

# THE KIRKHAMIAN

KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



KIRKHAM  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2022





# KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Welcome to the end of year edition of the Kirkhamian Newsletter. We also produce two electronic versions in the autumn and spring terms. There is so much going on at KGS that I continue to be amazed and proud of the talent we have on show.

I would like to start by looking at how the School has been performing academically and across a number of key areas over the past year, before focusing on the many co-curricular opportunities we have undertaken. It may be worth mentioning that KGS has three values which underpin our mission statement 'Enter in order to profit'.

They are:

- Family Ethos
- Inspirational Teaching
- Fulfil potential

I do hope that all I share now upholds all the values that underpin and allow the statement to be met by many different children across many areas of school life. Our job is to find the talent that shines within.

Overall the results are looking incredibly positive for the fourth year in a row. We have achieved results well above the national average once more at GCSE A\*\*/A and at A Level A\*/A. We should be mindful that the past few years have been very challenging and continue to be so. This has added additional pressure on the pupils but, once more, they have exceeded expectations.

As a School we undertake an annual Mock Inspection and two rounds of monitoring to ensure the quality of teaching and learning remains high. We have continued

to train and educate staff in a wide range of pastoral and safeguarding matters to ensure this level of support matches the investment in the academic side of school. The Kirkhamian also celebrates the large number of pupils who are involved in the wide range of co-curricular activities we have on offer. You will see from the following pages just how much talent is on show at KGS across many areas of school life.





## Music

September 2021 saw a return to a new version of normality in the musical life of Kirkham Grammar School. The usual routine of rehearsals sought to re-establish themselves as pupils returned to peripatetic tuition and the bands, choirs and ensembles settled into a familiar pattern.

The first concert in early October, before an audience, fell to our Sixth Form musicians in a Coffee Concert which included pieces by Ravel, Leoncavallo and various others. It was more daunting than usual, as none of the contributors had performed before a live audience for a long time. However, they rose to the occasion in true Kirkham style, delighting the small but appreciative audience.

The senior members of the School then handed the 'baton' to our youngest members, as the First Year performed a concert for parents, friends and staff in mid-October. This evening event in the Recital Hall gave us a glimpse of the breadth and depth of talent that will no doubt delight us for years to come.



Thursday 11 November at 11.00 am saw the School fall silent for the Armistice Remembrance Service. A Sixth Form music scholar delivered an immaculate rendition of the Last Post and Reveille, as all remembered the fallen.

The Carol Service in December, was delivered through an online event. The choir sang the festive carols of the season, interspersed with readings.

The Christmas Concert, in the Summerlee Hall, returned for the first time in two years, and what a return it was! The audience were thrilled and delighted. At the beginning of February, the KGS



singers had a night to themselves when the Recital Hall rang to the sound of voices old and young. They treated their audience to a fabulous variety of songs from the world of musicals and music halls, which could have graced any stage. The common denominator to all these performances was the outstanding singing teacher at Kirkham Grammar School, Miss Howard, who had coached and encouraged each and every one of them to a high standard that drew cries of appreciation and applause from their audience.

The Spring Term advertised the return of the annual Music House Festival. Miss Crook and Mr Dalton had the enjoyable experience of listening to almost three hundred pupils. As individuals and in groups they sought to secure points for their house, or maybe even progress through to the final. Every year so many of the pupil body choose to give their time and participate in this annual music-making festival. After the initial auditions, it all rested on a Friday in early March and what was to be a thrilling final. Mr Ryan Breen was the adjudicator for the day and had the unenviable task of selecting the winner. The Gala Concert in the following week gave an invited audience an opportunity to hear the winners and finalists. It was a truly wonderful evening, with some outstanding playing that confirmed that the future of music at KGS continues to be a beacon of excellence. The House Choir competition again took the form of a 'sing off' in the Summerlee Hall with the four house choirs doing battle. The standard was very high and in a closely fought contest, School House emerged triumphant. Congratulations to all the finalists who are so talented in their own individual ways.

Early March saw a new addition to the music calendar in the form of a 'Guitar and Drums Showcase', which was presented by our wonderful peripatetic teachers, Mr Powlesland and Mr Lister. Pieces from Aretha Franklin to Ed Sheeran showed how diverse the talent at Kirkham Grammar School is from pupils across all the year groups. No doubt this evening will be repeated next year.

Late March saw the Choir performing at the annual Founders' Day Service. They led the congregational hymns with conviction, and also brought musical moments of their own from the likes of John Rutter, Victor Johnson and Beethoven, all to their customary high standard.

Early May saw the return of the annual Spring Concert after a two year hiatus. This featured all the major ensembles of the School, together with Upper Sixth soloists, and LAMDA readers. The high standards of traditional music-making continues to go from strength to strength here at Kirkham Grammar School, and whilst opportunities abound to venture into and enjoy contemporary popular tastes, the core of our being rests in the classical traditions that have served us all so well in the past; a firm foundation for present growth and future fulfilment, for all our musicians.

## Girls' Sport

### Hockey

The 2021/22 hockey season has been nothing short of impressive. The squads have enjoyed regular Saturday matches. The 1st XI played in the England Hockey Tier 1 National Competition against some top class opposition, Repton, Sedbergh, Oakham. We are pleased to report that the 1st XI finished in fourth position overall giving them an overall ranking of 12th in the country.

The 1st seven finished as champions of the Austin Friars Sevens tournament scoring no less than 16 goals throughout the day and sealing the cup final with a 4-0 victory.



In the Cheadle Sevens tournament KGS entered two squads. Both teams progressed through the group stages. In the final KGS took on Sedbergh School. KGS had plenty of chances but unfortunately couldn't convert. One shuffle and one open play goal left the final score at 0-2 with KGS taking 'runners-up' spot.

In the U16 England Hockey National Competition the girls played strong opposition. Our team played extremely well but unfortunately bowed out after round two of the competition.

The U14 squad also played in the England Hockey National Cup. Matches against local and regional competition provided challenge for the girls with Repton School progressing through as winners to the national finals.

The U13 mini hockey provided opportunity for both the A and B team sevens squads to compete in various matches. Tough competition saw them finish as runners-up in both pools which unfortunately meant that they fell short of qualifying for the regional round.

In the Lancashire tournaments KGS achieved some great results:

**U12 A – runners-up**

**U12 B – champions**

**U13 A – runners-up**

**U13 B – runners-up**

**U14 – runners-up**

**U15 – runners-up**

The current U13 and U14 squads now look forward to their hockey tour to Ireland in November, whilst the seniors await their postponed tour of Barbados in February.

### Cross Country

The girls' cross country teams have been involved in two top class competitions. The first being the Stonyhurst Invitational event which was run in pretty tough conditions. The team worked hard with one pupil finishing in overall second place and the team taking silver overall. In the Sedbergh Invitational event, KGS put in an outstanding performance against several top class schools.



## Swimming

In the pool, KGS competed against QEGS Blackburn, Hutton Grammar School, Bury Grammar School, St Edwards, Ripley St Thomas and Hulme Grammar School. The swimmers worked hard as a team clocking up excellent points within each competition. In the QEGS quadrangular event, KGS finished in a creditable fourth place overall.

Congratulations to two pupils who qualified for the Lancashire Championships in the 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m and 1500m freestyle and the 400m, 200m individual medley and the 200m backstroke. They also gained qualification into the regional finals in various freestyle events, the 400m IM and the 200m backstroke.

## Netball

We are delighted to report that four of our KGS sportswomen have been selected into the Lancashire Netball Squads.

## Tennis

In the U15 Division 1 LTA Schools Cup, the girls progressed through the group rounds to qualify for the regional finals in Sunderland during the October half term break. After successfully seeing off St Peters, York and Yarm School, the girls secured a place in the National Final held at Bolton Arena in December. The tennis on display was magnificent and after some very tough matches it was close at the top of the table. After the final doubles game of the weekend against Repton School, it was clear that KGS had topped the table and were crowned LTA 2021/22 National Tennis Champions. The 2022/23 tennis season is now well underway.



The U18 Aberdare Cup Team progressed through the group rounds and enjoyed success in their quarter-final matches v Stonyhurst. The girls won three out of the four singles matches and one out of two of their doubles. In the semi-final stage, they defeated Alderley Edge School for Girls' which led to the final group round against South Hunsley School for a place in the U18 National Final. A 10-2 victory secured this place and the girls travelled to Nottingham National Tennis Centre for the finals in July. At the National Finals, played over four days, our relatively young team faced tough opposition. However, the event was an excellent experience for them, one they all thoroughly enjoyed.

In the Year 7/8 LTA division one competition, the girls have qualified for the Regional Finals which will be held in Sunderland in the 2022/23 academic year.

## Athletics

After a very successful Easter camp, the girls' athletics season began strongly with the girls' achieving great results in their warm-up fixtures against Lytham High School and Canon Slade School.

The Junior and Intermediate squads took to the first round of the Track and Field Cup at Stanley

Park. Many personal bests were achieved on the track and likewise in the field. At the half-way point, KGS were in the lead in both age groups with all to play for. During the afternoon events KGS continued to work hard being awarded excellent points for each event.

When the final results were announced KGS were crowned Lancashire Champions resulting in progression to the Regional 'A' Finals at Trafford Park.

On Monday 13 June at Trafford Park, the girls certainly didn't disappoint. They, once again, scored highly within both track and field events, resulting in them leading the way at the half-way point. It was always going to be tough, but KGS performed with real gusto. At the final results, both the Junior and Intermediate teams were regional runners-up. It was a terrific experience and performance from all involved!

The Fylde Coast Athletics Championships were next and with all four teams competing it was set to be a great day! The U13s performed well with Emilia Simpson and Abbie Ely leading their team to overall victory in their age group. The U14 squad clocked up great points in their events but were unfortunately piped to the post finishing as runners-up. A great team performance from the U15s secured their overall age group victory, whilst the U17 squad finished in style in their last Fylde Coast event with Georgia Nicholls and Keira Tomes collecting the final trophy of the day.

Overall, another incredibly successful year.

## Boys' Sport

### Rugby Union

#### 1st XV

Kirkham Grammar School 1st XV had an outstanding season, especially after the previous season was decimated by Covid. The team started the season with fine wins. For the first time in a number of years, the team entered the Schools' National Cup and again KGS made good progress. Despite being unbeaten, the team handled the pressure well with a number of players performing at a high level. From November onwards the team maintained this high level. This led Kirkham into a semi-final against Barnard Castle which again, despite an almighty effort from the Durham side, KGS won 18-13 and were rewarded with a trip to Twickenham for the first time since 1997. In a nail biting game, spoilt by the weather conditions, KGS succumbed to a 15-10 loss to Trinity School from Croydon.



Despite this loss and a narrow defeat in the later stages of the Rosslyn Park Sevens, KGS rebounded with an outstanding success at the Sedbergh School National Tens. On the second day, Kirkham dominated QEGS Wakefield and Ipswich School and then met our friends Barnard Castle in another semi-final clash. Once again KGS narrowly gained success with a 7-0 victory

which took them into the final against the host school, Sedbergh. In the final, KGS produced an outstanding performance with a 25-7 victory and lifted the trophy for the first time since 2003.

KGS also won the Birkenhead School Under 18 Sevens and were semi-finalists in the Surrey Under 18 Sevens.

## Headmaster's XV

The Headmaster's XV enjoyed another successful season, only losing two out of ten matches. Two other highlights were wins against Manchester GS and The Grange, Northwich 1st XV.

## 3rd XV

The 3rd XV only lost one game, a very close game away at Bloxham (3-5) and there were notable wins against St. Ambrose (17-10) and Austin Friars 1st XV (45-12), the latter of which was an entertaining spectacle with 7 tries from Kirkham in a resounding win.

## U16

The campaign began with a tough pre-season friendly against George Watson's College, Edinburgh where they narrowly lost 10-12. However, the boys responded well beating Wirral, Lancaster, Denstone College and AKS, Lytham in the first round of the Lancashire Cup. After half term, the boys experienced some tougher tests and successfully beat RGS Newcastle away 10-7 and Ballymena Academy away in Northern Ireland 19-5. This set the boys up well for their long anticipated fixture against Sedbergh where they also won 17-7.

After Christmas the main focus became the Lancashire Cup where Kirkham beat Bolton School in the quarter-final, Hutton Grammar School in the semi-final and became overall champions, beating Lancaster RGS 34-5 in the final.

The U16s also enjoyed a very successful Sevens campaign. They were semi-finalists in the RGS Newcastle and Warwick Sevens, losing to the overall tournament winners on both occasions. They were plate winners at the Sedbergh Sevens and second day qualifiers at the Rosslyn Park Sevens, the first ever KGS U16 group to make it to the last 24 teams from 144. On day two, Kirkham faced Harrow School in the knockout who went on to be tournament winners.

## U15

The Under 15s have had an excellent season, showing some great progress. After a slow start to the season, the group have worked exceptionally well and performances gradually started to improve. The team had some excellent wins in the Lancashire Cup, a particular highlight being the 33-12 quarter-final win versus Lancaster Grammar School. The cup run culminated in an outstanding cup final performance, where the U15s ran out convincingly 31-7 winners to become the County Champions for the first time in their school careers.





## U14

An excellent set of results considering there was only four home games. Alongside some excellent results in the National and County cups, the boys worked hard all season, their attitude and commitment to improve was outstanding; they grew as a side showing great character often against more physically mature boys. The foundation has been set for further success if the boys maintain their desire to improve.

Preparation for the Sevens season started late due to good 15-a-side cup runs with only two sessions prior to Sedbergh Sevens. But, with the same attitude to learn, steady progress was made resulting in winning the Richard Wilson KGS Sevens despite having six boys on the school ski trip.



## U13

The U13s had a slow start to the season coming up against three strong teams from Wirral Grammar School, St Ambrose and LRGS. The U13s then travelled down to Denstone College where the team ran in 9 tries and only conceded 1. This was a great result on the road. The season had its ups and downs with a number of fixtures being cancelled due to Covid and weather issues. Some stand out moments for the rest of the season was a 50-15 win over Leicester Grammar School with some stand out performances from a number of players. A trip to Bloxham School in Oxford saw the boys take part in a very competitive game that resulted in a draw. Two further wins against Austin Friars (45-20) and Audenshaw School (30-20) topped their 13's season off.

## U12

The U12s had a hugely successful start to their senior school rugby careers. Despite a year full of cancellations, the boys were continually looking to better themselves week upon week. Tuesday after school training sessions and Friday games lessons were always very competitive due to excellent numbers and equally excellent attitudes.

Amongst many of the highlights from the year was that every boy in the year played at least one game of competitive rugby. For some of the boys, it was their first time ever picking up a rugby ball. This was made more pleasing by the more experienced boys in the year having such patience and determination to encourage those who were new to the sport to develop as best as they possibly could.

The two teams in the first year were known as the Wizards and the Moles. These were mixed ability teams and the primary focus was on developing a cohesive, safe environment where the boys could express themselves and, most importantly, have fun.

## Cricket

The 1st XI had a busy start to the season beginning with a pre-season friendly against Kirkham CC which resulted in a comfortable victory. As usual, the MCC provided our opposition for our first game proper and after posting a very competitive 178-4, this proved a difficult score to overcome. The next day the 1st XI played AKS away and bowled brilliantly to dismiss the hosts for 103, Third Year Theo Smith taking 4 for 13 runs, then his brother helped knock off the runs with another unbeaten 50. Birkenhead School followed this match for our first Saturday game and, as last season, the visitors racked up another score past 200. The following week the initial round of the Nat West 20/20 took place at AKS with Kirkham drawn against RGS Lancaster and batting first made a competitive total of 150. However, Kirkham could not contain the RGS batters who crossed the line with eight balls to spare. In late March 2023, the current Third and Fourth Year cricketers will embark on their first overseas tour to Barbados, the first time since 2010 that the School has ventured abroad. The coaching staff hope the trip will provide an ideal lead in to our own domestic season and will help develop their cricketing skills and camaraderie during the 12 day trip.

## Hockey

Boys' hockey continues to grow in popularity and the U12s and U13s enjoyed some friendly fixtures away at Sedbergh in February.

## Cross Country

We represented Fylde in the County Championships. One pupil qualified for the English Schools' Cross Country Championships representing Lancashire.

## Tennis

Last season's league was disrupted by Covid restrictions with many schools not being able to fulfil fixtures. This season we have entered both our U13 and U15 into the Lancashire B league.

## Athletics

Unfortunately, Covid put an end to all competitions last year. We increased the number of friendly fixtures for boys this year with a focus on development. We met with AKS Lytham home and away, and we hosted Lancaster RGS.

The boys' Track & Field Cup teams competed in the North West regional finals at Trafford Athletics Club on Monday 13 June. The KGS Intermediate boys, consisting of eight Fourth Years and six Third Year boys, really rose to the challenge and finished a respectable fourth place. Cieran Milligan was first in the 800m; Max Musson ran a personal best in his hurdles heat; Harry Case won the high jump with a new personal best; and Charlie Bray scored highly in the discus. Notable performances from the Junior Team came from Ryan Shaw in the 100m; Theo Wren in the hurdles; and Oliver Yates in the javelin and 800m. It was encouraging to see the progress being made from the Juniors.

On Thursday 30 June, the boys took part in the annual Fylde Coast Athletics Championships with the First Years finishing runners-up, Second Years crowned champions, the Third Years runners-up and the Fourth Years finishing in third place. Overall, the KGS team finished runners-up on the day.

It has been fantastic to have both the Track and Field Cup and Fylde Coast competitions back in our sporting calendar after a three year absence due to the pandemic. The athletes and coaches

have thoroughly enjoyed the experience this season and are definitely hungry for next year's competition already.

## Kart Racing

One pupil enjoyed a very successful kart season finishing vice champion in the British Kart Championships. He also ended the season as the number two seeded driver in Britain.



## Golf

As a school, we decided that it would be worthwhile to offer competitive golf to our pupils, given we had a number of keen players in the school. After enquiring, it became evident that we had enough to field two teams of three in the Independent Schools' Golf Association match play competition. This involved fixtures against schools in the designated area, where a win would see teams proceed to the next round. Given it was our first time of asking, we were very pleased to have the second team reach the semi-final, and the first team reach the final of the area competition. Both teams were beaten by the eventual winners, who had two Upper Sixth Form pupils both looking to turn pro next year, playing off plus two! The future is very bright indeed for this younger team, as those exceptional lads will move on next year.

We also entered an ISGA tournament day at Worsley Golf Club, which involved a member of staff making up a four ball with three pupils. It was a great day out and something we would definitely look to do again. In all fixtures and competitions, our pupils were excellent ambassadors for the school, with impeccable etiquette at all time. Golf club members regularly commented how well behaved they were and a credit to the school.

It is great to see so much success and so many new sports being introduced.





## Drama

During the Autumn Term, the department was able to invite an audience back into school after two years of uncertainty with Covid. On the last week of term, we produced two showcase evenings; one performance in the Drama Studio and one larger performance in the Summerlee Hall.

Key Stage Four and Five pupils kicked off the week, showcasing the work that they had produced in lessons for their GCSE and A Level coursework. The Fourth, Fifth, Lower and Upper Sixth pupils performed a selection of devised performances which were created from a given stimuli. It was a fantastic opportunity for the pupils to share their final ideas and how far they had progressed. The Drama Society took to the stage for the final time at KGS performing a scripted extract from *Chatroom* by Edna Walsh. We extend a huge thank you for their passion and commitment over the past three years.

On the second evening, First to Third Year pupils showcased the work they had produced in Drama Club. First, Second and Third Year pupils were dedicated to create a range of devised and scripted performances, monologues, duologues, dance routines and Christmas melodies. I was delighted that this showcase sold out and had to relocate from the Drama Studio to the Summerlee Hall. Both evenings were a huge success which got pupils excited for our whole school production which would take place at the end of the Spring Term.

Over the past two years, theatres have been forced to close due to the pandemic. As soon as it was safe and theatres reopened, the department was keen to get pupils back into the theatre watching live performances. Key Stage Three, Four and Five pupils had the opportunity to watch *UBU* at the Lowry, *The School of Rock* and *Blood Brothers* at the Palace Theatre. Theatre visits are currently being organised for the next academic year.

The Spring Term ended on a high with our whole school production of *Dream On*, a modern adaptation of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Pupils from First Year to Upper Sixth brought this magical world to life and I applaud their dedication and commitment during rehearsals and the performances. We are currently looking into buying the rights for our next production of *Peter Pan* which will take place during the Autumn Term of 2022. This would be a fantastic play with a wide array of opportunities for a large cast after having over 70 pupils take part this year. It is so pleasing to see drama fully back.

## Combined Cadet Force

It has been an excellent year for the CCF with the news that a pupil was appointed Lord Lieutenants' Cadet for Lancashire for this year. This is the second year running that we have had the Lord Lieutenants' Cadet, which is the highest honour a cadet can achieve. Our year

started with a new set of Fourth Year recruits, totalling 105, on drill for the first few weeks. This took our contingent strength to over 230 cadets. The Fourth Year cadets took to drill very well and soon showed great promise. The five weeks of drill flew by and before we knew it, it was time for the Passing Out parade. Families gathered for the first time since Covid, to watch the CCF parade and the Fourth Year cadets were excellent - probably one of the better parades we have seen to date.

Whilst the Fourth Year were doing drill the Fifth Year were being put through their paces with various activities. Mrs Taylor was the RCO for the shooting detail; Mr Routh and Mr Hancock were challenging the cadets with archery and climbing; Mrs Horvath was looking after the physical training side with some PT; Mrs Sutcliffe was developing their leadership skills; Miss Russell and Mrs Marsh were looking after the RAF cadets doing the RAF syllabus; and Mrs Atkinson and Mrs Parkinson were running one of the cadet's favourite activities, paintball.



After half term, 28 of the Fifth Year opted to stay on with CCF.

We also had a Field Day in November where we took around 170 cadets to Weeton Barrack's Training Area.

After Christmas, the Fourth Year were experiencing weapon handling, paintball, fieldcraft, archery and climbing, first aid and the RAF syllabus. The Fifth Year were learning how to instruct in preparation for their first teaching experience. Our RAF section had a day at Inskip Cadet Centre where they were treated to flying the flight simulators; they also visited Hangar 42 at Blackpool to see how a WW2 RAF fighter squadron operated.

The second Field Day was in March for Fifth Year and Sixth Form cadets.

The Summer Term is always one of our busiest in CCF. We had all the administration for the incoming recruits in September, a Field Day and Summer Camp.



## Duke of Edinburgh

So far this year we have 96 Bronze Awards, 20 Silver Awards and 25 Gold Awards fully completed. There are quite a few more almost complete. Completing all the sections of the award demonstrates the dedication and determination of our pupils and the activities our pupils undertake, especially for the volunteering section, are inspiring. Over 270 of our pupils will have ventured out on an expedition this academic year, some of them will have undertaken two expeditions (Bronze and Silver). Running two Gold expeditions, four Bronze expeditions and one Silver expedition has been tough going, but the efforts of everyone involved has made everything worthwhile.

The KGS staff supporting the DofE at KGS are so dedicated and always put the needs of our pupils before their own. Their efforts have given our pupils the opportunity to know that patience and perseverance pay off and that teamwork does make life easier. By July, we had caught up with all the expeditions delayed from the pandemic lockdowns!

**So with all of this going on what does the future hold and what about the next 480 years?**

Behind the scenes we have been heavily recruiting the following new staff for September 2022 to replace only three staff who are retiring or leaving: two teachers of mathematics; teacher of English; teacher of languages; teacher of Latin and the classics; teacher of humanities; and teacher of design technology. Additionally, we have appointed three Boarding House Staff, a Conditioning Coach, a Pastoral Mentor (mental health), a HR Manager and two extra site staff.

We have also held internal appointments for Head of Year, Head of Computing, Head of Design Technology, Director of New Technologies and Deputy Head Pastoral, Equality and Diversity and a Pastoral Manager.

We have also added four new classrooms for September, eight new smart boards, expanded the Boarding House and created a new Pastoral Hub. This is all linked to an ambitious investment plan in the school over the next seven years. The project will be called, Project 480 and we will share more information on this in the new academic year. Due to our enviable reputation and popularity, we really are in a position to continue to develop and grow but retain the family ethos that is KGS.

**Mr D H Berry - Headmaster**



# SCHOOL CAPTAINS

## 2022 / 2023



Congratulations to our newly appointed 2022-23 School Captains, Ethan Woodcock and Amy Merrick and our Deputy School Captains, Osian Roberts and Phoebe Caunce.

Ethan has been at Kirkham Grammar School since joining in the First Year. He is studying maths, further maths, physics and economics at A Level and hopes to study maths at Oxford or Cambridge. He is a member of the 1st XI cricket team and a School Wellbeing Committee representative, and is also in the process of completing his gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Amy has been at Kirkham Grammar School since joining in the Pre-School. She is studying biology, chemistry and geography at A Level and is hoping to study natural sciences at university. She is a member of the 1st XI hockey squad and is in the process of completing her gold Duke of Edinburgh award.

Osian has been a boarder at Kirkham Grammar School since joining in Lower Sixth Form. He is studying maths, chemistry and biology at A Level. He is a member of the 1st XV rugby squad and, following completion of his studies at KGS, hopes to achieve a full-time contract at Sale Sharks or study engineering at university.

Phoebe has been at Kirkham Grammar School since joining in J1 at the Junior School. She is studying English Literature, French and history at A Level and is hoping to study law at university. Phoebe is Captain of the 2nd XI hockey squad and is a School Eco Committee representative.

We wish you every success in your new roles.



# A FOND **FAREWELL**



**Sue Felton** left KGS at the end of the Summer Term having worked in a number of roles at KGS since April 2016, most recently as HR Manager.

**Pat Griffiths** left KGS at the end of the Summer Term having worked as Domestic Bursar for 27 years.



**Jane Glover** left KGS at the end of the Summer Term having worked at the school for 33 years as Girls' PE/Games Teacher and Head of House.



**Sue Long** left at the end of the Summer Term having worked at KGS since January 1997, mainly teaching GCSE and A Level French until the 2000-2001 academic year when Latin was re-introduced.



**Liz Norris** left at the end of the Autumn Term having worked at KGS for 24 years, initially in the School Shop for 5 years before moving across the road to work in the Pre-School.





**Angela Mills**, who left last November, worked at KGS for three years as Reprographics Technician.



**Alf Oddie**, who left KGS at February half term, had worked at the Junior, Infant and Pre-School as Head of Sport since 2006.



**Suzanne Pendergest** left at Easter after 19 years' service as 'the face of KGS' on the Senior School and Sixth Form reception.



**Michael Smith** left the Junior, Infant and Pre-School at the end of the Summer Term after 7 years as a class teacher in J1 and I3.



**Jim Procter** left at the end of the Summer Term having worked at KGS since 2017 as a Teacher of Mathematics, and in more recent years, Head of Mathematics.



**Jessica Richardson** left at the end of the Autumn Term having worked at the Pre-School as a Nursery Nurse for 18 years.



**Elaine Riley** left at the end of the Summer Term after working at KGS for 14 years, initially as a Nursery Nurse in Pre-School before moving over to the Infant Department.



**Sean Savage** left KGS at Easter having completed 25 years' service as Caretaker.



**Helen Mechan** left at the end of August having worked as the Junior, Infant and Pre-School Cook since 2003.



**Sarah Heathcote-Jones** left KGS at the end of the Summer Term having worked at the school since September 2002 as a Teacher of Science.



**Brooklyn Sharman** left at the end of the Summer Term after working at KGS for the last 12 months on the Junior, Infant and Pre-School reception.



**Sally Kenchington** left in December 2021 having worked as a Teaching Assistant at the Junior, Infant and Pre-School since September 2003.

**We wish them all the very best for the future and appreciate all they have done for our wonderful school and pupils.**



# Upper Sixth Form -



Upper Sixth Form



Pre-School to Sixth Form



# Last Day of School



Infant & Junior School to Sixth Form



# *Sixth Form Ball*









# Fifth Year Final D





# ay of Senior School





# Fifth Year End of Exams Party











## Headmistress's Review





As a pupil here at Kirkham Grammar School back in the nineties, the absence of mobile phones and the Internet enabled me to lead a less chaotic and more low-key existence in comparison to the children of today. One thing that hasn't changed since then though is the level of care that the KGS staff provide; such attention was offered, as it is now to our pupils, to me and my counterparts in abundance. Albeit, I may not have recognised the importance of this level of support back then, I most certainly value and often reflect upon the impact it subsequently had on my development growing up.

The KGS Combined Cadet Force for example, and many of the staff that promoted this particular element of School life, afforded me with a platform to experience how to adapt and challenge myself to the extreme, whilst demonstrating resilience in the face of adversity; all as relevant now, perhaps more so, than they were back then. Had the KGS staff not been there to guide me with their expertise and genuine care, I suspect I would have been less able to cope, reflect and learn from the many and varied experiences that life subsequently presented me with. The KGS staff shaped me into the adult I am today.

As a consequence of my education here, every professional decision that I make in my role as Headmistress centres on ensuring we offer the very best opportunities, experiences and staff for your children to learn from. Undoubtedly, the last couple of years have certainly seen a spotlight shone on those in the teaching profession; without doubt the KGS staff have delivered. Despite the various interruptions from Covid-19 that were still present at the start of this academic year, our staff have unwaveringly guided and supported every pupil in their care, going above and beyond in all that they do.

Naturally, due to the worldwide pandemic, some of our usual offerings, experiences and opportunities looked different for our pupils. Despite the setbacks though, we remained resolute that we should remain positive, provide for our pupils and that eventually normality would resume. Queen Elizabeth II delivered a heartfelt and reassuring message in line with this to the nation in 2020, with part of her speech expressing: 'We should take comfort that...better days will return'. Although nearly 18 months later, the Autumn Term 2021 continued to be punctuated by Covid-19, better days certainly followed, and I sense that we are now all starting to feel somewhat revitalised as we move towards the end of this academic year. It has been a year of 'getting back on track', developing relationships, reinstating opportunities and consequently shaping our young people in readiness for the future.

As we have moved forwards, we have been able to nurture our relationships with our pupils in particular, in addition to our parents, and each other. The sense of community has never felt so strong. The presence, support and feedback of our parents, grandparents and wider family members at our weekly Achievement Assemblies has been uplifting for example. Our parents have been invaluable as key speakers at events; they have provided ideas and decorations to improve the aesthetics of our building for festivals and celebrations; some of them have even temporarily donated animals to support the teaching of our curriculum; and we have been overwhelmed with their kindness when they have delivered cakes and biscuits as a token of their gratitude to our staff. All have been a source of encouragement as we have navigated our way through 2021 – 2022.

Our co-curricular clubs have continued to grow, with over thirty clubs this term to choose from, three of which now operate at 7.50 am! Our pupils take part in these across multiple year groups, and it has been a delight to watch them foster new relationships with each other across the age ranges. Fixtures have expanded, most recently to also include those pupils who are developing their confidence when competing, giving them a taste of healthy rivalry in a collaborative and supportive environment. Those that are ready for more intense competition have been afforded a range of experiences including fixtures, and we have continued to be aspirational for even our youngest pupils in Infants, with the introduction of some new tournaments this Summer Term. Football and Cricket for all of our pupils has been a particular hit.

Our School Council has been reinstated, with pupils meeting weekly to discuss issues at the forefront of their minds. They have raised awareness of charitable organisations and fundraised for Red Nose Day, Children in Need, the NSPCC and the Save the Children, Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. They have been keen to sort out minor organisational issues in-house that have affected them directly, creating a new lunch rota for the pupils. My weekly meetings with the Head Girl and Boy, who represent the group, have been enlightening and I am looking forward to starting to assist this group of young people with their initiatives relating to the environmental issues we are all passionate about.

At the end of the Spring Term, the postponed and long-awaited ski trip was a resounding success. Even our youngest pupils in J2 proved themselves to be more than capable of handling being away from home for the week. It was mesmerising to observe the quiet tenacity that many of our pupils

demonstrated when overcoming fears and tackling new skills. The very fact that our 8 to 11-year-olds could motivate themselves to get up, organise their belongings and get breakfast all in time for 9.00 am each day, and relatively independently, means we must all be doing something right!

The penultimate week of the Summer Term 1 enabled us to reflect upon the vast array of opportunities and good fortune for those in the Junior, Infant and Pre-School. The buildings were awash with the nation's colours of red, white and blue as we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee; the celebrations were phenomenal, with multiple pupils expressing that 'KGS is the best school ever!'. Day excursions, residentials and various in-house events have all enhanced the curriculum once again this year. The J4s finishing the academic year with a residential to Eskdale, exposing and nurturing their mental and physical capabilities.

As the academic year drew to a close, I was excited that all of our pupils were given the opportunity to be involved in our annual Sports Day and our inaugural Verse Speaking Competition, with our Pre-School pupils opening the event with a delightful poem. With our pupils demonstrating their abilities in the likes of the Lytham Performing Arts Festival, and being placed first in the AJIS Music Festival, our first ever Young Musician and Drama Pupil of the Year festival was a very memorable occasion. Our end-of-term 'Review of the Year' was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all of our pupils' achievements.

As always, without such determined and vivacious young people at KGS the School would not be the success it is today. Alongside them, showing them the way as always, are our committed, passionate and driven KGS staff. The staff of the past, alongside those of the present, are most certainly interwoven into the fabric of KGS, positively permeating the entire culture and ethos of this very special school.

Better days have certainly returned, and my staff and I remain committed and determined to provide opportunity and experience for all our pupils in a caring and supportive environment. Our J4 pupils will move on to senior school with many happy memories and life experiences. Undoubtedly, they will feel trepidation, but above all, I sincerely hope that they carry with them the fact that they are cared for here and that they matter. One day, a few years away from now, we hope that they too are shaped by KGS into the determined, resilient and positive young people of tomorrow. *Ingrederet Ut Proficiat.*

**Mrs O'Donoghue - Headmistress  
Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant  
& Pre-School**





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# End of Year Review 2022



During the evening of Monday 4 July, our Infant and Junior School, 'End of Year Review 2022' took place. The event, formerly known as Prizegiving, gave the school community the opportunity to celebrate the events and achievements of the last academic year.

Guests were welcomed by Headmistress, Mrs O'Donoghue, and throughout the evening, pupils were presented with awards for their progress, hard work and achievements, not only within the various subjects of the curriculum but also for their dedication, commitment and contribution to the school community.

Guests enjoyed individual performances from: J4 pupils, Harry and Tiggi; Young Musician of the Year, Mia; Verse Speaking Winner, Beau; Drama Pupil of the Year and Senior School Music Scholar 2022, Tilly; as well as music performances from the Singing Ensemble and Instrumental Ensemble.

Head Boy, William and Head Girl, Sofia, gave a vote of thanks and the evening concluded with 'True Colours', performed by the School Choir, featuring the Singing Ensemble.

This occasion was a fitting conclusion to the J4 pupils' time at Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School.

Thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate the last academic year.







# FAREWELL TO OUR Primary School Days











## Pumpkin Week

In October, to celebrate Halloween, our Pre-School pupils enjoyed 'Pumpkin Week'. They started by reading the story 'We're Going on a Pumpkin Hunt', before going on their own hunt in the outdoor area. After finding all the pumpkins, lots of mathematics took place. The pupils counted them, before ordering them by size and weight. They then sang their own pumpkin patch rhyme to the tune of 'Five Buns in a Baker's Shop' and the 'Five Little Pumpkins' rhyme.

Each pupil brought a pumpkin into Pre-School and they predicted what they might find inside it, before exploring for themselves. The children also enjoyed mark making on the pumpkins, alongside some pumpkin themed maths and play dough.

They had lots of fun making pumpkin soup and the pupils enjoyed helping chop a variety of vegetables, including lots of pumpkin, before being given the opportunity to taste their culinary delights!

Our Pre-School pupils concluded their 'Halloween and Pumpkin' themed week by arriving at school dressed in their fancy dress outfits. They all looked absolutely fabulous!





# World Nursery Rhyme Week

In mid-November, Pre-School celebrated World Nursery Rhyme Week. Over 5 million children from 113 countries have taken part in this annual event since 2013.

The week promotes the importance of nursery rhymes in early education and development. The benefits include: the development of language and literacy skills, numeracy skills, social, physical and emotional skills and, most importantly, are great fun to learn.

Each year, five nursery rhymes are chosen and children take part in a rhyme day. Activities cover all areas of the EYFS curriculum focusing on each individual rhyme.

At the end of the week, the children were all presented with a certificate to celebrate taking part in this wonderful event.



## Diwali

At the beginning of November, our Pre-School children celebrated Diwali. Diwali, a festival of lights, symbolises the triumph of good over evil, light over darkness and new beginnings. Houses are lit by Diyas – small clay pots containing a little oil and a wick, and rangoli patterns are made outside front doors, together with footprints to welcome Lakshmi, the goddess of good fortune and wealth, into every home. Buildings and streets are decorated with lights, and there are firework displays. The children made their own Diyas, created mehndi and rangoli patterns and used paint to make firework pictures.





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## A warm welcome for their first day in I1

At the beginning of the new academic year, it was wonderful to welcome our Kirkham Grammar School September 2021 I1 pupils for their first day.

They have all settled in well to life at school and have had a busy and very enjoyable first academic year.



## I1 Spooky Week

Our I1 pupils very much enjoyed their 'Spooky' themed week in October. They shared many different story books and were excited and engaged in their continuous provision activities. They used tweezers to find spiders and skeletons, made frozen hands and cooked pumpkin soup during their creative curriculum afternoons. The I1s concluded a wonderful week by dressing up and making spider biscuits, magic wands and skewers in Power Maths.





# INFANT AND PRE-SCHOOL PRODUCTION 'Everyone Loves a Baby'



In early December, our Infant and Pre-School Production, 'Everyone Loves a Baby', was fabulously performed by all of the pupils with beautiful singing and amazing acting and dancing. The pupils looked absolutely incredible in their costumes and thoroughly enjoyed retelling the traditional Christmas tale in this very unique and special way! The performance really was truly spectacular and enjoyed by all.









# A Christmas Celebration



In December, the Junior School pupils presented a wonderful 'Christmas Celebration' in the Summerlee Hall. The audience enjoyed the traditional carols as well as listening to readings and poems by Isla V, Sofia A, William D, Esmé W and Headmistress, Mrs O'Donoghue. The performances by the Choir, Instrumental Ensemble, Singing Ensemble and Brass Ensemble wowed the audience, and the soloists sang beautifully. One particular highlight, for both the audience and the pupils, was the whole school performance of 'Gonna Catch That Santa' which saw three mystery Santas appear out of nowhere! Deservedly, it was performed as the encore at the end of the evening much to everyone's delight!

The event proved an excellent start to the festive season!

## AJIS Choir Festival Winners

Congratulations to our Kirkham Grammar Junior School Singing Ensemble who won the Association of Junior Independent Schools (AJIS) Choir Festival in March. The standard of competition was high, with ten Independent School choirs taking part. The adjudicator commented on the KGS pupils' beautiful sound, annunciation, musicality and communication in their performance of both songs - 'Kokeoko' and 'Somewhere Only We Know'.

Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School music teacher, Ms Boylan, reported after the event: "I am incredibly proud of the Singing Ensemble; I was particularly taken by how gracious the KGS pupils were on hearing the news of their success, and how supportive they were towards the pupils from the other choirs that competed. They were fantastic ambassadors on the day, they demonstrated incredible talent and were a credit to Kirkham Grammar School."





# Verse Speaking Final



In June, a new competition took place at KGS. The 'Verse Speaking Final', saw our Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant & Pre-School pupils and staff witness a plethora of phenomenal talent. All of the finalists knew their poems off by heart and performed with wonderful expression, clarity and enthusiasm. The outstanding talent that our pupils all demonstrated made for some tricky decisions for guest judge, KGS' Head of English, Mrs Hiller. Congratulations to our 'Year Group Winners', Neema (I1X), Hugo (I2X), Edward (I3X), Amy-Leigh (J1Y), Leo (J2Y), Isla (J3Y) and Beau (J4Y). Beau was also chosen as the overall winner for his superb performance of his own poem, 'My Boxer Dad'.





# THUMPER & BAMBI VISIT KGS



Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School pupils enjoyed their annual lamb visit at the beginning of March. The pupils were all given the opportunity to meet, and cuddle, Thumper and Bambi. Thank you to Mrs Townsend for bringing the lambs to visit KGS.



# BOOK FAIR



In mid-September, our Junior and Infant pupils were given the opportunity to visit the Scholastic Book Fair. The pupils enjoyed looking at the huge array of books, with parents and family members also able to visit the fair after school. We raised a fantastic £1,339 from the Book Fair sales!

**Thank you to our wonderful KGS families for your continued support.**



## KATHY WEEKS AUTHOR VISIT

In June, Kirkham Grammar School were delighted to welcome the very talented, Kathy Weeks, to talk to our pupils about her journey and the release of her new novel, 'What's New Harper Drew?' Kathy spoke about the different jobs that led up to her becoming an author and read a snippet from her new book. Our pupils left the event feeling very inspired to write a diary of their own and could not wait to read about what happens to Harper Drew and her family next! Thank you to Elaine Silverwood and Jake Hope from Silverwood Events for making this wonderful event possible.

## PETR HORÁČEK AUTHOR VISIT

At the beginning of May, Kirkham Grammar School were delighted to welcome pupils from St Joseph's Catholic Primary School and Kirkham and Wesham Primary School to join our infant pupils for a visit from the talented author and illustrator, Petr Horáček, who had recently released, 'A Best Friend for Bear'.

The pupils, captivated by Petr's work, were delighted to listen to a number of his stories and watch him create live illustrations.

Thank you to Elaine and Jake from Silverwood Events for organising this fabulous visit!





# National POETRY Day 7 October 2021

In mid-October, Kirkham Grammar School pupils celebrated National Poetry Day, with First and Second Years participating in a treasure hunt around the grounds to discover the English department's favourite poets, before listening to their teachers' favourite poetic song lyrics and choosing their own examples. Third Years wrote their own poems on the theme of 'choice'.



## Chris Bradford Author Event

Author, Chris Bradford, visited Kirkham Grammar School in mid-March to perform two dynamic shows.

As part of the Young Samurai Show, our J4 and First Year pupils witnessed an authentic samurai sword display, discovered skills needed to become a young samurai, listened and watched a dynamic all-kicking, all-punching book reading, explored Japan with a video tour from the author's research trips and tested their ninja skills to the limit.

Our Second and Third Year pupils joined Chris on his mission to become a qualified bodyguard. They participated in an interactive reading to protect the President's daughter; were introduced to Cooper's Colour Code and to stay alert to dangers; learned anti-surveillance skills and how to spot if you're being followed; discovered how to protect a VIP in a crowd; learned about secret defence techniques and tested their reaction skills.

This highly popular event introduced both new and reluctant readers to his books, as well as promoting reading and writing for pleasure to our pupils.



## Seth Burkett Author Visit

In November, we were delighted and very excited to host our first author visit in over 18 months.

Seth Burkett visited KGS to speak to our First and Second Year pupils about his journey from non-league football to being the only British footballer playing professionally in Brazil, to studying English and Sports Science at Loughborough University, before releasing his first book about his time in Brazil called 'The Boy in Brazil'. Seth explained how he used his experiences as a professional footballer in Brazil and MA in English Literature to write engaging football stories.

At lunchtime, Seth enjoyed chatting to pupils whilst signing copies of his books.

In the afternoon, a number of Third and Fourth Year pupils were given the opportunity to be involved in a creative writing workshop.



Congratulations to the following pupils who all read one million words during the last academic year, with an average percentage correct of 80% or over, and were rewarded with a bowling and Laser Quest trip to Level in Preston on Tuesday 28 June:

1W Grace 1X Shahmeer and Emilia 1Y Philippa

1Z Cerys, Edward, Lilly, Darcy, Finn and Anna


2X Isabelle, Aamina, Jasmine, Annie and Aurora

2Y Evelyn

Lucie (1Z), Darcie (2X), Harvey (2X), Rayan (2X) and Sam (2X) all achieved over one million words and an average of 80% correct but were unable to attend the event.



# WORLD BOOK DAY



At the beginning of March, Kirkham Grammar School celebrated the 25th Anniversary of World Book Day.

Our Junior, Infant and Pre-School pupils and staff came to school dressed as their favourite book character and everyone looked amazing!

Pre-School read the book 'The Bean Machine' by Adam Bestwick and afterwards enjoyed creating their own bean machines from a variety of materials, including cold baked beans!

A number of activities were also enjoyed by the pupils including; crime scenes (I1), shoebox story settings (I2), pop art comics (I3), Monster art based on English descriptions (J1), a word scavenger hunt (J2), story front covers using iPads (J3) and fairy tale writing and 'wanted' beast posters in (J4).

Over at the Senior School and Sixth Form, a whole school assembly, dedicated to the benefits of reading, took place and during the day each First Year class visited the library to be read to by a special guest.

Second and Third Year pupils read a story for 10 minutes during each period.

KGS Staff became literary character reading pairs for the day with pupils asked to match up the pairs to be in with a chance of winning an Amazon voucher for the pupil with the most names.

Finally, 'STARBOOKS' opened a café in the KGS Library at lunchtime with pupils invited to attend a 'Book Tasting' event whilst enjoying a hot drink of their choice.



## Kirkham Grammar School Celebrate 25 Years of Harry Potter

Our Senior School pupils celebrated 25 years of Harry Potter on Tuesday 26 June.

Pupils attended a sorting hat ceremony in the library, made owl masks and disappeared under the invisibility cloak during break. At lunchtime, Mrs Heney delivered an extract from The Philosopher's Stone; our senior librarian, Lucy, was quizmaster for our Magical Journeys quiz; and there was a visit from the trolley witch who delivered Drooble's Best Blowing Gum and Liquorice Wands.

Our KGS Library owls, Lucy and Darcey, delivered chocolate frogs via owl mail to the surprise of many of our pupils and staff.

At lunchtime, Mr Vevers and the catering staff provided a delicious menu of Hagrid's Favourite Roast, Gryffindor Pizza, Dragon Chicken, Snape's Savouries, Hagrid Fang Dogs and Magic Melissa Black's Delights.

Lessons were enjoyed in the various departments throughout the day. In drama, pupils enjoyed recreating scenes from the book or film and were even challenged to create a new scene that could have appeared in the book/film.

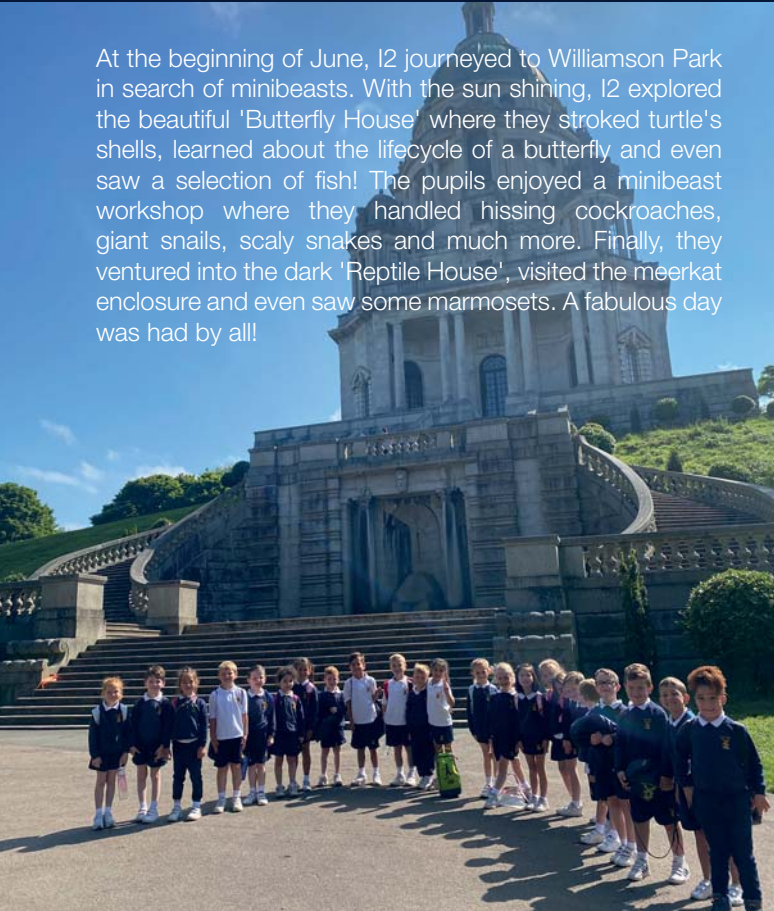
In English, our First Year pupils, produced some wonderful creative writing about their own Harry Potter 'portkey' - an object enchanted to take anyone who touches it to a specific location. It is enchanted to do so at a certain time on a certain day. The location is decided at the time when the object is enchanted. The pupils were asked to choose an object which would become their portkey, decide where it would take them, where it would be placed, who they would tell about the portkey so that they could go with them to their chosen place, and what date and time their portkey would be active.





# I2 Visit to Williamson Park

At the beginning of June, I2 journeyed to Williamson Park in search of minibeasts. With the sun shining, I2 explored the beautiful 'Butterfly House' where they stroked turtle's shells, learned about the lifecycle of a butterfly and even saw a selection of fish! The pupils enjoyed a minibeast workshop where they handled hissing cockroaches, giant snails, scaly snakes and much more. Finally, they ventured into the dark 'Reptile House', visited the meerkat enclosure and even saw some marmosets. A fabulous day was had by all!



## I3 Visit CHESTER ZOO



During the Summer Term, the I3 pupils had their first educational trip, since the beginning of lockdown, to Chester Zoo. The pupils had an amazing time exploring the different habitats, lived in by animals from around the world. After exploring on foot, the pupils enjoyed the Lazy River Boat trip. The experience recreates the amazing tropical environments of South East Asia, with the aim of discovering islands from a different perspective. As they meandered down the river, the pupils listened out for the many different sounds, staying focused as they sailed past tribal lands and danger signs! During the trip the pupils saw a wide variety of animals including; African painted dogs, the southern cassowary, Sumatran orangutans and Asian elephants. The pupils had a truly magical experience!





# J1 Roman Trip to Chester



At the end of April, our J1 pupils visited the DEVA Roman Discovery Centre in Chester to deepen their understanding of the Romans and the Roman Empire.

In the morning the pupils had a guided tour of the museum by our designated and very authentic Centurion, Pertinax. This involved an actual archaeological site with a 3D experience bringing the history of Roman Chester to life. The pupils learnt about Roman bath houses, handled some Roman artefacts and were able to ask lots of questions about what life would have been like as a Roman.

Following a packed lunch in the herb garden, the pupils then went on a soldier patrol, experiencing what it was like to be a part of the twentieth legion almost 2000 years ago, with Chester's major archaeological attractions as a background. We caused quite a stir in the city centre with each pupil being given a Roman shield to take on patrol!

J1 also visited Chester's amphitheatre and the Altar to Nemesis. However, the highlight of the day was engaging in battle formations using shields!

It was a truly special day and the pupils were a credit to the school.



## J2 TRIP TO FAIRHAVEN LAKE



At the beginning of June, our J2 pupils spent an enjoyable day investigating habitats and living things around Fairhaven Lake. In groups, they were tasked with map reading to find various clues about different creatures and the different places in which they lived. At each check point, there were lots of clues that needed to be solved. Alongside map reading they were 'foot deep' in mud, getting their hands dirty digging in the salt marshes. They found some fascinating molluscs and learnt a huge amount about this special environment.



# J3 BUSHCRAFT 2021







On Wednesday 22 September, all J3 pupils and four staff set off from school for Castle Howard, North Yorkshire, to start our bushcraft adventure. Whilst we were still with 'The Bushcraft Company', it was the first time Kirkham Grammar Junior School had visited the Castle Howard site.

On arrival, and after a short(ish) walk into the woods, we arrived at our new home for the next three days: 'Pine Woods Camp'. Following our welcome and an all-important safety briefing, our enthusiastic instructors taught us how to light fires. It was a good job that we all learnt quickly as we then had to cook our own lunch on them! The afternoon consisted of camp craft and concealment activities before building shelters, which several of the group chose to sleep in for one or both of the nights in the woods; whilst others chose to make use of the large teepees for greater perceived comfort.

Day two's activities included wilderness first aid, making survival bracelets and using cutting tools to make pegs. We then had to put our newly-learnt skills to work after our teachers created a fake airplane crash. The evening rounded off with our 'Bushcraft's Got Talent' show under torch light.

During the final day, we learnt more about foraging in the woods and how to make a range of traps before putting all our skills to work in the final 'Bushcraft Challenge'.

Throughout the trip, we ate well from the food cooked on the fire and wilderness 'kitchen', though the four brave pupils who took on the fish eyeball challenge may opt for an alternative menu next time! Everyone also enjoyed a variety of games, camp-fire songs and experiences throughout the adventure.

Everyone learnt many new skills and experiences to help them in their everyday lives as well as taking away life-long memories. Well done J3 for creating such a great trip.

By KGS J3 pupils



# OUR AMAZING TIME AT THE J4 RESIDENTIAL TO ESKDALE



Our incredible week started as we left school on a coach with a three-hour journey ahead of us. After seemingly endless long and winding roads, we finally arrived at the hostel, ready for our first activities. These included rock climbing for groups 2 and 3 and gorge scrambling for groups 1 and 4. Both activities were great fun, but some people were not fans of the cold water! On the first night, some of the girls slept in land pods while everyone else was in the hostel. We were all very excited and found it hard to get to sleep!

For our very first breakfast at the hostel, we were very keen to see what was on offer. There was cereal, toast and a full English! After eating, we went to get ready for our jam-packed day. Our activities for day two were archery, fire starting, shield decorating and team building games. After rotating round two activities, we had a short lunch break and then went back to our amazing activities. Archery had a fun challenge at the end: If you hit a bullseye, you could eat dinner with a full set of cutlery and each other individual colour meant one piece of cutlery. If you hit nothing then you would have to eat your food with just your mouth! After a very enjoyable and busy day we had our delicious dinner and hot chocolate and went to bed for a longer sleep than the first night!

On the third day, we had breakfast and got ready to go on a coach to Go Ape. It was a long way and some people were sick. It was a horrendous journey because when we were very nearly there, the coach driver realised that the road to Go Ape was closed. Fortunately, Mrs Case persuaded the workmen to let us drive on their just-laid wet tarmac and we arrived, a little late, but raring to go! Go Ape was great fun; swinging in the trees and whizzing down the big zip line at the end was fantastic. After lunch, we took part in four team building games which were called 'Herding Sheep', 'Try Not to Stand on the Gorilla', 'Try Not to Lose the Ball' and 'Don't Drop the Football'. After dinner, we took a short walk down to the River Esk and went paddling in the water – some people got wetter than others!

Our final full day started very wet! We were gorge scrambling and rock climbing again, but the rain meant that both groups ended up going on separate 10k walks. The gorge scramblers couldn't even get in the gorge it was so full and fast-flowing! After we all got back to the hostel after lunch, we warmed up with hot showers and hot chocolate (or a cup of tea!) and then the sun came out! We spent the rest of the day playing board games in the dining room, paddling in the stream or playing football. Some of us even visited Tiggi's Nail Bar to have our fingernails painted, boys included! That night we played Manhunt and roasted marshmallows then returned to the main building for our Eskdale Awards Presentation.

On the last day, after packing everything up, we headed off to the Eskdale to Ravenglass Light Railway for a relaxing journey. When we arrived, we ate our lunch and walked to some ruins of a Roman Bath house. We just had time for an ice cream before we set off on our journey home. We all had a fantastic time away but we were ready for Half Term to catch up on our sleep!

By Katy Townsend, Mia Gisslow, Tilly Musson and William Desoer











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# JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

On Thursday 19 May, Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School pupils celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022. Queen Elizabeth II is the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking an incredible 70 years of service!

In accordance with the merriment associated with such an event, the school was transformed in all its red, white and blue glory. The pupils were welcomed into school by Her Majesty, the Queen, to meet, greet and enjoy a 'selfie'.

In preparation for the day, pupils designed and decorated their own jubilee t-shirt. Each year group chose their own Jubilee theme. These creative designs included crowns, stamps, London buses and bunting.

Through class-based activities, the pupils learnt about various events of historical significance that have helped to shape our nation. These included the Queen's Coronation in 1953, the Queen's role in World War II and the Royal family tree.

During their PE lessons, the pupils participated in a 1950's themed sports day. The PE staff hosted a range of sports that were popular during the time of the Queen's Coronation. These included: croquet, skipping, hopscotch and tennis.

The pupils' special day included planting a special 'Jubilee tree' and concluded with a whole school rendition of the national anthem on the lawn. The pupils waved their union jack flags with pride whilst enjoying a delicious ice-cream!





# House Cross Country & Fun Runs

At the end of September, Kirkham Grammar School held their annual House Cross Country races for all the pupils in J1 through to J4 and Fun Runs for the Pre-School and Infant pupils. Thankfully, we were blessed with fine weather which made the conditions underfoot perfect for cross country. Medals were awarded to all of the fun runners and house points for the junior runners. This year saw a fantastic turnout with virtually every child taking part. It was a pleasure to witness their outstanding effort, no matter which position they finished. After all eight races, the final positions in the House Cross Country races were as follows:

**1st Clifton 46pts**  
**2nd Colborne 45pts**  
**3rd Birley 37pts**  
**4th Drapers 32pts**

## Individual results:

### J1 Girls

1st Philippa Pearson  
 2nd Millie O'Mahoney  
 3rd Darcey Bullough

### J1 Boys

1st Rocco Gallagher  
 2nd Dominic Boughen  
 3rd Eli O'Donoghue

### J2 Girls

1st Holly Norcross  
 2nd Layla Pineda  
 3rd Emily Townsend

### J2 Boys

1st William Coward  
 2nd Zachary Oliver  
 3rd William Yates

### J3 Girls

1st Hattie Walker  
 2nd Ava Godbold  
 3rd Bea Faith

### J3 Boys

1st Matthew Duckett  
 2nd Sebastian Boughen  
 3rd Freddie Butler

### J4 Girls

1st Imi Osborne  
 2nd Hollie Guthrie  
 3rd Charlotte Pickervance

### J4 Boys

1st Tumi Milligan  
 2nd James Wileman  
 3rd Billy Margerison

## House Results:

### J4 Girls

1st CLIFTON  
 2nd DRAPERS  
 3rd BIRLEY  
 4th COLBORNE

### J4 Boys

1st BIRLEY  
 2nd DRAPERS  
 3rd CLIFTON  
 4th COLBORNE

### J3 Girls

1st CLIFTON  
 2nd COLBORNE  
 3rd BIRLEY  
 4th DRAPERS

### J3 Boys

1st CLIFTON  
 2nd COLBORNE  
 3rd DRAPERS  
 4th BIRLEY

### J2 Girls

1st COLBORNE  
 2nd CLIFTON  
 3rd DRAPERS  
 4th BIRLEY

### J2 Boys

1st COLBORNE  
 2nd BIRLEY  
 3rd DRAPERS  
 4th CLIFTON

### J1 Girls

1st CLIFTON  
 2nd COLBORNE  
 3rd BIRLEY  
 4th DRAPERS

### J1 Boys

1st BIRLEY + COLBORNE  
 3rd DRAPERS  
 4th CLIFTON







## AJIS Cross Country Championships

On Wednesday 29 September, Kirkham Grammar School travelled to Rossall School to take part in the annual AJIS Cross Country Championships.

In total, 20 schools took part from throughout the North West of England.

There were 4 races in total: U10 boys, U10 girls, U11 boys and U11 girls, and in each race there were over a 100 athletes.

All members of the KGS team had trained hard during their lunchtime practices and had also taken part in the KGS Inter House Cross Country races the week before.

Everyone ran superbly throughout the afternoon and recorded some excellent results.

The U10 girls were amazing and came **2nd** overall with top 10 positions recorded by **Hattie Walker** who came **3rd**, **Ava Godbold** **5th** and **Bea Faith** **7th**. To come runners-up against much larger schools was outstanding!

The U10 boys were not to be outdone and won the trophy for small-sized schools (an event for schools with 15 or less boys in the year) with **Matthew Duckett** leading the way in **13th** place.

The U11 boys' race was extremely competitive. However, they managed to come **3rd** overall which was a fantastic achievement. Top 10 positions were achieved by **Tumi Milligan** (**5th**) and **Billy Margerison** (**8th**), with **James Wileman**, just outside of the top 10, finishing in **11th** place.

The U11 girls just missed out on medals but could not have put in anymore effort, with **Imi Osborne** leading the way and finishing in **17th** place.

It was a very happy bus back to Kirkham with silver and bronze medals and a winner's shield.

Thank you to Rossall School for organising a fantastic event.





## AJIS Football Finals

Kirkham Grammar School U11 football team took part in the AJIS Football Finals held at Cheadle Hulme School.

It was an early start for the boys with a 7.25 am meet at school. The competition was organised into four groups of three teams. Kirkham Grammar School drew both of their matches against St Mary's College Crosby and Abbeygate College which was enough to progress to the quarter-finals. Here they met a strong Newcastle-under-Lyme team and again the match ended in a draw, meaning a penalty shoot-out would determine the winner of the match. Unfortunately, after a thrilling penalty shoot-out, KGS lost 6-5. Despite this, a great day was had by all. Many thanks to Cheadle Hulme School for organising a fantastic tournament.



## Indoor Athletics Match

### Kirkham Grammar School U11s v Preston Harriers AC U11s

In mid-January, Kirkham Grammar School hosted Preston Harriers to compete for the 'Bob Welfare Memorial Shield'. Bob was a real stalwart in athletics circles across Lancashire, at both club and school level, and has been sorely missed by all who knew him.

All athletes have worked hard in recent weeks in their individual events and relays and were nervous, but excited, about competing for the first time in two years.

During the morning they took part in the team speed bounce, long jump, triple jump, vertical jump and javelin. The track events consisted of 1, 2, 3 and 4 lap races and the competition concluded with the sprint and obstacle relay.

After one hour of excellent competition, where the lead changed hands many times, the results were as follows:

#### U11 boys

Kirkham Grammar School: 90pts - Preston Harriers AC: 58pts

#### U11 girls

Kirkham Grammar School: 76pts - Preston Harriers AC: 73pts

These results saw Kirkham Grammar School win the 'Bob Welfare Memorial Shield' which was won by Preston Harriers in 2020.



# U9 & U10 Rugby v Preston Grasshoppers

In January, Kirkham Grammar School hosted Preston Grasshoppers U9s and U10s with supporters from both teams treated to some excellent rugby. For the KGS U9s team, it was their first experience of full contact rugby and they loved every minute of it. The U10 team also had a new experience in a competitive game as the element of rucking and mauling has been introduced since Christmas. All players had a thoroughly enjoyable morning and benefitted from the experience.



## 2022 Lancashire U11 Boys Hockey Champions

At the beginning of February, Kirkham Grammar School hosted the Lancashire and Cumbria U11 Boys Hockey Tournament at Mill Farm Sports Village. Six teams participated; Kirkham Grammar School, Bolton School, AKS Lytham, St Mary's Hall, Ashbridge School and Sedbergh Prep. The tournament, played as a round robin, meant every school played each other once. After five games, Kirkham Grammar School had recorded the following results: v Bolton won 3-0, v AKS won 1-0, v St Mary's Hall won 4-0, v Ashbridge won 1-0 and v Sedbergh won 1-0. To win all five games, not concede a single goal and be crowned the Lancashire U11 Boys Hockey Champions for 2022 was a tremendous achievement for the boys.

In March, after the success of winning the Lancashire and Cumbria Hockey Tournament, our U11 boys progressed through to the North West Final away at The King's School Chester. It wasn't typical hockey weather with the sun shining throughout the tournament. KGS faced three teams: The King's School Chester, Manchester Grammar School and Ashbridge School with our boys playing some fantastic hockey, demonstrating their skills and creating some excellent attacking opportunities. The team battled throughout the tournament with some end-to-end games. KGS finished third in the North West.

Well done, boys!



## Baton Relay

At the beginning of March, the countdown to the SPAR Lancashire School Games Finals began with a county-wide baton relay. The 2022 Games were the first to have an Olympic or Commonwealth Games style baton relay. The metallic gold baton was passed on to different schools as it made its way around the Red Rose County's 12 districts ahead of the finale which took place in Blackpool's Stanley Park on Tuesday 5 July.

Beginning in West Lancashire, the baton was first handed over to pupils at an opening ceremony in Tarleton. On Wednesday 25 May, Kirkham Grammar School pupils and staff congregated on the school lawn to give a warm welcome upon the arrival of the baton, before five pupils and staff set off to run to Ribby with Wrea Primary School for the next baton handover.







## I3, J1 and J2 Hockey Festival

At the end of March, our I3, J1 and J2 pupils were invited to take part in a Hockey Festival, hosted on the Senior School and Sixth Form hockey pitches. The weather was glorious and there was a lovely atmosphere.

The I3 and J1 pupils were the first to take part, completing a total of three games, which gave them the opportunity to showcase their skills, learned either at our Wednesday Breakfast Hockey Club or within curriculum time. The pupils were energetic, skilful and worked well as a team. It was pleasing to see pupils as young as six so accomplished and unafraid to get stuck in!

For the second session, the pupils were in different teams and joined by the J2s to play against St. Mary's Hall, Stonyhurst. Again, they played a total of three games. It was friendly and enjoyable

with beaming smiles on the faces of all who took part; which was a pleasure to see.

A big thank you to our Senior School pupils who supported the morning by serving refreshments/umpiring and encouraging our pupils, as part of their DoFE award.

Thank you as always to our wonderfully supportive parents/family members. We hope you enjoyed the festival.

Well done to everyone who took part; we are very proud of you all!

## J2 Football Tournament v Cheadle Hulme School

In March, our Kirkham Grammar School J2 pupils took part in an U9 Football Tournament at Cheadle Hulme School.

The J2 team, comprising of both boys and girls, played some fantastic football against other North West Independent School teams. They grew in confidence as the tournament went on resulting in some fabulous goals, strong defending and excellent saves.

Well done to J2 pupils; Jessica, Noah, Henry, William C, Ralph, Zach, William Y, Joshua, Arthur and Hendrick and thank you to Cheadle Hulme School for hosting a wonderful morning of football.





# AJIS Athletics

In June, Kirkham Grammar School J3 and J4 athletics team competed at the AJIS Athletics Competition at Trafford Athletics Club. The event is always well attended and this year was no different, with 37 school teams filling the stands.

Throughout the day, our athletes competed in a variety of track and field events, winning some heats and proceeding through to a number of finals.

Our athletes came away with three individual medals, which is a fantastic achievement against strong competition.

Well done to J4 pupils, Beau, who won bronze in the 80m, Lois, who won silver in the 45m hurdles and a special congratulations to Charlie who won gold in the high jump and now holds the AJIS record of 1.50m.





# Junior, Infant and Pre-School Sports Day







On Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 June, we were delighted to be able to welcome into school parents and family members for our Pre-School, Infant and Junior Sports Day. These were truly lovely occasions, particularly with last year's events having to be live-streamed to parents and family due to the ongoing pandemic.

The smiles on the pupils' faces said it all, and despite the very warm weather, the pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves, showed real enthusiasm and competed with true sportsmanship.

Congratulations to our overall winners at Junior Sports Day Colborne House!







**Opening times:**

Mon-Fri: 10am-5pm

Sat: 9am-4pm

**Showroom:**

Unit 9 Bankfield House

250 Bristol Avenue

Bispham

FY2 0JF

Our clients were looking to completely redesign their existing kitchen - after viewing our Inframe Shaker display in the showroom and after a consultation with our designers they had a clear vision in mind.

Utilising calming hues, the Shaker style can offer an effortless and minimalist aesthetic to any home, and our clients chose a muted green palette to create a serene ambience to their kitchen.

They knew they would need plenty of refrigeration storage so we suggested the Miele Mastercool fridge and freezer as the perfect option; with a tall wine conditioning unit, the set of 3 is housed in a traditional surround and makes for a striking feature in the kitchen, whilst the stainless steel doors contrast perfectly against the painted green cabinetry.

At our interior designer's suggestion, the clients chose warm textured wallpaper, woven green and gold in their bespoke sofas and striking patterned cushions to tie each seating area together.

Our clients were delighted with the finished concept as it offers them the perfect blend of effortless comfort and a refined entertaining space.



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# LES DEUX ALPES SKI TRIP 2022

Well, what a trip! The journey to France started with a very early meet at KGS for 2.00 am, we then made our way to the coaches with the Sixth Formers being given the role as designated suitcase loaders for the trip. On arrival at Manchester Airport, we enjoyed a very long, and sometimes quite funny, queue through baggage and security. Some people forgot to take their liquids out of their bags - we made sure to remind them on the way back! It wasn't long until we were on the plane and off to Lyon. The majority of people were able to get their heads down and sleep for the flight. Once we landed, we handed out passports and got through a reasonably quick French border security. We found out the hard way how big Lyon Airport actually is! Once we finally made it to the coach the majority of the skiers were certainly more awake; the journey to Les Deux Alpes was very scenic and flew by.

Once we arrived the Sixth Formers unloaded the coach and we headed inside to the hotel, the staff got us into our groups and we went to collect our skis and ski boots. We were all very grateful to see a warm meal ready for us. Mr Moffatt gave us a quick brief on what the plan for the day was before we were given the rest of the day to unpack and get an early night's sleep ahead of our first day on the slopes.

The first morning of skiing was a busy one: we were told to be at breakfast for 7.30 am each morning and I think it's safe to say we saw some very tired faces that first morning. Once we had breakfast, we all got into our new ski groups and met our instructors for the week. This first morning was all about getting used to skiing again for those who have skied before and learning the basics for those who hadn't. At lunch we all came back pretty exhausted and relieved to have two hours to eat and relax. We discussed with each other what we had accomplished and how our instructors were. After lunch we went back to our groups, collected our skis and walked to the chairlifts. We then returned to the hotel for

the night all excited for another big day of skiing.

On the Sunday we were all looking forward to a look around town and an early night. Over dinner one member from each group stood up and talked in front of all of the ski groups and told us about what their group had done that day.

Monday was another amazing day of skiing; it was a whiteout towards the top and visibility was extremely low. In the advanced group, our instructor saw this as an excellent time to practise low visibility skills, which became very helpful to all throughout the day. Monday was the first of our evening activity days and we all went bowling. This was a great opportunity for all the skiers to form better relationships and mix year groups, which allowed us to be more of a team throughout the week.

Tuesday was beautiful, and was also the day the beginner group rode their very first chairlift. We had powder all over the mountain and the upper intermediate group did their first 'off piste' run. In the advanced group we made our way to the terrain park to practise our jumps and tricks - which was something we took to and did every day. After an amazing day on the slopes we went back to the hotel, got showered and enjoyed some free time before going out for some amazing pizzas in town.

Wednesday was a big day for all of us. As it was the rugby final for the boys at Twickenham, we took a few scarves onto the slopes and sent photographs wishing all the boys good luck. As soon as we came back we had a bit of a last minute emergency with watching the game. We were told we couldn't use the room we booked to watch the game but fortunately some of the Sixth Form and the staff worked out a plan to use the boot room and watch the game there! We used bed sheets, speakers and Mr Atkinson's computer to connect Mrs Atkinson's phone to a projector; after this we managed to work as a team and get the emergency sorted... in less

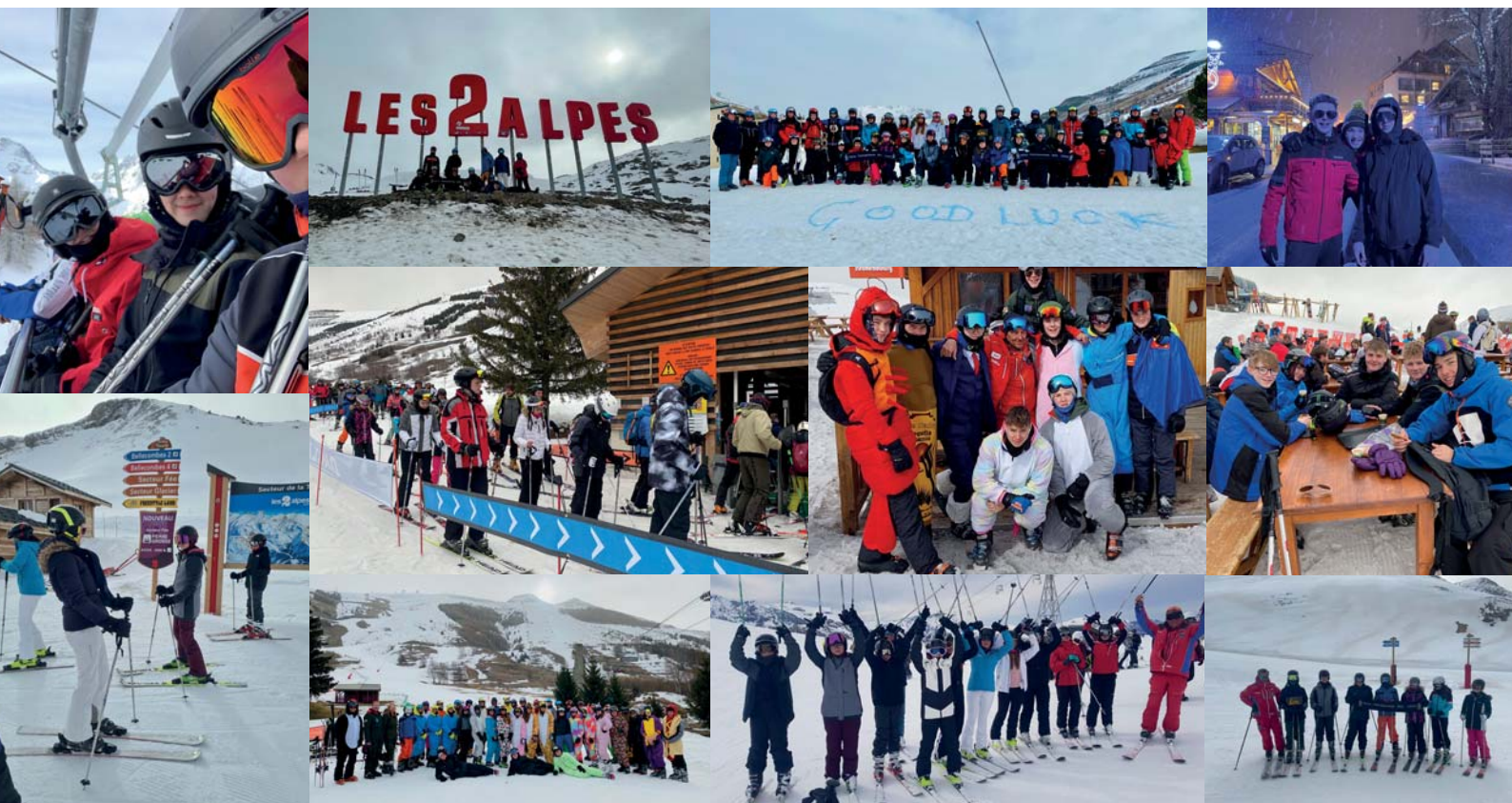
than ten minutes, it was time for kick off! The whole group came together and we tensely watched the boys work tirelessly to try and win. Unfortunately they didn't, but we were all so proud nonetheless. After the rugby we enjoyed lovely hot chocolates and crepes surrounded by a picturesque snowy evening.

Thursday was a really fun day, all the groups were progressing rapidly and the beginner group were definitely not beginners anymore. Thursday night was 'Disco Night' which was enjoyed by everybody and the moves were being busted out on the dance floor by almost everybody! I even think I caught a few of the staff enjoying a dance to some of the music.

The final day is always an amazing one: the classic KGS fancy dress day. It didn't disappoint! We saw a variety of amazing costumes, from a huge lobster and creative onesies, to Maverick from Top Gun and a tequila bottle! After the final day we said farewell to our instructors who we became such good friends with and gave them a thank you gift. To say thank you to the staff, the Sixth Formers secretly went around collecting a small amount of money from the pupils to raise funds for a gift from all of the pupils. After dinner it was off to bed and ready for the 2.00 am departure back to the UK. This was a very relaxed departure and the majority of the pupils slept the entire way back. Once we landed it was back to KGS and a perfect opportunity for some music from the Sixth Form to get everyone ready and awake again.

On behalf of all the pupils we just want to say how amazing this trip was and a huge thank you to the staff, Katie from Select, the instructors and all of our parent for letting us go!

Finntan Doyle





# EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES



On Tuesday 28 September, the Modern Languages Department celebrated European Day of Languages. First Year pupils were invited to wear costumes on a European or international theme, and they certainly rose to the occasion, showing great effort and originality, with an array of creative ideas. The overall winner was Hermione Edwards for her delightful Bavarian Dirndl costume.

First Year pupils also had the opportunity to enter a cake baking competition. A huge number of pupils entered and we saw some marvellous creations representing nations across Europe and beyond. With such a volume of entries and an all-round high standard of presentation, Mrs Parkinson had something of a challenge to decide on the winning entries! First prize went to Hollie Hunter for her fabulous Italian-inspired meatball and spaghetti cake!

Lunchtime saw pupils from all years enjoy a delicious European-style lunch with Spanish musical accompaniment. Our thanks to Mr Vevers and his team, who provided a wonderful range of continental dishes including: spaghetti bolognese, pizza margherita, bratwurst, and tarte au citron for dessert.

During the day, there was a range of European-themed activities, both in lessons and in co-curricular activities. Mrs Halsall's library readers read French stories, Mr Whittle's pupils explored geographical features in French and there were plenty of quizzes and a treasure hunt. Modern Languages even reached the Duke of Edinburgh expedition in Keswick, with Mrs Sutcliffe tweeting a multilingual account of the weather! But perhaps the most memorable part of the day for the First Year pupils will be dancing the Macarena with Mr Gonzalez in the Old Hall!

Merci beaucoup, muchas gracias and danke sehr to all pupils, parents and colleagues who supported our European Day of Languages 2021 - a wonderful day was certainly enjoyed by us all.





# EL DÍA DE MUERTOS

Kirkham Grammar School celebrated El Día de Muertos (The Day of the Dead) in mid-November. Mr Gonzalez created a wonderful display in The Old Hall and our First and Second Year pupils arrived at school in a variety of different costumes - they all looked amazing!

El Día de Muertos is a Mexican holiday which takes place over the first two days of November and is celebrated throughout Mexico, in particular the Central and South regions, and by people of Mexican heritage elsewhere.

Headmaster, Mr Berry, had the unenviable task of choosing the winners:

**First Year winners:**

**1st place - Harry F**

**2nd place - Jaya**

**3rd place - Marissa**

**Second Year winners:**

**1st place - Darcey**

**2nd place - Jasmine**

**3rd place - Jagat**





# MUSIC

## The Gala Concert

The Gala Concert in March was a truly wonderful evening which gave an invited audience an opportunity to hear the House Music winners and finalists. Guests were treated to an outstanding evening of music that confirmed the future of music at Kirkham Grammar School continues to be a beacon of excellence.







## Spring Concert

Early May saw the return of the annual Spring Concert after a two year hiatus. This featured all the major ensembles of the School, together with Upper Sixth soloists, and LAMDA readers. An eclectic mix of music from George Gershwin to Earth, Wind and Fire, and others too numerous to mention, was received with rapturous applause by the audience.





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# Founders' Day



At the end of March, our annual Kirkham Grammar School Founders' Day Commemoration Service was held at Kirkham St Michael's Church, the first live Founders' Day service since the start of the pandemic.

Founders' Day is an occasion on which the school community reflects and gives thanks for its long and distinguished history, whilst in particular remembering those who, over the years, have been supporters and benefactors of the school;

Thomas Clifton, Isabel Birley, Cuthbert Clifton, Thomas Westby, John Parker, Thomas Langtree, Thomas Hesketh, Arthur Greenacres, Henry Colborn, James Barker, William Grimbaldeston.

Thank you to The Reverend Father Richard Dashwood MA SCP for leading our commemoration service.

Congratulations to the following LAMDA pupils who all achieved high grades in their acting, verse and prose, and public speaking exams:

Oscar	Acting Grade 7 with distinction – Solo – Silver Medal
Michael	Speaking in Public Grade 6 with distinction – Bronze Medal
Bea	Acting Grade 7 with distinction – Solo – Silver Medal
Lydia	Speaking Verse and Prose Grade 7 with distinction – Silver Medal
Kirsty	Acting Grade 7 with merit – Solo – Silver Medal
Joseph	Acting Grade 7 with distinction – Solo – Silver Medal & Shakespeare Level 2 Solo with distinction
Jessica	Speaking Verse and Prose Grade 6 with merit – Bronze Medal
Haarith	Speaking in Public Grade 3 with distinction
Hannah	Acting Grade 4 with distinction – Duo
Leoma	Acting Grade 4 with distinction – Duo
Amelia	Acting Grade 4 with distinction – Duo & Acting Grade 4 with distinction – Solo
Isabella	Acting Grade 4 with distinction – Duo
Gabrielle	Acting Grade 5 with distinction – Duo
Sadie	Acting Grade 5 with distinction – Duo
Olivia	Speaking Verse and Prose Grade 5 with distinction
Natalie	Acting Grade 4 with distinction – Solo
Darcey	Speaking Verse and Prose Grade 4 with distinction
Gabriella	Speaking Verse and Prose Grade 4 with distinction
Sofia	Speaking Verse and Prose Grade 4 with distinction
Darcie	Acting Grade 3 with distinction – Solo
Thomas	Reading for Performance Grade 5 with merit
Oliver	Speaking Verse and Prose Grade 4 with merit
Aniela	Speaking Verse and Prose Grade 4 with merit
Alanah	Speaking Verse and Prose Grade 5 with merit
Louisa	Speaking Verse and Prose Grade 5 with merit
Amelie	Acting Grade 4 with merit – Solo
Jay	Speaking Verse and Prose Grade 4 with distinction

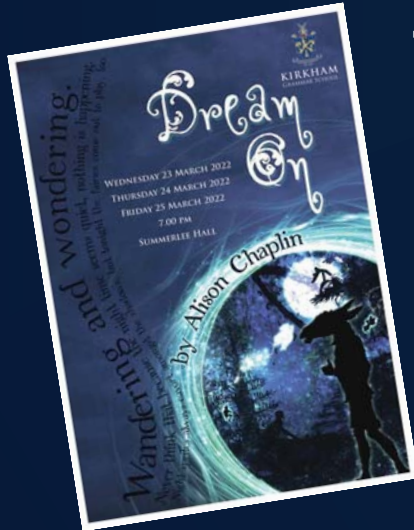
## LAMDA Awards





# Dream On

by Alison Chaplin



## "The course of true love never did run smooth"

William Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night's Dream (Act 1, Sc 1)

Over the last few years, it has not just been 'true love' that hasn't 'run smoothly', but many of the activities that we take for granted.

Therefore, we were delighted to be able to welcome back a live audience to the Summerlee Hall for the 2022 production of Dream On, a modern adaptation of Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Alison Chaplin's version of Shakespeare's play includes the same high-spirited mischief, led by the notorious 'wanderer of the night', Puck.

We see the human world and the fairy world merge in scenes of chaos and misunderstandings, much to the amusement of the fairies. The fairies are also able to relish in the unexpected antics provided by the group of mechanicals, who are attempting to rehearse their own play to perform for Theseus and Hippolyta. However, their acting talents and rehearsal plans leave a lot to be desired, as they also arrive in the forest at night.



Pupils from the First Year through to the Upper Sixth brought this magical world to life. The fantasy woodland landscape of the fairies was beautifully created by the First, Second, Third and Fourth Year, who were part of Puck's gang and enjoyed the misfortunes of the mortals who wandered into their demesne.

These friendship fall-outs and fickle behaviour of the mortals were also mirrored in the world of the fairies, with Oberon and Titania struggling to agree with each other.

The role of Puck was convincingly played by Isabella Durston, who portrayed the sprite's mischievous side brilliantly.

The mechanicals, presented as boiler-suited workers by Fourth Year GCSE drama pupils, created entertainingly comic vignettes,

most notably led by Dotty Hackett's portrayal of Bottom, the egocentric and bullish buffoon.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 hit the lovers and with a last minute cast change, Upper Sixth drama pupil, Lily Hitchen, showed an impressive commitment, learning the lines for Hermia in just three days! The comic exchanges between her and Lysander, Demetrius and Helena, played by Tyler Cowie, Jed Snell and Poppy Taylor, showed that Shakespeare's message of the mixed fortunes of love has never dated.







The pupils' sense of camaraderie was evident in all performances and despite some members of the cast being taken ill, the 'show must go on' mentality shone through!

Finally, the ingenuity of the direction from drama teacher, Miss Leeming, has to be applauded. The enthusiasm and the confidence that the cast displayed comes from a clear overall vision, and it truly was a magical experience.





# Sixth Form Open Evening

It was wonderful to welcome so many current and new families to KGS for our Sixth Form Open Evening in December. Those attending commented that they found the event incredibly helpful and informative in planning the next stage of their educational journey.



# Careers Fair



Our Careers Fair at the beginning of May, the first one to take place since the start of the pandemic, was a huge success. Thank you to all of the exhibitors and to those who delivered presentations. The feedback we received from pupils and parents was excellent with all attendees commenting that they had found the event informative and helpful in preparation for, when the time comes, making those all-important choices.





# Life Skills Day

In mid-June, Kirkham Grammar School's Head of Sixth Form, Mr Taylor, organised a Life Skills Day to help prepare our Lower Sixth pupils for university and adult life.

During the day, the pupils took part in a variety of sessions, delivered by our KGS staff. These included: UCAS forms and personal statements; car maintenance; first aid; cooking, ironing and sewing; budgeting and household maintenance.

This followed a week of exams for our Lower Sixth pupils and it proved to be a very informative and fun experience for them all!





# ACPS – Air Cadet Pilot Scholarship

One of the major opportunities for RAF cadets is the chance to fly and the ACPS is the opportunity to learn to fly solo with a fully funded 12 hours of pilot instruction, with all costs covered too!

Each year, 39 scholarships are given out to cadets who apply from the CCF alone. I was lucky enough to have been selected after my application was shortlisted.

I travelled to Tayside in Dundee on Sunday 27 March 2022.

Monday 28 March 2022 - My first lesson took place the next day following the welcome brief and my first theory lesson. I had an amazing first day and the weather was perfect. I was able to practically apply the principles of flights covered during my First Class Classification to the real thing. Not every day is a flying day – this is dictated by the weather but it does allow for the theoretical side of flight and I had plenty of work to do in preparation for the ACPS Test which I had to pass to be able to fly solo.

Wednesday 30 March 2022 - Today was a fun day which started off with arriving at the airport about 8.30 am. I hung around for a while in the cadet cabin before my instructor came and asked if I was ready to go flying. Of course I was, so off I went to prep the aircraft and he met me out there. We went on the first flight and the weather was great. We came back and had a short debrief before I returned to the cabin. Later on, after lunch, we had a short brief for the next lesson before my instructor came along and we were ready to go flying again. This time the weather was a bit dodgy but it cleared up perfectly by the end for a nice landing. Then, after landing, we refuelled and put away the aircraft before returning to our hotel for the night.

Thursday 31 March 2022 - Another slow day today due to high crosswinds preventing us from flying. I spent the majority of the day continuing with my revision for the ACPS test which I will hopefully be ready to take soon.

Friday 1 April 2022 - Today was an awesome day! Started off as always with the morning walk rounds of all the aircraft and we then headed to our cadet cabin for a while before my instructor came and grabbed me for our first flight of the day. This was stalling which is a fairly simple lesson so we finished after about 30-40 minutes and decided we were going to have a bit of an adventure. A few radio transmissions later and we were headed on the way to RAF Leuchars! We had been cleared for a low approach and go around which meant we could do a slow pass right down the runway and have a good look at the airfield. It was an absolute treat! Then, the afternoon flight was a simple lesson on climbing and descending part 2, followed by my first landing which went very smoothly. A good end to a great day.

Saturday 2 April 2022 - Once again, a great day. Only got one flight in today which was stalling part 2. This involved a recap of the

previous stalling lesson followed by experiencing stalls in different configurations such as landing configurations which can lead to some very interesting and exciting stall characteristics. The worse of which is called a wing drop and this happens when one wing stalls before the other, causing a violent change in direction of the aircraft to such an extent that the aircraft can even flip upside down. This was quite an adrenaline pumping part of the flight, but I loved it! We then finished the flight with another landing performed by myself. Another amazing day overall!

Sunday 3 April 2022 - Another awesome day with lots of flying: 3 whole hours in total. The first flight began with a recap of general handling and then we went on to do my first few circuits, which all went smoothly. The next flight was an hour and a quarter of circuits which went very well and the weather was great. Finally, the last flight was another 45 minutes in the circuit continuing with simple circuit practise but also with some simulated engine failures after take-off (EFATO), which included a pretend mayday call to my instructor, and then a series of checks after pitching down to the best glide speed. All went very smoothly and I am now on a total of 8 hours and 45 minutes flight time out of my allocated 12.

Monday 4 April 2022 - Another very slow day today due to very high winds so no flying. We arrived this morning and did the walk rounds before heading back to our cabin. We did a little bit of final group revision testing each other and then we asked the instructors if we could go and sit our ACPS test. After about 25-30 minutes in the test room I had finished and then we headed back to the cabin while our tests were marked. Another 10 minutes went by and the instructor came into the cabin and announced that I had passed! The remainder of the day was spent sitting in the cabin before returning back to the hotel. Hopefully better weather tomorrow.

Tuesday 5 April 2022 - Once again, rained off. Spent the day hanging about the cadet cabin getting some bits and bobs done around the airfield for our instructors. We were also tasked with tidying up the cabin and taking down some of the things left by previous groups, because we are the last course of the 2021/22 year and the new group that have just arrived are course 1 of the 2022/23 year.

Wednesday 6 April 2022 - Today was amazing. To begin it was my birthday! So I woke up to some nice messages from family and friends and that was great. We had agreed with the instructors yesterday that we would go to the airport early today because the weather was better in the early morning. So after departing the hotel at 7.20 am, I was in the air by 8 continuing my circuits and gathering up the remaining 1 hour and 15 minutes of flight time I needed before I could go solo. During this we practised some more EFATO, glide approaches and some flawless approaches - all went very smoothly. After we landed for our final circuit my instructor





asked me if I wanted a birthday present, I replied, 'Always!' and he then proceeded to ask me if I wanted to go solo. He gave me a small brief after we shut down before hopping out of the aircraft and heading to the control tower. I was now alone in my Aquila and it all became very real. This is what I was here for. I started up and made my first radio call, 'Tayside 1DA ready for departure'.

After this call I continued communicating with the controllers until I had my clearance to take off. The next call to tower was downwind and so far the circuit had gone very smoothly. The Aquila saw a huge performance increase when I was on my own because the overall weight had reduced and this is already a very light aircraft. So the circuit continued on and all was well, I got onto final in the circuit, made my last call of the circuit to tower 'Tayside 1DA final, to land' and continued my approach. Then I reached the runway, flared nicely and touched down. After clearing the runway at taxiway Charlie I performed my after landing checks and requested taxi to the south side of the apron to pick up my instructor, to which tower replied 'Tayside 1DA taxi approved, congratulations on your first solo and happy birthday!'. This was a pretty amazing moment and one I'm sure I will not forget.

After my solo flight I had an hour and a half flight time left until I had completed my flight time for the whole course. So for this my instructor and I did some more circuits, some bad weather ones this time (this is just a lower, closer to the runway type of circuit used in bad weather) and then a bit of a cross country journey before returning back to Dundee. That was my hours complete, I went and did my end of course debrief with my instructor and that

was it. Thank you to everybody that helped me get this far and get a place on this course.

I will never, ever forget it.

Written by Sgt Ben Nicholls



## RAF Hangar Visit

At the beginning of February, Kirkham Grammar School RAF cadets enjoyed a visit to Hangar 42 in Blackpool. Constructed in 1939 for the Air Ministry, and restored to its WW2 operational state, Hangar 42 is now home to the Spitfire Visitor Centre. With lots of artefacts and exhibitions, Hangar 42 enabled the cadets to gain an insight into the realities of wartime, and learn all about local war efforts and operations which ran from Blackpool. Volunteers from the Spitfire Visitor Centre delivered fascinating presentations and the cadets also had the opportunity to sit in the cockpit of one of three replica spitfires.





# CCF Field Day September 2021



On Sunday 19 September, with the amazing help of North West Cadet Training Team (CTT), we held a CCF event to compliment the annual Summer Camp held in June, which some pupils couldn't attend due to Covid restrictions.

The day consisted of revision of some previously taught skills and learning some new ones. They were treated to movement with and without a weapon (lots of crawling around!), Reaction to Fire (what to do when an enemy shoot at you) and Individual Fire and Movement (how to move when under fire). These lessons/revision were taught by the school staff and the Upper Sixth cadets.

Then, it was onto the stands which consisted of TIBUA (how to clear a house of enemy) and Close Quarter Battle (CQB)/Sniper Stalk.

TIBUA is all about speed, teamwork and communication and CQB/Sniper Stalk was all about quick reactions and decision making. On both stands our cadets excelled and showed all the qualities we were looking for in abundance.

The cadets put in a great deal of hard work, learnt new skills and were rewarded with a fantastic final exercise. It was a great opportunity for the cadets to put into reality all the hard-earned skills they have developed at school.

Finally, a huge thank you to our RSM and CSMs for giving up their Sunday so the cadets had a great enemy that made it more realistic, and to North West CTT for their invaluable help and support.



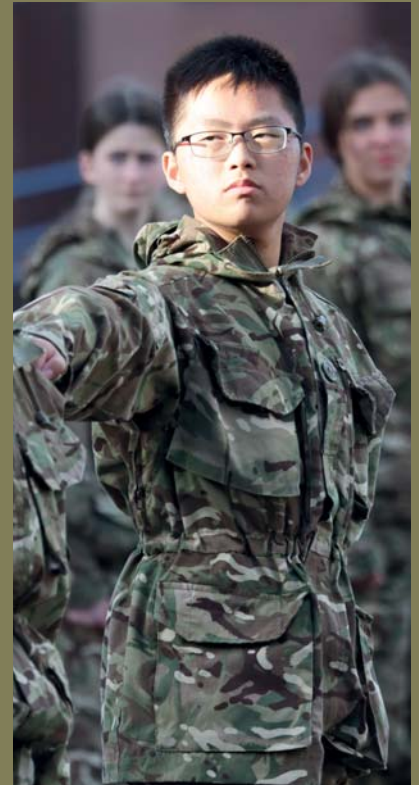


# CCF Passing Out Parade

Our annual Kirkham Grammar School CCF Passing Out Parade took place towards the end of October. It was wonderful to be able to invite parents and family members into school to support the pupils on this special occasion.

The CCF training programme endeavours to teach a cadet the importance of drill, teamwork, leadership, discipline, camaraderie, confidence and respect towards others. The cadets undertake weapon handling and live firing, field craft skills, first aid, adventure training, rock climbing, archery, physical fitness and learn the basics of what an infantry soldier will undertake during training.

On top of that, cadets attend a field day which take place on a regular army training camp, various weekends away attending shooting competitions and attend a full military camp for eight days in summer. At the end of the two years, the cadets will be awarded the Army Proficiency Certificate basic and advanced - a highly respected qualification on the pupil's CV. Kirkham Grammar School currently has 248 cadets.





# Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day services are held around the UK to commemorate and remember those who served the country in two world wars and also in the more recent conflicts.

Kirkham Grammar Senior School pupils and staff held their annual Remembrance Day Service led by our Senior NCOs. During the service, our School Captains, Aaron Thomas and Libby Baxter, read the bidding and a Bible passage taken from the Gospel of St John. KGS' Headmaster, Mr Berry, led prayers before the whole school fell quiet for the two minute silence, followed by 'The Last Post' played by Lower Sixth Form pupil, Poppy. At the end of the service, the platform party moved to the Old Hall to lay wreaths at the First and Second World War memorial plaques.

Our Junior, Infant and Pre-School pupils and staff also gathered together wearing their poppies with pride in the school hall. They welcomed Lower Sixth Form pupil, Poppy, to play the 'Last Post' and J4 pupils, William, Sofia, Tilly, Mia, Katy, Esme, Evie, Torrin, Charles and Kyle, contributed magnificently with their poems and readings.

Both were very poignant services which allowed the whole school community to reflect and remember all those who made the ultimate sacrifice.





# CCF Field Day November 2021



Thursday 18 November 2021 was the first CCF Field Day for over 12 months held at Weeton Barracks Training Area. The Field Day was split into two with the Fourth Year cadets doing a variety of basic military skills stands and the Fifth Year practising some more advanced military skills. Our Sixth Form senior cadets helped the staff to teach the different military subjects.

The Fourth Year stands consisted of Camouflage and Concealment, Rations and Cooking, Patrolling and Hand Signals, Archery, Leadership, How to Move Tactically, Harbours (setting up a base to work from) and Shelters (how to put up somewhere to sleep). The Fourth Year threw themselves into this with energy and enthusiasm and it was great to see those learning new skills and enjoying the day.

The Fifth Year conducted a blank firing exercise with the Cadet Rifle - for most pupils, this was their first experience. They had to combine all the weapon handling, skills and tactics that they had been taught over the last year to achieve the objective, which they did with ease. However, this is no mean feat with each cadet having a great deal to process, together with the added pressure of safety as well as the confusion when the firing and smoke starts. Then they moved onto TIBUA (Training in Built up Areas) which is taking control of a house from the enemy. The cadets learnt some new procedures for how to enter a house and to clear it room by room, maintaining control, communication and teamwork to achieve this.

The day was thoroughly enjoyed by the cadets and they were mostly smiling but tired by the end of it. We have to give praise to the staff and the Sixth Form for their contribution to the day - without them this would not have been as successful as it was.







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# Abigail Johnson

Since being appointed the Lord Lieutenants' Cadet for 2021/22, I have had the opportunity to attend many highly prestigious events. As the Lord Lieutenants' Cadet, I was selected from a large number of nominees to aide and represent the cadet force to the British Royal Family and the Lord Lieutenant in Lancashire.

The first event I attended was the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service held at County Hall in Preston. Assisting Lord Shuttleworth, I was given the duty of helping present the well-deserved awards to all of the winners. The award is given to groups in the voluntary sector, particularly significant given the recent pandemic, and it was amazing to hear from such kind and inspirational people who spend their days supporting the local community.

I was then invited to attend the Commander HQ North West Reception and Beating Retreat at Fulwood Barracks. Lord Shuttleworth introduced me to a large number of honorary guests throughout the evening which gave me the opportunity to discuss career options with high ranking personnel in the armed forces. The Beating Retreat is a military ceremony to symbolise the end of the day's combat by the beating of drums, lowering of the flag and closing of the gates. The military band, who marched flawlessly with precision, were outstanding and incredible to watch.

During the Autumn Term, accompanied by my family and close friends, I was invited to attend the Lord Lieutenants' Awards where I was presented with my Lord Lieutenants' Cadet Award. The night was exceptional with awards being presented to cadets and reserves who have been recognised and deserving of an award. Whilst attending the British Empire Medal Investiture at Lancaster Castle in October, I was greeted by a familiar face, Sophie an Old Kirkhamian and previous cadet RSM. Sophie was attending the event with her grandpa who was receiving the BEM for his Services to Athletics in the Lancashire area. It was lovely to catch up with Sophie and discuss her current studies and future plans. Amongst the award winners, who received an MBE, was Vivien Bickham, an inspirational woman who, throughout the years,

has helped and saved countless victims from domestic abuse, and continues to do so.

In November, I was invited to the North West Festival of Remembrance at Blackburn Cathedral. It was a solemn event honouring those who have given their lives in the service of our country. I was invited to read the Kohima epitaph and standing on top of the lectern, as poppies descended from the ceiling, was incredibly humbling.

On Tuesday 29 March, I represented the North West Cadet Force at a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of The Duke of Edinburgh at Westminster Abbey. As one of only ten army cadets to be chosen from across the country, it was an absolute honour to be invited to such an important event which saw distinguished guests from across the world in attendance. All the cadets arrived the day before for final kit preparations with accommodation provided at the National Cadet Training Centre at Frimley Park. I was nervous to say the least when we were told we would be lining the steps for Her Majesty The Queen. From 9.00 am on the morning of the service, myself, and a combination of DofE, RAF and Sea cadets lined the entrance to Westminster Abbey. We then moved to her Majesty's entrance to await her arrival. Being so close to the Queen is a memory I will treasure for a long time and hopefully, with my future career in the Royal Navy, I will be given the opportunity to attend future events.

My final engagement as the Lord Lieutenants' Cadet was to attend the County Service Celebration for the Platinum Jubilee. Each event I attended throughout the year allowed me to learn something about the outstanding achievements people have made across Lancashire.

Due to my A Level examinations, I was unable to attend some of my final engagements with Lord Shuttleworth. However, as a thank you for my years' service on behalf of Lord Shuttleworth, I was invited to the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in June. This was a wonderful end to an amazing year.

## Abigail Johnson

Kirkham Grammar School Cadet  
RSM & Lord Lieutenants' Cadet





# CCF Summer Camp - Altcar 2022



When you receive a text asking if you have time for a quick call five days before leaving for camp, you get a feeling it is not going to be good news, and sure enough, at 9.00 am that day, our annual camp to Wathgill had been cancelled. Through the brilliance of our SSI, Mr Moffatt, a lot of favours were called in (and possibly him knowing every member of the British Army past and present), a quick movement of dates, and we secured a week with our own NW Cadet Training Team at Altcar.

Three mini bus trips later, on Saturday 25 June, and we were all present and correct for what was going to be a week to remember. Hearing you are on the 24 hour exercise first in the training programme is never one for the faint-hearted; the tiredness for the rest of the week was going to be second to none, but our cadets are on another level, and they were raring to go first thing Sunday morning. With everything packed that was going to be needed to survive in the field for 24 hours, we set out to occupy our harbour area. A day of section attacks saw the Fourth Year being given the opportunity to fire blank ammunition for the first time, with all instructors being impressed with their rifle handling skills. Hilarity ensued as they built their first bashas, with a variety of designs which were going to be 'tested' that night. We received word that we were going to be taking an enemy position the next day and needed to go out and collect intelligence. In a

glorious sunset over Southport, that is exactly what they did: teamwork being the key to that activity. Now, the overnight itself is one that will go down as a KGS CCF legend! There will be talk of the great monsoon of 2022 for years to come, with the risk of Trench Foot and cadets having to paddle-board from one place to another...it really rained! Not one complaint was heard, maybe it was because they didn't know better, however, I suspect it's just the nature of our pupils; their resilience and ability to dig deep is enviable.

When we were asked which teacher wanted to play the enemy for their cadets the following day, I am not totally ashamed to say I was a more than willing volunteer. Loaded up with magazines, I was given the unique position of seeing our cadets putting into practice all that had been taught to them, and my goodness they were slick. The older cadets were leading from the front, ensuring the younger ones were keeping up with their manoeuvres and before I knew it they were on my position. With the cheerful cries of, 'We've got her!', they moved off to take the next sentry position. They were buzzing by the time we got back to camp...and desperate for a sleep in a bed.

Days of activities made up the rest of our week. Archery is always a hit (literally), but the side activities provided much entertainment, as the 'build the highest tower competition' turned into 'how many people could jump rope at the

same time' (for the record they managed three, as Miss Chatwin couldn't control her legs). The serious 'Soccer AM Crossbar Challenge', was only stopped briefly for a quick rendition of the Macarena and Lt Col Taylor coming back to camp with what must have been Tesco's entire Haribo section (the week was entirely powered by Haribo!). The military obstacle course is always going to be a source of entertainment for those participating and watching, and this year was no exception. We had poor April as front woman, meaning she was first over everything, and each time she exclaimed she would not be doing it again... she had to do it again! Isobel came 'up-close-and-personal' with some grass, after a slope got the better of her. The rope swings left some cadets dangling, as they didn't quite get the momentum to make the crossing (although credit to the many that did make it). Then there was the dreaded Wall, at which cadets were directed to scream that they were not afraid. The Gun Run was so much fun! I cannot convey the complexity of this event easily; needless to say everyone had a job, and if one person failed, the whole team would come unstuck. After many slow run-throughs, it was time for the main event: KGS A v KGS B. It was spectacular, they were all over it - it was so fast they were going for a record breaking attempt, however, one team forgot to attach their gun...at which point I think all you have is a 'Run'. The look on their little faces as their gun was brought back and they had to





watch the other team cross the line brought tears to my eyes...I'll let you work out what type of tears they were.

The final two days would find us out on the ranges, where the pupils learnt about the principles of marksmanship, zeroing a rifle and grouping. With some excellent scores, (especially given the first experience shooting for some was only two weeks prior to camp, alongside the limitations imposed by Covid-19 to the senior cadets), they were all ready for the competition. There were several tasks including: firing at targets that were up for only a few seconds, and firing at falling targets. I was given the opportunity to view the computer system that was running the shoot, therefore I knew that they were doing well. However, we

could not predict the result that came in - we had won! A huge achievement, considering it is well known, and accepted, that Sedbergh CCF have always been the powerhouse on the ranges. Our certificate will have pride of place on the wall of our CCF hut.

Our promotions and awards evening is always bittersweet. It was fantastic to celebrate all the cadets who had met the week head on, and not once given in to the difficulty. An absolute testament to them was how difficult the staff found it picking out individuals for the top awards. Those who didn't receive the trophy were still proud to receive their new rank slides (or know they were not far from it). The position of RSM was handed over into the safe hands of Finntan,

who has proven himself worthy to lead our cadets next year. Of course that meant we had outgoing NCOs. To Abigail, Dan, Kirsty and Scarlett, thank you for all your help on camp, you are incredible people! We are so proud of you, everything you stand for, and everything you have achieved and will go on to achieve. You, and the Upper Sixth NCOs have provided us with a steadfast group who could be relied upon to carry the flag of the KGS CCF with pride, and provided us with hours of entertainment. You will be so missed.

Now only 350 days until the next Summer camp...

Lt H Atkinson







## Geography Trip

At the end of November, our Lower Sixth Geography pupils travelled to Beacon Fell and Brock Bottom for their field trip, where they looked at various aspects of biogeography and the water cycle. It was a great day of fieldwork and skills, despite the rainy weather.

Our Fourth and Fifth Year pupils ventured to Cleveleys Beach for their field trips to look at coastal processes and management in order to give them a taste of key geographical fieldwork skills.



## First Year Trip to Clitheroe

After being unable to take the First Year pupils to Clitheroe for the last couple of years, staff from the history and geography department were especially excited to be able to arrange this year's trip. Spread over two days, all four forms enjoyed their trip immensely and loved the chance to learn outside the classroom. Mrs Taylor and Mr Whittle's natural enthusiasm for their subject was clear to see as everyone learnt so much on the Saltils Geology Trail. The morning was spent at this Site of Special Scientific Interest looking at various rock types, thinking about the impact of visitors on the site and, most importantly, hunting for fossils. The fossil hunting was certainly competitive and everyone managed to find plenty of fossils to impress their teachers.

After lunch, it was time to bring history to life as the pupils enjoyed four workshops on medieval cooking, blacksmithing, armour and medieval games at Clitheroe Castle. The staff from the castle dressed up and entertained everyone with both their knowledge and humour. The highlight for most was the session with medieval knight, who never seems to age, educating everyone about a wide range of topics, as well as, most importantly, teaching everyone to sword fight! The day ended with a terrific finale where the knight and blacksmith dressed in full armour for a mock fight before the cannon was fired for the whole of Clitheroe to hear!

Special thanks must go to Lancashire County Museum Service for this great opportunity to learn so much and have such a fun afternoon.





# First Year Biology Tour to London

This year saw the very welcome return of the annual biology tour to London for the First Year pupils. It proved to be a fabulous tour which incorporated a visit to the Natural History Museum and the Science Museum, together with a morning at London Zoo. Coupled with this, the pupils enjoyed a sunbathed cruise down the Thames to Westminster Bridge; a theatre visit to watch The Lion King at the Lyceum Theatre; and what would a visit to London be without a shopping trip to Covent Garden? The pupils had a wonderful time visiting the city and sharing some invaluable, much-missed time integrating with their friends and peers.





# *Boys' Sport*

Rugby 2021-2022

1st XV



2nd XV



U16s







U15s



U14s



U13s



# Lancashire Cup Treble

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## KGS U14 Lancashire Cup Final v Stonyhurst

KGS U14s travelled the short distance to Preston Grasshoppers RFC at the beginning of March to compete in the final of the Lancashire Cup. With talisman and Captain, Milligan, out injured, they knew they would have to pull together against a strong Stonyhurst team.

Kirkham started strongly and dominated possession in the early exchanges with Captain, Edwards, leading from the front and Crompton and Kelso carrying strongly down the middle. After sustained pressure in the Stonyhurst twenty-two, a quick tap penalty enabled Bray to burst through and score. This was soon followed by Kirkham's second score when the Kirkham front row of Stott, Blackburn and Prior put a Stonyhurst scrum in mid-field under pressure; Singleton and Chapman then forced the ball to go loose with Kelso on hand to pick up and beat the cover defence and score, to take a ten point lead.

Stonyhurst responded well, with strong running from their back row and centres giving them good field position. Sumner, who had a terrific first half, was strong over the ball and won the turn over, but an interception and score from the Stonyhurst centre brought them back into the game. Stonyhurst were having a purple patch where Kirkham were

indebted to some outstanding defensive work, with Gildea, Crompton, Kelso and Bray all making crucial tackles. Kirkham came back strongly with a powerful run down the left from Musson, who had excellent support from Sumner, Collinson and Edwards, which released Bray to score his second try just before half time - Bray also converting to give Kirkham a 17-5 half time lead.

The strong Kirkham bench had an instant impact after half time with Shackleton making a big hit. This enabled Simpson to win a turn over which set up the position for Gillett to score, after some

neat foot work, and then taking a couple of defenders over with him. Unfortunately, it was his last part in the game after gaining injury in the process. Another Bray conversion opened up a 24-5 lead, but a resilient Stonyhurst side again came back with a converted try.

Kirkham responded well to the pressure, and after a period of sustained pressure, player of the match, Bray, set off on another rampaging run. Edwards and Musson, also running well, punched holes in the Stonyhurst defence to enable Bray to charge over for his hat trick, which he again converted giving Kirkham the win 31-12.



## KGS U15 Lancashire Cup Final v Stonyhurst

Kirkham Grammar School U15 made it two Lancashire titles on the same day, with a good 31-7 victory over a strong Stonyhurst side. After some early combative exchanges, Kirkham scored first through the powerful Connor Norman, off the back of a scrum to make it 5-0. Not to be outdone, Stonyhurst attacked well with their elusive back line causing some problems, however three magnificent try saving tackles from Taran Mathauda, kept them at bay. Stonyhurst continued to apply some good pressure and eventually took the lead, with their 12 running under the posts and with the conversion to make it 5-7.

From this moment on, playing into the wind, Kirkham decided a more direct approach was needed, with Isaac Burrows, Alfie Guthrie and Jasper Johnson carrying with some real venom, getting them onto the front foot. This resulted in a period of concerted pressure on the Stonyhurst line and some good awareness from Ewan Huck saw him dive in the corner, with Harry Case adding a sublime conversion from the touchline, Kirkham regained the lead (12-7). Just before half time, Kirkham managed to extend their lead with some good phase-play, which saw Ben Firth score, with Case adding the extras again from the touchline to end the half at 19-7.

With the wind now at their back, Kirkham controlled much of the second half, with Firth using his big boot to good effect. That, coupled with some good line-speed, led by Charlie Wiltshire, Oliver

Kollard and Hugo Loggenberg, meant Stonyhurst's threatening attack was being nullified well. Some good, quick-thinking from Harry Ribchester and James Shuttleworth, saw Ewan Huck score his second (26-7) to all but end the game as a contest with 10 minutes to go.

In the dying embers of the match, after dominant scrummaging from Max Carter, Alex Smith and Jensen Stott, a good run from Luke Schmid set up Connor Norman to conclude the scoring in the corner at 31-7 and Kirkham were crowned county champions.

The development of this group has been magnificent and their efforts and improving performances have been a credit to themselves and the KGS family. Well done to all 23 players that represented the school in the final.







### **KGS U16 Lancashire Cup Final v Lancaster RGS**

At the end of March, Kirkham Grammar School U16 rugby team played local rivals Lancaster Royal Grammar school in the Lancashire Cup Final at Fylde RUFC. The two sides had met earlier in the season where Kirkham had won comfortably, however Kirkham knew they must not underestimate their opponents, as Lancaster are a formidable outfit who always perform well in cup ties. The first half did not disappoint. Kirkham were first on the score sheet when second row, Henry Whitton, powered over the line following a catch and drive at the lineout. Twenty minutes later, the next score came when Kirkham managed to break the Lancaster back line due to a well-executed backs play off the scrum and Winger, Xander Kane, dotted the ball down out wide. Just before half time, Lancaster secured a lineout in the Kirkham twenty two, Lancaster then worked through the phases to eventually crash over the Kirkham line from short range. Half time score 10-5 to Kirkham.

Kirkham made a number of changes at half time due to the half game rule. Enter Kirkham's answer to the bomb squad, Seb Kelly and Wills Gut replaced Finlay Shawcross-Clough and Luca Mihell, who had both performed well. Kelly and Gut were reunited with Monty Loggenberg in the back row to complete the formidable trio. Kirkham had a short lineout about forty meters out from the Lancaster try line, it was secured by Henry Whitton, passed by Harry Tomlinson to Kelly who made a big dent into the Lancaster defence. Kirkham maintained the momentum with a succession of carries and it was back rower, Monty Loggenberg, who got over the line for Kirkham's third try. With twenty minutes to go Kirkham made four further changes, Sam Medhurst and Seb Mati were replaced by forwards, Alex Greenhalf and Fin McLachlan, and wingers, Xander Kane and Will Davies, were replaced by Tom Wilkinson and Ben Firth. Kirkham's next try came from a fumble by Lancaster and scrum half, Tomlinson, pounced onto the ball. Kirkham then played fast, loose rugby until Wills Gut found a gap in the Lancaster defence and scored following some impressive footwork. Tom Wilkinson added the conversion.

Kirkham were now firmly in control of the game with Lancaster looking tired. Captain, James Stacey, found his way to the try line with an impressive solo run from first receiver, this was also successfully converted by Wilkinson. Strong carrying from Saif Amr, Fin McLachlan and Jack Chapman made inroads yet again into the Lancaster defence and it was Harry Reay, one of the stand out players of the season, who sealed the victory with Kirkham's sixth and final try. The score line of 34-5 to Kirkham was not a true reflection of the battle that had taken place, Lancaster can be proud of their performance, they played with heart and determination, showing lots of potential.





# U14 Richard J Wilson Trophy Winners

On a glorious spring day in March, it was great to see the U14 Richard J Wilson Trophy on offer again. Due to the pandemic, it was last competed for in 2019, when the current KGS Lower Sixth side retained the trophy.

This year's U14s have had a promising start to their sevens rugby by at KGS, but as yet had been unable to secure any silverware. The return of inspirational Captain, Milligan, less than 4 weeks after dislocating his shoulder, counter-balanced the impact of those away on the school ski trip.

Kirkham powered through their group with Bolton up first. KGS scored 6 tries with the explosive Kelso bagging 4, Milligan and C Sumner 1 each, plus two conversions each from Wilsdon and Milligan for a 38-5 win. Next up was Lancaster RGS, who have proven to be a stubborn opponent in previous games. However, on this occasion, Kirkham were clinical in attack and defence to win 26-5 with Milligan 2, Kelso and Bray scoring tries and 3 conversions from Wilsdon and Milligan. AKS were the next team to play, who made it difficult early on, but Kirkham powered to victory in the second half resulting in 36-17 with scores from Milligan 3, C Sumner, Kelso and Wilsdon plus 3 more conversions. With qualification for the cup semi-finals now secured, Kirkham coasted at times but still managed to despatch West Hill by 32 points to 22 with scores from Milligan 2, J Sumner 2, Kelso and Wilsdon.

Kirkham moved to the first team pitch to play their semi-final against St Mary's Crosby. First half scores from Wilsdon and Kelso, plus a Wilsdon conversion, enabled them to turn round 12 – 5 up. Kelso powered away to score early in the second half, but St Mary's refused to give up pulling one back to make it 19-12 with 2 minutes left. Brilliantly, Kelso again broke free to make it 24-12.

The final against Cheadle Hulme, who beat Lancaster in the other semi-final, proved to be a classic with the lead changing hands several times. First half tries from Milligan and Kelso, and a Wilsdon conversion, gave KGS a 12-5 half time lead, but Cheadle came back strongly with 2 good scores of their own to go ahead 17-12. Not for the first time, Kelso had the final say with 2 excellent scores in the final 3 minutes, to take his tally for the day to 13 and a Milligan conversion for a win: 24-17.

This victory is testament to the hard work the squad has demonstrated this season; their commitment and desire to improve has been outstanding. If they maintain the same work ethic more success will come in the future.

Squad: Milligan ©, Gildea (VC), C Sumner, C Bray, J Wilsdon, J Sumner, A Blackburn, W Kelso, S Collinson, T Carey, O Shackleton and C Taylor-Tomlinson.





# KGS U16 VII at the Rosslyn Park National Sevens

Thursday 24 - Friday 25 March 2022

The Kirkham U16 made the long awaited trip down to South West London to take part in the world famous Rosslyn Park National Sevens. There was much excitement amongst the KGS boys as they had missed their first chance two years ago due to COVID. This would be the sides' fourth and final sevens' tournament of the season, and with a full strength side, the boys were confident they could make it through to the knockout stages.

On day one, Kirkham beat Samuel Whitbread Academy 31-14, drew with Duke of York's Royal Military School 21-21 and beat Churcher's College 26-0. The Duke of York's Royal Military School also won two games and lost one. However, Kirkham had the greater point's difference by 29, so topped their group and qualified for the day one elimination round. In this round, if you lose, you go home and if you win, you qualify for

day two. Kirkham faced Magdalen College School and won comfortably 27-7. Harry Reay was the star of day one for Kirkham, scoring a bucket full of tries. James Stacey, Harry Tomlinson, Oliver Greenwood, Ben Firth and Tom Wilkinson all defended well in the backs. While Seb Kelly, Wills Gut, Monty Loggenberg and Jack Chapman shone in the forwards. At the end of day one Kirkham had to say goodbye to Harry Reay due to a family commitment, which was a huge loss to the side. In addition to this, Gut and Kelly had sustained heavy knocks and were not fit enough to play the following morning.

In the knockout group, Kirkham suffered a tough loss to Harrow School and then Bedford Modern School. Kirkham's effort to qualify for day two had drained a lot of energy out of the boys and they were not quite the same outfit on day two. Luca Mihell, Xander Kane and Jack Austin really stepped up, contributing well to the whole squad effort.

Harrow went on to become champions beating Eton College in the final. The Kirkham players were a credit to their school and they can be proud of their achievement, being the first ever Kirkham U16 side to qualify for day two at the Rosslyn Park Sevens and the last 24 from 144 teams.



## KGS Crowned Sedbergh Super Tens Champions 2022



After narrowly losing the National Schools' U18 Cup Final at Twickenham, Kirkham Grammar School senior rugby players turned their attention to the National Sevens at Rosslyn Park and the National Super Tens at Sedbergh School.

Kirkham reached the quarter-finals of Rosslyn Park so this left them with one last opportunity to win some silverware this season at the National Super Tens. On the first day, Kirkham were matched with some strong rugby schools: first up were Hurstpierpoint College who they overcame, in a controlled way, with hooker Harry Thompson scoring 4 tries as KGS eased to a 36-7 victory. Second up were Felsted School who proved tough opposition but tries from Will Riley, Huw Davies, Niall Povall and Tom Lee gave KGS a 22-5 victory. Last in the group stage were Stamford School, who had also won all their games, but with Kirkham growing in confidence they scored 3 tries in 21-0 victory with Osian Roberts, Niall Povall and Tom Campbell contributing. This victory allowed KGS into the semi-final group stage of the competition with more tough opposition including QEGS Wakefield, Barnard Castle and Ipswich School.

Although KGS started the second day slowly, they eventually got on top of the Wakefield side and were impressive 26-0 winners with Tom Campbell (2), Will Riley and Rhys Fray getting on the score sheet. Fly half, Tom Lee, also contributed with his kicking skills with many conversions, and kicking out of hand, as he drove Kirkham forward with his boot. Next up was Barnard Castle who had pushed KGS to the limit in the semi-final of the National Schools XV Cup; again they proved to be tough opposition with only a try from Osian Roberts giving Kirkham a 7-0 victory. The last game in the group was against Ipswich School. Knowing a win would give them an opportunity to meet Sedbergh School in the final, Kirkham were in no mood to let this chance slip and comprehensively defeated Ipswich 29-5 with tries from Will Riley, Tom Campbell, Joe Medcalf and Tom Lee to set a repeat of the Kirkham v Sedbergh 2019 final.

As the final approached, the touchline started to fill and Sedbergh's support increased, as both teams were met with huge anticipation. Sedbergh started fast and, after a mistake on the KGS line, the host team took a 7-0 lead. However, Kirkham responded immediately with

outstanding forwards, Yande Nkonge and Huw Davies, making huge inroads into the Sedbergh defence, finished off with a try for Niall Povall. Kirkham continued to put pressure on Sedbergh and this time Huw Davies crashed over to give KGS a 12-7 lead. The next score was crucial as half time approached, and it was Sedbergh who gave a penalty away in front of the posts. Tom Lee stepped up calmly to kick the penalty and give KGS a 15-7 lead. Sedbergh seemed shell-shocked and, despite the urging of the crowd, could not overcome the vice-like grip Kirkham had on them. Again, Kirkham made Sedbergh's defence work hard; they conceded more penalties and Tom Lee kicked KGS into the corner. A well-constructed lineout was used and, once again, Huw Davies crashed over as the lead grew to 20-7. Sedbergh still had time but a crucial tackle on the Sedbergh Captain was made by KGS centre, Cameron Scanlon, who had been superb in defence all tournament. As time started to run out, Kirkham piled on the pressure which eventually led to another try for the charismatic Huw Davies to complete his hat trick! This resulted in an outstanding 25-7 victory with KGS winning the tournament for the first time since 2003.







## 1st XV National Cup Under 18s Cup Final at Twickenham

In March, Kirkham Grammar Schools 1st XV travelled to Twickenham to participate in the National Schools' U18 Cup Final, for the first time since 1997, to play Trinity School, Croydon. The atmosphere at Twickenham was electric; both schools had huge support and the teams started nervously. Trinity dominated KGS in the early exchanges which resulted in them eventually taking a 5-0 lead. In typical Kirkham tradition, a response was immediate and the KGS forwards started to use their power. Both second rows, William Riley and Huw Davies, started to dominate the lineout and were forceful in the loose. They made inroads into the Trinity defence, which led to an opportunity for prop, Patreece Bell, to crash over near the posts. Captain, Aaron Pope, converted for KGS to take a 7-5 lead which they kept until the half time break.

The second half started with both teams trying to attack, despite the poor weather conditions. The KGS forwards, again dominated by Harry Thompson and Yande Nkonge, started to influence play with some strong carriers. However, with around 16 minutes to go, a mistake was made by Kirkham, which led to Trinity regaining the

lead 10-5. KGS tried desperately to force the game and, with the weather getting worse, another mistake was made which Trinity capitalised on, increasing their lead to 15-7. Despite this setback, the team dug deep and against the odds started on a comeback of giant proportion. As time started running out, Kirkham forced Trinity to concede a penalty at the breakdown and Captain, Aaron Pope, stepped up to calmly kick a penalty to close the gap to 15-10 with just 6 minutes left on the clock. Kirkham gave everything in these last few minutes and gained momentum with Josh Lynch, Huw Davies and William Riley gaining yards. Suddenly, the KGS crowd realised there was a chance as KGS reached the Trinity 5 metre line with just seconds left. A KGS lineout gave the team their last opportunity for glory. Unfortunately, a mistake was made and the ball bounced into the hands of a Trinity player who kicked the ball off the pitch. Trinity celebrated a famous win as the KGS boys sunk to their knees knowing their chance was over.

It was truly a sterling effort from this talented group of KGS players and an unforgettable experience for all the School.







## 25 Years Ago...

The success of this season's KGS 1st XV in reaching the final of the National Schools Cup came almost 25 years to the day since the last such success by a KGS 1st team.

It was on Saturday 22 March 1997 that a stellar KGS senior squad reached the final of the Daily Mail Cup at Twickenham, and was cheered on by a vast travelling army of pupils, parents and friends of the School. It was a glorious spring day as they went head to head with Colston's School, Bristol, who won, on what remains one of the proudest days in the School's long history. This was very much a highlight of Brian Gornall's time as 1st XV coach and of Barrie Stacey's headship - two true KGS legends who cheered their successors as Alex Trenhaile's 2022 squad followed in their footsteps, hoping to go one better.

All who were at KGS at the time remember that squad with great respect and affection. Captained by Rob Porteous, it was a team bristling with talent and character, with the star name being

Alex Sanderson, now Head Coach of Sale Sharks RUFC. Alex went on to be First Team Captain the following season, as well as School Captain.

In some ways, it feels like only yesterday, but in other ways it seems like a totally different world and a different game. 1997 was just before mass access to the internet shrank our world and brought us all into such constant contact, with our every moment captured on smartphones and shared to social media. There is little trace of that final on the internet, and photos taken at the match were taken on analogue cameras, not hi-res smartphones. However, coverage in traditional print media was in remarkable depth, with those ordinary Fifth and Sixth Form lads briefly elevated to the status of local superstars, getting their 15 minutes of fame.

The image below of coverage from the local press - still published in broadsheet form and delivered to most homes - gives a good impression of the impact of that team.

Rugby Union was still at the dawn of the professional era, and top schoolboy teams like KGS were the nurseries where sporting talent was fostered, most often alongside boys' other career ambitions. Members of that 1997 team are these days engaged in a variety of professions across the country and indeed the world, and many are active and supportive members of the Old Kirkhamian community. Their togetherness as a group was reinforced that summer when they undertook the School's first South Africa tour, paving the way for KGS' links and exchanges with South Africa, which have flourished to this day.

In the true spirit of rugby union, the boys of 1997 were the first to hope that their successors could go one better by bringing the trophy home to KGS as the school prepare to celebrate the centenary of the School's adoption of the rugby code in 1924.





# RUGBY SEVENS EASTER CAMP - APRIL 2022







During the Easter holidays, Kirkham Grammar School hosted a Rugby Sevens Camp for our J4, First, Second and Third Year pupils. The fully residential camp was professionally delivered by the following experienced coaches and rugby players:

**Chris Briars:** Currently Head Coach at Fylde RUFC and previously played for England U18s, England Counties Men, Lancashire Men, Fylde, Sale Sharks, Doncaster, Sedgley Park, Orrell and Rotherham.

**Connor Wilkinson:** Currently playing for Fylde First XV and previously played for England Counties 20s, Lancashire First XV, Sale Jets, Red Panda Sevens & England University Sevens.

In addition to the technical sessions, Strength and Conditioning sessions were led by Old Kirkhamian, Cammy Thompson, former KGS 1st XV Captain and Scotland U16 player, current player for Lancashire U20s, Fylde RUFC and Newcastle University.

Thank you to Old Kirkhamian and silver medallist with GB Sevens at Rio 2016 Olympics, Dan Bibby, for taking the time to come along to the camp on the final day to deliver a session with each group and give the attendees a chance for a photograph opportunity with Dan and his silver medal.

The camp concluded with a tournament and presentation in The Old Hall and it was wonderful to see parents, friends and family at KGS supporting the pupils.

A huge thank you to our coaches who delivered outstanding sessions throughout the camp; our catering staff for their delicious meals and regular supply of snacks and fluids; and Mrs Morton, Mr Lyon and Mr Trenhaile for looking after the pupils all week in the Boarding House.

Despite the wet and windy weather, a fantastic action-packed week was had by all. Well done to all of our camp attendees for a fantastic week of rugby and congratulations to our prizewinners.





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## LTA National Finals at Bolton Arena

As the traditional tennis season closed in September, the Kirkham Grammar School girls continued their pursuit to the regional tennis finals held in Sunderland during October half term. Success in Sunderland secured them a place at the LTA National Finals at Bolton Arena where they competed against the top schools in the country for a national ranking and title.

The Saturday started with Culford School for Girls. The occasion was huge and required nerves of steel as the singles matches opened the tournament. Hannah Culshaw was first up and whilst she played amazingly well, the Culford player had the upper hand throughout defeating Hannah 0:6.

Next up was Mia Tinsley. From the start Mia worked incredibly hard around the court winning various points and taking most matches to deuce. Unfortunately, Mia narrowly lost the set but had certainly got any nerves out of her system.

Freya Peet was next on court demonstrating some top class tennis for all to see. Freya's performance secured the first victory of the day with a 6:4 win.

Yandy Shek was the final singles game of the morning and it was crucial that she secured a win if KGS were to have any sniff of victory overall. An amazing performance secured a 6:2 win, which left the score at 2:2 going into the doubles.

Matilda Loggenberg and Mia Tinsley were up first and secured a convincing victory as did second pair, Peet and Shek, resulting in an overall win for KGS.

The afternoon matches were against Prior Park College. Once again, the singles matches were close and down to the wire in terms of scores overall. Again, the singles finished at 2:2.

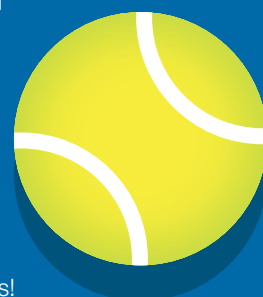
Matilda Loggenberg and Tinsley were up first. Some amazing tennis and killer shots from both players resulted in a terrific victory leaving the final doubles match of the day to Peet and Shek. Another great match and victory for the pair led to a tie break shoot out as both teams were level on points. Shek paired with Tinsley to 'shoot out' in a doubles in what turned out to be a very close game. Unfortunately, KGS lost out resulting in a Prior Park victory overall.

At the start of day two, KGS were top of the leader-board on games with all to play for against Repton School.

The day started well with a very positive performance from Culshaw in the singles, racking up three games but unfortunately losing out 3:6 to a top opponent. Tinsley was up next and although she went 1:3, she kept her cool and clawed back the games to take a 6:3 victory. Freya Peet saw off her opponent quickly with a 6:0 win followed by Shek in a highly competitive game winning 6:2.

In the final doubles matches of the day, Loggenberg and Tinsley were magnificent, seeing off their opponents very quickly in a 6:0 win. The final match of the day saw Peet and Shek take on the Repton top two. Although Repton won three games the KGS girls came through with a 6:3 win.

An amazing weekend saw Kirkham Grammar School crowned as the 2021 LTA National Champions – a phenomenal achievement and a first for KGS Tennis!





# U18s Aberdare Cup

On Tuesday 3 May, the KGS U18 Tennis Squad travelled to Stonyhurst College to play in the third round of the Aberdare National Cup.

The competition consists of a team of four players who play two set singles and doubles matches.

Yandy Shek and Freya Peet were up first in the singles matches with doubles pairing, Mia Tinsley and Matilda Loggenberg, on court alongside them. Shek had a great start, winning her serve and breaking the Stonyhurst first counters serve. Shek took the first set but narrowly lost the second set taking the match to a 10 point tie break. Shek finished 10-6 up taking the victory.

Freya's singles didn't go exactly to plan, and although the match was close, Peet was narrowly defeated as counter two.

Tinsley and Loggenberg didn't give Stonyhurst any time and ploughed through both sets to take a convincing doubles victory.

At the turn over, Tinsley's singles went swimmingly, with her taking two straight sets to secure the victory. Loggenberg followed suit to take a straight two set victory resulting in KGS winning the match 4-1 before Shek and Peet took to the court for their doubles matches. Due to time, the girls played a one set match to finish the day.

The KGS tennis team hosted Alderley Edge School for Girls' in the semi-final on Tuesday 10 May. The girls took to the courts at Broughton Tennis Club starting with four lots of singles matches.

Peet and Tinsley finished their two set matches first taking both sets in succession. Loggenberg finished just after with 6-1, 6-0 victory with Shek bringing in the final singles result with a 6-2, 6-0 victory.

Onto the doubles rubbers, and it wasn't long before KGS took total control of both matches. Shek and Peet finished up with a 6-1 victory with Tinsley and Loggenberg following suit at 6-1 also.

A great victory which led the team into the final of the North competition.

On Tuesday 17 May, the U18 tennis squad progressed to the Aberdare Cup National Final after successful two set singles and doubles matches against South Hunsley School, Hull.

The girls approached the north final with composure and focus starting with four singles matches. Peet completed her singles first 6-0, 6-0 shortly followed by Tinsley who also finished in style 6-0, 6-0.

Culshaw finished next, but unfortunately after two straight sets narrowly lost her match.

Shek was last to compete with a 6-3, 6-1 victory to put the team into an excellent position as they moved onto their doubles games.

Both pairs didn't take long to see off their opponents with convincing victories securing a place in the Aberdare Cup National Finals held at Nottingham Tennis Centre in July.

At the National Finals, played over four days, the girls faced Queenswood School Girls A, Dean Close School, Prestwick Academy Girls and Wycombe Abbey School Girls A. Despite a noticeable age gap and facing tough opposition, Mia, Tilly, Hannah and Megan battled hard and never gave up. The event was an excellent experience for them all and the KGS girls tennis team should look forward to competing in this competition for many years to come.

Congratulations on an amazing achievement... a very positive start to the 2022/23 tennis season!





# *Girls' Sport*

Hockey 2021-2022

1st XI



2nd XI



U15s







U14s



U13s



U12s



# Senior School & Sixth Form Sports Day 2022



The Kirkham Grammar School 2022 Sports Day started with some nail-biting preliminary events including high jump, javelin, discus and 1500m. It was always going to be a close competition with Preston House keen to retain the trophy.

Throughout the day, personal bests were smashed and records broken. We saw our First Year pupils take to the track and perform for the first time, whilst we also celebrated our current Upper Sixth pupils competing for the last time in their school career.

It was a great team effort in the afternoon as the full track event began and the whole school, and parents, eagerly spectated. In the sprint events all houses totted up valuable points which were crucial in their final scores. During the middle distance events, competition was tough and whilst weather conditions were good, the level of competition on display definitely took its toll on the athletes.

In the penultimate event of the day, the 4 x 100m relay, there was everything to play for. With valuable points at stake it, was crucial that the baton was carried safely around the track.

The scores were in...

4th place – Kirkham House with 603 points

3rd place – Fylde House with 611 points

2nd place – School House with 663.5 points

In first place was Preston House with 694.5 points meaning that Preston keep the Sports Day Trophy for the 2022/23 school year.

Well done!



# Dan Bibby Appointment

Kirkham Grammar School are delighted to announce, former England and Great Britain Rugby Sevens player and 2016 Olympic silver medallist, Dan Bibby, has joined the KGS staff as a conditioning coach across both boys' and girls' sport.

Dan, who was part of the KGS 1st XV and 1st Seven from 2007-2009, enjoyed a very successful youth career and continued to flourish after leaving Kirkham Grammar School.

His achievements include:

- Finalist at Rosslyn Park National Sevens in 2009
- North of England U18s and Lancashire U18s
- 1st XV and 1st Sevens at Fylde RUFC
- Cardiff Met University 1st XV 2009-2012
- England and GB Sevens 2012-2021

As you can see from his achievements, Dan returns to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience and the School are very much looking forward to seeing him contribute to KGS sports' continued success.



## Track and Field Cup Athletics Regional NW Final



On Monday 13 June, our junior and intermediate boys and girls athletics squads travelled to Trafford Park to compete in the regional final of the National Schools Track and Field Cup. Throughout the day all athletes competed in both a track and field event gaining points for each respective team.

The junior boys had qualified as best runners-up in the first round. Knowing the NW final was going to be a tough competition, their target was to try and improve on their points total from round one, which they achieved by beating their score by 21 points.

The intermediate boys were winners in the round one competition, so they knew they would be amongst the top teams in the final. They finished a respectable fourth, scoring 406 points. Interestingly, their amount of points would have made them champions in many of the other regions around the county, thus showing the quality of the competition in the North West.

The intermediate boys, consisting of eight Fourth Year and six Third Year boys, really rose to the challenge. Cieran Milligan was first in the 800m; Max Musson ran a personal best in his hurdles heat; Harry Case won the high jump with a new personal best; and Charlie Bray scored highly in the discus. Notable performances from the junior team came from Ryan Shaw in the 100m, Theo Wren in the hurdles and Oliver Yates in both the javelin and 800m.

In the junior girls, Emilia Simpson and Aglae Ranc got the day off to a great start with their hurdles events. In the 200m, Abbie Ely scored huge points, as did the 800m runners. In the field, Chloe Murro scored well in the javelin, whilst Ophelia Loggenberg also performed well in the discus event.



# Fylde Coast Athletics Championships

## Girls

The U13, U14, U15 and U17 girls took part in the Fylde Coast Athletics Championships at Stanley Park on Tuesday 14 June.

The girls worked hard throughout the day in all of their track and field events. Great results were achieved with lots of personal bests achieved throughout the day. The determination and commitment from each pupil was amazing, working for each other within each of their events.

In the U13 age group, following an excellent day of athletics, Captains, Abbie Ely and Emilia Simpson, lifted the shield and were crowned champions. After a very tight competition, the U14 squad finished as runners-up of the event. In the U15 age group, Natalie Smith lifted the trophy as they were crowned joint champions. And in the U17 age group, Captains, Georgia Nicholls and Keira Tomes, won their respective event to take three out of the four age groups.

A very enjoyable event to complete a very successful athletics season for Kirkham Grammar School.





# Boys

On Thursday 30 June, our U12, U13, U14 and U15 boys took part in the annual Fylde Coast Athletics Championships at Stanley Park Sports Arena, Blackpool.

The results were as follows: U12s runners-up, U13s champions, U14s runners-up and U15s third place. Overall the combined Kirkham Grammar School team were runners-up on the day.

The U12s performed well on the track, with Freddie Wiltshire winning the hurdles, and Harry Wilsdon finishing runner-up in a tight 800m race. The U13s were outstanding, claiming numerous wins on the track: Theo Wren in the hurdles; Ryan Shaw in the 100m; Ethan Stafford in the 200m; Harjagat Virdee in the 300m; and Oliver Yates in the 800m. Ethan Davies also won the discus. Kirkham U13s relay team also won the 4x100m. The U14s had three standout athletes: Max Musson won the hurdles; Cieran Milligan won the 800m; and Stan Collinson won the 1500m. The U15s, although somewhat depleted due to the CCF camp and DofE, performed well. Connor Norman won the 100m and Oliver Bamford won the hurdles.







## SUMMER HOCKEY CAMP August 2022

Kirkham Grammar School were delighted to welcome back Team GB bronze medallist, Susannah Townsend, to host their annual Summer Hockey Camp for a third time. English international field hockey player, Sophie Bray, who played as a forward for England and Great Britain, also joined this year's camp coaching team, alongside Strength and Conditioning Coach, Charlotte Benson.

Susannah competed for England in the women's hockey tournament at the 2014 Commonwealth Games where she won a silver medal; for GB at the Rio 2016 Olympics winning gold; and her most recent achievement, winning a bronze medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. At the age of 32, after achieving an outstanding 188 international caps for GB and England, Susannah decided to retire.

Sophie Bray also competed for England in the women's hockey tournament at the 2014 Commonwealth Games where she won a silver medal, and was a member of the Investec sponsored winning team at the EuroHockey Championships in 2015. In 2016, along with Susannah, Sophie competed for Team GB in the women's Olympic field hockey tournament at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio where Team GB won gold in the final against the Netherlands after a penalty shoot-out.

Sophie was appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2017 New Year Honours for services to hockey. She had also played for Surbiton, University of Birmingham, The Netherlands for MOP Hockey Club, Vught, near Eindhoven, and most recently Kampong. On 4 February 2019, Bray announced her retirement from international hockey. During her international career she scored 44 goals and made 134 appearances for England and Great Britain.

Charlotte Benson has worked with athletes from a wide range of high-performance sports teams including GB Hockey, GB Rowing, Harlequins Rugby and Surrey Storm Netball. Coming from an elite sporting background in football herself, she is aware of athletes' needs and expectations through the pathway into elite sport. She looks to implement this into her physical preparation strategy when coaching everyday female athletes.

During the week, in addition to the hockey technical sessions, Susannah, Sophie and Charlotte shared and inspired the girls with their hockey and sporting journeys. They learnt about the importance of nutrition and thoroughly enjoyed Charlotte's strength and conditioning sessions, which are crucial in preventing injury.







The final day saw a tournament take place which gave the girls the opportunity to put into practice everything they had learnt over the four days.

After the tournament, a prizegiving presentation took place, in the presence of parents and family members, with Susannah and Charlotte presenting a selection of awards.

This year's award winners were as follows:

**J4 Most Improved Player - Eve Thompson**

**J4 Player of the Camp - Katy Townsend**

**First Year Most Improved Player - Abbie Ely**

**First Year Player of the Camp - Hollie Bailey**

**Second Year Most Improved Player - Xara Lewis**

**Second Year Player of the Camp - Megan Smedley**

**Third Year Most Improved Player - Lola Cooper**

**Third Year Player of the Camp - Abbie Southern**

**Fourth Year Most Improved Player - Martha Millar**

**Fifth Year Player of the Camp - Frankie Margerison & Keira Tomes**

**Sophie Bray's Player of the Camp - Emily Greenwood**

**Charlotte Benson's Player of the Camp - Tilly Musson**

**Susannah Townsend's Player of the Camp - Natalie Smith**

**The Coaches' Player of the Camp for attitude, teamwork, commitment, respect and effort - Ophelia Loggenberg**

Congratulations to the winners and well done to all of the girls who fully embraced the opportunity to learn from coaches with a wealth of experience.



# Charity at KGS

## Harvest Appeal

In September, our Junior and Infant pupils learnt about Harvest and thought about those less fortunate than themselves. During their Harvest Assembly, the first whole school assembly since the March 2020 lockdown, the pupils gathered to reflect and give thanks. They discussed how they can all work together as a community to make a positive difference to the lives of others. This year's collection for The Trussell Trust, who support Fylde Foodbank, kindly donated by our Junior, Infant and Pre-School families, was amazing!

Thank you to all of our families for your support.



## Macmillan Coffee Morning

Our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning took place in September at the Junior, Infant & Pre-School with those attending, to support and raise money for this very worthwhile cause, enjoying a cup of tea and a muffin or two!



## Rotary Good Citizenship Awards

At the end of September, we were delighted to welcome Kirkham and Rural Fylde Rotary Club President, Mr Richard G Bell, to KGS to present our Lower School and Upper School prizewinners with their Rotary Good Citizenship Awards.

Lydia Sanderson was awarded the Upper School Good Citizenship Award for demonstrating good citizenship by fundraising for the homeless, whilst the Lower School Rotary Good Citizenship Award was awarded to Darcey Borrow for all her help with the many charity events undertaken at school.



## Children In Need 2021

Our Junior, Infant and Pre-School pupils enjoyed fundraising for the BBC Children in Need Appeal at the end of November. Activities included a non-uniform day, themed assemblies, Pudsey Bear decorations around school made by I2, Pudsey biscuits at lunch time and Pudsey polka dot party hats during lunch. A fantastic £757 was raised for this very worthwhile cause. Thank you to our wonderful KGS families for your support.

Over at the Senior School, our 12 pupils raised £201 for Children in Need after putting together a chocolate hamper and selling squares at break and lunchtime. Freddie Wiltshire was the lucky winner of the hamper.



## Christmas Charity Appeal

Kirkham Grammar School received thank you letters from all of the charities we supported at Christmas.

An incredible £1000 was raised for Save the Children, £250 and donations of toiletries and food were raised for both Fylde Foodbank and Streetlife.

A fabulous collection of gifts was also donated to Mission Christmas.

We also supported a five year old local girl called Isabelle who has a rare and aggressive form of Childhood Cancer, and needs to travel to America for what could be lifesaving treatment, currently not available in the UK.

Heartfelt thanks to all our Kirkham Grammar School families for such tremendous support for these very worthy causes.







## NSPCC Number Day 2022

What a wonderful day Kirkham Grammar School pupils had for their NSPCC Number Day at the beginning of February! The pupils learnt so much about working with numbers through all the exciting activities that took place within their classrooms. There was a truly amazing atmosphere in school!

A fantastic £645 was raised for this amazing and very worthwhile charity. Thank you to everyone who kindly donated.



## Walk All Over Cancer

Kirkham Grammar School Senior School and Sixth Form pupils took part in the 'Walk All Over Cancer' campaign throughout the month of March, to walk 10,000 steps a day.

Based on the average person's stride, 10,000 steps is equal to 5 miles (or 8 km) or an hour and 40 minutes walking, depending on your stride length and walking speed.

A special mention must go to Upper Sixth Form pupil, Molly, who raised over £400 from friends and family donations and walked over 450,000 steps during the month of March - an average of 14,500 steps a day!

Well done and thank you to everyone who took part.



## Operation Isobel

As we watched the war upon the Ukraine unfold, we strongly felt that as a school and a community we needed to do something to support the people directly.

After much consideration, we decided to provide our support and deliver aid directly to Ukrainian refugees at the Ukrainian border. Each form was asked to gather one large travel bag of appropriate supplies together with a letter of support.

During the Easter holidays, a group of three staff, Mr Berry, Mr Thomson and Mr Duncan, together with former pupil, Harvey Berry, set off in a school minibus to deliver the supplies. A mission we named 'Operation Isobel', after the historical philanthropist, Isobel Birley, whose charitable work for the school is an inspiration for all to follow. We hoped that by taking the supplies directly to the Ukrainian border, this would ensure that the refugees received vital support when they most needed it.

Our Third and Fourth Year pupils also made ribbon pin badges to raise money for the Fylde Aid for Ukraine Charity.

Thank you to you all for your support, it was very much appreciated by those in need.



## Thumbs Up For Charlie

Towards the end of May, Kirkham Grammar School supported the 'Thumbs Up for Charlie' LEJOG 940 mile bike ride in memory of Charlie Robinson, who was just 5 years of age when he passed away after heroically battling an Ependymoma brain tumour for three years. Donating the use of one of the school minibuses, for the journey from Garstang to John O'Groats, was of great support to the 13 cyclists from Garstang Rugby Club who were taking on the mammoth challenge.

The funds raised were donated to the 'Thumbs Up for Charlie' Foundation to help provide respite breaks for families whose children have been diagnosed with a brain tumour or families bereaved because of a childhood brain tumour. Some of the money raised will also be used to contribute towards future research, specifically around paediatric Ependymoma brain tumours.





## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD



### IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE, UNTIL IT IS DONE!

This year, so many of our pupils have demonstrated that their dedication and perseverance can get things done. The DofE App has made uploading evidence for each of the sections far more convenient and it is delightful to see the range and quality of activities our pupils undertake for their volunteering, physical and skill sections. The number of completed awards this year is very impressive and we send congratulations to those receiving their certificates and badges.

Over 270 of our pupils have ventured out on an expedition this academic year. Running two gold expeditions, four bronze expeditions and a silver expedition this academic year has been challenging at times, but the efforts of everyone involved has made everything worthwhile. We are delighted to report that we have beaten the backlog created by Covid lockdowns!

A huge amount of thanks needs to be passed to our dedicated KGS staff who support the running of the expeditions; Mrs Sutcliffe, Mr Gardner, Mr Possamai, Mrs Latham, Miss Reddy, Mr Robinson, Miss Russell, Miss Newton, Miss Hodgson, Mrs Batty, Miss Leeming, Miss Chiekrie, Mr Percy, Mr Atkinson and Mr Hancock have all ventured out to help deliver the expedition experience for our pupils this year.

This summer, saw the return of the Gold Award Presentations and we were delighted to see photographs of our former pupils attending their presentations at Buckingham Palace and Holyrood Palace. Congratulations to Oliver, Caitlin, Daniella, Ran, James, Archie, Ellie and Georgina.





## GOLD

Libby	Baxter
Theo	Bishop
Laura	Brookfield
Joseph	Cooke
Brioni	Crowe
John	Ellis
Thomas	Gut
Annabel	Hiller
Abigail	Johnson
Matthew	Lewthwaite
Fen	McLean
Thomas	Peet
Thomas	Pickervance
Lydia	Sanderson
Emma	Scott
Ria	Sharma
Harry	Snape
Amy	Wildish
Khirstine	Williams

### Gold Certificates of Achievement

Thomas	Gut
Harry	Livsey
Thomas	Peet
Harry	Snape
Anyia	Woodcock

## SILVER

Miriam	Al-Idari
Talia	Armstead
George	Edwards
Hannah	Leaker
Danielle	Merrick
Ben	Nicholls
Zara	Prosser
Charlie	Read
Josh	Stirrup
James	Sutcliffe
Harvey	Thompson
Ethan	Woodcock

### Silver Certificates of Achievement

Miriam	Al-Idari
Talia	Armstead
Haarith	Bapu
Danielle	Merrick
Zara	Prosser
Josh	Stirrup
April	Wright

## BRONZE

Elizabeth	Addison
Jacob	Adjetey-Hilton
Saif	Amr
Alexa	Anderson
Jack	Austin
Maisie	Bailey
Hailey	Ballantyne
Oliver	Bamford
Haarith	Bapu
Harvey	Barber
Georgia	Barson
Holly	Barton
Callum	Benson
Eva	Berry
Sophie	Birchall-Farr
Tilly	Bray
Nandakishore	Brijesh
Luca	Bruder
Lily	Buckley
Isla	Burke-Bull
Jack	Chapman
Charlotte	Coburn
Rory	Conlon
Kate	Cookson
Sarah	Cooper
Olivia	Coupe
Hannah	Culshaw
Alyssa	Davies
Mia	Davis
Sadie	Drury
Thomas	Drury
Rebecca	Fisher
Miles	Freshney
Sam	Gornall
Jack	Gorton
Alex	Greenhalf
Oliver	Greenwood
Wills	Gut
Alanah	Halsall
Lily	Harrison
Jenna	Harwood
Callum	Hill
Gabby	Holland
Esme	Hollows
Millie	Homan
Joshua	Horton
Ewan	Huck
Will	Hudson
Seb	Kelly
Grace	Lin
Grace	Livesey
Monty	Loggenberg
Alexia	Macham
Emily	Marsh
Sebastian	Mati
Finlay	McLachlan
Sam	Medhurst
Luca	Mihell
Martha	Millar
Ariana	Milligan
Chloe	Mustow
Eva	Nixon
Olivia	Noblett
Jonathon	Palmer
Emma	Parker
Kitty	Parkinson
Charlotte	Procter
Isobel	Procter
Louisa	Procter
Rebecca	Procter
Rosie	Prosser
Noelie	Ranc
Hamza	Rauf
Harry	Reay
Harry	Ribchester
Megan	Rollinson
Jasmine	Schofield
Abhilasha	Sharma
Finley	Shawcross-Clough
James	Shuttleworth
Prisha	Sivakumar
Ciaran	Smith
Harry	Smith
James	Stacey
Keira	Tomes
Freddie	Tomlinson
Grace	Tomlinson
Harry	Tomlinson
Henry	Whitton
Lucy	Wildish
Mason	Wilkins
Thomas	Wilkinson
Lily	Wilson
Charles	Wiltshire
Erin	Worth
April	Wright





# The Old Kirkhamians' Association



## Where are they now?

### A catch-up with KGS legend, Brian Gornall

The next in my series of catch-ups with retired KGS staff features former Head of PE and 1st XV Coach, Brian Gornall.

Just like the subject of my first interview - John Catterall - Brian is another legend who needs neither a surname nor a first name. The administrative initials are all it needs. BG not only works as two letters, but even became a word used by generations of colleagues and pupils at KGS: Beeg.

Unlike with JC, whose interview had to be done remotely during the Pandemic, I had the pleasure of meeting BG for lunch to chew the fat over his days at KGS and share memories of people and incidents from the many years that he and I were colleagues. We met at Dizzy Ducks Bistro, just round the corner from his Wrea Green home, where he is clearly a much-loved local celebrity. Recognised and greeted by staff and customers alike, BG was looking cool and relaxed, entirely recognisable from his tracksuited days as the driving force behind KGS sport. His answers were characteristically thorough and thoughtful, reflecting a man who is about so much more than the game which remains his passion.

### What were your years and roles (as a teacher) at KGS?

I joined in 1969 as the first assistant PE master at KGS, after my first teaching job in London. The School's traditional excellence in rugby, with Lancashire County players often emerging from the ranks, was a big draw for me. Yet my first position of responsibility was being put in charge of...changing room pegs. Yes, a fully qualified rugby union coach was tasked with ensuring that every boy had an allocated peg in the changing rooms!

Greater things were to follow: I became Head of PE in 1979 and held that post until 1997, alongside classroom teaching of physics, then I stepped aside from a teaching role to spend 10 years as First Fifteen Coach. I was also in charge of athletics throughout my time as Head of PE. I was also Chairman of the Inter-Grammar School Sports Association, later the Senior School Sports Association.

### What have you done since retiring?

I spent some distressing years nursing my wife through severe illness soon after my retirement - she died in 2010. Unbearably

tough days and painful memories. Since then, I have immersed myself in assisting with coaching of Fylde RUFC 1st XV, travel, keeping fit at the gym, walking and gardening. With a new love in my life, life is good again after some dark years.

### What do you do with your spare time in retirement?

I have undertaken a major reconstruction of the house that I bought with my fiancée, and have enjoyed watching Old Kirkhamians flourish as players and coaches of rugby, following their careers with pride. I enjoy keeping up and meeting with Old Kirkhamians and count many as personal friends. To see the values developed on the sports field being applied in lives beyond school and beyond sport is a source of great joy.

### What does KGS mean to you?

KGS has an indefinable atmosphere and spirit, known and loved by all who have attended or been taught there. I would love to know when this dates from, in a school so old.

### What are your favourite memories of KGS?

I always found the company of my pupils to be invigorating and refreshing. Whatever irritations arose with administration and bureaucracy, the minute I was out on the sports field I felt a sense of enjoyment and fulfilment. I also took great pride in my physics teaching, which I took every bit as seriously as PE teaching, setting my academic standards against those of the Head of Department.

My sense of fulfilment and satisfaction came from helping young people to lead healthy and active lives, and to enjoy being physically active.

Highlights of my rugby coaching career were winning the All-England Festival at Hoppers in 1985 - the School's first major team honour in rugby, won by a great side led by a player of outstanding talent - Mark Preston. Coaching the First XV to the National Final at Twickenham in 1997 was another highlight.

The pioneering World Tour in 1987 with a squad full of great character and talent was a significant and memorable achievement, showing for the first time the School's ambition to be a big player on the national and international stage, despite the scepticism of others, both in school and beyond.

In athletics, with great support from Paul Smith, we developed highly successful school teams at all ages, and many championships were won over those years.

A favourite memory from athletics is of stopping 1st XV training to watch KGS pupil, Peter Beaven, win the European Under 19 400 metres Championship in Paris in 1970, from the outside lane. Peter was a superstar athlete, who trained outside of school but always ran for KGS in championships; a great memory for me is of Fred Sayer's starting gun failing several times when Peter was on his marks at Sports Day, a source of great embarrassment to Fred, who bought a new pistol as a result, having had to watch a European Champion return to his marks several times.

At an individual level, I was lucky to work with some outstandingly talented rugby players, but I have to single out the late Bruce Craven, an all-round athlete of great character, who went from a school javelin thrower to Great Britain U19 in one term. His dedication and commitment was unparalleled, and he was the nicest guy you could ever hope to meet.



### **What achievement are you most proud of from your time at KGS?**

I was able to reverse a long term decline of sport at KGS and establish it as a subject of value at the School. I achieved this before the advent of adequate funding, with no administrative support - not even an office or telephone with which to run the Department. Over time, this issue was addressed but it was a real issue in the early days.

### **Whom did you particularly admire on the staff from your time?**

I was supported by some wonderfully dedicated sports coaches from the teaching staff, notably Paul Smith, Steve Turner, and Richard Browning. Richard, in particular, embodies all the traditional values of school sport, imparting values which extend way beyond the sports field. I also admired and respected my predecessor, Sidney Crane, and I still possess the distinctive hat that he passed on to me when he retired.

My successor as 1st XV Coach and Head of Rugby, Aled Trenhaile, with whom I worked for many years, has been hugely influential in establishing the excellence and reputation for sport that KGS now enjoys. It is easily forgotten that he is not a PE teacher (RS is his specialist subject and he ran that Department for many years, as well as later taking on the onerous post of Boarding Housemaster), but Aled has proved the value of laying foundations for success with younger teams thanks to the stimulating coaching methods which he has employed and encouraged. His contribution to KGS sport over a period of more than 30 years has been immense.

Beyond sporting colleagues, I would mention Bernard Coates

(history), Harry Reay (French, Deputy Head), Kath Bagley (maths), Paul Stockdale (biology, Deputy Head) and Dave Walls (history and politics). And I cherish very fond memories of the late Anita Devine, with whom I shared a form as tutor. We were poles apart in so many ways, yet clicked as a team and enjoyed a great relationship with our form.

All these were wise, honest, professional, hardworking, possessed of integrity and kindness - the qualities of a true teacher.

Of the Headmasters I worked for, Barrie Stacey stands out: absolutely the right man in the right place at the right time, who lifted the School to another level thanks to his positivity, enthusiasm and vision for the School.

### **What do you not miss about teaching?**

Lengthy staff meetings and assemblies; mountains of secretarial work.

### **Any regrets/disappointments?**

Losing at Twickenham in 1997 and in the Quarter-Final the following year. We could have won it in both years. Some selection decisions still play on my mind!

In conclusion, BG's thoughts on a life in teaching: "a wonderful profession if you enjoy company, helping young people and giving 100%." Nobody at KGS would doubt that Beeg ticks every box there, and many more besides.

Adrian Long

## **From Cadet Force to Armed Forces**

The school has had a strong association with the Armed Forces for many years and much of this is thanks to the Combined Cadet Force which was set up in the 1960s. On the Facebook group I asked if anyone had any stories of how KGS CCF inspired them to 'sign up' later in life or if they had carried on emulating their childhood heroes in similar roles as teacher/officer. To begin, here are a couple from two girls who followed the latter:

### **Louise Wareing (nee Green) (1986 - 1993)**

I left the CCF in 1993 as a Sergeant. I loved the CCF and have great memories of treks across Darwen Moor and camps at Cultybraggan and Catterick. I wasn't brave enough to join the real Army but the leadership skills I learnt in the CCF certainly helped in my teaching career. In 2019, after joining LRGS, I took the plunge and volunteered to help out with their CCF. I soon found myself on Basic training at Frimley and am enjoying every minute of being an Officer in the CCF here, it was obviously lurking in me all those years!

### **Katherine McDiarmid (1979 - 1984)**

When given the choice between Army and RAF there was no way that I was going to do the physical Army stuff so chose RAF, which led to my love of flying. My best memory of CCF was flying from Woodvale in a Chipmunk over the Grand National course. Unfortunately, at the time the RAF didn't accept female pilots, so I wasn't able to follow that path. Many years later, working in education, my all-girls' school was given the option to join up the CCF unit at our equivalent all boys' school. Having had the Cadet experience and knowing what being a girl in an all-boys' school was like, I happily volunteered to be the adult representative. Officer training at Cranwell followed and the moment I swapped my white tabs and hat band for my officer insignia I burst into tears of joy - it meant so much to finally have achieved, in some small part, my dream. We now have a thriving female element to the Contingent with over half of our current Year

9s attending; two cadets have gone to Cambridge University; we have had a Lord Lieutenants, Cadet and a current strong group of NCOs. I am proud to be supporting their cadet experience and it would not have happened with KGS cadets all those years ago.

Many have gone on to join the RAF:

### **Heather Burns (KGS 1986 - 1993)**

I was a Supply Officer in the RAF for 6 years which was amazing but was an Army cadet at school as there was less marching and more adventurous activities.

### **Becky O'Shea (KGS 1986 - 1991)**

I spent 14 years in the RAF. They sponsored me through university to get my nursing degree. Giving me a second chance at getting an education after mucking things up at school. I will always feel grateful for the opportunities offered and the life it gave to me and my son, Ted. The huge financial support of the RAF BSA also allowed Ted to attend KGS as a boarder which made me so happy. I loved cadets but used to look out of the window wishing I'd joined the Army cadets who seemed to be doing much more fun activities outside.

### **Steve Swift (KGS 1978 - 1985)**

22 years in the RAF. I wanted to be a pilot so joined the RAF contingent, failed the aptitude test but found I liked teaching physical activities more than being in a classroom. Fred agreed I could change to the Army but would lose my rank. I loved my final year in the Army contingent but still joined the RAF as a Physical Training Instructor - best job in the Forces! Interesting anecdote: as a recruit instructor I taught someone I knew from School House and Doc Hall's son!

Others were not as successful.



### Brian Walters (KGS 1955-1962)

I remember being required to volunteer for CCF. I didn't like the Army cadets: boots, gaiters, ringing ears and bruised shoulders after the firing range. I couldn't wait to get into the Air Force cadets. I enjoyed the lessons in aeronautics and loved flying in Chipmunks with ex-fighter pilots who loved throwing those little aircraft all over the sky. I even got to take the controls and fly a couple of times and on one occasion, I managed to 'loop the loop'. I applied for and was offered a place at Cranwell but because my eyesight wasn't 100%, I couldn't train for aircrew so abandoned the idea of joining the RAF.

### Steve Hudson (KGS 1971-1978)

I had aspirations of a military career from an early age and the CCF reinforced that ambition. Like many I wanted to fly, but juvenile asthma put paid to that idea. I had gone to Biggin Hill to have a 'test in advance' which was basically the first part of officer selection, comprising aptitude testing, medical and an interview. I did apply for entry whilst still at school and was told to come back in a year, which in hindsight was the correct decision. Had I passed Biggin Hill, I doubt that I would have taken any (as opposed to limited, sorry Ian Scott!) interest in my A Levels. As it turned out, I joined the TA and re-applied to join the RAF, joining as an Officer cadet in July 1979, commissioned in the Supply Branch in November 1979. The CCF really assisted in getting an appreciation of the Forces and of course the camps at places like Sennybridge, Jurby, Cranwell and Linton on Ouse.

Now let's look at a few memories of CCF from serving members of the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and the British Army

### John Wyper (KGS 1984-1985)

Served 25 years in the Royal Navy from 1986-2011 on HMS Devonport, Portsmouth, Faslane & Rosyth.

1984/85 - promoted to LCpl. in the Fifth Year so that I could attend the UK Land Forces Annual Cadets 'thing' (I forget its official name). There I discovered that I was completely out of my depth and the keenness that I had shown on the quad and surrounding shrubbery at KGS did not help me one bit. I had also volunteered to be the right hand marker and with hindsight, I always put too much effort in the arm swinging which resulted in my hands exceeding the height of my head!

Fred Sayer and Brian Gornall were the only two members of staff sorry to see me go as they had plans for me in the Lower Sixth; I don't think the academic staff really cared.

Most influential member of staff/role model: Mick Clarkson (School House Master) – a nicer bloke you could not wish to meet. Fair and always struck me as calm and usually saw the good in every situation.

### Chris Kay (KGS 1977-1984)

A Squadron Leader who has commanded Force Development Squadrons at RAF Cosford and RAF Leeming.

KGS CCF from 1980-84, reached rank of Sgt (Army Section). Memories of winter camps in the Lake District at Thirlmere, breaking ice on water to wash in the cold February mornings, summer camps at Monmouth, usually including the obligatory navigation exercise over the Brecon Beacons and overnight exercises at Holcombe Moor Trg Area.

Biggest influence upon me during my time in the CCF was undoubtedly, Fred Sayer, closely followed by Ian Scott and Steve Turner. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in the CCF and it gave me an insight into military life, which led me to later join the Territorial Army as an infantryman and then the RAF as a Regular officer. It inspired me with a sense of adventure and made me aware that my limits were set higher than I knew, encouraging me to push myself.

### Charlie Bradbury (KGS 2011-2018)

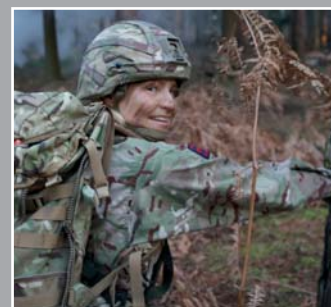


Commissioned into the Army Reserve, 4th Battalion the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment in 2019, where he now serves as a Second-Lieutenant.

I joined the CCF in 2014 and attended every annual camp and overnight trip. The highlight for me was the 2016 summer camp at Nescliffe where WO2 Trevor Barrow delivered an amazing camp and AT package and concluded with my promotion to Sergeant to enter Lower Sixth. I was lucky enough to be chosen as the RSM for the 2017-2018 academic year, which was a brilliant experience and taught me a lot about motivating and leading my peers.

Mrs Sutcliffe made a huge impression on me, and her selfless commitment to both the Duke of Edinburgh award and the CCF has undoubtedly had a huge impact on many pupils. She was always cheerful and would do anything to help, and when I was struggling in Upper Sixth, she frequently made time for a walk and a chat which I really appreciated.

### Ashleigh Brown (Nee Gregory) (KGS 1996-2003)



Currently a Major with the Royal Engineers, where highlights have included two tours in Afghanistan, multiple exercises in Canada and deployments in USA and Estonia as well as plenty of skiing.

I joined in the summer of 2000 as I attended the Summer Camp at Warcop at the end of Third Year. I then continued with CCF through Fourth Year, Fifth Year and both years of Sixth Form. I ended up as a CCF SSgt (I think). I remember attending other camps at Cultibraggen and another couple at Warcop.

Fond memories of an Adventurous Training expedition one Easter to the Lake District for walking etc, I just remember the weather being absolutely awful and the staff taking it in turns to cook, with pupil assistants.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time in CCF; I must have done as I joined the Army. Fond memories of Col Sayer, Maj Scott and Capt Sutcliffe, particularly her running up hills in Warcop very heavily pregnant with her first child and thinking she was crazy; having now been pregnant and had a baby I think she was even crazier!

The only other thing I remember was playing a lot of camouflage and concealment (mainly hide and seek with cam cream on), being useless at getting over a 6 ft wall and having great CCF dinner nights in fancy black tie!



## Old Kirkhamians' Association Centenary Dinner



In October, over eighty KGS alumni and partners gathered in the School's atmospheric Old Hall for a special edition of the Old Kirkhamians' Association Annual Dinner.

Not only was this a joyful return to in-person events after eighteen months of enforced inactivity, this was also a delayed celebration of the Association's centenary.

The OKA was set up in 1920, with the express purpose of remembering and celebrating the lives of the many old boys of the School killed in the First World War. The forming of an Association was the idea of the newly-appointed Headmaster Rev'd Creswell Strange, under whose leadership between 1919 and 1945 so much of the School's modern-day ethos and traditions were established.

The Old Boys gathered for the first time on January 21, 1920, for an evening of fine food and drink and camaraderie, in the same hall which is used to this day. One hundred (and one) years on, much has changed, but much hasn't. Guests at Saturday's event received copies of the menus from that inaugural dinner, the 50th Anniversary one in 1970, as well as for their own centenary one. Side by side, these gave a fascinating insight into the evolution of fine dining over the past century; few would have preferred the rich and simple 1920s' fare.

Yet so much else would have been familiar and recognisable to that war-ravaged gathering in 1920, or indeed to the long-haired, sideburned 1970 gathering, dressed no doubt in kipper ties and flares. One guest from Saturday was also present on that day: Arthur Baines, School Captain from 1957, Head of Biology from 1967 to 1997 and OKA stalwart for decades.

In the oak-panelled Old Hall, where portraits of former Heads keep a watchful eye on their legacy and gold-lettered boards speak of the successes of alumni in academia, culture and sport, Old Kirkhamians of all ages feel the intangible togetherness that belonging to a proud old school brings.

Saturday's gathering was diverse in age and background, mixed in gender yet united in an affection for the School which was wonderfully expressed in the Speech by OKA President Mike Ward, whose irreverent yet deeply respectful memories of his own 1980s' schooldays struck a chord with all present. Likewise, 2020-21 School Captain, Thomas Hewitt, already an authority on the School's and the Association's history thanks to his subject specialism, evoked perfectly the Association's founding principles and enduring values in his speech proposing a toast to the Association.

The presence of pupils, musicians, sportsmen, teachers, armed forces officers, healthcare professionals, business people, farmers, civil servants, a recent Mayor (Fylde) and Lord Mayor (City of Portsmouth) and many others represented all that is good about KGS. Guests chatted, laughed and reminisced long after the end of formalities and took home an engraved commemorative port glass and a new edition of the OKA lapel badge, and each and every one departed with their love for the School enriched and renewed. "My first OKA Dinner, but certainly not my last" wrote more than one on social media.

The OKA is in safe hands for another century and more.

Adrian Long





# Old School Tie: Melanie Briens

## Some Basic Facts

**Your name:** Melanie Briens (née Smith)

**Your job:** Translator

**The company name:** Anglicus Translations

**What do they do:** I run a professional language services company offering translation, proofreading and copywriting for businesses looking to communicate their content with a wider international audience.

**Where do you live:** Rainhill, Lancashire, although I'll be relocating to Nantes with my family this summer.

## 60 Seconds

**What car do you drive?** Seat Ibiza

**Married or single?** Newly married to Thibaud since September 2021

**Favourite sport?** Hockey ever since my KGS days, although I've recently taken up rugby league!

**Favourite team?** My dad has converted his loft into a 'soccer museum' that's largely populated with Liverpool FC memorabilia, so I'd probably be disowned if I said anything other than the red men! Obviously I'd always support England in any sport, although marrying a Frenchman has certainly caused some tension...

**Last holiday?** We recently got back from Kagi in the Maldives, which was our long-awaited honeymoon. I don't think I'll ever go on a more beautiful (beach) holiday, so I've been spoiled for life now.

## The Old Days

**What years were you at KGS?** 2000-2007

**What is your best memory of those days?** I loved that there were so many opportunities to try new things. There was a club or society for pretty much everything, and I probably tried all of them at some point or another (much to my parents' delight when I came home for the holidays with a hamster from the Animal Ark Club)! For those who knew me, it will be no surprise that my favourite memories involve being part of the sports teams, and I was incredibly proud to reach the national finals for both athletics and hockey. A memory that never fails to make me laugh, though, is Doc. Watson trying to keep a straight face when we were reading aloud one by one in First Year English. It was Redshaw's turn and he was struggling over a particular word before eventually opting for 'tit' and the whole class looked around nervously to see if it was okay to laugh or if trouble was on the cards. The response from the Doc? "Civilised people, Redshaw, prefer to pronounce it 'teat'!"

**Who was the most influential person at**

**school that helped you succeed?** It's hard to pick just one when there were so many, but there are some who definitely went above and beyond. On the sports field, Mrs Glover and Mr Sampey were always in my corner and definitely encouraged me to become the keen sportswoman I am today. I was the Lancashire hurdles champion several times over and went on to play hockey in the National Premier League thanks in no small part to their belief in my abilities. Academically speaking, I doubt I'd be where I am today without the entire languages department! So many people say they hated languages at school largely because of their teachers, but my experience couldn't have been more different. Mrs Long gave up her time outside of normal school hours to take me through to A Level Latin as the only pupil in the class, Mr McDowell and Mr Rushton were the first teachers to introduce me to German and I loved it from day one, and I have very fond memories of the laughs we had in A Level French with Mr Long and Mrs Walker.

**What was your first job?** I worked on the reception at a go-kart centre on Preston Docks throughout my teens. It was cash in hand and I saved up the money towards the KGS hockey tour to Cyprus! My first 'proper job' after graduating was as an in-house translator for a company in Manchester.

**What is your degree in if you have one?** I have an undergraduate master's degree in modern languages (MML) specialising in German and French, as well as a postgraduate master's (MA) in translation and interpreting.

**What do you wish you had been told about that would have helped you the most?** Something I really believe in now is letting go of imposter syndrome and believing in your own expertise that you've worked hard to develop. That's not to say you're the finished article and you don't have more to learn, but if you want other people to have confidence in you and your abilities then you need to have confidence in yourself first.

## And now to business

**Tell us about your job, what do you do?** I am a chartered translator first and foremost, but I'm also the director of my own language services company, which involves all the peripheral tasks that come with running a business.

**How did you come to have a career in this particular industry?** It really was as straightforward as it sounds: I loved languages at school and knew I wanted to work with them in some capacity. The translation exercises and modules were always my favourite, so when I realised that this was something you could make a career out of, it was a no-brainer to pursue this ambition.

**What inspired you to launch your own business (if applicable)?** I worked as an



in-house translator for several years after graduating with my second master's degree, as I knew this would be a great way for a newbie to learn from more experienced colleagues and benefit from the safety net of working as part of a team. But as much as I love translating, it's incredibly intense to only focus on one thing all day every day, no matter how interesting the texts may be. That's when I knew it was the right time for me to set up on my own and take on all the different responsibilities and opportunities that come with running your own business. Some more fun than others, of course!

**What has been the biggest challenge in the last 12 months?** Fortunately enough, the pandemic has had next to no impact on the way I operate, as I was already working from home and translation is all done remotely anyway: people send me files, I translate them and I send them back. A real challenge facing the translation sector, however, is the rise of machine translation. I'm a long way from fearing for my job, as I work in the premium sector and know the quality of machine-translated output is nowhere near good enough for my clients to make the switch, but it is having an impact on what new, inexperienced clients expect to pay when they can get something that sounds okay for peanuts. As with most things in life, though, you get what you pay for, and I'm confident enough in my services to know that I will continue to attract clients who share the same values.

**What is your best tip on how to succeed in business?** When it comes to translation, networking and putting yourself out there are so important. I'm always more likely to recommend and work with colleagues I've met in person, as even though a brief chat at a professional event doesn't tell me anything about their linguistic ability, the fact that they are there in the first place adds to their general credibility. Anyone who knows more than one language can call themselves a translator, but they aren't going to produce the same quality as highly qualified, professional linguists who are investing in themselves by attending professional events and becoming qualified members of (inter)national institutes.



**Do you take risks in business?** I would say I'm generally quite risk averse, although if I strongly believe there are benefits to gain then I will stand by my position. Pricing is probably the biggest area where I can take risks in my line of work: if I pitch too high then I might lose a potential client, too low then I'll probably resent taking on the project. That said, I never undervalue my work and time, so if that's out of a client's budget then I'm happy to let them go. When it comes to the actual translation side, I would never take on a text that I felt was beyond my capabilities due to the subject matter. Just because I speak German and French, that doesn't mean I'm familiar with every field in the same way I'm not in English either. I would rather turn down a project or refer a trusted colleague in that field than take it on myself and do a substandard job.

**How do you differentiate yourself from the competition in a crowded market?**

The obvious way for any translator to set themselves apart is to say they offer high-quality services – I've already mentioned it several times in this interview, in fact – but that's really not enough. High quality should be a given for any qualified professional in any sector, even though that's sadly not always the case! For me, I think my USP is myself. I will always be the first port of call for any clients wanting to work with me, and I always take the time to get to know their needs,

expectations and style inside out so I can replicate their voice in international markets. People choose to work with me because they like me – the fact that I offer high-quality services on time is just a bonus!

**What business tool couldn't you live without?**

I have always been a fan of spreadsheets and I use MS Excel for everything from keeping track of finances to scheduling projects. People love to tell me about fancier tools that are specifically designed to do X, Y and Z, but my spreadsheets work for me every time.

**Do you use Social Media in business and what works best for you?**

Absolutely! I have accounts on all of the major platforms in line with what I mentioned earlier about networking and putting yourself out there. As there isn't a whole lot of scope for face-to-face interaction as a translator aside from attending conferences and specifically setting up meetings with clients, social networks are a great way to make new connections, stay in touch with existing ones and generally raise your profile.

**What are some trends in your industry that you're excited about or think that our readers should be paying attention to?**


I touched on the rise of machine translation earlier and it's a really major topic in the

translation world. It's certainly come a long way since my classmates were trying to use Google Translate to do their French homework (naming no names!) and wondering how the teachers always knew! I know plenty of colleagues are refusing to acknowledge its existence, but I think it's naïve not to move with the times and look at how translators can use it to their advantage without feeling like it's going to take over their jobs. A good-quality machine translation engine can certainly make life easier by autosuggesting common words and phrases, and it can even do a half-decent job if you're happy with a basic gist of what a text is all about, but it's never going to be able to offer all the cultural insight, nuance and sophistication that only a professional human translator can bring.

**And finally, if someone wanted to get in touch how could they do that?**

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or email me at:

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## Richard Evans

It was with great sadness that we shared news of the death of Richard Evans at the age of 87 on Friday 22 April, a much-loved teacher of brass music at Kirkham Grammar School.

Below, former KGS teacher, Mr Adrian Long, shares with us the significant contributions Richard made during his time at KGS.

Richard's influence on music at both the Senior School and the Junior School was hugely significant: he worked as a peripatetic teacher and band conductor in the 1990s and early 2000s and during that time he inspired numerous young people thanks to his warmth and charisma allied to an insistence on the highest standards of musicianship.

His flowing locks and exuberant manner gave him the persona of an entertainer, who loved connecting with band members and audiences alike, yet in individual lessons he demonstrated a deep concern for the welfare of those whom he taught and an attention to detail which made him one of life's natural teachers. He would always start his lessons with a chat with pupils about how they were, what they were doing in school, putting them at their ease before getting down to the serious business of developing and improving their skills and techniques.

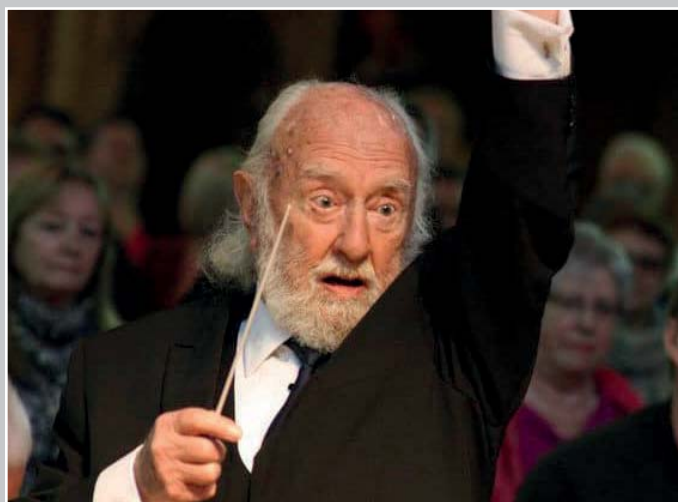
His time at KGS brought many highlights and triumphs, but for one golden generation of Concert Band players, he will be remembered for organising and leading a residential weekend for the band at Borwick Hall in July 2002, just before his retirement. In a relaxed atmosphere away from the usual surroundings of school music rooms, musicians of all ages spent two days rehearsing and bonding as a group, ending with an impromptu concert for parents and families who came to collect their children at the end of the weekend. I had the privilege of being one of the additional staff helpers for that weekend.

I can never hear a Sousa march without picturing in my mind the

KGS Concert Band of that era, their eyes fixed on their charismatic conductor, all giving their very best in the joyful togetherness that ensemble music alone can bring.

The time and attention that he devoted to KGS was all the more remarkable given his many other commitments in the world of band music, in which he was one of the UK's most successful, respected and well-loved bandmasters, as the many tributes appearing online so eloquently attest.

We send our condolences to Richard's family and friends, and remember with joy and gratitude his contribution to music at KGS.





## Rosemary Cartwright

In October, the whole Kirkham Grammar School community was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Rosemary Cartwright, after a period of ill health.

Rosemary is held in deep respect and affection by generations of pupils, parents, teaching and non-teaching staff and governors, and it would be impossible to exaggerate the length and scope of her commitment to KGS, and more importantly her love of the School. She worked in various capacities with each of the last five Headmasters as a parent, in the Friends of KGS and as a governor, including latterly as Chair of Governors.

Rosemary's first connection to KGS was back in 1985, when her first child, Emma, joined the School as a First Year pupil. Two years later, Emma was joined by her brother Daniel, and both Emma and Daniel enjoyed happy and successful school careers, fully involved in the academic, cultural, sporting and social life of the School. It was a sign of the family's commitment to the School when they moved from Longridge to Kirkham. Rosemary was always there, supporting her children on the touchline, in the concert hall and everywhere in their busy school lives. But perhaps more notable was the way in which she befriended and supported all their peers: the Cartwright home near school quickly became a social hub for KGS life. Emma served with distinction as School Captain in 1991-92.

Rosemary's instinctive sense of community meant that she joined The Friends of KGS Committee as soon as her children had started at the School, and she immersed herself fully in the work of the Friends: her social and administrative skills and personal charm were a perfect fit for the group, and at events she was equally immersed and at home in front-of-house and public speaking roles as in unglamorous behind-the-scenes work.

She rapidly rose to prominence in the Friends and was soon appointed Chair of the group, a role in which she served with success and distinction for many years. In 1992, when the new Head of Sixth Form was tasked by newly-appointed Headmaster, Barrie Stacey, with organising and establishing a glitzy black-tie Leavers' Ball for Sixth Formers, Rosemary's knowledge and experience of social events was of enormous value, and her easy friendship with her daughter's Sixth Form peers meant that she and her husband, Derek, played a pivotal role in establishing the Ball, years before other schools started staging the now ubiquitous 'proms'. Within a few years, the Sixth Form Ball was replicated the following day as The Friends' Summer Ball, such that these two key events in the KGS calendar are very much part of her legacy.

When her own children left school, she rightly stepped back from her leadership role in the Friends, but continued to serve and support

with her characteristic good cheer and good sense. The School wisely recognised her commitment and expertise as of potentially huge value to the Governing Body, and she was appointed to the Board, serving for many years with the same mix of interest, care and commitment, along with the administrative expertise and business acumen that she brought from her professional work as manager of Progress Business Park and later the Kirkgate Development in Kirkham.

She took over as Chair of Governors in 2014 and guided the School with the same personal commitment that she had brought to her Friends of KGS role, assiduously attending sporting and cultural events, always quick to connect with and congratulate pupils on their achievements and to applaud the commitment of staff. It was she who presided over the imaginative and successful appointment of current Headmaster, Daniel Berry.

Outside School, Rosemary was equally loved and respected for her work in the community, with all the same qualities on display. She had the rare and precious ability to relate to people from all sections of the community, treating all with equal care and respect. She is remembered with affection as a supportive and sympathetic manager for the many small businesses who occupied premises at Progress Mill, and was a committed and devoted Christian servant, first of St Michael's, Kirkham, and later at St John the Evangelist Lund, where she served as a churchwarden having moved to Clifton in later life. Her work there, and elsewhere, was recognised and rewarded when she was a recipient of Maundy Money from the Queen at Blackburn Cathedral in 2014.

All at Kirkham Grammar School extend our sincere condolences to Rosemary's friends and family, and especially to her Old Kirkhamian children, Emma and Daniel.





## Simon Painter Art Gallery



In mid-March, a group of past and present staff and governors had the pleasure of gathering for a reception in the KGS Dining Hall to celebrate the opening of the Simon Painter Art Gallery.

Since it was opened in 2002, the walls of the Dining Hall have always been very effectively used to display the wonderful variety of artwork, in various media, produced by students of all ages - much of it produced under the expert tuition of Mr Painter during

his 25 year teaching career at the School. It is therefore most appropriate that this collection has been formalised and named in his honour, given his talent and enthusiasm for art has been such a feature of his KGS life.

The event saw Mr Barrie Stacey, the Headmaster who appointed Mr Painter in 1996, perform the opening ceremony, having shared some memories of the early days.

Mr Painter then regaled the gathering with

some anecdotes from his KGS career, in which his love of cricket was shared with the same passion as his love of art.

The gallery will remain as a showcase not only for some of his own work, donated to the School, but also for present and future KGS artists, reflecting the continuing place of the visual arts as one of the School's many strengths.







## Thomas Hewitt (KGS 2014-2021)

It is always wonderful to hear from our former Kirkham Grammar School pupils.

Old Kirkhamian, Thomas Hewitt, visited KGS just before Christmas and chatted to us about his first term at Durham University.

"Studying at Durham University has been a fantastic environment to read history and build on the interests and skills I first developed at Kirkham. University has provided me with the opportunity to meet like-minded people and put me in daily contact with leading experts in my field of study. Its extensive libraries, archive collections and engaging lecturers all enhance the experience.

Durham's network of colleges fosters a strong sense of community, similar to that at KGS. This has allowed me to settle in with ease and make friends. I have also become involved in college life, serving as a member of the Junior Room Committee and have since been elected to serve as Chair of the Junior Common Room for the forthcoming year. College social life is enjoyable with weekly quizzes in college bar, gowned formal dinners and the Winter Ball at the end of term.

University has also allowed me to continue to pursue those interests outside of learning which I cultivated at Kirkham, particularly Music. Since arriving, I have joined the Chapel Choir at St Chad's College and even had the opportunity to sing in Durham Cathedral. It has been a great opportunity to develop new interests too, from coxing rowing crews on the river to hearing internationally recognised speakers at the Durham Union debating society.

I am very grateful to Kirkham Grammar School for all the support they have given to me to achieve this next step in my future."

Thomas enhanced his growing reputation as one of the Fylde's leading young local historians when, along with KGS Head of Latin, Mrs Sue Long, he recently delivered a lecture on the earliest history of Kirkham at the opening of the Kirkham in Amounderness Local History and Heritage Collection, which has been established at St Michael's Parish Church, in the year of the church building's bicentenary celebrations. The collection has been set up and curated by retired KGS Head of Sixth Form, Adrian Long, and is based on documents and artefacts bequeathed to the church by the late Martin Ramsbottom, who was a leading authority on the history of Kirkham and the Fylde.

The lecture introduced some fascinating thoughts on the town's earliest human history, with Thomas telling the story of Kirkham's most famous artefact, the Roman Shield Boss, the replica of which is now housed in church. The original of the Shield Boss, now housed in the British Museum, was discovered in 1796 by a KGS Schoolmaster, so a KGS connection runs right through this story.







# The Friends of KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL



It has been great to be able to return to fundraising again this year and we have been able to host some wonderful events.

Our first event in November was the Winter Party at The Villa. We had a fabulous evening of excellent food, fun entertainment and an amazing auction, with donations from Mr Bailey and Preston Grasshoppers, Scossa Preston, Porsche Preston and Mrs Alicia Blanco-Bayo. Thank you to all of the parents and teachers who also provided raffle prizes and supported the event. We raised a tremendous £4,500.

Our first 'Bag 2 School' collection also took place in November and we are hoping to have a further collection shortly, so please continue to save clothes and shoes that you no longer need.

The Autumn Term also saw our first Pre-loved Uniform Sale take place for some time. We received an outstanding response to our request for uniform contributions and we really cannot thank people enough for their support. We made over £600 at the sale and have continued to raise further funds with adhoc requests throughout the year.

Our annual Christmas Lunch also proved to be popular again and Churchill's, Mill Farm could not have been better hosts. It was a super start to the festive period!

The last event of the year saw the return of our Summer Ball. This year's 'Glitz & Glam' event, held in a marquee within Summerlee Hall, was a fabulous evening. As the evening got underway, KGS Second Year pupils entertained diners with a 'Be Our Guest' flash mob, and Fifth Year pupil, Millie Homan, gave a stunning vocal performance of 'If they could see me now'. Thank you to those KGS pupils who, despite very short notice, professionally served our guests the

wonderful food provided by Kwizeen, before guests danced the night away with entertainment from 'Touch the Pearl'.

None of these events would be possible without The Friends of KGS committee and I cannot thank you all enough. I am overwhelmed by the additional support from helpers, teachers and pupils. Thank you!

If you struggle to attend our events, but would like to get involved in our fundraising efforts, there are plenty of ways you can help:

Registering with Easy Fundraising UK turns your everyday online shopping into free donations for The Friends of KGS with no cost to you. Simply register at [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fokgs/](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fokgs/) and start shopping with over 4000 online retailers.

We are also a registered charity with Amazon Smile. Select us as your chosen charity and every time you shop on Amazon and check out using Amazon Smile they will donate money to us. Who knew shopping could be so productive!

We are always looking for extra help, whether this is by joining our committee, volunteering your time helping at our events, suggesting fundraising ideas or donating raffle/auction prizes - your help is always greatly appreciated. Supporting The Friends of KGS is rewarding, fun and a great way of making new friends within the Kirkham Grammar School family.

The Friends of Kirkham Grammar School hope you had a wonderful summer break and look forward to seeing you very soon.

Kerry Greenwood  
Chairman – The Friends of Kirkham Grammar School



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