

THE KIRKHAMIAN

KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



KIRKHAM
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2023





KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Kirkham Grammar School offers their warmest congratulations to Mr Berry after securing a new and exciting Headship at Harrow School, Shenzhen from September 2023.

Kirkham Grammar School is incredibly proud that his leadership has been recognised by such a prestigious school and feel privileged that the history of KGS will have benefitted from his headship for seven years. Mr Berry has been the Headmaster at KGS since 2016 and has considerable experience of leading day and boarding schools in both the independent and state sectors.

Mr Berry leaves school with an incredible legacy and has undoubtedly steered us through some extremely challenging times, including a global pandemic. The school is clearly in a better place than when he arrived seven years ago and pupil numbers continue to grow. This is testament to his ability to connect with people, demonstrate humility and win over hearts and minds.

Regarding his new appointment, Mr Berry said, "I am absolutely delighted to have been appointed as the next Headmaster of Harrow School, Shenzhen. The Harrow name is synonymous with the highest of standards, both in the classroom and in the broader holistic sense of education, developing leadership for a better world. It will be a privilege to serve the school community and I look forward to building on the excellent work undertaken so far. I have happy memories of my time at KGS and will miss all of

the pupils, parents, staff and Governors of KGS, and I do hope we stay in touch".

For this next chapter of his career, Mr Berry will be joined by his wife, Krista, and daughter, Eva, who will accompany him to China. Their two eldest children will remain in the UK where they are both studying at university.

Mr Berry is currently working closely with our Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team to prepare for his departure and replacement. For now, the school will continue to flourish in the safe hands of Mrs Deborah Parkinson who we are delighted to announce will be the first female Head in the history of the school. She will be assisted by a strong leadership team whilst we look to appoint Mr Berry's successor.

We wish Mr Berry and his family all the very best for his new role and their move to China.

Mrs Lorraine Wareing
Chair of Governors



It is time to say goodbye as I depart Kirkham Grammar School for a new adventure.

I firmly believe that our destiny determines most of the choices we make. However, there will be some choices left for us to make for ourselves...

During your life, you will 'leave' - whether it be a school, a hometown or a job. You will try your hardest to reassure as, no doubt, you may feel a sense of guilt about leaving something behind that you care about. On leaving Kirkham Grammar School, I will not only miss the school, but also the pupils and the families. Despite this, I will take with me many happy memories.

According to the records up until 1898, most Headmasters served in post for very long periods and in some cases well over twenty-five years, as historically, a Headmaster's position was a job for life. In fact, all but one of the thirty-three previous Headmasters retired or passed away whilst in post.

Thus, I am possibly the first Headmaster to leave the school to take up a new post.

In education, I have chosen not to be a follower but an innovator - or at least someone who looks at a school through the eyes of a pupil. One of my favourite fictional characters is Roald Dahl's owner of the 'Chocolate Factory.' He is eccentric, straight talking, pioneering, successful, unpredictable and ultimately a child at heart. That is how I see myself; others may or may not agree! Should we care what others think? A

true innovator believes that what they are doing is right. Sometimes you will make mistakes along the way but remember that we are always learning. As long as your intentions are well meaning, the mistakes will be forgiven.

Yes, I have counted the 7 years and 6 months, 7,125 lessons or 427,500 hours of learning! Now I can finally look back and realise the long hours, the tireless effort and battles fought along the way have all been truly worth it. I humbly admit to having served KGS through some very challenging times and some extremely rewarding experiences. It is now time to pass the baton on.

Ingredere Ut Proficias

Mr D H Berry



Upon entering the Senior School, you pass under the words 'Ingredere Ut Proficias' chiselled into the stone. The school motto is synonymous with my own approach to school life and one which reminds all pupils lucky enough to transit through this beautiful school, to use their time profitably.

When I joined KGS in 2010, I was struck by the variety of activities on offer, made possible by the unwavering commitment of the staff, facilitating the development of character and confidence in their young charges. A confidence that subsequently shines like a beacon when pupils leave the school as OKAs to find their place in the world.

I am delighted to be kindly acknowledged as the first female Head in the history of the school and I accept this recognition in honour of the many extraordinary women, past, recent past and present, who have helped to shape this school.

'Enter to Profit' the building proclaims as you approach, and just as the current occupants will benefit from their time here, I am proud to continue to be a part of the KGS community keeping this historic school so young, so vibrant and so relevant in return.

Mrs D C Parkinson





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SCHOOL CAPTAINS 2023/2024



Congratulations to our newly appointed 2023-24 School Captains, Jack Wigglesworth and Millie Homan and our Deputy School Captains, Jack Gorton and Sophie Birchall-Farr.

School Captain, Jack, has been a member of our Boarding House family at Kirkham Grammar School since joining at the beginning of Lower Sixth Form. He is studying geography, biology and PE at A Level. Jack is a member of both the concert band and choir, and is also a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) in the KGS Combined Cadet Force. Having suffered an ACL injury at the beginning of this academic year, Jack is keen to start playing rugby again at the start of the 2023/24 season.

Millie, who was also recently appointed as the 2nd XI hockey captain for the 2023/24 season, has been at Kirkham Grammar School since joining in the First Year of Senior School and is studying physics, mathematics and DT - Design Engineering at A Level. She is a member of the choir and soprano group and is currently working towards her gold Duke of Edinburgh award.

Deputy School Captain, Jack, has been at Kirkham Grammar School since joining in the First Year. He is studying economics, mathematics and further mathematics at A Level. Jack is also the Eco Club Pupil Voice Secretary and voluntarily runs the First Year basketball club after school.

Sophie has been at Kirkham Grammar School since joining in J4 at the Junior School. She is studying maths, geography, chemistry and biology at A Level and is hoping to study medicine at university. Sophie is the Curriculum Committee Pupil Voice Leader, a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) in the KGS Combined Cadet Force, and is currently working towards her gold Duke of Edinburgh award.

We wish you all every success in your new roles.

A FOND **FAREWELL**



Mr D Berry

Mr Berry has been a Headmaster for over twelve years and has considerable experience of leading day and boarding schools in the independent and state sectors. He studied History at the University of Lancaster. His first Headship was at St George's School. Mr Berry will have many happy memories of his time at KGS.

Speaking of his appointment, Mr. Berry said "I am absolutely delighted to have been appointed as the next Headmaster of Harrow School Shenzhen. The Harrow name is synonymous with the highest of standards, both in the classroom and in the broader holistic sense of education, developing leadership for a better world. It will be a privilege to serve the school community and I look forward to building on the excellent work undertaken so far."

Mr Berry will be joined by his wife Krista, daughter Eva and, much to everyone's upset, his guitars. His two other children, Harvey and Millie, are currently studying Economics at Exeter University and International Business at the University of Chester. He will miss all of the pupils, parents, staff and Governors of KGS and does hope to stay in touch.



Aled Trenhaile retired at the end of the Spring Term having been at Kirkham Grammar School since 1991. As well as Master in Charge of Rugby, Aled also taught Religion, Philosophy and Ethics alongside running the school's Boarding House.



Richard Taylor retired at the end of the Summer Term following thirty years at KGS as Teacher of Mathematics and CCF Commanding Officer.



Yvonne Malings left in October 2022 after seventeen years at KGS, initially employed as Assistant Shop Manager before taking over the reins in the School Shop during her latter years.



Joanne Stewart left in September 2022 having worked at the Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School since 2010 as the Headmistresses' PA.



Sarah Millar left in September 2022 having joined KGS initially as a Kitchen Assistant in 2010 before in her latter years carrying out her role as an Assistant in the School Shop.



Angelo Possamai left KGS at the end of the Summer Term following ten years at KGS as Teacher of Design Technology and Head of Third Year.



Jane Eaton retired at the end of the Summer Term following nine years at KGS as Assistant Cook in the dining room and Boarding House.



Gill Simpson retired at the end of the Summer Term after eight years at Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School as Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages.



Carol Smith left at the end of the Summer Term having worked at KGS as Head of Physics for seven years.



Krista Berry left at the end of the Summer Term after seven years carrying out her role as Learning Support Teacher.



Jane Snape left KGS at the beginning of November 2022 having worked at the school for seven years as Kitchen Assistant both in the school dining room and the Boarding House.



Heather Suffolk left at May half term after six years at KGS as Bursary Assistant.



Sarah Morton left at the end of January 2023 having joined the KGS staff in October 2020 as Examination Officer and Admin Assistant.



Richard Picton left at the end of the Summer Term after two years at Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School teaching our J4 pupils.

Upper Sixth Form

Upper Sixth Form



First Year of Senior School to Sixth Form



Last Day of School

Infant & Junior School to Sixth Form



Pre-School to Sixth Form





SIXTH FORM BALL





Fifth Year Final



Day of Senior School



Fifth Year End of Exams Party







Headmistress's Review

As this academic year draws to a close, there is much for us to reflect upon and remember with fondness. The J2, J3 and J4 pupils respectively enjoyed their residential trips to various locations in the UK, with many stating that they were having so much fun that they didn't want to return home! The shelter building is always an unforgettable experience for pupils in J3, and those making shelters purely out of sticks were particularly lucky with the notable absence of rain this year. The robustness and independence that they demonstrate when participating in these excursions is remarkable; their heightened self-esteem and confidence palpable upon their return. These trips, ably led by my committed team of staff, are just some examples of the vast range of opportunities available to your children whilst at KGS, enabling them to flourish, excel and further hone the human being that they aspire to be.

There were pumpkins aplenty in our Pre-School in the Autumn Term, with an array of fantastic learning opportunities presented to our pupils for them to engage with. Many of our pupils in Pre-School have also enjoyed sharing their Busy Bags with me prior to taking them home, this initiative further enhancing the partnership we have with our KGS parents. Our I1 classes enjoyed a Fang-tastic Friday measuring out and creating potions, and took great delight from partaking in a Hallowe'en Tea Party in October too. We were delighted, most recently, to receive glowing feedback during our annual visit from our Early Years Consultant at Lancashire County Council; it is always wonderful to receive external validation, alongside the daily positive feedback from our KGS families, which recognises the inspirational education that the teachers deliver, and the formal acknowledgement that our pupils are thriving as a result. The EYFS classrooms (indoor and out) are always filled with joy and laughter, there never being a missed opportunity for the staff to engage with our youngest pupils, nourishing their hearts, minds and souls.

Our pupils have been further motivated to read and write by a range of visiting authors this year, including The Suprvet: Noel Fitzpatrick. We have taken part in art competitions, danced at Blackpool Tower Ballroom in the Fylde and Wyre Dance Competition, and had great success with our football teams: Our U11 girls, for example, winning the tournament to qualify for representing Fylde in the North West round. The U10 boys also won the Association of Junior Independent Schools' football tournament with a 3-0 victory in the final. These are but a few of our highlights that you will find amongst our many happenings detailed in the Kirkhamian, KGS social media pages and e-newsletters.

The Friends of Kirkham Grammar School disco and our Pre-School through to J4 Baking Day were a great way

for us to celebrate the pupils' commitment to school life, and to recognise and reward their efforts in relation to making KGS a wonderful school to be part of - there are some very talented chefs in our midst! I have also particularly enjoyed welcoming our parents and grandparents to our inaugural family lunch gatherings during the school day; the feedback has been heartening, and I know that those that have attended have really valued this special time with their child whilst sampling the fabulous KGS menu. Sports Day was a roaring success with families joining us in their droves to support our pupils, with every child contributing to the event for their House. The now customary live video stream of the two days being very much valued by our KGS families near and far.

The Coronation in May was an extraordinary moment in history that the pupils took great pleasure in recognising, marking the day with some impressive work inspired by this event. Shortly afterwards followed our first production since 2019 - Ye-Ha! The latter was an incredible culmination of the pupils' hard work and determination to succeed, again driven by staff that continue to nurture the talent of every individual. Separately, the children practised in eager anticipation; and collectively, they eventually worked together with their inimitable panache to showcase their talents. During these events, and at every turning point, we encourage and remind our pupils to be proud of themselves, and to acknowledge and celebrate their successes, strengths and achievements, whilst remembering to do the same for their peers. As a consequence, they develop an acute awareness of the impact that a cohesive team can make, integral to any successful and thriving school, workplace and community.

I do hope that for those pupils moving to Senior School they will reflect upon their time with us with fondness, but that they will also use the experiences they have encountered to continue to thrive, move forward, and be the best that they can be. We are all interconnected at KGS: pupils, staff, families...past, present and future... we all leave an imprint on each other and the school as a whole, ensuring that KGS continues to adapt and grow for the benefit of all who travel through. I am certain that every member of our school community will have more than one distinct and treasured memory for this year. I have lost count of the number of times I have heard pupils say out loud 'I am going to remember this day forever', and this is something that continues to motivate me to continue to provide the very best for your children. As always, my team and I consider it our good fortune to educate and be in the presence of such curious, determined and kind human beings.

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



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Junior & Infant Review of the Year 2023



The Junior and Infant End of Year Review 2023 was a wonderful way to recognise and celebrate every pupil from I1 through to J4. The pupils' strengths, in a variety of areas, ranging from their commitment to the school values, to their academic attainment and progress, to those that are passionate and innovative in the classroom, were formally acknowledged on stage in front of their incredibly proud teachers and families.

This event continues to support our pupils in remaining motivated and inspired to strive to be the best that they can be. It also serves as an ideal opportunity to reminisce about the many and varied highlights and happenings of the past year, and to rejoice about all that we have achieved. A KGS pupil demonstrates drive, determination and eagerness to do well across the curriculum, and we relish this important opportunity to formally acknowledge each and every child in our school community.

FAREWELL TO OUR Primary School Days





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INFANT AND PRE-SCHOOL PRODUCTION 'A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME'

On Tuesday 6 December 2022, the Infant and Pre-School put on a special rendition of 'A Little Bird Told Me'. This version of the traditional Christmas Nativity saw Robin and the flock flying south to Bethlehem to meet the newborn King, baby Jesus. Along the way they met some familiar, traditional characters including the angels, shepherds and

wise men. The pupils worked incredibly hard to put on a spectacular show with delightful singing, elegant dancing and wonderful acting. The pupils enjoyed the art of performing, getting all dressed up for the occasion. It was a delight to see the enthusiasm and commitment of the pupils.







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| Junior & Senior Drama | Adult Acting classes | Professionals |
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| Ballet & Tap | TikTok Club | Holiday Clubs |

Saturday Musical Theatre Classes

We have two new classes
coming to Kirkham Grammar School in September 2023!

Acting for TV
Street Dance



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FATHER CHRISTMAS SPREADS SOME FESTIVE CHEER



Pre-School and I1 children welcomed some very special visitors in mid-December: Father Christmas, Twinkle, the Fairy, and Bernard, Father Christmas' Elf.

The children learnt that the best way to spread Christmas Cheer, is 'singing loud for all to hear'. The children then helped Twinkle find her sparkle by singing a couple of festive songs nice and loud! The children also enjoyed a selection of workshops.

Before Father Christmas, Bernard and Twinkle left KGS, our Pre-School and I1 pupils were each awarded a 'North Pole Helper' certificate along with a book and a North Pole pin badge!



A Christmas Celebration



At the beginning of December, our Junior pupils hosted a spectacular 'Christmas Celebration'. The pupils showcased their talents in abundance and sang Christmas songs, danced and read festive poetry. In addition, the orchestra, guitar ensemble, brass ensemble, compere's Beatrice Faith and Henry Dawson-Gerrard, and soloists, Hattie Walker, Poppy Remtulla, Sienna Pickering, Annabelle McIlwham and Mariam Omer performed festive favourites.

A special mention for the visiting music teachers, Mr Tom Vernon, Mr John Squires-Evans, Mrs Lisa Atherton, Mrs Nicola Howard and Mr Brendan Needham, for their fantastic rendition of 'Merry Christmas Everyone' which saw pupils and staff don Santa hats!



Senior School & Sixth Form Christmas Concert



The Senior School and Sixth Form Christmas Concert, in the Summerlee Hall, took place on Thursday 8 December 2022 and what a wonderful occasion it was!

The audience were delighted with the performances by the many ensembles here at Kirkham Grammar School whilst soloists, Millie, Heidi, Siôneda, Charlotte, Poppy and Tabitha, dazzled both instrumentally and vocally. In addition to this, our talented LAMDA performers, Amelia and Toni, provided the perfect Christmas treat.





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SINGING FOR PLEASURE

What a wonderful afternoon our Kirkham Grammar School 'Singing for Pleasure' group had visiting The Moorings and Hedges House in Lytham St Annes in December. The pupils entertained the residents and staff with a delightful selection of festive songs which brought tears to many eyes. It was truly wonderful to see the joy on their faces as the pupils spread festive cheer with their beautiful voices. A special mention to our soloists: Darcey, Amy, Tilly and Jasmine.

MUSIC REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2022-23



The Music Department at Kirkham Grammar School started the new academic year in style in early October, and it fell to our Sixth Form musicians to perform in the first Coffee Concert of the year, which included pieces by Ganne, Chopin and various others. They rose to the occasion as new Sixth Formers in true Kirkham style, delighting the appreciative audience.

The senior members of the school then handed the 'baton' to our youngest members of the school family, 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.

Friday 11 November at 11.00 am saw the school fall silent for the Armistice Remembrance Service. Sixth Form music scholar, Poppy Taylor, delivered an immaculate rendition of the Last Post and Reveille as the school fell silent and remembered the fallen.

Late November saw many pupils taking ABRSM and LCM exams, many gaining merits and distinctions. The Fourth and Fifth Year musicians also entertained pupils, parents and staff in a wonderfully varied Coffee Concert.

The Carol Service this year was finally back at St. Michael's Church, Kirkham, with some outstanding performances from the choir including composers such as J. S. Bach and Mark Lowry. Charlotte Powell was the soloist in Once in Royal David's City, her clear voice ringing like a bell throughout the church.

The annual Christmas Concert, in the Summerlee Hall, thrilled and delighted the audience who heard music from Weather Report, Purcell, John Rutter and many others, performed by the many ensembles here at Kirkham Grammar School. Soloists dazzled both instrumentally and vocally - a real Christmas feast!

January was off to a fantastic start when it was the turn of the Third Year musicians in their Coffee Concert. There was such an array of different composers on offer and a real range of both instruments and vocal pieces.

At the beginning of February, the KGS singers had their annual night to themselves when the Recital Hall rang to the sound of voices young and old. They treated their audience to a fabulous variety of songs from the world of musicals and music halls, which would have graced any stage. This included songs by Lerner and Loewe, Tim Minchin and Jerome Kern, and others too numerous to mention. 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 over 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 pupils choose to give of their time and participate in this annual music-making festival. After the initial auditions, it all rested on one Friday in early March, and what was to be a thrilling final. Mr Tom Newall was the adjudicator for the day and had the unenviable task of selecting the winner. After a compelling and exciting day, Siôn Jones-Blanco was declared the instrumental winner; Jessica Hagon the vocal winner; and Soprano Group were the Ensemble winners. The Gala Concert, the following week, gave an invited audience the 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 close fought contest, Fylde House emerged triumphant.

Mid-March saw Kirkham Grammar School Choir join forces with the Lytham Choral Society, Preston Cecilian Singers, a professional orchestra and soloists, under the reliable baton of Helen Harrison, for a mammoth work: Mass in D, by Ethel Smyth, a female composer who was a trail blazer in so many ways. The performance of this work was the first in the North of England and the sold out audience were in raptures at the beautiful sounds that were produced by the entire ensemble. What an amazing opportunity and achievement for the choir!

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 and Mozart all to their customary high standard.

Early May saw the annual Spring Concert. This featured all of the major ensembles of the School, together with Upper Sixth soloists, and LAMDA readers. An eclectic mix of music from Prokofiev to Amy Winehouse, and others too numerous to mention, were received with rapturous applause by the audience. The highest 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.



PETER PAN

Our drama department were delighted to present their 2022 school production of 'Peter Pan' in the Summerlee Hall at the end of November. Our super-talented cast transported the audience into the magical world of Peter Pan, the boy who never grew up, and everyone was thrilled to receive a wonderful NODA review.

It was an incredible feat to manage the cast and crew of almost one hundred pupils, but the reaction of the audiences for all performances was testament to the commitment and dedication of all. Thanks too, to all the staff who assisted with the performances and we are hugely indebted to Old Kirkhamian, George Critchley, for the set, costume and advice he offered to all.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the production.





PETER PAN RECEIVES 15 NODA NOMINATIONS

Kirkham Grammar School were delighted to receive fifteen NODA nominations for their production of Peter Pan - an excellent achievement that was testament for all the hard work which went into making this year's production such a phenomenal success.

The nominations were as follows:

Best Female Comedy Performance in a Youth Production: **Tabitha Berry (Tinkerbell)**

Best Supporting Male in a Youth Production: **Raphael Ikram (John), Manny Elleray (Michael) and Isaac Millachip (Tattoo Bill)**

Best Supporting Female in a Youth Production: **Tabitha Berry (Tinkerbell), Louisa Seacy (Tiger Lily) and Dotty Hackett (Mother)**

Best Staging of a Youth Production

Best Leading Male in a Youth Production: **Shahmeer Amir (Smee) and Tyler Cowie (Captain Hook)**

Best Leading Female in a Youth Production: **Olivia Coupe (Peter Pan) and Brooke Medhurst (Wendy)**

Best Choreographer of a Youth Production: **The Mermaids**

Best Director of a Youth Production: **Miss Leeming**

Best Youth Drama

On Saturday 4 February, pupils and staff attended the NODA North West District 2 awards evening and the event saw Kirkham Grammar School win 4 NODA awards - a fantastic achievement!

The award winners were as follows:

Best Supporting Male in a Youth Production - **Isaac Millachip (Tattoo Bill)**

Best Supporting Female in a Youth Production - **Tabitha Berry (Tinkerbell)**

Best Leading Male in a Youth Production - **Tyler Cowie (Captain Hook)**

Best Leading Female in a Youth Production - **Brooke Medhurst (Wendy)**

On Saturday 29 April, all four of our NODA District 2 award winners attended the NODA Regional Awards in The Empress Ballroom at The Winter Gardens, Blackpool. To everyone's delight, Sixth Form pupil, Tabitha, won 'Best Supporting Female in a Youth Drama' for her role as Tinkerbell.



YE-HA!



This year, Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School brought all the thrills and excitement of the Wild West to the Summerlee Hall for its Junior Production of Ye-Ha!

Ye-Ha! squeezed all the fun and adventure of the Old West into a wonderfully, wild musical comedy.

Mad Dog McNut and his gang of no-good outlaws, were running wild as Wilbur Hubbard, the cowardly cook at the Fourdoor Saloon, landed the job that nobody wanted: Sheriff of Splodge City.

But luckily for Wilbur, Billie-Jo Brisket and her faithful steed – Lightnin', rolled into Splodge City to lend a hand, and suddenly the race was on to save the town.

The pupils captivated and engaged the audience from the very first scene right through to the last. The amazing performances of the pupils involved were nothing short of superb!

The real success of this production was the exceptional teamwork from each member of the cast and chorus. With complicated songs and an intricate final dance expertly performed, each pupil had a fantastic time on stage. This production brought the audience, and all involved, back to a simpler, more carefree way of life - Ye-Ha!



WORLD BOOK

On Friday 3 March, Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School pupils arrived at school very excited and, dressed in their favourite book characters, were ready for a day full of book-related activities. Each year group completed activities based on their chosen book/theme as follows:

Pre-School - The Bean Machine

I1 - The Gingerbread Man

I2 - Lucy the Star Catcher

I3 - Nature

J1 - Mythical Beasts

J2 - Diaries

J3 - Roald Dahl's Best Books

J4 - Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes and Beastly Tales



Lancashire Book of the Year

A selection of our Third Year pupils participated in this award during the Summer Term. Pupils read a shortlist of eleven books and voted for their favourite alongside other schools in Lancashire.



DAY 2023



Millionaire Readers

Congratulations to all of our Millionaire Readers who have read one million words over this academic year along with a minimum of 80% correct on all books quizzed under the Accelerated Reader Programme. Our Junior School Millionaire Readers: Mallory, Hallie, Ava, Bea, Leo, Eleanor and Bowen, were rewarded with a portrait photograph mounted on the Millionaire's Row 'Hall of Fame', whilst our Senior School pupils enjoyed an end of year trip to Level in Preston for a game of Laser Tag and Ten Pin Bowling.



POETS AND WRITERS INSPIRE OUR KGS PUPILS

Professor Noel Fitzpatrick

In mid-November, Supervet, author and Channel 4 presenter, Professor Noel Fitzpatrick visited Kirkham Grammar School. Noel is a world-renowned veterinary surgeon and the star of the hit Channel 4 television show, The Supervet, now in its seventeenth series. Noel spoke about his experiences as a Supervet and explained how these experiences had inspired the events and characters for his new book. Noel wowed the pupils with a snippet of his new book, 'Vetman and his Bionic Animal Clan' and spoke passionately about how dreams can become a reality when you work hard and are kind to others. During his visit, Noel personally signed over four hundred books!



Kimba Bush

We celebrated National Poetry Day in October with a visit from the fabulous Kimba Bush. Kimba, through his performance poetry, taught our First, Second and Third Year pupils how to use the acronym 'Shampoo' to improve their creative writing: simile, hyperbole, alliteration, metaphor, personification, onomatopoeia and oxymoron.



Rachel A Walmsley

We welcomed local and very talented author and poet, Rachel A Walmsley towards the end of November. Rachel shared her new book, 'Dotty The Dogwalker', with our Infant and Pre-School pupils and they delighted in the fun, vocabulary-rich picture book, designed to stimulate children's imagination through conversations about dogs and relationships with others. As a former primary school teacher, Rachel includes several literary features within her book such as alliteration, rhyme and synonyms, as well as incorporating the days of the week. During Rachel's visit, our Infant and Pre-School pupils enjoyed an enriching forty-five minute workshop with Rachel, which saw our Pre-School and I1 pupils learn illustrating techniques, whilst our I2 and I3 pupils learnt both writing and illustrating techniques to help them in their journey to becoming young authors and illustrators. Pupils also had the opportunity to purchase a signed copy of Rachel's book, with a donation made to Guide Dogs UK for each book purchased.



Will Hamilton-Davies

In January, our Infant and J1 pupils were joined by the incredibly talented author and poet, Will Hamilton-Davies. Each class participated in an illustration masterclass, where they learnt how to sketch woodland creatures linked to Will's story, 'The Shrew with the Flu!' The pupils enjoyed listening to a retelling by the author and together they created animal sound effects and actions, bringing the story to life!

Author visits are always a wonderful opportunity to promote the pleasure of reading, writing and illustrating.

Matt Oldfield

As part of our 2023 World Book Day celebrations, bestselling author of Unbelievable Football (winner of the 2020 Children's Sports Book of the Year award) and one half of the brothers behind the Ultimate Football Heroes and Classic Football Heroes book series, Matt Oldfield visited KGS to talk to our First and Second Year pupils about his love of writing from a young age whilst at school, becoming an author and why he enjoys writing books about football in particular. Matt's books are fun, action-packed biographies that tell the exciting life of the world's greatest footballers, from Maradona to Messi, from Beckham to Kane, and are very popular in school with our football-loving pupils. The visit was an excellent opportunity to promote reading and writing for pleasure. Matt happily signed books which were either the pupils' own books or had been purchased on the day. Our Third Year pupils also enjoyed a creative writing session with Matt in the KGS Library.



Stuart Rowson

In March, we welcomed former BBC leader across Sport, Children's and News, and now digital/social consultant and author, Stuart Rowson, to school. Stuart spent more than twenty years in media working for a decade at the BBC at Media City UK in Salford. First and Second Year pupils enjoyed listening to Stuart's time at school, his career path to date and his desire to write which culminated in him publishing his first book, 'Izzy and the Tumble Thunder'. The pupils were given the chance to ask Stuart any questions they had before being given the opportunity to purchase a signed copy of his book. During break time, Stuart also held a career's drop in session for our Fourth Year to Sixth Form pupils – great timing given the following week was National Careers Week.

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES



On Monday 26 September, our First Year pupils celebrated European Day of Languages. Pupils were invited to wear costumes with a European or international theme, and they rose admirably to the occasion, sporting an array of creative ideas. Congratulations to our winner Mia Gisslow, representing Sweden, who recycled an IKEA bag to create both a highly original and environmentally friendly outfit. Second place went to Oliver Hodson for his immaculate Italian chef outfit, complete with pepperoni pizza, and third place to Sam Asquith, for his lively Mexican ranchero outfit.

Pupils also took the opportunity to compete in our cake baking competition and produced an array of marvellous creations, including a picturesque Dutch-themed cake complete with a windmill, tulips and clogs; an authentic Polish 'Sernik' cake; and a French 'tricolore'-themed sponge cake, laden with coloured mini marzipan crepes and croissants. Such an all-round high standard of entry posed something of a challenge for Mr Berry to decide on our winners! Congratulations to first place winner Fraser Livesey for his fabulous German-themed

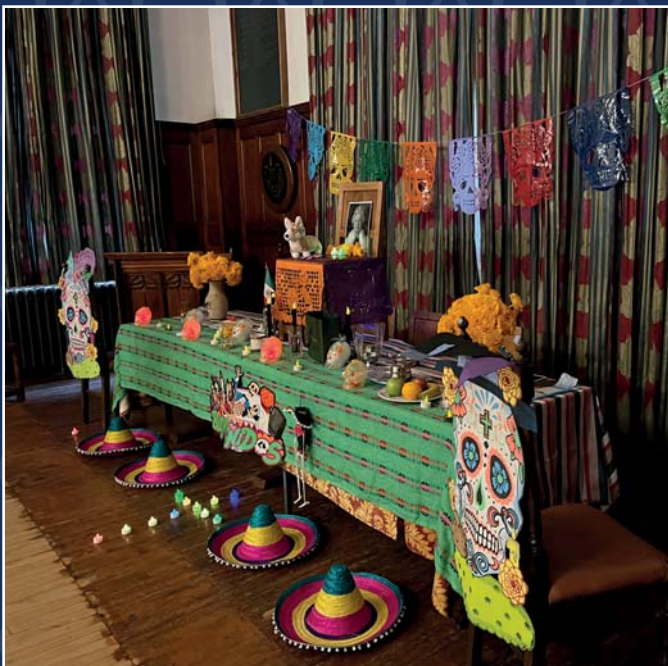
'Prost' cake, complete with overflowing icing - a real feat of cake engineering! Second and third place winners also impressed with their creations: Charlotte Pickervance with an action-packed Swiss ski-slope cake and Evie Taylor's Italian-inspired cheese, pizza and pasta cake.

A range of language-themed activities including quizzes, games and a spot of dancing - the Macarena - kept the First Years entertained throughout the morning! Lunchtime saw all year groups enjoy a delicious international-themed lunch with French, German and Spanish musical accompaniment. Mr Vevers and his team cooked up a range of culinary delights from across Europe and beyond: from Bockwurst and Bratwurst to ciabatta; croques 'monsieur' and 'madame', to a tasty chilli dish.

Merci, gracias and danke to all our pupils and parents who supported our European Day of Languages. A wonderful experience was had by us all!



EL DÍA DE MUERTOS



In November, Kirkham Grammar School celebrated El Día de Muertos (The Day of the Dead) - a Mexican holiday which takes place over the first two days of November and is celebrated throughout Mexico and by people of Mexican heritage elsewhere.

Spanish teacher, Mr Gonzalez, created a wonderful display in The Old Hall and our First Year pupils arrived at school in a variety of different costumes - they all looked amazing!

Headmaster, Mr Berry, had the unenviable task of judging the costumes at breaktime.

Congratulations to our winners; Seth (1st), William (2nd) and Lavani (3rd).



Jennifer Jones

In September, Upper Sixth pupil, Jennifer Jones, was selected as the RAF Senior Cadet and promoted to Flight Sergeant. During the summer of 2022 they attended a week long residential at Edinburgh University on a Cyber Advanced Course (Cyber Gold Equivalent), a week at Drill and Ceremonial Camp (at STANTA in Norfolk) plus a week at the Air Cadet Leadership Course Gold at RAF Cranwell. Jennifer has previously completed their Master Air Cadet classification alongside Instructor Cadet and planned and taught the new intake of cadets basic drill for the passing out parade. In October 2022, Jennifer travelled up to Tayside to attend The Air Cadet Pilot Scholarship Scheme (ACPS) which provides short residential courses of ground instruction and flying training in Single Engine Piston (SEP) aircraft. The course included twelve hours flying instruction, ground schooling, thirteen nights' accommodation and meals included.

With limited places available for the International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE), we were delighted that Jennifer was fortunate to be selected to go on a fourteen day trip to Australia in July 2023. The International Air Cadet Exchange (IACE) links the Air Cadets with the world. Each year for fourteen days in July and August, they exchange pupils so each gets a taste of the other's culture and another great cadet experience. The first exchange took place in 1947 between the UK and the Canadian Air Cadets. The worldwide cadet family now comprises more than twenty nations with around six hundred cadets/volunteer staff exchanging annually. Around ninety cadets from the UK head off to approximately fifteen different countries around the world. Please see our @KGSRAF Twitter page for updates and photographs from Jennifer's exchange in Australia. The programme includes the opportunity to visit Sydney, Brisbane, The Blue Mountains, flying over Sydney Harbour, visit Australia Zoo and much more. We look forward to hearing all about it.

In May 2023 - Jennifer was promoted to Cadet Warrant Officer (CWO) which is the highest rank with the Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC) and requires approval from the wing or area Officer in Charge (OC). Jennifer has worked hard and this is a highly deserved promotion.

Jennifer has been nominated for the Sir John Thompson Memorial Sword which is one of the top RAFAC awards. Cadets must be nominated by their unit, endorsed by their respective chain of command, and go through filtering with their Regional Commandant, before two CCF (RAF) cadets are interviewed by Commandant Air Cadets, Air Commodore Tony Keeling. The finalists not only have to show they have taken every opportunity available to them, and achieved qualifications and attended numerous activities, they must also show they have the core qualities that make them standout members of the organisation and their local community, and fantastic ambassadors for what we do. Jennifer has more recently been offered a Degree Apprenticeship with the global company CGI whilst studying at Manchester Metropolitan University. Jennifer aspires to work with cyber security – we look forward to welcoming them back in a year or two to talk about their experiences and advise other pupils on careers within the cyber industry.





Finntan Doyle

At the beginning of the 2022/23 academic year, I had the privilege of being appointed as the RSM (Regimental Sergeant Major) for Kirkham Grammar School's Combined Cadet Force (CCF), as well as the Lord Lieutenants' Cadet. These two appointments are my proudest achievements during my time at KGS and I am truly honoured to have been chosen to represent Kirkham Grammar School through CCF.

My story as Lord Lieutenants' Cadet first started towards the end of the last academic year when I was informed by Mr Taylor that I had made the final selection of three candidates for the Lord Lieutenants' Award. This was a huge achievement and, quite possibly, the biggest award a cadet can receive. Following this news, I attended an online interview with Lord Shuttleworth and found out a couple of weeks later that I had been successful and was awarded the role as the Lord Lieutenants' Cadet. At the end of the 2022 Summer Camp in Altcar, I was appointed as the RSM for Kirkham Grammar CCF, taking over from my close friend and Old Kirkhamian, Abigail Johnson, who was the Lord Lieutenants' Cadet during the 2021/22 academic year.

In early September, we all heard the devastating news that HRH Queen Elizabeth II had passed away. Shortly after the news broke, I was informed of my first event as Lord Lieutenants' Cadet - The King's Proclamation for the City of Preston. I felt very nervous about this as I knew I was responsible for leading the procession of the dignitaries and VIPs in front of the Harris Museum, something that was later witnessed by thousands of people. The event was a very sombre occasion but also one of the proudest moments of my life. After this event, I attended a memorial service at Blackburn Cathedral for the Late Queen Elizabeth II - a very poignant service which reflected the life of the Queen.

One of my proudest moments as KGS RSM, was leading the Fourth Year passing out parade in front of the Headmaster and the cadets' family and friends. It was an absolute honour to follow in the footsteps of RSMs before me. On Remembrance Day, I was responsible for reading out the dates during the Remembrance Assembly, and also lead a parade and attended numerous

Remembrance Services with the Lord Lieutenant. I also laid the wreath on behalf of Lord Shuttleworth. Another honour of this role involved attending the British Empire Medal Ceremony and presenting medals to the recipients who had won this prestigious award. Most recently, I attended and assisted at the High Sheriff of Lancashire's appointment which took place at Preston Town Hall.

It would be amiss for me to not mention one particular CCF highlight this year - the annual Regimental Dinner. This event celebrates our Sixth Form CCF pupils who, year on year, always thoroughly enjoy the 'black tie and ballgown' dinner. My year group were especially fortunate, as we were given the opportunity to attend two Regimental Dinners this year. The most recent dinner was held to celebrate the retirement of Lt Colonel Taylor, the Contingent Commander of Kirkham CCF. As RSM, I delivered the first speech of the evening and expressed huge appreciation for Mr Taylor and all he has done for us.

A personal favourite this year was being given the opportunity to meet HRH Prince Edward, The Duke of Edinburgh, and discussing with him CCF at Kirkham Grammar School, my experiences of the DofE Award and completing the Gold Award. This was the first time I had met a member of the Royal Family and it was a very proud moment for both Kirkham Grammar School and myself.

Finally, as the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet, I was invited to attend the Royal Coronation Party at Buckingham Palace in May. This once in a lifetime experience was truly amazing and being able to enjoy a Royal Garden Party and the Coronation of King Charles III is a memory I will never forget.

My final event before leaving KGS was the CCF Summer Camp. As always, this created lots of special memories.

My roles as Kirkham Grammar School's RSM and the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet has been a privilege and an honour and I will look back with pride, and cherish the moments and experiences I have had.

Finntan Doyle

CCF PASSING OUT PARADE



On Thursday 13 October, our annual Kirkham Grammar School CCF passing out parade took place. It is always 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 takes 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 204 cadets.

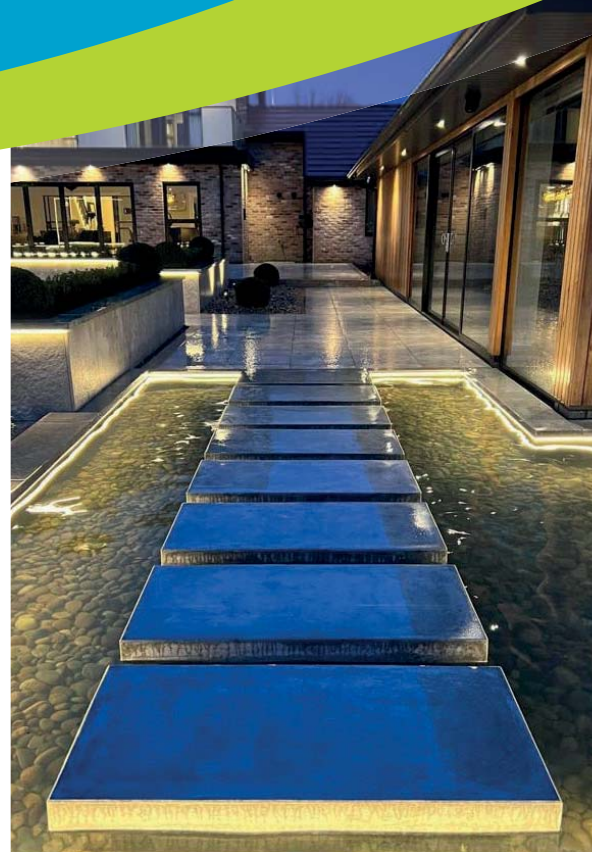




FIFTH YEAR CCF FIELD DAY

In mid-March, our Fifth Year cadets travelled to Fulwood Barracks for a full day of activities including rifle shooting, weapon handling and laser shooting. Thank you to all who contributed in providing this fantastic experience for our pupils.





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REMEMBRANCE DAY 2022



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, Ethan Woodcock and Amy Merrick, read the bidding and a Bible passage taken from the Gospel of St John. KGS Deputy Headmistress, Mrs Parkinson, led the service with the whole school falling quiet for the two minute silence. 'The Last Post' and 'Reveille' was played by Upper Sixth Form pupil, Poppy Taylor. 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. Headmistress, Mrs O'Donoghue, led the service whilst J4 pupil, Oliver Donohue, played the 'Last Post' and peripatetic music teacher, Mr Squires-Evans, the 'Reveille'. Our Head Boy and Head Girl, Henry and Bea, accompanied by the J4 Senior Prefects, contributed admirably 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.



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD



It has been another wonderful year of adventure and personal development through the DofE Award scheme for our Kirkham Grammar School participants.

With the lifting of Covid restrictions, opportunities for volunteering to help others and the local community have become easier to find and complete. The reports we receive from the participants' assessors are an absolute pleasure to read and show the dedication and commitment our pupils put into their Award.

The skills and physical sections are always undertaken with grit and determination to reach the targets and goals set by our pupils, and they always set their bar high and work diligently to achieve.

The expedition section is always an interesting part of each Award level and the commitment to completing the planning, training and group tasks is sometimes as hard as the actual undertaking of the activity. As difficult as the days, and sometimes the nights, can be, our pupils always show determination and true teamwork and even after they tell the staff they are never speaking to us again, they do seem to come round to the fact that they are very proud of their achievements.

With delays to Gold DofE Award Presentations occurring over the last few years, we were delighted to hear of so many of our former pupils receiving their invites to Buckingham Palace or Holyrood Palace in the summer months – a superb achievement. We send our warmest congratulations to all our DofE Award holders.

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

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Mr Possamai for his involvement with the DofE Award at KGS over the last 10 years. As he moves on to his new teaching role, we hope the many KGS DofE expedition memories stay with him, and that the challenges and interesting experiences encountered, and overcome, with true KGS teamwork and dedication serve him well in his new role. We will really miss his resourcefulness, calm attitude and his real sense of belief in the pupils and the reasons for being involved with this co-curricular part of school life.



SILVER

| | |
|------------|---------------|
| Saif | Amr |
| Alexa | Anderson |
| Jack | Austin |
| Hailey | Ballantyne |
| Georgia | Barson |
| Holly | Barton |
| Sophie | Birchall-Farr |
| Charlotte | Coburn |
| Kate | Cookson |
| Sarah | Cooper |
| Olivia | Coupe |
| Hannah | Culshaw |
| Sadie | Drury |
| George | Edwards |
| Rebecca | Fisher |
| Jack | Gorton |
| Oliver | Greenwood |
| Alanah | Halsall |
| Millie | Homan |
| Joshua | Horton |
| Grace | Lin |
| Montgomery | Loggenberg |
| Matilda | Loggenberg |
| Alexia | Macham |
| Sebastian | Mati |
| Finlay | McLachlan |
| Ariana | Milligan |
| Matthew | Oddie |
| Emma | Parker |
| Isobel | Procter |
| Noelie | Ranc |
| Harry | Reay |
| Prisha | Sivakumar |
| James | Thompson |
| William | Trow |
| Henry | Whitton |
| Jack | Wigglesworth |
| Lucy | Wildish |
| Charles | Wiltshire |
| April | Wright |

BRONZE

| | |
|------------|------------------|
| Trishala | Akundi |
| Charlie | Asquith |
| Max | Carter |
| Harry | Case |
| Grace | Cassidy |
| Tom | Chapman |
| Sophie | Clay |
| Holly | Cockram |
| Stanley | Collinson |
| Lola | Cooper |
| Jenson | Crompton |
| Caitlin | Davies |
| William | de Klerk |
| Henry | Dignan |
| Isabella | Durstun |
| Rowan | Edwards |
| Charlotte | Fisher |
| Anton | Gildea |
| Leoma | Gill |
| George | Godbold |
| Johnny | Goodacre |
| Alfie | Guthrie |
| Oscar | Harkins |
| Toby | Head |
| Ellis | Hollows |
| Lily | Hunt |
| Emilia | Hunt |
| Olivia | Hunter |
| Jessica | Jennings |
| Jasper | Johnson |
| Melissa | Johnson-Parker |
| Lucy | Jones |
| Oliver | Kollard |
| Daniel | Leaker |
| Ethan | Lemon |
| Maggie | Lewthwaite |
| Matilda | Loggenberg |
| Hugo | Loggenberg |
| Lucas | McDonald |
| Evie | Melia |
| Cieran | Milligan |
| Georgia | Nicholls |
| Eliza | Parkinson |
| Noah | Paterson |
| William | Prior |
| Maximilian | Rowe |
| Oliver | Shackleton |
| Lewis | Simpson |
| James | Singleton |
| Amelie | Singleton |
| Arjun | Sivakumar |
| Eleanor | Smith |
| Alexander | Smith |
| Natalie | Smith |
| Jason | Soar |
| Abbie | Southern |
| Freddie | Stott |
| Jensen | Stott |
| Callum | Sumner |
| Christian | Taylor-Tomlinson |
| Harry | Thompson |
| Scarlett | Tushingham |
| Esme | Whitfield |
| Jack | Wigglesworth |
| Abigail | Wu |



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Pre-School & I1 Spring Activity Morning



In mid-March, we welcomed our Pre-School and I1 parents, grandparents/ family members into school to enjoy a Spring Activity morning and lunch with the children.

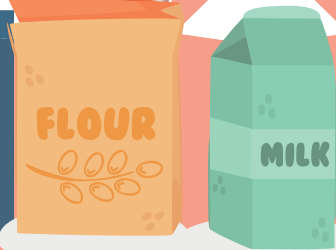
It was a wonderful morning which allowed the children and their special visitors to enjoy a number of shared activities including making nature headbands which looked amazing and the children proudly wore these for lunch.



COOK STARS BAKING DAY



At the end of March, our Junior, Infant and Pre-School pupils experienced a wonderful 'Baking Day' hosted by Cook Stars Preston. The Infant and Pre-School pupils thoroughly enjoyed making 'croissant bread puddings'. The pupils learnt how to cut using a knife safely, spread, whisk and pour, whilst also using their counting skills to measure quantities accurately. Their puddings smelt delicious once cooked! The Junior pupils enjoyed an Italian theme for their Baking Day and made calzone pizzas to take home!





J2 TRIP TO CASTLE HEAD

On Thursday 10 November, we arrived at Castle Head. Everyone was really excited! We had a tour around the place. It was huge! We were told which rooms we were in.

After that, we had some activities to do. We learnt all about food chains and then we went off to bait mouse traps. We dissected owl pellets and were able to see what the owl had eaten by finding skulls and bones of small animals. It was disgusting and interesting at the same time!

We had our tea and then later, when it was dark and we needed a torch to see, we went to collect our humane traps and emptied them. We were really hoping to have caught a mouse, a vole or maybe even a shrew... Sadly we didn't catch anything. Later, we played some team challenge games, which we all really enjoyed, before going to bed.

At 7.00 am, everyone was ready for the day. We had some breakfast and then had to make our own sandwiches for lunch before setting off for more fun and activities. This time we learnt about coppicing and then experienced this first hand. We used secateurs, loppers and even a saw. We had coppiced the willow hedge in no time!

Soon after, it was time for a walk in the woodland to identify minibeasts. We found 'Tammy the worm' and learnt about the importance of each animal and how they all contributed to their ecosystem.

We had lunch in the Chapel (our living/games room).

Not long after, it was time to say goodbye to our instructors. After packing the coach, they all stood and waved us goodbye. Then it was back to school.

I would really like to visit Castle Head again. I have made some great memories and have learnt a great deal.

Amy-Leigh J2





J3 Bushcraft

In September, our J3 pupils enjoyed their Bushcraft adventure at Castle Howard in North Yorkshire. Throughout the three day trip, the pupils learnt many new skills and experiences including camp craft, concealment activities, building shelters and wilderness first aid. As well as helping them in everyday life, the pupils took away some life-long memories.





J4 LAKE DISTRICT RESIDENTIAL



Forty-two excited J4s (and seven equally excited staff) travelled to the Lake District on Monday 22 May 2023 to start their week-long residential activity week.

On the way, they stopped for the first of their planned activities at Go Ape, Grizedale. After completing the hair-raising Treetop Challenge and a well-earned lunch, the children then split into groups to play Gorilla Games, specifically designed to develop their life skills, leadership and teamwork. Tired but happy, they descended on their home for the next four nights: YHA Helvellyn.

Three full days of adventure awaited and the children all amazed the staff and instructors with their resilience and hard work to complete some very challenging activities, including rock climbing, gorge scrambling, canoeing, kayaking and of course, lots of walking!

The final day saw the children embark on a sailing race experience on Ullswater. In small groups, and skilfully overseen by qualified instructors, the children learned the basics of how to crew a sailing boat and then put these new skills into practise, racing against their friends!

This was a fantastic way to end an amazing week!



SPORT

AJIS Cross Country

Our J3 and J4 pupils had a fantastic day at AJIS Cross Country in September.

We witnessed an incredible team effort from all of our athletes whilst competing in their races and the fantastic results demonstrated their determination on the course and their willpower to cross the finish line.

The results were as follows: (the top five finishers count)

J3 boys: 3rd Overall

William C: 2nd - silver medal
Josh H: 12th
William Y: 21st
Rocco G: 38th
Theo P: 43rd
Riley M: 49th

J3 girls:

Philippa P: 23rd
Millie O: 25th
Hollie N: 49th
Emily T: 59th
Layla P: 64th
Scarlett S: 67th
Quinn E: 71st

J4 boys:

Matthew D: 10th
Sebastian B: 21st
Thomas D: 45th
Freddie B: 51st
Rafe S: 62nd
Oliver D: 64th
Bobby P: 70th

J4 girls: 2nd Overall

Ava G: 6th
Amelia M: 8th
Bea F: 9th
Hattie W: 11th
Harriet T: 42nd
Isla V: 63rd
Polly H: 64th



AJIS U10 Football Tournament Winners

In January, the J3 boys took part in the AJIS U10 Football Tournament. Kirkham Grammar School entered two teams into the competition with all of the J3 boys taking part.

The stripes team went unbeaten throughout the tournament, winning four and drawing one game. The team saved their best performance for the final, where they managed to win 3-0 against a strong Cheadle Hulme School team. The Kirkham boys showed determination and skill throughout the game and they thoroughly deserved the win.



The National League Trust Football Competition

At the end of January, our U11 girls took part in The National League Trust Football Competition hosted by AFC Fylde Foundation. The event saw ten teams take part and our Kirkham Grammar School A team win the tournament overall.

This achievement meant the girls progressed through to the regional competition in March where, after finishing second overall, they were delighted to qualify for The National League Trust North Finals in April at Chesterfield.

The girls had an amazing day at Staveley Miners FC for the North Finals. They experienced a high standard of girls' football, showing great commitment and determination, and growing in confidence throughout the day.



AJIS Indoor Athletics 2023

At the end of January, our J3 and J4 pupils competed at the annual AJIS Indoor Athletics competition at Robin Park, Wigan. The day was a huge success and the pupils travelled back to school with an abundance of medals!

Our medal winners were as follows:

- **Ava** (J4) 2nd in 3 lap race
- **William C** (J3) 1st in speed bounce
 - **Leo** (J4) 2nd in triple jump
 - **Henry** (J3) 3rd in long jump
 - **Poppy** (J4) 3rd in chest push
- **Sebastian** (J4) 2nd in speed bounce
- **Eleanor** (J4) 2nd in vertical jump
- **Holly** (J3) 2nd in the 3 lap race
- **William C** (J3) 2nd in the 3 lap race
 - **Alexa** (J4) 3rd in triple jump
- **William C** and **Zach** (J3) 1st in the Paarlaf Relay
- **Harriet, Bea, Alexa** and **Eleanor** (J4) 1st in the Obstacle Relay

Well done to all who took part and congratulations to our medallists!



Pupils perform at Blackpool Tower Ballroom

At the beginning of February, for the very first time, KGS pupils in I3 through to J4 took part in the 2023 Wyre and Fylde School Sports Partnership Dance Competition at the world famous Blackpool Tower Ballroom. Competing against 16 local schools, and with a theme of 'One World', they performed to the song 'Tribe and Elements Unite' from the film 'Pocahontas'. It featured some of our older dancers as a Native American tribe representing the indigenous peoples of the earth, as well as other dancers representing the elements of 'air', 'fire', 'water' and 'earth'. They performed an emotional piece that showed happiness and strength as the earth became united as one world - the theme of the evening.

The judge commented on the wonderful choreography, choice of song and the dancers' ability to tell the story through ballet. An excellent evening and one that the performers will remember forever.

Senior School Fourth Year pupil and talented dancer, Eleanor Smith, opened and closed the event by performing a showcase dance with her partner, Giovanni.



JUNIOR, INFANT AND PRE-SCHOOL SPORTS DAY



On Monday 19 June, we welcomed parents and families into school for our Infant and Pre-School Sports Day. Due to the wet weather, our Junior Sports Day took place the following week in the Summerlee Hall. In the absence of supporters, the event was live-streamed to parents.

At both events, our pupils competed in their houses putting on a spectacular afternoon of sporting performances demonstrating their sportsmanship, determination and enthusiasm.

Sports Day is not only enjoyed by the pupils but also staff and parents experiencing a truly entertaining afternoon of sport.





Hockey

2022-2023



1st XI



2nd XI



U15s



U14s



U13s



U12s

Barbados
2023



Senior Hockey Tour to Barbados

On Friday 10 February, thirty-four Kirkham Grammar School hockey players from the Fifth Year through to Upper Sixth embarked on the trip of a lifetime to Barbados. During their week-long tour, the girls played a number of matches at the Sir Garfield Sobers Sports Complex as well as embarking on a catamaran cruise (where they were given the opportunity to snorkel in search of turtles), a Jeep Safari, trip to The Boatyard and an evening at Harbour Lights. During downtime, the girls relaxed by the pool and in the evenings enjoyed a quiz, Superhero Fancy Dress night and Karaoke.

Wonderful memories made that will last a lifetime!



During the Easter holidays, twenty-three pupils and four members of staff embarked on a ten day 'trip of a lifetime' cricket tour to Barbados.

It was the first time that the school had organised a long-haul junior cricket tour and upon arrival at Manchester Airport there was an air of excitement at the prospect of an overseas tour. The boys enjoyed the inflight entertainment and made an excellent impression on their fellow passengers. Upon arrival at the All Seasons Resort, the boys settled into their surroundings before enjoying their first taste of Barbadian cuisine.

The next day, the boys took part in a gentle practice session led by KGS' Head of Cricket, Mr Lyon, at the Maple Cricket Club. It was a great venue for their first taste of cricket on the island. Grass nets and fielding on the outfield allowed them all to experience how different the cricket conditions are in Barbados. This training demonstrated that the tour would involve plenty of learning curves and challenging cricket conditions.

Over five game days, two squads clocked a total of ten well-played matches.

During the week, the group thoroughly enjoyed the Caribbean lifestyle and hospitality. An evening at Oistins Fish Fry gave the tour party the opportunity to sample some of the freshest fried fish Barbados has to offer, with a choice of marlin, mahi-mahi, flying fish, swordfish and tuna, as well as

enjoying some local entertainment.

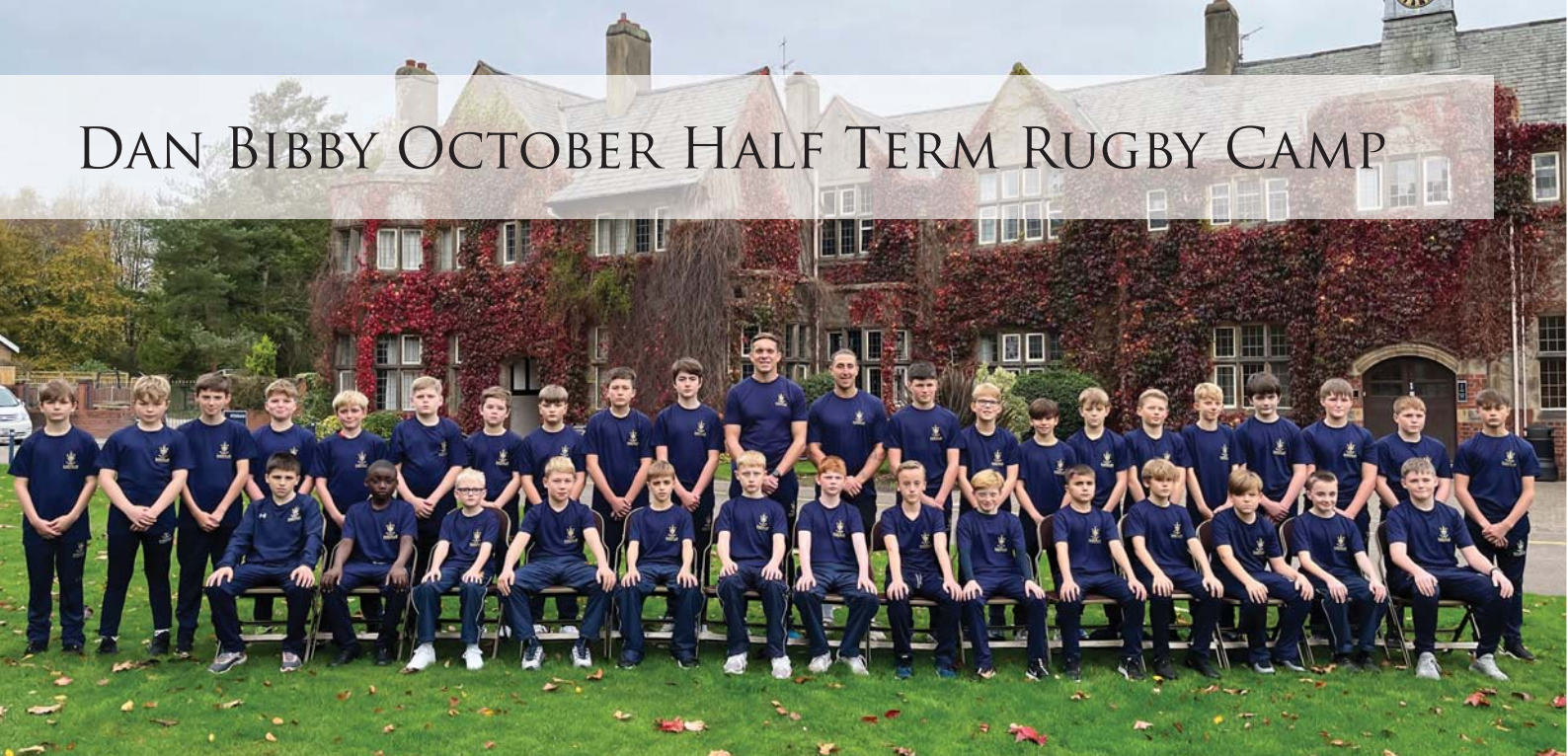
During a midweek rest day, the party were delighted to get the chance to experience a Jeep Safari, which showcased some 'off the beaten track' places and the true beauty of an island steeped in history. It was also a fascinating insight into the history of sugar farming and the slave trade. Afterwards, the boys enjoyed an afternoon of beach activities before enjoying more local cuisine at the Surfside Restaurant and Bar.

The last full day of the tour was a rest day spent on a catamaran cruise. Anchoring at the beautiful All Seasons Resort was a particular highlight, and being able to watch the monkeys on their daily walk!

Our final duty was to host the tour awards. Each squad delivered their own set of awards alongside some tour reflections which generated numerous laughs and team comradery. 'Cricketer of the Tour' was awarded to Theo Smith, 'Performance Player of the Tour' went to captain, Stan Collinson, 'Development Player of the Tour' went to Brodie Black and 'Clubman of the Tour' went to a very popular choice, Freddie Boocock.

After packing so much in, in a short space of time, a relaxing final morning gave everyone the opportunity to soak up the last few hours of Caribbean sunshine and prepare for the journey back to school.

DAN BIBBY OCTOBER HALF TERM RUGBY CAMP



During the October half term holidays, Kirkham Grammar School hosted a Rugby 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:

Dan Bibby: Former England and Great Britain Rugby Sevens player and 2016 Olympic silver medallist. Currently playing for Caldy RUFC. Previously played for Sale Sharks RUFC, Fylde RUFC and Cardiff Metropolitan University.

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

Mark Sutcliffe: Currently U14s Coach at KGS, Senior Coach at Garstang RUFC. Previously worked at England Rugby for 15 years as their Development Officer. Played for Preston Grasshoppers RFC and Vale of Lune RUFC.

In addition to the technical sessions, Dan Bibby also led the Strength and Conditioning sessions.

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 Mr Lyon, Mr Corkish, Mr Bowker and Mr Trenhaile for looking after the pupils all week in the Boarding House.

Despite the cold and wet weather at times, 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 prize-winners.

CALIFORNIA SOCCER TOUR 2022

Day 1

Early starts are to be expected when taking part in any major sports tour, and so it was that the pupils, staff, and parents(!) all managed to gather at school for the 2.00am meet on the 'morning' of Tuesday 18 October. All rather bleary-eyed we made the coach trip down to Manchester airport for the short flight to Heathrow, before embarking on what would turn out to be a long, yet relatively enjoyable 11 hour flight across the Atlantic and mainland USA to Los Angeles. After such a long day it did feel rather surreal to be arriving in LAX airport at what turned out to be 2.00 pm on the afternoon of the same day. Thankfully, we had been briefed with advice on how to manage the jet leg, and we were soon arriving at our accommodation in Santa Monica, ready to get settled in and go for a stroll down to the famous Santa Monica pier, and the end of Route 66. Following what was, in very literal terms, a long day, we rather swiftly fell asleep after having eaten an evening meal.

Day 2

There was no time to spare on the morning of day 2 as we set out for Disneyland. An action-packed day ensued with a huge choice of rides and adventures to be had. Some of the group had the Star Wars area as their favourite part, whilst the ability to choose between so many rides meant that the day went by in a flash. As darkness fell, the group were able to watch the evening light show, with the Disney Castle as well as a giant orange Halloween pumpkin providing the ideal backdrop to the experience.

Day 3

Day 3 saw us remaining local and the itinerary for the day was the Santa Monica Pier and surrounding area. This turned out to be a favourite day for many, as the mixture of rides, beach, surf, food and games provided a real Los Angeles feel. With the pier and the famous 'Baywatch' lifeguard stations in view, many an hour was spent either lazing on the beach, splashing in the surf, or playing what turned out to be the first set of many competitive beach American Football games. A highlight of the day was being able to speak with one of the lifeguards, a veteran of many experiences, films and television series', and he was genuinely impressed with all the pupils' football skills and manners.

The evening was then a trip to the UCLA campus and a game of college soccer. The UCLA campus itself was very impressive and we were treated to an excellent game, first class entertainment from the resident brass 'band', and a good chat with local supporters. By this stage we were starting to feel very much at ease with the local customs, and some members of the group started to realise how interested people were in their British accents!

Day 4

Friday was then 'soccer' day, and we have evening fixtures planned against one of the local Los Angeles District clubs. First of all though, it was off to the LA Galaxy stadium, where we had the chance to train with their coaches. A very professional session was put on for us on their training ground, before a full stadium tour – a treat we were not expecting. The night before, LA Galaxy had lost in a play-off game, so the site was rather calm and low-key, but we had a chance to tour the inside of the stadium, as well as getting a look behind the scenes. It was a fascinating insight into the workings of the club, and MLS in general.

Following lunch, and some very competitive bowling competitions, we then set off for our first set of fixtures, against the Region 7 club. One of the highlights of the games was the fact that the pitches were located right next to LAX, and as we were playing, a constant stream of aircraft flew in over the pitches. A very fresh breeze reminded us of our location next to the ocean, but that didn't stop some commanding performances, and both the U15 and U16 teams won their games. A big thank you must go to our hosts, who asked some of pupils if they wanted some baseball coaching, and then very kindly invited us all to join them for post-match tacos and burritos!

Day 5

The next day started with a pre-match walk along the Pacific coast from Santa Monica to Venice Beach, and a chance for everyone to stretch their legs and explore the local area. The walk was a fascinating insight into some of the cultural and social differences to be found in this part of the world. A very good reminder of the opportunities that travel can bring you in learning about the world.

After that it was on to our afternoon fixtures against Region 57 down in the Huntington Beach area of Los Angeles. A very good-natured set of games saw some excellent performances and seemed to really bring all the teams together. The games saw some superb football and two convincing victories, although one of the games did see our first ever yellow card!

The evening meal was booked in at The Hard Rock Cafe. What we hadn't quite realised was its proximity to Hollywood Boulevard and its stars on 'The Walk of Fame'. A very glamorous and exciting walk along the boulevard star spotting was a perfect way to end the day.

Day 6

The Sunday was then a day that many in the group had been looking forward to since the start of the tour and it didn't disappoint: 'American Sports' fixtures. Starting off with an American Football fixture at the genuinely amazing SoFi stadium. The game was the LA Chargers against the Seattle Seahawks. But what was most impressive was the idea of sport as entertainment, and the whole way in which the stadium and event were organised gave the spectator a spectacular experience. We then moved onto the Crypto Arena where the NBA game that night was the LA Clippers hosting the Phoenix Suns. Again, the game itself was good, but it was the music, the lights, the fireworks and the overall entertainment that left the biggest impression. Maybe that was why Snoop Dogg and Rihanna were also ... apparently.... in attendance.

Day 7

The final full day was to be spent in Universal Studios, and there was so much to do. The behind the scenes tour was particularly special, giving a glimpse into many famous films, sets and scenes from many years ago, including the Back to the Future Town Hall, and the famous Jaws shark. The rides and attractions themselves were superb, and an action packed day was had by all. By this stage we were all very accustomed to California life, and were not looking forward to having to leave!

Day 8

The final day was a travel day. Checking out of your accommodation and leaving Santa Monica seemed rather sad. We had one last look at the famous beaches, and then headed off to the local outlet mall for some much needed souvenir shopping. Then it was to LAX and the flight home, reflecting on the trip, and some pleasing soccer statistics: played four, won four, goals scored 'many', goals conceded 'zero'. The 2022 California Soccer Tour certainly lived up to expectations. A great chance to play competitive 'soccer' fixtures abroad was a wonderful experience, but the chance to explore new and very different parts of the world was probably more powerful.



Rugby

2022-2023

1ST XV



2ND XV



U15s





U14s



U13s



U12s



U12s

Sedbergh Super Tens 2023 Champions

Congratulations to Kirkham Grammar School rugby boys who won the Sedbergh Super 10s on Monday 27 March following a 17-5 win in the final against Sedbergh School. The boys won two of their three group games to qualify for the cup, and put on a talented display in the final to take the cup for a second consecutive year - the first time in the cup's history that Kirkham have won the cup back to back.

KGS Head Coach, Mr Roddam said, "Having qualified for the cup after two wins in the group on day one, we made the decision to rest the starting ten and play the reserves for the third and final group match v Stamford, the most physical team in the tournament, with the aim of the starting ten being fresh for day two, and I believe that paid off. The final v Sedbergh was some of our boys' last game in a Kirkham shirt and there is no better way to finish their Kirkham career than lifting the Sedbergh Tens Trophy. I couldn't have asked for anything more."

A fantastic achievement, boys...can KGS achieve three in a row in 2024?





Mr J Roddam

Mr Roddam is currently Head of Boys' Sport at Kirkham Grammar School. He is an old boy of the school and captained the 1st XV in 2000, as well as representing England U18 schools.

After leaving school, he signed a professional contract with Harlequins and won more international caps at U21 and student level. Mr Roddam gained more premiership rugby experience in a three year stint at Sale Sharks before dropping down to championship level and returning to university to train as a PE teacher. It was at this time he became involved with the coaching of the 1st XV at Kirkham.

Since 2007 he has coached the 1st XV forwards as well as many junior sides and has enjoyed helping many players to develop their game and progress into senior rugby. Mr Roddam has also coached the forwards at Sedgley Tigers for the last six years and was very happy with their recent league title and promotion to National 1. Outside of school and rugby, Mr Roddam enjoys spending time with his young family and his hobbies include fishing and tinkering with his VW Campervan.

Mr D Bibby

Mr Bibby is currently a rugby coach across all ages from First Year to 1st XV. He is a Kirkham old boy having attended the school from 2007-2009. Upon leaving, he went to Cardiff Met University playing for Sale Sharks whilst studying. He then signed a contract with England Rugby Sevens and played professionally for nine years achieving over sixty caps for England. Dan also represented team GB in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and in Rio in 2016 winning an Olympic silver medal. He also represented Team England in the 2014 Commonwealth Games and in 2018 winning a bronze medal. He is currently playing for Caldy RUFC in the Championship and has previously played for Fylde RUFC.



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International Selection for KGS pupils

Kirkham Grammar School Sixth Form pupils, Ollie, Osian, Matthew and Darren were all selected to play for their respective U18 international squads.

Ollie formed part of the U18s England squad, Osian was part of the U18s Wales squad v Scotland, Matthew was selected for the U18s Ireland squad for a friendly v Italy, and Darren was selected for the U18s Italy squad.

In addition to a number of friendly matches, Ollie, Osian and Darren took part in the Six Nations event at the end of March.

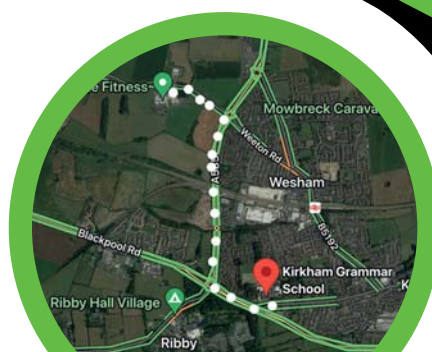
Lower Sixth pupil, Anya Jackson, is part of the U18 England Hockey Squad and has also been invited to train with the Great Britain Elite Development Programme (EDP). At the time this magazine went into production, Anya and the U18 squad were set to play a series of fixtures which they hoped would lead to an U18 series over in France and selection into the Euro's being held in Germany. Please see our school social media pages for any updates.



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Senior School & Sixth Form Sports Day

Kirkham Grammar School's 123rd Sports Day in May began with the preliminary events including high jump and 1500m.

The morning started with the hurdles events on the track whilst the javelin, long jump, shot and discus were underway in the field event area.

It was a great team effort as the full track event began in the afternoon, with pupils supporting their peers and numerous parents joining us for one of the highlights of the academic year. Our First Year pupils took to the track and performed for the first time, whilst we also celebrated our Upper Sixth pupils competing for the last time in their school career. We saw some fantastic performances in both the sprint and middle distance events with all houses keen to tot up valuable points which, as it turned out, would be crucial in their final scores.

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.

With just one point separating first and second place, the scores were in...

4th place – **Kirkham House with 613 points**

3rd place – **Preston House with 645 points**

2nd place – **School House with 672.5 points**

In **first place was Fylde House with 673.5 points** who were crowned the 2022/23 champions for the Sports Day Trophy.

Congratulations to our Victrix and Victor Ludorum winners:

Juniors: **Abbie E and Ziad H.**

Intermediate: **Xara L and Cieran M.**

Senior: **Frankie M and Oliver B.**







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ONCE IN A LIFETIME TRIP TO SILICON VALLEY

"Don't be encumbered by history.
Go off and do something wonderful."

- Robert Noyce

During February half term, twenty pupils and three members of staff travelled to Silicon Valley for a once in a lifetime trip. It was an inspiring and action-packed week - everything from the history of Alcatraz to fun at Six Flags; bringing the history to life at the Intel Museum, to so many tactile and fun activities at The Tech Interactive, plus the awe-inspiring IMAX film on Volcanoes.

Our biggest thanks go to our amazing hosts and speakers at our two visits - Meta kindly organised by Heidi L Rhodes which proves the power of networking and relationships. The amazing speakers: Anitha Aravind, Alice Chen (from Accenture), Miku Jha, Kathleen Tandy, Kristina Kansen and the Reality Labs.

Our Zoom visit was thanks to the last-minute skills of Jay Weisblatt, who linked us to the amazing Mahesh Ram, Ritu Mukherjee, Chelsea Trattner and Amber Au - thank you for sharing your time, stories and inspiration. What an amazing environment to work in!

Time to start planning for our 2025/26 trip...



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My partner and I visited for a Sunday roast and we will definitely be back. We really enjoyed the atmosphere at The Horns; the staff were so friendly and helpful and the whole place just felt so relaxed and welcoming. The food was fantastic; we really enjoyed it and would recommend this place to anyone looking for a great Sunday Lunch... or any other meal for that matter!

Judith Treadell

●●●●●

Best Sunday Lunch I've had in a long time. Good portions and proper roasties/Yorkshire puds. Will visit again soon. They also have a dog friendly seating area which is a bonus!

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APRICA SKI TRIP 2023

The annual Ski Trip this year was to Aprica in Italy. The journey started on Thursday 9 February with a very reasonable (especially compared to previous years) meeting time of 9.00 am in the Old Hall. Once all our administration and checks were done, we made our way to the coaches with the Sixth Form being given the role as designated suitcase loaders for the trip. We arrived at Manchester Airport and made our way through baggage and security. This was followed by lunch in the airport at various different food outlets (Burger King being the favourite) and despite what the pupils say, it wasn't long until we were on the plane and off to Milan.

Our arrival in Milan went pretty smoothly and in no time at all we were through customs and baggage claim and onto the coach to take us to the hotel. This is where we encountered our first challenge: a coach driver who had not been told we needed to stop for an evening meal and who didn't speak very much English - thank goodness for Google translator! We finally managed to get a stop at McDonalds (I know this sounds like a fast food chain tour but I assure you it wasn't!), where the pupils quickly took full advantage of the Italian McDonalds menu differences. There were gelatos, pizza pockets and chicken wings along with the odd Big Mac rushing past me at an alarming rate, and apparently even the chips are better in Italy!

We finally arrived at the Hotel Bozzi and by now it was getting late for the pupils and staff, who had all had a long day. After a quick brief for meal timings and what to wear in the morning, it was off to bed in preparation for our first day of skiing.

Friday was the first morning of skiing - always a busy one - and this was further magnified by having to do ski fit. After breakfast the pupils were split into their initial ski ability groups and went to collect their skis, poles, helmets and ski boots, then it was off to the slopes to meet 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. The instructors split the groups down roughly on ability and took their group off for an assessment - there were only a few minor adjustments needed to the initial groups once the assessments had finished.

At lunch the pupils came back pretty exhausted and relieved to have two hours to eat and relax. They discussed over lunch (when I say lunch I actually mean pasta and by pasta I mean LOTS of pasta!) what they had accomplished with their instructors. Friday night was our first evening of entertainment: Karaoke! There was some great singing by all who took part and the choice of songs was very surprising. I thought I was the only one old enough to remember Boney M's 'Daddy Cool' but it turns out I was wrong!

Saturday was another amazing day of skiing, with glorious sunshine and great snow conditions. All the groups were progressing nicely and some pupils moved up a group. The level of skiing improvement was one of the best I have seen in years and that is credit to the pupils who listened to what the instructors were teaching them. Group 1, as I was now calling them, (as they were no longer beginners) were at this point going down blue runs. It was very impressive to see how their technique had come on in such a short period of time.

At this point I feel I must let you know about our evening meals... The hotel was definitely providing us with enough food: the evening meal starter was a full bowl of pasta, that most of the adults (apart from chemistry teacher, Mr Atkinson) struggled to finish, and some of the pupils thought was the main meal. There were definitely some surprised faces when the waiters came out with the main course! On Saturday night, after the evening meal, we all took a walk into the town to see the Ferris Wheel. At this stage, a full two days of skiing (and the large meals) was beginning to take its toll on some of the pupils and we decided to give them a bit of free time followed by an early night.

The next day (Sunday) brought with it another challenge: the weather had got hotter. This led to an enforced application of sunscreen to ensure nobody got burnt. The slopes were still great for skiing but I think some layers were discarded for the afternoon session of skiing. The evening activity was bowling which is always a firm favourite with the pupils. This is a good opportunity for some team building across the year groups. The journey to the bowling alley was a long one, it felt like we had driven back to the airport and I'm sure I heard Mr Taylor say he had seen a sign for Calais at one point!

Monday's weather was just as beautiful. The upper intermediate group and advanced group were by now doing jumps, going 'off piste' and performing tricks as they skied. The intermediate groups were close on their heels looking majestic as they came down the slopes, and Group 1 didn't look out of place as they skied alongside the other groups at various points on the mountain. After an amazing day on the slopes it was back to the hotel to get showered and enjoy some free time before going out for some amazing pizzas in town. The welcome break from pasta was well received by all.

On Tuesday we had the KGS Ski Trip Fancy Dress Day. The pupils never disappoint with this and the thought that goes into their outfits was clear to see. I have to say that by this time there was another school sharing the hotel with us and the look on their faces as we made our way to the boot room to get ready for skiing was priceless! Each year, the pupils' fancy dress outfits get better and better and this year was no exception. There were The Three Little Pigs, Lilo and Stitch, Mexicans and a variety of onesies. The winners of the fancy dress were Reece (in an inflatable suit that looked like a sumo wrestler was carrying him) and Lilly (in an outfit that looked like a penguin was carrying her). Well done to everyone!

The afternoon was a chance for the pupils to have a break as the evening activity was night skiing. On arrival at the nursery slopes for the night skiing there was some initial drones of, 'why are we back on the nursery slopes?' After the impressive sight of forty-two pupils skiing in a snake down the slope, the drones subsided and it was a chance for all the groups to mix as they skied. Some pupils took the opportunity to practise the 'worm turn' or some backward skiing - I encourage

you to check it out on @kgs_trips Instagram page to see how impressive it is.

Wednesday was a big day for the pupils, not only was it our last day of skiing but it was also the skiing assessment day. There was a murmur of nervousness mixed with excitement amongst the pupils as each group set off with their instructor. By the end of the days skiing, every pupil had achieved a remarkable level of skiing compared to the start of the week. The only downside to this was that it was our last day! After handing in all our ski kit we assembled in the hotel and our instructors came in to present the skiing certificate cards and medals to the pupils (and even a few members of staff). We gave the instructors a little gift of KGS hats and scarves to remember us by and said our farewells to them. I even think there were a few tears.

Usually the last night is reserved as a bit of a free night in order to pack and get ready for going home. This year was a bit different: it was 'Disco Night'. We were treated to some moves that I can only describe as Footloose mixed with jelly, and that was just the staff! It took a while for the crowd to warm up to the thought of dancing in front of the others but by the end of the night, when the last song was announced, the dancefloor was packed and some serious moves had been busted out.

Thursday morning had come too quickly, especially with the 5.30 am start, and there were some very tired faces coming down to claim their suitcases. We loaded the coach and set off towards Milan. It was definitely one of the quietest coach journeys I have been on with school. Our flight landed in Manchester and we headed off by coach for the last leg of our journey back to school. The pupils were a credit to their parents and to the school. I would like to take the opportunity, on behalf of the pupils and myself, to thank the staff: Mr Taylor, Mr W Atkinson, Mrs Atkinson, Mrs Taylor, Mr J Atkinson and Mr Barrow, for their hard work during the week to keep everyone safe. Without their help the trip would not have happened.

Mr S Moffatt





FUN DAYS

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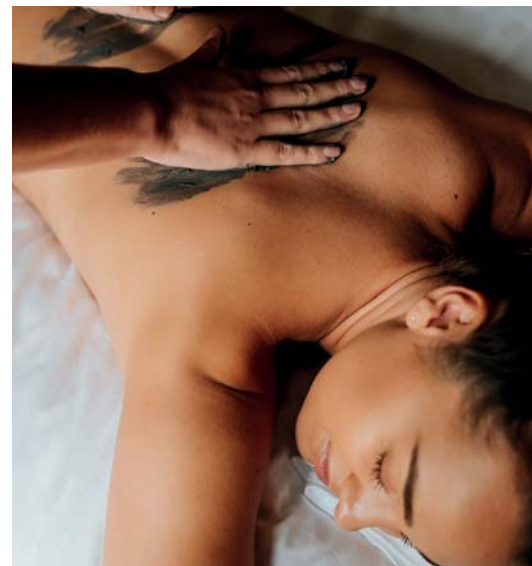
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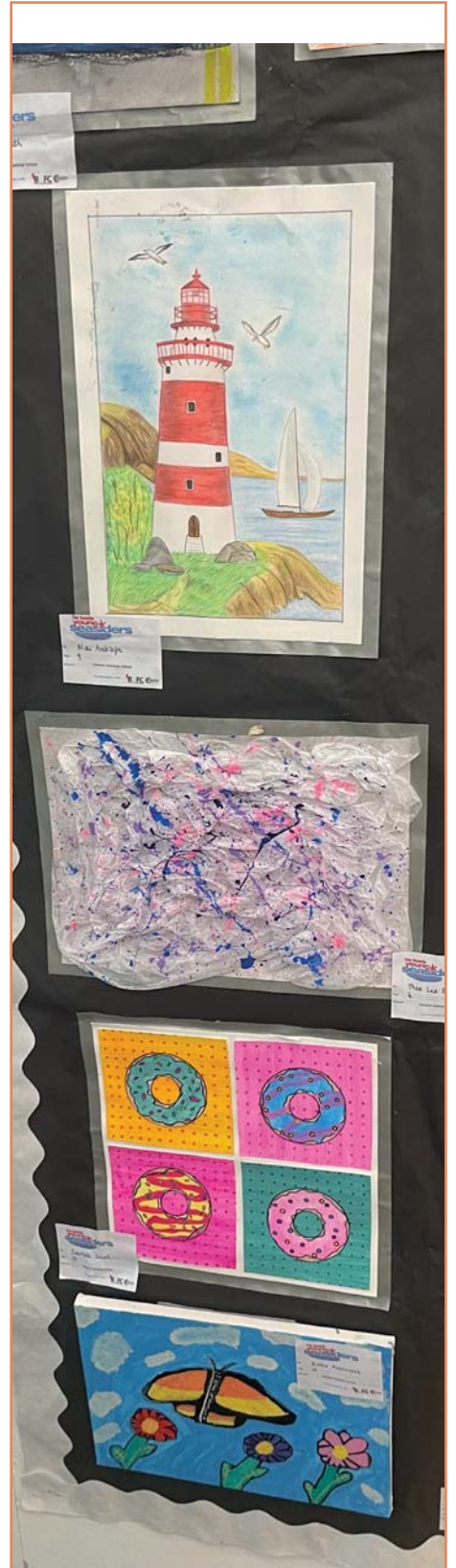
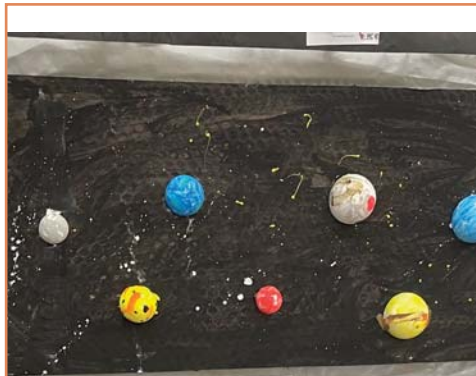
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YOUNG SEASIDERS' ARTS AND CRAFTS COMPETITION



In February, our Junior and Infant pupils were invited to enter Blackpool Gazette's Young Seaside's Arts and Crafts competition. We received outstanding artwork from I1 through to J4 and had the mammoth challenge of selecting the final entries to be displayed at the exhibition.

Congratulations to our winners; Nia M (J4) and Lucas V (I3).

Well done to the following pupils whose artwork was showcased at the exhibition throughout the month of March: Rohan Howe, Olivia Murusidze, Renzo Mancini-Granger, Annabelle McIlwham, Hunter Smith, Scarlett Smith, Phoebe Smith, Eleanor Desoer, Iris James, Hugh Donbavand, Nurin Tafti, Niki Tafti, Thea Bamber, Riva Pimlott, Fatimah Omer, Annie Sagar and Katie Ainsworth.



New York





In December, the Art Department organised a Fine Art and Photography trip to the Big Apple... New York City!

The extraordinary tour party, of pupils and teachers, enjoyed boundless fun during an action packed five day trip.

We were given the privilege to visit many New York hotspots; to name just a few, we explored Times Square, went up the Rockefeller Center, the Edge Observation Deck, Chelsea Market, Soho, the 9/11 memorial, One World Observatory, the Met, the MoMA, Grand Central Station, Brooklyn Bridge and even saw the Broadway show, Beetle Juice. All of these spectacular visits served as inspiration for our Fine Art pupils, as well as fabulous on location shoots for our photographers - from below the street, within the subway, to 1131 feet above the street at the Edge.

One of the most surreal feelings I got in New York occurred when the city was enveloped by the darkness of the night, yet the city was anything but dark. It remained an explosion of colour and light. The overwhelming sense of illumination that glowed strong was a feeling I greatly enjoyed capturing in my photography. The luminescence of Times Square was

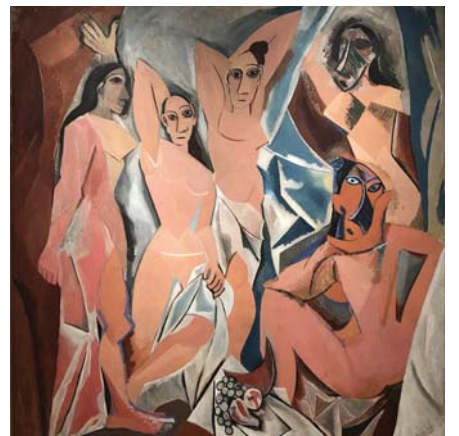
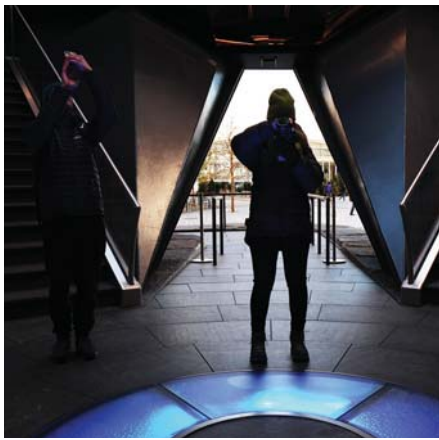
unrivalled, which is why it was one of my favourite scenes to view and document.

My favourite however, was undoubtedly the wonderfully unique camera angles I obtained by being many hundred feet up in the air through the means of some of NYC's tallest buildings - the Edge being the tallest outdoor viewing platform in the western hemisphere. Being able to capture the bustling city from such an extreme viewpoint was astronomical. The feeling of being so high up was insurmountable, and to be able to have the opportunity to integrate the joy I felt up there into my GCSE coursework only made me all the more ecstatic at my fortune!

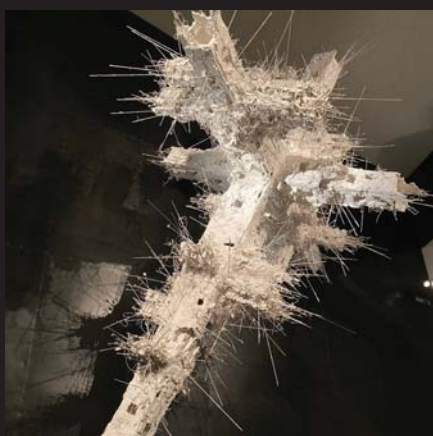
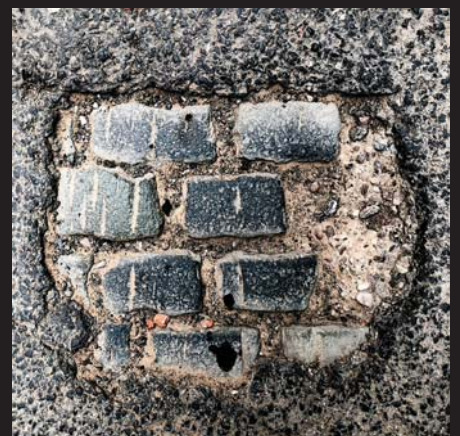
Our school trip to New York City was certainly an experience that I am not planning on forgetting soon - not the sights I saw, the friends I made, or the inordinate sense of glee. The exhaustion at the end of every action-packed day was worthwhile in exchange for the fun that was had throughout!

Hannah Pilkington
Fourth Year pupil





GCSE PHOTO DAY MANCHESTER





After many months researching, sketching and finally completing their digital paintings on their iPads, Mr Gardiner's GCSE pupils finished their Art Deco railway poster inspired designs. The project, devised by Mr Gardiner, began with a visit by local digital artist, Nicky Thompson, who talked about his own work – specifically his nationally acclaimed 1930's railway inspired poster series. Starting with a single poster to promote the Lion Salt Works on the Mid Cheshire Line, it then developed into fourteen posters, a touring exhibition, and merchandise including thousands of posters being sold globally. The project attracted TV (BBC/ITV), radio and magazine coverage.

GCSE Fine Art pupils, Mr Gardiner, Mrs Lovell and Nicky Thompson developed sketches and digital artwork of the school featuring sporting activities in conjunction with the rural wildlife, which can be seen in and around school throughout the year, with the school building as a backdrop. The project came to a conclusion with all designs being composed in a poster layout, individually named, framed and displayed in the 38 block. In addition to the posters, a postcard pack with a series of twelve postcards was also produced. Finally, Nicky Thompson was invited to officially open the display which was attended by pupils, their parents and guests.



Artist: Nicky Thompson

INGREDERE UT PROFICIAS

KIRKHAM

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The art students at KGS have worked with artist Nicky Thompson and under the guidance of KGS Head of Art Simon Gardiner to create these beautiful 1930s inspired artworks.



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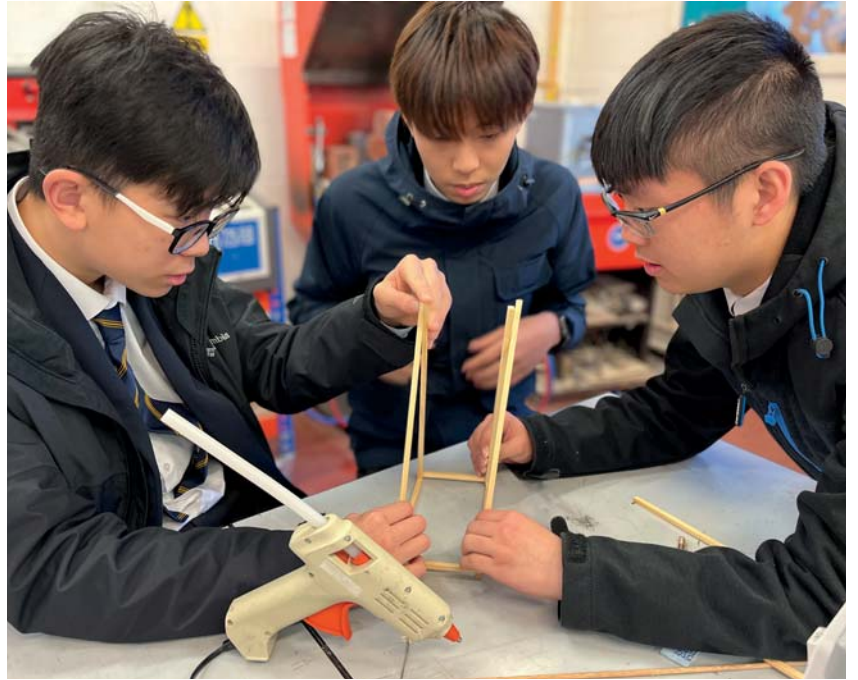
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Life In The Sixth Form



In January, our Fifth Year pupils experienced a taste of 'Life in the Sixth Form' at Kirkham Grammar School. During their taster day they visited a selection of chosen subjects in a bid to help them decide their A Level and BTEC preferences for September 2023.



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KGS Medical Society

Kirkham Grammar School's Medical Society was set up by, and for, pupils who are considering a career in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or allied healthcare. All of these courses are very competitive at university. For example: in 2022 there were approximately four applicants per medicine place and twelve applicants per dentistry place. As such, most of these courses also require pupils to complete several weeks of work experience prior to application. This demonstrates their commitment to, and understanding of, their chosen career. Medicine and dentistry applicants also need to undertake additional aptitude tests (UCAT and BMAT) that are submitted alongside their application.

This whole process can be quite daunting, and also requires a great deal of forward planning from the pupils. KGS' Medical Society aims to help with the application process and also provide some insight into the NHS and recent medically-related news. During our weekly medical society meetings, pupils have explored the NHS' core values and the Pillars of Medicine. They have then applied these to different ethical scenarios. Pupils have also undertaken several debates, which were

incredibly well researched and strong points were made from both sides of the argument. Pupils have also had the opportunity to present interesting current medical research or case studies. It has been lovely to see how their confidence in public speaking has grown and how, through all of these tasks, they have developed important skills that may be tested during the interview process.

Depending on the university, medicine and dentistry applicants will need to complete the UCAT and/or the BMAT. These aptitude tests are used in different ways by different universities, but there is often a threshold score that candidates need to achieve to be considered for interview. Therefore, it's really important that pupils practise these tests. Work has already started to complete questions with the current Lower Sixth and Fifth Year pupils. This early practice, alongside their incredible hard work, allowed our current Upper Sixth applicants to score extraordinarily high on their UCAT. Thus, allowing them the pick of universities.

We have been very lucky to have hosted several speakers who have delivered talks to the medical society and other interested Fourth

Year to Upper Sixth pupils. Dr Andy McLea, a mountain rescue doctor, spoke about cases he had witnessed and the rescue process. His son, Danny, also spoke about his experience of being a First Year medical student at the University of Oxford. The current Lower Sixth were particularly interested in how to apply to such a prestigious university. Additionally, Old Kirkhamians, Harry Booth (2015-2022) and Jess Millar (2018-2020), both came to talk to pupils about their life as medical students and give an insight and advice on the application process. Furthermore, Dr Johnson, has offered invaluable support to those applying to medicine by conducting practice interviews.

Medical Society takes place each Wednesday at 12.45 pm. Pupils from Fourth Year through to Upper Sixth are welcome to attend. Equally, we are always looking for speakers in any healthcare field. If you would be willing to talk to pupils or offer advice, this is always greatly appreciated. Please email: E.Chiekrie@kirkhamgrammar.co.uk



Medical University Offers

In April, we were delighted to hear that a number of our Upper Sixth pupils had received university offers to study medicine, dentistry and veterinary.

Below are some of our pupils who have successfully received university offers:

Miriam, who has been part of the KGS family for five years and has completed her DofE silver award, studied A Levels in maths, biology, chemistry and politics. At the time of the magazine going to print, Miriam is hoping to study medicine at Hull-York Medical School.

Penelope, who joined in the First Year, has received offers to study dentistry at Cardiff and Glasgow and at the time of writing was still awaiting other university offers. Penelope who also studied A Levels in maths, biology, chemistry and politics, has very much enjoyed the musical aspect of life at KGS having been involved with the string group, orchestra and choir.

Jessica, who also joined in the First Year and was recently awarded her DofE gold award plays the violin in the string group and orchestra, as well as being a member of the choir. She was delighted to hear that she had been offered a place at both Cambridge and Imperial College London to study medicine. Jessica studied A Levels in maths, biology and chemistry.



ACTS OF REMEMBRANCE FOR QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Last September, following the sad passing of our nation's longest-reigning monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, Kirkham Grammar School performed a number of acts of remembrance.

Headmaster, Mr Daniel Berry, and Junior, Infant and Pre-School Headmistress, Mrs Kirsten O'Donoghue, hosted special assemblies reflecting on the Queen and her role as monarch, showing the pupils what an amazing example she has been of dedication and service to people all over the world.

The whole school observed a minute's silence and Mr Berry, and representatives from the KGS army and RAF sections, laid flowers at the KGS flag flying at half-mast.

An ornamental cherry tree, which originated in Japan and was introduced to Britain in the 19th Century, was planted in the school grounds in memory of Queen Elizabeth II.

KGS Upper Sixth pupil, Finntan, the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire's Cadet for 2022/23, attended his first official event, The County's Reading of the Royal Proclamation in Preston, to hear Lancashire officially proclaim, and formally welcome, King Charles III as the new monarch. Lord Shuttleworth, Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire, The Queen's representative, accompanied the High Sheriff of Lancashire, Martin Ainsworth DL, who read the Proclamation for Lancashire from the steps of the Harris Museum and Art Gallery. The same ceremony was held in towns and cities across the UK.

Kirkham Grammar School, one of Lancashire's oldest schools, has a long and proud history with a strong royalist tradition, very much

strengthened by its close ties to the armed forces through its CCF contingent. In each of the past three years, a member of the school's CCF has been selected as the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire's Cadet, emphasising these links.

The school's stated date of foundation, 1549, was in the reign of Edward VI, and it is likely that the school emerged from a chantry school attached to Kirkham Parish Church, which was reformed after the dissolution of the monasteries by King Henry VIII. Historians agree that the chantry school which became Kirkham Grammar School is almost certainly much older, and was definitely in existence by 1444, in the reign of Henry VI.

On the occasion of the school's 450th anniversary celebrations in 1999, the school was visited twice by members of the Royal Family, first by the Queen's cousin Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester and later by her youngest son, Prince Edward.

The school enjoys strong ties with the Worshipful Company of Drapers, one of the City of London's ancient guilds, of which the Queen was a member, as is her son, King Charles III.

In 2014, when the Drapers Company celebrated its 650th anniversary, the Queen showed great interest in a commemorative tapestry which had been designed as a joint project by pupils from Kirkham Grammar School and the Drapers' Academy, a state school in Romford, Essex, sponsored by the company. The Queen is pictured listening to the story of the tapestry's production in the two schools.



1926-2022

The Coronation of King Charles III



Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School celebrated the King's Coronation on Friday 5 May. The school was decorated for the occasion, with a large flag of King Charles and a large balloon arch greeting everyone upon arrival at school. The pupils added to the patriotic flare by wearing red, white and blue.

The whole school spent time creating a piece of memorabilia for a time capsule, to commemorate the occasion, and the School Council led an assembly to share their pieces with everyone. This included handmade crowns, friendship bracelets and letters to future generations. In addition, securely placed within the time capsule is a whole school video which features the pupils' reflections of life at the Junior, Infant and Pre-School and their experiences of the Coronation. Further to this, pupils have made predictions of how life will be in ten years' time, with the aim of re-opening the time capsule during the King's decennial jubilee.



Old Kirkhamian, Daniella Parziale, was delighted to find out she had been chosen to take part in the Coronation parade as part of the Royal Air Force Marching Contingent. Daniella undertook ten days of training and drill practice at RAF Halton prior to the event, as well as an overnight rehearsal in London.

The contingent marched from Waterloo Station to Westminster Chapel, and from there to Admiralty Arch for the national anthem. They then marched down the Mall to Buckingham Palace for the 'three cheers'. Talking about this amazing experience, Daniella said, "I felt so proud to be part of the King's Coronation, the day was incredible... certainly one for the history books and to tell the grandchildren about in the future!"

PUPIL VOICE

Pupil Voice is a strong-knit community that works well to provide help and solutions to problems pupils experience, no matter what age. By having factions of Pupil Voice, it allows pupils throughout the school to get involved and share their opinions on almost any topic surrounding life at Kirkham Grammar School. The committee leaders use these opinions to work and benefit everyone and implement pupil specific ideas to make school a better environment for all. This year leading Pupil Voice has been great, and it has been enjoyable to watch it grow into a determined team of people. Hopefully, next year it can continue to expand and aid the school in a communal way.

A Merrick & E Woodcock
School Captains 2022/23



Community Committee

Committee Leaders: I Millachip & A Loughlin
Committee Secretary: P Sivakumar

A big thank you to all our Community Committee reps... we've raised lots for worthy charitable causes this year through the efforts of form groups across the school, with activities that included a FIFA tournament, pie a teacher, bingo, the Halloween tree, the LEJOG Challenge and many more. We hope you had fun supporting us and look forward to hearing your new ideas next year!



Curriculum Committee

Committee Leaders: L Mihell & S Birchall-Farr
Committee Secretary: G Lin

Throughout the academic year, our committee has made significant progress in achieving small but effective changes to the school's curriculum. We listened to pupils' feedback and focused on improving public speaking opportunities in classes. As a result, heads of departments agreed to introduce more public speaking tasks, allowing pupils to develop their communication skills. We also aimed to implement life skills lessons through workshops and PSHE, empowering pupils to excel in both school and everyday life. We are proud to have made a positive impact on our school community.

Equality and Inclusivity Committee

Committee Leaders: A Macham & M Homan
Committee Secretary: J Horton

The Equality and Inclusivity committee has worked tirelessly to promote diversity in our school throughout the 2022/23 academic year. Our efforts have led to several significant achievements, including making the canteen food more inclusive to pupils of all ethnic backgrounds, and ensuring clear labelling of the options. Furthermore, we have made awareness months and days accessible to pupils of all ages, enabling them to learn about important issues and support inclusivity within our school community.



Eco Committee

Committee Leaders: A Macham & M Homan
Committee Secretary: J Horton

The Eco Committee has taken strides to implement recycling across the school. The cafeteria is now fully equipped with recycling bins, and steps are being taken to ensure this initiative goes further. A whole school "green day" took place in June as part of the great Big Green Week, a celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.

Co-Curricular Committee

Committee Leaders: A Killeen & S Amr
Committee Secretary: E Hollows

This year, the Co-Curricular Committee has canvassed opinion and developed a plan to deliver some highlighted pupils' needs outside of lessons. We are currently arranging a highly requested cooking club; are working with the Heads of Houses to provide more mixed gender house events; and are also working with the sports department to make it easier to try out different sports. Finally, we are also looking to arrange more frequent and varied school trips for the future, as many were cancelled due to Covid.



Health & Wellbeing Committee

Committee Leaders: G Holland & R Fisher
Committee Secretary: R Walling

Taking on board the ideas from the younger committee members, our first initiative was to increase the accessibility of sanitary products around school. This has now been achieved as there are now free products available at several stations around school, such as the Library, Reception and Surgery. 2023 brought along the challenge of government advisory changes to the RSE provision, which is still under review nationally. However, at KGS the PSHE curriculum has already been expanded to be more inclusive, with more RSE talks from external experts than previous years.

CHARITY AT KGS

A Life for a Cure

In September, Kirkham Grammar School welcomed Michelle Bresnahan to school to talk about 'A Life for a Cure' charity which works with Meningitis Now to fight the disease.

In March 2010, her son, Ryan, a healthy and fit sports scholar at Clifton College, died from the devastating disease. Ryan was an exceptionally talented sportsman and had played hockey since he was a youngster.

Ryan's mum, Michelle, has since been tirelessly campaigning to raise awareness and fight the illness which killed her 16-year-old son.

Thinking back to the dreadful time, Michelle said: "We had no notice or even time to say goodbye. It all happened within an hour".

After his death, Ryan's family set up the charity, one that receives no government funding, so they rely entirely on the generosity, energy and initiative of supporters to raise the vital funds they need to carry out our lifesaving and life-changing work.

Following Michelle's visit, our KGS U18, U16, U15 and U14 rugby squads travelled to Clifton Rugby Club to play Clifton College at a special memorial event which takes place against a different school each year.

We were incredibly honoured to be invited to attend and support this event.

For more information about the charity, please visit: <https://ryanbresnahan.org/>



Tour de Drapers

On Tuesday 20 September, Kirkham Grammar School welcomed the 'Tour de Drapers' team who were cycling 230 miles between their seven secondary schools to raise funds for the Master's charity, Place2Be, a children's mental health charity.

The team joined our First Year pupils for an assembly in the Old Hall before the pupils and form tutors waved the team off at the front of school as they began their first day of cycling... 56 miles in total around the Fylde Coast.



Harvest Assembly

At the end of September, our Harvest Assembly took place at Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School. Pupils enjoyed an informative presentation delivered by Headmistress, Mrs O'Donoghue, and were asked to think about those less fortunate than themselves, reflect and give thanks.

This year's wonderful collection of food donations for The Trussell Trust, who support Fylde Foodbank, showed that by working together as a community we can make a positive difference to the lives of others. Thank you to all of our families for their generosity and kindness.

Many thanks to Fylde Foodbank for joining us for our Harvest Assembly and for sharing with us the difference these donations will make.



Children in Need 2023

In November, Junior, Infant and Pre-School pupils enjoyed a number of Children in Need 'Pudsey Bear' activities to raise money for this incredibly worthwhile cause. The pupils took part in the following activities throughout the day including: a sports session with Mrs Farquharson, an art session with Miss Smith-Leach and a whole School 'Bear Pong' competition. Within their classes, the pupils also enjoyed a variety of 'Children in Need' themed activities.



NSPCC Number Day 2023

Kirkham Grammar School supported the NSPCC at the beginning of February by taking part in a whole school Number Day.

Junior, Infant and Pre-School pupils arrived at school wearing their school uniform and an item of clothing with a number/numbers on. Thank you to Mrs Tafti who kindly made school a wonderful 'Power Maths' Flo character cake!

Senior School and Sixth Form pupils took part in a 'number hunt' in which members of staff wore number badges for the pupils to find throughout the day.

In class, the pupils took part in a range of activities related to the day, and also raised awareness of the work of the NSPCC.

All the money raised makes an enormous difference to children today, and helps the NSPCC be there for children tomorrow. The NSPCC need our support more than ever. By raising money, we can help to fund their vital services such as Childline – the helpline that is always there for children and young people whatever their problem or concern. On average, a child contacts Childline every 25 seconds.



22's Thumbs Up For Charlie

In February, we welcomed Mr Robinson into school to talk to our Second Year pupils about the Thumbs Up For Charlie Foundation and to thank 22 for their recent fundraising. In total they raised a fantastic £754 during their LEJOG Challenge. During the visit, three of our pupils, Harry (raised the most money £110), Anna (travelled the furthest 253km) and Max (travelled second furthest 251km), were presented with Thumbs Up For Charlie gifts to thank them for their personal achievements.

Red Nose Day

Red Nose Day 2023 was celebrated at Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School with a fantastic 'dance' assembly and bake sale organised by our School Council. The School Council explained that Gethin Jones, best-known for presenting shows including Blue Peter and Morning Live, was taking on a huge challenge for Red Nose Day by dancing continuously for 24 hours to raise money for people in need. With this in mind, the School Council asked everyone to take part in a continuous dance session for 15 minutes. The Junior and Infant pupils had a wonderful time, dressed in their red accessories, and in particular enjoyed YMCA and Ghostbusters!

Thank you and well done to our School Council for organising the morning's 'dance' assembly and bake sale. As always, we are so proud and thankful to our Kirkham Grammar School families for their support in aid of this incredibly worthwhile cause.



THE FRIENDS OF KGS

It has been refreshing to be able to return back to normal again this year, without even a mask in sight!

Our first event was in November, the Charlotte Tilbury event, which was held in the Kirkham Grammar School Old Hall. Everyone who attended had a fabulous evening and cannot wait for us to have another. The team from Charlotte Tilbury are also anticipating a return in the near future as their sales were phenomenal. Thank you to all who supported this new event to make it such a success and allow us to be able to repeat the evening next year. We raised £620.

Our second event for November was the 'Wreath Making' evening. A group of ladies made their very own beautiful wreaths from Fauna and Flora. Our first Christmassy event wouldn't have felt like Christmas without the mince pies and mulled wine. It was a really lovely evening with lots of fun and laughter and we will most definitely be running another next year. We raised £290 so thank you to all who supported this cute event.

We have had two 'Bag 2 School' collections, and combined, we raised an amazing £220. So, thank you for taking the time to bring your unwanted items to school for these collection dates and times, because every little helps and then often goes a long way.

We have been selling a number of pre-loved uniform items on an adhoc basis throughout the year. Thank you to all parents and pupils who donated your pre-loved uniform to The Friends in order for us to then redistribute at a small cost to other parents. We continue to collect pre-loved uniform as parents are really appreciating this continued service, especially considering school is transitioning into the new school uniform from September.

Our Christmas Fair came back with a vengeance. Our Summerlee Hall was absolutely full. It was so lovely to see so many of you there enjoying the creative stalls, the games, the food stalls, the raffles, the tombolas and so much more! The team setting up really got us into the Christmas spirit and helped make the event a huge success. Thank you to Santa and his elves for joining us, the children's faces were absolutely magical. Finally, a thank you to you all for donating so many raffle and tombola prizes, the queues for the stalls were incredible for the entire duration of the fair. We made £2,300, which is just amazing!

Our annual Christmas lunch turned into brunch this year. It proved to be an absolute hit at 'The Grove' in Lytham because it was a sell-out. We couldn't possibly ask for more than that. The brunch was delicious, the drinks were flowing and the ladies didn't stop laughing. Thoroughly enjoyed by all, many are anticipating our next lunch. If you missed out last time, be sure to book your tickets early next time. We raised a staggering £1,050 so we can't thank you all enough for donating raffle prizes and attending the event.

We returned to 'The Grove', now renamed 'Palm Lytham', for our annual Summer Lunch. Friends enjoyed pre-lunch drinks before delicious food was served in the sunshine. After lunch, Palm spoilt those attending with complimentary sorbets featuring a candy floss top! A wonderful afternoon was had by all.

Registering with Easy Fundraising UK turns your everyday online shopping into free donations for The Friends of Kirkham Grammar School with no cost to you. Simply register at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fokgs and start shopping with over 4000 retailers. We have so far raised £160, how fantastic.

We are also a registered charity with Amazon. Select us at your chosen charity and every time you shop on Amazon and checkout using them, they will donate money to us. I love the sound of shopping being so productive!

We are always looking for extra help, whether this be by volunteering a little time before or at events, suggesting fundraising or event ideas, donating raffle or auction prizes, or joining our committee. Your help, no matter how small, is always greatly appreciated. Supporting The Friends of Kirkham Grammar School is massively rewarding; we have a super friendly team and it is most certainly a great way of making new friends within the KGS family, especially if your children are recently new to the school.

The Friends of Kirkham Grammar School wish you all a fabulous summer break, and we look forward to seeing you all again in September, ready to smash another brilliant year!

Thank you for your continued support.

Abby Crook

Chair – The Friends of Kirkham Grammar School





John Waite, MBE

At the start of the academic year, it was with great sadness that we announced the death at the age of 91 of a true Kirkham Grammar School great, John Waite MBE: a distinguished former pupil and a long-serving member of the Governing Body.

His connections with the school were multiple, but he is best remembered by the KGS community as a stalwart governor, who in 2017 completed a remarkable 75 year association with the school. He was universally regarded as the proverbial "safe pair of hands", willing and able to make difficult decisions, where necessary, but always with a sensitive human touch. However, his association with the school stretched all the way back to boyhood: John joined KGS as a First Year pupil in 1942, so the first part of his school career took place against the background of the Second World War, with the school dealing with the privations of wartime: regular teachers serving in the armed forces, covered by temporary staff and older teachers brought out of retirement, and news of old boys killed or injured in conflict overshadowing the life and work of the school.

He, nevertheless, enjoyed a successful school career, developing a lifelong love of and concern for the school and all that it stands for. His time at KGS overlapped with that of his younger brother Eric, who has also retained a lifelong connection with the school, both in his own right and as husband of the late Professor Barbara Robotham.

John left school in 1947 and joined what was then the English Electric Company as a trade apprentice, rising through the ranks as the company became first the British Aircraft Cooperation, then British Aerospace and finally BAE Systems. He became Executive Director of General Projects at British Aerospace, overseeing the development and production of some of the company's most iconic and prestigious aircraft and was awarded an MBE for his services to the Aerospace Industry in 1974. In the mid-1980s, it was the expertise, experience and technical know-how of John and his Preston and Samlesbury-based teams which led to the restoration of a four-decades-old Spitfire aircraft which had been used as a static 'gate guardian' at an RAF base for years, returning it to the skies.

On leaving school, he immediately became a prominent and active member of the Old Kirkhamians' Association, and his son Chris enjoyed a successful school career at KGS in the 1970s. Unsurprisingly given his skills and expertise, as well as his love of the school, he was invited to become a Governor, serving with distinction through the tenure of five different Headmasters, all of whom benefitted hugely from his wise counsel. He served as Chairman from 1991 to 1995, a period of rapid growth both in pupil numbers and in the school's buildings and facilities. Having served on

the Board throughout the school's period of rapid growth and development during the years since independence in 1979, he deployed his expertise as a project manager to great effect in overseeing the many and varied building projects that took place during those years. It was during his period as Chairman that the Junior School buildings were completed and opened, science accommodation in the Norwood Block improved and expanded, the Lodge Building designed and constructed and a purpose-built Sixth Form Centre created out of ageing and austere 1950s classrooms.

Before he was Chairman, he was closely involved in the project to build a multi-purpose hall which proved to be the key to so much subsequent growth and progress. The Hall, which was re-named the Summerlee Hall in 2016 in memory of the Headmaster who oversaw the project, stands as testimony to the vision and ambition of the Governing Body at that time, and John was among several proud Governors from that era who were present at the re-naming ceremony in July 2016.

However, John's biggest and most lasting legacy to the school is the building which bears his name. He was closely involved in this project, which involved the final demise of the temporary classrooms which had served the school so well for almost thirty years after independence, but which had outlived their intended lifespan. John was given the honour of taking a turn at the controls of one of the mechanical diggers which were used to flatten the old classrooms, and he took great delight in playing such a symbolically important role in launching a process which was of such clear importance to the long-term growth and prosperity of the school. More importantly, he played a crucial role in ensuring that a build which had to take place in the tightest of timeframes, namely between the start of summer exams study leave and the resumption of a full teaching programme at the start of the autumn term, remained on schedule.

The buildings were duly completed within the required timescale, due in no small part to John's keen and attentive interest. It was a truly proud moment for him when the building, bearing his name, was formally opened in April 2008.

When he stepped down from the Governing Body in 2017, his retirement was marked with a presentation and reception attended by guests and Governors past and present. Throughout his many years on

the Governing Body, John maintained a steadfast commitment to the school of which he was so manifestly proud. His wisdom and sense of fairness and propriety meant that he could always be relied upon to make judgements which were prudent, putting the interests of the school and those who attend it ahead of those of any individual. In so doing, he was instrumental in ensuring that KGS survived and prospered at a time when so many other similar schools in the area have either closed altogether or have lost their historic identity and mission.

Kirkham Grammar School is in many ways unrecognisable from the boys' county grammar school that eleven year old John Waite joined in 1942, and many of the modern buildings and facilities enjoyed by today's pupils stand as his legacy. Yet in another way, arguably more important, John was a custodian of the school's traditions and heritage, working to ensure that the school retains the distinctive atmosphere and ethos that gives it the same enduring appeal today as throughout its long and proud history.

John leaves behind a son, three grandchildren and four great grandchildren, to whom we extend our sincere condolences.



John Waite MBE (pictured at his retirement from the Governing Body in 2017, with KGS Headmaster, Mr D H Berry).



Photographs taken on 17 May 2007, the day the old temporary Wareing buildings were being demolished in readiness to build phase 1 of what would eventually be named the Waite building.

Steven Crowther

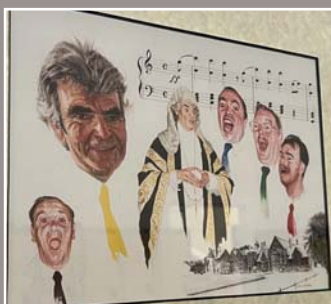
It is with great sadness that we must report the death of Steven Crowther, former Director of Technology at KGS, who, after a short spell of illness, died at the beginning of November.

Steve was a big part of the school's development and progress either side of the new millennium. He leaves behind a very real legacy from his time at the school, which he joined in 1996, when he was appointed as the first overall Director of Technology.

He was in right at the start of the major re-development and re-branding of Technology at KGS, as the ICT and internet revolution of the 1990s took hold. Appointed as Director of Technology before the new building was built, Steve played a key role in overseeing the detail of its design, construction and kitting out.

It was under his leadership that ICT first became not just a subject in itself, but a fundamental part of literally everything that happens in school. He managed the introduction of internet access for the school and facilitated the transfer of every aspect of school administration to an ICT-based system. It is remarkable to reflect that this was only twenty-five years ago.

That he was able to initiate and oversee such fundamental change in how things are done, yet remain so popular with both colleagues and pupils speaks volumes for his genial no-nonsense approach. He is remembered with great affection as



an inspirational teacher, with a can-do attitude which readily rubbed off on pupils and colleagues. His lessons were full of humour yet business-like and productive.

Steve was also an enthusiastic Preston Housemaster for a while - immortalised when he sang "Masters of the House" at the 1998 Spring Concert with fellow Housemasters Arthur Baines, Paul Smith and Ian Scott - an event which was recorded for posterity in a wonderful painting by former art teacher Simon Painter. The painting still hangs in the Staff Room.

After stepping down from his post in 2003, Steve worked as a freelance consultant in technology education, but he was increasingly drawn into creative art, and he had become a popular painter of scenes and landmarks in his home area of East Lancashire.

Steve was joined at KGS by his daughter Emma from 1998 until 2003, and we send our condolences to her, Emma's husband Ian Duncan (also KGS 1998-2003) and to Steve's wife, Joanne.



Angela Davies

It was with great shock and sadness that we shared the news of the death of Angela Davies after a short illness in January. Angela worked at Kirkham Grammar School as our Purchase Ledger Clerk for fourteen years and was the wife of Old Kirkhamian, Michael Davies (KGS 1982-1989). Angela's worked at Kirkham Grammar School, but more importantly the understated, unfailingly cheerful, reliable and obliging manner in which she carried it out over her fourteen years at the school, made her a familiar and much-loved presence in the school, where she will be greatly missed. She loved KGS every bit as much as her husband and their two daughters, who are current pupils at KGS.

All at Kirkham Grammar School extend our sincere condolences to Angela's friends and family, especially her husband Michael and their two children, Alyssa and Lauren.

Reverend Michael Clarkson

In mid-April, we were greatly saddened to share news of the death of former KGS Boarding Housemaster and Head of RE, Reverend Michael Clarkson, who died at his adopted home in Sussex.

The word legend is perhaps over-used in referring to teachers, but in the case of "Mick Bat" it is entirely the right word. He was the embodiment of the spirit of KGS, and tributes from Old Kirkhamians have poured in on social media since his death was announced over the weekend, every one of them effusive and affectionate.

Michael's irreverent persona and colourful turn of phrase were a front for a deeply caring brand of Christianity, indeed he was the epitome of Christianity as a way of life as well as a set of words and beliefs. He took over as Boarding Housemaster in 1976, in the days when the Housemaster was non-resident, sharing care for boarders with the Headmaster and his wife, who lived on site. He remained in that post until he left in 1990, when he moved to Sussex with his second wife Christine, a French teacher at KGS.

His time at KGS spanned the end of its era as a boys' state grammar school and its early years as a co-educational independent school. He succeeded brilliantly in bridging the transition from state to private and single sex to co-educational: his robust and no-nonsense approach was very much the persona of the traditional boys' school master, yet in his case it was palpably backed by a genuineness of care for and interest in pupils of all ages, all personality types and both genders. He embraced every aspect of school life and gave freely of his time both within and especially outside school hours.

Truly an inspiration to countless others, whose work all those years ago lives on in the hearts of Old Kirkhamians all over the world.

We extend our sincere condolences to his widow, Christine.



The Old Kirkhamians' Association



The Old Kirkhamians' Association AGM and Annual Dinner took place on Saturday 15 October, and was, as always, greatly enjoyed by a large number of former pupils ranging in age from early 20s to 70s.

This diverse gathering enjoyed a superb meal, prepared and served in style by the KGS Catering Team, this year in the School Dining Hall, with hot food catering in the Old Hall now precluded by recent developments to accommodate burgeoning numbers in the Boarding House.

Guests then returned to the Old Hall for coffee and speeches, thereby retaining the feel of the dinner in its usual setting. Toasts to the school and the association both reflected on the enduring values and atmosphere of KGS through rapidly changing times, whilst the

Headmaster in his response paid tribute to all who had worked so hard to ensure the school's continuing growth and development.

OKA President Mike Ward, serving a second term having lost much of his first one to the pandemic, reflected on his own schooldays and the rapid and positive social and material changes that have come about in the thirty years since he left school.

Guests then mingled long into the evening, renewing old acquaintances and making new ones, united by their experiences of the school in different eras. Much has changed, but a good deal remains the same, and the intangible but very real KGS spirit burns brightly whenever Kirkhamians are gathered together.

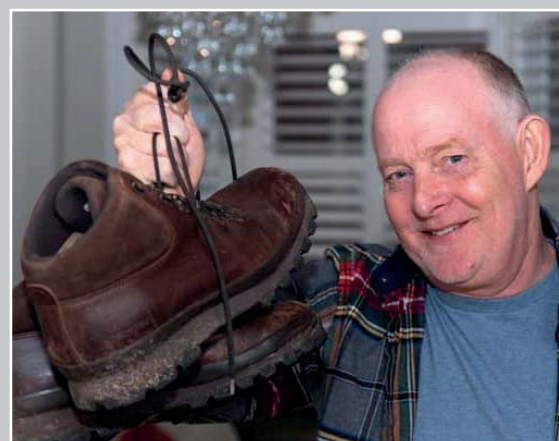


LIFE AFTER KGS

It is always wonderful to hear from our former pupils and learn about life after KGS.

James Cartmell (KGS 2004-2016)

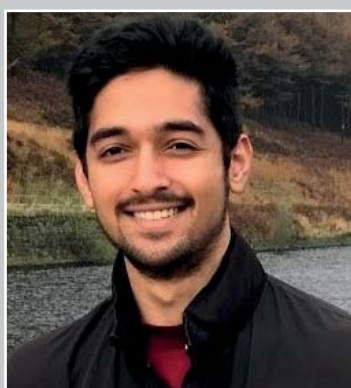
Old Kirkhamian, James Cartmell, has been filming in Birmingham for a lead guest star role on BBC's 'Doctors' which is due to air in early September. Claire Foy, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Eddie Redmayne and Emelia Clarke all had guest stars on 'Doctors' as their first TV credits. As well as this, James has started recording for the fourth season of DreamWorks Animation series, 'Go, Dog. Go!', on Netflix in which he voices the series regular character, Gilber. Also out now is 'Where's Wally' Season 2 which has been a huge success on Sky TV and sees James voice Wally. James narrowly missed out on a Netflix lead role but is auditioning weekly for some high end amazing projects. Since we last spoke to James, he has also signed with one of the best management companies in LA and has had his US work visa approved at the US embassy so has been auditioning for US projects too.



David Uttley (KGS 1975-1981)

Old Kirkhamian, David John Uttley, is the newest Melanoma UK ambassador, and he is working very hard to raise awareness and funds for this very worthwhile and important charity. He is determined to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, and his fundraising efforts have already commenced with vigour. At the time of writing this article, the ascent was booked and scheduled for August.

His new role as an ambassador for Melanoma UK is incredibly important to David. Speaking about his role, David said, "to be able to educate people of the dangers of melanoma and the sun is massively important - the danger of leaving things alone and burying your head is just too much of a very expensive risk. Early diagnosis is the key, and education runs hand in hand with that. We need to know what to look for and what to do. The last ten years have been a roller coaster and the last eighteen months have been a massive challenge - mentally and physically."



Dr Mihir Parmar (KGS 2009-2015)

Old Kirkhamian, and recently qualified doctor at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Dr Mihir Parmar, has been honoured with the 2021-22 award for 'Best Foundation Doctor involved in Undergraduate Teaching' by the Trust and the University of Manchester where he trained as a medical student after KGS. Just as he did during a distinguished career at KGS, Mihir has not only excelled in progressing his own career, but has also continued to give service back to the community by supporting and mentoring younger undergraduates. He hopes to continue supporting undergraduate education in the coming years.



Lottie Bell (KGS 2008-2015)

Former Head of Sixth Form, Mr Adrian Long, and psychology teacher, Mrs Jackie Stanbury, had the pleasure of meeting up and touring school with Lottie Bell, who is now working as an NHS Clinical Psychologist. Of Lottie's visit, Mr Long said, "It is fantastic to see careers coming to fruition, not least when the seeds of success were already so apparent in the pupil we knew back in the day."

Will Norris (KGS 1999-2006)

In February, Old Kirkhamian, Will Norris, put on his dancing shoes to take part in a 'Strictlyesque' national dance competition in aid of Tia's Crown, a charity set up to support mental and physical wellbeing through free 'Let's Dance' sessions and who provide grants to other charities who work in line with what they want to achieve.

Will, an Assistant Head at a special needs school who attended KGS from 1999-2006, was selected to take part following a long process of heats all over the country. He, along with eleven other novice dancers, paired up with professional dance partners in a bid to win the Glitterball! Will, who struggled with depression after the death of his son from a rare genetic illness in 2015 said: "I was fortunate enough to have people around me to pick me up and help me move forward. My wife wanted me to do this for myself, as well as to raise awareness." Will and Nichole lost their first child to lethal skeletal dysplasia, a rare genetic condition that developed in the womb.

Will travelled to Leicester for weekend rehearsals with his professional dance partner before the big fundraising finale in February. Will, who had no experience of ballroom or Latin dance when he attended the first heat last April, said, "It was all very secretive. I had never done anything on this scale before, it was as near to Strictly Come Dancing as you could get." He attended a full day's heat and a workshop at Blackpool Winter Gardens which involved learning some dance routines and taking part in team-building activities. Will said, "My professional dance partner had the challenge of turning a flat footed, energetic, slightly uncoordinated and non-musical person into a dancer in a very short period of time!"

The event featured a spectacular presenting team and live singer including BBC Strictly Come Dancing Pro and Champion, Flavia Cacace-Mistry, former Strictly Pro and 'It Takes Two' panellist, Ian Waite, Singer, Shane Nolan and live singer, Passmore - as well as an incredible judging line up: Lilia Kopilova, Kristina Rhianoff, Pasha Kovalev and Nikita Kuzmin. Will and his dance partner scored 38 out of 40 at the Dance Floor Heroes Live Finalist event at the Empress Ballroom in Blackpool and received fantastic comments from the judges.





S C U D E R I A



ALPHATAURI



Jack Linley (KGS 2005-2012)

Aerodynamicist for Scuderia AlphaTauri Formula One team

Strongest subject areas: maths, physics, chemistry, French

A Levels: maths, further maths, physics, chemistry

University: Bath - Mechanical Engineering with industrial placement

As far back as I can remember, there had never been any doubt in my mind where my academic strengths lay. Maths and physics always came naturally, but STEM subjects in general ended up being those which not only provided me with more enjoyment but triggered a desire to take the learning further. I was fortunate with the teachers I had in these subjects throughout the entirety of my education, and those at KGS were no exception.

Whilst I certainly enjoyed subjects in other areas such as French and history, my A Level selection of maths, further maths, physics and chemistry was firm in my mind. Being encouraged to take some exams early with other capable students, and having the opportunity to partake in some additional structured sessions during lunchtime, did not seem important at the time. However, it helped to perpetuate the notion of continually striving to broaden my understanding of subject areas, and to go beyond the pure requirements of examinations.

Despite my certainty in terms of subject choice throughout school, I never had much of a committed direction for career path after leaving education. I can't place exactly why this was, but it meant that I began the search for universities and degree titles feeling quite open-minded. As time wore on, the practical aspects of topics began to enthuse me more than those with a theoretical bias, which helped me to realise that engineering suited me more than something with a pure mathematical orientation. I was fortunate enough to achieve the entry requirements to attend the University of Bath in September 2012, which had been my first choice institution, primarily because of its strong industrial links and good levels of funding to related societies... though my parents would always claim I just wanted to put as much distance between us as possible!

I had enjoyed the spectacle of Formula One for years throughout my youth, relishing the Sunday afternoons watching races with my dad, but had never considered for one second that one day I could be employed within the sport. When the time came to explore industrial

placement opportunities, various teams promoted different available roles within their technical staff. Not expecting much to come of it, I applied and was staggered when I was successful in securing the year-long placement within Scuderia Toro Rosso's (now Scuderia AlphaTauri) Aerodynamics Department.

The steep learning curve was no surprise, and only made me more certain that such a technical challenge was how I wanted to start my professional life. After graduating in 2017, I returned to the team on a full-time basis as an Aerodynamicist and have been there ever since, working to develop the aerodynamic performance of many areas across the car. This job is so multi-faceted that summarising it in a few lines is tough to say the least, but my primary function is to optimise the design of all parts of the car which contact the air to generate as much of an improvement to lap time as possible. The cutting-edge technology within the industry never ceases to amaze, and striving for infinitesimal margins each day helps to keep all of us working hard towards a common goal.

Aside from the technical responsibilities, since joining on a permanent basis I have managed the recruitment of undergraduate students from universities across the world to take part in the same year-long placement that I enjoyed in 2014/15. It is no small undertaking, but is so rewarding to see enthusiastic, creative, brilliant young people join the team each year, knowing I have played a part in bringing their dreams to life. Many rejoin the team on a permanent basis when they graduate, but there are so many other avenues that become more open when gaining this kind of experience within industry.

For anyone who feels aspects of this piece resonates with them, I would certainly encourage you to pursue the subjects you're passionate about to the best of your ability; never underestimate where hard work can get you, and take any opportunity you have to obtain experience of the real world - as much as anyone could describe Formula One as the real world!

I don't know what the future holds, but I'd be surprised if there was a more challenging and intense way to have spent my first decade since leaving KGS in 2012.

Jack Linley

Where are they now?

A catch-up with KGS legend, Shirley Piggott

The third in my series of catch-ups with retired KGS staff features former science teacher and Senior Mistress, Shirley Piggott.

Shirley is always one of the first people that Old Kirkhamians from the 1980s and 90s ask after when they are remembering their KGS days. Although she worked at the School for a total of only fifteen years - far less than many others who achieve "legendary" status - Shirley has always in some way epitomised what KGS is all about, and her appeal to former pupils of both genders and all personality types is universal.

Shirley and her husband Barry have remained close personal friends of my family and me since she left KGS way back in 1994, so to meet up with Shirley had a very familiar air to it. However, we don't usually talk about old times at KGS, so it was a real pleasure to spend time chewing the fat over her days at KGS and sharing memories of people and incidents from the years when she and I were colleagues.

We met in her beautiful garden at the home that she and Barry have created in Kirkham over the past fifty years. She and Barry were both committed and dedicated teachers but have embraced retirement with the same zest that characterised their working lives, and it is always difficult to find a moment when they are both free.

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

After qualifying as a teacher and getting married, Barry and I went to Australia as "£10 Poms" and spent four happy and fulfilling years there, before returning to the UK to start a family, settling in Kirkham because Barry had secured a job at Ashton-on-Ribble High in Preston. After the children were born, I worked at Ribbleson High School, but was "head hunted" for KGS by Doc Brian Summers, to replace a science teacher who had resigned on principle when learning that the KGS was to go independent in 1979. I therefore joined at a pivotal moment in the School's history, one of a very small number of female staff as the school welcomed its first girls that September. I was there to see the famous incident when a group of governors threw a bottle of champagne through the Headmaster's Study Window to celebrate the dawn of independence on 1 September 1979.

2. What are your favourite memories of KGS?

I loved every minute of it, being part of a Science Department with, as well as "Beaker" Summers, Doc Tony Hall, Lister Redman, Arthur Baines and Fred Sayer. As the school grew and girls worked their way up the years, we were soon joined by Isabelle Gault, Sue Gill, Rosemary Greaves and Nikki Black. Senior Mistress was Cath Bagley, one of the few women who had taught when it was still a boys' school.

They were fun days, carefree by modern standards, and I recall with pleasure dressing as rebellious schoolgirls on a non-uniform day (see photo). Lunchtimes back then were often

for fun and recreation – such as when a group of us got caught and reprimanded by Malcolm Summerlee for partaking of Doc Summers's "fruit salad" - as a chemist he had perhaps forgotten the fermentation equation $C_6H_{12}O_6 \rightarrow 2C_2H_5OH + 2CO_2$

I struggled with being addressed as "Sir", not least in biology classes, but was nevertheless recruited to the CCF by Derek Butterworth as the obligatory female once girls had joined the Force and started going on camps. This led to a new command on the firing range: "Bra straps down, girls".

My love of travel took me on numerous enjoyable school trips: ski trips with Beaker then Scotty, biology field trips to Knott End with Arthur Baines and geography field trips to Scarborough with Scotty. Not long before I left, there was also a memorable one to Paris with seventy-two pupils and a huge cast of staff, teaching and non-teaching - the pupils of all ages behaved impeccably as I recall, but I was caught by Adrian Long having a pillow fight with Headmaster's Secretary Hazel Leeson and School Shop Manager Irene Lewis when we were all old enough to know better.

Non-Uniform Day 1984

Back row left to right: Cath Bagley RIP, Isabelle Gault and Sue Gill

Front row left to right: Shirley Piggott and Rosemary Greaves



3. What achievement are you most proud of from your time at KGS?

As a classroom teacher, I loved chemistry. I was always uncomfortable wearing a gown, but I loved the white lab coat and carrying out the sort of practical experiments that have long since fallen victim to health and safety. I got huge pleasure when trying to explain a difficult concept to a class and seeing the nod of understanding from one of the front row pupils.

When Cath Bagley retired in 1984, I was promoted to Senior Mistress - a somewhat archaic and non-PC term even in those days, and of course Cath was a hard act to follow. This role nevertheless matched my instincts as a people person, and although many girls probably remember me with fear as they saw me approaching and scuttled around corners to tuck in blouses, roll down skirts and pull up socks, what they didn't realise is that I was always giggling inside, despite the stern face.



4. What have you done since leaving KGS?

I left KGS in 1994 to take up a post as Deputy Head at Queen Mary's School, Lytham - I was famously caught speeding through Wrea Green on my very first day such was my enthusiasm for my new job! I missed teaching boys, but it was nevertheless a pleasure to teach girls who put heads down and got straight into purposeful work as soon as the brief for an experiment had been explained. I became Head of Queen Mary's when the schools moved towards a merger with King Edward's, but took early retirement in 2003 when the two schools merged and the old King Edward's site became the main school.

5. What do you do with your spare time in retirement?

My passion for gardening has never faded, and I have also done a lot of travelling, and taken up golf, becoming Lady Captain at Ashton and Lea Golf Club in 2012. However, it was more fun when I was Vice Captain, and to be addressed as Lady Vice...

More seriously, I worked for many years as an Adviser for Citizens' Advice in Preston (as my daughter put it, "the first time in your life that you are giving advice to people who actually want it") and I now work at the Food Bank in Kirkham, where I am saddened by the increasing number of families who are dependent on our food parcels in order to survive.

6. What does KGS mean to you?

My career at KGS was life-defining and when asked about my teaching memories they are invariably those of KGS, rather than the times before and after.

7. What do you not miss about teaching?

Staff duties at KGS were brutal: one teacher was "on duty" and responsible for calling the whole school to order for "full assembly", which involved five hundred pupils standing in a small assembly hall built to seat around one hundred and fifty. The duty teacher had to stand alone on the stage, ring a large bell and call for silence from a heaving mass of pubescent teenagers and young men as the Headmaster and staff waited outside in the corridor. Basically, if the pupils liked you, they fell dutifully silent, and if they didn't like you...

8. Any regrets/disappointments?

None: I just want to say a big thank you to all the Old Kirkhamians out there for being part of some wonderful times.

My own thanks go to my friend, Shirley, for supplying those fun memories of her time at KGS. She will be a welcome guest at the School any time.

Adrian Long

OLD SCHOOL TIE: CHRIS MALINGS

Some Basic Facts

Your Name: Chris Malings

Your Job: Organisation Development Partner, Coach and Facilitator

The Company Name: Malings Change Associates

What do you do:

I work with organisations to enable them to understand their culture and its impact on performance, health, and wellbeing – helping them to identify what's working well, what could be usefully different, and what the right next thing is to do about that. Currently, I'm facilitating several leadership development programmes and I'm also working with a number of different teams – enabling them to build trust and to become more cohesive, resilient, and effective. I'm also a qualified coach and work with senior leaders to enable them to work through, and find solutions to, things that are getting in the way of them being brilliant.

Where do you live:

I've lived in Wesham for the last twenty-three years, although spent the '90s in Bedfordshire/working in London. Where I live now is pretty much on the route of the cross-country runs we took part in when at School.

60 Seconds

What car do you drive?

Kia Sportage – it's not super-quick but it's comfortable, reliable, and easy to get in and out of (which is more important than when I was younger and more agile...).

Married or single?

Married to Yvonne, for thirty-three years. Both of our children also attended KGS and Yvonne ran the School Shop for sixteen years and was also Library Assistant for part of that time (more time at KGS than any of us!).

Favourite sport?

I used to play a lot of hockey, and still play golf, however my favourite just now is cycling – from where I live, I can get out into the countryside quickly, and it's easier on the knees than walking (is there a theme emerging here?)

Favourite team?

Currently AFC Fylde – they've had a very good season! However, I get most passionate watching Wales (Rugby and Football)

Last Holiday?

Just after Easter we went to Lanzarote – I've not been there before and, to be honest, I tend to prefer city breaks. That said, I had

two brilliant days cycling with my daughter – the roads are the best we've ridden, and the scenery was spectacular! It was warm too.

The Old Days

What years were you at KGS?

I joined in the Third Year in 1977 and finished after A Levels in 1982. I can't quite believe I left over forty years ago...

What is your best memory of those days?

Probably CCF camps – I was in the RAF section, but we were able to go on the Army section camps as well. Our geography field trip was pretty good too – although my son got Iceland for his...I got Scarborough! I enjoyed rugby – I wasn't particularly skilful or quick, but I could tackle a bit and just really enjoyed being involved.

Who was the most influential person at school that helped you succeed?

The cop-out here would be to say it's difficult to pick one person, however I'll not do that. I'll say Richard Watson – I can see that the values I hold to be important now are ones that were, in part, shaped during his lessons.

What was your first job?

Printing cheque books at NatWest Bank, Corporation Street, Blackpool. In those days most branches had their own machines and printed them on site.... Now, I can't remember when I last used a cheque!

What is your degree in if you have one?

I went straight from school into my first job, which seemed like a good idea at the time. I did work through my banking exams (which took seven years!) then my HR qualifications (another three years!). I've picked up a number of other professional qualifications and accreditations since.

What do you wish you had been told about that would have helped you the most?

Great question! I think it would be that during a career there will be successes – make sure you enjoy these. There may also be occasional setbacks – trust yourself to work through them. Looking back, I've learned more about myself from how I've worked through these than from my successes. How we 'frame' things is so important. Something that has been helpful are some wise words from my dentist some thirty years ago (after I had postponed my appointment several times through 'work pressures'). He looked down at me during my check-up and just said "One makes time for what's important". An uncomfortable moment – my initial thoughts were 'this is going to hurt' but it didn't, and his words have stayed with me ever since.



And Now to Business

How did you come to have a career in this particular industry?

I think my career has been one of 'managed drift', moving from one thing to another, attracted to roles that looked interesting and a bit challenging, but always with a view to developing some new skill or gaining some new experiences. I got interested in coaching back in 2005, when someone I was working with shared with me that they felt I had a way of questioning and listening that meant I might be good at that. I followed that interest and found it worked as a leadership style. When my role became redundant, I took a bit of a risk and changed direction. I joined a consultancy where I got a good grounding and lots of experience in the work I now do.

What inspired you to launch your own business?

The knowledge, skills experience elements were important, however what really drove me was a belief that I had generated and developed over the previous five years – that we all deserve to be in environments where we can thrive and be the best we can be. I also had the privilege during that time of working with so many fabulous people, mostly in Public Service organisations, who were passionate about their work in serving their communities. I just felt I had something to offer and had reached a point in my life where I now knew 'what I wanted to do when I grew up'!

What has been the biggest challenge in the last 12 months?

Over the last twelve months I have found myself doing much more travelling – which is actually okay as it's been great to work with people face-to-face again after a couple of years where most of my work was via a

OLD SCHOOL TIE: CHRIS MALINGS

monitor in my study. Obviously, the pandemic brought huge changes – initially my work dried up completely but then organisations started to get comfortable with working virtually via MS Teams and Zoom. We've all had to adapt to that, however it's been an opportunity to think about things differently, and much of my work is still done virtually.

What is your best tip on how to succeed in business?

Given the work I do, I'll offer something around mind-set, with a quote commonly attributed to Henry Ford – 'whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right'.

Do you take risks in business?

I'm actually pretty risk-averse. I like to challenge myself when facilitating by working with new tools, techniques etc. however, that's always balanced by my awareness that I need to create a 'safe-enough' environment for people to work within – I don't take risks with that.

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

I'm not sure whether I try to really. There are many others doing great work in the same field, and I have several colleagues that I

work with on an 'associate' basis – we have similar values and regularly share ideas, approaches etc. It's a generous community.

What business tool couldn't you live without?

Zoom. I wouldn't have said that a few years ago!

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

Yes, I've used LinkedIn for a number of years, although I spend more time on Twitter now – it's a great source of ideas, information, models etc. from people I respect and trust. I pick something new up pretty much every day, and share things I think people following me will be interested in.

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

I think awareness of the field of Organisation Development is continually increasing, and from a practitioner perspective that is exciting. Whilst some detractors may apply a 'soft and fluffy' label it really isn't either of those things – for me it's ultimately about increasing effectiveness and performance and 'culture' plays a massive part in that. If

this is an area you are interested in exploring, then 'begin with the end in mind' and pay attention to how a practitioner will work collaboratively with you to enable a shift in performance that's sustainable after they have gone!

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

You can follow me on

 @ChrisMalings

or email me at:

 chris@malingsca.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



The Old Kirkhamians'
Association
Reunion Dinner,
KGS Old Hall



London Drinks
Reunion,
Café del Marsh
from 6.00 pm



The "Young" Old
Kirkhamians'
Christmas Reunion,
The Grapes Inn,
Wrea Green
from 7.30 pm

Dates for the OKA golf, cricket and summer reunion will be available shortly. For more information on the Old Kirkhamians' Association, please see the school website or join the **OKA Facebook group**.

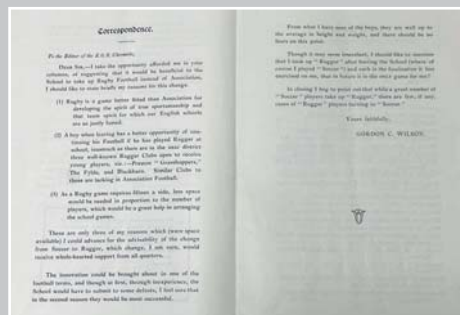


100 YEARS OF RUGBY AT KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL

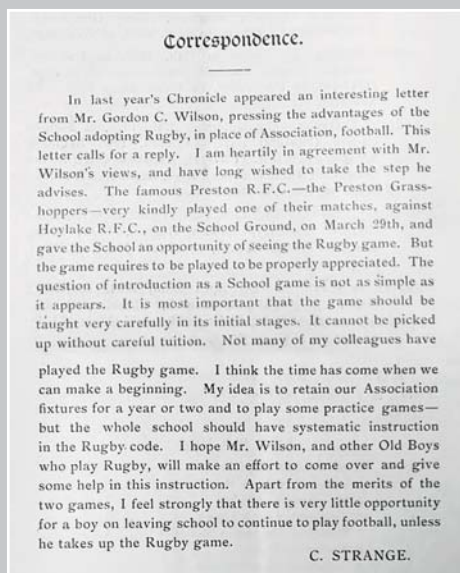
The Old Kirkhamians' Association

was formed in 1920 and, having recently celebrated our centenary, we are keen to be involved with another! The KGS Chronicle was the precursor to The Kirkhamian publication and the letters below are of great interest as we work towards another exciting 100 year celebration.

In 1923, a former old boy of the school, Gordon Wilson, wrote to the Headmaster suggesting the idea of "rugger" at Kirkham Grammar School.



His correspondence to the Editor of The KGS Chronicle is shown above, along with the reply below from the Headmaster, Rev. C. Strange, in July 1924. We have the first rugby season report and team photograph to share next year as we commence our '100 years of KGS rugby' celebrations in September 2024.



Certainly as an OKA committee, we will do our best to locate as many rugby photographs from over the years, including that elusive 1974-1975 photograph! If anyone has any KGS rugby photographs that they can copy and send in to school for display, they would be greatly appreciated. Please email your photographs to: oka@kirkhamgrammar.co.uk

Where are they now?

This past year we have enjoyed following the successes of a large KGS cohort who are continuing their involvement with rugby.

On the coaching side of the game:

Alex Sanderson (KGS 1994-1998) Director of Rugby at Sale Sharks

Warren Spragg (KGS 1999-2001) Kicking and Skills Coach at Sale Sharks

Richard Wigglesworth (KGS 1994-2001) was Head Coach at Leicester Tigers during the 2022-2023 season and is now the Assistant Coach to the England men's squad. Richard Wigglesworth (front row, second from right) pictured below in the Fourth Year at KGS)



James Cooper (KGS 1997-2004) England Women's U18 Head Coach

Andi Kyriacou (KGS 1999 – 2001) Assistant Coach at Munster

Glen Townson (KGS 2003-2005) Bristol Bears Academy Transition Coach

Marcus Jackson (KGS 1998-2005) Sale Sharks U16 coach

Jonny Roddam (KGS 1998-2000) Sedgley Park Forwards Coach

Matt Parr (KGS 1999-2001) Head of Performance at Catalan Dragons Super Rugby League Team

Alex Loney (KGS 1999- 2003) and Chris Briers (KGS 2001-2003) Joint Head Coaches at Fylde RUFC

Former KGS players playing in the Premiership (season 2022-2023)

Richard de Carpentier (KGS 2001-2008) Bath – Richard retired from professional rugby at the end of the 2022-2023 season. He has played backrow and forward for England Sevens. He played club rugby mainly for Bath and Worcester Warriors, while also featuring for Harlequins and Leicester Tigers.



(Richard de Carpentier with some of KGS' Class of 2008 in November 2022)

Dan Kelly (KGS 2017-2019) Leicester Tigers

Aaron Reed (KGS 2015-2017) Sale Sharks

Sam Dugdale (KGS 2014-2018) Sale Sharks

Kieran Wilkinson (KGS 2004-2018) Sale Sharks

Ethan Caine (KGS 2018-2020) Sale Sharks

OKA international honours

Jake Parkinson (KGS 2019-2021) Scotland U20s

Louis Fletcher (KGS 2019-2021) Wales U20s

Huw Davies (KGS 2020-2022) Wales U20s

On another side...

Richard Browning (KGS teacher 1973-2018) continues to support the coaching team at KGS and the 2022-2023 season marked his 50th year involved with KGS. This was honoured by the KGS Rugby Department at their end of season rugby presentation. Special guest, Mr Brian Gornall, gave a heartfelt speech about this rather amazing achievement, thanking Richard on behalf of the pupils and staff of those fifty seasons. Mr Browning's response - he'd like to help next season too! (Richard Browning pictured back row, far right)





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