

# THE KIRKHAMIAN

KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



KIRKHAM  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2016





**HEADMASTER**  
Daniel Berry



# KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL

This new academic year is a significant one for me personally as I enter my first full academic year as Headmaster.

In these challenging times where other independent schools are opting to be free schools or become part of a Multi-Academy Trust we have strengthened our 'Truly Independent' status. It is heartening to stress that we have welcomed a large cohort into the First Year and have retained the largest number into the Sixth Form for a number of years. I have become convinced that central to our success going forward is maintaining the principle of independence.

We have emerged during the Summer Term as a school that is well equipped to move forward and to ensure that the pupils, who only travel through this school once, receive the very best. We can reflect proudly on our achievements from last year to prepare us well for the future. During 2015/2016 we gained the most A\*-C grades awarded at GCSE and A level compared to other local independent schools, 94% of leavers gained a place at their University of choice; we were awarded the most NODAs compared to other North-West Independent Schools, we were Lancashire Hockey Champions; and we were named 'National Rugby School of the Year'.

As we look forward to this year and an extremely busy end of term, we have a lot to celebrate. However, it is the tradition and long history of KGS that remains strong and underpins our ethos. People, buildings and the world around us are constantly changing, however the core of KGS remains. We will ensure the traditional values are recognised alongside modern ambition. The longer I spend at Kirkham Grammar School, the more I understand what clearly makes it such a unique school.

The following is still relevant to our fine school today. The virtue of a school does not depend entirely on its classrooms, the equipment in its laboratories, the number of its pupils, nor even the success of its exam results. There is an unseen influence that is exerted by buildings and surroundings that are beautiful and dignified and in keeping with fine honourable traditions and high ideals embedded at KGS.

We are proud of our school and the lifelong memories that are heart clinging and full of opportunity. Memories of muddy rugby fields, friends laughing and sundrenched cricket pitches. There is something at KGS that is intangible but very real, the atmosphere in which we dwell, that pervasive spirit which surrounds us and influences all of which we strive to achieve. It is a

great heritage at KGS and one which will stay with you for life. As we enter a new chapter in the school's long and successful history, we look forward to even more from our wonderful pupils.

When looking back on a term, I am always astounded at the diverse range of activities and events which have engaged our pupils, and this term is certainly no exception to that. Our pupils have been inspired and challenged by master chefs, visiting lecturers, masterclasses and academic competitions as well as tours and trips far and wide, not to mention sports competitions. By reading this newsletter you will gain an insight into what it is to be part of the Kirkham Grammar School community, a "Kirkhamian". Our hope is that pupils will be able to find their niche at KGS and feel confident that they are developing new abilities and skills as well as consolidating areas in which they have already demonstrated prowess.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and restful Christmas.

# Highlights from the Headmaster's Annual Review

## KGS Prizegiving 2015 - 2016 15 September 2016

"It is a pleasure to add my first ever welcome to our Annual Speech Day and Prize Giving where we celebrate an incredibly busy year at KGS. It has been an unusual year for the school during a period of change which brings with it opportunity and fresh ideas including a new Headmaster, appointed mid-year. Once again, however, it is the achievements of our pupils that takes the limelight and, in that sense, it has been a truly remarkable year.



I am especially pleased that Dr Tony Lewis has agreed to join us to present the prizes on this special occasion. Dr Lewis was born in Bolton and is a Mathematician and, more importantly, an old boy of KGS. He received degrees in Mathematics and Statistics from Sheffield University and was formerly a lecturer at Oxford Brookes University and University of West England and is perhaps best known for his development of the Duckworth-Lewis method of resetting targets in interrupted cricket matches. Dr Lewis was also appointed a Member of the British Empire in 2010.

It would be remiss not to make reference to the fact that this is my first full academic year as Headmaster and I believe tonight is about the achievements of all of our pupils and not the ramblings of the new Headmaster's vision for the next 36 years. Why 36 years you say? That is the record for the longest serving Head at KGS. There remains a very busy year in front of me in leading a school that can boast excellent facilities, highly committed staff and, most importantly, a talented and motivated body of pupils making the most of opportunities put in front of them. I have always been committed to ensuring we educate the whole child and that the children we serve get the very best. This is the least they should expect as they only journey through formal education once. I could not have been welcomed to a school that meets that philosophy more. So my report tonight concentrates wholly on the work of the school and its pupils over this last year.

It is fair to say that we are still riding on a tide of Olympic emotion that is continuing during the paralympics games. In fact, only last week did I receive a request from a family to go and watch their son in Rio. Like many of you, such events leave us glued to the TV screens as the Olympic Heroes take us through penalty shoot outs to win the much coveted gold medal.

The Olympic spirit is one that resonates to us as educators and is a theme I have used at the start of this year in Assembly. Clearly the message is centred to a degree around sport, however, I did believe there is so much more that is being represented. This includes values, commitment, team spirit, courage and the ability to see both triumph and failure as part of the experience. These qualities are inspirational in any sphere and values that I hope all generations will recognise and replicate in all aspects of their lives in school and beyond. I stressed that all of our pupils are Olympians and they must strive to achieve a range of gold medals in Sport, Music, Drama, Academic Studies and all the opportunities KGS offers. In fact, I did state that the only part which will hold you back is you! KGS is full of opportunity if you want it. It was also made even more real when we had a past pupil winning a silver medal in the Rugby 7s, Dan Bibby. Such a wonderful



summer deserves to have a lasting impact and I hope we can develop and maintain the values that were so visibly exemplified there.

The major highlight of every summer is the publication of the examination results.

## Results 2016:

### A-level:

A\*/A stayed the same as previous years nationally, where here at KGS grades awarded went up at A\* with Geography/Maths leading the way. With 28 A-level courses being offered, 24 had a 100% pass rate. More pupils than in 2015 have been awarded grades at A\*/A/B and C grades. Largest cohort of 92 since 2007.

### GCSE:

Nationally A\*/A grades were down 0.6 % whilst here at KGS they were up by 3%, nationally A\*-B down by 1.0% at KGS up by 5%, nationally A\*-C down by 1.3% at KGS up by 1%. Overall all categories at GCSE improved on 2015 with 93% A\*-C including English/Maths is 38% above the national average with 75% of grades awarded at KGS are A\*/A/B. A larger than expected cohort remained at KGS 6th Form (88% retention).

### HMC Schools:

Increased students getting ABB grades which will see many go on to Russell Group Universities. With actual grades remaining impressively high in strong A-Level/GCSE subjects. A concerted effort to halt grade inflation in recent years has seen A-level/GCSE grades level off and fall. This is not the case in independent schools.

I wish the cohort of 2016 well as they set out on the next adventure in their lives. They served the school very well, both academically and in the broader life of the school, and I hope to hear of their successes over the coming years. Stepping out from school is exciting but I hope none have any sense of complacency for it is a challenging world out there and we hope we have equipped them with a wide array of skills to be the best they can possibly be.

As I have firmly believed in my years as a Headmaster, it is the breadth and balance of the provision that helps pupils become the best they can possibly be. That must incorporate the opportunity to aspire to the very highest levels, but also an opportunity to find an activity within the school which gives all pupils the opportunity to shine. I have been overwhelmed so early in my KGS career at how much extra-curricular goes on in our school. The diversity and range of clubs and societies that take place weekly is outstanding and a true testament to KGS and the staff and pupils.

### Academic Excellence:

The Psychology Department has yet again gained awards from the Good Schools Guide – the most recent one being a commendation for excellent performance by boys studying Psychology at an independent school. This is added to the collection of awards which also include best Psychology results in National and International Schools and best performance by girls studying Psychology in independent schools which have been awarded in previous years. Students have taken part in a number of university based competitions and the department is continually being recognised for its academic excellence and innovation within the subject.

Julian Shield gained a bronze award in the Chemistry Olympiad which is the world's biggest (and most difficult) competition for young Chemists.

There continues to be excellent performances on the UKMT National Mathematics Challenges at all levels within the school and there were prestigious Gold Awards in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior levels.

The school's World War One centenary commemorations continued last year with two more lectures taking place in front of sell-out audiences in the Recital Room. Richard Van Emden, the prolific historian of the conflict, and Sir Hew Strachan (photo below), from the University of St Andrews, both enthralled their audiences with their knowledge and passion for their



subject. Professor Gary Sheffield who delivered his lecture on General Haig and the Battle of the Somme in October features in this newsletter. The school also held a curriculum day on 1 July to commemorate the first day of the infamous Battle of the Somme, where pupils analysed differing interpretations of the battle and remembered three Old Kirkhamians who died at the Somme; Dan Davies, John Murray and Hayward Wane. A GCSE History field trip also visited the battlefields of Northern France and Belgium both to learn more about the conflict and to pay their respects to the fallen soldiers of the war. Plans are already in place for further events over the next twelve months.

Of note from the Geography Department last year would be the October trip to the West Coast of America: 43 pupils visited San Francisco, Yosemite, Grand Canyon and Los Angeles over 10 days.

## CCF:

It has been an outstanding year all round from the Combined Cadet Force. In October 2015, 15 cadets took part in the National Shooting Competition at the Army Training Camp, achieving success in the final of the 100m and 200m marksman shoot. In May 2016, 3 KGS students attended the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire's annual awards ceremony for cadets and reserve forces. This was a very prestigious event. Sophie Warden and Elizabeth Brocklehurst won the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire's commendation for outstanding service to the cadet force. Rachel Horsfield won the highest award, which was the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet, which in the cadet and reserve forces world is the equivalent of an MBE.

In June 2016, Kirkham Grammar School was invited to attend the Army's North of England Cadet & Reserve Forces awards ceremony in Manchester. The school was presented with the award for 'Outstanding service to the Reserve Forces' – a first for KGS. In July 2016, Kirkham took 50 cadets to the annual CCF summer camp at Nescliffe Training Camp (photo right) in Shrewsbury and won the overall prize for the most outstanding school on camp.

## Sport:

In the Lancashire Track and Field County Championships, eight girls were chosen to represent Lancashire. In the English School Qualifiers, one girl was selected to represent Lancashire at the English School Championships. In cross country, six girls were selected for the Fylde and Wyre team. In hockey, numerous pupils were selected to represent Lancashire.

Lancashire Junior Regional Performance Centre: U15, U16, U18

Pennine Pumas Squad: U16

Hipac: U18

England Blue: U18

England: U16

In swimming, we were represented in the Lancashire County Championships and North West Championships. Our pupils also achieved 4th in the Mixed QEGS Blackburn Quadrangular and 3rd in the Mixed Stanley Cooke Trophy.

Our junior girls athletics team won the Junior Girls Sainsbury's English Schools Cup, became Lancashire Champions and Regional Runners-up. Our intermediate girls' athletics team won the Inter Girls Sainsbury's English Schools Cup, became Lancashire Champions and were 3rd place at regional level.



Hockey: U12 A Lancashire County Champions, 2nd U12 B Lancashire County, U13 Mini Hockey Lancashire Joint Champions, U13 Mini Hockey Regional Finalists, U14 Lancashire County Champions, U14 Regional Finalists 2nd Place, U14 North Finalists, U15 Lancashire County Champions, U16 Lancashire County Champions, U16 Regional Champions, U16 North Finalists 2nd Place, U18 1st XI Lancashire Champions, U18 1st XI Regional Champions and U18 1st XI North Finalists.

Rachel Greenwood represented England U16 XI against Holland (photo above), scoring at Lilleshall, with further games against Scotland and Germany, Belgium and the 6 nations.

Girls Tennis: Division 1 Lancashire League U13 winners, Division 1 Lancashire League U15 winners, U13 Aegon National Tennis Regional knock out round, U15 Aegon National Tennis Regional knock out round, U15 Regional Champions and U15 National Finalists 3rd Place.



Our 1st XV rugby team was unbeaten for a second year running and awarded the National Rugby School of the Year at the National Rugby Awards held at Twickenham. The U15s were Lancashire champions whilst the U13s were runners up. In the seven-a-side programme, the 1st VII won the Durham School Sevens and were semi-finalists at the Rosalyn Park Sevens. The U15s won the Kings' Macclesfield and AKS School Sevens and the U13s won the Packwood Haugh Sevens.

There were many players who achieved international honours which include: 2 players in the Scotland U19s, 2 players in the England U16s and 3 players in the England Counties U18s.



One pupil represented Lancashire for athletics and qualified for the final at the English Schools Championships in the senior boys 1500m. He was also the Lancashire champion at this event. The intermediate boys athletics team qualified for the English schools North West A final. The boys athletics team was Fylde Coast Champions 2016.

The 1st XI cricket team enjoyed a relatively successful season with the annual MCC fixture going down to the wire as the visitors ran out winners by 9 runs. The U17s were Lancashire Plate winners.

## Duke of Edinburgh:

During the last academic year, over 100 DofE awards have been completed by our students – 79 at bronze, 25 at silver and 14 at gold. This is an increase of 50% from last year – 80 last year and nearly 120 this year. Last year 160 of our students took part in expeditions and we hope that all of their efforts with route planning, camping and walking some tough routes in some less than favourable weather conditions are complemented by their commitment to the volunteering, skill and physical components of the award and that we see many completing their awards. Our gold award achievers have received their award certificates at ceremonies at St. James's Palace, Buckingham Palace and Holyrood Palace this year, meeting royalty and celebrities. In the 60th anniversary year of the DofE award scheme, a number of our students and staff have undertaken a Diamond DofE Challenge.

## Drama:

It has been another busy and successful year in the drama department hitting the ground running with a fantastic production of Hamlet just before the October half term. The cast was led by Mason Forrest as the troubled eponymous hero who performed with intelligence, understanding and sensitivity. This is one of Shakespeare's biggest roles and, for many professional actors, the pinnacle of their careers, so, to take it on in the fifth year, is pretty spectacular and a testimony to this young man's outstanding talent. Ms Barrie says he is one of the most extraordinarily talented actors she has ever worked with and that he fully deserved the National Operatic and Dramatic Award, or NODA, for Best Lead Actor that he later received. Mason was ably supported by Elyssia Cockshott as a fragile and haunting Ophelia, Anthony Hudson as the dastardly villain Claudius, and Sophie Coplestone as the haughty Queen Gertrude. It is fitting and a matter of great pride to the department that all four won NODAs at the North West regional awards ceremony in Manchester; an outstanding achievement.



It should also be noted that Zac Crowe, only a third year pupil, and Sophie Warden did an outstanding job with the choreography. The dancers were excellent, performing once again to our completely accomplished live band led by Louis Johnson, Rob Ellis and Joanna Bako.

We continued to run multiple theatre trips which were always well attended and culturally enriching, and are looking forward to February's trip to New York. Exciting times ahead as always in drama at KGS.

## Music:

All year groups have taken part in coffee concerts and evening recitals during the course of the year. The annual Carol Service at St. Michael's Church was a chance for the Senior Choir to impress, and this they did in some style. 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 and Choir. Late March delivered the annual Founders' Day service, again at St. Michael's Church in Kirkham, where the Senior Choir led events, with an emotionally charged performance of the fiendishly difficult, intensely demanding 'Ubi Caritas' by Paul Mealor.

Another highlight of the year had to be the Spring Concert which took place in late April. 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 of our musicians were.



I must take this opportunity to pay tribute to all the staff who make all of these activities in all of these 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 ever changing government policy. 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. We wish them well.

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 Hall Mark of our parent body, and one which I have recently joined. The early Saturday morning drop off, military like planning on a Sunday evening for the week ahead. Success is not guaranteed without the dedication of all of our staff and a team of dedicated Governors. 2016/17 is going to be a year of some change, new developments and opportunity. Just like the pupils we serve, we are always learning and must therefore constantly adapt and develop to the changes around us. KGS will not be standing still, nor will we get left behind. We are looking forward to increasing popularity and becoming seen as no longer the best kept secret in Lancashire.

Our school will not copy others; we are going to be a pattern for others to follow. The school will continue to favour the many and not the few. Innovation and creativity will abound and we will continue to create a truly evolving school with traditional values and modern ambition.

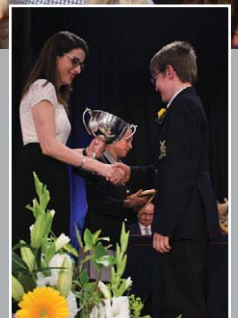
We will continue to trust in systems and policies and even more in the spirit of the school and the people who work and study in it. I have only been in post for five months and have quickly come to realise what a truly wonderful school this is".





SENIOR  
SPEECH Night  
SEPTEMBER 2016

HACKING 2010-11 JOSEPH T. WAREIN  
GILL 2011-12 BENEDICT S. MORRIS  
MONCRIEFF 2012-13 MEGAN L. KITCHEN  
ROBERTS 2013-14 MEGAN P. CROWTHER  
ACKBURN 2014-15 ELIZABETH E. BROOKS  
DRAKE  
MONCRIEFF



# KGJS Prizegiving 2015-2016

At the end of the Summer Term, our annual KGJS Prizegiving was held at the Senior School in the newly named Summerlee Hall. The whole school, staff, parents and friends, gathered together for one of the highlights of the academic year.

The afternoon began with a few words from Mr Berry, the KGS Headmaster, who was attending his very first KGJS Prizegiving. Performances from the KGJS Instrumental Ensemble and Vocal Ensemble, performing 'The Rose' by Amanda McBroom, led nicely into Mrs Roberts' speech. This included a presentation looking back through our busy school year. Part way through this speech, the 13 children beautifully sang the well-known track, 'Sing' by Gary Barlow and Andrew Lloyd-Webber.

A selection of J4 children recalled their memories from their time at KGJS, and performed a special verse of 'The Magic Box'. 2016 Music Scholars, Anya Baxter and Thomas Shuttleworth then entertained guests with their talented instrumental performances before Caitlin McMillan, an 'Old Kirkhamian' who is now an actress, presented this year's prizes and trophies. Head Boy, Thomas Shuttleworth and Head Girl, Poppy Kearsley, gave a vote of thanks and the penultimate performance was from the School Choir, performing 'Hallelujah' by Leonard Cohen. The whole school then finished the afternoon by performing 'The Power in Me' by Rebecca Lawrence. 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 in September!







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**Large - £8.95**  
Served 12-9pm



### The Restaurant

Monday to Saturday 12-2pm & 6-9pm  
Sunday 12-8pm  
À La Carte and Table d'hôte Menus available



### Sundays

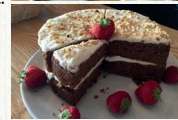
Traditional Sunday Lunch  
**2 courses £17.95**  
**3 courses £21.95**  
Available 12-8.30pm  
All special dietary requirements catered for.



## Restaurant • Pizzeria • Coffee Lounge • Bar • Grill

### Coffee Shop

Open daily for Morning Coffee, Breakfast, Lite Bites, Lunch & Afternoon Tea. Monday to Friday 7am - 5pm  
Saturday and Sunday 8am - 5pm



### Amalfi Suite

If you've got a special event coming up and want all the class and elegance of The Villa Italian experience, then the Amalfi Suite is perfect for your private function.



### The Restaurant

Monday to Thursday 12-9pm  
Friday 12-9.30pm  
Saturday 12-9.30pm  
Sunday 12-8pm  
Bar till Late  
All special dietary requirements catered for.



### Lounge Bar

Serving a wide selection of Beers, Wines, Spirits, Soft Drinks, Prosecco and Champagne including The Villa's own back label Joseph Perrier Champagne. Available for purchase Gift boxed.

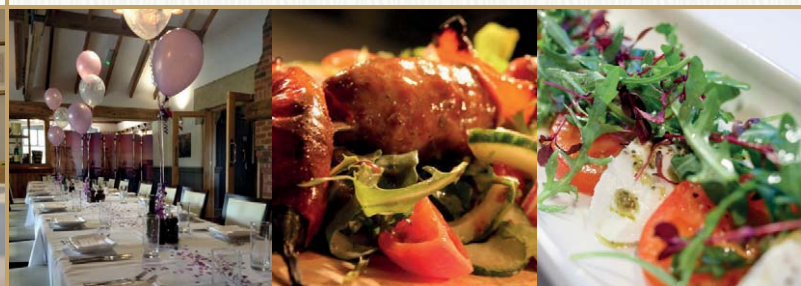
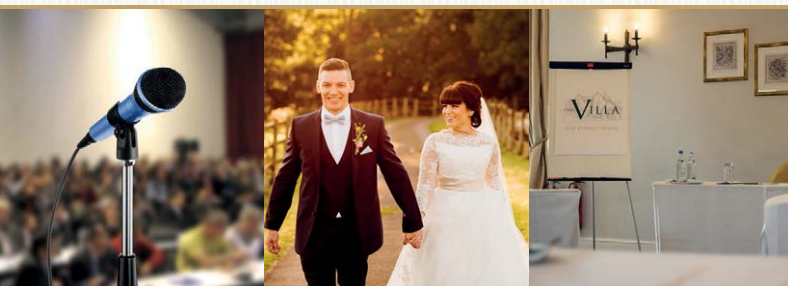


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# HEADMISTRESS' ANNUAL REVIEW 2015-2016

I would like to start my review of the year with two pieces of wisdom given by two very different people who were at very different stages and in very different circumstances in their personal lives when they said them, but each has really rung true to me over this year and keep recurring in my mind.

The first was said by Anne Frank and can be found in her powerful 'Diary of a Young Girl'; 'How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world'. WOW! Given Anne's tragically short life and the circumstances in which she lived I find this very thought provoking and then I look at our children! Every single one of them unknowingly has embraced this statement not just in their myriad achievements but through the values by which they are growing up. Please keep this thought at the back of your mind as you read my review of the year.

The second saying I would like to share with you comes from Zig Zagler, the motivational guru; Zig states that 'Your attitude, not your aptitude will determine your altitude'. Three 'A's placed in a very important and specific order. Again WOW! So who we are, the values by which we live and work, the confidence, resilience, enthusiasm, positivity, work ethic, empathy and all the other attributes we wish to ingrain into our children, are more important than the innate genetic ability with which they were born if they, or indeed we, are to reach for the sky and become the very people we want to be, and aspire to become, both personally and professionally. Please also bear that saying in mind as I proceed.

At KGS, learning and improvement permeates the culture of the school and in order to achieve that we aim to celebrate not just achievement but also progress. We understand that learning itself is learnable through difficulty, confusion, novelty and surprise. Our enduring aim is to provide each pupil with a tailored education within a caring community whereby they can maximise their abilities and achieve their personal objectives - academic, artistic, sporting or excellence in other fields. We are ambitious for every pupil and want them to have the confidence and desire to be ambitious for themselves.

In fact I would like to remind you of the words uttered by Barack Obama on his election to the presidency of the United States in 2008, the same year that our leavers joined KGS: "If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible; who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time; who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer."

Perhaps the KGJS version should be along these lines: "If there is anyone out there who still doubts that Kirkham Grammar Junior School is a place where all things are possible; who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time; who still questions the strength of our school community, today is your answer."

Academically, we had a successful year with most of our children well exceeding above the national average in Maths and English. Fifty of our children were chosen as Young Writers and are now in the Lancashire Young Writers Publication. Whilst these core subjects are, and will always remain, a priority, we are forced to consider whether a traditional education should include a traditional curriculum. We are constantly refining our curriculum so that its traditional values, such as the teaching of tenacity, work ethic, polite and positive co-operation and creativity are retained, whilst laying the foundations for the learning of technological skills and thinking skills. Our children have produced some outstanding work in Science, they have used independent research to produce some wonderful projects and DT and Art have also been a prominent part of the children's learning. ICT continues to play a

major role in all subjects and the iPads are in constant use. I would like to extend a big thank you to all of the boys and girls who have served on the School Council and the Eco Committee. Their ideas and thoughts are very much valued and such an important part of our school. Such ideas as Switch off Fortnight, Fruity Friday, whereby, fruit snacks are sold for charity, and the initiation of 'KGJS has Talent', where we were all entertained by a cross section of amazing talents, have all been wonderful initiatives.

We are one school from 3 to 18 and for many their educational journey starts in our wonderful Pre-School, led by Mrs Blanco-Bayo. The children have great fun whilst learning such vital skills. They have looked at how other cultures live and made their Pre-School into an Indian sweet shop to celebrate Diwali. They have held a Royal Banquet, made an igloo out of 100s of milk cartons and visited Clitheroe Castle to learn about dragons and knights. They have been involved in two wonderful productions where they have entertained us all with their singing and dancing. Our Pre-School is certainly an exciting place to learn and this is down to the staff who teach in there.



Our Infants also had a very busy year! They studied children across the world and produced some beautiful work surrounding this topic and their exploration of multiculturalism. The I1s studied different foods, the I2s studied Africa through Art and Music and the I3s enjoyed learning all about India. They all enjoyed a Royal Day to celebrate the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen and came to school in some beautiful costumes. The I2s studied James and the Giant Peach and the peach they made has been all over the world, even arriving in Nepal at one of the 'Classrooms in the Clouds'. Our I1s have visited Park View in Lytham and Martin Mere and had a visit by some lambs and calves! They had a demonstration of Indian cooking by Mrs Hughes - I would still like to know how she makes that wonderful chickpea curry! The I2s went to Towneley Hall to enhance their History learning, had a polar adventure at the Senior School and even had a visit from Buddy the Elf just before Christmas. Our I3s had a trip to Salmsbury Hall to meet the Tudors and they produced some outstanding work in a wide range of subjects.



Moving on to our juniors. When I asked the children what they had enjoyed the most, these are some of the things that they have remembered. The J1s enjoyed their visit to Blackpool Zoo along with their follow up work which was a project on the Rainforest. They enjoyed dressing up as Romans and particularly the Roman feast! The J2s reminisced about their overnight stay at Castle Head in Cumbria, their visit to the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry, Cycling Proficiency and World Book Week where they went to read to the younger pupils. The J3s have never sat still! They have had a forensic scientist in their classroom, produced some amazing mountain projects, which I hope many of you were able to see on display at the front of school. They visited the Senior



School for their WWII experience and enjoyed a trip to Waddow Hall. Of course the one highlight of their year was their Bushcraft experience. Well done to all of you on that trip as you all put yourselves out of your comfort zone and this is, of course, what these trips are all about! Although I'm not sure about the eating of a raw salmon's eye ball is something I would attempt myself!!



To enrich the curriculum there have also been many visitors and events. We have had visits from authors, an Online Safety Week, a theatre group to deliver a Maths performance, Book Week, Infant Maths challenges and of course many individual visitors to talk about religion and banking to name just a couple. Our extra-curricular clubs also give our pupils many opportunities outside the classroom.





Music and dramatic performance continue to be at the fore. Time and again I sit at the back, or at the side, of a performance and watch as, once again, our pupils step up to the mark and produce a performance that they often didn't know was in them. This willingness to try, this willingness to get to grips with a musical challenge, be it choral or instrumental, is wonderful to witness. Last year, we received a NODA award for our production of *Beauty and the Beast*. We were the youngest ever group to be awarded this and we were up against Senior Schools and Amateur Dramatic Societies. Our wonderful Infant Production at Christmas, and the entrance of Mary riding a real donkey, was one not to forget. Boys and girls your performances were all superb.

We have had outstanding musical achievements both vocally and instrumentally, in the Associated Board Royal School's Music Examinations, with many of the boys and girls achieving a distinction. The Christmas Concert is always a time to showcase the talents of our boys and girls and saw performances from the Choir, Boys Choir, Vocal Ensemble and Instrumental Ensemble. In March, we held a very successful Cheese and Wine Performing Arts evening with many individual and group performances in both Drama and Music. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who joined our Staff Parent Choir who performed not only on this evening but also at the St George's Day Ball in Lytham. Our choristers also performed beautifully at this event and have also been out into the local community, visiting hospitals and supermarkets. Our Infants have also enjoyed being part of the Infant Ensemble, Recorder Group and a very talented Infant Violin Group.

In Speech and Drama, many children have sat the LAMDA examinations with outstanding success.

The Choir were inspirational this year with so many talented individuals. We were very proud when they won the NW Independent Schools Choral Competition when they went up against 16 other schools. They also took part in the Young Voices at the MEN Arena and qualified for the final of the Last Choir Standing Competition in Blackburn where their performance was outstanding.

KGJS would not be KGJS without a good amount of fresh air, and so on to sport. There is no doubt that once again we have had a hugely successful year, reflecting the huge benefit we have derived from specialist coaching and dedicated staff. The first mention must go to our U11 Boys and Girls Hockey teams who both won the accolade of becoming not only Lancashire Champions but North West Champions which then took them to the North of England Finals. Both teams reached the final. The girls decided to share the trophy with Cundall Manor School whereas the boys decided to go to penalty flicks but unfortunately lost out to the eventual winners, Altrincham Prep School. The U11 girls also went on to win the Budge Hockey, AJIS and St Mary's Hall Tournaments. A wide array of matches have been played at U8, U9, U10 and U11



levels with regular B and occasional C teams being put out. Our U10s were runners-up in the U10 Invitational Tournament. Our Boys Hockey also won the AJIS Hockey Championships. The Girls Netball team also won the St Pius Netball tournament.

In Rugby, our boys had a successful season. The year began with some very friendly Saturday tournaments for our U9, U10 and U11 Boys. There were numerous matches for all age groups and our U8 and U10 teams have played in curtain raisers at both Fylde Rugby Club and Preston Grasshoppers. The U11 Boys Rugby won the NW Independent Schools Tournament and were runners up at the St Mary's Crosby Competition.

The 2015-16 season saw the Cross Country squads continue their huge success from the year before. The girls took part in three major events; AJIS, Sedbergh Invitational Championships and the St Mary's Hall Competition. In total they have competed against 35 different schools and in each event they have come home with the trophy. A special mention must go to Bo and Hattie Madden, Amy and Dani Merrick, Talia Armstead, Poppy Kearsley and Olivia Aberra. The U11 boys and U9/U10 boys and girls also competed very well with some outstanding individual performances.

We also had notable success in Indoor Athletics with our boys and girls achieving five gold, four silver and six bronze medals in the AJIS Indoor Athletics Championships. Records were broken by Talia Armstead in the balance and Archie Dowds in the triple jump.

Netball, Swimming, Rounders, Athletics and Cricket also featured on the fixture list. Individual congratulations went to Talia Armstead who represented Lancashire in Gymnastics and to Archie Dowds who won three gold medals in the Lancashire Track and Field Events, against boys two years older.



House Events are an important part of school and this year was no exception. All boys and girls took part in House Cross Country, all the juniors took part in a very exciting and noisy House Swimming and a new event this year, which was the House Singing. I am sure you will agree these events are invaluable in a school such as ours.

You might well be forgiven for thinking that KGJS is such a busy place that we rarely have the time to look outside our own very privileged environment, but really that could not be further from the truth. The boys and girls have made the choice to think about others often this year and have thrown themselves, not only into supporting the large fund-raising events that the



school organises, but they have more importantly championed their own choices of smaller and more personal charities, too. Through the year we have all enjoyed the big events like our Macmillan Coffee Morning, Reindeer Dash, cake sales and concerts. However, many of our boys and girls have come to me with their own more thought provoking fund raising, sometimes it was wanting to give their pocket money to others less fortunate than themselves. One little boy took part in a sponsored swim to raise money for clean water in Malawi, another to collect toys for children at Christmas. Guide Dogs for the Blind, The Stroke Association and Brian House are just some of the charities who have benefited from your fundraising. Classrooms in the Clouds is, as you know, our International Charity, and I am delighted to say that this year we have raised over £2500 for this wonderful cause. The total amount raised at KGJS this year is an incredible £5000.

It is important to pay tribute to the contribution of so many people who make up the staff of KGJS. Our teachers, teaching assistants, nursery nurses and office staff are an expert and highly talented group of people. Across the whole school, there is a very real sense that we are all on the same team here and no one stands on ceremony. The support staff are the engine room of the school and I would like to convey our thanks to the long suffering administrative staff and catering team, who put up with our requests of "just one more thing". To all the caretakers and ground staff and to our Bursarial team, under the direction of Mrs Brown, a huge thank you.

There are giants in our past and in our present and I could not finish my review of the year without saying a few words about members of our team who have moved on to pastures new.

Peter Lockett retired at the end of the academic year after a wonderful 18 years at KGJS. He joined us as Head of Music and Year 5 teacher. He was a caring and very sensitive form teacher to all his pupils as well as all things to do with Music. His enthusiasm at events and his love of Music will be sorely missed. We wish him well in his retirement and hope to see him back visiting us all soon.

Mrs Christine Brindle joined KGJS in 1997 as a part time teacher covering a number of different age groups. A year later she was appointed as a full time member of staff and in her nineteen years here she has taught all age groups, but has spent most of her time with J1, J3 and latterly with J4. Christine Brindle has played a huge role in the history of our school and she will be greatly missed by everyone at KGJS. We wish her health and happiness in her retirement.

Linda Baxter taught at KGS for 20 years, albeit only 13 in the Junior School. Having taught the girls games and occasionally some classroom cover she can only be described as extremely committed and passionate about sport. Now with two boys at university and the purchase of a lovely new camper van, she decided to hang up her boots and head off into the sun with her husband, Simon. Thank you Ms Baxter for all that you have given to KGJS!

We also said goodbye to several members of staff after a shorter period of time; Miss Elena De Maine who was only with us on a one year contract, Mr Matthew Edgar who was our gap student for nearly two years, who we said a huge thank you to for his contribution to school life and to Mr Toby Roberts who filled in for Mr Edgar.

I am delighted, however to welcome Mr Michael Smith to our team and he joined us in September to teach our J1s and Miss Emily Whatmough who joins the PE department.

We sadly bid farewell to the bedrock of our community, the J4s. What a year they had! Enterprise Week, the Wales trip, Chill Factore, Isle of Man and, the most enjoyable of them all, Entrance Exam preparation! Thanks to Thomas and Poppy, as Head Boy and Girl, who together with all the Senior Prefects, House Captains and monitors have been supportive and led by example. The whole year they were an inspiration to us all in their commitment, leadership, school spirit and genuine good humour. We will miss them and hope that they will come back and see us.

There is an incredibly bright and exciting future ahead; a shared vision by Mr Berry and myself to ensure that the same ethos and culture is across the Foundation and that our pupils are offered an increasingly high quality of Teaching and Learning. Lastly, a commitment to take KGS on to the next stage.

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# Senior Prefects

2016-2017



**KIRKHAM**  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

## SCHOOL CAPTAINS 2016 - 2017

### Samantha Hollings

Sammy-Jo is a former pupil of Little Hoole Primary School and is studying Chemistry, History and Psychology at A-level. She is planning to take a degree in Psychology at university. Sammy-Jo is involved in a plethora of school activities which includes the school Swimming Team as well as the Athletics Squad. She has been to national competitions in both of these sports.

### Jack Culver

Jack is a former pupil of Garstang Community Primary School and is studying Maths, Chemistry and History at A-level. He is planning to study Economics and Politics at University and hopes to pursue a career in finance. Jack has represented KGS in all sports and is also a Sergeant in the CCF.



# Pretty Muddy 5K



In September, a team of 11 teachers from Kirkham Grammar Junior School and an Old Kirkhamian, took part in a 'Pretty Muddy Run' to raise money for Cancer Research UK. To complete the run, the team had to run 5 kilometres with a variety of muddy obstacles to get through along the way! Although at the start there were a few nervous faces, the team worked together and helped each other with the challenging parts of the run, such as crawling through muddy tunnels, tackling the mud slide and even bouncing on space hoppers through mud! By the end, they all reached the finish line holding hands and wearing huge smiles on their faces. Almost £900 was raised for this worthwhile cause, which was fantastic!



## Guide Dogs For The Blind

During the summer term, KGJS welcomed into school Jenness Turner from Guide Dogs for the Blind, along with Chipso, an 11 month old Golden Labrador who was being trained to be a Guide Dog. As a result of this visit, the school council organised a cake sale, which raised a fantastic £300 for this very worthy cause. In June, KGJS adopted three cute Guide Dog puppies called Domino, Freya and Biscuit! School will receive regular updates on the puppies and each child has a 'Sponsor a Puppy' postcard to complete their 'Pupdates'. Thank you to Jenness for explaining to all our children about how Guide Dogs can transform the lives of people with sight loss.



# MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

**WE ARE  
MACMILLAN.  
CANCER SUPPORT**

At the end of September our KGJS Macmillan Coffee Morning was a huge success! The cupcakes were both stunning and delicious! Everyone enjoyed looking around the jewellery and card stalls, as well as having a catch up with friends over a cup of tea or coffee! The children all enjoyed a cake and a drink during the morning, too. Thank you to parents and friends for supporting this very worthwhile cause.



## HARVEST ASSEMBLY

It was lovely to welcome our School Chaplain, Reverend Bunday, into school at the beginning of October for our Harvest Assembly. Reverend Bunday spoke to the children about where their donations would be going and showed them a short video about a homeless man and his experience of life on the streets. The children's donations will be distributed by the Salvation Army to homeless centres in our local area. Thank you to all who donated food and toiletries for this very worthwhile cause.



## Brian House

Towards the end of the summer term, Joanna Allitt from Brian House came into KGJS to present the school with their highest standard of award, the Gold Award, for supporting Brian House consistently. During the presentation we were also able to hand over a cheque for £1470 which had been raised by our KGJS Triathlon team. Well done to all who took part and contributed in raising this outstanding amount of money for such a worthwhile cause.



**of others!**



# THE GREAT WAR 100

## LECTURE SERIES 2016

THE SOMME 100

### Professor Gary Sheffield "The Somme"



Kirkham Grammar School welcomed Professor Gary Sheffield from The University of Wolverhampton to the school to deliver this year's First World War Lecture. Following a successful series of lectures last year to commemorate the Great War, a capacity audience were enthralled by a challenging and intriguing lecture. An audience of pupils, parents, alumni and members of the local community were also given the opportunity to quiz the speaker on the role of General Haig and The Battle of the Somme. After the lecture, Professor Sheffield signed copies of his latest book which were kindly supplied by local booksellers, Plackitt and Booth of Lytham.

Refreshments were served in the school's Old Hall thanks to the generosity of the sponsors of the event, Guy's Thatched Hamlet. This proved to be the perfect opportunity for the visitors to the school to mingle and reflect on the lecture and make new contacts in the local community. Plans are already in place for further events in 2017 and 2018 as the school continues its work to remember the fallen of the war.







# Kölntrip

At the end of the Summer Term, twenty five German students and three teachers flew to Germany to spend four days in the city of Cologne.

This was the first Languages trip to this part of Germany and the group were not disappointed. Cologne is a modern, vibrant and friendly city and offered the pupils many interesting sights and shopping opportunities! The famous cathedral was amazing and all pupils and staff made the climb up the 509 steps to the top of the tower. The views from here definitely made it worthwhile. Another successful outing was unsurprisingly the tour of the chocolate museum. Treats were distributed to visitors and there was a micro production line where they were able to sample chocolate at various stages of its production. Many gifts were bought to take home!

Trips were made to the picturesque villages of Boppard (photo bottom right) and Koblenz on the banks of the Rhine and where pupils were able to put their language skills into practise in the shops, cafes and ice cream shops. There was also a boat trip down the river and a stop off at a small vineyard where the group enjoyed the warm hospitality of their hosts and were able to sample many of the fruit juices produced in this locality.

Other events included watching a film at the cinema, a traditional German supper in a local restaurant and also an exciting day at Phantasialand, a large theme park.





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2016



LANCASHIRE HOCKEY CHAMPIONS 2015-2016

- U18
- U16
- U15
- U14
- U13
- U12
-



Since the last Kirkhamian magazine, over 100 of our students have completed their DofE expeditions. 40 Bronze participants completed 2 days of walking in the Trough of Bowland, surviving a rather wet evening under canvas. The summer Gold and Silver expeditions were also rather damp affairs, but our 35 Gold Award and 12 Silver participants showed outstanding perseverance and resolve and completed their demanding routes around the Northern Lake District with great team spirit. During the October half term another 31 students completed their Silver DofE expeditions; their routes took them round Ullswater and across towards Shap. The weather was perfect and all involved were in awe of the autumnal beauty of the Lake District.

The expedition section is only one part of the DofE Award and it is always a delight to hear of the plans our students have for the other parts of the Award; the volunteering, physical and skill sections. It is even more enjoyable to read their reports and their assessors' reports and to see how their experiences have developed them as young adults.

A special mention must go to our recent Gold Award achievers who have been invited to the Royal Palaces to receive their Awards. In July, Elizabeth Brocklehurst, Cameron Roche, Helen McMananmon and Elaine Chiekrie went to Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh and in October James Robinson, Oliver Carpenter, Emily Carpenter, Sian Almond, Rebecca Paterson and Olivia Butler, spent the day at St. James's Palace in London meeting the Duke

of Edinburgh himself. From all accounts the Gold Award ceremonies are something very special and are a wonderful reward for all the time, effort and hard work that our students put into their awards.

It is the 60th year of the DofE Award and the Duke of Edinburgh has set a Diamond Challenge to all. A number of our students, Old Kirkhamians, staff and parents have taken on a Diamond Challenge to raise money for the DofE Charity. Cameron Roche completed his over the summer with a 3 day mountain bike challenge, supported by friends, family and KGS staff. Cameron put his bike and body through 3 days of very tough mountain biking and is a deserved recipient of a Diamond Award.





## GOLD

Edward Swindley  
Lily Long  
Caroline Paley

## SILVER

Scarlet Chan  
Emelia Fearn  
Oliver Fearn  
Charles Hargreaves  
Georgina Lawson  
Jack Madill  
Amber Metherell

## BRONZE

Edward Bailey  
Kyle Barber  
Josh Baxter  
Molly Bedford  
Gabe Bland  
Holly Briggs  
Hannah Brodie  
Mia Bucklow  
Joshua Burrows  
Michael Caton  
Natalia Cross  
Danny Davies  
Mason Forrest  
Liam Gerrity  
Niall Higham  
Caitlin Harrison  
Bethany Heatley  
George Hurst  
David King  
Charlotte McDonald  
Lisa McManamon  
Sam Mintin  
James Morris  
Ella Moulding  
Emily Peet  
Joe Thomson  
Harry Thompson



# Eco Committee

The Eco Committee have had a fantastic start to the school year and are well on their way to gaining our first Bronze Award as an Eco-School. The children have come up with some excellent ideas for saving energy, reducing litter and expanding our biodiversity within school. They are soon to be taking part in the National Switch Off Fortnight Campaign, and in March will be creating some beautiful 'Junk Art' during waste week to encourage upcycling and recycling at home. The children are determined to create a cleaner and eco-friendlier future for themselves.



# School Council

The School Council are off to a flying start this academic year! Fruity Friday is back and has continued to be as popular as ever. We have discussed many new initiatives, as well as future charity events. All members have contributed to keeping the cloakrooms tidy and they are currently in discussion about how to create an improved environment on the playground, by introducing small playground zones. Themed lunches were voted for through class assemblies and the clear winner was a Chinese lunch. The School Council will now take this forward to Mr Vevers for the Spring Term. During lunchtime we have trialled background classical music and we are monitoring how popular this is. We recently received 'pupdates' on our three guide dog puppies, Freya, Biscuit and Domino, who are all developing their individual characters and at different stages in their training. The highlight of the term was the Aladdin movie night that involved 100 Junior children coming into school one Friday evening in pyjamas or onesies along with their own 'magic carpet'!



# AJIS Cross Country CHAMPIONSHIPS



The annual AJIS Cross Country Championships were held at Rossall School on Wednesday 28 September. Training had gone well and spirits were high for our 32 athletes, although everyone was a little nervous. The U10 boys were first to run and the team performed very well indeed. Any position in the top 50 is commendable and every single athlete managed to do just that. Next up were the U10 girls who all performed very well and were well supported by the U10 boys. The U11 boys were anxious to get their race started and possibly too keen as we had a false start! This was a very competitive race and they all gave 100%. Finally the U11 girls race got underway and this again was a very quick race with everyone performing to the best of their ability. In every race there were over 120 competitors from 20 Independent Schools across the North West of England. The U10 boys managed to come third overall and only missed out on second place by one point! Well done to all our teams who gave everything and were a credit to the school, and thank you to Rossall School for hosting a fantastic afternoon of Cross Country.

The full results are listed below:

## U10 Boys

10th Harry Case  
14th Harry Marsh  
21st Harvey Barber  
38th Jensen Stott  
40th Oliver Kollard  
42nd Alex Davies  
47th Charlie Wiltshire

## U11 Boys

9th Alex Maude  
12th Wills Gut  
16th Oliver Greenwood  
31st Austin Clutterbuck  
60th Alexander Kane  
71st James Stacey  
73rd Edward Thompson

## U10 Girls

12th Alexa Anderson  
22nd Anya Kiely  
37th Eva Berry  
38th Lilly Jones  
52nd Claudia Allison  
66th Nikita Murthy  
68th Rosie Helliwell

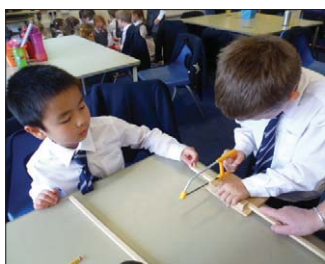
## U11 Girls

45th Hennie Thompson  
61st Pippa McGregor  
82nd Jessica Cole  
97th Emily Marsh  
112th Daisy Gibbs  
115th Heidi Aldeen

Well done to everyone who represented the school.



# MAKE T DAY THE DAY YOU LEARN SOMETHING NEW!









# BIOLOGY BAKE OFF

The Biology Department held its very own Bake Off Competition for our inspirational first year pupils. However, the Kirkham Grammar School Bake Off had an added twist to the show which we all know and love; our first year pupils had to bake a cake with a biological theme! And what a creative group of pupils they turned out to be with brains, lungs, kidneys and a plethora of eyeballs being submitted for the scrutiny of our eminent judges.

But what is a bake off I hear you say, without the critical eyes of Mary and Paul? Well at Kirkham Grammar School we have our very own celebrity chef, Nigel Smith who is not only a gourmet chef but also an expert pâtissier. Nigel and his talented team of creative pâtissiers sampled and analysed every entry methodically whilst our anxious pupils waited in anticipation for the experts' final results. After much deliberation, the successful submission was announced as 'a road kill sheep', complete with intestines and maggots. Following the adjudication, the submitted cakes, together with a huge assortment of exquisite pâtisserie donated most generously by Nigel Smith, were sold to support a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer.

The event was made a huge success, not only by the contributions of the pupils, together with Nigel Smith and his team, but also by the most generous support of Lakeland. Lakeland donated all of the incredible prizes, which not only inspired our pupils to venture into the kitchen, but also helped to support those individuals, together with their families, affected by cancer. A huge thank you to our generous sponsors, Lakeland and Nigel Smith.





# KGJS Bake Off 2016

At the beginning of November, Mr Ian Vevers, Reverend Bunday and Miss Natasha Berks had the unenviable task of choosing our KGJS Junior Bake Off Finalists from a huge display of chocolate cakes and scones. The standard of the baking was extremely high and all the children who entered should be very proud of their achievements. Well done to all who entered this year's competition.

The following week, the final of the Bake Off Competition took place at the Senior School Boarding House kitchen. We welcomed BBC Great British Bake Off contestant, Dorret Conway again this year, as our guest judge. Our Lower Junior finalists were Rosie Helliwell, Alice Wright and Alice Bunday and our Upper Junior finalists were Mia Carmichael, Bella Wiggins and April Wright. It was a shame, however, that Alice was poorly on the day of the final and was therefore unable to take part.

The Lower Junior children made scones and the Upper Junior children made chocolate cake. Beth, a reporter from That's Lancashire, along with Holly on the camera, came along to join us! The children all spoke brilliantly, each taking turns to be interviewed for the show that went on air that night. Dorret was on hand to provide little baking tips, however the children proved they were baking experts and worked independently to create their final showstoppers! At the end of the morning, Dorret, along with Infant Cookery Club expert, Mrs Anyon, had the challenging task of picking one winner for each recipe. Eventually, they decided to crown Rosie Helliwell as the Lower Junior winner for her amazingly light and fluffy scones and April Wright the Upper Junior winner for her mouth-watering chocolate cake! They were both presented with a KGJS Bake Off Winners apron and a Mary Berry 'Baking Bible' which Dorret kindly signed for both of them. The runners up also received KGJS Bake Off Finalist Runners-Up aprons and a signed photo from Dorret. The contestants were able to take their tasty delights to Mr Berry for him to sample, who was extremely impressed with their baking skills! Dorret was able to join us for lunch at the Junior School to sample our delicious dinner menu which she said was extremely tasty!! Thank you very much to Dorret Conway and the 'That's Lancashire' team for making this year's KGJS Bake Off Final such a memorable experience for all involved.



# Sandham Fitchett

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## Street Dance Ballet Modern Tap

The dance school was established in 1946. Heather Fitchett, after completing her training at the Royal Ballet School, became a partner alongside her teacher, Margaret Sandham in 1958. Miss Sandham and Miss Fitchett worked closely together until the death of Margaret Sandham in 1988.

Pupils are offered opportunities to be involved in school performances at the Charter Theatre & Guild Hall in Preston. They have also performed in professional productions including the Pantomime, which we've been taking part in for over 30 years. Examinations are conducted in Classical Ballet, Pointes, Tap, Modern, Musical Theatre and Street Dance with the British Theatre Dance Association as one of the recognised examining boards. Guest Teachers of national and international reputation are invited to coach students within the school.

The highest level of self discipline is expected from all pupils, whilst encouraging individual expression and enjoyment from the youngest age to the senior dancer with professional aspirations.

Sandham Fitchett Performing Arts holds classes in and around the Lancashire area. Our dedicated teaching staff provide the very best training in all faculties; Ballet, Tap, Modern, Street Dance and Ladies classes.

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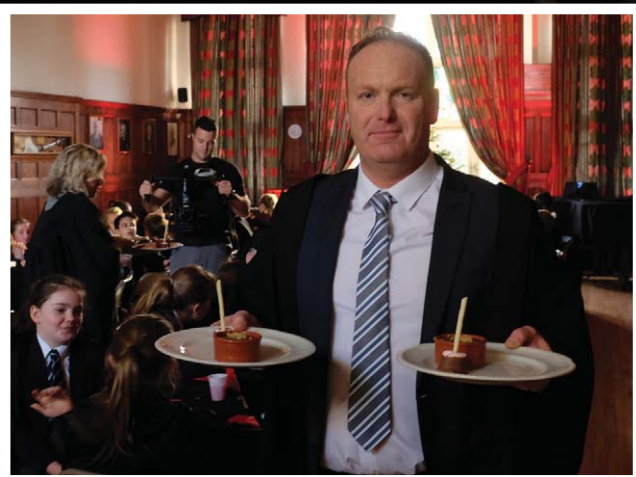
## HOGWARTS DAY

Just because our pupils didn't get the letter from Hogwarts, doesn't mean they can't have a magical time at school. As a 'Harry Potter' loving school, the Old Hall was transformed into 'Hogwarts' Great Hall' for a few magical hours, complete with 'Hogwarts' culinary delights. All attending were transformed into wizards and witches wearing hooded gowns and waited on by our very own professors, Mr Berry, Mrs Roberts and Mrs Shuttleworth.

As soon as the desserts were polished off, they all dashed onto the front lawn for a quick game of House Quidditch. Once again the 'professors' took part, demonstrating how competitive they were! This special event took part over three lunchtimes with J3 and J4 on the first day and the 1st and 2nd years on the following days. The event was such a success that plans are well underway for next year's event. Book your seats for the Hogwarts Express!



# KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL HOGWARTS DAY



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## Parents Social & Information Evening

At the start of the new school year, it was wonderful to welcome so many of our KGJS parents to our Social and Information Evening. This event gave parents the opportunity to find out lots of information and speak with their child's teacher about the coming year. Parents and staff were entertained by Charlotte O'Neill, a fifth year pupil at the Senior School, who played the piano beautifully. Thank you to Charlotte and also to the catering team for their delightful array of refreshments and canapé nibbles!!



# I 3 C O N C E R T



At the end of June, after weeks of practise, it was the night of the I3 Concert. We were all very excited! We dressed in party clothes and I wore my favourite dress. Mums, dads, friends and family all came to watch. Miss Fountain and Mrs Kenchington had worked extremely hard to get us all ready and it paid off, as the night was a huge success! We all did lots of

dancing and fun songs, and we enjoyed it very much. Lots of the class played duets and solos on all sorts of instruments including the piano, flute, violin and even the cornet and drums! All the money raised from the concert and raffle went to 'Classrooms in the Clouds'. Thank you to everybody who supported us.

By Zara Gilchrist

# P A R E N T S

Come to Kirkham Grammar School.



# COFFEE CONCERT MORNING



At the beginning of July, eleven of KGJS' most promising young musicians took part in a Coffee Concert in the School Hall. The performances were stunning and really showcased the talent we have here at the Junior School. Thank you to everyone who came along to support and to all the children who performed.

# I N S C H O O L



The annual autumnal 3rd Year Art trip was to take place over in the 'White Rose County', West Yorkshire, in one of the largest purpose built gallery spaces in the UK, The Hepworth Wakefield.

Housing over 40 original sculptures from one of Britain's greatest sculptors, Barbara Hepworth, the gallery comprised of dramatic spaces holding many monumental sculptural pieces. Here the pupils could see with their own eyes the development of her work, from small sketches and maquettes, up to full size models.

In complete contrast to Hepworth's work, the adjacent gallery housed the work of renowned author, rugby player and playwright David Storey. A fellow Yorkshire born artist, he went on to train at the world-renowned Slade School of Fine Art and diversified into writing, but never let go of his artistic passion. As well as a wall of posters representing his written work, the room was filled with hundreds of postcard sized images from his sketchbook, drawn daily over a six year period.

Finally, the group were confronted by the powerful work of Sir Stanley Spencer, and his richly detailed paintings. Spanning his entire career, the exhibition included over 70 works, some of which we had studied in the classroom. They were a spectacular sight after having only seen reproductions on a small scale back at school. The 3rd Years jumped at the opportunity to imitate the human stance seen in the paintings by posing in the same position and sketching each other. Many other engaging activities were undertaken and the day seemed to conclude very quickly.

We will certainly be back and look forward to the forthcoming exhibitions the Hepworth Museum has to offer.



## THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD





In November, the Art & Design Department's GCSE pupils and staff spent a day in the East End of London, in particular the area around Brick Lane. It is often described as London's Cultural Quarter, home of the Curry Mile and alternative fashion and street art. The area was formerly the hunting ground of Jack the Ripper and is now a big tourist draw for world famous graffiti art, featuring artists such as Banksy, D\*Face, Roa and Conor Harrington. The lane provided a rich vein of creative images for our pupils that will now feed into their artwork and development of their digital images.

The department has a further trip planned for 2017, a four day trip with the Sixth Form to Paris in April.





# THE STRING GROUP







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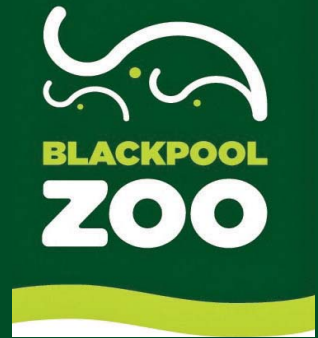
Westfield Point

Magnolia Point

The properties shown in the advert are for illustrative purposes only.



# J1 Trip to Blackpool Zoo



J1 had a wonderful trip to Blackpool Zoo in November. It was a rather cold day but that didn't dampen their spirits at all! They saw so many animals! They watched the sea-lions, orangutans, elephants and gorillas being fed, learned about their natural habitats and found out about the new elephant enclosure, which will be the biggest in the country. Katie, the elephant, looked a little sad on her own so it will be good when she has some new friends! The enchanted rainforest talk was very interesting. The lady was really impressed with the children's knowledge and she let them hold Madagascan hissing cockroaches and lesser hedgehogs. The children cleaned their hands thoroughly in time for lunch! In the afternoon, the J1s visited the lemurs. It was such a busy day, but great fun! Many thanks to Mrs Butterworth and Mrs Hughes for joining us.



# J2 Trip to Castle Head

Also in November, the J2 children went to Castle Head. Our first challenge was to make our own beds. We did an orienteering game to learn our way around the building, then took part in some team building games outside in the rain. Next we tackled a muddy obstacle course. To make sure we were really dirty we went down the mud slide. By the end of the activity, we had to be hosed down! After tea we made lanterns that lit up beautifully! After an action-packed day we were all very tired and we went to bed. Some of us slept more than others! The following morning we enjoyed breakfast and made our lunch, some of us thought we were in Subway! Afterwards we set mammal traps and the J2X children caught a bank vole! We also looked at barn owl pellets using microscopes to see what they had eaten. We had a wonderful two days and would love to go back again!

by J2Y



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# J3 BUSHCRAFT



On Wednesday 21 September, thirty one J3 children travelled to Cheshire for a three day Bushcraft trip. At Bushcraft we learned how to make fire using wood, cotton wool and Vaseline. We also learned how to make shelters, had a go at archery and made survival bracelets. When it was light we played games like 21 and Chicken in a Hen House but at night in the pitch black we played Catch the Lantern without torches! After the games in the dark we had hot chocolate with marshmallows! On the first night it rained a lot and some people got completely soaked! The food was amazing; one morning we had pancakes for breakfast, for lunch we had lamb kebabs and salmon and for tea we had pizza and pasta bolognese. Before we left, the Bushcraft leaders elected a Bushcraft King and Queen. The King was Raphael and the Queen was Rebecca. Everybody had a great time and would love to go again.

By Rebecca & Raphael J3X



# J4 Visit to Quarry Bank Mill



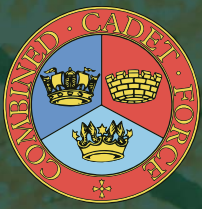
During October, KGJS J4 pupils travelled back to the Victorian era when they visited Quarry Bank Mill as part of their History work on the Victorians. The first hour of the trip was spent as an apprentice, experiencing what life would have been like for a child of their own age working and living at the Mill. All the children had a fright at the strictness in lessons, the hours they would have had to work and the 'dormitories' with two to a cot bed and a pan under the bed for a toilet. At least they would have got clean clothes once a week and the straw changed in their mattress once a year!

A tour of the village, built by Mr Greg (the mill owner), gave a further insight into what life would have been like for others working in the Mill and living in the area.

During the tour of the Mill the children discovered the various processes of turning cotton to fabrics and learned how these developed during the Victorian era.

The day was a tremendous success with a huge amount of learning and consolidation of the work covered within the classroom.







## CADET REPORT

The Combined Cadet Force continues to grow in standing and popularity within the school and this year has been no exception. This is due to the outstanding Cadets, exceptional Cadet NCOs and dedicated staff who work extremely hard to ensure that the CCF experience is demanding, innovative, but most of all enjoyable.

But what a year this has been for the School's Combined Cadet Force, the first under the leadership of the new Contingent Commander, Major Richard Taylor. It started with Rachel Horsfield being awarded the Lord Lieutenants Cadet for Lancashire and Sophie Warden and Elizabeth Brocklehurst both receiving the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate of Merit, a reflection of the amount of hard work and dedication these outstanding cadets displayed.

Following on from this outstanding achievement were the North West Business Awards where the Contingent was presented with the 'Outstanding Contribution to Cadets' for the school's hard work in engaging Carr Hill High School in a Cadet Partnership Programme. A number of their students have joined our CCF under the experienced eye of Mr Yates, a former pupil. The Carr Hill cohort have been with us every week and have fitted in with the remainder of the fourth years superbly.

Our next award was won on our excellently organised annual summer camp in Nescliffe near Shrewsbury, where we were awarded 'Best Contingent on Camp', something which, according to the Commanding Officer Mr Taylor, has never, during his 25 years at Kirkham, happened before. This award was purely down to the cadets' efforts and hard work throughout the week by throwing themselves into the activities with enthusiasm and gusto, respecting the safety implications and the effort of the staff for producing the activities while having loads of fun. A total of 52 cadets and 12 staff attended this very 'full on week' of activities where the average day started at 0515 and finished at 2300 with lights out.





## » IN THE FIELD «

After a well-earned summer break and Louis Johnson taking over the role of the Contingent's Regimental Sergeant Major, we had the privilege of taking 5 teams to the annual Cadet Skill at Arms meeting at Altcar. The event is attended by all of the North West's CCF, Army Cadet Force, Air Training Corps and some Marine Units. 2016 saw 246 teams taking part over the weekend and, with minimal wind and supposedly no rain, shooting conditions were almost perfect!

All of the teams were superb, achieving some creditable results against their more experienced peers. Special mention must go to Emily Gaynor-Smith who managed to get a round less than 3mm away from the bull and managed to beat 160 other

cadets to win the cash prize of £86. The team of Ran and Freya Parkinson, Emily Gaynor-Smith and Sam Minten achieved unbelievable success in the Blue Ribbon event – The Falling Plate by reaching the final in an extremely difficult draw, but unfortunately they lost out to a more experienced Lancashire Army Cadet Force team! The team took a record haul of 1 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze medals from the weekend's shooting.

It will be very difficult to surpass this year's achievements, but what never surprises, is the quality and tenacity of our cadets. All must be congratulated for their positive approach, respect and excellent behaviour as they are a credit to the school.





KGS CCF  
**We Will  
Remember Them**





LEST WE FORGET 







# B O O K W E E K



In September, the Junior School children enjoyed a range of activities as part of Book Week, which included some special Roald Dahl activities to celebrate 100 years since his birth! The Book Fair was once again in school with each class having an opportunity to peruse the huge variety of books on sale. To round off the week, the children came to school dressed as book characters. There was a wonderful array of outfits including Cat in the Hat, Gangsta Granny, Aladdin and Fantastic Mr Fox!



## AUTHOR VISITS

During the Summer Term, the Junior School were delighted to welcome UK based illustrator and author, Alex T Smith, into school for a workshop. Alex, creator of the Claude books, delighted the children with his fantastic stories and illustrations before he took them through a step by step guide so they could have a go at producing their very own pictures! Then at the beginning of October, we enjoyed a visit from author, Claire Barker, as part of her 'Knitbone Pepper' roadshow. More recently the Junior children joined the Senior School first years for an interactive visit from award winning author, Gareth P Jones. His book, 'The Dragon Detective Agency: The Case of the Missing Cats' was shortlisted for the Waterstone's Book Prize, 'The Thornthwaite Inheritance' was shortlisted for eleven local book awards and won seven of them and 'The Considine Curse' was voted Blue Peter Book of the Year 2012! The children thoroughly enjoyed these experiences and the opportunity to purchase signed copies of their books. Thank you to all of our authors who have visited school during the last few months!

## YOUNG WRITERS

Congratulations to Leoma in J2 who was chosen as the winner of the 'Ancient Adventures' anthology. Her mini saga, The Death of Cleopatra, has been very proudly printed at the very beginning of the book. Well done, Leoma!

# You've just gotta try...

When you feel like eating and drinking you might like to try one of the establishments at **Guy's Thatched Hamlet**.  
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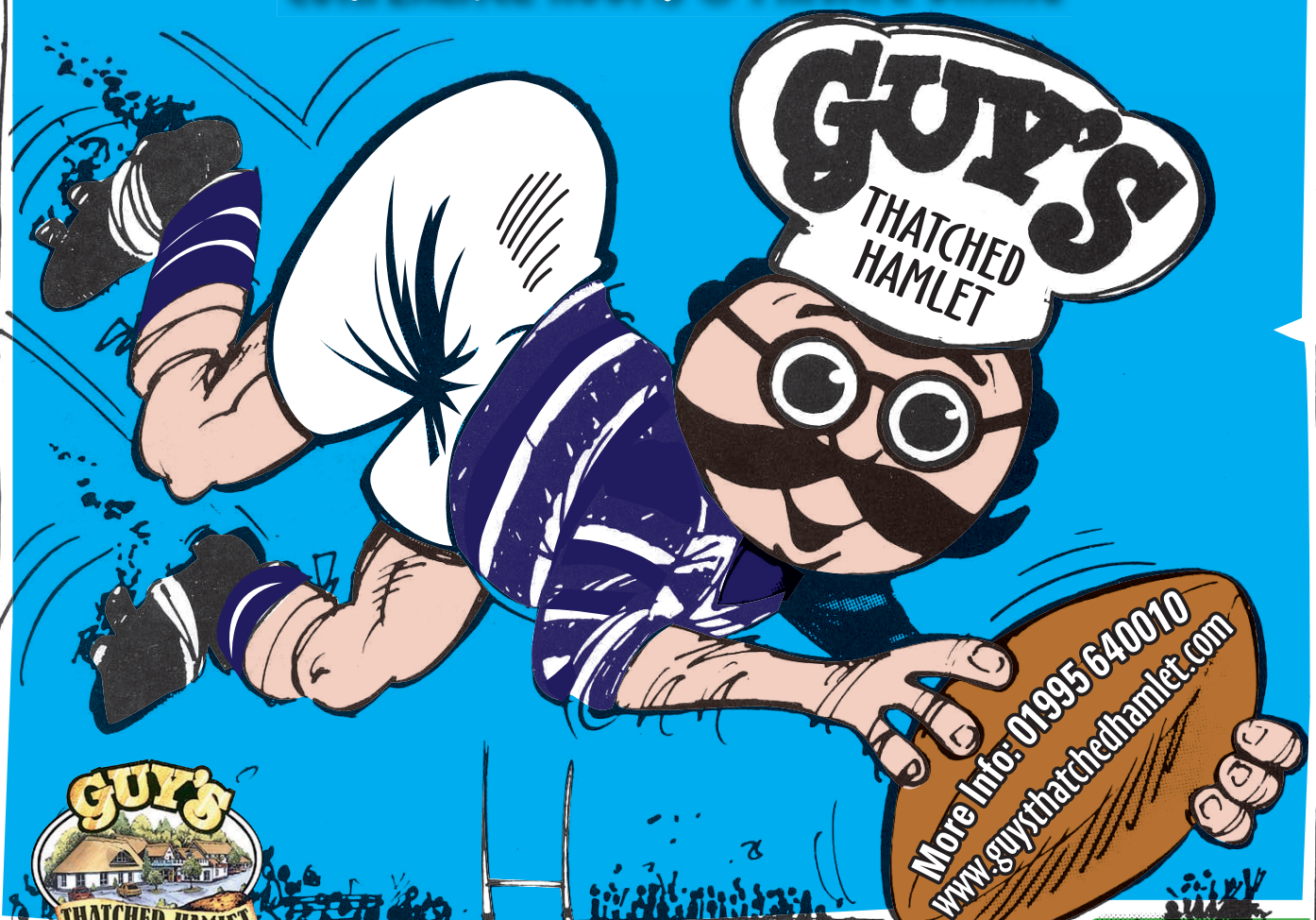
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# KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL

1ST XV NATIONAL TEAM OF THE YEAR



2016



Kirkham Grammar School achieved a major honour in school rugby by winning 'School of the Year' at the Crabbies National Rugby Awards recently at Twickenham. They achieved the award due to their outstanding results and recurring victories over a period of years. These included wins over top rugby

schools such as Tonbridge School, Abingdon, Denstone College and Sedbergh School, as well as numerous victories in high class sevens competitions.

The awards evening was attended by a number of former and current internationals

including Chris Robshaw, James Haskell, Danny Care and Andy Goode. Four of the silver medal winning Olympic Sevens Squad also attended, one of whom was Kirkham's former pupil and star of the tournament, Dan Bibby.



# JUNIOR IRELAND TOUR



On a fine Friday morning, the KGS U13 & U14 rugby teams departed for the long journey to Dublin. The coach journey to the port at Holyhead passed quickly with the boys in good spirits looking forward to the weekend ahead. Whilst on the ferry, sailing on calm waters, the boys had a choice of getting a bite to eat and relaxing, going into the arcades or watching a film in the on-board cinema to help pass the time. After a long but enjoyable day of travelling we arrived at the hotel early in the evening and the boys got settled into their rooms before tea.

Saturday morning was an early start, however all woke up in high spirits and full of anticipation for the day's game and the first match of their tour against Wesley College. At the end of the games, after some great rugby played by all involved, the boys were treated to some fantastic Irish hospitality by Wesley College and enjoyed a sit-down meal, followed by a presentation of some mementos to remember the game by. Once all proceedings were finished it was onto the coach and down to the Aviva Stadium for a tour of the ground. The tour was very well presented and the boys had plenty of opportunities to have their questions answered, as well as plenty of stops for photos. The tour concluded with the boys having some free time to have a look around the club shop and buy some gifts. Again, once

back at the hotel, the boys had plenty of free time to relax and to prepare for the next day's events.

On the Sunday, the boys were treated to a little bit of a lie in, but again got up in fine mood ready for the day ahead. Newbridge Rugby Club hosted some very entertaining and competitive rugby. Again, Newbridge provided some excellent post-match hospitality and more mementos were exchanged. Next on the agenda was an afternoon of tenpin bowling. The boys got straight into the bowling and were just as competitive as they were with the rugby. Everyone enjoyed themselves with a few boasting some impressive scores. After bowling the boys were allowed some free time to further enjoy themselves in the arcade area, before heading off to the hotel for some well-earned down time.

Despite a hard two days and an early start, Monday morning was full of excitement for the Gaelic Games experience which was the day's entertainment. We arrived and were greeted by friendly staff who talked us through the history of Gaelic games and their importance to Irish culture. After the speech, it was time for the boys to get stuck into the sports. First up was Hurling, a very fast paced game and one which everyone got into immediately. After a good hour of practise and small matches

the boys did not want to stop, however, there were still two more sports to try out. Next was handball, which, in appearance was a simple game, however proved to be more challenging than it first seemed. Again, all the boys enjoyed their time testing this sport and especially liked the competitive games that were played. Finally, Gaelic Football was up and again after some practise drills everyone got involved in the matches allowing all to get a feel of the sport. All in all, the Gaelic Games experience was fantastic and fully enjoyed by everyone, staff included. To give the boys some time to relax, a shopping trip to Dublin city centre was organised allowing some time to buy gifts for family, before enjoying a well-earned rest back at the hotel.

After four hard days, it was no surprise that the boys were a little tired on Tuesday morning. After departing from the hotel, we went to a local shopping centre. Thankfully, the crossing was smooth and on calm waters making the journey home more bearable. The boys again found plenty of ways to keep themselves entertained on-board before the final leg of the journey back to Kirkham. All the boys were met at Kirkham by excited parents and were more than happy to go through the many adventures of the tour. Overall, it was a fantastic tour, enjoyed by all and one the boys will not forget for a long time to come.





1st XV



2nd XV



U16 XV

## Celebrate Sports Ball

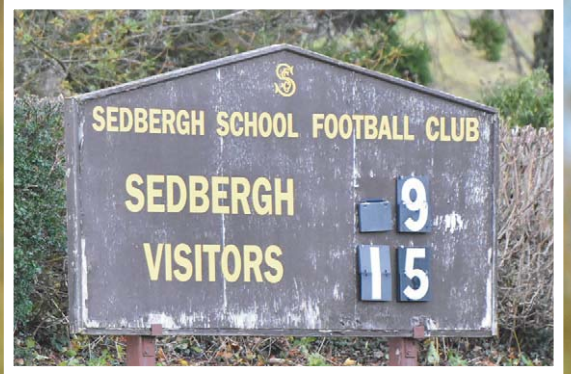
The third 'Celebrate Sports Ball' took place on Friday 18 November. With one hundred and sixty four guests in attendance, this has become one of the largest school social functions over the last few years.

The event raises funds for all sports, across the KGS foundation, with both senior and junior schools benefiting from the evening. Figures are still being worked out, however it seems that this year's event was the most successful 'Celebrate Sports Ball' so far, raising a significant amount to support KGS sport.

The success of the event is built on a fantastic marquee, great food, drink and music. This is all made possible through the school's amazing catering team, led by Ian Vevers and also the bursarial team led by Mrs Christine Brown. It is also heavily supported by Sean and Emma Wilkinson, who provide resources and expertise which are essential to the success of the event.

The date for next year's event will soon be announced, so don't miss out!









# 1STXVrugby

1st XV v Sedbergh won 15-9

R.U.F.C.  
1st XV

KGS

R.U.F.C.  
1st XV



# U14XI hockey

U14 XI Semi-Finalists North Hockey  
Ranked 3rd overall





On Friday 21 October, 41 very excited girls set off on the Junior Hockey Tour. After a fun filled overnight ferry crossing, where our girls and staff performed some great moves on the dance floor, we eventually arrived in Valkenburg at 1pm the following day. A fabulous evening of 'Stars in your Eyes' set the tone of what was to be a fantastic tour.

On Sunday, the hockey began with our World Cup Hockey Competition, which ran over three days with Wales and Argentina in the final. Wales were crowned World Cup Winners. Next we experienced the best Dutch and Belgium opposition that we had ever had. Each team played three matches of 35 minutes each way against HC Phoenix (Belgium), HC Scoop and Tegelse HC (Holland). The U13 team grew in strength and were victorious in all three closely fought matches. The U14 team were up against it and played 3 top quality sides. Although they lost all three matches, their strength of play improved massively. The U15 team really came together as a team and made huge improvements as they won 2 and lost 1 of their three matches.

All of our hockey players did the school proud but three people stood out during the matches:- U13 – Lexie Fraser, U14 Lizzie Coulston and U15 Livvie Gebbie. All three were awarded 'Players of the Tour' in their respective age groups. A special all round 'Tourist of the Week' award was presented to Danni Parziale for her commitment, positivity and all round contribution to the whole tour.





Excursions in the lovely town of Valkenburg were enjoyed by all. We visited the Marl Caves - an underground nuclear shelter, flew round the tobogganing slopes and enjoyed a leisurely stroll round the shops. All of this, combined with a bingo night, quiz night and Halloween fancy dress and party games evening, topped off our stay in Holland. On Wednesday 26 October we departed Valkenburg for Disneyland Paris. After a long journey, we arrived at the Disney Kyriad Hotel raring to go. An evening in the Disney Village warmed us up for the next two days. Thursday was a fantastic day in Disneyland topped off with the fireworks and laser spectacular over the Disney Castle in the evening. On Friday, we enjoyed a slightly more relaxing day in the Disney Studios Park before heading home. The girls were an absolute credit to the school. It certainly was a truly memorable tour!!





# Christmas

at *Barton Grange*  
GARDEN CENTRE

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LATE NIGHT SHOPPING  
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And with our beautiful berries and seasonal foliage to brighten up your winter garden, you can have the perfect Christmas inside and out.

# Diary Dates



Monday 19 December  
Young Kirkhamians' Christmas Gathering,  
The Grapes, Wrea Green, 19:30

Monday 9 - Tuesday 17 January  
5th Year Mock Examinations

Monday 16 January  
11+ Sports Scholarship Assessment

Tuesday 17 - Thursday 19 January  
11+ Music Scholarship Auditions

Thursday 19 - Friday 27 January  
Sixth Form Mock Examinations

Saturday 21 January  
11+ Entrance Examination

Wednesday 25 January  
Sixth Form Taster Day for current 5th Year

Wednesday 25 January  
Junior School Open Day  
9:30 - 11:30 & 13:15 - 15:15

Monday 30 January  
4th Year Parents' Evening

Thursday 2 February  
2nd Year Concert, Recital Hall

Thursday 9 February  
Sixth Form Information Evening

Wednesday 22 February  
Sixth Form Parents' Evening

Thursday 2 March  
3rd Year Parents' Evening

Thursday 9 March  
House Music Festival

Saturday 11 March  
U18 National Invitational Hockey Tournament

Thursday 16 March  
Gala Concert, Recital Hall current pupils, parents &  
wider community welcome

Wednesday 22 - Thursday 23 March  
Aladdin - Junior School Production  
Summerlee Hall 19:00

Thursday 23 March  
CCF Field Day, 4th Year & Sixth Form

Thursday 30 March  
Founders' Day Service, St Michael's Church, Kirkham

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