cards that the same one has occurred on seven occasions! Needless to say, it has a glass and a bottle of wine on the front!

I would like pupils to take my thanks to their parents, who, like the staff and governors, have been incredibly generous. I understand that your parents have very kindly subscribed to a retirement fund on my behalf and both my wife and I are taken aback by how much it amounts to. We haven't yet decided precisely what to spend it on, but we are both lovers of antiques and I would like you to let your parents know that this summer we shall probably buy an antique piece, or pieces, which we like and we hope your parents would be happy for us to have as a memento of our time at Kirkham Grammar School.

Whatever we choose to buy, do remember to take our thanks back to your parents for their kind thoughts and generosity.

It has been a sufficient joy and privilege to be Headmaster of Kirkham Grammar School for the past eleven eventful years. Catherine and I are going to miss you all very much indeed. You have been our lives for eleven years, forever in our hearts, thoughts and prayers. And there, while we draw breath, you will always remain. We love Kirkham Grammar School and we would love to come back and see you all time and time again. But we can't. Your new Headmaster needs to have the time and space to find his feet, without any interference from us. He needs to be able to run the School without having to look over his shoulder at his predecessor. So we must give him the freedom he needs. We can't come back for several years. Now you know it's not because we don't care. We do, very much so, and we shall be with you in spirit, wishing you all the success and happiness you deserve.

People have said to me on countless occasions, "You must be very proud of all you have achieved at Kirkham Grammar School". I find that very difficult to respond to. The incredible progress we have seen here has been brought about by the efforts of a large number of people, in addition to my own, and above all by the love of God. I happen to believe that our School, with its 450 years of Christian tradition, is truly blessed. That the good Lord is on our side, if you will. His influence and His workings are seen in those things which really matter and count. It's marvellous to see school numbers almost double in the past eleven years; new buildings go up year on year; academic, sporting and musical successes by the bucketful. However, the two things I take most satisfaction from relate to the human and spiritual life of the school. To have preserved and developed the uniquely Christian, one-family ethos of this school, through such a dynamic period of change and development, is one of the achievements I value most. The other is the sheer quality of the pupils who leave Kirkham Grammar School at the end of their education here. They are the most admirable young people, as God intended.

So I leave you with so many cherished memories, in the sure knowledge that you will continue to take KGS forward, with all my warmest good wishes for the future, and the words of that great Headmaster, Thomas Arnold, with which I chose to end my speech at the Junior School Prizegiving. He said:

"To this I would call you all; that you may return here Christ's servants, with a believing and loving heart; and if this be so, I care very little as to what particular form temptations from without may take; for there will be security from within, a security not of man, but of God".

And finally, on a lighter note, I would like to leave you a present. I don't suppose you will think much of it! Nor should you. But it is a tradition of Kirkham Grammar School for the departing Headmaster to bequeath to the School a portrait. Realising this, as soon as I arrived in 1991, I had the portrait done, while there was still a semblance of youth about me and not a grey hair in sight! The downside of this is that you may occasionally chance to gaze upon it, fleetingly, as you pass through the Old Hall; the upside of it is that it bears only a slight resemblance to the Headmaster you see before you, which is surely a very good thing!

B. Stacey
Headmaster

A TRIBUTE TO VICKY PETERS. from her Headmaster

Friday, 23 August, 2002.

I last saw Vicky when she came into school to pick up her A-level results, and what results they were - 2 A's and a B - more than she needed for entry into her first choice University. Vicky made a habit of excelling herself when it counted. She was a championship performer and a winner through and through.

I was so proud of her I couldn't resist giving her a little hug. She took it well! At the back of her mind she probably thought: "The day started so well, I could do without such unpleasant little shocks!" But she responded with that shy little grin and those beaming eyes that we all remember so well. There was not a shred of triumphalism, no jumping up and down with excitement; just a modest little grin, as self-effacing as ever. What a treasure she was!

And what a star she was! Vicky's star shone so brightly at Kirkham Grammar School that she lit up all our lives. The breadth of her talents, her commitment and determination, combined with her selfless care for others, never failed to impress us. A true Kirkhamian, she loved her school with a passion and epitomised all we seek to achieve for our pupils. Shortly after taking up the Headship of Kirkham Grammar School in 1991, an old boy of the school was sufficiently concerned to ring me to ensure that I was fully aware of what constituted a true Kirkhamian. "A true Kirkhamian is a scholar/athlete", he said, "who gives his all to win, but has the capacity to greet winning and losing with equanimity and the modesty and generosity to congratulate his opponents." So it was with Vicky. One of her dearest ambitions was to see her hockey team win the National Title, the highest accolade this uniquely talented team could aspire to. On losing to Millfield in a tensely contested final, she sobbed uncontrollably for a while, then wiped away her tears, turned on her heel, and shook hands with every member of the Millfield team.
Vicky was an immensely talented athlete who never gave less than 100%. School Athletics Captain, Lancashire long jump champion, and a marvellous sprinter who shot down the 100 metres strait like a bullet. She played hockey for Lancashire, netball for school, sang in the school choir and played in the orchestra in her early years in school. Her leadership qualities were evident throughout, as a Prefect, Library Prefect and an excellent House Captain and Athletics Captain. She was an inspired choice as Personnel Director of a Young Enterprise company which swept the board in the Fylde Area Championships.

So much talent, combined with outstanding personal qualities. She was strong and brave, yet immensely compassionate and forgiving. She was possessed of an astonishing humanity and generosity of spirit, which we have all benefited from. If she felt let down, she didn't quibble and bear a grudge. She got on with her life, and continued to give of her best, as always.

Vicky was a tonic to us all, always a smile on her face, never a bad word for anyone. A great sense of humour, shared by her many marvellous friends, who weren't past playing the odd practical joke on their staff. I'm tempted to betray a confidence at this point. Vicky willingly paid the price of being the most petite member of the hockey team. At Preston Arena one day it occurred to mischievous minds that Vicky would fit quite neatly into a goalkeeper's hockey bag. So why not pretend she was the contents and see if we can get her past the staff without them noticing! The conspiracy grew in appeal and became irresistible. Out came the goalkeeper's gear, in went Vicky, the zips were closed and out marched the girls with their quarry, scarcely able to contain their giggles. Round the pitch they went, doubtless dumping her on the floor from time to time. Our staff hadn't a clue, yet is was important to carry off the prank to perfection. So back went the bag containing Vicky, into the changing rooms to where it belonged - a locker! Some time later, when the coast was clear, the locker was opened, the bag bundled out and the jumping jack released to squeals of laughter.

Perhaps the most unforgettable feature of Vicky were her eyes - those bright, wide eyes which shone out with a look of eager anticipation, mischief yes, perhaps, but in them was that rare quality today - a sense of wonder and excitement, which portrayed a love of life and a love of people. It stemmed from the love which embraced her in her family life. She was blessed with adoring parents and brothers, wonderful grandparents and extended family. And the love she enjoyed, she was more than happy to share.

I want to end with the thoughts of two of Vicky's teachers who perhaps knew her best. Mrs Glover, her Head of PE/Games and Hockey Coach:
"Totally dedicated to her team mates and KGS, Vicky wore her No. 6 shirt with such pride. She was a magnificent role model and unbelievably strong for everybody else. So determined, never missed a practice and always led by example. Her loyalty and support was magnificent. She was a lovely friend to have - everybody trusted her implicitly. We've never had anybody like her. She was indeed quite unique."
And finally Vicky's Form Tutor, Mrs Lang, who was equally devoted to her:
"I had already told Vicky that I would miss her so much being part of our tutor group, for she was our daily dose of sunshine at morning registrations. She managed, where others have not, to bring different age groups close together, since she always had time for everyone and never considered herself superior in any way to others. She would always place other people's needs and feelings above her own; making sure everyone was happy made Vicky content herself. I will remember her fondly for the warmth and kindness she so generously shared with all who had the privilege to know her."

How well that sums up our feelings - it has been such a privilege to share our lives with Vicky for she was an exceptional human being.

B Stacey
Headmaster, Kirkham Grammar School

Mr Barrie Stacey, Headmaster 1991 - 2002

The Headmaster was given a rousing send-off at the end of the Summer Term 2002 when, for only the second time, the whole school community of both Senior and Junior Schools joined together for an assembly. At the end of this final assembly of term, all staff and pupils shook hands with the Headmaster and Mrs Stacey as they left the hall and the pupils formed up outside to make a surprise guard of honour. Mr & Mrs Stacey were then greeted with rapturous applause as they left the hall to make their way back to the front of the school. This was a fitting tribute to someone who has been the driving force behind the remarkable success of Kirkham Grammar School over the last eleven years.

The physical development of the school during the tenure of Mr Stacey's headmastership is clear for all to see. Of all the new buildings on the school campus, only the Multi-Purpose Hall predates the arrival of Mr Stacey. The development programme has included the building of the Sixth Form Centre, the addition of the floodlit all-weather pitch and the construction of new playing fields across the by-pass. The Junior School was built shortly after Mr Stacey's arrival and its success has been such that it has since been extended a number of times.

In the last four years alone there has been the opening of the Technology Centre and Languages Centre, the development of the Friends' Library extension, the building of the new Dining Hall with French Pavement Café, the construction of two new laboratories and the opening, in September 2002, of new girls' changing facilities. Mr Stacey was also instrumental in establishing in 1994 the partnership with British Aerospace which has continued to be of great benefit to both the school and to BAE SYSTEMS as the company is now called.

Over his time at the school there has been an impressive increase in the school roll, numbers almost doubling over the last eleven years. This expansion has not been at the cost of academic results, which have improved consistently with record GCSE and A Level results and a good record of Oxbridge entry. KGS has also developed into one of the country's leading sporting schools, with phenomenal success in both rugby and hockey - a remarkable achievement for a school of this size. Two years ago the success of Mr Stacey's headmastership was recognised beyond the school when he was elected to membership of HMC, the leading independent schools' association in the country.

One of Mr Stacey's greatest achievements has been to steer KGS through great changes and growth without altering the ethos and atmosphere of this unique school. In all that he has achieved in his time at Kirkham Grammar School, he has always shown a genuine care for the welfare of all the pupils in the school. He has taught history to first year pupils throughout his time here and so has been able to get to know all pupils personally - an impressive achievement in what is no longer a small school. He has greatly enjoyed his conversations with pupils as he walked round the campus at lunchtime and breaks and many pupils have commented how much they will miss their chats with him. Throughout his time at Kirkham Mrs Stacey has been constantly at his side and has, herself, given countless hours of dedicated service to the school, its pupils and staff.

We wish Mr and Mrs Stacey all the very best for a long and happy retirement. Their time at KGS has seen the School grow and adapt to the changes in education over the last eleven years and they leave the School well placed to face the challenges of the twenty-first century.

J R Wood
Deputy Headmaster

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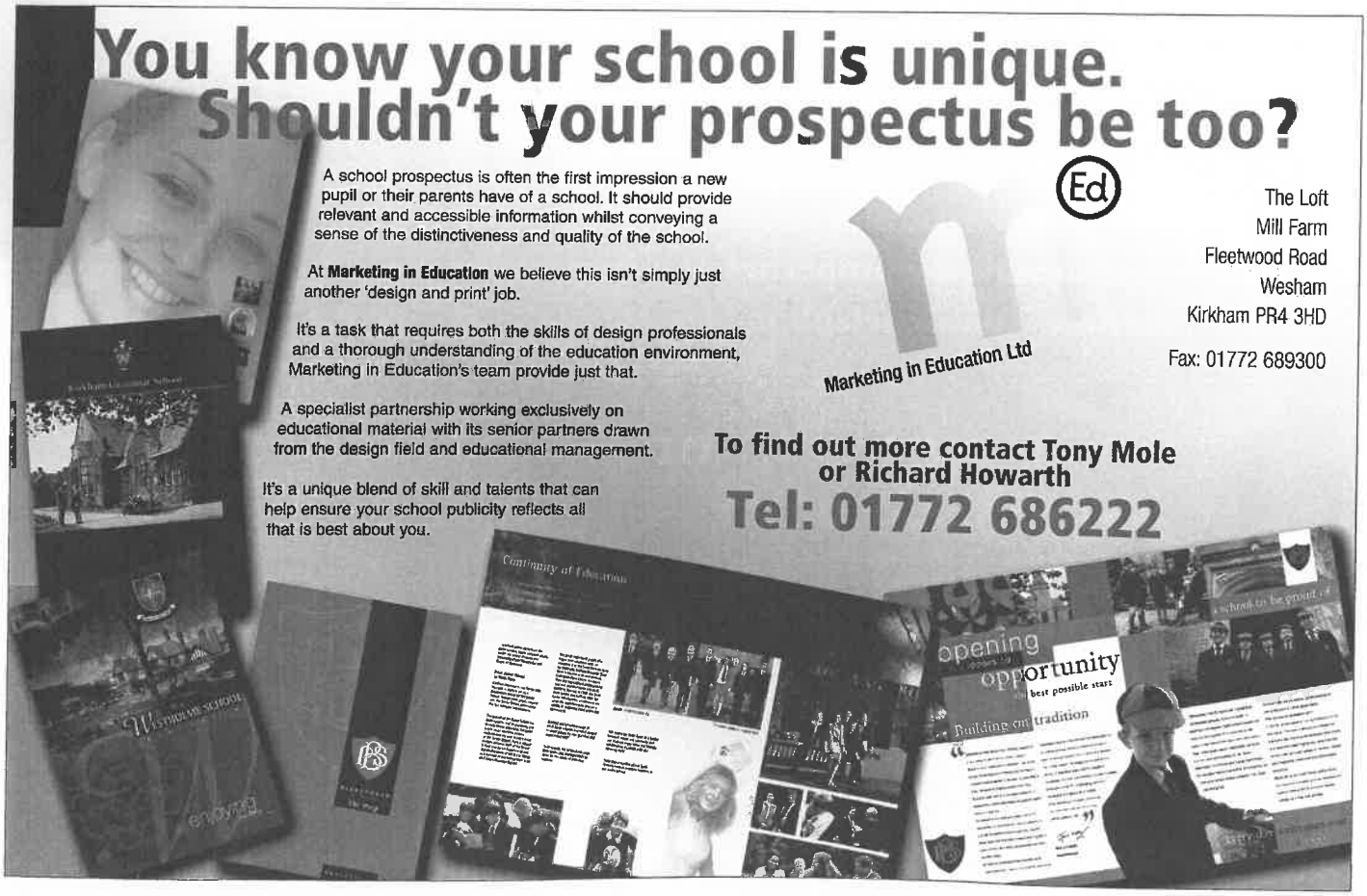

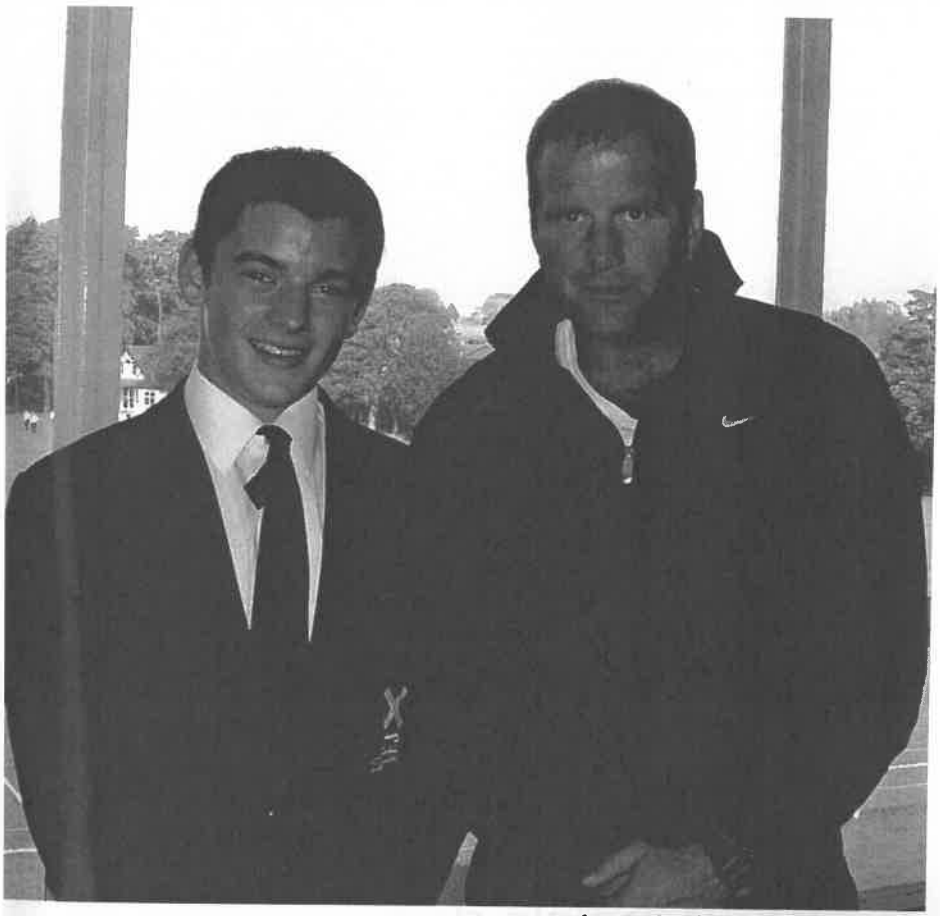

Award winner Sam Dunn pictured with Mr Taylor

Sam Dunn

Sam Dunn (form 3x) has been awarded the prestigious Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Award for showing exemplary personal progress in overcoming adversity. The award was approved and signed by the Rt. Hon. Estelle Morris MP, Secretary of State for Education and also the Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Sam has represented the school at rugby over the past two seasons. However, very few people, including some of his team mates, are aware that Sam is blind in one eye. For most of this season he played hooker which, taking into account his disability, is quite a remarkable feat. Sam has worked incredibly hard and spent many hours perfecting his hand to ball co-ordination, his line-out throwing, angles and movement off the ball, his tackling and striking the ball in the scrum.

Sam is, without a doubt, a most courageous, brave and conscientious player. He is an inspiration to all his team mates and a marvellous ambassador for school rugby.

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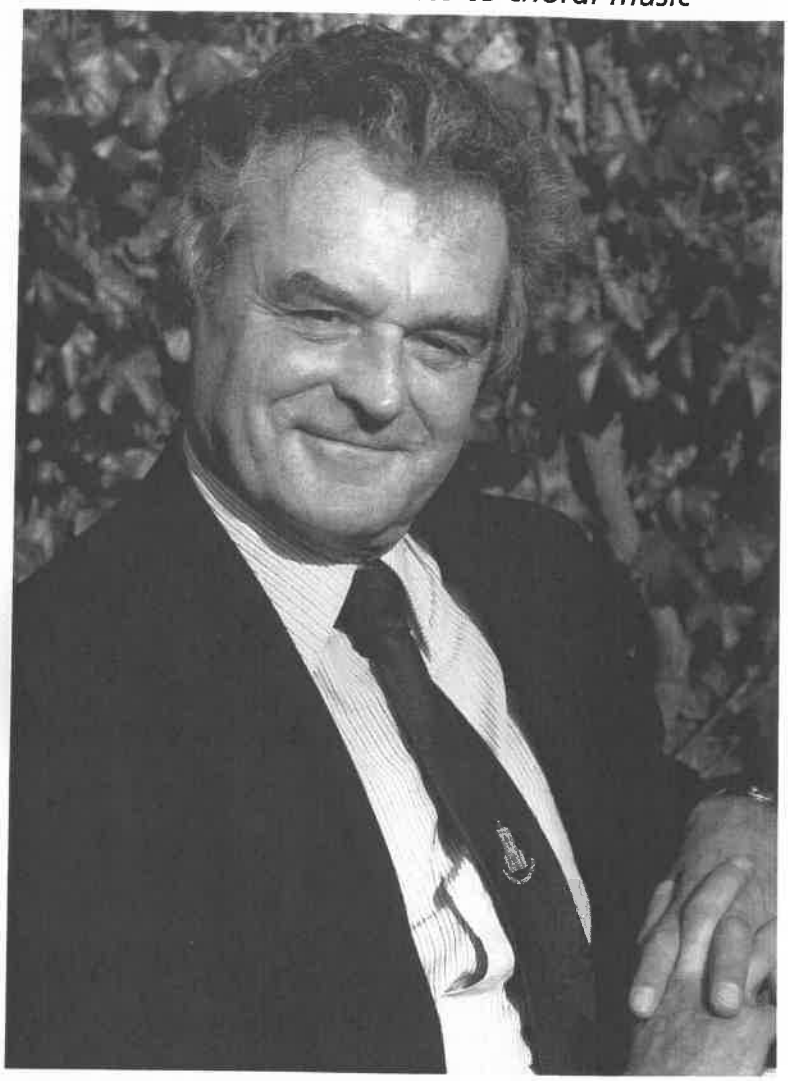
Ashleigh Gregory, who has won an Army Scholarship

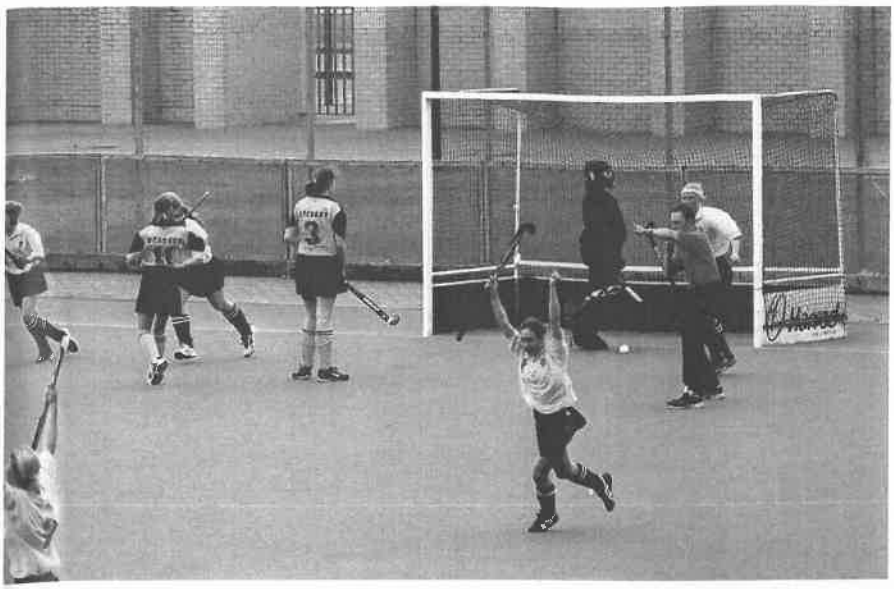
Mr John Catterall, Director of Music, who has received an MBE for services to choral music



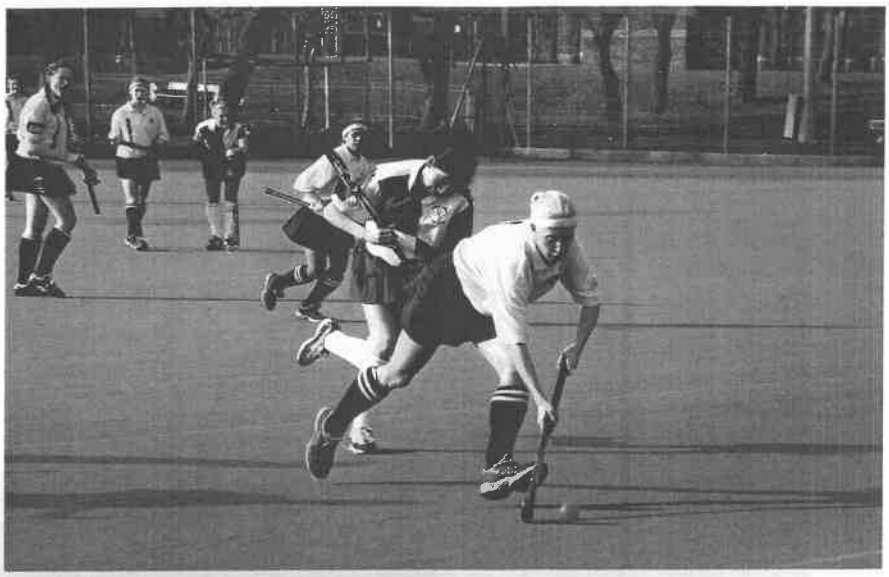
The King's Division Normandy Band at the Spring Concert

Staff and pupils on the annual ski trip

The under 13 rugby squad, winners of the Lancashire Cup



Action from the National Hockey Finals KGS First XI finished runners-up



Kirkham rugby players who achieved England honours

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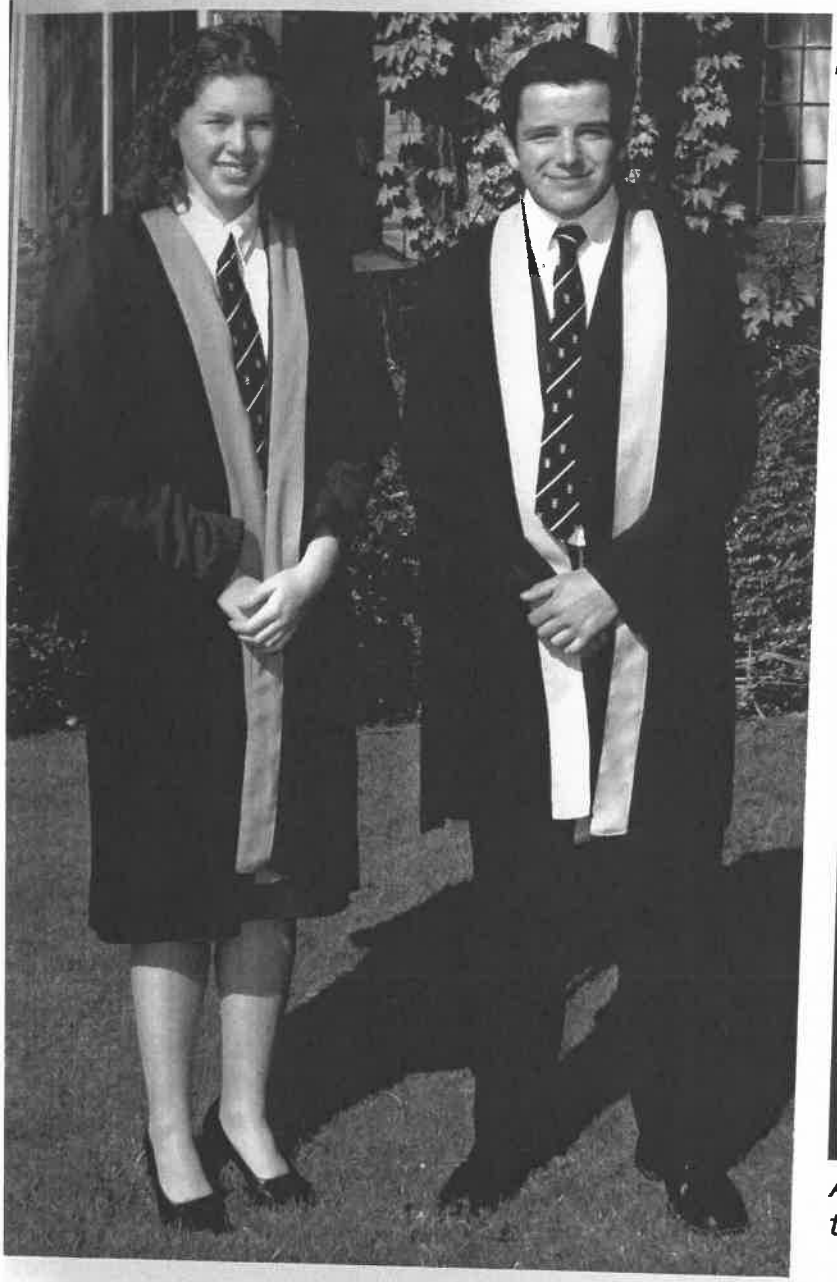
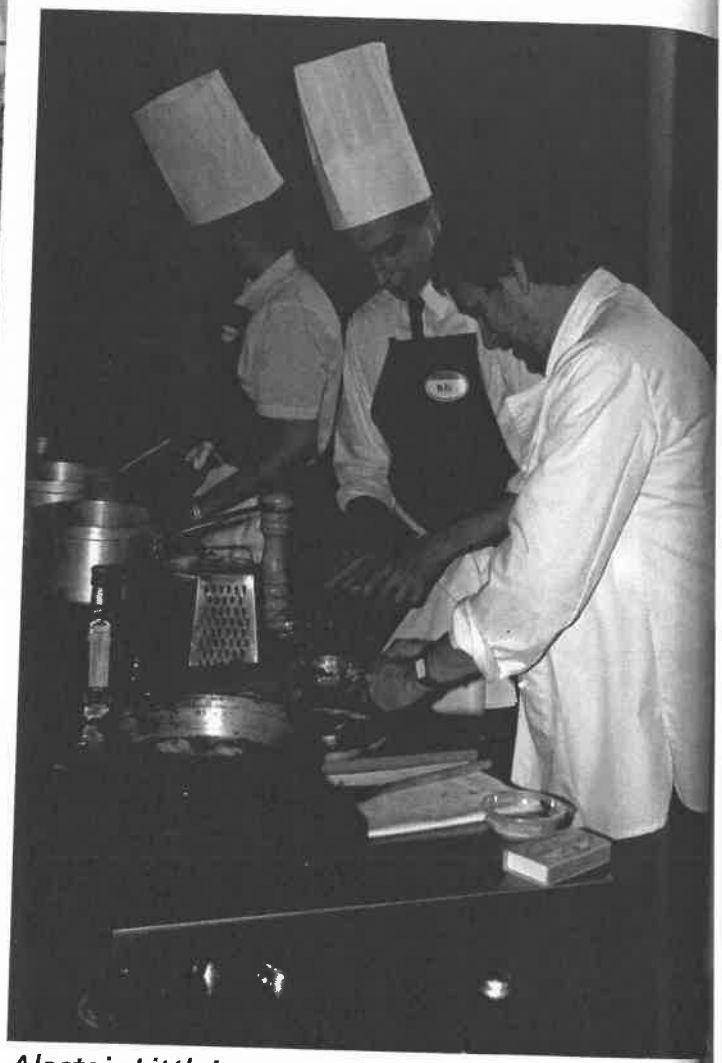
Action from the First XI match v Hutton

Marshall Hargreaves, who qualified for the National Final of the British Eventing Show Jumping Series

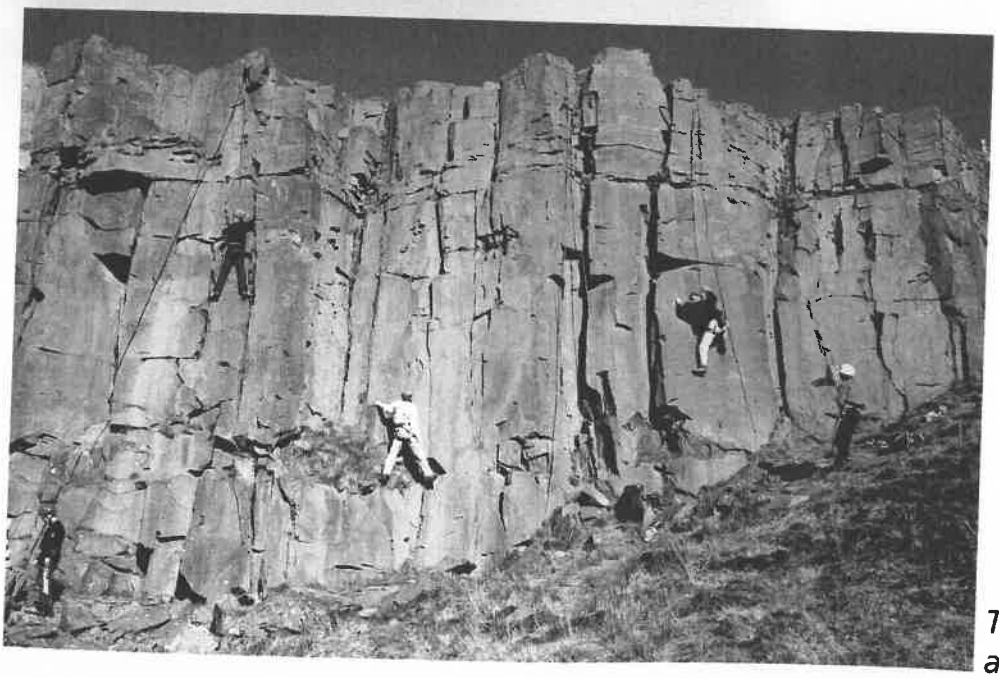
VI Formers on the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Expedition



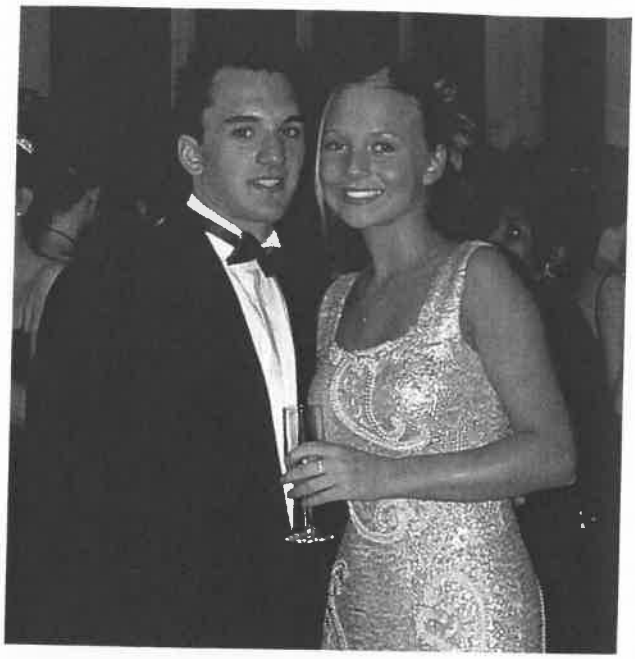
The Captain and Vice Captain of School, Rachael Horton and Terry Odgin

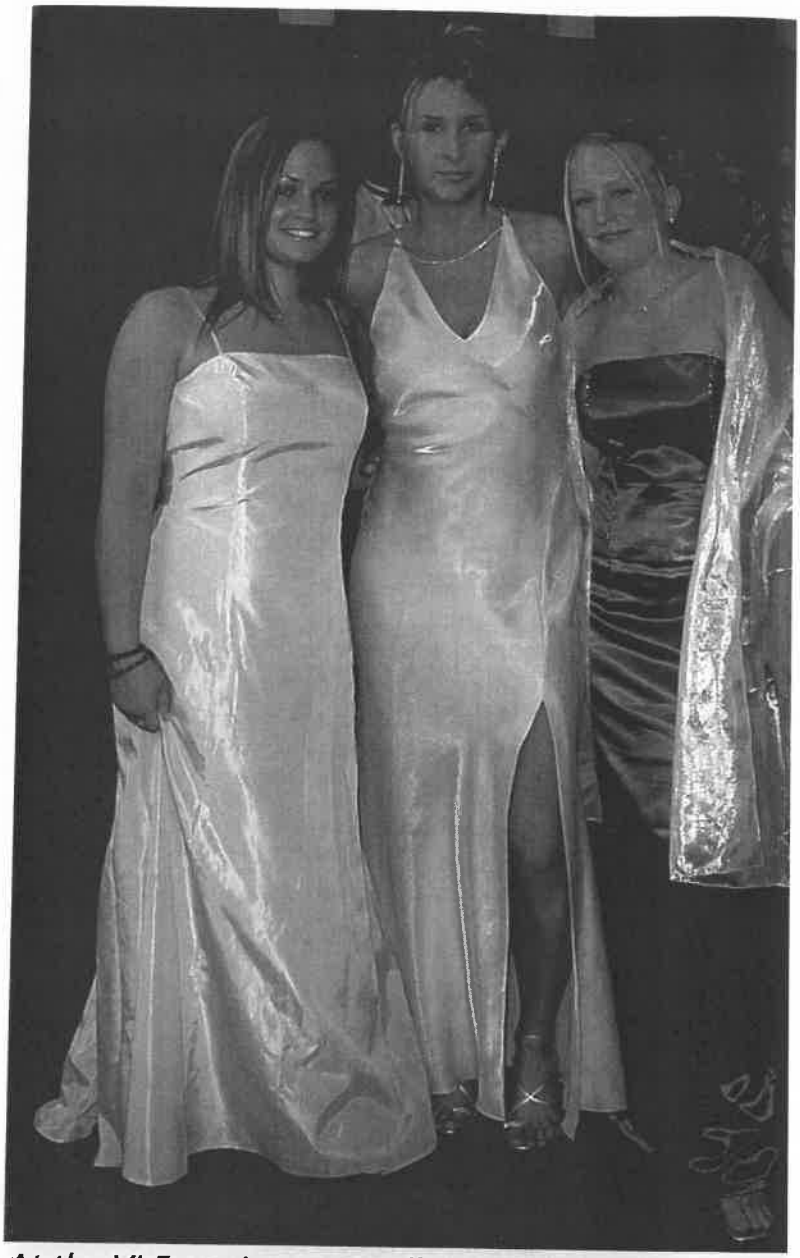


Alastair Little's masterclass at the opening of the new dining room



The Climbing Club at Troy Quarry





At the VI Form Leavers' Ball

THE DARK

The dark is...

a light never to be seen,
a haunted dream,
a stunning stillness,
a black nothingness,
a constant long shadow,
a shadow without shape,
an owl's delight,
a mouse's worst fear,
a prowling cat,
the colour of death,
a child's nightmare,
a monster,
a suffocating blanket of misery,
a time too long,
a shivering spine,
a never-ending gloom,
a ghost's kingdom,
a devil's home,
a cloak of disease,
a lover of death,
loneliness,
sadness,
the silence of a cemetery.

The dark is ...
a different kind of light

By Rose Whitehead
Form 1Y

THE JUNGLE IS...

An emerald city, brimming with rainbow life,
An orchestra of animals playing in harmony and discord,
A monkey's pleasure beach,
A toucan's lookout point,
A tiger's playpen
Overflowing with luxuriant greenery,
A temple of towering jade
Full of gleaming rivers,
Trees submerged in muddy swamps
Bursting with exotic wildlife,
A poacher's holiday resort
Peppered with furtive criminals lurking behind trees,
The inspiration of Kipling,
The essence of many souls,
An interwoven tapestry of nature.

By Jennifer Bowden
Form 1Y

SPACE

Space is nine marbles inside one jar.
Space is acres and acres of land.
Space is one room that is all dark
With one open window.
Space is an Alien's home.
Space is a floating mass of
Nothingness.
Space is a black desert.
Space has a black hole.
SPACE HAS ENCLOSED YOU.

By Christian Martin-Roffey
Form 1Y

THE MOUNTAIN IS ...

The mountain is a huge sculpture.
The mountain is teeth in a giant's mouth.
The mountain is a field of needles.
The mountain is covered by silky snow.
The mountain is a mysterious land.
The mountain is a mysterious horizon.
The mountain is a giant's ice cream cone.
The mountain is a giant's lower jaw.
The mountain is a challenge for the brave.
The mountain is a witch's nails.
The mountain is a rough sea.
The mountain is an overgrown hill.
The mountain is reaching for the stars.
The mountain is a vertical drop.
The mountain is up and down.
The mountain is a roller coaster ride.
The mountain is a no-man's-land.
The mountain is a skier's paradise.
The mountain is an outstretched horizon.
The mountain is full of endless gullies.
The mountain is a breathless world.

By Samuel Geny
Form IY

THE GIANT

How tiny to a towering giant
Must mighty things appear!
An ocean like a tiny puddle,
Its waves like ripples, cause no fear;
A cathedral like a toy building block,
A mountain like a castle in the sand;
The tallest trees within the forest
Like blades of grass on the land;
A jumbo jet, a busy bee;
A lake, a glistening raindrop;
And skyscrapers that touch the stars
As ears of corn in a crop.

By Robert Sissons
Form 2W

STAGE FRIGHT

My lines, my lines,
What are my lines?
The curtain goes up
In five minutes' time!

The costumes are ready,
The stage is set.
I'm going to fail,
How much do you bet?

Hundreds of people
Are waiting for me,
Waiting for what
They paid to see!

The pressure is mounting
You wouldn't believe!
I know them all,
From every scene.

Day in, day out
I tried my best,
I thought I was ready
For my final test.

Two minutes to go,
I'm such a wreck.
What are my lines?
Oh crikey, oh heck!

The curtain is rising,
The spotlight is on.
The audience hushes,
One by one.

Oh no, it's started
My tummy's like pulp
WHAT ARE MY LINES?
... Gulp ...

By Natalie Roberts
Form 2Z

Overview

We have experienced our most successful sports season to date, with girls showing a real desire for success once again!

At present we totally dominate the Lancashire area and much of the North in our main sports. Our first XI hockey girls and our Under 15 tennis girls have shown that we can compete with the best schools in the country.

It has been an extremely memorable year for the school and one of which we are extremely proud. For the first time in our history we competed against Millfield School here at Kirkham and, in this long awaited fixture, proved that not only could we compete against the best hockey school in the country, but that we could also beat them convincingly - it was a fabulous 5-1 victory for the Kirkham girls. It was an experience that filled us all with sheer pride.

In addition to this magnificent result, our first XI this season have remained undefeated. They are also Under 18 BAE Systems County, Regional and North Champions, Lancashire Under 19 Champions and the Cheadle Invitation 7-a-side Champions. The highlight of the season was undoubtedly the National Under 18 Hockey Finals at Milton Keynes on March 3rd. Our first XI were magnificent and finished as runners-up in a fairytale ending to an outstanding season.

Our second XI have performed very successfully against numerous first XI teams. Our junior teams have continued to thrive - the Unders 16's are Lancashire President Cup Champions; the Under 15's remained undefeated in all school matches; the Under 14's and Under 13's are Lancashire Champions and the Under 12's were undefeated throughout the season. We have twenty two county players and four North of England players.

In addition to hockey we have re-introduced netball into our extra-curricular programme and our girls performed extremely well throughout the season. It will take some time to rebuild the netball, but with the total commitment of both the staff and the girls we are sure that we will soon be extremely successful.

Our girls have also experienced success in the Fylde Coast Cross Country Championships. The Under 12's and 13's were runners-up and the Under 17's are Fylde Coast Champions. This is particularly pleasing because it is our very first Cross Country trophy.

Our tennis girls have performed magnificently once again. Sara Briggs, our tennis captain, won the Lancashire Schools' Under 19 Singles Tournament. Jane Jackson and Jenny Dewhurst won the Lancashire Schools' Under 15 Doubles Tournament and Jenny Dewhurst won the Lancashire Schools' Under 13 Singles Tournament, with Joanne Jackson runner-up. In addition to these successes, we have won the Under 14 Derrick Hill Trophy and the Under 15 HSBC Tennis League. Another excellent season for our girls!

The Fylde Coast Championships took place on the 3 July, and as always our girls gave 100% in all events. There were numerous 'gritty' performances in all age groups, and the final results certainly reflected our efforts. We won the Under 17 and Under 14 trophies and were runners-up in the Under 15 and Under 13 competitions.

The highlight of the season has ultimately been the National TSB Athletics Championships. In May, both our Junior and Intermediate teams were crowned Lancashire County Champions. In June, our Juniors competed in the North final at Stretford Stadium and achieved qualification for the National TSB Athletics Cup Final, another very proud moment indeed for Kirkham Grammar School and a first for our girls. Our Junior team will be terrific ambassadors for Kirkham Grammar School when they compete in this prestigious National Cup Final.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our sportsgirls for their commitment, dedication and determination to succeed and congratulate them on their successes this year. I would also like to thank all the staff and parents for their tremendous support.

Finally, I am fortunate to have expert coaches working alongside me in the department. Mrs Tabb, Miss Baxter, Mr Sampey, Mr Miller, Miss Fryer and Mrs Salt have worked hard with our hockey squads; Miss Baxter and Mr. Sampey have been invaluable to the progress and development of our athletes and Mrs. Tabb has been invaluable to the success of our tennis players. I would like to thank them, I really appreciate everything that they have done this term.

J. Glover

Sporting Achievements

Winter/Spring 2001-2002

Hockey

Under 19 Lancashire Hockey Champions
Under 18 Lancashire Hockey Champions
Under 18 Regional Hockey Champions
Under 18 North of England Hockey Champions
Under 18 National Hockey Runners-Up
Under 18 Cheadle 7-a-side Champions
Under 16 Lancashire Hockey Champions
Under 16 Regional Hockey Champions
Under 16 Lancashire President's Cup Champions
Under 14 Lancashire Hockey Champions
Under 13 Lancashire Hockey Champions

Tennis

Under 15 Regional Tennis Champions
Under 15 North of England Tennis Champions
Under 15 National Tennis Runners-Up

Cross Country

Under 17 Fylde Coast Cross Country Champions

Hockey Honours 2001-2002

County

Under 18

Katie Threlfall
Jane Meloy
Rachel Sissons
Eleanor Cairns
Kate Sannegadu
Amy Twambley

Under 16

Lorna Sissons
Leanne Sharples
Lucy Martin
Laura Martin

Under 15

Jane Greenwood
Milly Hookey
Abigail Hookey

Under 14

Francine McNeela
Caroline Desborough
Kirsty Hamilton
Emily Martin
Louise Lord
Jessica Morris
Jessica Ashworth
Georgina Fulford-Brown
Kate Gledhill

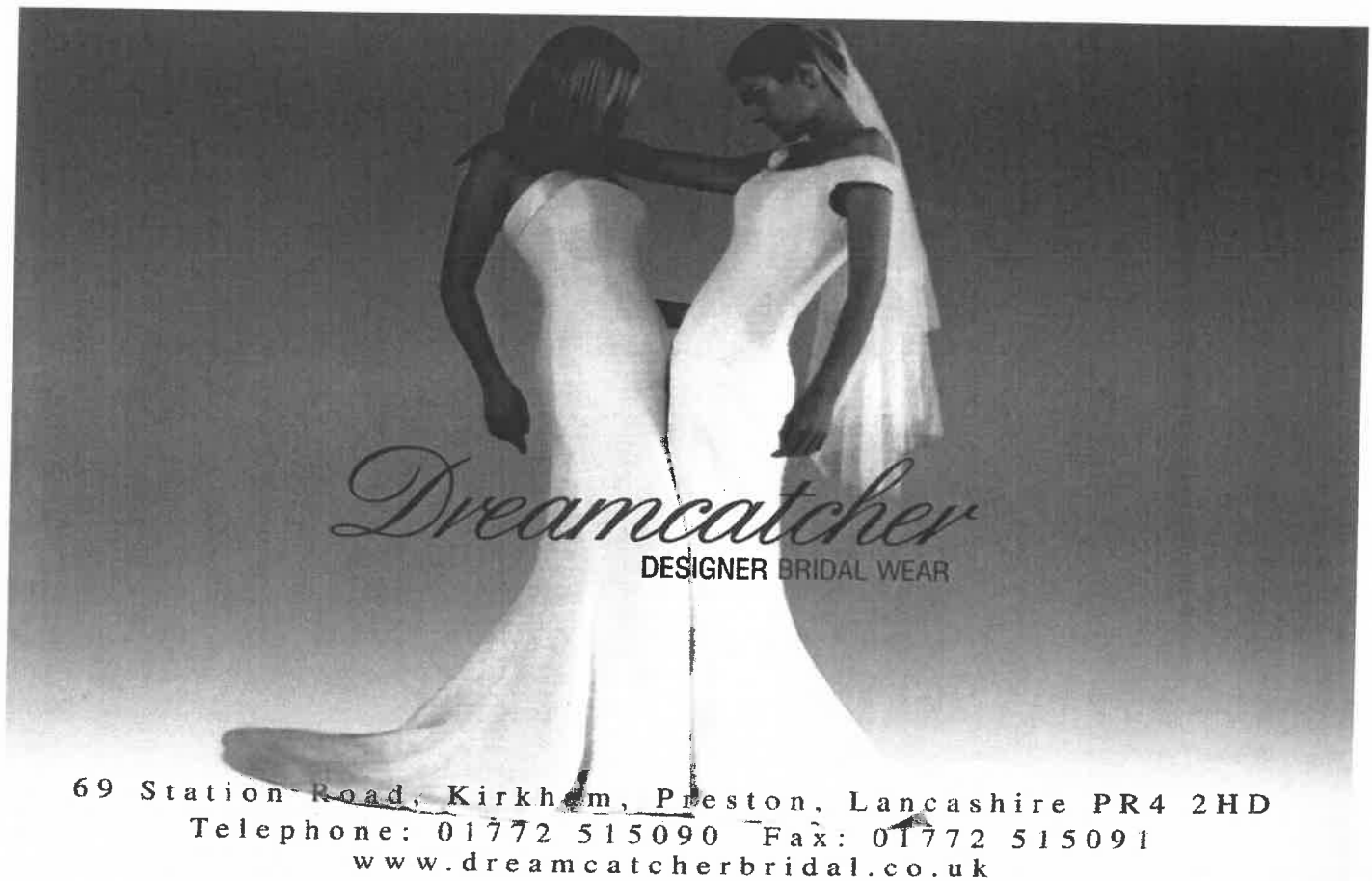
North of England

Under 18

Rachel Sissons (Captain)

Under 16

Lorna Sissons (Captain)
Lucy Martin
Leanne Sharples



HOCKEY
First XI

A combination of disappointment with last season's results and the fact that it would be the final year of school hockey for the majority of the team left us determined to make it our best season yet and one to remember . . . and that, it certainly was.

It is difficult to specify one particular highlight of the season because there have been so many. I should start by mentioning that in school fixtures we were unbeaten, defeating strong opposition such as Stockport, Altrincham and Queen's of Chester, to name just a few. However, undoubtedly the victory, not only of the season, but of all my years of hockey, was against Millfield School back in September. To beat a team with a squad which included eight internationals 5-0 was an extremely proud moment. Our team performance was outstanding. Years of concentrating on playing as a team, rather than as individuals, culminated that day in a fantastic performance. A special thank you must go to the support given by the upper sixth boys. Coming to the frosty turf and cheering us on after no sleep, straight from the first XV captain's 18th birthday bash, greatly contributed to the electric atmosphere which, along with the result, gave us memories we will always cherish.

P	W	D	L
31	30	1	0

In the midst of such a hectic season was the illustrious BAE National Schools' Competition in which every match evokes the drama and magic reminiscent of an F.A. Cup Final. We started as we meant to go on, defeating old rivals Arnold, Ripley St. Thomas and Queen Mary convincingly in the Lancashire Round. After finishing joint winners, with Birkenhead G S, in the North-West Round, we had only one week to prepare for the North Round, played at Leeds Metropolitan University. Relishing the challenge, we raised our game, outplaying the opposition with our blistering pace and dynamic passing to win all of our games and, this time, beat Birkenhead to gain our place in the National Schools' Finals at Milton Keynes.

In the Finals Kirkham played their best hockey of the season, especially in the first two games against Queenswood (3-1) and Eastbourne (1-0). We then overwhelmed Oakham, but were unable to make the breakthrough, drawing 0-0, leaving a victory against Millfield, in the final game, essential to gain pole position. We could beat anyone over an hour, but in a tournament it is a different matter. In a tense and exciting battle we lost to Millfield 3-1, gaining second position in the country, an outstanding achievement at such a high level of hockey. Although we were disappointed not to win the competition, we could not have worked any harder or given any more and had much to celebrate on the bus journey home.

Although the Milton Keynes adventure had come to an end we still had much to play for before the end of the season. Just days after returning home we took the Lancashire Under 19's Championship at Stanley Park, which was quickly followed by the

1st XI • National U18 BAE Systems Runners-Up

Cheadle 7's competition one week later. As Pat Sharpe said, "there's prizes to be won, and a whole lot of fun" and there certainly was as we emerged clear winners of the tournament. Both were significant tournaments for us as they marked the end of an era. For myself and the six other Upper Sixth girls, Katie Threlfall, Ellie Cairns, Rachel Sissons, Amy Twambley, Vicky Peters and Danielle Hanley, this marked not only the end of the season, but was the finale to seven years of playing hockey together in which we have won over 20 tournaments - a phenomenal record which will be tough to beat. The younger members of our team, including Lucy Martin, Laura Martin, Lorna Sissons and Leanne Sharples completed the jigsaw and have been part of our team for several years. All are very talented players who will form a strong base for the first XI next season. Our squad is not complete without Danielle Grundy and Fiona Morgan, and thanks must go to them and our squad goalkeepers, Antonia Ashcroft and Hannah Spacey. Finally, a special mention must go to Kate Sannegadu who has played with us throughout our time at KGS. I wish good luck and success to Kate and her team next season.

There are many people to thank who have helped us over the years, unfortunately far too many to mention. Firstly, to everybody who has supported and encouraged us over the years, it has not gone unappreciated. Also, thank you to Brenda, our umpire and physio, who has given up many hours of her time for us. To Mr. Miller who has helped with coaching this year and has had the added burden of refereeing some school matches - he has survived the ordeal with his sanity intact and his ability to play air guitar undiminished! Last, but not least, to our coach Mrs. Glover for all her hard work and dedication over the years. We have taken her on an emotional roller-coaster over the years and have given her more sleepless nights than she deserves. Along the way there have been tears, but much more than that, there has been a lot of laughter and a lot of fun. I have thoroughly enjoyed all of my years of hockey at Kirkham and hope that we have left a long-lasting legacy. The atmosphere this season has been unbeatable and the team spirit tremendous, and I wish following Kirkham teams success in the future.

Jane Meloy
Captain

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ancehightemperatureperform
anceflameresistancelowsmok
eandtoxicgasemissionhydroly
sisresistanceradiationresista
ncemechanicalstrengthuniqu
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Second XI

The season started off extremely well with an impressive win against the strong team of Stockport G S. The score at the end of the game was 4-0 to Kirkham, with Sarah Kellet scoring a hat-trick and Katie Gough scoring one goal. The season continued well with wins against teams from Arnold, Hulme, Ormskirk and Lancaster. Arnold were most upset with their loss and demanded a re-match. So, very happy to give them one, we went back and beat them 2-0, then later in the season, 2-1. Always a pleasure to be able to put them in their place!

In March many of the second XI travelled down to Milton Keynes to show their support for the first XI. It was a most enjoyable day and the first XI was most unfortunate to lose to Millfield. However, I'm sure they will never forget their win of 5-0 against them previously.

P	W	D	L
21	17	1	3

Special thanks must go to the the retiring Captain, Becky Sharrocks, and also to the retiring Upper Sixth. These are Jenna Rees, Sara Mooney, Nicola Hendy (Vice-Captain) and Lindsay Fitzgerald. Another special mention must go to Meg Duncan who managed to make it into the Lancashire Under 19 team. The final mention must, however, go to Miss Fryer. Miss Fryer has put up with a fair amount of moaning from most of the team but has carried on throughout the season with a smile on her face. I would like to thank her for all the support and effort she has put into the team. Without her there would be no team. Thanks must also go to Mr. Gardner for his support. Finally, I would like to wish the remaining Lower Sixth and Fifth year good luck for the next season and best wishes for the future.

Rebecca Sharrocks
Captain

Under 16 XI

Our Under 16 team has been an absolute pleasure to work with this season. The squad is fully committed, hard working and always enthusiastic.

Ably led by Lorna Sissons, our girls performed superbly in the Lancashire President's Cup Competition. We coasted through the first few rounds and the quarter-final. In the semi-final we defeated Lancaster G S 3-1 to win a place in the final.

The final was held here at Kirkham Grammar School on Sunday, 10th March. We faced our big rivals, Mansfield H S. Our girls played extremely well and dominated the match - a 4-1 victory was a well earned result.

Our Under 16's thoroughly deserved to be crowned Lancashire President's Cup Champions. Congratulations to all the team.

J. Glover

Under 15 XI

The Under 15 girls have had a superb season. They started off well by drawing 3-3 with one of our main rivals, Stockport. After being 3-1 down at half time, the girls battled well to come back. This was just the start. The girls proved too good for most opposition and remain undefeated this season. We had an extremely strong right side with Abby and Milly working as a pair, setting up most of our goals. The left side was just as good with Sally and Aja getting on the end of crosses and scoring plenty of goals. The defence proved too good for most of the opposition. They did brilliantly, hardly letting in any goals. We also had a very strong middle, with Linzi scoring some magnificent goals. We couldn't have done it without our two goalies, Kirsty and Hanna, who played superbly throughout the season.

We finished off the season with the Lancashire Tournament. Unfortunately we got knocked out by Arnold in the semi-finals, but I would like to thank all the girls for their commitment and determination. I would also like to thank Miss Baxter for her excellent coaching.

Jane Greenwood

Under 15 Cup Team

The Under 15 Cup Team have had a great season. The squad consisted of both third and fourth years and we managed to work together to become a fantastic team. We proved this by winning the Under 15 Lancashire Tournament and so qualifying for the Regional Round. Unfortunately, after battling hard, we finished up third behind Wakefield and Fallibroome, and so we did not qualify for the

U14 XI • Lancashire Hockey Champions

Nationals. We were very pleased in getting this far, as the team was a young one.

We had a very stong attack who proved too good for most opposition. The midfield players were strong and worked extremely hard, both defending and attacking, and our defenders were solid and worked well as a team.

In the cup matches, we started off well, winning easily. We then came up against Macclesfield in the last sixteen. We were unlucky to lose by one goal, but I feel the girls put everything into it and, although we didn't come out on top, we showed determination and skill, proving how good a hockey team we really were.

I would like to thank everyone who supported us along the way and above all Miss Baxter for her coaching and dedication to the team.

Jane Greenwood

Under 13 XI

The Under 13's have enjoyed a wonderful and successful season. The team has developed tremendously in skill and performance. Our team spirit is excellent, with everyone looking forward to practices and matches. The fact that we have won 12 matches, drawn 2 and lost only 1 is proof of this. Our defenders, Jessica Ashworth, Sarah Cooper, Alex Bonney, Sophie Parker and Becky Preskey, have conceded only 7 goals in the whole of the season. We have, however, scored 35

thanks to our midfield and attack of Maddie Eaves, Jenny Dewhurst, Georgina Fulford-Brown, Jessica Morris and Fran Emery.

In February we beat Arnold in the final of the Under 13's Tournament. Gemma Thackary, our goal keeper, had an outstanding tournament and had to face several penalty flicks.
I would like to thank all the members of the team for their enthusiasm throughout a great season. We would particularly like to thank Mrs. Tabb for her excellent coaching and non-stop encouragement.

Kate Gledhill

Under 12 XI

All the girls have enjoyed the season tremendously and have had a great deal of success.

'A' Team

The 'A' team girls have played outstandingly and have won 11, drawn 1 and not lost all season. There have been 51 goals scored. Our three forwards, Fran Britton, Abigail Wilkinson and Olivia Hawtin, have produced some fabulous hockey and scored some great goals. Becky Sharples in mid-field and our three defenders, India Wroe, Jane Duncan and Soraya Dunn, have battled to keep the opposition at bay. Last but not least, Zoe Kirkham has allowed only 5 goals past her and has pulled out some important saves.

'B' Team

The 'B' team girls have also played some outstanding hockey and have won 5, drawn 3 and lost only 1. There have been 19 goals scored by the three forwards, Yashmin Adam Zahir, Georgina Morrison and Katie Jones. Jennifer Bowden has played well in mid-field and the three defenders, Naomi Hodgkinson, Chelsea Jude and Charlotte Baker have been excellent. Genevieve Melling in goal has only let 2 goals go past. The girls have worked hard and produced some exciting hockey. I would just like to say thank you to Mrs. Tabb and well done, girls!

Becky Sharples

NETBALL

Under 16

Our Under 16's had a slow start to the season but progressed rapidly. The atmosphere was first class and the effort and enthusiasm was a real credit to the girls. We worked hard and established good game tactics, earning the respect of the opposition on the Fylde Coast.

Out of 9 games played we won 5, lost 3 and drew 1, a very good set of results.

Leanne Soper

Under 15

As this was the first season we had played together as a team, we were delighted with the results. We played 15 matches, managing to win 13 and only lose 2 of them (which were early in the season, anyway!).

Becki Moden and Lucy Rhodes scored endless goals and became talented and consistent shooters. Linzi Nicholas and Lucy Martin used set moves and worked together extremely well in the attack from the middle, providing balls and bringing in pace to the games. Abby and Milly Hookey used their defensive skills and determination to ensure that Kirkham had the majority of possession and Aja Hall and Helen Thrower proved versatile and highly reliable as our goal keeper and also filling in positions when injuries occurred. Mrs. Glover coached us throughout the season and provided us with many set pieces which we tried our best to remember!

It was always good fun, especially when we finally took our revenge on Palatine and beat them convincingly. The team seems to have a natural ability to control the games, contains players with great talent, has no obvious weaknesses and has the potential to come first in the league next year.

Lucy Martin

Under 14

After a slow start to the season and matches being cancelled due to bad weather, we eventually started to play good netball and show potential on the court. We lost our two 'friendlies' before the league, but we were not put off. We were eager and determined to win our matches.

Unfortunately, due to bad weather, we were only able to play three matches. We won 1, drew 1 and narrowly lost 1. We also took part in the Blackpool Schools' Tournament. We enjoyed the day thoroughly and, although we did not get through to the semi-finals, we enjoyed the experience and came away with more skills and experience.

The team worked well all season and had a full team each week and for every practice.

Chloe Le Saint defended the goal well and improved at each match. Kirsty Hamilton also defended well and made great progress doing her famous jump to stop the goals. Wing Defence alternated between Jane Jackson and Charlotte Molyneaux who both played excellent netball and improved immensely. Our Centre, Louise Lord, was determined to play well and for us to win. Jennie Anderson was good at getting the ball and passing it to the shooters for us to score. She, too, improved throughout the year. Abi Downing and Lauren Emery were both out practising shooting most lunchtimes and both improved.

We are now looking forward to next year and hope to play a few more games! Also we would like to thank the 'B' team who played against us to help improve our standard of playing.

Lauren Emery

Under 12

Our Under 12 girls have shown real potential this season. They have worked hard and have progressed extremely well, developing their skills and their understanding of the game. The 'A' team played 10 games and won 6 and the 'B' team played 7 games and won 4, a very good start indeed.

The Under 12's are a keen, enthusiastic group of girls and we look forward to working with them again next season.

J. Glover

2nd Year Athletics Team • Fylde Coast Champions

Fylde Coast Athletics Championships

U13 - Runners-up
U14 - Winners
U15 - Runners-up
U17 - Winners

Individual Achievements

Under 13

India Wroe	-	second place Discus
Naomi Hodgkinson	-	second place 60metres
Kelly Harling	-	third place Triple Jump
Olivia Hawtin	-	second place 800metres
		second place Long Jump
Abigail Wilkinson	-	second place High Jump
		third place Hurdles
Katie Jones	-	third place Discus

Under 14

Jenny Dewhurst	-	third place 1500metres
Kayleigh Kuroski	-	first place Shot
Melanie Smith	-	first place Hurdles
		third place 100metres
Kate Gledhill	-	third place 200metres
Rebecca Preskey	-	third place 800metres
Madeleine Eaves	-	second place Long Jump
Georgina Fulford-Brown	-	second place Javelin
Joanne Box	-	first place High Jump
Jessica Morris	-	second place Hurdles
Relay Team	-	first place

Under 15

Katie Walker	-	second place High Jump
Nicola Rogerson	-	second place 200metres
Jane Jackson	-	third place 1500m
		third place Discus

Under 17

Jane Greenwood	-	first place 800metres
Aja Hall	-	second place 1500metres
Milly Hookey	-	second place High Jump
		second place 100metres
Laura Martin	-	second place 300metres
		second place Triple Jump
Claire Taylor	-	third place Discus
Relay Team	-	first place

ATHLETICS

This season has proved to be yet another success. Out of 32 matches we have won 28. The hard work and enthusiasm all the girls have shown throughout has proved invaluable.

Our girls had a great start to the season by comfortably defeating Hulme Grammar, with all age groups winning comfortably.

The girls then went on to compete against Queen Mary School, again recording wins in every age group. Arnold was our next fixture and our girls performed superbly against talented opposition. The grit and determination of KGS resulted in victories for the U13's and U15's. With growing confidence, the girls competed in a triangular athletics match against Queen Mary and Carr Hill. Again all age groups were successful and the overall points provided us with a comfortable victory.

During the second half of the season the girls faced Lancaster, Arnold, Bradford and Queen Mary School. Outstanding performances by all age groups proved too much for the opposition to contend with. Defeating all four schools left us with a celebratory end to the season.
I would like to congratulate all the athletes and thank all the staff and pupils who have helped organise home fixtures. Finally I would like to thank the P.E. Department for their hard work.

Hannah Spacey
Athletics Captain

The Girls' Under 15 Tennis Team - finalists in the HSBC National Tournamen

Tennis

After experiencing such a magnificent season last year, I wondered if it could be matched. Although a number of our Saturday matches were cancelled due to poor weather and opposition failing to honour fixtures, the girls have experienced many matches and much success.

The Under 12's have shown real promise throughout the season and have clearly improved over recent weeks.

The Under 13's have played 6 matches, winning 4 and losing 2, and the Under 13 league team have played extremely well throughout the season to win 3 out of their 4 group matches.

The Under 14 team has shown good spirit and has battled on despite the atrocious weather conditions, and the Under 14 Lancashire Cup team has played brilliantly against some very strong opposition to become the Derrick Hill Champions for the fourth year on the run.

The Under 15 team has also played well, although we have really struggled to find fixtures for this age group. The Under 15 league team, made up of our fabulous quartet of Jenny Dewhurst, Jane Jackson, Jane Greenwood and Jo Jackson have again excelled, beating Westholme in the finals to retain their title as Lancashire County Champions.

They now look forward to the HSBC National Knockout Competition.

Although senior fixtures are now almost impossible to arrange due to examination pressures and study leave, the senior team did play one match against Arnold School which they won.

Alongside the girls' friendly and league match success, KGS has also swept the board in terms of the Lancashire Schools' Tournaments.

Jenny Dewhurst was crowned the Under 13's Champion after beating Jo Jackson in an all-Kirkham final. Jane Jackson and Jenny Dewhurst were crowned Doubles Champions and Sarah Briggs retained her title as Under 19 Champion after a gruelling final match.

I would again like to express my sincere thanks to David Shaw, our professional tennis coach, who has coached weekly sessions to both our junior and senior girls this season. The sessions have been much enjoyed by our pupils and have been extremely beneficial to both our beginners and our regular club players.

As ever, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with all of the girls and I would like to thank them for their commitment and wish them every success.

Mrs J.K. Tabb

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RUGBY
First XV

P	15
W	10
D	2
L	3
F	406
A	158

During recent seasons coaches and players have felt that more demanding fixtures were needed if players were to fulfil their potential. Players need to play at a level where they are stretched so they have to develop the correct skills which will enable them to succeed. This resulted in Colston's and Oundle being added to the fixture list and further teams will be added next season. Both of these fixtures were exciting matches, but the first XV was given a lesson by Colston's. The lesson was that good rugby players are athletes and must condition themselves over the summer. KGS played well in the first half and looked to have a chance to be the first English side to win at Colston's for seven seasons, but quite simply the side was exhausted in the second half through lack of conditioning and Colston's ran out comfortable winners.

The team had five forwards and two backs returning from last season who had played five matches or more, so it was expected that the forwards would be the strong part of the team. The team suffered greatly from the loss, through injury, of captain Alex Loney and fly half Paul McNamee for most of the season. Alex was an inspiration in the two and a half matches in which he played, showing an enthusiasm and desire to play and train to his potential which all aspiring players should copy. His performance in the Rosslyn Parks 7's and Sedbergh Super 10's was an example of what determination can achieve. He then progressed rapidly to the England Squad, playing as replacement in two games and starting in the third game. This is the most remarkable achievement I have seen in my coaching career.

The best performances of the season were against St. Anselm, Adams G S and Calday Grange. In the first two matches the team played with an intensity and skill that would have been welcome in other matches. Against Calday much effort was given, which was pleasing after an indifferent display the week before against Lancaster. The worst performances were against Merchant Taylor's and Wirral, and in the latter match KGS was lucky to escape with a draw against opponents who had lost to St. Anselm's the week prior to playing KGS.

The reception received at Oundle and the exciting match made for an enjoyable fixture, and Manchester G S was a well drilled side. The match against Sedbergh was an exciting game and, although Sedbergh were fitter, KGS dominated the rucks and mauls and created chances but did not recognise the opportunities. This fixture highlighted the weaknesses of the team. KGS had many good players, but many did not possess the conditioning and ability to read a game. Players must look to their personal conditioning as the coaching time we have available is limited and no more official practice time can be given over to conditioning than already is.

The side usually won more than 50% possession, but continuity skills and effectiveness were reduced by slow support for the ball carrier and hence slow release from contact situations, which meant that defence had time to re-organise. The strongest threequarter line possessed considerable pace but suffered from an inability to recognise scoring opportunities. The team defence was usually sound and if it cracked, it was through a lack of ability to re-organise quickly and recognise each defender's targets.

Jamie Albinson, Stuart Blackburn, Chris Briers and Paul McNamee, when fit, were outstanding in the back, while Mark Hanson, Danny Greenhalgh, Alex Loney, when fit, Martin Halsall, in the second half of the season, and Adam Newton were outstanding in the pack. James Holmes showed much potential in the few matches he played. Jamie Albinson, Martin Halsall and Mark Hansonimproved greatly during the season and had a fine game against New Zealand. It was galling for Mark that he missed the home internationals through injury. KGS produced five England 18 Group players this season, four of whom were props. Martin Halsall, Mark Hanson and Alex Loney played for the England (September) team and Jamie Albinson and Danny Greenalgh for the England (January) team, which won the International Festival played in Scotland.

2002 - Sevens

This season's squad was very young and inexperienced. At the start of the season it played some attractive rugby but was very brittle against sides who put it under pressure. However, with the return of Alex Loney, Chris Briers and Jamie Albinson for the National Sevens, the squad suddenly gelled together. Drawn in the same group as Colston's Collegiate and Llandovery College (National Champions of Wales), the task seemed very hard. Inspired by the above players, the squad played its best sevens of the season and won its group. After defeating Hampton School, Kirkham found itself in the quarter finals of such a

prestigious tournament. Confidence was high and Kirkham defeated St. George's, Harpenden to proceed to the semi-final. By this time the team believed it could win the tournament. However, in the semi-final it came up against The London Oratory School, a fast and competent side who had come through an easier draw. Kirkham lost composure and under pressure made mistakes which it could not recover from and lost 22-0. This was an outstanding achievement to reach the last four out of 95 teams, and, more importantly, the younger players should have learnt for the future. I would like to thank Alex Loney, Chris Briers and Jamie Albinson for dragging this young squad to such heights.

Sedbergh National Tens

Following on from the success at Rosslyn Park, Kirkham moved on to another National Tournament at Sedbergh and had to adapt quickly to a very different style of rugby. Inspired by Alex Loney and Chris Briers, the Tens Squad produced some excellent performances. Kirkham defeated Barnard Castle, The Edinburgh Academy and Leeds G S in their group.

In the later stages of the competition Sedbergh School and The Mount St. Mary's were beaten before losing to Merchiston Castle in the last four. However, at the end of the tournament, Kirkham Vice Captain, Chris Briers, gained the outstanding player of the tournament award. This was an outstanding achievement for an individual player in such a prestigious tournament.

Many players have the potential to become good players next season and I hope that by the time this is read they have conditioned themselves correctly in order to fulfil their potential and play in an enthusiastic, fulfilling and enjoyable manner. The start to next season is challenging.

I would like to thank Alex Loney for his constant support for the team although injured for most of the season. I want to thank Chris Briers for captaining the side so enthusiastically in Alex's absence and Marcus Plowright for being KGS RUFC Secretary. Magic4 Wireless Software Development gave financial support to the team for which I would like to express appreciation. Finally I would like to thank Mr. Trenhaile and Mr. Browning for their support in the last twelve months.

England 18 Group (September) XV
Martin Halsall
Mark Hanson
Alex Loney
Final Trial: Chris Briers

England 18 Group (January) XV
Jamie Albinson
Daniel Greenhalgh

North of England (September) XV
Jamie Albinson
Chris Briers
Martin Halsall
Mark Hanson

North of England (January) XV
Jamie Albinson
Daniel Greenhalgh

Scottish Exiles
Paul McNamee

Lancashire 18 Group
Stuart Blackburn
Chris Briers
Daniel Greenhalgh
Martin Halsall
Mark Hanson
Adam Newton

Cumbria 18 Group
Nick Benson

Lancashire 'A' 18 Group
Jamie Albinson (Captain)
John Bowden
Adam Glover (Selected. Did not play)
Daniel Greenhalgh

Lancashire 'A' 16 Group
Matthew Gargett

Full
Jamie Albinson
Stuart Blackburn
Chris Briers
Daniel Greenhalgh
Martin Halsall
Mark Hanson
Adam Newton

Half
Nick Benson
John Bowden
Matthew Gargett

Mr. B. Gornall

2nd XV Rugby Team

Second XV

The season started with a squad of players large enough to allow the under sixteens to train and play in their own right and of such talent that many should have pushed for first fifteen places. The second fifteen should, therefore, have been able to match the strength and depth possessed by rugby playing schools such as Sedbergh, Colston's, Lancaster and Woodhouse Grove. As the winter term progressed, however, a number of players opted not to play rugby and dropped out of the squad. That, coupled with a number of long term injuries, left the second team having to draw on players from the under sixteen squad, putting a great strain on their resources. Further injuries in the New Year made matters even worse and the season ended with very few of the anticipated players actually playing in the team. However, those remaining players trained enthusiastically and gave their all to the KGS cause.

P	W	D	L	F	A
11	5	0	6	173	191

Having beaten Manchester comfortably in the first match of the season, the team travelled to Colston's Collegiate to face the toughest task one could imagine. Despite showing much potential and testing the Colstons' defence and defending valiantly themselves, the team learned the levels that would have to be reached to compete with the best. Instead of raising the standards for the rest of the term, the team played inconsistently. At times aggressive rugby, with players supporting each other, was played, but at other times they played like a team expecting to win without having to extend themselves.

After KEQM School had been beaten by three points in a closely fought game, St. Anselm's and Wirral were beaten rather more easily. The defeat at Lancaster could have been a victory, had the team played in the first half as they did in the last quarter of the match. The winning trip to Calday Grange, on the tenth of November, was the last victory of the season and was followed by a below par performance against Sedbergh.

After Christmas, a relatively inexperienced team took the field against Cowley and lost by four points. The better team lost on the day, due to a disruption caused by a serious injury to a Cowley player and one or two decisions going against them. On a very heavy pitch at Kirkham the team was then narrowly beaten by a highly committed Hutton side, which was reduced to twelve players at times due to injuries. This was probably the most disappointing performance of the season.

Hopefully, the younger players will have learned the need to play with commitment to win matches. Finally, the team, although playing with more determination and commitment, was defeated by Arnold.

In the past it has been possible to highlight players who have dominated try and points scoring, but this has not happened this season. Eighteen players shared thirty tries and five different goal kickers managed the ten conversions between them. There are usually in excess of six players who play more than eighty percent of the matches, but this year there have been only two, Gordon Kipling and Sam Bensky, and this statistic alone probably sums up the frustration of the season.

Players must understand that anything of value has to be striven for and that no place in any team is theirs of right. The players who played Arnold will be playing next year and, if next year's team build on that performance, next season could be more enjoyable and successful than this season.

Mr. R. Browning

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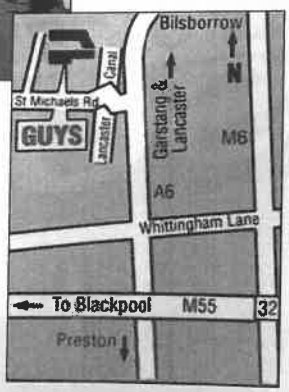

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Under 16 XV

The season did not start well, with key players either injured in pre-season training or taken into the 1st XV squad. This exposed the general lack of basic skills and lack of structured play and ability in working collectively. Play was thoughtless, confidence was always low and just showed how much the team relied upon those players. The team also encountered playing against bigger and often older boys in other schools' third and, sometimes, even first XV's. This intimidated them and we were often beaten before we had played. In matches such as those against Adams G S and Heysham we were clearly the better side and dominated play but did not take advantage of the situations we created.

The teams which really showed us how to play were Sedbergh and Wirral G S. We eventually did produce something like this style of play in our last match against Merchant Taylor's, another match which we deserved to win, but did not, again through our inability to perform under pressure.

In terms of pure results the season was far from successful, but in many other ways it was as the group stayed together throughout the season, proving to be very committed to their rugby and thoroughly reliable. They were friendly and good natured and certainly responded well to our Thursday night gym sessions. They finally appreciated what was needed from them to create success and how important it is for all players to apply themselves.

In conclusion, it has been a difficult season for this year group, which as a whole lacked both size and maturity, but not enthusiasm for the game nor a willingness to learn and compete. I hope that with further technical improvement, allied to both physical and mental maturity, that many of them will feature in the senior rugby teams in the years to come.

Special mention must be made of James Cooper, who should serve as an example to everyone of just what can be achieved. He was outstanding in every game he played and in every training session. Only an untimely injury prevented him playing for the England Under16's. As it was, he played for Lancashire and the North of England. Well done, James!

Matthew Gargett and James Wigglesworth also played for the Lancashire Under 16's 'B' team.

P	W	D	L	C (cancelled)
12	4	0	8	2

Finally, well done lads! You were a pleasure to work with and a credit to the school.
Mr. A. Jones

Under 15 XV

The Under 15's are a technically good side and are improving every year, but at the beginning of the season were often overpowered by much larger opposition. By Christmas, however, there was a promising run of four victories against Calday Grange High School, St. Peter and St Paul High School, Heysham High School and a pleasing victory over St. Edward's College by 43 points to 5 was the turning point of the season.

Players such as Andrew Crook (an outstanding Captain), Mohammed Ati, Marcus Jackson and Thomas Armer matured and played the controlled but aggressive style of rugby we all knew they were capable of playing.

P	W	L
15	6	9

The rest of the squad made improvements in most areas: Stephen Hatch scored some pleasing tries; Antony Waring and Michael Le Breton worked tirelessly to finish the second half of the season on a winning run. The most improved player of the season was Ryan Briggs who showed that he has the strength and skill to play at prop. The victories against Cowley by 48 points to 0 and the touring side Coundon Court by 71 points to 10 provided a pleasing end to the domestic season and good preparation for the tour to Italy at Easter.The Under 15 'B' team continued to make excellent progress, again undefeated, with victories against Sedbergh (for the second year running) and King Edward's, Lytham.

TI would like to thank Mr. Trenhaile, the sixth formers and the Sale Sharks players, Richard Wigglesworth and Matthew Parr, who have all helped with the coaching this season. The whole squad of about 35 boys have been a privilege to coach over the last four years and I wish them all the best for next year in their introduction to senior rugby. I am sure they will succeed, they deserve it.

Dr. A.B. Rollins

Under 14 XV

The squad have had a hard and very demanding season. Nevertheless, they have made good progress throughout and, despite coming up against considerably bigger opposition, they have always acquitted themselves well. As a coach I could not ask any more of them with regard to their effort, determination and commitment.

Early in the season the team had two very positive results, away at King Edward VII and Queen Mary School and Manchester G S. However, in the latter fixture, we lost our inside centre, Charlie Hoyle, with a serious arm and shoulder injury which regrettably kept Charlie out for the whole season. He was a key member of the side and has been sorely missed.

Two very hard matches against Wirral G S and Adams G S brought the very best out of the backs who were up against considerably bigger opposition, but fought like gladiators and gave a most impressive performance, both physically and technically.

Under 14 XV

As the season progressed, the forwards and backs started to unite as one. The lock forwards worked in the lineouts and scrums, and gave ever increasing support to the back row, who, without doubt, were the artillery of the side. They played superbly throughout the season; their mobility, defence skills, fitness and sheer determination to succeed have been a pleasure to watch.

Arguably the highlight of the season was the magnificent performance away to Stonyhurst in the Lancashire Cup. This was a great display of both defensive and attacking rugby. The team, playing against a large partisan crowd, gave everything. The wingers, Matthew Gaddes and Matthew Eves, caused the Stonyhurst defence huge problems. The forwards controlled much of the game. Mark Hodgkinson, the stand off, and Oliver Moore were once again quite outstanding (as they have been throughout the season). Robert Sissons and Darren Bell, second formers brought into the side to cover injury and absence, played superbly. The team lost 12-10, conceding a try in injury time. Nevertheless, it was a remarkable game, despite the result, and one the boys will not forget!

Oliver Moore and Mark Hodgkinson went on to represent Lancashire Clubs - a notable achievement and one they richly deserve. A special mention must go to Sam Dunn, who was presented with the coveted and prestigious Diana, Princess of Wales, Memorial Award for showing exemplary personal progress in overcoming adverse circumstances in the field of sport.

Mr. R.D. Taylor

Under 13 XV

The Under13 XV have had a very successful season. Unbeaten, apart from a game versus Duffryn High School Under 14 XV, the team has developed into a skilful and determined outfit.

There have been some very tough games this season which have tested the squad. The games against Manchester G S, Wirral G S, Lancaster R G S, Merchant Taylor's, Cowley and Hutton were all hard-fought encounters. Luckily, we managed to play well (sometimes in patches) to win all the games. Unfortunately, due to bad weather, some

games were cancelled. Such games against Arnold School, Ripley and Woodhouse Grove would have been challenges.

The highlight of the 15-a-side campaign is undoubtedly the Lancashire Cup victory. Kirkham reached the final, having defeated West Hill H S (after a walkover) and then Lancaster R G S in the semi. The final was played against Manchester G S who were keen to avenge the earlier defeat of the season. Against this much bigger team, Kirkham 'held on' against the elements in the first half with a 5-0 lead and then played some very intelligent rugby in the second half to score another try and win 14-5 eventually. This was a truly memorable occasion.

In the Sevens tournaments, Kirkham played dreadfully in the Birkenhead Schools' Sevens and did not manage even to escape from the group. However, only four days later, a miraculous turnabout saw Kirkham win the prestigious Woodhouse Grove Sevens Tournament. The team played tremendously in the group and in the semi-final against Bradford G S. In a very close final, KGS defeated Yarm School 10-5. Again this was a great day and reminded us of the potential of this squad. This win motivated the squad as we travelled to the Rosslyn Park Sevens Tournament in London. Again, the squad cruised through the group matches, albeit in appalling conditions. In the next round the team played superbly and won 25-0. Unfortunately in the last 16 we were pitched against Brynteg School who proved to be much too strong on the day and we lost 22-0. Satisfaction can be felt by the fact that we lost to the eventual winners of the whole competition.

Congratulations to all the rugby squad (both A and B team members) for such a great season. No names have to be mentioned, but Robert Sissons as Captain has been inspirational both on and off the field.

Hard work must be maintained over the summer on fitness in preparation for the 2002-2003 season. Roll on September!

Under 12 XV

The influx of some talented players from other schools, combined with KGS Junior School boys, augured well for the season. The backs had

Under 12 XV

pace, skill and size, which was a pleasant change.The season got off to a good start when Queen Elizabeth G S, Blackburn played a development game and this allowed every boy in the first year to represent the school within a month of starting the term.

The number of talented backs meant that some had to be converted into forwards, which they did with flexibility and understanding. The fixtures started with mixed fortunes, the 'A' team losing two out of three matches and the 'B' team winning two out of three.

As the season developed, so did the standard of rugby and victories ensued as a result. The final statistics showed 10 victories in 15 matches for the 'A' team, with the 'B' team winning 4 of their 6 games.

The biggest disappointment during the season was the lack of self discipline and determination of several players who seemed content to perform at a lower level than their potential. They have not yet grasped the concept of rugby as a team game.

This team has the ability to reach very high standards, but will only do so with hard work, committment, reliability and determination.

BASKETBALL CLUB

The Basketball Club - involving boys from the third, fourth and fifth years - ran weekly throughout the year, apart from those times when a facility was unavailable.

The idea of the club was to provide an opportunity for anyone interested to practise and play basketball on a regular basis.

The club has been very successful and the skills of those who have regularly attended have improved. The quality of the games has therefore improved as as result.

Now the club is established, we hope to find some fixtures for the 2002-2003 season to test the skills of those concerned to a higher level.

VOLLEYBALL CLUB

Due to a vacancy appearing in the Easter Tournament of the Preston & District Volleyball League, Kirkham was invited to find a team. Several willing volunteers were found and did themselves proud against the teams in the tournament, all of which play regularly in the league. Kirkham even managed a victory in the later part of the competition.

A vacancy has appeared in the league and so Kirkham will now join the association and play fortnightly in the league. There is great potential in the team - evident by the showing in the tournament and it is hoped we will continue to make progress in this new venture.

CRICKET

First XI

The First XI has struggled this season. Already distrupted due to the demanding examination system, the programme of fixtures has been severely curtailed due to poor weather.

In the early part of the season, the team acquitted themselves well against a strong Hutton side and a 2nd/3rd XI side from Lancaster R G S. Unfortunately, poor batting application has seen us lose to Arnold, King William's College and Edge Hill School. Further cancellations of fixtures against Bury Grammar School, Lancaster 2nd XI and King Edward and Queen Mary School, combined with interruptions from the exams, have meant that we lost the momentum to practise and play regularly.

In our later encounter with the MCC, our guests posted 201 (declared), and in return KGS were bowled out for 121. Although another defeat, our boys can only gain from the experience of playing against top quality players. Our last game saw us beaten by a very strong Lancaster U17 team in the Lancashire Cup. Unfortunately, two final week games against Habergham High School and Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School had to be cancelled because too many pupils were out of school on various other school trips, field courses and other commitments.

Without 'outstanding' players the senior squad is workmanlike and there have been some good performances. Matthew Hopton has worked hard as captain and Kit Ingam has developed into a good keeper. Peter Reeh, Bradley Hamilton, Adam Newton and Marcus Plowright have all performed well. This is a young squad and, weather permitting, should continue to develop next summer.

Mr. M. Whalley

Under 15 XI

The under 15 XI have only managed four fixtures this season. They defeated King William's College, Isle of Man, but lost to Hutton in a low scoring game, King Edward and Queen Mary Senior School in the Lancashire Cup and a strong Bury Grammar School team.

There is a fair degree of talent in this squad, but some of the more skilled players have failed to apply themselves in some matches. Quality performances from such players in some matches could have secured victory. Nevertheless, Marcus Jackson, Andrew Crook and Luke Dickinson have played well and Alex Tudge has shown tremendous improvement over the season.

Mr. M. Whalley

Under 13 XI

The season started with a 'record breaking' tour of the Isle of Man, where the local press heralded KGS' annihilation of the islanders. Captain, wicketkeeper and number 3 batsman, Robert Sissons, led the way with a magnificent 96 in the opening match against King William's College, ably supported by Darren Bell (66 not out). The bowlers, defending a massive 193, bowled out the opposition for only 26 (Harrison Pickervance and 'on loan' David Kos with figures of 4 for 4 and 2 for 2 respectively). The next day

an island select side were also put to the sword, thanks to another marvellous Kirkham batting performance (Mark Ashworth 50 not out, Michael Walker 43) *"8 all out, boy what a rout"*, reported the local paper, as Kirkham's bowlers showed their ruthless streak! A great start to the season, although the team knew tougher matches lay ahead on the mainland! Many thanks to Mr. Norris for his help on the trip.

P	W	L
5	3	2

A long break without a match due to the atrocious weather was hardly ideal preparation for the biggest game of the season. Ripley proved to be far tougher opponents and a rusty Kirkham were well beaten. The boys never got going, and when the heart was ripped from the team (Robert Sissons and Darren Bell falling cheaply), the team never recovered. Fortunately there was not much time to be down, as a strong Hutton side were up next. Thankfully, the squad recovered magnificently, where the inspirational Sissons and Bell's unbeaten 75 third wicket partnership proved decisive. Hutton were never in the chase and fell 44 runs short of victory.

The last game of the season proved to be the most exciting, even though we lost in the last over. Bury's artificial track made bowling difficult and our opening bowlers did not find any rhythm. Fortunately, the support bowling was strong and Kirkham were set a gettable 93 off 20 overs. After a slow start, Robert Sissons led the way with a 'Flintoff-style' 61. With only 6 runs needed off the last 4 balls, unfortunately Robert was magnificently caught on the boundary and we fell 3 runs short.

Special mention must go to the captain, Robert Sissons, who has led the side magnificently over the season, and Darren Bell, for his excellent contributions both with bat and ball. The Under13's are lucky to have two exceptional players, but two people do not make a team, and all members of the squad have made telling contributions this year. Both Dr. Rollins and myself have enjoyed coaching all the boys and look forward to another successful season next year.

Mr. S. Duncan/Dr. A. Rollins

Under 12 XI

In a season ravaged by rain, the team managed some very creditable performances, winning four games against two defeats. They began their campaign winning by a comfortable 26 run margin against a rather weak King Edward's thanks to an impressive bowling attack with wickets well spread. Arnold suffered a similar fate as six bowlers restricted the total to 75 for 4 from 25 economical overs. Kirkham's reply of 79 for 6 was dominated by the innings of James Edgar, whose 38 was littered with a succession of back foot pull shots, thereby ensuring victory by 4 wickets.

No fewer than seven bowlers were tried against Ripley St Thomas, whose 70 for 7 came after 30 overs. The bowling of David Kos impressed, as he sent down five excellent overs for no runs. Victory was achieved with ten overs to spare and Edgar again with 21, Berry with 13 not out and Spratt with 12 collected their runs in a sensible fashion.

Close games but narrow defeats against Hutton and Bury gave the side a few reminders to be vigilant when batting and illustrated the merits of playing straight.

The last game of the season, due to rain being responsible for the cancellation of several fixtures, was against Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Blackburn. Once again the Kirkham boys bowled and fielded with aplomb. The wickets were well spread and two run outs were included in a final total of 107 for 8 wickets, from 25 tight overs. After a rather edgy start, the reply was well led by Sam Bell with 11, and the outstanding innings of

P	W	L
6	4	2

Under 12 XI

the season from Philip Bury. A score of 52 not out was quite glorious for the powerful back foot shots he executed. Life could have been so different though as he was dropped on nought. After a few carefully chosen words of wisdom his innings gained momentum, and the game was finally won with a breathtaking six high over the mid-wicket boundary, and in the process Philip achieved his undefeated fifty.

As the season evolved, the progression made by the players was evident, as they absorbed the subtleties and learnt some of the basics. Batting was our least consistent aspect and further practice in playing straight and selecting the right shot for the length of each delivery is needed. The batting of Sam Bell, James Edgar, Philip Berry and Joe Brown ensures a solid nucleus in this area. Many of the team can bowl, but in David Kos the side has a genuine pace bowler for his age. Together with Ashley Parkinson, Sam Bell, Philip Berry, Joe Brown and James Edgar the bowling attack is well served. The last aspect concerns fielding, and in Alex Spratt the team has a wicket keeper possessing 'good hands'.

The team grew as a unit and should look forward to winning more than they lose provided they approach each game with the right attitude.

Mr S. R. Painter

ATHLETICS

In a term decimated by fixture cancellations and interrupted practice, the boys have still returned their usual high level of performance.
In matches against other local schools, the third and fourth year teams defeated Arnold School. The first and second year teams defeated Arnold School and Hutton Grammar School. More fixtures would have undoubtedly confirmed the potential of these teams. In the Vose Trophy, a competition held at Lancaster, hosting some twelve teams from the locality, the second year team finished third and the fourth year team fourth. The appalling weather affected all performances on the track and in field events, but nevertheless these were pleasing results.

In the English Schools' Track and Field Competition

U15 Athletics Squad

(TSB) both the under 14 and the under 16 teams came first in their respective age groups in the regional competition.

In the Fylde Coast Schools' Trophy meeting, the teams performed magnificently, winning the overall aggregate trophy against ten other schools. The first year team came second, denied top place by a harsh disqualification of one of our hurdle runners who had comfortably won the race. The second and third year teams both won their age groups and the fourth year team came third. This was Kirkham Grammar School dominance at its most impressive.

Individual Successes

Lancashire Schools' Combined Events: April 27th.

Stephen Hatch 4th selected for Lancashire team.

Lancashire Championships: May 11th.

Max Eaves 1st Junior Pole Vault
Richard Newton 2nd 1500m (Inter.)
2nd 800m (Inter.)
Stephen Hatch 4th High Jump (Inter.)

North of England Championships: May 25th

Max Eaves 1st Junior Pole Vault
Richard Newton 2nd 1500m

Lancashire Schools Championships: June 15th

Max Eaves 1st Junior Pole Vault
Richard Newton 1st 1500m (Inter)
Oliver Moore 2nd Junior Javelin
Richard Westerman 2nd Senior 100m
Oliver Boardman 4th Inter 1500m

Stephen Hatch has repeated his success of last year as a member of the Lancashire Combined events team. They have won the North West Regional Championships and have therefore gone through to the English Schools' Championships to be held in September. Max Eaves and Richard Newton have been selected to represent Lancashire at the English Schools' Championships at Nottingham on 12th/13th July. We wish these three boys every success.

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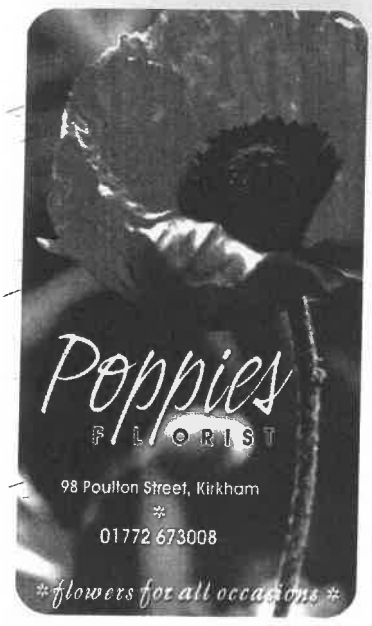

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KGS Ski Society Trip to Axamer Lizum, Austria

February Half Term, 2002

In the depth of last winter, when we were all experiencing the dark mornings and early nights of January, the pupils and staff of KGS Ski Society were preparing an assault on the Austrian Tyrol.

Fifty-one pupils and five staff enjoyed another highly successful and relatively accident-free ski holiday over the half term break. A change of venue was decided upon this year. The Austrian ski station of Axamer Lizum, near to Innsbruck, home of two Winter Olympics in 1964 and 1976, was eventually chosen for its true 'door-step skiing.' The actual location of the hotel was changed three times - initially we were staying at the foot of the slopes, then in nearby Gotzens, then the Hotel Munde in Telfs, but finally we were located back in the resort of Axamer Lizum!

After an excellent flight with Lufthansa (smoked salmon and wine for the staff!), the party landed in Munich ready for the three hour transfer into the Tyrol. The Hotel Olympia, although very handy for the slopes, attempted the Olympic record for fitting students into a bedroom. Six senior girls in a room designed for four was a recipe for disaster and carnage with all the clothes and cosmetics! All the manager(ess) could say was that . . . . . 'Eet voz a wery buzy week'.

Mr. Scott was not very pleased, but eventually, after much irate discussion, some additional accommodation was provided. The location was ideal, only metres from the slopes and ski lifts and all pupils, even the novices, completed the Ladies Olympic Downhill run by the end of the week, some of them with great speed. Even though this was only a blue run, the start of it was quite challenging along a narrow crest. This was quite daunting to some of the smaller skiers as the wind

did appear to propel them back up the slope towards the funicular station. IMS leading a group of 25 pupils in a snow plough position was a sight to see.

The snow was good, although the weather was very changeable, as one would expect in the Alps in February. The hotel bar/disco provided excellent après ski and evening entertainment, especially for the more senior of the party. Although it did take them two days to discover happy hour, they soon made up for it with the variety of beverages available to them!

You may have thought that break dancing was old hat, but Mini and Morley proved more than a match for the great Danes of another party. KGS came out clear winners in the International European Disco Championships and we expect to see a return performance at the Leavers' Ball!

Everybody succeeded to his or her own levels of performance. Ellie Cairns, as the best of the bunch, demonstrated some excellent skiing and the gold medal was awarded, but also some of the first timers showed exceptional courage and determination to master what is a very difficult sport.

Darren Bell showed amazing ability when he inadvertently strayed into the intermediate group on the second morning with Mr. Scott and ended up 'doing a quick red run before lessons!' Matthew Woods, a beginner, was a natural at parallel turns because he could not snow plough or stop! The looks of pleasure and satisfaction on beaming faces like Helen, Jenny and Natalie were a joy to see on completion of some more challenging runs. The intermediate skiers improved and perfected their style and were soon progressing to the more adventurous runs and jumps - all done at speeds that would frighten us older folk.

The more adventurous, advanced lunatics of the group succeeded in areas where the more experienced feared to go. However, Doc. Hall and Mr. Scott were persuaded to join the advanced group in a lesson with crazy Reini, the instructor. The Doc. still has the facial scar to prove it and IMS was seen to make a detour to avoid causing an avalanche over a precipice!

Seriously, a great time was had by all on the trip and this was obvious by the fact that a separate Junior Trip has been proposed for December 2002 to France, which was fully booked (50) after only 48 hours of announcing it! Sorry to all those pupils who were disappointed, but there is a waiting list of several already.

The seniors have been offered a February 2003 half term holiday, after the January AS/A2 modules, which is to be in Spain, in a resort called Alp 2500 in the Pyrenees. The hotel seems ideal for seniors, on the slopes with bar/disco and even a swimming pool and sauna on site!

All in all, skiing at KGS is going from strength to strength and by the end of the week a competitive slalom was held and the winners of each group awarded gold, silver and bronze medals in true Olympic style. One obvious winner in this event was Doc. Hall, who had managed to acquire a full racing suit from the ski instructor. Clad only in this skin-tight outfit, with helmet and Swissair logos, he completed the slalom course in great style in front of the whistles and cowbells of the appreciative crowd. He does now realise that these suits are not designed to keep you warm in any way! The photographs can be viewed on the school's internet. It is rumoured that he has sold the rights to Hello Magazine!

Everybody enjoyed an excellent week's skiing and socialising. It is true that holidays like this are educational in some way; the pupils not only learn to ski, but also develop other valuable life skills and the happy memories linger for a long time afterwards.

Many thanks must go to all the staff involved: Mr. Scott for his initial organisation and being our alpine ski leader; Doc. Hall, who ran the bank, for being the 'life and soul'; Ms. Fryer for her constant TLC with her medical bag and endless supply of throat lozenges and sympathy (along with diet Coke and Pringles); and, of course, Mr. Baron, who took some stick from Akie, but as entertainment officer organised the seniors' polo shirts! the ski hats!! and the junior quiz night!!! Say no more!

If anyone wants a KGS Ski Soc. hat - you could win one next year, so beware!

Franz Klanger

Impressions of the German Exchange

Fourth year pupils describe their experiences of the return visit to Germany shortly before Easter.

School

"The school day is only about 20 minutes shorter than ours, but the amount of free time is great."
"I don't think I will ever say this again, so appreciate it. I really enjoyed school! The pupils were very friendly and always willing to talk to you. The classes were more relaxed and teachers not as strict."
"It was more laid back, however, they are strict on punctuality. On the first day I was about 30 seconds late, as I got lost coming back from the toilet and the teacher was really stressed."
"If you have no lesson first period, you can come late to school. After school there was lots of time to hang around with friends and do lots of different activities, such as swimming and going into town."

Food

"It is good even though it might look unappetising. I have eaten so much. Everytime I cleared my plate to be polite, even if I was full, it was filled again before I could say "Halt. Es ist OK. Ich bin voll.." Even the vegetables were tasty."
"It's not all Wurst and Sauerkraut!"
"For breakfast I expected a choice of cereal, but it was a number of different, unusual meats and breads. I kept an open mind. There was no harm in trying and, to my surprise, I actually liked the food."
"We all took advantage of the local 'Eisdiele' to enjoy the exceedingly tasty ice-creams."

Trips

"Everywhere was very clean and tidy with no litter at all."
"We went on two trips. First to the Radio and T.V. Station in Frankfurt, which was very interesting and one of the group learned what water was (an 'in' joke). We were actually in a studio during a live broadcast, which was quite fascinating as we had to be absolutely quiet when the red light came on."
"The second trip was to the Chocolate Museum and factory in Cologne - great, especially the free promotional samples. We also visited the Cathedral. It was very impressive."
"The shopping after the trips was good as it was nice to walk around and see as much as I could."
"The cost of CD's, DVD's and computer games is extremely cheap."

People

"Everyone was very friendly and I am going to miss my new friends."
"The house where I lived was very welcoming."
"It was great. I was treated just like one of the family."
"All my worrying and nervousness was unnecessary. Everyone I met was absolutely great."

General

"I learned a lot about myself in Germany."
"I will have lots of good memories of my time here and the fun we had. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and I am glad I took up the challenge because it made me a stronger person and I had some fun achieving this."
"The experience has taught me a lot about myself; how I react under certain situations and circumstances and how first impressions can be very wrong. I've seen a side of me I've never seen before. At first I felt a bit vulnerable. That was a bit strange because usually I am a strong person. Good points of my personality have been brought out too."
"This experience has been a real eye-opener. I have had time to mull over things, which I don't normally do, and from this I have drawn conclusions, answered questions, asked questions, been inspired, been shocked, been ashamed and been amused. I have learned much more than just the language in this weird but fantastic country."
"It has helped us to mature and get on with things we may not like or want to do."
"Over the ten days my German improved enormously. I have been using words I didn't even know I knew."
"Germany was cool. I hope to visit again in the summer holidays."

Contributions by: *Andrew Fulton, Stephen Hatch, Chris Lee, Penny Maughan, Luke Preskey, Lauren Sanders, Chloe Spencer.*

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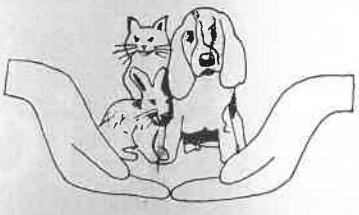

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Italy Rugby Trip, 2002

Day 1

The start of British Summer Time heralded the beginning of the Under 15's trip to Venice. Everyone was pleased to be leaving behind the wet and heavy pitches of Lancashire for the more dry and hard pitches of Northern Italy. After a long check-in at Manchester Airport, with careful scrutiny of Mohammed's and Ephraim's visas, we were off on our short flight. After a morning transfer, the team settled into 'Hotel Frank' in Lido Di Jesolo for their week's stay. The beach, only a hundred yards from the hotel, was far too tempting and the squad relaxed after a light training session to get used to the conditions. After what would be the first of many plates of pasta, the team retired early to bed after their long journey.

Day 2

After morning training the afternoon was spent at the Go-Karts. Mr. Harrison or should we say, "Michael Schuhmacher - World Champion", led the way with his own unique dare-devil driving. Mr. Harrison was again in action in the evening activity at the local bowling alley. This time it wasn't his bowling that drew attention but the way he 'bowled over' the travel company's tour representative. Clearly Mr. Harrison's day!

Day 3

Match Day 1 - KGS v Emilia Romagna - Lost 18-27

Time to get down to business! This was an exciting match where Kirkham fought hard to contain a side with five Italian internationals. Andrew Crook was outstanding in all aspects of the game. Although losing, this was a very promising start to the tour.

Day 4

Match Day 2 - KGS v San Dona RUFC - Lost 16-25

After a tough match the previous day, the team faced another gruelling game against much older boys. Kirkham were playing against a Division One Italian Club. Marcus Jackson, Anthony Waring and Tom Armer kept working hard throughout the game, while Daniel Fryer became famous for his now legendary knockout!

Day 5

Venice

On a bright and breezy day the team had a deserved day off after two hard matches. The historic and romantic city awaited and a private boat whisked the party from Jesolo to Venice, surely one of the most spectacular entrances to any city in Europe. The morning was spent visiting

the Basilica di San Marco, one of the most exotic of Europe's cathedrals, and climbing the Campanile, the city's Belltower, ideal for spectacular views of the city. The highlight for the staff was a gondola ride along the Canal Grande, where everyone marvelled at the water-lapped palaces. The Piazza San Marco, which looked as perfect as a film set, was an ideal setting for lunch before the party perused the local shops for the rest of the afternoon. A memorable day for all.

Day 6

Match 3 - KGS v Tarvisium Treviso - Won 17-10
Time for the final match of the tour. This should have been a match which should have been won by half-time, but unfortunately we missed many chances. However, excellent tries by Oliver Moore and Andrew Crook sealed a well deserved victory. Mr. Harrison gave a rousing speech in Tarvisium's clubhouse. Everyone raised their glasses to our President who richly deserved his standing ovation. Mr. Trenhaile then took the floor and as well as presenting awards to members of the squad, he thanked everyone involved for all their contributions to both the tour and a pleasing season.

Day 7

Gardaland, the Alton Towers of Italy, was an ideal way to spend the last day of the holiday. After a long coach drive, everyone was eager to tackle the 'white-knuckle' rides and the day passed quickly. The staff clearly enjoyed the water rides and looked like drenched rats by the end of the day. Another great day out.

Day 8

After a late night and Mr. Harrison's 5.30 am wake up call, everyone was reluctant to get up for the final breakfast of the trip. After the (thankfully) last consumption of more hard bread rolls, we were off to the airport for the flight back to England. As the lively banter and chat continued on the plane, it was clear to see that the trip had been a great success. We had learnt a lot from the trip and all the lads were great ambassadors for British Rugby and Kirkham Grammar School. Thanks to Dr. Rollins, Mr. Trenhaile, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Whalley and Ringo Wu for their organisation and repartee throughout the tour.

Mr. S Duncan

Scarborough - Summer Term Geography Fieldwork

Geographers do fieldwork in summer - because, hopefully, the weather is better at that time of the year. Mostly that was true this year. The first week of the summer term saw the annual trek into Yorkshire for the sixth form Geography field course. Fifteen eager AS students and three staff set forth for a hard, but enjoyable, week of interest, participation and academic work in a different environment in Scarborough - 'The Queen of the Watering Places'. Although the Spa waters have now expired, other beverages were available after we had finished work!

The new AS & A2 levels have caused some major changes, such as a different route via Titus Salt's factory village at Saltaire, near Bradford, but the weather was unusually warm for that time of the year. So much for Mr. Scott's advanced warning of how much colder it was over there.

Much work and data collection was undertaken in preparation for all three of the lower sixth AS modules and also the practical exam, which now occurs in the A2 level and will be examined next January in the upper sixth.

Days were spent in the town, studying the growth and functions. Phil Brierley bought some interesting shorts and the girls matching blow-up hats and ra-ra skirts and Bradley a Tam O'Shanter, which went well with his ginger hair (what colour was his grandad's?). The second day brought the study of settlement in some of the local villages. On Friday we studied York's history and heritage and the problems of flooding in the city.

The weekend brought the physical days. On Saturday we went along the Yorkshire coast from Scarborough to Flamborough, studying the changes in geology and the coastal defence schemes. The early evening saw a high tide and we ventured into the North Sea to see some of the most impressive waves ever from a relatively calm sea. Several of our group decided to chance their arm at beating the waves but were not quick enough and a thorough soaking was had by all. The quieter Sunday was spent on the rivers in The North Yorkshire Moors, studying the flow of the River Derwent.

Much time was spent collecting data and then collating the results in the evening work session. As well as the practical work on the methods and handling data, teaching in the field was undertaken to cover much of the option papers on the historical development of settlement and the coastal unit.

We worked so hard Mr. Scott allowed us a night off to socialise and play silly games. It was discovered that many of our party lacked the numerical co-ordination skills necessary to count up to seven and some could not even clap their hands in time. These weaknesses were rewarded by the addition of several facial blemishes to indicate their inability!

With the recent acquisition of a digital camera for the department, many of the photographs are accessible to the students on the school's internet. One further addition this year has been the buying of a CD-ROM as a permanent record for each participant. This should help them with their studies and can be used in the report writing and also remind them of what a good time can be had whilst working exceedingly hard all week.

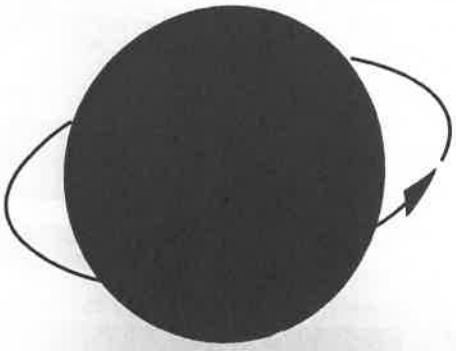
Sue Earle

Winning Team photographed at St.Bee's whilst on Biology Field Trip

Institute of Biology Prize

Congratulations to Yvette Brindle, Matthew Hopton, Terry Ogden and Marcus Plowright who performed exceptionally well in a competition organised by the Institute of Biology. The competition was held at Edge Hill College, Ormskirk and was entered by thirty schools and colleges in the North West region.

A series of ten tasks were undertaken during the day, all of which were based on A-level Biology topics or environmental issues. Our team emerged with the top score and won a £600 binocular microscope for the school.



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Music Report

This has once again been a busy and successful year for music at KGS. The first performance of the year, given by the Concert Band, was at CCF Annual Inspection and this was directed by Mr Richard Evans. Their rendition of the 'Groundforce' theme and the 'RAF March Past' was much enjoyed by the visiting inspecting officer, Group Captain Cross.

The Special Choir, Girls' Choir and Concert Band performed during Speech Day. Despite the daunting task of playing at the Guild Hall, everyone enjoyed the experience and the opportunity to perform in such a large venue.

Christmas is always the choir's favourite time of the year. Dr John Bertalot once again took the Special Choir for a Choral Workshop in December. Choristers from first to sixth form all learned a tremendous amount from him, most notably how to breathe properly and how to sing in 'curves'.

The annual Christmas Carol Concert was the highlight of the Autumn Term, with the Special Choir, Girls' Choir and Concert Band all performing. A large audience enjoyed a wide variety of carols, both traditional and modern. Although John Rutter's lively carols were as popular as ever, it was the quieter carols, including 'The Angel Gabriel' and Taverner's difficult piece 'The Lamb', which most impressed the audience. The Carol Service, held at St Michael's Church, included the School and Girls' Choir. The quartet of Felicity Clarke, Rachael Horton, Felicity Long and Jennifer Patel also thrilled the congregation with their singing of the 'Stork Carol'.

The Spring Term is always the busiest with the House Music Competition. This year was no exception, with over 400 entries. The final, adjudicated by Dr. F Salter, saw many fine performances from pupils of all ages. Lucinda McDade, in the first year, gained very high marks for her singing and recorder playing, but it was the faultless performance of Poulenc's 'Flute Sonata' by Jak Berry which won him the Rosemary Greaves Music Prize. Jak, the principle flautist of the Lancashire Students' Concert Band, is an outstanding performer and is certainly a name for the future.

Many of the items from the final were included in the Spring Concert. Despite Mr. Catterall's absence, the concert was a great success. The ever improving Concert Band performed two pieces of film music, whilst the Orchestra, under the baton of sixth former Matthew Hopton, played Verdi's 'Grand March' from Aida and the 'Processional March'. The Girls' Choir performed a new set of pieces including Chilcolt's 'Can you hear me' (with sign language from Penny Maughan) and Carl Jenkin's 'Adiemus'. These pieces also impressed the judges when the choir sang at Newcastle Opera House in the 'Sainsbury's Choir of the Year' competition. Although the choir did not win, the girls gained a lot from watching the other choirs, as well as performing in front of such a large audience. The Spring Concert ended with the School Choir singing a number of songs, including 'You'll Never Walk Alone' and 'When I'm Sixty Four'. They were then joined by members of the Leyland Brass Band for a Last Night of the Proms finale, conducted by Mr. Evans. The concert was very enjoyable for the performers and the audience. As a result of this, the Music Department was delighted to receive two very generous donations towards the department and the Girls' Choir.

Founders' Day saw the choir perform two pieces. As Mr. Catterall was collecting his MBE, Mrs. Cassidy single-handedly played the organ and guided the choir in their singing of Rutter's 'The Lord bless and keep you' and Handel's famous 'Hallelujah Chorus'.

The Spring Term also saw two performances from the RAF and the Army. The King's Division Normandy Band once again performed with the Concert Band. The resulting concert, including pieces such as 'Dads' Army' and the 'Two Imps', was much enjoyed by the large audience and gave our players a rare opportunity to perform with professionals. The members of the CCF were also treated to a concert by the RAF Regiment Band, based at RAF College, Cranwell. The music was a mix of film, TV and pop hits, including an unforgettable performance of Robbie Williams' 'Let me entertain you'.

The Summer Term was heavily disrupted by exams, but the 'Music for a Summer's Evening' saw the Orchestra, Concert Band, Choirs and soloists

(including Marcus Plowright and Sam Bensky) perform a wide range of music which catered for every taste.

The new school wind quintet was kept busy with performances at the Lord Lieutenant's Reception at Fulwood Barracks and the Headmaster's Retirement Reception.

A large number of pupils went to Geneva and Germany during the summer with the Lancashire Students' Concert Band and the Lancashire Senior Youth Band. Two of our impressive first form trebles, Joseph Brockbank and Richard de Carpentier, have also gained the Bishop's Chorister Award for Excellence.

Music Technology has also been heavily involved in the Music Department. The new studio in the MPH is gradually being built up with new equipment, such as keyboards and a four track recording desk. Mr. J Baron, along with Evan Beswick and Matthew Hopton, produced the 'Adiemus' backing track for the Girls' Choir, as well as recording the GCSE, AS and A-level practical work on to CD.

Thanks must go to all the School's musicians who have worked so enthusiastically to produce some excellent concerts. However, a big thank you must go to Mr. Catterall, MBE and Mrs. Cassidy for all their hard work and planning, without which none of the above would have been possible.

Matthew Hopton (Music Secretary)

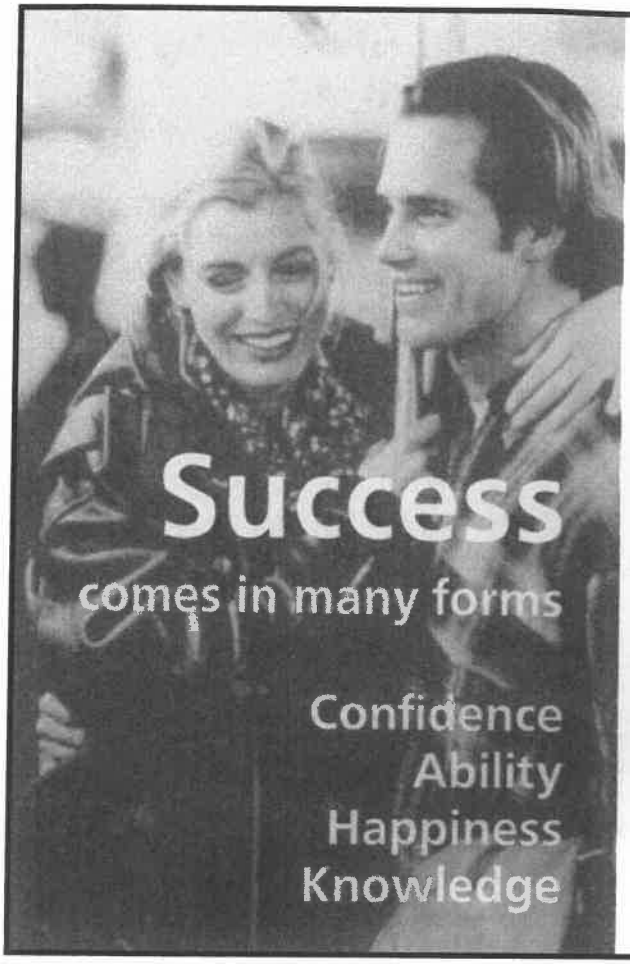
Music Technology Report

This year has been a fantastic one for the school's newest society - the Music Technology Club. After buying several new pieces of equipment before Christmas, including a computer, synthesiser and microphones, fast progress has been made experimenting and learning to use effectively and efficiently our studio to produce high quality music.

This term, we have been working in particular on recording several tracks written and played by a band in school, gaining knowledge and experience along every stage of production. We were able to provide microphones and music for the Summer Concert and have continued to make sure that decent recordings can be made for GCSE and A level practical exams in music-important as these must be sent to the exam boards for marking. On the subject of exams, I am looking forward to starting the AS course in Music Technology in September, a subject which has never been taken at KGS. Sadly, however, this will be done without Mr. Baron who has worked so hard to set up the studio, but is leaving us. The syllabus will therefore be largely self-taught, with help from Mrs. Cassidy. Mr Baron will be sorely missed, but his departure will not diminish our enthusiasm, or our thirst for new (and more expensive) equipment!

Looking ahead, plans have been discussed for many projects next year, so we are looking forward to building on the successes of this year.

Evan Beswick



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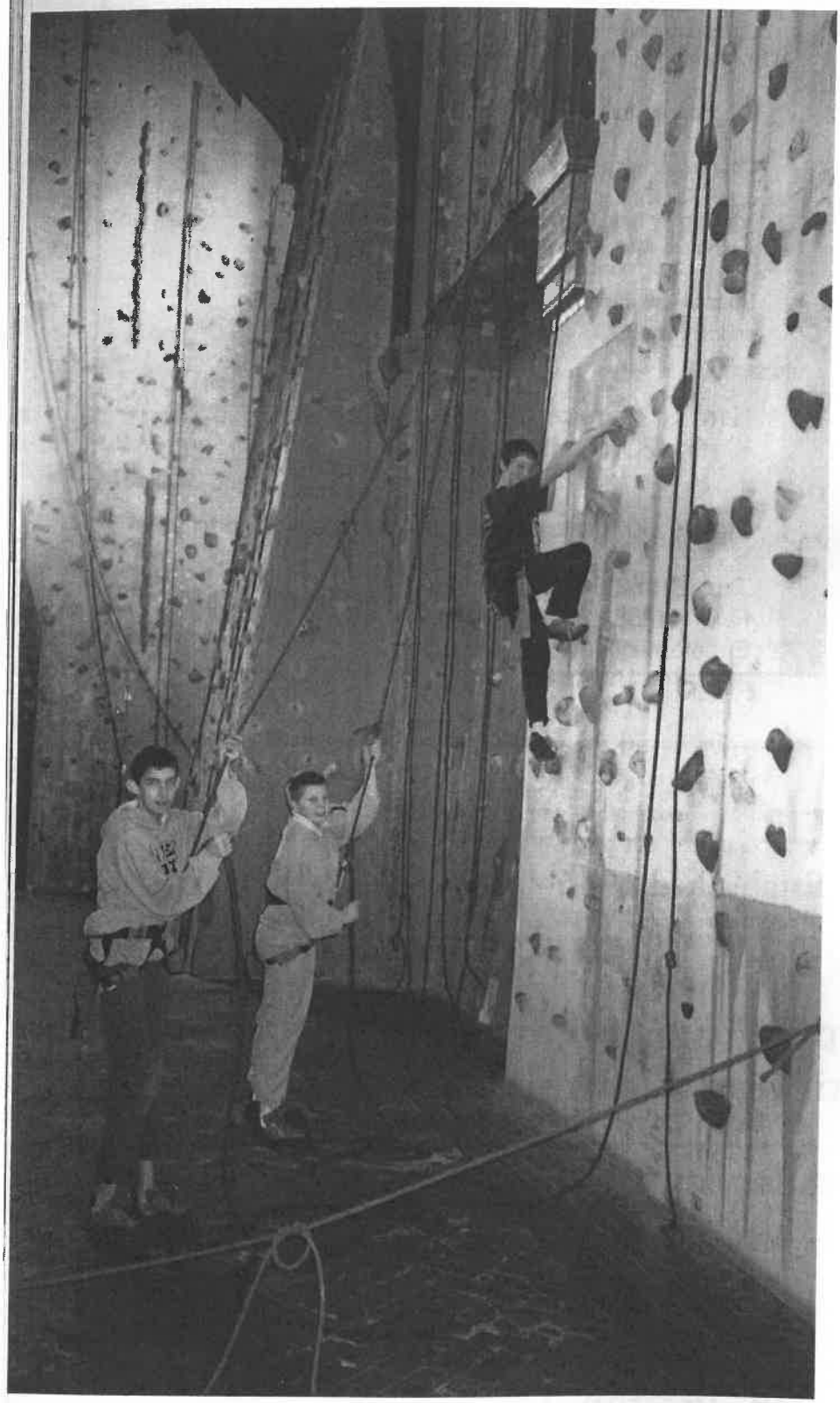

Climbing Club

It has been another successful year for the Climbing Club. There have been several new and promising additions to the club this year to add to the regular members.

Due to bad luck in terms of weather there has been limited opportunity for the club to venture outside to the nearby quarries, although on the occasions when we did leave the confines of the indoor walls, the climbing was very rewarding - especially so as we tried a number of different quarries where we had not previously climbed.

The indoor climbing was hampered by the closure of Cliff's Barn climbing wall - a wall frequently visited by the club - however, this did encourage us to venture further afield for a different climbing experience.

Unfortunately, this year sees the departure of John Maskell, a long term and talented member of the club, as he leaves for university in Bangor - incidentally, just a short distance from a large climbing centre and a short drive from some of the best outdoor climbing in the UK.

Matthew Gaddes - another long term member - continues to improve and now confidently climbs 5b-5c climbs.

We also hope to carry out plans to extend the school climbing wall leftwards around the corner to give us a new challenge on our home ground.

Climbing Club continues to thrive under the supervision of Mr. Gaddes and Mrs. Scott and always welcomes any new prospective members.

James Fletcher

Environmental Action Group

The pond improvement work will be starting this summer. A group of staff and pupils have volunteered to help the NLMG (North Lancashire Midweek Group) with the removal of debris and old fencing from the area. At present the pond has very low levels of oxygen, due to the large quantity of decaying leaves in it and therefore it supports very few pond animals.

In October, small bushes and trees at the south edge of the pond will be cut down, allowing more light to reach the water to encourage growth of oxygenating pond weeds. A pond-dipping platform and new fencing can then be erected.

Our aim is to increase the biodiversity of the pond and adjoining woodland by providing a variety of habitats. Frog shelters and bat boxes could be made in future projects. Further information can be obtained from Mrs Scott and Mrs Jones.

Animal Ark Club

The year began with the purchase of several new animals since the 2½ year old hamsters, Fudge and Magic and our remaining rat, Lotty, had died during the summer holiday. These types of pet animals only have a 2-3 year lifespan in captivity and even less in the wild. The new additions were two mice and two Russian hamsters. All are female, to avoid any further increase in numbers! Russian hamsters are a sociable species and can live in groups unlike Syrian hamsters which live in solitude.

The first Animal Ark Club event, in the Autumn term, was a visit by the Creepy Crawly Road Show. The underlying message of the show was 'treat all creatures with respect'. By handling various exotic animals such as a tarantula, a giant African land snail, a giant millipede and a python, we became aware that they are not a threat to humans, but we are a threat to them.

In the Easter holiday, club members enjoyed a day trip to the Blue Planet Aquarium. The extensive underwater tunnels through the shark area were most impressive and the open 'feely tanks' were very popular.

In the Summer term we were treated to a talk about snakes by John Vale who runs the Creepy Crawly Road Show. He brought his ten foot python, 'Bubbles', to an Animal Ark Club meeting and gave a talk about her anatomy and physiology. Bubbles is so heavy that one person can barely lift her. She is used in a magic show at Blackpool Pleasure Beach during the summer months.

At the end of term, the Animal Ark Club members were given the opportunity to visit Blackpool Zoo for an afternoon. We were lucky to have good weather and the outing made a well deserved reward for all the hard work of cleaning the pets' cages all term.

Bethan Watkin and a Ring Tailed Lemur at Blackpool Zoo

Public Speaking

The public speaking season opened with Matthew Hopton and Norman Ralph representing KGS in the English Speaking Union's Mace Debating Competition at Casterton School. There they proved themselves to be impassioned and knowledgeable speakers who were worthy runners up to Casterton and Kirkby Lonsdale.

On Saturday 19 January KGS Sixth Form Public Speaking Team participated in the North West Regional Final of the Business and Professional Women's Public Speaking Competition for Girls at the University of Central Lancashire, having won the local competition on the 12 November, 2001. The competition was intense, with some excellent talks from schools across the region. Our team of Rachel Horton (Expresser of Thanks), Joanne Dudgeon (Speaker) and Charlotte McNeela (Chair) did very well indeed with their presentation on The Elgin Marbles and were runners-up, bringing home the Coppock Trophy. The winners were Morton Hall, Oswestry, but we beat off stiff competition from Westholme, Blackburn; St. Mary's Catholic Sixth Form, Bolton; Brownedge St. Mary's High School, Bamber Bridge; Casterton School, Kirkby Lonsdale; Howells School, Llandudno; Ormskirk School and Cardinal Langley High School, Rochdale. The timing of the speech was excellent, as the subject of the Parthenon Marbles had been raised again in the press and in parliament a few days beforehand. Joanne added some humour to the speech by starting with a tale about Al Spitznoodle! If you want to hear it you will have to talk to Joanne!

On Thursday 27 February, two teams entered the Rotary 'Youth Speaks' competition at the Fernlea Hotel in St Annes. The fourth year team of Stephen Hatch (Speaker), Harriet McNeela (Chair) and Kate Denham (Vote of Thanks) tackled the difficult, but very topical, subject of Fox Hunting. Stephen launched into his speech with eloquence and expressed his view forcefully, finishing with a plea to the audience to "Support the Ban". Harriet chaired the session well and Kate expressed thanks of the audience with aplomb. Unfortunately, they did not win, but the experience holds them in good stead for the future.
The Sixth Form Team of Norman Ralph (Speaker), Matthew Hopton (Chair) and Anneka Curdling (Vote of Thanks) tackled another thorny subject - Genetically Modified Food. Norman started his speech holding up a tomato which focussed the attention of the audience, and he went on to explain why he agreed with the genetic modification of food. Matthew performed the introductions well and the humorous links provided cohesion to the overall presentation. Anneka expressed the thanks of the audience very well and the team was very unfortunate not to win this time.

Now that the public speaking season is at an end, thanks are due not only to those who entered competitions and went through the nerve-wracking but rewarding afternoons and evenings, but also to all the members of the club for their hard work in writing and rehearsing the speeches. Finally, thanks must also go to those parents and supporters who came along to give the teams guidance and moral support during the competitions.

Mrs Y. Jones

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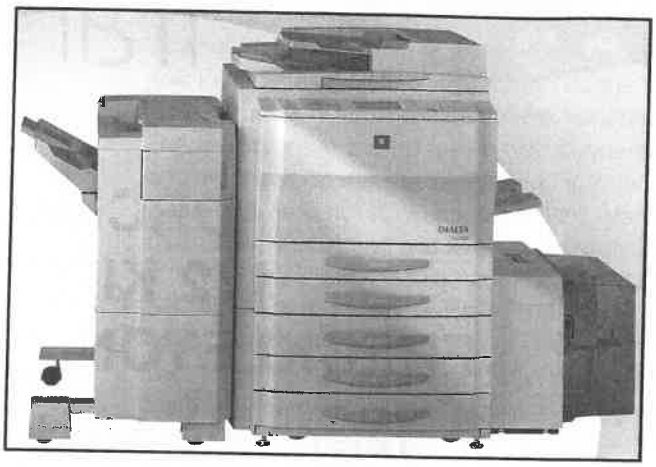

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Young Enterprise, 2002

This year's Young Enterprise company has had a very successful year. 'Evolution' boldly revolutionised traditional ways of running a Young Enterprise company. A more ethical and responsible business plan and strategy replaced the more traditional obsession of making profit for shareholders, as in previous years. Evolution decided that all profit would therefore go to two local charities, Derian and Brian House. The company also decided to adopt a less managerial and top-bottom structure and has chosen to work in project teams.

The team started their year with a Hallowe'en disco where the 'achievers' joined in the spirit, dressing up in full Hallowe'en costume. Close to 200 children enjoyed the atmosphere and the company made a healthy profit. Sales of Christmas cards, Christmas decorations and novelty goods sold well at a wide range of school functions. Links with the Junior School continued to grow with the production of a KGJS Calendar containing caricature pictures of the children from each form. Sales were excellent and proved to be the biggest money-spinner of the year.

With the short spring term after the AS January examinations the company concentrated their time preparing for the demanding and prestigious Fylde Area Board Young Enterprise Competition. As in previous years, the company was judged on a written report, an 8-minute PowerPoint presentation and a trade stand displaying the company's products. The company competed well and a highly innovative presentation was made to the Fylde Area Board in May, with the team winning the award for Best Presentation - the third year in a row for KGS.

As well as learning a lot about business and working together as a team, at liquidation the company has made well in excess of £1,000 for charity. In an increasingly demanding Lower Sixth year, with less and less time available for extra-curricular activities, the company has done exceptionally well, working with a great deal of determination and professionalism. Both Mrs Lang and myself would like to thank them for all their efforts.

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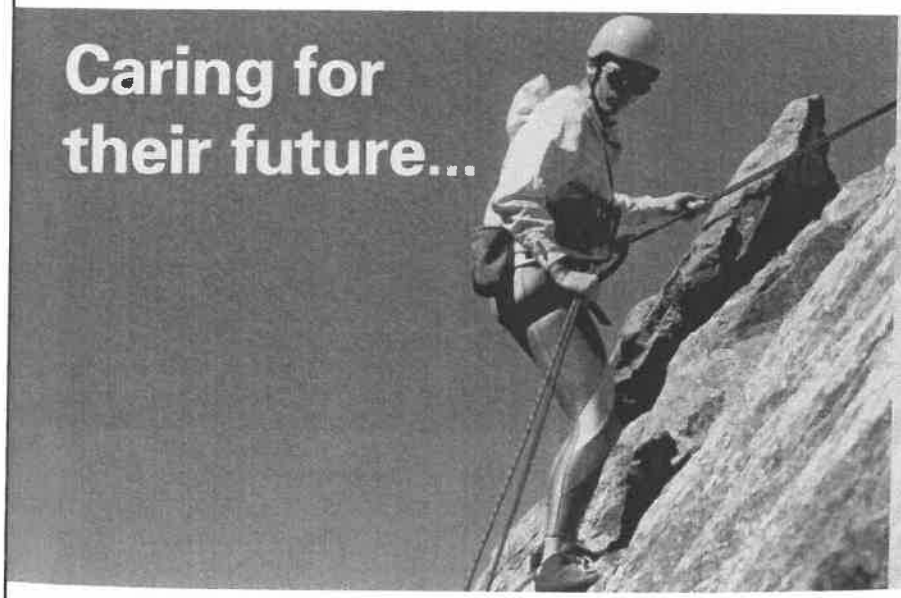

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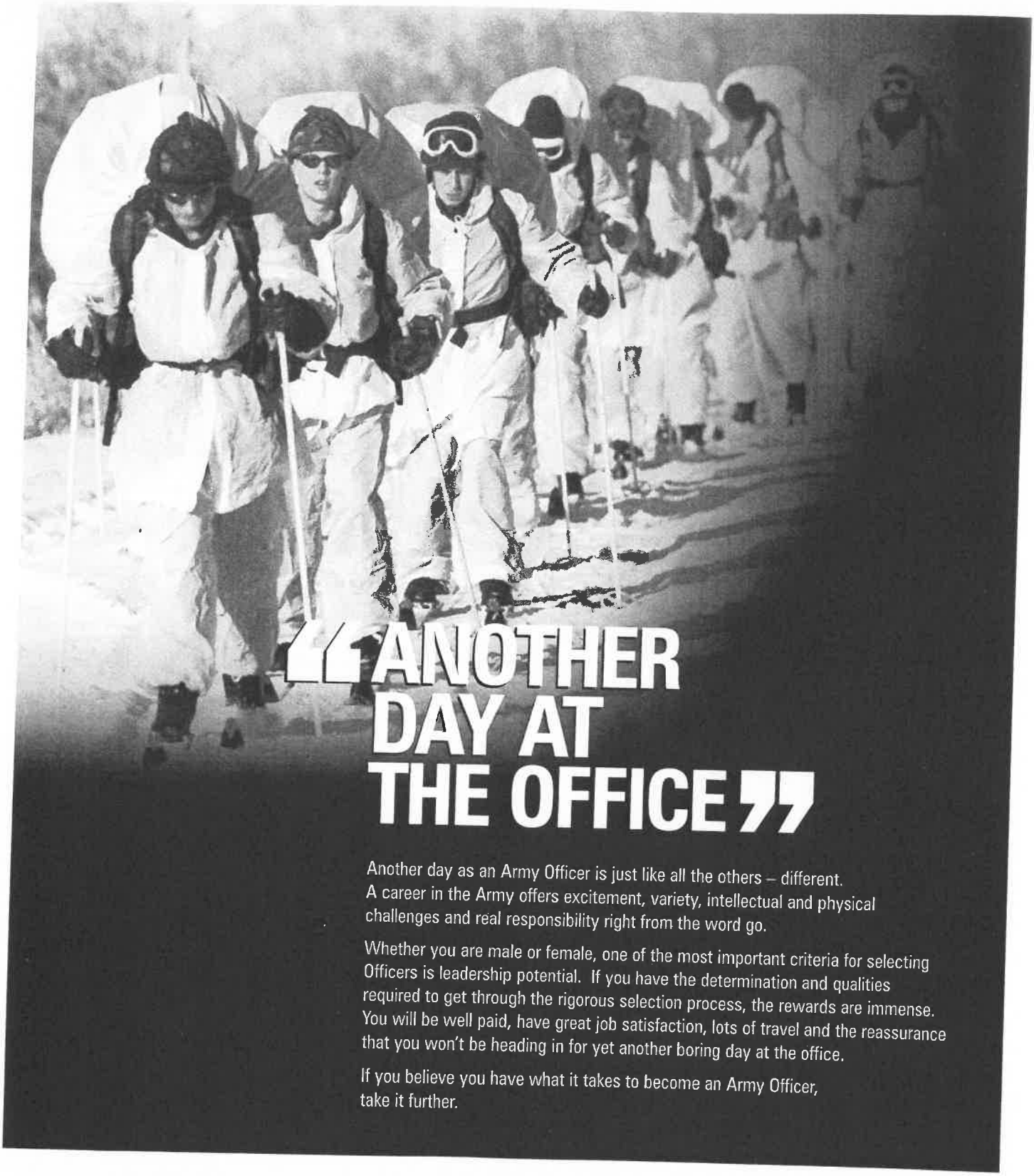

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CCF Summer Camp, 2002 Cultybraggan

Cultybraggan - again, surely not? Yes, it was our third consecutive year there, but this time without the problems of foot and mouth restricting the training to 'behind the wire'.

We have always enjoyed the Scottish Highland Division's annual cadet camp at Cultybraggan despite its age and limited facilities. It was originally built as a World War 2 POW camp and has been the setting for many an epic film like the Great Escape. Fortunately none of our cadets braved the wire, nor did they find the tunnels as the old pot-bellied stoves disappeared several years ago due to health and safety regulations.

The billets, however, are still very basic, but this year the Royal Logistic Corps' mobile shower unit and laundry added to the facilities provided. The unit was one of only six in the British army and was direct from use in Bosnia.

Our training package opened with two days on camp with the Royal Signals and assault course training with the Physical Training Corps. KGS showed their typical enthusiasm by posting the fastest time so far on the obstacle course. On the signals stand, as well as using army radios, some cadets were even allowed to drive the signals land rover! The next day's watermanship (rafting!) and kayaking on Loch Earn provided fun and a thorough wetting for all. On both evenings we managed to gain a slot on the 30-metre range, where all cadets had the opportunity to fire full bore weapons and some of the seniors shot 12 bore at clay pigeons.

Tuesday and Wednesday saw the big exercise. We set off very early in the morning to learn military tactics and survival skills. The camouflage and concealment exercise was performed so well by Nick Long and Dan Fryer that they were not found and arrived late at the next stand declaring that 'I think we've done that too well'! WO 2 Ripley (Scots Guards), an old friend of KGS, provided a good fun exercise, especially for the younger cadets who had never even covered section battle drills and blank firing. Unusually, the weather here was also kind to us, especially as we were to build shelters and bivvy out that night. Many cadets discovered the delights of 24 hour operational ration packs, as well as the Scottish midges and mosquitoes that only seem to bite the English.

The next day, after an abrupt early morning call, we enjoyed the large outdoor range, firing at 100 and 200 metres and even shot the LSW (machine gun). I must mention the marksmanship of Chris Lee, who narrowly failed to win the prize for best shot on camp. The other activities were military skills and KGS proved their worth by setting the two fastest times on a land rover trailer pull!

Back to camp for the final two days' training, very tired and in need of a good shower. Thursday's Glen Ogle command tasks and Rob Roy Trail were a welcome gentle stroll and even the Colonel joined in. The abseiling over the viaduct into the river was quite breathtaking, but even Capt. Miller and Lt. Fryer managed it - although they did get a little wet, as did some of the under officers from Aberdeen University OTC.

The last day's training was the inter-contingent competition day. In the morning we managed to be runners up in the Tug of War, but did not perform as well in the shooting or drill. However, everything hinged on the final event, the March, Assault Course and Shoot competition. We produced an excellent time on the march and assault course, even though we carried a thirty second penalty, and we just failed to come runners up by one second to our brigade rivals, William Hulme's. Woodbridge School were the eventual winners. So a creditable third place overall was an excellent performance considering we did not have any upper sixth NCOs on camp and the lower sixth did all the section leading. We even had a third year cadet, Tom Wardell, in the March and Shoot team.

I would like to extend thanks to all who made it such a successful and enjoyable camp - my fellow officers and staff and especially the sixth form NCOs who were essential in making the week work.

Finally, I would also like to mention Lt. Col. F.W. Sayer who does all the initial spadework and administration before the camp. He has resigned his commission from next year and this was his last Cultybraggan camp. I know he has always enjoyed the friendly atmosphere of the cadet training teams, UOTC and staff from the Highland Division, as well as the bonhomie of the Officer's Mess! We all owe him a huge thank you and will miss his inimitable style of leadership after his final camp at Warcop next summer. Do not despair. He will still remain as Senior Master; he has only resigned as CO of KGS CCF after 34 years service in the cadet movement. That in itself is worth recognition - thanks, Fred, from all past and present cadets and officers of Kirkham Grammar School Combined Cadet Force.

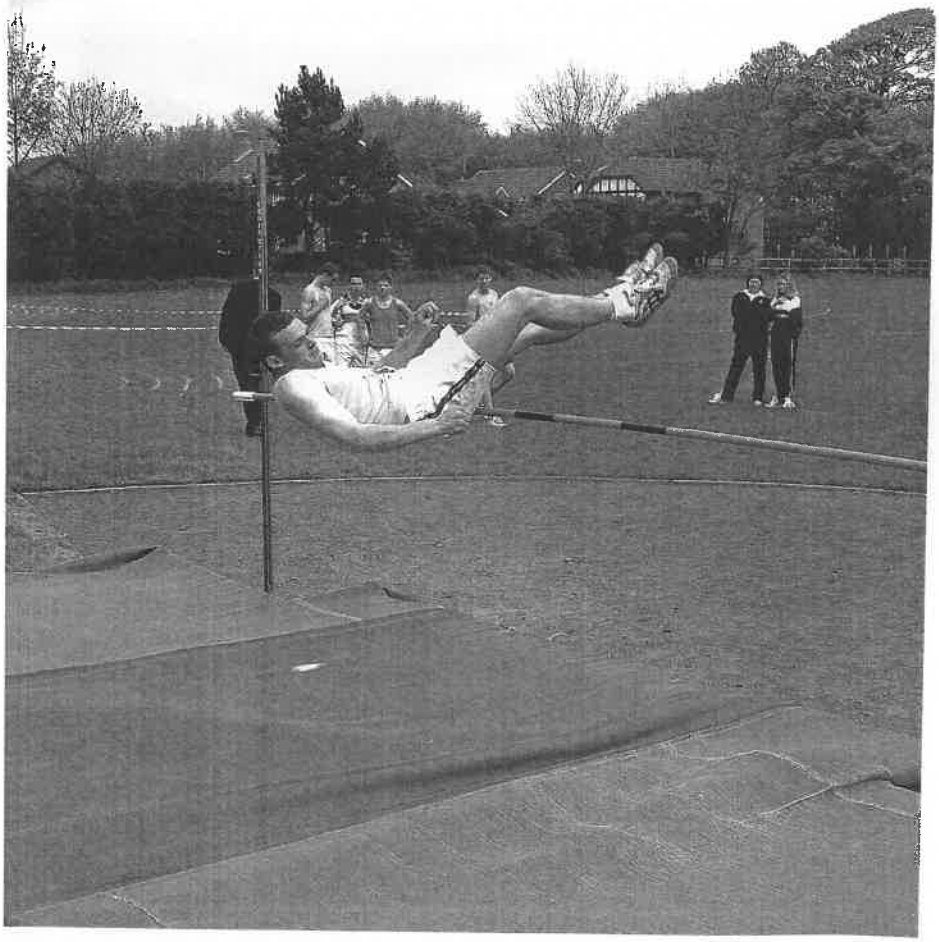
Major I.M. Scott

Preston

After finishing second in the House Competition last year we were all looking forward to the events arranged for this year. We were determined to put in the hard work required to compete successfully and to improve on last year's position even though it has become an intensely fought competition between the four Houses. However, the autumn term is for some reason always difficult for Preston and a number of poor performances in chess, netball and hockey saw us struggling in fourth place by Christmas. The swimming gala proved a light relief and brought out some excellent performances in the relays and threw up a star of the future in Martin Halsall who nearly drowned in the 50m butterfly, such was his commitment to the house.

The New Year brought mixed results, with success in the senior girls' and senior boys' cross-country but we did not compete to our potential in the rugby. However in the House Music, thanks to the expert guidance of Mrs Cassidy, Preston came first in a very closely fought competition. In this event we showed a true team spirit with over 100 entries in the auditions (the most from any house) and nine finalists. Matthew Hopton and the brilliant first year musician Lucinda McDade were the pick of the bunch. We also competed with enthusiasm and success in the House Debate, beating School for the second year running; Jane Meloy and Charlotte McNeela arguing brilliantly on the topic 'This House believes that the Barbie Doll is an insult to modern women'.

The summer term saw the retirment of the House Captains and the appointment of their successors Martin Halsall, Charlotte McNeela, Matthew Hopton and Danielle Grundy. Their first event in charge was the Sports Day which is a massive task to organise but one they performed with enthusiasm and panache. The most notable performances in the Juniors came from Tristan Brooke and Jenny Dewhurst, with Michael Briggs and Sally Rotheram leading home the Intermediates. In the Seniors Laura Martin competed bravely but we only managed third position overall. We saved the best performances until last with excellent first places in the Junior Tennis thanks to Jenny Dewhurst, James Hall, Matthew Woods and Chris Ward, and in the Intermediate Tennis thanks to Michael Briggs, James Clark, Matthew Arkwright and Sally Rotheram. The standard of tennis in Preston House is truly remarkable and if we could just win a couple more of the events in a similar fashion it would leave us in a much stronger position in the summer term.



Many thanks to all those who competed and I look forward to Martin and the team pushing us to greater achievements next year. I would also like to thank all the staff in the house, especially Mrs Gault who is retiring. She will be missed in the house assemblies and we welcome Mrs Walker as her replacement in Preston House.

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Fylde

The year has been quite a successful one for Fylde house, however there were still some disappointments. The year began well with the house chess, in which we came a creditable second to Kirkham house. This was soon followed by an excellent performance from our Senior netball who came second and then an even better performance from the Juniors who finished first. The quiz teams also performed extremely confidently and achieved third place in both the Junior and Senior rounds.

The next event was the hockey, which has always been our stong point, and the girls did not disappoint as both the Junior and Senior teams achieved comfortable firsts. An excellent second then followed in the swimming a few weeks later. We fought an extremely close battle with Kirkham who only just beat us by a couple of points. If only we had had competitors in every race then this could be a different story we could be telling.

The event that everyone dreads took place next. The terrible weather made the cross-country even more of a chore than ususal, which probably explains the number of absent competitiors. However, of the people that did take part, many achieved good positions and should be commended for that.

Individual entrants in the house music festival were extremely talented and should be congratulated for their enthusiasm, with a special mention to Jak Berry, who won the competition overall. Unfortunately entrants were lacking this year and so Fylde did not get enough points to challenge for first place.

The results in the following events were something to be proud of, with two excellent teams coming first and second in the Junior and Intermediate rugby. Unfortunately, due to injuries the Senior team was not as strong as it should have been, so Fylde finished fourth. This was then followed by two excellent firsts in the house shooting and the Senior hockey.

In the Senior cricket we batted first and scored a creditable 57 runs from our overs. Unfortunately, School scored these runs in 11 overs, though special mention should go to Jordan Emery who scored 24 and also took 3 wickets.

Sports Day was, of course, the major event of the summer term. After a pleasing set of preliminary results, the events on the day turned out to be a disappointment. A lack of support for the house meant that there were not enough, or in some cases no competitiors at all, in some events, confirming Fylde's poor reputation. Going home 'ill' seemed to be a much more popular option than participating, which comes down to a total lack of pride in the house. This meant that Fylde finished fourth. However, the results achieved by the athletes that participated were excellent and they must be congratulated. They were a credit to the house. A special mention must go to Robert Sissons and Stephen Hatch who won the Junior and Intermediate Victor Ludorum respectively. It would be nice if all house members had their enthusiasm.

It was then the turn of the Juniors for cricket. Fylde started their campaign against School house and without our star player Robert Sissons we played very well and won convincingly. Then came the final against Kirkham house in which, after a very shaky start, we scored a creditable 54. We then kept Kirkham down to 34 runs through excellent bowling performances from Mark Hodgkinson, Chris Bowden, Robert Sissons and Mark Ashworth. On the same day as the final our Junior girls rounders team played excellently and I was happy to hear that they won all three games and so finished first. Credit must also go to our tennis players who finished third in the Junior tennis and second in the Intermediate tennis.

There is an abundance of talented people in Fylde house, and when we work as a team, we have the ability to win events and be successful. Finally I would like to thank John Bowden and Vicky Peters for all their hard work over the past year to put Fylde in the position it is in now.

Anneka Curdling & Gordon Kipling

School

Well . . . Duncan's Determined Dragoons have managed to pip us at the post once again and 'the man' is floating on cloud nine once more. The Work Cup strikes back - not entirely surprising. But it's good to share . . . and we are happy to let others experience the euphoria of victory which we have enjoyed on so many occasions. So, on behalf of all School house staff and pupils, I congratulate you on a great victory and a terrific battle throughout the year.

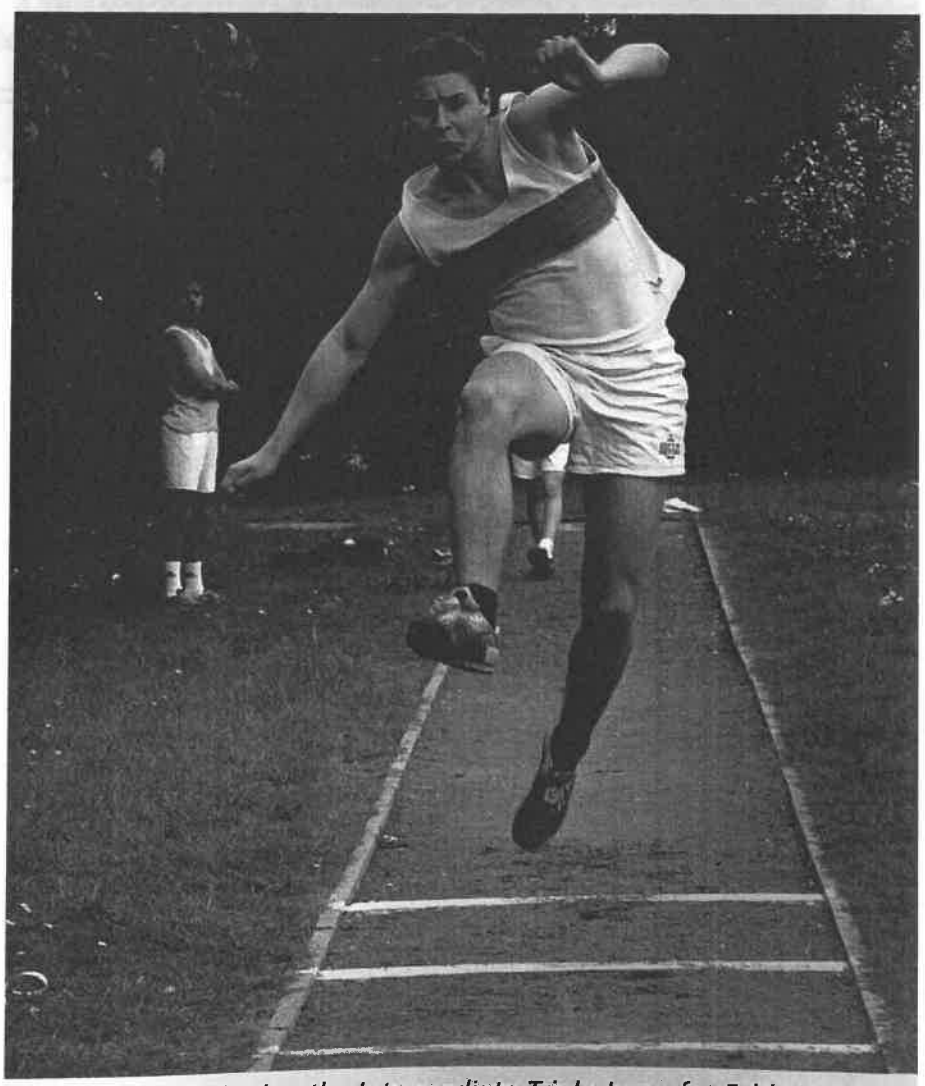
Nevertheless, School have still had a most memorable year, with so many impressive victories in 11 of the 28 house competitions. No other house even came close to that figure.

The Autumn term always seems to be a quiet period for School, but we still managed to win the Senior netball, the Junior quiz and the Senior quiz. Question . . . as we trounced all opposition in both quizzes, why can't we win the Work Cup? Don't dwell on this too long! At the end of term, we found ourselves in third position overall as usual.

The Spring Term is when School comes into bloom. We began with a real shock to the system . . . second place in the Music Festival . . . difficult to believe, but true I'm afraid. The range of entries was outstanding and we had more finalists than any other house. The choir, singing an old Beach Boys number, came fourth overall out of nearly 400 entries, which was a pleasing result after the many hours of practice. In the cross-country competitions School gained one fourth place, one second place and four first places. Jane Greenwood, Richard Newton and Chris Briers were all individual winners. We missed out on the debate final for the second controversial year, but blew the opposition away in the Inter and Senior rugby 7's. The girls' Senior hockey team played out of their skins to gain second place to mighty Fylde and the shooting competition was lost when Sam Bensky accidentally shot Colonel Sayer. The end of the Spring Term saw School ahead by just four points.

The Summer Term began with a glorious and emphatic victory in Sports Day. School were magnificent, winning by an astonishing 150 points. The names of the winners are simply too numerous to mention and we also took 4 out of 6 individual trophies. This included all 3 Victrix Ludorums. Melanie Smith, Jane Greenwood, Amy Twambley and Chris Briers had outstanding results. This was truly an outstanding team effort, with 35 first places, breaking the previous record by 7. School then marched on to beat Kirkham in the Senior cricket final. In the final six competitions we had a run of disasters and near misses, with five third places and a fourth. Our lead was thus eaten away by Kirkham who had been nipping at our heels all the time. Once again, it came down to the results of the Work Cup. We were just 1 point ahead at this stage. When the final result was announced by the Headmaster - School were third (4 points) and, of course, Kirkham first (8 points). The Whitby Cup goes to Kirkham, but be warned . . . in the words of Terminator . . . "We'll be back!" Very well done to all the house members who have competed throughout the year and let's make sure that next year we bring the trophy right back home, where it belongs. Good Luck!

Amanda Schofield



Stephen Hatch winning the Intermediate Triple Jump for Fylde House

Kirkham

*"Many calculations, victory, few calculations, no victory" - **Sun Tzu***

After last year's third position in the inter-house trophy, it was time for words from the Chinese philosopher, Sun Tzu, to motivate the Kirkham troops in the first assembly of the year. Winning the Whitby Cup is essentially about good planning and organisation, skills taught so effectively by Sun Tzu's 'Varieties of War'. This philosophy, which worked so effectively for the Australian cricket team last year, was Kirkham's guide for the months ahead and I'm please to say it worked! I am therefore delighted to report Kirkham's success in regaining the inter-house trophy from School house for the second time in three years.

Of the seven events of the autumn term, two wins and four second places gave the House a lead going into the Christmas break. The year started with the continued success of the Ralph brothers checkmating their opponents for the umpteenth time to regain the Chess trophy. The brains of the house were also tested by the new inter-house quiz tournament. Many felt this event would favour our 'brain-boxes' and all seemed to be going well as we breezed into the final of both the Junior and Senior competitions. Unfortunately we lost both finals to a strong School house in two closely competed finals. The sports events of the term also went well, with the Juniors securing second places in the Hockey and Netball tournaments. The main event of the year took place in the last week of the term and the House continued to keep hold of the Swimming trophy for yet another year. Many thanks to all the swimmers who always volunteer so readily for this tough and demanding competition.

The New Year started with the ever popular Music Festival. Mr Baron, in his last year for the house, made sure Kirkham's entries passed the magic 100 mark for the third year on the row and we were stongly placed after the audition round. With only a few musicians qualifying for the final, however, the House finished third, a result that did little justice for the mass entry and commitment of the house's musicians.

Moving onto the sports fields, the winter term's heavy ground didn't favour our competitors. A gruelling cross-country tournament tested the stamina of the house and we were pleased with two wins, one second and three third places in the six races. Unfortunately, a run of bad form hit the house for a few weeks with three disappointing results in the inter-house rugby competition, the Shooting and the Senior Hockey tournament. With a little more luck we would have achieved better results but, to quote the old cliché, luck evens itself out over a season! The 'blip' was ended thanks to the Junior rugby squad who really played well, finishing second in their competition. Further success followed when Norman Ralph and Andrew Gregson won the debating competition for the second year on the run.

The summer began with the appointment of two new House Captains (Stuart Blackburn and Kate Sannegadu) to replace Katy, Jenna, Luke and Gary who had done so much to set up the year's successes. I am pleased to report that the House peaked at the right time and a six point deficit at Easter was turned into a winning three point cushion by the end of the term - quite an achievement! Second places were secured in the Senior rugby, the Junior and Senior cricket, the rounders competition and Sports Day to complement two first places in the Senior tennis and Junior academic trophy.

I would like to thank everyone for their enthusiasm and professionalism over the year. The Whitby Cup recognises teamwork and the whole house has played a key role in this year's successes. It's the willingness to contribute and the enjoyment you all show in such a wide range of events that is magical and unique to Kirkham. Enjoy the victory and in the words of Sun Tzu, "Many calculations, victory, few calculations, no victory."

Mr. S.F. Duncan

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DEATH IS...

The afterlife,
The work of a knife,
A stab in the back,
Satan's Fork.

Heaven or Hell,
The road to Valhalla
A never-ending maze,
An asteroid from Satan.

Inevitable fate,
Well deserved,
A slip on the grip of happiness,
A fall off the cliff of life.

A ghost initiation,
The spirit's home,
A terrible nothingness,
Never-ending.

The End.

By Samuel Rowe
1Z

SCHOOL IS ...

Bells ringing,
Excuses singing,

Teachers growling,
Headmaster scowling,

Calculators clicking,
Clocks ticking,

Floors creaking,
Prefects speaking,

Staff indulging,
Lockers bulging,

Plates clattering,
Ink splattering,

Teachers seething,
Buses leaving.

By Joseph Robinson
Form 2Z

EXCUSES, EXCUSES.

I'm sorry about the homework, sir,
I'm sorry it's in such a state;
I know I've lost my tie, sir,
I apologise for being late.

I did all my maths, sir,
Even the questions you thought were tricky
By my sister spilt juice all over it, sir,
And now it's wet and sticky.

This morning I made my breakfast, sir,
I had scrambled eggs on toast;
But my tie got stuck in the toaster, sir,
And it burnt it to a roast.

As we drove to school, sir,
Our tyres went flat,
So my mum called the AA, sir,
And they dealt with that.

I know you don't believe me, sir,
I can see it in your eyes;
I promise it's the truth, sir,
I never tell lies.

By Alexander Robson
Form 2Z

THE DARK

The dark is ...

an unknown world,
a creepy silence,
a devil's paradise,
a choking blackness,
a disaster waiting to happen,
a blind man's world,
a no-man's land,
a deep, bottomless pit,
your worst nightmare,
nowhere to be found,
darkness alive,
a bat's working day,
a ghost's playground,
a land of no reflection.

By Soraya Dunn
Form 1Y

THE SKY

The sky is...

a rippled carpet of blue,
a giant watering can for the garden,
a chess set of ivory figures,
a white rabbit's fur,
a dual personality,
a gateway to another world,
an unknown land to be discovered,
a mask,
an island to get lost on,
a never-ending sphere of life,
a diary of secrets never to be found,
an ever-changing film,
changing forever.

By Lucinda McDade
Form 1Y

THE DARK IS A SHADOW OF MYSTERY

The dark is a shadow of mystery,
The dark is a sheet of black,
The dark is an owl's hoot,
The dark is fierce and scary,
The dark is a silent night time moorland,
The dark is an eclipse that never dies,
The dark is a violent piercing scream,
The dark is the wickedness in someone's soul,
The dark is a haunted house,
The dark is a sea of black velvet,
The dark is a long lasting screech of murder,
The dark is a nightmare from a dream,
The dark is a wolf's howling ground,
The dark is a suffocating mask,
The dark is hatred,
The dark is a place where the sun is banished,
The dark is as black as coal,
The dark is a shadow of mystery.

By Jennifer Patel
Form 1Y

Staff Changes

This year saw the arrival of six new faces at KGJS. Mrs Helen Shuttleworth joined the staff as J3 teacher. Helen was a familiar face around school as she had been a peripatetic teacher here for five years. Mr Alan Jones joined us in September, 'sharing' his time with the Senior School. In September 2002 the Junior School will claim him as a full time member of staff as Head of Sport. Mrs Diane Cooper Smith was appointed in the summer term as Classroom Assistant.

Mrs Molly Cottam and Mrs Paula Curry were apointed as our new welfare assistants. Miss Natalie Linford, Miss Emma Threlfall and Miss Emma Snape joined us as trainee nursery assistants.

We bid farewell to three members of our team this year. Mrs Daphne Chamberlain is returning to Northern Ireland to build her dream home. Mrs Samantha Kenmare is taking a career break to look after baby Jack and Mrs Rebecca Moffat is moving to Cambridge to take up a new post as a Reception teacher.

We wish them all the very best for the future.

SPORT
Netball

The netball teams had a very slow start to the year but they worked hard to improve their individual skills as well as their teamwork. The B team won one game, drew one and lost two and the C team, who played one game at the end of the season, lost 1-0. The A team had a very shaky beginning with three defeats leading up to the AJIS tournament. However, after losing their first game in the group matches they then proceeded to astound us all with their fantastic team spirit, winning their next three games. Unfortunately, this was not enough to put us into the semi-finals.

At the end of the Spring Term, Pius X School visited us. In November, the A team lost convincingly by 12 goals to 3. This was to be our revenge! With confidence sky high after AJIS they knew they could do better. The girls played exceptionally well - far exceeding all expectations and they triumphed by 9 goals to 3. An excellent way to end the season.

Mrs. L. Case

Gym Squad

The thirteen children of gym squad have worked hard all year. In March they began to rehearse ready for the Summer Fair. They performed exceptionally well, working individually and also in pairs, performing routines that each group had devised themselves. They ended the routine with an enthusiastic display of dance and gym put to the music 'Come Follow the Band' conducted by our very own Richard Evans

I must bid a fond farewell to Elizabeth Whittle and Lucy Knowles this year who have both been members of the Gym Squad for five years.

Mrs. L. Case

Rounders

This year our fixtures and the AJIS tournament had to be cancelled due to bad weather. However, we did manage to play our first Interhouse Rounders Tournament in beautiful sunshine. Each house played two games and the winners were Drapers House, captained by Harriet Martin. We hope to make this an annual event.

Mrs. L. Case

Athletics

The girls have been kept busy this summer with three matches. There were some pleasing performances by Jade Mottley, Harriet Martin, Lucy Knowles and Rachel Gregson.

Mr. A. Jones

Cricket

The cricket team played four games this year drawing one and losing the other three. Some good performances by Dean Bell who had a batting average of 40 and some good bowling by Nicholas Evans, both of whom are in J3, means that we are looking forward to a more successful season next year.

Mr. A. Jones

Swimming

We have participated in seven swimming matches this year. While we did not win any of these there were good performances by Sophie Ward, Jamie Roper, Victoria Rowe and Joe Leeming. We also had five individual winners at the Fylde Coast Championships.

Mr. A. Jones

Cross Country/Triathlon

This year has seen six teams of cross country runners compete on two occasions with one victory and one defeat. We look forward to more cross country matches next year.

We were invited to take part in our first triathlon this year, the St Pius Championships. We entered a J4 and a J3 team and were awarded a very encouraging third place. Excellent swimming by Chris Gale and Joe Leeming and running by David Marsden and Matthew Wiggans helped the team achieve this.

Mr. A. Jones

Rugby

The U11s won three games and lost two this year and were semi-finalists in the Budge Sevens. A special mention must go to the captain Charles Newton and to Joe Leeming who both played extemely well all year.

The U10s won one game and lost one, with pleasing performances from their captain Dean Bell, Ashley Jones, Nicholas Evans and Nicholas Chapman.

As always the U9s were given a taste of what's to come by competing in the Budge Sevens where they were semi-finalists.

Mr. A. Jones

Hockey

This year the girls have worked very hard developing their game and working on their hockey knowledge and team play. Throughout the year the girls have got better and better and this has been reflected in their steadily improving results.

In the Lancashire tournament the girls played well despite the torrential rain winning three of their games, drawing three and losing only one. In the end we finished third.

At St Mary's Hall, Stoneyhurst it was gale force winds which proved tricky to deal with. However, despite being knocked out of the cup the girls produced increasingly good performances to win the plate, beating Catterall in the final.

In the Rossall budge sevens we had wind and rain in the morning for the Under 11s. The girls still battled on winning two games, drawing two and losing two, achieving fourth place. The weather improved in the afternoon for the Under 10s, a relatively inexperienced side who were still learning the game. Nevertheless the girls certainly learned quickly producing some excellent performances winning two of their games, drawing two and losing two, resulting in the same finishing position as the Under 11s, fourth overall.

Finally, in the AJIS tournament at Preston Sports Arena we were not surprised to arrive and find freezing cold weather conditions. Again the girls pulled together and performed extemely well winning their group and beating our archrivals Rossall. In the finals Kirkham finished third overall despite the fact that we did not concede a goal throughout the tournament.

Despite a continual battle with the elements, these teams have made magnificent progress throughout the year and the Under 11s have developed into a very good side. They should be very proud of their achievements. I wish them luck in the future!

Mr. C. Butterworth

Young Musicians Trip to Valkenburg, Holland

In the early hours of Saturday 25th May forty four young musicians from Kirkham Grammar Junior School, accompanied by five members of staff, set off for Valkenburg, Holland for a five day music tour. They felt very much at home in their Dutch surroundings and might have been mistaken for locals, wearing their special tour jerseys sporting the school windmill motif.

The party was based in this pleasant rural town quite close to the borders of Belgium and Germany. Their busy itinerary included concerts at the Drielandenlabrint, Vaals and at Mondarian Zorgroep, Heerlen. Both venues were within two hours drive of the touring base. There was plenty of time for the youngsters to spend a few Euros, shopping and sightseeing in Valkenburg itself and in nearby townships. Other highlights included visiting a chairlift ride taking the children up to the Toboggan run near Valkenburg and a visit to the biggest maze in Europe to test their problem solving powers!

Everyone enjoyed a visit to a German Theme Park

where they experienced the many fantasy rides. Making the most of our planned activities we all enjoyed a dip and cooling off period at Mosaqua Waterpark. A special disco and a night bowling rounded off this fabulous trip for the Kirkham Musicians. The school has a very strong reputation throughout the Fylde area for the range and quality of its music provision. The concerts featured the School Ensemble, The Vocal Ensemble and a 'tour choir' singing a variety of songs ranging from The Beatles to Katrina and The Waves. Party leader, Peter Lockett, Head of Music at K.G.J.S. said, 'The children were very excited after looking forward to the trip for some time. They had all worked very hard since Christmas to prepare.' The party was accompanied by Mr. Morrison, (Keyboard and Tuba), Mrs. Brindle, Mrs. Barton and Mrs. Case.

Mr. P. Lockett, Head of Music

Music

The music calendar has been full and varied this year. Our annual Year Group Concerts took place in October (J4), March (J3) and May (J1/J2) and were all well attended and great successes.

In December the Vocal Ensemble, led by Miss Emily Keaton were worthy winners of the Freckleton Music Festival. The School Ensemble entertained the patients and staff at Wesham Park Hospital with Christmas Carols and also performed at the Christmas Carol Service alongside the choir, led by Mrs Helen Shuttleworth. The Ensemble's final performance was to open the Summer Fair in May where many new pieces were played in preparation for the Music Tour to Holland.

Congratulations to Caitlin McMillan for becoming this years' music scholar. Caitlin has several wide ranging musical talents.

A special thanks to all supporting visiting teachers who help our children and to the parents who have supported all the events so well this year.

Mr. Peter Lockett

School Choir

It has been a busy and successful year for the choir. The children have worked very hard and the choir has expanded to such a size that it had to be split into two smaller groups. Each term the children have given a performance. At Christmas, the choir sang in the Carol Service. During the Spring Term, they performed in a school assembly. Recently, they have been exceptionally busy. They won first prize in the A.J.I.S. music competition. Here, they competed against eight other schools from the North West. The choir were presented with a great big shield that is now in pride of place in school. Parents of the children in the choir were invited to a presentation to hear the prize winning programme. The choir also took their initial choral exam with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. As yet, we are awaiting the results but they sang their very best! The final performance of the year was at the KGJS Speech day. A special thank you must go to Peter Morrison, Barbara Cassidy and Sarah Sharples for their assistance with the choir throughout the year. Next year even more exciting opportunities are planned!

Helen Shuttleworth

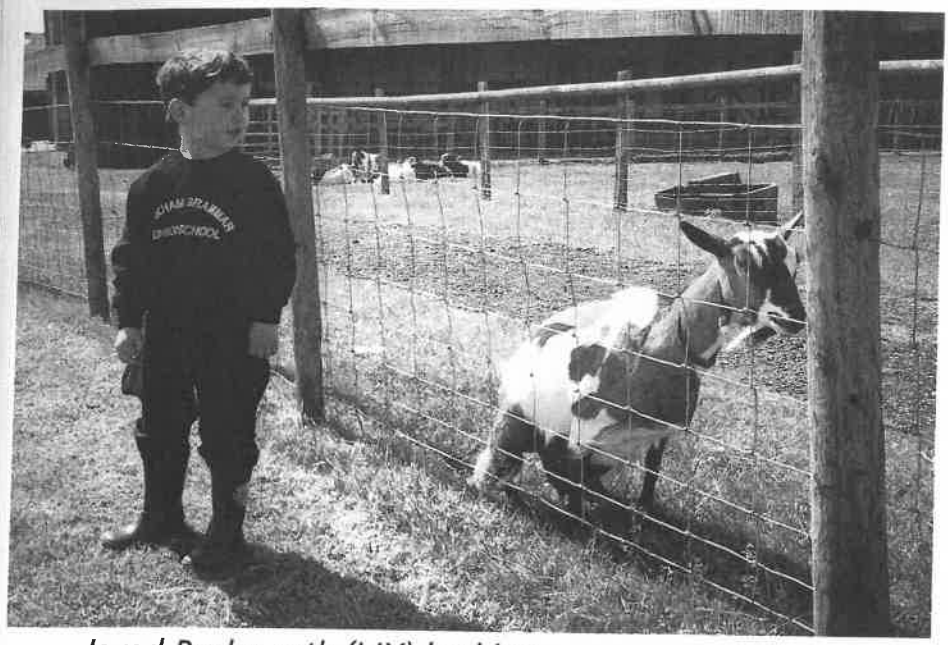
Infant Ensemble

Last year more promising and enthusiastic musicians joined our Infant Ensemble Group. As well as players of our percussion instruments including maracas, tambourines and glockenspiels, we were treated to the talents of violinists, a flautist and recorder players.

The Infant Ensemble provides a valuable opportunity for young musicians to learn to play together as a group and to perform to an audience. They did this successfully in the Infant Nativity Production and in assemblies.

Mrs. J.E. Knowles

Infant Ensemble • Summer 2002



Jared Rushworth (I IX) looking at a goat at Farmer Parr's Farm on their class trip • Summer 2002

School Visits

This year has seen a wide variety of visits. I1 enjoyed an autumn walk in October and a trip to see the animals on Farmer Parr's farm in June. I2 visited Marton Mere in June and a week later I3 travelled to Leighton Hall, Carnforth.

The J1s experienced 'The Jungle Book' at the Duke's Theatre in December and a 'Roman Footpatrol' in Chester in June. The children in J2 had a very 'active' visit at the Brockhole Centre in May. J3 have been very busy this year taking in a performance by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic orchestra in March, participating in a Geography Field Trip to the Franklow Water Treatment Centre in May and a 'hands on' experience at Eureka! in June. The J4 children enjoyed an exciting theatrical performance in Blackpool called ' Eclipse'. As well as all this there was the Music Tour to Valkenburg, Holland in May.

Miss Emma Snape (trainee classroom assistant) and Mrs Wendy Barton (Nursery Leader) with Millie Foley and Phoebe Johnson on their class visit to Farmer Parr's Farm • Summer 2002

The Infant Nativity Play

The Geography Field Trip

The Monkey Poem

One little monkey swinging on a tree
Two little monkeys splashing in the sea
Three little monkeys jumping on a bed
Four little monkeys landing on their heads
Five little monkeys playing on the sand
Six little monkeys listening to a band
Seven little monkeys riding on a whale
Eight little monkeys looking slightly pale
Nine little monkeys playing hide and seek
Ten little monkeys falling fast asleep!

By I3Y

Beach Poems

A crowded beach with lots of noise,
Lots of fun for girls and boys.
Lots of people in the sea,
Playing ball with you and me.
I bought an ice-cream for a pound,
And counted all the shells I found.
The sunset was burning red,
And now it is time to go to bed.

The waves are crashing against the sand,
All this sand was deserted land.
No kind and friendly ice-cream man,
In his brightly coloured, musical van.
No giggling girls and noisy boys,
Making lots of laughter and cheerful noise.
It's wet and windy, I have to go,
Soon this whole place will be covered in snow.

By Francesca Hughes J3Y

Christmas shopping at night

Hustling.

Bustling.

Rustling paper.

The shops are full of people.

Toys in every shopping bag.

Santa making last minute toys.

Christmas shopping is sadly coming to an end.

By Faye Bennett J2X

The Haunted House

It's a silent night,
The moon is bright,
The owls are hooting,
Bats are swooping.

Floorboards creaking,
Drain pipes leaking,
Children sleeping,
We are creeping.

Up the stairs,
Silent as waving hairs,
We're whispering,
We're creeping.

We're leaping out of our skin,
We're hiding behind a bin,
We are running home to bed,
We want a pat on the head.

"We're never going back to that haunted house"

By Nicole Pike J2X

Magic Carpet

Magic Carpet where will you fly?
Lift off the ground and fly in the sky.

Magic Carpet where will you go?
Over the hills and into the snow.

Magic Carpet what will I see?
Exotic islands and turquoise sea.

Magic Carpet what will I feel?
Thrill and excitement, it all seems so real.

Magic Carpet please turn back
I don't want to fly when the sky is so black.

By Francesca Hughes J3Y

Charlotte's Web

We were treated to a visit from a group of actors and actresses who performed "Charlotte's Web" for the whole school. The players were very good and knew all their lines so they did not need any prompts, but in one bit of the play the spider fell off the web by accident!

The best bit of the play was probably when
everyone thought that the pig had super powers because the spider helped him weave a web
saying "Super Pig".

A great time was had by all!

By Lucy Knowles J4X

The Talisman

The Talisman was cold and hard,
And it had amazing powers.
I lifted it up and I felt like,
I was the queen.
The Talisman was a necklace,
With a round circle with patterns on.
I could tell I was imagining this,
But maybe, maybe not.
This Talisman could change my life,
And all the dark secrets could be inside.
When I go to bed at night,
The darkness sometimes freaks me out.
But I always feel safe and sound,
Because my Talisman guides me to the light.

Helen Kelsall J1X

The Shooting Star

Laying on the moon
Soaring through the sky
I see a shooting star.
I imagine what it would be like
To be a shooting star.
Dreaming...
I am a shooting star.

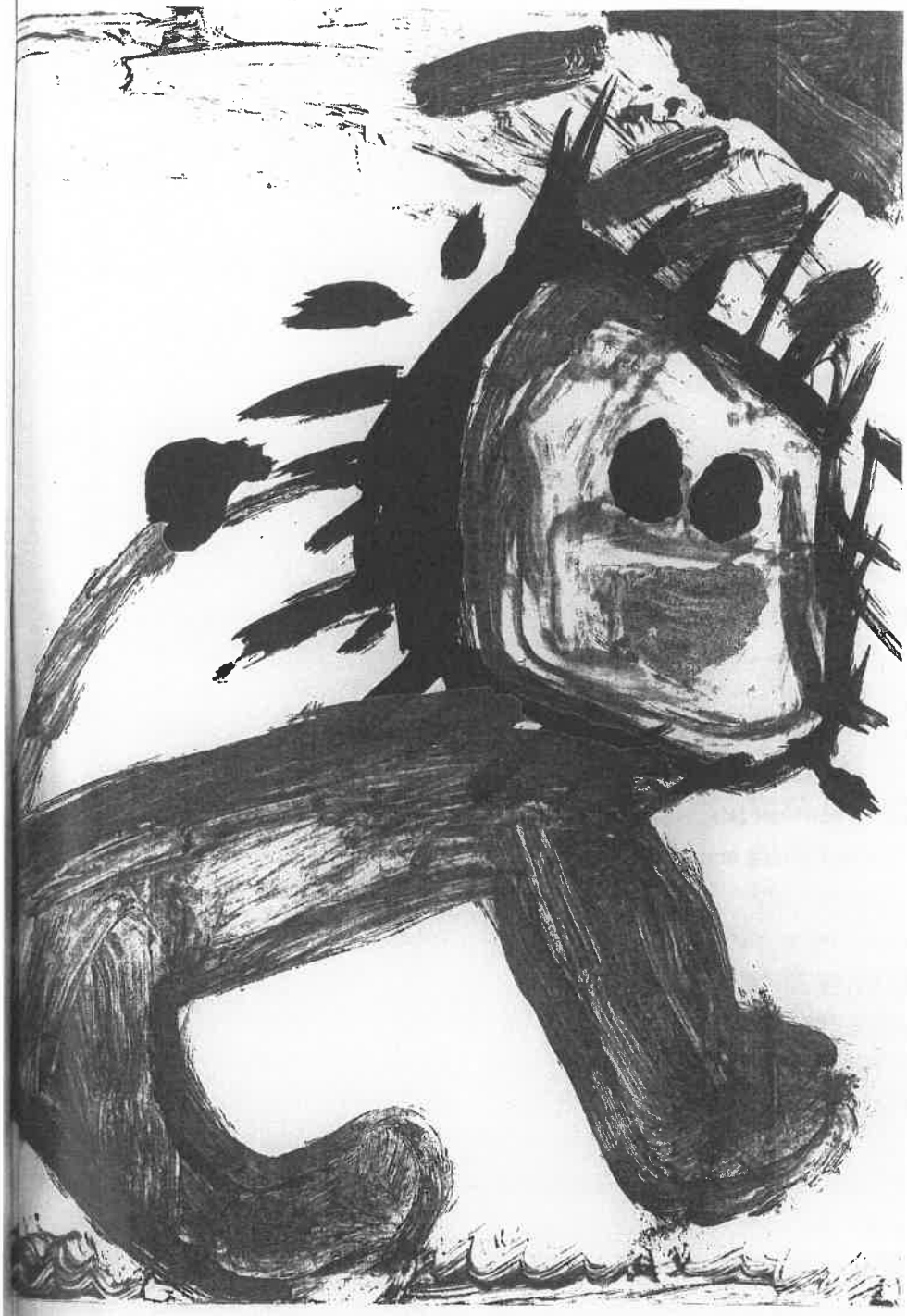
Jourdan Kenny J1X

Silly Sophie

Silly Sophie went to the shop,
She bought a bottle and that went pop.
So when she got home her mum shouted out loud,
It could be heard for miles around!
Straight away she got sent to bed,
She thought of a dream in her head.
Sophie dreamed her mum was not mad,
And this made her feel not so sad.
So Sophie cleaned the house, her mum was not mad,
And this made Sophie very glad.
Sophie was not silly anymore,
And she was happy and not poor.

The End

Nina Harrison J1Y



The Lion from The Wizard of Oz
Dominic Grimshaw 11Y Age 5

Our visit to Farmer Parrs

We went to Farmer Parrs
We went into the barn to see ponies
reindeer and chicks
We saw Llamas in the fields

By Charlotte Law 11X age 4

My Holiday

For my holiday I went to stay with Nanny and Grandad. I played with my cousins, I went swimming, I went to Woburn Safari Park and I watched the Queens Jubilee. When I got home Mummy and Daddy took Olivia and me to the Circus. They took Georgina and me out for the day.

Harriet Judge 11Y

Teddy Bear

Teddy Bear,
Teddy Bear, jump in the air
Teddy Bear,
Teddy Bear, touch your hair
Teddy Bear,
Teddy Bear, in a band
Teddy Bear,
Teddy Bear, do a
handstand

Hannah Butterfield 12X

The Mystery of the Mary Celeste

24th November 1872

We have run into bad winds. The fog is so thick that we can't see where we are going. The crew's spirits are slowly diminishing.

There is no hope...

"Jack!"

I jumped up and ran on to the deck. The last line of the log entry is still going round in my head.

"Jack!"

"Coming!" I yelled and went to find the captain. He was looking round the galley of the ship. The sails creaked in the wind.

"Nobody here" he said

"Where is everyone?" I asked.

The Captain didn't answer and kept looking. I went back up to the deck and searched the place for anything unusual. In the Captain's cabin, the breakfast lay on the table, half eaten. By this time the whole thing was making my heart beat twice as fast as normal. On the deck there were even more surprises waiting for me. On the rail there were smears of blood and lying on the floor was a blood stained cutlass.

The Captain and I met up after about three hours of searching. I wanted to go back, the whole experience was giving me the creeps.

The Captain however, wanted to stay aboard. I waited a long time and still the Captain refused to leave. It was as if he was being drawn to the ship by some strange force. I tried to reason with him, I tried to force him into the rowing boat but still he would not leave.

I had to go. I didn't want to leave the Captain, but the entire experience was getting too strange for comfort. Slowly, I climbed into the rowing boat, hoping the Captain would follow. Now he was just sat on the deck staring out to sea. I took one look back and sailed away.

When I was back on the Dei Gratia the crew were all in a panic. Some of them realised that I had to leave, others swore that I had murdered the Captain so I could take over the ship. Under my command, we set sail straight away for Canada.

Most of the crew were amazed when I told them the story and found it hard to believe. One man was sure the crew was now cursed.

I never found out what happened to the ship or our Captain, but the last line of the log still rings in my head.

"There is no hope..."

By Caitlin McMillan J4X

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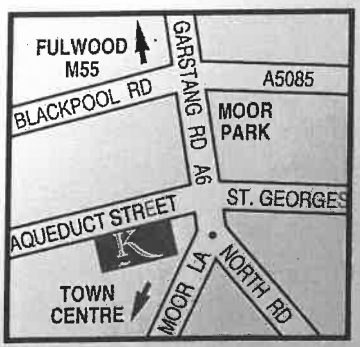

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