

THE KIRKHAMIAN

KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



KIRKHAM
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2018





KIRKHAM

GRAMMAR SCHOOL



I am extremely proud and honoured to be sharing once more the latest news from another successful year at KGS. It does seem like only yesterday that I was offered the opportunity to lead this great school. How quickly three years has gone and I do feel fully immersed in the cultures and traditions of the school. With this thought in mind we will be looking forward to celebrating 470 years since our foundations as a school in 2019. How many schools in this area can go as far back as Edward VI, son of Henry VIII? A history that is the envy of many and yet something we remember every day and are extremely proud of. I could not be more proud of our prestigious establishment which epitomises the spirit of British independent education. However, it is the pupils that are our proudest achievement and once again they have done incredibly well across a huge range of academic and co-curricular success. The hard work, commitment and determination have clearly paid off as we celebrate another year of significant academic improvements, sporting successes and a period of growth in the facilities we provide. However, the life of any school is complex and owes so much to its stakeholders. We all rely on those around us to create the environment in which our pupils can thrive. This includes the selfless support of their parents which is a hallmark of our school. Also, success is not guaranteed without the dedication of all of our staff and a team of dedicated Governors.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank all of those who have contributed so much over the years to our school. I very much hope you can continue to support the school in the future and will always be remembered. It is the generations of staff and pupils who travel through any school that create the memories and culture. Nowhere is this more evident than at KGS where people really do 'enter in order to profit'.

HEADMASTER
Daniel Berry

EXCITING TIMES AHEAD

Development at KGS



During the summer break the school embarked on Phase One of our three phase development plan. This first phase was an ambitious eight-week refurbishment and building programme. This very tight schedule and a budget of nearly £1,000,000 has allowed the school to further enhance its facilities without losing sight of the inspirational personalities that make KGS so special.

This very much mirrors our view of modern ambition built on traditional values. This has included the refurbished Summerlee Hall, including new seating, floors, fixtures and fittings and decoration. This newly refurbished space concludes a summer of ambitious building projects which also included a newly designed Pre-School, new classroom, new conference facility, restoration of the Old Hall, refurbished boarding rooms and upgraded sports facilities. It is wonderful to see. Below is a list of the three phases.



Phase One (completed)



The refurbishment of The Summerlee Hall to include redecoration, new flooring, new seating and carpets, new doors and new signage.



A new Psychology classroom.



The refurbishment of the Old Hall to include an upgraded lighting system, restoration of the floors and new decoration.



A new conference room.



An upgrade of the rugby pitches and sports facilities at the Senior School.



A new and expanded Pre-School (photos).

Phase Two (proposed)



Cricket facilities and by-pass pitches are ready to be transformed. This will include new drainage, synthetic surfaces, cricket nets, parking and facilities.



The Junior School playground and parking facilities are also to be renewed, together with investment in our outdoor play areas and artificial pitches.

Phase Three



A Performing Arts Centre is to be built at the Junior School.

Phase Four



A new Boarding House facility to be in place by 2025.



We are also planning to upgrade all Senior School classroom spaces across all phases.

We are offering various opportunities for parents and friends to support the Development Programme. Please contact Joanne Hunt, Headmaster's PA, for further details on 01772 684264 or email j.hunt@kirkhamgrammar.co.uk

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank all of those who have contributed so much over the years. We are hoping to achieve most of the above through our own income streams. However, any support that parents, groups or businesses would be able to offer would be very much appreciated. I hope this has given you a view of our vision for the next phase of our development.



Headmaster's Annual Review 2017 - 2018

It has been another wonderful year of successes and triumphs in a world today which brings many anxieties as to what the future holds. However, at Kirkham Grammar School, acknowledging the events during the past academic year, have culminated in further reasons to celebrate an extremely vibrant and dynamic place to study and work. It is a rallying call to clear thinking, high living and unselfish service in all we do and strive to achieve. The first few weeks is a nice reminder of why we do what we do as all the new 'shiny' first years arrive with excitement. The Duke of Wellington (quite pertinent in the current Brexit climate) once went aboard a man of war at Devonport. The deck was polished, the brass was gleamed. 'here I see much shining metal but few shining faces'.

It is the exact opposite at KGS across all year groups and even the staff.

We do hope that this review of the year can share the full variety of academic, artistic and sporting achievements throughout the school. It is this collective order that makes Kirkham Grammar School stand out against any competitors. We have seen a continued rise in pupil numbers, further success in sport, music, drama, CCF and other co-curricular opportunities and a reputation as an 'excellent' educational establishment being further embedded. As we review each part of the many areas of such a busy school we can also look forward to an exciting time of growth and new developments. None of this can be achieved without the generous support of our parents, friends, pupils and Governing Body.

It is the achievement of our pupils that takes the priority over all we do. The headline figures for GCSE at A*/A or 7/8/9 in new money is well over 40%. This is twice the national average. The much coveted 9 grades witnessed an impressive 6% leap to nearly 20%. The headline GCSE figure of A* - C or 4 and above in new money is 94% which is nearly twice the national average.

At A-level the A*/A leapt by 5% to 26% which would make this our best result since 2015 and A* - E at 98%. Overall a very positive picture in what remains a very turbulent year of changing grades, grade boundaries and specifications.

However, unlike a number of our competitors what really makes KGS stand out from the crowd is the strong academic results that are matched and often surpassed by the host of co-curricular achievements. Which, when compared to the size of the school makes us possibly the most successful school in the UK....a bit of a New Zealand of sport.

Music

All year groups have taken part in coffee concerts and evening recitals during the course of the year. The annual Carol Service in the Summerlee Hall was a chance for the Senior Choir to impress, and this they did in some style, with music from Ledger, Pretorius, Tchaikovsky and Rutter. The autumn term was rounded off by the Christmas Concert that produced a dazzling array of individual solos, combined with contributions from the Orchestra, String Group, Concert Band, Swing Band, Flute Group, Soprano Group and Choir. Late March delivered the annual Founders Day service, in the Summerlee Hall, where the Senior Choir again led events, with emotional and rousing performances of O Fortuna from Orff and The long Day Closes from Sullivan amongst others. Another highlight of the year has to be the Spring Concert which took place in early May.

The Orchestra, String Group, Concert Band, Swing Band, Choir and individuals thrilled the audience with some very accomplished performances. West End musicals, contemporary and classical choir music and sultry jazz transported the appreciative audience to other worlds, and the tremendous applause was most gratefully received by all performers. It was wonderful to see how mature and well-prepared all our musicians were. The spring term saw the return of the annual Music House Festival. Miss Crook and Mr Dalton again had the enjoyable experience of listening to over four hundred students. As individuals, and in groups, they sought to secure points for their house, and contested for a place in the final. Every year so many of the student body choose to give of their time and participate in this annual music making festival. Once the

initial auditions were over, it all came down to a Thursday in early March and what was to be a thrilling final. Mr Peter Lockett was the adjudicator for the day and he had the unenviable task of selecting a winner. Successes in the Rotary Competition and Lytham Festival were the icing on the cake at Kirkham Grammar. It is clear to see that music at Kirkham Grammar continues to go from strength to strength.



Girls Sport

KGS has enjoyed an extremely successful hockey season being crowned Lancashire Champions in various age groups, Regional qualification at all three age groups (U14, U16 and U18) within the England Hockey National Competitions, North Finals and North Champions at U14 level resulting in qualification into the U14 National Hockey Finals at the Olympic Park in London. In the U13 National Mini Hockey, KGS were unlucky not to qualify for National Finals for the second time in the season, losing out 0-1 to a strong Stockport Grammar School in the final and therefore finishing as runners up. Record numbers from KGS have been selected for the Lancashire and England age group teams. The girls have worked hard throughout the season demonstrating real commitment to their training from U12 level right through to 1st XI Hockey. They take part in a tough



and competitive fixture list, which takes them far and wide to the likes of Hymers College, Royal Grammar School Newcastle and even an annual trip to Millfield School, Somerset. The senior girls recently enjoyed a tour to Barbados playing against the Bajan National Squad and plans are in place for the Junior squads to Tour Holland next February. The U12 Netball A and B teams enjoyed matches against local opposition. They experienced success against QEGS Blackburn and St Marys Hall whilst our U13 and U14 squads competed in an 'in house' competition developing their skills and understanding of competition play. In the pool, KGS competed against Hulme Grammar School, Westholme, QEGS Blackburn, St Edwards College, Hutton Grammar and Bradford Grammar to name just a few. The mixed swim team also competed in the Stanley Cook Trophy at QEGS Blackburn against some of the top schools in the North. Cross Country has certainly been tough this season with the Fylde Coast event being cancelled due to terrible weather conditions. The girls battled on though and came a very creditable second in the Stonyhurst Invitational race. On the Tennis courts our U13 squad reached the Regional Finals of the Aegon Tennis Championships whilst the U15 squad progressed to the final round of the competition. On the track KGS swept up all age group trophies at the Fylde Coast and won the ESAA track and field cup Lancashire round progressing to the Regional Finals in both the junior and inter age groups.



Boys Sport

In boys sport we undertook a successful Rugby tour to Hong Kong/New Zealand and Australia. The 1ST XV continued to impress with high profile wins over Abingdon School, Landover College, Stowe School and Denstone College as well as providing England U18'S four international players. The 1st VII also reached the semi-finals of the prestigious Rosslyn Park National 7s and were very unlucky not to reach the final. In Basketball attendance numbers at practices are growing and performances in district competitions have improved. In the U16 Fylde and Wyre competition they showed some fighting spirit and gave strong performances against the opposition. In Athletics the Intermediate Boy's Track and Field Cup team were Lancashire Champions and came third in the regional A finals. The cricket season witnessed an unbelievably hot summer allowing a full programme of cricket to take place with the first matches against Bolton School. All teams tasted success with the 1st XI winning four and tying their game against Sedbergh in a thrilling finale. However remarkably the annual game against the MCC was abandoned after only 21 overs due to rain. Overall most matches ended in victory which was the best win ratio for three seasons, with over 80 boys representing the school.



Drama

Drama has had a busy year as normal! All Fourth Year IGCSE students went to see Kneehigh's Brief Encounter and Second Years have been invited to see War Horse at the end of June. Some Fourth Year students also took part in a workshop with Undergraduates from UCLAN's Acting Course. The big achievement of the year, however, was the brilliant production of Famous and Forgotten.

Mrs Latham and Miss Leeming directed a hugely talented cast who told the story of local ladies becoming pioneers of Women's Football. The story of Dick, Kerr's Ladies resonated with the audience, brought their important story back to life for a new generation and was highly praised by everyone who came to enjoy the show. More productions and workshops are already being planned for next year, so watch this space...

CCF

September saw the start of a new year for the CCF with a brand new intake of cadets from the Fourth Year. The training programme began with the year groups being divided up into different activities, the cadets from the Fifth Year went into a training programme of shooting, field craft, first aid, leadership, paintball, archery and climbing. The new cadets started with six weeks of drill which culminated in the first ever passing out parade for the school. During this period there was a very comprehensive Field Day, split on two sites. The Fifth Year enjoyed a full day of activities at the school whilst the Fourth Year went to Fulwood Barracks for a day with the Army Outreach team. At the end of September, the CCF took three teams to the Cadet Skill at Arms Meeting (CSAAM) held at Altcar. This is a prestigious shooting competition for all the cadets in the North of England. Despite the British weather's attempt to put the cadets off, we managed some highly competitive results overall. December saw a guest speaker for the CCF with the weather beating us for outdoor activities and we were treated to a marvellous presentation from a former Royal Marine officer. In January the training programme was running at full speed and the Fourth Year were fully immersed in all the activities. The Fifth Year had moved onto subjects such as NCO training, advanced shooting and advanced field craft and tactics. Another Field Day was undertaken in March and this time everyone went to Weeton Barracks Training Area. On Monday 14 May 2018 the RAF cadets were given the opportunity to undertake a full days flying at RAF Cosford. This was a wonderful opportunity for cadets to experience what a career would be like in the RAF. This year the CCF have been extremely fortunate to achieve recognition by the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire for service to the Cadet & Reserve forces. Maj Richard Taylor has been awarded a certificate of Meritorious Service (we extend our congratulations).

DofE

The Duke of Edinburgh Award continues to go from strength to strength at KGS, with increasing numbers starting and completing the award at all 3 levels. Last academic year we had 70 Bronze awards, 23 Silver awards and 15 Gold awards completed. Every one of these awards is a huge achievement and demonstrates the energy, enthusiasm and hard work of our students. The activities undertaken by our students for the physical, skill and volunteering sections of the award are varied, interesting and demonstrate the depth and strength of our students' co-curricular activities.

However, the expedition section, especially at Gold level, also develops personal grit, determination and resilience, alongside empathy, tolerance and encouragement of others. Whether it is raining non-stop or the hottest week of the year, each expedition brings its challenges to the groups and they always impress.

To conclude, I must take this opportunity to pay tribute to all the staff who make all of these activities in so many areas of school life possible. At a time when the teaching profession continues to be under pressure to relentlessly raise levels of improvement and react to an ever changing world. We must also say a fond farewell to the staff who left KGS during the summer term. They gave so much of their time and energy to the school and its pupils.





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Senior Prefects

2018-2019

SCHOOL CAPTAINS 2018 - 2019

Will Kollard

Will is a former pupil at Kirkham Grammar Pre-School and Junior School. He is studying maths, physics, chemistry and further maths and hopes to study engineering at university. He is in the process of completing his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and is a member of the 1st XV rugby squad.

Charlotte O'Neill

Charlotte is a former pupil of Kirkham Grammar Pre-School and Junior School. She is studying maths, further maths, physics and history. Charlotte is an all-round student who has achieved her Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, as well as being an active member of the hockey squad and music department, with Grade 8 in both piano and saxophone. She plans to study philosophy, politics and economics at university.



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KGJS PRIZEGIVING



At the end of June, our annual Junior School Prizegiving was held in the Summerlee Hall. The whole school family gathered together for one of the highlights of the academic year. The afternoon began with a few words from Mr Berry, the KGS Headmaster, followed by 'A Musical Medley' from the KGJS Orchestra. After Mrs Wareing's address, the Vocal Ensemble performed 'I Have a Voice' which led beautifully into Mrs Roberts' speech. Part way through her speech, the infant and junior children spoke about their memories from the year and the infants sang 'Be the Change' while Music Scholar, Raphael Ikram, entertained guests with his talented instrumental performance on the guitar. Mr Barrie Stacey, former KGS Headmaster, then presented this year's prizes and trophies before entertaining the audience with his account of his days as a Headmaster and School Inspector. Head Boy, Oliver Kollard and Head Girl, Alexa Anderson, gave a vote of thanks and the penultimate performance was from the School Choir, performing 'Friends to the End' and 'You Make Me Strong'. The whole school then finished the afternoon by performing 'A Million Dreams' from the film, 'The Greatest Showman' and the School Hymn, 'Seek Ye First'. Afterwards, a delicious buffet was served for all the J4 children, their parents and invited guests in the Senior School dining room. This occasion was a fitting conclusion to the J4 children's time at KGJS who moved on to new adventures at the Senior School in September!



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HEADMISTRESS' ANNUAL REVIEW 2017 - 2018

In this report, I always try to reflect on the last academic year which, once again, leaves me breathless after such a busy year, crammed with so many activities in which our pupils participated with such enthusiasm.



The world is a changing place, as we all know. As educators of children, we teach them to have the ability to be flexible, adapt and change with the times. As Charles Swindoll once said, 'Life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it.'

A great deal has happened over the past year, marking tremendous achievement in every facet of school life: academic success, the arts, charity work, competitions, extra-curricular activities, house activities, Friends of KGS events, special events, trips and sporting achievements. As always, the year was full of opportunities and wonderful experiences and all the pupils responded positively to the challenges they faced and, in so doing, achieved extraordinary things.



Congratulations must go to all of last year's J4 pupils who performed so well in the Entrance Examination. I am delighted to report that every member of the year group has moved up to our Senior School, which says something about the strength of the KGS Foundation. This is something that the Headmaster and I have worked hard to achieve. With the Government's continuing trend to bring everyone into line, in terms of the curriculum we teach, it becomes increasingly difficult to be different from the state sector. However, I firmly believe that here at KGJS we can offer so much more, with specialist teaching in sport, music, drama and French. As an organisation, we are continually evolving in terms of the curriculum we teach and what we can

offer your children. There has been much investment in our ICT this year with the purchase of sixty-four new iPads as well as investment in new technologies such as green screen and robotics. Our House Challenge Day this year was a wow day of ICT, stretching the children's imagination and abilities. New curriculum design in a number of subjects has taken place.

When I look at our pupils; when I see their hard work; when I share in the celebrations of their success; when I am witness to their kindness and support for each other; when I hear and see their exemplary conduct in school activities, I have every confidence that our young boys and girls will one day leave KGS and be precisely the kind of young people who will make a positive difference to the world.



One aspect of education that has required particular focus is that of resilience. I remember listening to an interview with Andy Murray, one of the top tennis players in the world, after he was knocked out of a major tournament in the first round by a much lower ranked player. Media frenzy raged and yet his press conference statement was straightforward and wise: 'Nobody died here. I lost a tennis match.' Picture a maths lesson. A question is posed, pupils' eyes dart left and right, there is an eerie calm, some panic but no resolution. Silence reigns until the teacher says, 'What's the worst that can happen if you get this answer wrong, right now?'

Parents, you are part of this process of perspective-giving. If we take the broad sense of true education, it cannot possibly be the case that everything is achieved at school. The most powerful influence on a child's perspective is that which is modelled by the parents. Thus, we need to be very careful that our understandable desire to protect and encourage doesn't translate into responses which actually have the opposite effect, like saying that a B grade is a failure or that not winning a prize at the end of the year renders all other achievements in the year as negligible. If you link motivation to winning prizes in life, you set yourself up for disappointment. The greatest prize of all is when you can look yourself in the eye and say, 'I tried my absolute best and I know I've done a good job.' Andy Murray said that what his coach had instilled in him, and what had made the difference to him, is that he now learns more from his losses.



Our sporting achievements were, as always, outstanding last year, producing sports men and women of a very high calibre! Despite the importance of winning prevailing, the ethos of 'having a go' is always stressed. Once again we simply wanted each child to do their best. With this in mind, every child in J2, J3 and J4 had the opportunity to represent the school in sport over the year and our House Sport competitions were a huge success, culminating in our Sports Days in the final week. The school Swimming Gala and House Cross Country were very important events with all of our Junior pupils involved. Boys and girls also had an opportunity to take part in no less than twelve different sports, including football, which raised one or two eyebrows!



The boys have had a successful season, being crowned U11 Lancashire Hockey Champions and coming third in the North of England, only losing on penalty flicks. They were also crowned AJIS hockey champions. The boys were runners up in the Budge Rugby tournament. The girls were U11 Lancashire hockey runners up and fifth at the North of England finals as well as winning the St Mary's Hall tournament and runners up at the NW independent schools tournament. Our U10' Girls hockey won the plate trophy at our home organised tournament. Switching sports, cross country running has continued to be a real strength of the school with especially notable performances from our U11 boys and girls. The boys came second in the NW Independent Championships and the girls fifth in a very strong field. Field athletics and indoor athletics again have featured highly on the fixture list. At the AJIS indoor event we brought home fourteen gold,

four silver and six bronze medals - more than any other school of which there were twenty four entered! There have been some good performances in the water this year, again bringing home three medals in the NW Independent Schools' Swimming Championships.

Notable individual sporting honours last year went to Zea and Reia Trend who represented KGJS at the English Ski Championships, nine boys and girls were selected for Lancashire Hockey, Evie Mellon gained the honour of British Champion for cheerleading and Ellis McNamee Sloggett represented Great Britain in the Biathlon International Championships.

KGJS boasts a vibrant Arts curriculum which aims to develop confidence and the ability to communicate well. Instrumental music making has included informal concerts, which provided our young musicians with an opportunity to perform in a relaxed setting. Strings, piano, voice, brass, woodwind, guitar and drums were all showcased at our wonderful Cheese and Wine Performing Arts Evening in March. It was great to see so many young musicians perform. The choir sang regularly in concerts and special events, including the Carol Service and caroling in the community. The choir should also be congratulated for their performance at the AJIS Choral Competition which they won for the second year in succession. The whole school benefitted from a day with Travelling by Tuba; an engaging and fun time was had by all.



Drama continues to flourish at the Junior School. Children from as young as four years old have demonstrated splendid confidence in class assemblies, promoting the importance of key attributes such as a growth mind set, perseverance and honesty. LAMDA examinations remain very popular and we had some excellent results. Our Infant parents will no doubt remember when we were invaded by aliens at Christmas - a super production, led by Mrs Aldeen and our wonderful Infant staff. The Junior production of Aladdin in 2017 was recognized when it was announced that we had won the NODA North West award for the 'Best Staging of a Youth Production'; an amazing achievement for children so young.

The visual arts have been celebrated joyously with a variety of talent throughout the school, no more so than was displayed at our outstanding art exhibition at our

Cheese and Wine Evening. We also had eight pupils selected to go through to the final of the AJIS Art Exhibition and they came home feeling very proud having won five awards. Nikita Murthy was runner up in the Society of Heads photographic competition.

KGJS continued with their Outdoor Education programme to develop team and leadership skills; to foster resilience and help boys and girls to learn how to manage risk. Examples of this were visits to Lockerbie, Castlehead and Bushcraft. Our ski trip to Austria, which is now an annual event, was superb with forty eight of our pupils and six staff involved. We all had an amazing time, even though we lost Mr Smith for a while as he decided to go off piste at one point and was buried under about a metre of snow! All of these trips are hugely beneficial to our pupils and, although it is hard as a parent to let your children go on such adventures, they often come back more independent, resilient and self-reliant.



The beating heart of a school is its pupils, supported by a committed network of adults. Our community celebrates the vital part played by many people who serve the KGS community in many ways, but, equally, helps the boys and girls appreciate the diversity and multi-faceted qualities and needs to be found in other communities. Many pupils from J1 to J4 fulfilled the role of School Councillor, coming up with great ideas about how to improve the school still further. The boys and girls demonstrated a great sense of service towards others. Their wonderful contribution to fundraising helped raise over £2000 for Trinity Hospice, as well as supporting other charities, such as Macmillan, the RSPCA, NSPCC and Pear Tree School to name just a few. I am indebted to all our wonderful boys and girls who come and ask me on a regular basis if they can raise money for charity. Our fundraising continues for our international charity, Classrooms in the Clouds, which was enhanced by a visit to KGJS by four teachers who we sponsor in Nepal. It is hugely important that our children, who are so fortunate, have time to spend thinking about others less fortunate than themselves.

A huge thank you must go to members of the Friends, under the Chairmanship of Michelle O'Neill. We are indebted to the hard work of this core of parents who have organised such events as the Summer Ball,

family BBQ evening, discos and such like to raise invaluable funds for our school. I would encourage other parents to join the Friends and help us to secure a strong bond in support of our pupils.

At the end of the last academic year we bid farewell to Alicia Blanco-Bayo who decided to pursue her ambitions as an EYFS consultant. Mr Brooks, our Gap student, also left and is currently working in Australia for a year. We thank them both and wish them well in their future careers. In September, we welcomed Jennifer Bentley to KGJS as our new I1 class teacher and hope that she will enjoy being part of our school community. Mr McLaughlin also joined us as our new Gap student.

Schools like ours are always changing. Changes in terms of people, as much loved members of staff move on and others join us. Changes of pupils as girls and boys leave us to move on to senior school and we welcome new arrivals. Changes of decor and furniture as we work round the school, upgrading our facilities. Changes in our IT provision as new devices and machines become part of our everyday environment. Changes in what is taught as we adapt our curriculum to current demands. Changes in activities as we add exciting new options onto the extracurricular programme. We all love KGJS because of its many traditions and the unchanging ethos and philosophy it embodies. However, changes are important to us and our success as a leading North West Independent School. On this theme we are grateful to the governors in supporting a new development of the Pre-School. Over the summer holidays the Pre-School was completely redesigned with a lovely new entrance area to be fit and purposeful for the twenty first century. We can accommodate even more boys and girls and we are now taking the rising threes.

Change is a good thing when managed well. It is often tempting in life to avoid change and want things to stay as they are forever. This is because the present is good and we want to stay in our comfort zone. There is no doubt though that, to remain strong, you have to move forward. This is partly because the world around us is changing and, if we do not adapt, we are no longer making the most of the world we live in. On a personal basis, it is also because we humans are built to thrive on challenge and aspiration. Having goals, big and small is what drives us to do well in our work, leisure and relationships. I am certain that the foundation for a happy and fulfilling life is to want to improve oneself and welcome change when necessary.

The pages that follow, document so much that our youngsters have achieved. I remain convinced that the balance of clear emphasis on teaching and learning in the academic sphere, with a broad array of co-curricular activities, remain the best recipe for a successful school.



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OLD KIRKHAMIAN ASSOCIATION



Towards the end of the Summer Term 2018, a team of Old Kirkhamians fought the Headmaster's XI on the cricket square. The warm summer's evening was the perfect backdrop for the competitive game which was enjoyed by players and spectators alike. It was pleasing to see so many Old Kirkhamians return to enjoy the game and a great number regaled stories of processions from the Pavilion, albeit for a rugby match as opposed to cricket! After an enjoyable match for all those involved, the OKA emerged victorious. Following the game, players and spectators enjoyed a BBQ and ice creams kindly provided by the KGS Catering Department. We hope to enjoy a similar event in 2019.

Friday 7 September 2018 saw our inaugural KGS Golf Afternoon held at Staining Golf Club. This new event in the calendar saw a group of Old Kirkhamians travel around the course with the winner receiving a host of golf related prizes. Although the weather could have been better, after a bacon sandwich and hot drink, the players thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon. Tremendous thanks must be offered to Chris Malings for arranging this event. The date for the next Golf Afternoon will be published in due course.

Our Annual Reunion Dinner was held on Saturday 13 October 2018 in the Old Hall and it was wonderful to see a large number of Old Kirkhamians attend this event. Both former staff and pupils from over the decades were in attendance and everybody had a number of stories to share with each other. We are most grateful to the KGS Catering Department for the fabulous meal they provided and to the companies who supported the event through sponsorship. The Reunion Dinner appears to grow ever more popular and the social media activity since the evening proves that it was very much enjoyed by all.

At the time of writing, we are preparing for our Young OKAs Christmas Reunion on Monday 17 December 2018 from 7.00 pm in the Grapes, Wrea Green. All young Old Kirkhamians are welcome to attend and we look forward to seeing you there.

As ever, please keep your eye on our social media platforms for information regarding forthcoming events and also the array of archive photographs which are regularly published. We look forward to welcoming you to events in the not too distant future.





BOOK FAIR

The Junior School Scholastic Book Fair was again very successful and the children enjoyed the opportunity to look at and choose from a wide range of new books! This year a fantastic £806 was raised for the school and will be used to purchase some more Reading Pro books. Thank you to Mrs Hughes who kindly ran the fair for us.



Our World

Our world is a magnificent place,
It's just like a star that shines in space.

But when we hurt our world or litter,
It's just like a lime that tastes so bitter.

Also, when we use a plane,
It lets out gas, which is insane!

So now you know what not to do,
Let's start to look at something new.

Let's look at how we can be a bit more green,
Let's pull together to make a team.

We can recycle all the things we use,
Like bottle tops and worn out shoes!

Plastic cups and rubber bands,
Lolly pop sticks and old bean cans!

So thank you all for listening,
Now let our world be glistening!

By Alice Wright J2X

My wish for Our Wonderful World By Morgan Cuthbert

How can we help our planet,
What on EARTH are we to do?
The future is in our hands,
It's up to me and you!

I wish for crystal waters,
No pollution would there be,
Where marine life is protected,
Fish can frolic in the sea!

I wish for lush, green forests,
Where the trees grow tall and strong,
Animals roaming free and safe,
In the home where they belong!

I wish for cleaner air to breathe,
For plant life to renew,
If we work together,
We can make my wish come true!

To help preserve our fragile Earth,
Some things that we can do,
Reduce, reuse, recycle,
Pick up our litter too!

Using cleaner, greener energy,
Could alleviate some fears,
If we take care of our planet,
It could last millions of years!

If I could have one wish,
My single wish would be,
To protect and respect our wonderful world,
For generations to see.



The Hoop of Fun - Nikita Murthy Year 5

Congratulations to Kirkham Grammar School Junior School pupils, Alice Wright (J3), who was awarded 1st place in the Society of Heads Poetry Competition for Years 3 and 4 and Morgan Cuthbert (J4) 2nd place for Years 5 and 6. Nikita Murthy (J4) was awarded 2nd place, for the second consecutive year, in the Photography Competition for Years 5 and 6. The Society of Heads organisation is a dynamic and vibrant community of independent schools, who share innovative ideas and approaches to learning. This is a fantastic achievement, well done to you all!



Let the
**ADVENTURE
BEGIN**





J3 BUSHCRAFT



Our Junior School J3 pupils travelled to Cholmondeley Castle in Cheshire for the annual Bushcraft trip! They learned all about traps, some basic first aid skills, how to make and start a campfire and even made their own survival bracelets! They built shelters with a tarpaulin and woodland materials and slept in them at night. After learning how to prepare a salmon for cooking, six lucky children were brave enough to eat the eyeballs! Everyone had an amazing three days!



PRE-SCHOOL

Welcome to our newly designed Pre-School!





First Day in I1



It is always lovely to welcome our new I1 children to the Junior School at the start of the academic year. The transition from the Pre-School to I1 really does help to settle the children into their new environment with ease, as they have already become familiar with their new surroundings when they visit the school hall for PE lessons and at lunchtime. They all had a super first day and were delighted to receive their 'Schultüte' cones at the end of the day. The cones are a symbol of the time that children are ready to start school. There is an old German story which says teachers put cone shaped bags on the ends of their trees in the garden. When the bags are full of goodness and ready to drop, then it is time for school!





This term, the Junior School 11 pupils have been reading the story, 'Aliens Love Underpants' and taking part in many activities based around the story. One of the activities had been to think of questions they would ask an alien if they ever met one... they later welcomed two visitors into class!



I2 Towneley Hall

The Junior School 12 pupils had a wonderful visit to Towneley Hall. The children experienced a beautiful nature walk in the gardens and collected some autumn treasures. They learned about autumn changes and the plants and animals. A guided tour around the house was very exciting and they particularly enjoyed going down into the cellar and learning about life in the old kitchen. They were shown a tin bathtub, a mangle as well as old-fashioned washing machines. It was lovely to see the children's emergent understanding of history.



SOUTH WEST USA

GEOGRAPHY TOUR 2018



A very excited group of 27 geographers and 4 staff set off on the coach down to London on Thursday 18 October to start our journey over to San Francisco California. After a very comfortable stay in the Premier Inn near Heathrow and a hearty breakfast, we then made our way to the airport.

The Virgin flight was as comfortable as an 11-hour journey in Economy Class gets and we arrived in San Francisco, rather tired, but so looking forward to our adventure. The American Immigration people weren't quite as enthusiastic to let us in and made us wait for two hours in a very long and stiflingly hot queue. Did they not know we had some seriously interesting geography to do? They did eventually let us all in and we were soon at Fisherman's Wharf for dinner. Our hotel was located across the Bay Bridge, which is quite a sight when lit up at night.

Our first full day was action packed, a visit to Alcatraz and then a rocket boat speedboat ride around San Francisco Bay. Mr Moffatt and our guide Jean thought they had chosen the driest place to sit, but their plan backfired, they ended

up looking rather soaked! Next stop was a spot of shopping before returning across the bay for a lovely Mexican dinner.

Day two involved a city tour and a visit to Land's End with an amazing view of the bay and the Golden Gate Bridge in the distance. We were even treated to the sight of two blue whales swimming in the ocean. The city tour was made all the more enjoyable as we had such a knowledgeable driver, Dan, who couldn't have been more helpful. The highlight of the day was a walk over the Golden Gate Bridge in the sunshine. Following a lovely lunch in sunny Sausalito, we then boarded the coach to make our journey over towards Yosemite.

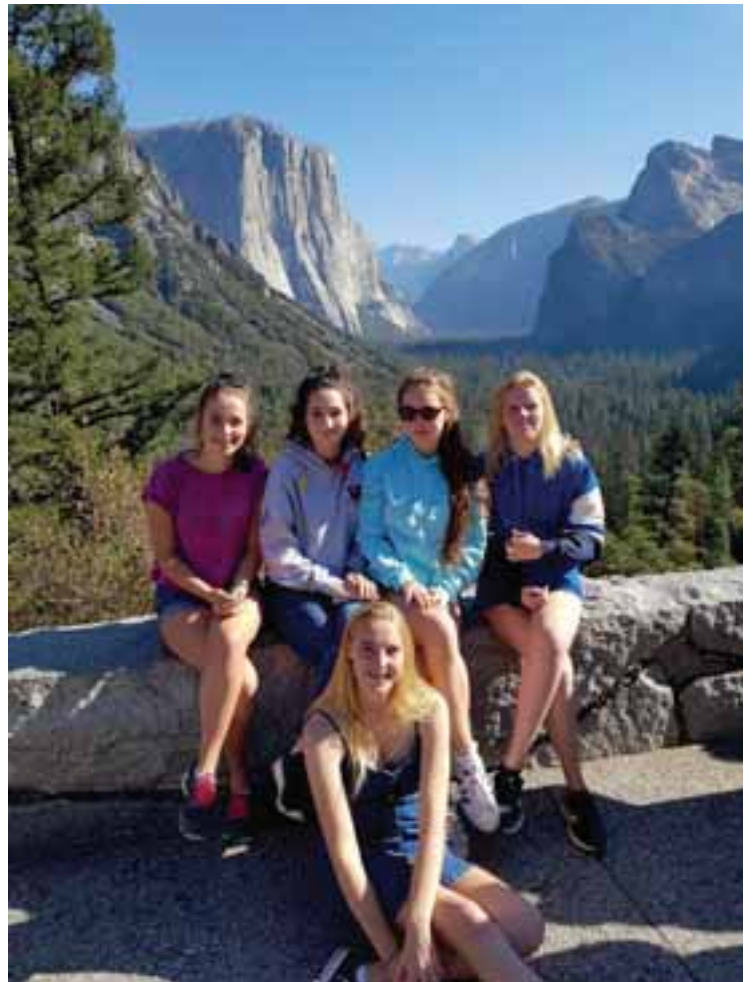
Yosemite is nothing short of breathtaking and even the hardest to impress Fifth Years were suitably amazed! Mr Harrison gave us all an enthusiastic and informative geography lesson as we walked along the valley floor, we then had a paddle in the Merced River and a walk along the river bank. Next stop was Bakersfield, our half way point to Las Vegas. After a brief and rather chilly dip in

the hotel pool, the students proceeded to see how many students they could fit in a jacuzzi. I don't think we quite had all 27 students in there, but it wasn't far off!

The journey to Death Valley is a long one, but the stunning scenery made the time pass by. Our first stop in Death Valley was a visit to the Mesquite Sand Dunes. By this time, it was midday and the students were able to experience the full force of the desert sun. Mr Harrison went for a wander, despite seeing the warning signs saying that walking was not recommended after 10.00 am. Our next stop was Badwater Basin. This was a new experience for us all, and was perhaps the highlight of my trip from a geographer's point of view. The lowest point in North America and with the most unbelievable landscape. It could be described as otherworldly.

We then carried on towards Las Vegas Nevada and on arrival the students were treated to dinner at Planet Hollywood and a ride on the New York, New York rollercoaster.

We then managed to visit our third US state, Arizona, for our visit to the Grand



Canyon Skywalk. We have found this to be a big hit with the students and a great way of seeing the canyon safely. Our guide witnessed a lady nearly going over the edge on the unguarded section, which reassured us that the cost of the skywalk was really worth every penny!

Our journey back to Vegas was broken up by a stop-off at the Hoover Dam. Lake Mead is so important to the area, both for supply of water and electricity and it is only 40% full. On returning to Vegas, Mr Moffatt had a treat in store for the thrillseekers amongst our students. After a visit to the Bellagio fountains and the Mirage Volcano show, we made our way to the Stratosphere. We took the lift to the top and the students then had a choice of three quite unique and incredibly scary looking rides.

The day after, we had a long journey over to Los Angeles, where we had a walk along the Hollywood Walk of Fame, where the main challenge seemed to be avoiding the hustlers. We had some time shopping at the Farmers' Market before moving on to our hotel. Our final full day was to be spent at Universal Studios, perhaps Mr Taylor's favourite, particularly the Studio Tour. This time, we were able to visit Harry Potter World and this proved a huge hit with both staff and students. Our final evening meal was at the Hard Rock Café where we wished Stuart Collins a very 'Happy 18th Birthday'. Not a bad way to spend your milestone birthday Stuart!





OREGON

IDAHO

Fort Dick

Eureka

Redding



Reno Sparks

Lake Tahoe Carson

Sacramento

Santa Rosa

Muir Woods
San Francisco

San Jose

Yosemite National Park

Yosemite Tunnel View

Chowchilla

Fresno

Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes

Furnace Creek

Death Valley National Park

Las Vegas

CALIFORNIA

Bakersfield

Barstow

Lancaster

Santa Barbara

Santa Monica Beach Los Angeles

San Diego

0 100 200 Miles



SOUTH WEST USA

GEOGRAPHY TOUR 2018

UTAH

NEVADA



National Park
Lake Mead
Vegas
Hoover Dam
Grand Canyon
Skywalk



ARIZONA

MEXICO

Our final day was spent chilling out at the end of Route 66 on Santa Monica Boulevard and this was also the end of our adventure. We worked out that we had travelled over 13,000 miles, stayed in six hotels and had more experiences in a ten day period than could be thought possible. The students have had a flavour of what the West Coast has to offer and I hope that it has enthused the students' love of geography and of travel. A wonderful time was had by all.

Mrs S J Taylor.



FOURTH YEAR PHOTO DAY LONDON





DofE

THE DUKE
OF EDINBURGH'S
AWARD

What a busy five months! Since the last Kirkhamian magazine went to press, we have had over 50 completed DofE Awards and over 160 of our pupils have completed their DofE expeditions.

The summer Gold and Silver expeditions took place during the first week of the long summer heatwave. The planned Gold routes started and ended in the Keswick area, whilst the Silver groups circumnavigated Ullswater. That week, Keswick made the national news headlines for being the hottest place in the UK!

The participants worked incredibly hard to beat the heat. They set off to walk by 5am most mornings, drinking litres of water before leaving the campsite, and worked together to make sure every member of their group remained hydrated and protected from the sun throughout their long and demanding routes. All the Gold and Silver participants experienced the Lake District at its most glorious, and all agreed that the views were awe-inspiring and definitely worth the sweat (and at times tears).

At the beginning of September, 35 of our present Fifth Year completed their practice Silver expedition in the Trough of Bowland and then worked very hard to plan for and carry out their qualifying expedition two weeks later. They enjoyed some perfect walking weather with some beautiful, breath-taking views, but also experienced some low cloud and wet weather; however, nothing was going to deter them from completing their Silver expedition!

Finally, after working incredibly hard on their expedition training and route planning throughout September, our present Fourth Year undertook their Bronze qualifying expeditions in October. Over two weekend expeditions, 83 students experienced two days in the Trough of Bowland. For both expeditions the weather was perfect for walking and camping and all pupils involved showed great teamwork and outstanding campcraft skills.

We are so lucky at KGS to have a great DofE staff team; they are always on hand to encourage our students to do their best and to motivate them when the going gets tough.



GOLD

Andrew Anderson
Joshua Baxter
Oliver Fearn
Liam Gerrity
James Nash
Lily O'Brien
Seb Roche
Ella Townsend
Nathan Wood

SILVER

Zoë Armstrong
Jordan Bamber
Holly Briggs
James Caton
Tess Clowes
Stuart Collins
Charlotte Cross
Gemma Eastham
Fenella Gabrysch
Olivia Hodge
Caitlin Ireland
Aleisha Mansfield
Emily Peet
Elizabeth Relf
Chris Savidge
Harry Thompson

BRONZE

Niamh Barry
Libby Baxter
Olivia Bickerstaff
Tanisha Butt
Jason Choi
Oliver Cooper
Elizabeth Coulston
Tom Coulston
Brioni Crowe
Hannah Doyle
Zak Gooderham
Lucas Hartley
Zoe Harvey
Margaret Hodgson
Emily Holdsworth
Sarina Ikram
Ruby Jackson
Ewan Macaulay
Theo Mihell
Sophie Minten
Imogen Moss
Max Pendergest
Francesca Riley
Eleanor Rockey
Lydia Sanderson
Emma Savidge
Eleanor Sharp
Jemima Towers
Lucy Treaddell
Mia Walsh
Emilia Whittle
Amy Wildish
Khirstine Williams
Any Woodcock



All the students appreciate the time and efforts the staff put into the expeditions. I would like to pass on my personal thanks to Mr Gardner, Mr Possamai, Mrs O'Flaherty, Mr Callister, Mrs Latham, Miss Chiekrie, Mr McLaughlin and Mr Bradbury for their friendship, good humour and ability to think on their feet; particularly when Plan A needs to be altered – again!

The expedition section is only one part of the DofE Award. It is always a delight, therefore, to hear of the plans our students have for the other sections of the Award: the volunteering, physical, skill and (at Gold level) the residential section. It is even more enjoyable to read the pupils' reports and their assessors' reports to see how their experiences have developed them as young adults.

Help and advice for using the eDofE record system, and ideas for activities for each section of the Award, is available Monday, Thursday and Friday lunchtimes in T5.

Since the last Kirkhamian the above awards have been achieved, congratulations to all.





ANNUAL CAMP

Wathgill Army Training Camp



Every cadet will have their own memories of this year's summer camp, some of which I am sure will stay with us for years to come. When we arrived at Wathgill Training camp, we all had the same agenda: to claim the least battered beds and the working plug sockets! What resulted in the boys' billets was pure chaos, as the Fourth Years were let loose, however (to many peoples' disappointment), the Upper Sixth quickly stepped in, and organised the lower ranks. After popping a few springs back into place, and folding our uniform so that the creases were in the right place, we were introduced to the site. To the Fourth Years' surprise, we learnt that whenever we travelled around the base, whilst wearing uniform and in a group of three or more, we had to march. The first time that we marched, our timings were like a "bag of rags", but by the end of camp we were "as sharp as chisels".

Over the week, we participated in many different activities. Adventure Training saw us crawl through suspicious smelling 'water' and perform leaps of faith. Command Tasks gave the Fourth Years a chance to display our 'leadership skills', One such, was the minefield challenge, which saw our acting section commander sacrifice their least favourite members of the section to clear a safe route for everyone else! Range day was an opportunity to hone our skills using both


rifles and shotguns. For many of us, it was the first time that we had shot cadet rifles with live ammunition.

Advanced Tactics day was a chance for us to put into practice all of the lessons that we had learnt throughout the year in Lt Atkinson's field craft classes. We spent the morning learning hundreds of acronyms to assist us in coordinating section attacks. My favourite acronym, EAT CWAC, came courtesy of a very funny Geordie from the Royal Signals Corps: Explaining Acronyms To Cadets Without A Clue! After the lectures, we applied cam-cream liberally, took to the fields and stuffed grass and ferns into every loop on our uniform. The results were interesting to say the least! Half of us emerged from the woods looking like a group of professional soldiers, whilst the rest of us looked like low-budget aliens with dark green faces.

Personally, my favourite part of camp was the overnight exercise, and I am sure that most cadets would agree with me. We occupied an abandoned building, with the aim of defending the newly promoted General Atkinson from the Upper Sixth rebels, who led by the infamous General Bradbury! Pretty soon, we had cracked open our ration packs and were eating our dinner, playing swapsie to try and avoid the 'suspicious meat'. After 'food', magazines were filled, sentries were deployed and the Upper Sixth were

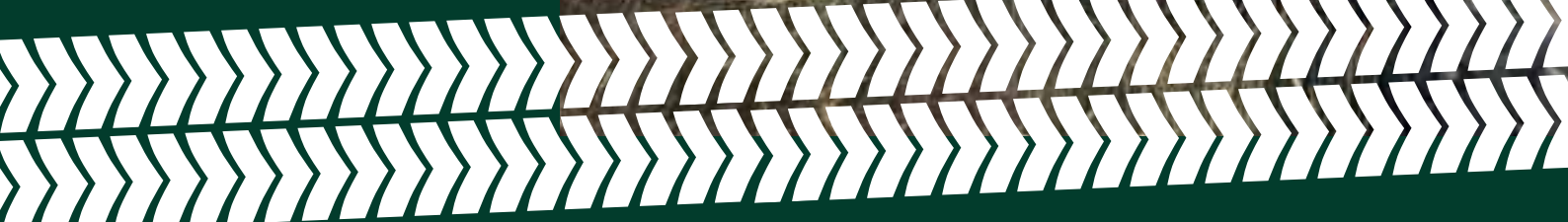
released, ready or not. By 11 o'clock, we had successfully defended the target after three stand tos, one firefight and many minutes lying in our positions with an itchy trigger finger. It was our turn now! In the morning, after we had 'slept', it was time for our own assault, but before we could do that, we needed a crash course in FIWAF (Fighting In Woods And Forests). WO1 Moffatt taught us how to perform an assault on multiple positions using reserve sections. The next stage of our attack was a briefing by Major Taylor, who we all thought had gone a little bit mad when he showed us the model of the surrounding area that he had created out of twigs. Every section had their own objectives to fulfil, and three magazines of blanks to let loose. What could possibly go wrong?

Sections 1 and 2 set off, walking to the top of a ridge line so that they could take the first two positions out in the open when the time came. Section 4 were lying up on a double mound, observing the rebels' movements whilst all of us in Section 3 were still waiting in camp, wondering if we had time to go to the loo before the fun started. When we were given the go ahead, some people were getting rather desperate! Section 3 made our way towards the mounds that Section 4 were on top of before guiding them down, leading the way to the ridge



where Sections 1 and 2 were waiting. Once we were all lined up in herring bone formation, WO1 Moffatt gave the nod and we donned our ear defenders as the world around us went noisy. We couldn't see from our position what Sections 1 and 2 were doing, but the constant crack of blanks told us that they were really going for it. After a couple of minutes passed, the reports grew more distant and less frequent, so we clambered over the ridge and started to progress down the hill. By now Section 1 and 2 were at the edge of the forest, clearing their last position, which was a concrete bunker crawling with hostiles. We stayed behind them, out of their way and ready to move into the forest to begin our phase of attack. When the last rebel had been declared 'dead', Section 4 ran through the forest cutting down everything in their path, with Section 3 following a couple of paces behind, ready to take on the last part of the exercise.

When Section 4 handed over to us, it felt like it had been days since we were first all geared up on the ridge, but now it was our turn to start shooting. The following minutes flew by. The speed of



our movements, our Braveheart roars, our fingers tirelessly depressing our triggers, the shouts of our Section Commander in one ear, the Officers in the other, and the crazily loud cracks of our blanks just rolled into one. It all went flawlessly: I managed to avoid a stoppage (my biggest fear) and reload without fumbling around, both firsts for me! It was an amazing day!

However, we still were not done yet! We had one day left, and that was OBUA (Operations In Built Up Areas), taking place at Catterick Garrison. We 'tried' everything, from urban patrolling, to preparing a house for defence, to entry drill, but the best part of the day, without a doubt, was house clearing. We were fortunate enough to be taught this fundamental skill by soldiers from the Royal Gurkha Rifles, who are some of the fiercest people I have ever had the pleasure to meet! Working in pairs, we cleared two rooms each. Shouting at the top of our voices, we threw 'training grenades' into the rooms before booting the door and firing blanks at all of the

targets. It was the perfect end to such a fantastic week.

I would like to say thank you to all of the people who gave up their time to make our camp so interesting. Firstly, to the training team at both Wathgill and Catterick, who delivered many lessons to us, from the basics of cam and concealment to the battles of the First World War. Secondly, I would like to thank all of the Upper Sixth, who spent their whole week putting out fires, playing the enemy and having to put up with 40 tired and whinging cadets. But last and by no means least, all of the Cadet staff at Kirkham (and Lt Yates) who give up their time to help us develop beyond the classroom. I am sure that everyone would agree that they don't have an easy job but we really appreciate them.

Whether it is Lt Atkinson, taking as many embarrassing photos as possible of us (sometimes while we're asleep), Capt. Sutcliffe trying not to laugh while she has a whole class of Cadets 'performing' CPR to the beat of Staying Alive! Mr Berry,

supervising our paintballing patrols and making sure we don't shoot each other, Mrs Fearn sorting out our admin, Mrs O'Flaherty running leadership and team work tasks with Mrs Lovell. Mr Hancock stopping us from falling into the ground when we go climbing, Mr Possamai making sure that we don't get skewered by an arrow in archery. WO2 Barrow for sharing his knowledge of anything and everything under the sun, Capt John tirelessly running our range and dealing with all the rifle related stress that goes with it. Lt Yates driving the Carr Hill students to KGS every week and wearing his aviators the whole year round, Flt Lt Marsh organising the RAF section of our CCF and dealing with all the paperwork that lets our Cadets go flying. Major Taylor offering his highly 'individual' insight in stressful circumstances or WO1 Moffatt being constantly harassed by Cadets who are trying to run before they can walk. All of our staff certainly makes the KGS Contingent the success that it is!



CCF Field Day

CCF Field Day this year was 'uber cool' with a mixture of team building and character development stands. It involved practical exercises which allowed us to learn and involve ourselves in realistic situations, which encouraged those who wouldn't normally get involved in CCF. As Fifth Years we were able to do more challenging and exciting tasks.

We started the day by covering Section Battle Drills theory, which involved learning real army tactics and the reasons behind them. We then put the theory into practice and rehearsed the drills, taking it in turns to be the Section Commander (in charge) and the Section 2IC (deputy), this helped to give everyone a bit of confidence and a chance to develop our leadership skills.

Then we moved on to the practical element of Section Battle Drills. We were split into groups of 8-10, given a weapon, some blank ammunition and some cam cream and told to get ourselves ready for a Section Attack. This is called Preparation for Battle and something we learnt earlier in the theory. Once everyone was suitably 'cam creamed up' we were given a brief that an enemy agent was somewhere out there. Our mission was to capture them if possible but if we were fired upon then we were to fire back. We split our Section into two Fire Teams (Charlie and Delta) and we patrolled across the field. The enemy agent decided he didn't want to be captured and so we returned fire and carried out all the drills we had been taught. The section attack process started to happen, we put down a weight of fire with the blank ammunition and then the Section Commander barked out the orders to go 'Right Flanking'. The assault group moved quickly and as the smoke cleared we had taken the enemy position, this led to us successfully defeating the enemy agent. It was a thrill to have completed the task using command and control and all the techniques we had practiced.

The next activity was TIBUA (Training in Built Up Areas). This is essentially how to employ military tactics in houses and streets. We proceeded to climb through a basement window and clear 3 floors of a building from the 'bottom up'. This required a great deal of leadership, communication and teamwork skills to successfully execute the task. Once again we rehearsed this and then came the final assault with blank ammunition and an enemy force in the house (6th Formers). We 'stacked up' outside and then assaulted the building, the enemy inside were surprised by our speed and drills and we soon took complete control of the house much to our satisfaction.

On the whole our day at Inskip was a worthwhile experience and we can't wait for the next one.

LCpl's Zoe Armstrong & Emma Nuttall



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Remembrance Day services were held around the UK to commemorate 100 years since the end of World War One and to remember those who served the country in two world wars and also in the more recent conflicts. On Friday 9 November, the Senior School held their own Remembrance Day Service which was led by our Senior NCOs. During the service, School Captain Will Kollard read from the Gospel of St John and Esme Ikram beautifully performed a piece from Band of Brothers. Reverend Bunday led prayers before the whole school fell quiet for two minute's silence, followed by 'The Last Post' played by Third Year 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 plaques.

Over the Remembrance weekend, KGS CCF Cadets represented school at a number of services including Guard of Honour at Bilsborrow War Memorial, being part of the Remembrance Service at St Michael's Church, Kirkham and the flag laying at the England v New Zealand Rugby League match at Elland Road in Leeds. What an experience and honour for our young cadets.

Kirkham Grammar Junior School held their own special 100th Anniversary Remembrance Assembly, in which Reverend Bunday spoke to the children about his great grandfather's experience of war. During the assembly, the Head Boy, Alexander Davies, Head Girl, Leoma Gill and Senior Prefects, Rowan Edwards and Trishala Akundi read beautifully, before the whole school fell quiet for a minute's silence and 'The Last Post', played by KGS Second Year pupil, Oscar Harkins.

The Pre-School children also learnt about Remembrance and why we wear poppies. They watched an award-winning short animation about remembrance and made poppies out of plastic bottles to create a remembrance tree.



Lest We Forget

1918 2018

FIRST WORLD WAR - ARMISTICE CENTENARY







CAKE SALE FOR BRIAN HOUSE



Junior School J3 pupils Issy Gut and Gabriella Pearson organised a cake sale in the middle of September to raise money for Brian House Children's Hospice. The event was a huge success and raised a fantastic £325. Well done, Issy and Gabriella!



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Kirkham Grammar Senior and Junior School pupils, staff, parents and the wider school community supported our annual Macmillan Coffee Mornings. A fantastic £1277 was raised, from the two fundraising events, for this very worthwhile cause.



Non-Uniform Day

Kirkham Grammar Senior and Junior Schools held a non-uniform day to raise money for St Catherine's Hospice. A fantastic £1120.38 was raised in total - thank you for your support.





Patissiers Nigel Smith, Abigail Withers and Oliver Marriott visited school on Friday 7 December to judge our First Year pupils' 'Biology Bake Off'. All the judges agreed that the standard of the cakes was outstanding, making their job of choosing the winners very tricky. Well done to everyone who took part. The winners were as follows:

1st place - 'The Four Seasons' by Kathrin Crowe

2nd place - 'I Gave My Life to Science' by Grace Livesey & 'Rat Dissection' by Alexa Anderson

3rd place - 'Animal Cell structure' by Lily Buckley





CLUBS & CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

At Kirkham Grammar School there are many clubs and societies on offer to engage pupils of all ages and interests. These take place at both the Junior and Senior School at lunchtime and after school and include Cookery, Crafts, Photography, Movie Club, Construction, VEX Robotics, Drama, Young Engineers and Mindfulness to name just a few.





Ski Lessons at Chill Factor

During the autumn and spring terms our Junior School pupils, from J1 through to J4, are being given the opportunity to learn how to ski at the Chill Factor in Manchester, organised by TGM Holidays.





KGS MUSIC

During October, a selection of First Year, Fourth and Fifth Year pupils entertained staff, parents and family. These events showcased the wide array of talent we have at Kirkham Grammar School.





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MATHEMATICS Masters



In the Spring Term of 2018, we received the opportunity to attend a six-week course of Mathematical Masterclasses at Lancaster University on Saturday mornings. The Masterclass series were organised jointly by Lancaster University and the Royal Institute. The sessions covered a wide variety of topics and introduced us to many new concepts and uses of mathematics. It gave us the opportunity to explore and expand on mathematical concepts which are well beyond the school curriculum.

In the first session we explored tensegrity and the third angle, which focused on the 'geometry and combinatorics of structures'. This involved calculating whether or not a framework would be rigid or flexible using various methods and, in turn, working out how to use mathematics to make a structure rigid. The second session was a significant contrast to the first, showing much more visual and artistic uses of mathematics. We looked at the properties and combinations of shapes, as well as investigating the mathematics behind folding paper into shapes and prisms.

The third class explored the branch of mathematics called topology, which is 'the study of properties of shapes which are unchanged when they are stretched and deformed'. We discovered that any shape which encloses a volume (ie a 3D shape such as a cube) can be stretched or bent into a

sphere and we looked at the Taurus shape (doughnut shape) which is an exception to this rule.

Following on from this, we looked at mind-bending theories such as exploring infinity. In the penultimate week we considered how to design and conduct an effective clinical trial using probability and statistics, and the most efficient ways to do this. We looked at how we would design stages of this trial so as to minimize the time and resources involved, while still receiving effective results. Finally, in the last class, we learnt about the motion of objects, forces and how to use the kinematic formulas. We conducted an experiment in which we had to calculate the velocity of an object and plot appropriate graphs.

We really enjoyed the series and found them fascinating as they covered a wide variety of topics and ideas which would not usually be taught within the classroom, as well as putting a new perspective on mathematics and its everyday usage. It also gave us the opportunity to work with many other able mathematicians from other schools across the North West of England. We would definitely recommend the series to anyone that gets the opportunity to attend the masterclasses in future years!

Margaret Hodgson & Jonathan Latham



Michael Lewthwaite continued his studies in the 6th Form at KGS, after achieving an outstanding set of GCSE results at the school including A*'s in both mathematics and further mathematics. Michael always showed himself to be, not only a natural mathematician, but also a hard worker, rarely letting a numerical problem defeat him. He broadened his skills by questioning when in doubt, and with independent study in areas of interest. His varied contribution to extra curricular activities in school enriched his education immensely. In the Music Department, Michael was a member of the School Concert Band, Orchestra, Swing Band and Choir, and he was a member of the rugby squad from the First Year all the way into the Sixth Form. Michael also achieved the prestigious Gold Award on the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, enjoying many expeditions in the local area and further afield.

Michael left KGS in 2016 with a splendid set of A-level results to be proud of: mathematics (A*), further mathematics (A*) and chemistry (A), as well as an AS in biology (A). He is currently studying mathematics and statistics at Lancaster University.

Michael says of his time at KGS: "The wide variety of extra curricular activities on offer developed many enriching life skills, such as confidence, working in team situations and respect for others. Regularly meeting deadlines for homework and assignments enabled me to learn that time management is crucial for success, and has been particularly helpful during my mathematical studies in Lancaster."



THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS



Illustration by Mr S R Painter

It was way back in June (or possibly May) that Mrs Latham and I decided that we wanted to give Alan Bennett's version of *The Wind in the Willows* an outing in the Summerlee Hall. Six months later, after building a riverbank and numerous vehicles, learning songs, scene changes and (for some of the cast) hundreds of lines, we performed the play to nearly six hundred people over three days. What was lovely about this production was the genuine ensemble approach. Although Toad, Rat, Badger and Mole rightly took many of the plaudits, the whole cast and backstage team should be congratulated for their involvement and stamina!

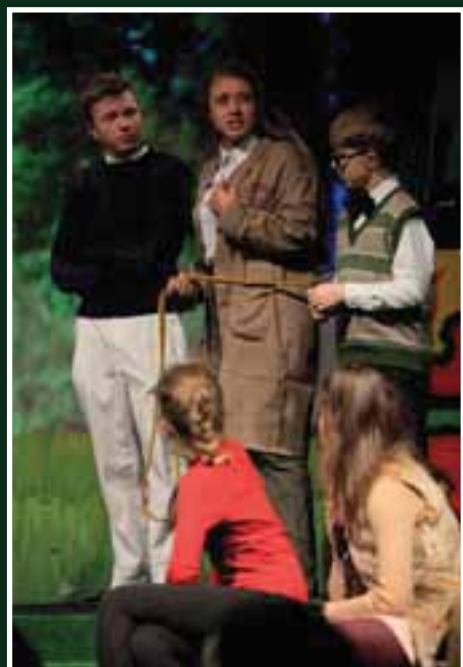
Rehearsing every Monday and Thursday since the summer, the students really committed to the process of putting on such a complex production. They gave up time to rehearse over half term and worked tirelessly throughout performance week. Hopefully they've now caught up with all the homework they have missed...

Audiences were impressed with the hard work that had gone into all aspects of the show and many remarked how lovely it was to see so many of the younger students of the Senior School getting involved. Personally, the most rewarding moments were seeing the cast and crew working together, using their initiative, staying positive when certain ideas were proving difficult to realise and clearly developing a level of discipline separate to everyday school life.

A massive thank you again needs to go to Mr Eagle for his excellent woodwork skills, Mrs Sutcliffe who took on such a bigger role than 'backstage supervision' suggests and all of the site team.

"Poop Poop!"

Mr T Moore









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TECHNOLOGY

TOURNAMENT



Several teams from KGS were entered into the Rotary Technology Tournament at Preston Grasshoppers earlier in the year. The well designed task by the Rotary network for the 30 teams that had entered were judged by the staff from BAE SYSTEMS. All pupils from KGS thoroughly enjoyed the day. KGS won the Advanced and Intermediate section and came third in the Foundation section.







MINI RUGBY

U9, U10 & U11

The Junior School held three consecutive weekends of rugby for our U9, U10 and U11 boys. The format was a mini tournament involving players from Fylde RFC, Preston Grasshoppers RFC, Tanterton RFC and St Mary's Hall. The events, held on the Senior School pitches, were a great success.



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KGS RUGBY UNDER DOWN



Day 1 of the tour, Friday 13 July, saw all 57 students and 7 staff gathered in the Old Hall early in the morning ready to depart for their rugby tour of Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand. Despite the wet weather everyone was in good spirits in anticipation of the adventure to come. It was a smooth journey to Manchester Airport and once through security the boys had just over an hour to relax, refresh and buy any last minute snacks before the 11.5 hour flight to Hong Kong Airport. Despite the long duration of the flight the boys were kept occupied thanks to Cathay Pacific's large selection of Films/TV series as well as comfortable seats for those who wished to get some sleep. The flight passed quickly and we landed at Hong Kong Airport at 6.30 am local time for a day and night to experience Hong Kong.

HONG KONG

Day 2 we had a short coach journey from the airport to the hotel where we would be staying for the night. After a quick turnaround of finding rooms, dumping luggage and having a quick freshen up we all boarded a coach to transport us to central Hong Kong Island where we split into small groups and were given a guided tour of the city. During the tour there were many interesting and amazing sights to behold including some amazing modern architecture alongside old fashioned street markets and a Chinese Temple. Back at the hotel everyone had a couple of hours to properly

refresh from the long flight and prepare themselves for the evening entertainment of a Harbour Cruise and Buffet. This was enjoyed by all with some great sightseeing as well as an opportunity for some of the boys, namely Cole Potts, Nathan Pope and Harry Cruickshanks, to have a sing and dance on the boat to the amusement of both our tour party and the locals. At the end of a full day of activities, although enjoyed by all, everyone was glad to be back at the hotel for a much needed rest to prepare for the next stage of the journey; the flight to Brisbane Airport, Australia.

AUSTRALIA

Runaway Bay

On day 3, after a problematic boarding at Hong Kong Airport for our journey to Brisbane, students Elliott Callow, Blake Snell and Evan Powell along with staff member Mr McLaughlin, who had drawn the short straw to stay behind, were forced to remain in Hong Kong for an additional 24 hours before they could fly to Australia due to some visa issues. Both Mr McLaughlin and the boys thankfully were put in the airports excellent hotel for the night and took full advantage



of the situation to catch up on some much needed sleep, as well as being able to watch the World Cup Final before flying the next morning to join the rest of the party. Everyone else boarded the flight without issue and landed late in the evening at Brisbane Airport before their transfer to the hotel – Super Sports Centre, Runaway Bay, QLD. It was well past midnight when all arrived so it was quickly find the rooms and straight to bed before the first training session of the tour the next morning to prepare for the first round of games against Sunshine Coast Grammar School the following day. It was an early rise for everyone on day 4 with an 8.00 am breakfast for a 10.00 am sharp start to training putting the excellent hotel sports facilities to good use. After a tough but productive session both the staff and the boys had the afternoon at leisure which was spent scouting out food places, recovery sessions in the pool and preparing for the matches on the next afternoon.

On day 5, after an early breakfast, the boys took to the fields for a short session to get them in right frame of mind for the matches to follow. Everyone boarded the coaches following some lunch and transferred to the picturesque Sunshine Coast Grammar School for what would be some closely contested games. Despite two losses, the boys had enjoyed their first game of the tour and certainly enjoyed the post-game pizza provided. From here, the tour party split, with the younger half of the boys going with the families of the Sunshine Coast player's to be billeted out for the night, and the older boys transferring to the Mantra Legends Hotel at our next destination in Surfers Paradise, QLD.

Surfers Paradise
On day 6 the boys who were billeted out were collected from Sunshine Coast Grammar School and transported to All Saints Anglican School. The coach journey was approx two hours which gave the boys plenty of chance to share their experience of the previous night and argue as to who had 'the best' billet. Once arrived at the school they met the students and their families who would be billeting them for the next two nights. Whilst this was happening, the older boys who had been transported the day before enjoyed their morning off relaxing at the magnificent beach that Surfers Paradise had to offer before their first game of the tour. In what was a well contested game Vs Gold Coast U19's the KGS boys came out

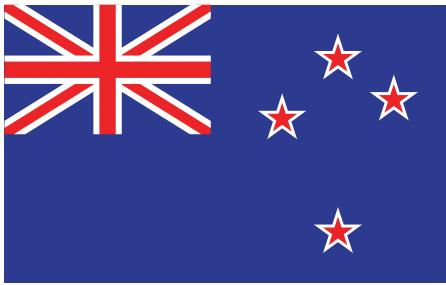
on top with an ultimately convincing victory to the delight of the tour party. Once again, the billeted boys were collected early in the morning from the school and were brought to Surfers Paradise for a morning relax before travelling back to the school for the matches later on in the afternoon on day 7. Despite having games the boys opted for an active morning and thoroughly enjoyed a two hour surfing taster session, with most of the boys being able to stand on the board by the end. Once the surfing was finished it was time to enjoy a spot of lunch and to prepare for the afternoon matches v All Saints Anglican School. Again, both matches were well contested and played in good spirit and, unfortunately, ended with two wins for the home side. After some nice post-game hospitality, everyone departed for either their billets or for the hotel for their final evening in Surfers Paradise. Next stop: Sydney.

Sydney

It was an early start to day 8 for the

coach transfer back to Brisbane Airport where we all boarded our Qantas flight to Sydney. It was a short flight when compared to the last two and there were some fantastic views to be seen when arriving into Sydney Airport. From the airport we transferred to the Sydney Wynyard Hotel where we would be staying for the next three nights. The afternoon was at our leisure which gave both the staff and the boy's time to have a little explore of their own before returning to the hotel to rest for the third set of fixtures against St Ignatius College on day 9. This fixture proved to be a tough contest for all three of the KGS sides and showcased the high standard of rugby that St Ignatius College produces with the school boasting five Australian School Boy U18s in their 1st XV. Although the games finished with three wins for the hosts the boys, not too disheartened, enjoyed a BBQ in the beautiful grounds of St Ignatius College before travelling to what would be one of the highlights of the tour, the Super Rugby Quarter-Final between NSW Waratahs and the





NEW ZEALAND



Highlanders. Thankfully, the game proved to be a great spectacle with some wonderful flowing rugby in a tense hard fought match which saw that 'Tahs' overcome a 20-3 half-time deficit to win.

After the previous days hard graft during the matches the boys were rewarded with a fun, activity filled Day 10 around Sydney. The day started with a short walk from the hotel to Circular Quay for the Sydney Harbour Jet Boat Experience. This was an adrenaline fuelled ride and a brilliant, albeit wet, way to view the magnificent Sydney Harbour Bridge and the famous Sydney Opera House. Following this activity the boys were in for a treat as we boarded a ferry to take us to Taronga Zoo. Everyone enjoyed a nice relaxing few hours exploring the zoo grounds and seeing some of the exotic animals that were on display before departing for our final night at the hotel in Sydney before travelling to New Zealand.

NEW ZEALAND

Wellington

It was the earliest start to date for the boys on day 11 in order to catch their morning flight from Sydney to Wellington. The three hour flight passed without incident with many of the boys, and a couple of the staff, enjoying the new Avengers film which was available to watch on the plane. Once everyone was safely through the security checks we transferred to our new hotel in the quiet town of Kilbirnie, Wellington and were all allowed time to relax in preparation for the next block of fixtures facing Rongotai College. Day 12 was to be an exciting first game for all KGS sides as Rongotai College is the school at which All Blacks Ma'a Nonu, Ardie Savea and Julian Savea learnt their trade. It was also to be the first occasion on which the KGS sides would have to line up and face the famous Haka before kick-off and, after speaking to some of the boys, it was agreed that it was a very special moment to stand against the Haka and all agreed that it was far more intimidating than they expected. All three games were again closely contested with the U16 and 2nd XV losing out narrowly to Rongotai, however, the KGS 1st XV managed to put together a fantastic display of rugby to beat the hosts 22-10. On Day 13 the boys were allowed a slight lie in before hitting the road via coach to our next New Zealand destination, Palmerston North.

Palmerston North

On route, courtesy to the coach drivers, we had a quick stop at Mt Victoria for a short walk to the summit to view the breath-taking scenery and look down to Rongotai where we had played the day before. To further break up the coach journey, the party visited the local 'Great War Museum' where they could take a walk through history and explore the events of the Gallipoli War. After an interesting and moving tour of the museum it was back to the

coach for the remainder of the journey to the hotel and an afternoon of rest and recovery for day 14's games Vs Feilding High school. Similar to Rongotai, Feilding High School have a plethora of Old Boys who have gone on to represent the All Blacks including Aaron Smith, Codie Taylor and Sam Whitelock. In what was the first 'bad weather' day of the tour, all three matches were played in wet and muddy conditions with the U16's battling out a fantastic 12-5 win with a last play of the game try from Archie Cooper, to snatch the victory. The 2nd XV played out a well fought 12-12 draw and the 1st XV produced an excellent defensive display to win 7-0. Day 14 ended with more free time to relax and prepare for the long coach drive to come to Rotorua for one of the last legs of the tour.

Rotorua

The morning of day 15 everyone was faced with the five hour drive north to Rotorua, but were all in good spirits looking forward to the day's activities and were happy in the knowledge that there was to be a four day break before the next rugby match. This break would prove to be a great time for both the players and coaches to relax and enjoy New Zealand's many scenic and cultural wonders. The drive passed quickly through some amazing New Zealand country roads and we soon hit our first stop for our second Jet Boat experience of the tour. This time the location was a beautiful river system with sharp turns, waterfalls and lots of excitement. It was judged that this Jet Boat ride was the better of the two and was even enjoyed by both Mr Roddam and Mr Trenhaile who joined the boys in the boats. Once everyone had dried off it was back to the coaches for another two hour stint through beautiful countryside until we reached our destination mid-afternoon. Day 16 became one of the busiest, yet one of the most enjoyable days of the tour with numerous activities planned. The first on the list was a visit to the Agrodome where the boys were shown an hour long display on the 19 different variety of sheep native to New Zealand alongside other interesting facts about the local agriculture. From there we had a short journey to Rainbow Springs Nature Park. Again this provided some beautiful views of some of the wildlife native to New Zealand as well as local hot pools and woodland.

For lunch the boys were treated to a subway and a fantastic game of school-boy rugby involving Rotorua Boys High School and Palmerston North High School. Despite the game providing a tense finish and some great rugby throughout, the highlight of the fixture was the 'Double' Haka that preceded the game. Onto the afternoon and it was back in the coach to the Gondola and Luge experience. Everyone took the gondola to the top of the mountain where the boys, along with Mr McLaughlin, Mr Brookes, Mr Roddam, Mr Trenhaile and Mr Unsworth had the chance to luge back

down one of the mountains tracks. Needless to say that everyone enjoyed this experience without it becoming competitive and having the need for a 'winner'!!

Day 17 followed and provided another opportunity for a full day of activities including a visit to Te Puia Thermal Park to view the Hot Springs, Geysers and Hot Mud Pools followed by an amazing cultural experience at Tamaki Maori Village where everyone got to experience a full welcoming Haka, some Maori games and finally some local cuisine, in the form of an all you can eat buffet, cooked specially using underground hot rocks.

Cambridge

After three rugby free but busy days everyone once again boarded the coaches on day 18 for the next leg of the journey, north again, to Cambridge. On arriving in Cambridge, the boys had a short training session at a local rugby club to work out any stiffness and to begin to get back into the mind-set for the final fixture of the tour. The boys woke up on day 19 full of excitement for their last round of games on tour. The 1st XV were up first against Wharekura O Mauao School. This school was a full Maori School and greeted us all with a full school Haka, song and speech in which we had to return with our own song and a short speech from tour captain Nathan Pope. This was a special treat for the boys and staff and really set a high tone for the game to follow. With the U16 and 2nd XV teams watching on, the 1st XV put on a fine display of rugby to win the match and make it three from three in New Zealand; a very impressive feat. Whilst the 1st team celebrated their tour with photos and socialising with the many KGS parents who had travelled out, the U16 and 2nd XV travelled to St Pauls School, Hamilton for their final fixture. The U16 game was a fierce encounter, with temperature boiling over towards the end, and finished with a narrow defeat to the KGS side. The 2nd XV were also unfortunate and lost their respective game but all KGS boys celebrated in the same manner and were proud of their rugby efforts and experiences during the tour.

Finally, day 20 arrived and the gruelling journey home was about to begin. A two hour coach journey to Auckland Airport was the early morning entertainment followed by a twelve hour flight to Hong Kong. It was a short three hour stop in Hong Kong Airport for the return journey and day 21 brought the final leg, the 12 hour flight from Hong Kong to Manchester. Despite nearly 29 hours of travelling all the boys were a credit to themselves and to the school, as they had been all tour, showing excellent behaviour and, to the relief of the staff, minimal moaning about 'Are we there yet?' At 6.30 am local time we safely landed back on home soil at Manchester Airport and our adventure was over. The boys dispersed to share eagerly their many stories with excited parents and families.



IRELAND TOUR
DUBLIN 2018

Kirkham Grammar School rugby sides were in action over half term in Dublin. The Under 13s and Under 14s were involved in a number of games against Wesley College, The Kings Hospital School and Ballyclare High School. The U14s won all their games including a 46-42 thriller against The Kings Hospital School, while the U13s lost 2 games but had a great 5-0 win to Ballyclare High School

The U15s and 1st XV visited Dublin for a shorter period and played Wesley College. The U15s were in another thriller, winning 26-24 with Charles McNamee inspiring a fine KGS come back. KGS 1st XV, on a redemption mission after a disappointing loss the previous week to Sedbergh School, faced a tough Wesley College side, who were unbeaten at home this year. Kirkham started slowly but defended magnificently for the first 15 minutes of the game. With only scraps to live on, a turnover by the KGS try line lead to a swift counter-attack with centre Evan Powell racing the length of the field for the opening try converted by captain, Daniel Kelly. Growing in confidence, Kirkham started to put together some good phases which created space for Daniel Kelly to step his way over the Wesley College line. This was quickly followed by a clever try by scrum half Cole Potts and another from young flanker Oli Leatherbarrow who ran a good support line from a good break from number 8, Ethan Caine. Leading 26-0 at half time, KGS probably thought the game was won but Wesley fought back with some strong drives. The second half was a much closer affair with both teams scoring 3 tries each. Tries for Kirkham again came from Cole Potts well supported by fellow try scorers Callum Grieve and Tom Giles. Final Score KGS 1ST XV 47 Wesley College 1st XV 19.

As well as the school continuing to hit some high notes, it was good to see some old boys of the school reaching the top. Both Kieran Marmion (Scrum Half, Ireland) and Richard Wigglesworth (Scrum Half, England) played in Autumn International Rugby. In addition last year's 1st XV Captain, Kieran Wilkinson made his debut for Sale Sharks 1st Team.



U14 XV LANCASHIRE CUP CHAMPIONS







1STXVrugby



CROSS COUNTRY & FUN RUNS



At the beginning of October, Kirkham Grammar Junior School held their annual Pre-School and Infant Fun Runs and Junior House Cross Country. Thankfully, they were blessed with excellent weather and the driest underfoot conditions for a number of years! Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to all the parents and family members who came along to support!

Fylde & Wyre Schools Cross Country Championships

It was a successful day for Kirkham Grammar School at the Fylde and Wyre Schools Cross Country Championships which took place just before October half term.

It was a clean sweep for the girls who were crowned the champions in all age groups. In the 1st Years race, Georgia Nichols came an impressive 1st, Keira Tones 4th and Frankie Margerison 6th; in the 2nd and 3rd Year combined race Martha Millar and Talia Armstead finished 3rd and 5th respectively and in the 4th and 5th Year event, Darcey Lonsdale finished 1st and Caity Preddy 5th.

In the boy's events, Kirkham finished first in the Year 7 race, with Luke Schmidt finishing 2nd overall out of 58 runners. In the 2nd and 3rd Years event, KGS finished 3rd overall and 2nd overall in the 4th and 5th Years race.



AJIS CROSS COUNTRY

A great result for the Junior School U10 boys who were runners up at the annual AJIS Cross Country Championships held at Rossall. The U11 boys, U11 girls and U10 girls also performed well, just missing out on team medals!



1STXIhockey





SENIOR GIRLS

HOUSENETBALL



Diary Dates



Monday 17 December 2018
Young Kirkhamians' Christmas gathering,
The Grapes, Wrea Green, 7.30pm

Thursday 10 - Friday 18 January 2019
Fifth Year Mock Exams

Wednesday 16 - Wednesday 23 January 2019
Upper Sixth Mock Examinations

Wednesday 23 January 2019
Sixth Form Taster Day for current Fifth Year

Monday 28 January 2019
11+ Sports Scholarship Assessment

Monday 28 & Tuesday 29 January 2019
11+ Music Scholarship Assessment

Wednesday 30 January 2019
Third Year GCSE Option & Careers Evening

Thursday 31 January 2019
Second Year Concert, Recital Hall

Saturday 2 February 2019
11+ Entrance Examination

Thursday 14 February 2019
Third Year Parents Evening

Friday 8 March 2019
House Music Festival

Thursday 14 March 2019
Gala Concert, Recital Hall
Current pupils, parents and wider community welcome

Thursday 21 March 2019
CCF Field Day, Fourth Year and Sixth Form

Thursday 21 March 2019
U14 Richard Wilson Sevens Tournament

Monday 25, 26 & 27 March 2019
Junior School Production, Mary Poppins

Saturday 30 March 2019
Choral Concert - Elijah

Wednesday 3 April 2019
Founders' Day Service, St Michael's Church

SPORTING EXCELLENCE @ KGS





If the opportunity of winning a cash prize, whilst supporting fundraising for Friends of Kirkham Grammar School appeals to you, then joining our relaunched 100+ club couldn't be easier.

Prizes will consist of 11 draws, September to July, with a First Prize of £50 and a second prize of £25 per draw. In both December and July the First Prize will increase to £250, and the Second Prize will be £50.

Annual membership of £25 will secure your number for entry into the draw. You can increase your chances by purchasing additional numbers. Application forms will be emailed out to all families or can be completed via the Friends page of the school website.

You can also collect free funds for us, every time you shop online. We have registered with Easy Fundraising through which retailers donate a percentage of sales to ourselves, at no cost to you. Please register at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/fokgs/> and then whenever you shop online at a participating retailer, they will make a donation back to us. There are over 3,300 retailers participating, including John Lewis, Amazon, eBay, Sky, Asos, and Booking.com, so most online shops can raise a donation.

The questions I am most commonly asked are, why do you need to raise money and what is it used for? All funds raised by FKGS are donated to KGS to purchase

items which would not be available through the normal school budget.

It is my great pleasure to inform you that during 2017/2018 academic year, FKGS donated £38,126 to KGS. This donation included a payment towards renovations in the Summerlee Hall, a donation to the Cookery Club, new hockey nets, support for the Accelerated Reader programme and author visits, and the purchase of robotics kit. Our donations impact on all children across the foundation from Pre-School to Sixth Form.

Our aim for the 2018/2019 academic year is to raise £25,000! The majority of this will be raised through social fundraising, examples of which include: Black Powder Gin Night; Friends' Lunches; World Food & Wine Pairing Evening and the FKGS Summer Ball. If you have yet to attend one of our events I would urge you to come along. They can be great opportunities to meet other parents, sometimes in an unexpected setting, eg. on a roller coaster. Do not feel that you have to be part of a large group as we will always endeavour to sit parents of similarly aged children together. Just as important are our children led fundraisers, which include: Christmas Fair; Spring Family Event and the Pre-Owned Uniform Sale. A diary of events will be posted on the school website, and please look out for emails and follow us on social media. I would ask you to please visit and 'like' our Friends of Kirkham Grammar School Facebook page

and follow us on Twitter @friendsofkg. Thank you for your support, whether it's been in wrapping Christmas presents to help Santa, running a stall at the fair, buying raffle tickets, joining the 100+ club, shopping through easyfundraising, or sending pre-loved uniform to sell, we appreciate it all.

Special thanks must go to the amazing committee of parents, staff members, and friends who organise each of the events. May we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

Michelle O'Neill
Chair, FKGS



Two women are standing in front of a large, decorated Christmas tree. They are both wearing matching elf costumes, which include orange and green striped short-sleeved shirts, brown overalls with gold buttons, and orange hats with green and red stripes. They also have red circular face paint on their cheeks. The Christmas tree behind them is decorated with warm white lights, gold and red ornaments, and large cutouts of a pink and gold Christmas tree. The text 'We wish you a Merry Christmas' is written in a large, white, cursive font across the center of the image.

We wish you a
Merry
Christmas



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