THE KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



JULY 2017



HEADMASTER Daniel Berry



KIRKHAM Grammar School

We hope you enjoy our latest newsletter. It has been an extremely busy year which has included some changes to support our period of development. We have recently updated our school Mission Statement, "To ensure the provision of a broad, balanced, high quality education within an inclusive family environment which nurtures well qualified, compassionate, self-assured members of the community." This clearly captures the core values and expectations at Kirkham Grammar School.

A year is a short time in comparison with the long life of our school. However, it has certainly been an extremely busy year. This has been my first full academic year at KGS and one in which I have really been able to learn what makes this fantastic school such a success. The answer, the people within it! Without the commitment of our staff, governors, parents and pupils, we are merely an empty shell. The successes we have experienced this year are down to the huge level of sacrifice and personal commitment from all those who make up our wonderful school. In more than twenty years in education, I have never worked anywhere that is so successful in educating the whole child. This is achieved in an array of curricular and co-curricular activities such as: winning Rugby School of the Year 2016; 1st XV unbeaten for a third year running; Lytham Festival of Performing Arts; British Society of Music; UK Intermediate Maths Challenge; Young Engineers STEM Champions; British Olympiads; Full sporting fixtures in rugby, hockey, volleyball, tennis, swimming, cricket, rounders, netball and basketball; Duke of Edinburgh Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards; School trips to New York, Austria, France, London and Germany; Land Rover Factory Tour; Castle Trips; Slavery Museum Trip; Combined Cadet Force activities; CCF North West outstanding; Business awards; Careers events; and the list goes on! However, it is the commitment of the staff and the desire for an 'all round' education that continues to thrive at KGS.

Looking forward to 2017/2018, what can we expect? We will continue to provide inspirational teaching which facilitates a rewarding and motivating education that focuses on each individual reaching their full potential; create a culture of strong wellbeing and personal development for all, through supportive pastoral systems and extensive co-curricular opportunities within an inclusive family ethos; ensure all students and staff have an educational environment in which their health, safety and wellbeing are considered and catered for; facilitate opportunities for all staff within the foundation to share their skills and expertise and remain at the forefront of educational excellence; maintain a vibrant, competitive and

innovative school through financial security; provide strong leadership and management which provides direction and values support for all members of staff in a culture of openness and transparency; have a dynamic and inclusive Boarding House, which instils respect, tolerance, friendship and a strong moral compass; continue developing a flourishing and growing EYFS that establishes confident, independent and happy children in a safe and positive environment.

This is a new and exciting time for the school as we plan for the next three years. To continue to strengthen and accelerate the outstanding education at KGS, from September 2017 we will be introducing new classrooms and a PE Laboratory. Furthermore, we have the potential expansion of the Junior School and Pre-School, enhanced sporting facilities, updated smart card/online payment system and a new and interactive website. This will be alongside continuing to provide stable, strong and dynamic leadership and a vibrant Boarding House.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the staff, parents and pupils for making my first complete academic year at KGS such a pleasure. I hope you enjoy the summer break and look forward to welcoming you back in September.





John Waite joined the school at the age of eleven in 1942, and enjoyed a successful school career, developing a lifelong love of and concern for the School and all that it stands for. He left school in 1947 and joined what was then the English Electric Company as a trade apprentice, rising through the ranks to become Executive Director of General Projects at British Aerospace. He was awarded an MBE for his services to the Aerospace Industry in 1974.

He served as Chairman of Governors at KGS from 1991 to 1995, during a period of rapid growth, both in pupil numbers and in the School's buildings and facilities, and his almost fifty years as a governor saw him deploying his expertise as a project manager to great effect in overseeing the many and varied building projects that have taken place during those years. It was during his period as Chairman that the Junior School Buildings were completed and opened, Science accommodation improved and expanded, the Lodge Building designed and constructed and a purpose-built Sixth Form Centre created out of ageing and austere 1950s classrooms.

However, John's biggest and most lasting legacy to the School is the building which bears his name. He was closely involved in this project, which involved the final demise of the temporary classrooms (photo above right) which had served the School so well for almost thirty years after





independence, but which had outlived their intended lifespan. It was a truly proud moment for him when the new building, bearing his name, was formally opened in April 2008. (photo above)

At the gathering to mark his retirement, an audience of present and former governors, teachers and pupils heard Chair of Governors Mrs Rosemary Cartwright pay tribute to Mr Waite's many years of devoted service to the School and as well as a leaving gift, he was presented with a specially iced cake made by the School's Catering Department.



A Fond FAREWELL



Mrs Lin Read leaves us for the retirement that she

I in Read

generously postponed in 2013 when she joined us to help establish the teaching of Economics, which had been absent from the KGS curriculum for some twenty years.

Mrs Read brought with her the experience of a long and varied teaching career. A Joint Honours graduate in History and Economics, she worked in the Civil Service before teaching Economics and Business in schools both private and state as well as in an FE college and as a life-skills tutor for children excluded from mainstream education. She then taught for many years at Haberdashers Monmouth Girls' School in her native Wales, where she was a House Mistress for 3 years before becoming Head of Economics and Business for the next 14 years.

After a career break for a period of missionary and charity work overseas, she became Assistant Head then Acting Head at St Dominic's Staffs, before moving to retirement in Preston, which for KGS (if not for her children and grandchildren) was very much the right place at the right time. Her knowledge, experience and expertise in Economics has proved to be invaluable and her partnership with Mr Percy has been most effective in re-establishing such a demanding subject as an integral part of the Sixth Form curriculum. Alongside her work as a teacher of Economics and Business Studies, she has been an enthusiastic supporter of Mrs Hargreaves's work in raising the profile and scope of Careers Education and Guidance.

In the classroom, her firm but fair approach, derived from so many years of experience, has served her and her students very well, and already there are a number of former pupils studying Economics at university thanks to their success here under her guidance.

She leaves with their, and our, deep gratitude for a job well done and with our best wishes for a wellearned retirement to life as a devoted grandmother.



Senior School

Emily Brook

Emily Brook joined Kirkham Grammar School in September 2011. Her background is in Graphic Design and Web Design and these industry skills were her grounding in becoming an excellent Design and Technology teacher. She has taught the subject at all levels from First Year to Upper Sixth and her influence has been hugely significant in the continued development and growth of the subject over recent years. Design Technology, which was in the more distant past regarded as predominantly "for the boys" has truly come of age as a subject for both genders and all abilities, due in no small part to the presence in the Department of a young woman who combines technical expertise with a real flair for design and innovation. A large number of our most able students have been inspired to take the subject to A-Level and beyond due in no small part to Emily's influence.

Alongside her work as a subject teacher, Emily has also been an outstanding form tutor, notably when she worked as a First Year tutor, one of the most important pastoral roles in the School. Her unflappable care and concern for pupils as they bridged the gap from primary to secondary education was most valued by them and their parents.

It has been a great pleasure for all to work with a colleague and teacher like Emily. She is now off on her next big adventure, and leaves with our fondest good wishes for her future career and her family life.





Jane Barrie

Jane Barrie joined KGS in September 2003 from Broughton High School and immediately set about auditioning pupils for A Midsummer Night's Dream. I can still remember the first rehearsal in the MPH – a small, black cassette recorder in the corner turned up full blast playing Summer Breeze by the Isley Brothers as about forty pupils ran across the huge space and leapt up on to the stage for the opening scene.

In the 15 years that followed literally hundreds of pupils have had the privilege to be directed by Ms Barrie who is quite simply one of the very best in the business. Her productions – predominantly Shakespearean - were in no way ordinary school plays. The versatility of Shakespeare's plays allowed them to become a vehicle for gifted actors, live bands (patiently rehearsed by husband, Graeme) and huge casts of dancers all to display their particular skill. Year upon year audiences have enjoyed performances of Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, The Tempest, Twelfth Night, Hamlet, A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Taming of the Shrew, Much Ado about Nothing as well as the musical Cabaret and Nigel Wiliams' adaptation of William Golding's Lord of the Flies.

Under Jane's unique style of direction these productions became showcases for the huge breadth of talent possessed by pupils at this school – always challenging and pushing individuals to the very edge of their ability – never settling for second best or failing to incorporate a particular talent whenever she came across it. As a result audiences have been treated to the talents of brilliant choreographers, dancers and gymnasts as well as a raft of amazing singers and musicians – not to mention the countless outstanding performances given by her actors.

The Drama Department, under Jane's tenure, has grown from a leaky portacabin next to the CCF Firing Range to a beautiful purpose-built studio with a wonderful costume wardrobe to match. Never one to aspire to mediocrity, Jane has worked tirelessly and selflessly to get the best out of our Drama students who achieve superb results academically and regularly surpass expectations. All of this achieved whilst regularly taking coach-loads of pupils to the Lowry, The Royal Exchange, The Bolton Octagon, The Dukes, The Young Vic, Blackpool Grand, The Everyman... as well as running five hugely successful trips to New York. Many pupils have left KGS to find careers in the arts and in theatre after being inspired here.

Countless pupils (and staff of course!) will remember Jane for the rest of their lives. They will remember the fear of forgetting a line, daring to even think about opening a packet of sweets in a theatre, never, ever 'standing in a line!!!' - but mostly they will remember the inspirational teaching and directing, a formidable intellect and an absolute passion for great writing, great theatre and great art.

I have often heard pupils refer to Ms Barrie as 'a legend'. They are not wrong.

Alison Walker

Alison Walker breezed into KGS in the summer of 2001, the last of "Bazza's Babes", a term she herself coined to describe women staff appointed by that much loved Headmaster.

There was a small teaching shortfall in the Modern Languages Department because of the School's rapidly expanding numbers, and we had cautiously advertised for a part-time French teacher, fearful that the very small amount of teaching on offer might deter well qualified and experienced candidates from applying.

We need not have worried. From a surprisingly strong shortlist, Alison shone at interview thanks to her manifest energy, enthusiasm and ability. The decision to appoint her was easy and unanimous and it immediately became clear that we had landed ourselves with far more than just a French teacher. Alison leaves with a list of involvements and achievements which do her proud: her time at the School has seen her repeatedly demonstrate her talent, versatility and flexibility of approach to the enduring benefit of many hundreds of pupils across a variety of areas of school life.

Versatility and flexibility are indeed two adjectives that come to mind in describing Alison Walker. She was appointed as a modern linguist, but with a joint honours degree in French with Drama, and experience as a teacher overseas of English as a second language, we knew that she had much more to offer when the need and opportunities arose. Alison did just that, immediately taking on the challenge of supporting a growing community of non-native speakers in the Boarding House in preparing for EFL examinations. Her expertise in this area is due in no small measure to her open and friendly manner and her manifest love and understanding of other cultures.

Her love of the theatre meant she was immediately drawn into helping the Drama Department with productions, not least given her expertise in lighting. When Jane Barrie joined in 2003 Alison found a kindred spirit and theatrical soulmate, leading to a partnership which has seen Drama thrive as both an academic subject and as an extracurricular pursuit. Alison was soon drafted into teaching Drama as numbers studying the subject boomed, and key to the success of the subject under the guidance of Jane and Alison has been their ability to give popular appeal to serious drama - notably Shakespeare - without any concessions or dumbing down of its challenging content. Year after year the School has staged ambitious and innovative takes on Shakespeare's classics using the widest range of age and ability from among pupils.

However, Alison has always been quick to stress that she is above



all else a linguist. She joined as a French teacher and quickly became a popular and successful practitioner of the art of language teaching, again mixing innovation with a refusal to dumb down. At A-Level, for example, she bravely and successfully revived the study of Molière as a set text.

Anticipating changes in the pattern of pupils' language choices, Alison took on Spanish as a new challenge and was soon proving to be every bit as adept and enthusiastic in that language as in French. She has organised and led trips to Spain and formed a partnership with a language school in Barcelona run by a KGS alumnus.

Yet like all good teachers, Alison taught young people rather than a subject, and so it was no surprise that she took on and enjoyed pastoral roles, ending her career here as a Middle School Head of Year, guiding Fourth and Fifth Year students through the sometimes troubled waters of adolescence and GCSEs. Her sympathetic handling of young people has been influential in many lives, and the post-GCSE party at Bartle Hall has been very much her thing.

A woman of such energy and curiosity is never going to stay in the same place and the same role for too long, and with her son Chris reaching the end of his school career here, it comes as no surprise that Alison has decided to take on a new challenge outside of school teaching. We wish her every success in her new career and thank her for all that she has done for the life, work and spirit of KGS.

Christine Seed

KGS is a school in which tradition and continuity are rightly valued and cherished, yet by definition a school is also all about change. Pupils come and pupils go. Teachers come and teachers go. Even headmasters come and headmasters go. Yet if you are looking for one person who has sat in the midst of all of that coming and going since the turn of the millennium, whilst exemplifying the enduring tradition and continuity of which the school is so proud, you need look no further than Christine Seed, who has retired after almost eighteen years as Headmaster's PA and Registrar.

To give the job that Christine Seed has performed with such dedication a title, even a double title, comes nowhere near to expressing what she has done for the School that she has come to love so much. It comes as no surprise at all that her post has been split into two new jobs on her retirement: she is, quite literally, irreplaceable.

Christine joined us in January 2000, towards the end of Barrie Stacey's highly successful tenure as Headmaster, with the School and the wider world of education in a period of rapid growth and transition. She had previously worked in an outwardly similar post in industry, yet with no previous experience in school administration. However, it was clear from the moment she took up her position in that familiar office that she was a "keeper". She and KGS were made for each other, and her contribution to all that has happened in every aspect of school life has been immeasurable.

She has worked with four Headmasters, each of strikingly different style and personality, demonstrating a shrewd and intuitive ability to adapt to their ways without changing hers, thereby ensuring that the best interests of the School and its pupils were always served. She has worked with fifteen different members of the senior leadership team and hundreds of teachers, demonstrating a personal touch, a firm but fair attitude and impeccably discreet professionalism. She has led the team of support staff in the School Office in a manner which is both caring and demanding, and as such has earned the enduring respect and affection of all with whom she has worked.

However, a school is first and foremost about its pupils and their parents, and with all due respect to the headmasters, governors, teachers and support staff with whom she has so closely worked, Christine's greatest contribution has surely been in her work as Registrar. That word sounds so dull and bureaucratic, suggesting someone who sits in an office dealing with names and numbers on a piece of paper or a computer screen. Nothing could be further from the truth. Christine Seed has been, quite literally, the human face of KGS to the several thousand pupils and their families who have passed through the School since 2000. She has in fact taken 4072 registrations and 2384 Acceptances.

Her ability to step aside from the most complex, demanding or even unpleasant task and emerge from her office with a warm smile and a personal greeting has made every new pupil and their parents feel as if they matter more than anyone else. And to Christine, at that moment, they do. Her approachable manner means that the stressful business of choosing a new school, or changing from one school to another, has been dealt with in a personal and caring style which personified the family ethos of which the School is so proud. Countless nervous children have sat an entrance exam, often deep in the school holidays, under her watchful but supportive eye. Parents and guardians, literally from all over the world, have been steered through the administrative complexities of joining a school by her calm and reassuring presence in person, on the phone or by email. Nothing is too much trouble, and Christine's working day ends not when the clock tells her it's time to go home, but when her conscience tells her that she has done all that needs doing on that day. That moment has often been long after everyone else has left the building

It is very hard to imagine KGS without Christine Seed, yet no retirement has been more deserved or well-earned. She has twice delayed it in order to smooth the transition between headmasters, but now really is the moment for her to step aside and enjoy some rest and relaxation with her husband John, so often a "KGS widower" over the years.

Christine's knowledge of the School, its people, its history, its ways, its routines and its foibles is unparalleled. Perhaps the best line on her was delivered at Speech Day in 2012, when the School Captains had arranged a surprise re-appearance of all the captains from Doug Walker's era to mark his retirement, in order to deliver the traditional request for an extra day off school. Tristan Brooke, School Captain from 2007 and now a successful professional actor was given the punchline, which he delivered with impeccable timing: "never mind the Headmaster - what would Mrs Seed say?"

The School would be very wise to ask itself that same question for many years to come.





Mark Gaddes

"A school master, not just a school teacher". If ever this epithet belonged to any KGS teacher, it is Mark Gaddes. Physicist, Philosopher, climber, adventurer, advisor, friend and mentor, this Cambridge graduate who retires this summer after almost 22 years at KGS has truly enriched the life of the School and of countless pupils within it.

Mark joined us at the start of 1996 from the Wrekin School in Shropshire as Head of Physics. He once said that he decided he wanted to work here not because of the excellent facilities and high academic standards, impressive though they were and still are. He made up his mind to accept the job if offered it whilst pausing for a moment on the day of his interview at the bottom of the Quad and looking out over the familiar and timeless lunchtime scene on our playing fields: pupils of all ages from 11 to 18 playing happily in the early summer sunshine, or just sitting and chatting. It was the intangible ethos of KGS that got him.

That anecdote speaks volumes: Mark is a Physicist, fiercely committed to the subject at its highest levels, but above all he is a teacher who believes in "educating the whole person" as our advertising has often said.

Mark's Physics lessons are thoughtful and challenging, pushing the boundaries of a subject easily thought of as practical, black and white. As with any good teacher, the intelligent digressions are always the best bits, and many KGS scientists have taken the subject to A-Level, university and beyond, inspired by his example.

His degree included Philosophy and in the latter part of his teaching career, Mark has enjoyed the challenge of not only teaching A-Level in this niche academic subject, but also of teaching Philosophy for children in the Lower School, developing thinking skills whose long-term value is incalculable.

However, like all great teachers, many of Mark's most significant contributions have been beyond the classroom. Rock-climbing is his passion and the Climbing Wall in the Summerlee Hall is where we will most readily remember seeing Mark, and indeed he plans to continue helping with the Climbing Club in a voluntary capacity. Climbing is a sport for the non-sporty, a sport for thinkers, and as such provides a wonderful alternative outlet and challenge for boys and girls of all ages. Climbers have ventured far beyond the KGS Wall under his supervision, with trips to other indoor walls and favourite outdoor venues a regular feature. Former pupils recall with affection the climbs, but also the conversations around those trips: truly the stuff of which a good education is made.

Early in his time at KGS, Mark became Assistant Head of Sixth Form, taking up residence in his office in the Sixth Form Study area like some benevolent supervisor in a factory of the intellect. His voice is never raised in anger, nor does it need to be: a look of disappointment is all that is needed.

Mark's work as a university entrance advisor and reference writer has been invaluable, notably on his annual trips to his alma mater, Cambridge, in which ambitious students are gently encouraged to pursue their dreams without fearing failure. As a colleague, Mark's wise and restrained counsel has been invaluable to teachers both within and well outside his Department, and his measured contributions to Heads of Department meetings have ensured that decisions are always wise.

Mark Gaddes has been many things to many people at KGS: perhaps a story from four years ago sums him up. We learned in 2014 that a former pupil, Alastair Carter, had suffered life-changing injuries in a hit and run accident whilst cycling. Headmaster Doug Walker, about to retire, felt that the School should put on some big fundraising effort for one of its own in need of help to enable him to resume some kind of normal life, and Mark Gaddes took up the challenge, planning, organising and leading a whole school sponsored walk along the Fylde Coast. Not only did this event raise money to help provide Alastair with much-needed adaptations to his home, but it also brought the whole school community together on a wet and windy day in a manner which spoke volumes for what the school is all about.

An outdoor adventure, bringing the school together to raise funds for a worthy cause: a thoroughly Mark Gaddes idea. We wish him every happiness in a retirement which is most unlikely to involve a pipe and slippers.





Adrian Long

Adrian arrived at KGS as Languages teacher in September 1981, only two years after KGS turned independent and was beginning to find its way in the Thatcherite world of Yuppies, Filofaxes and Loadsamoney. In fact, in a most un-Thatcherite way, he turned down a better paid offer from a more well-established independent school on Merseyside because he felt the warmth of KGS at interview. Despite his outlandish ties - which he still wears - he made a favourable impression on the then Headmaster, Malcolm Summerlee, and was soon appointed as Head of French. During his many years in charge of the Department, he oversaw the development of ICT in language learning as well as two moves of the Departmental area, from the Norwood Block to the 38 Block, then to the new Languages Building. He led annual trips to France or Germany between 1988 and 2005, supported by Ian Rushton. A particular favourite was the one in which parties of 70+ of all ages from 11 to 18 returned every 3 years to Dammarie-les-Lys, south of Paris. He also worked as an advisor to the architect in creating the "French Cafe" in the queueing area of the new School Dining Hall. The three French shop fronts were designed and painted by three 6th Form artists under his direction.

He is, however, perhaps best known by recent generations of pupils as the Head of Sixth Form, a post he held between 1991 and 2016. He was the first incumbent of that post, and presided over the evolution of the Sixth Form into a more distinct entity within the school, whilst keeping it very much part of the 11-18 community. He designed the concept of a Sixth Form Centre, firstly in converted classrooms, then in a purposebuilt centre (1995), refurbished with the addition of the 6° Cafe in 2010. It is thanks to him that we have many now standard features of 6th Form life - Taster Day, Enrolment Day, Leavers' Assembly, Results Day. His most popular venture was the Sixth Form Ball: encouraged by the Headmaster at the time, Barrie Stacey. This black tie event started in 1992 in a small marguee on the front lawn and has barely changed in 25 years, such is its popularity. It spawned the Friends' Ball some years later when parents saw what a great night their sons and daughters were having. On a more serious note, he devised, introduced and ran the School's uniquely personal university application process, overseeing over 2000 applications during those years. He introduced a weekly Sixth Form Assembly, with moral/spiritual content aimed at an older audience, often related to his love of Bolton Wanderers or a favourite editorial from The Guardian; and the Sixth Form Discussion Group, an informal "think tank" for students who enjoy light-heartedly intelligent conversation. In a vain attempt to try to recapture his own carefree student days, he led an annual visit to Oxford for academically ambitious Sixth Formers.

Beyond the Languages Department and the 6th Form, Adrian was for over 30 years involved with careers education in the school. He provided invaluable guidance and support to scores of pupils. He never tried to dissuade pupils from following their dream....as long as they had a Plan B, just in case. Between 2004 and 2016 he held the post of Director of Studies and was responsible for reforming the reporting scheme, running Parents' Evenings, and the MidYis, Yellis and Alis testing. The most enjoyable aspect of his work was the organisation and delivery of assemblies. He took on those pupils who stubbornly refused to sing hymns because they 'didn't believe in the words', by pointing out that he – and thousands of others – regularly sang aloud that 'Bolton Wanderers, Bolton Wanderers FC are by far the greatest team the world has ever seen.'

In more recent years, Adrian took on invaluable work with the Old Kirkhamians Association. He has been a Committee member since 1992, was President in 2013 - 2014, and has been the Secretary since 2015. Under his aegis, the OKA has grown and flourished: notable developments include the introduction of the Young OKA Christmas Reunion, the summer year-group reunions, and the annual London Drinks meet-up. He has also acted as the unofficial liaison lead between the School and the Drapers' Company. He has led annual 2nd Year pupils' visits to the Company and in 1999 led a delegation on the 450th anniversary of the school, presenting KGS's gift to the Company. He has attended the Education Dinner with the School Captains and led a joint project with Drapers' Academy to design and present a commemorative tapestry for the Drapers' 650th anniversary in 2014, at which he made a speech to the assembled Heads of all the Livery companies. Adrian does enjoy a good commemoration - he was a very active member of the 450th anniversary celebrations committee, proposed and helped organise the KGJS 25th anniversary celebrations, proposed the re-naming of the MPH as the Summerlee Hall and organised and led the associated commemorative event.

His most enduring legacy will no doubt be the school hymn – it was he who chose, established and popularised the now familiar and much-loved "Lord for the Years". You will find words from it on his Twitter page, words which probably sum up much of what has made him such a well-loved and well-respected schoolmaster: 'teaches and trains, rebukes and inspires'.



Junior School





Jill Elizabeth Knowles

Jill joined the KGJS family in 1995 whilst the school was in its infancy. She had followed a teacher training course at Edge Hill and her first teaching job was at Preesall Fleetwood's Charity School. It was in her first term of teaching that she met her husband Rob, on a blind date. After three years of teaching, an opportunity arose to continue her career at her childhood school of Elmslie Girls' in Blackpool and it was whilst working there that her two children, Jonathan and Lucy were born. With the growth of Kirkham Grammar Junior School, it was no surprise that Jill made the transition to Kirkham. Jill has served under all three Headmistresses at Kirkham during her 22 years at the Junior School.

During Jill's career, she has taught within all the Infant classes; however her passion has been the teaching of the Reception class, setting the tone and standard for the entire school. Jill has developed a fine reputation as a wonderful practitioner for her kindly but firm approach, attention to detail and ability to 'work her magic' on the little ones. She has been affectionately known as being part of 'The Dream Team' down in 11 as a professional and compassionate teacher and there are countless proud parents who are indebted to Jill for achieving more with their child than they ever thought possible.

One of Jill's main strengths is the confidence that she instilled in the children from a young age. She produced some wonderfully humorous class productions and assemblies, creating memories that parents will treasure forever. Jill has always seen the good in every child and has shown a steely determination to ensure that every child has a strong foundation in reading, writing and mathematics.

It is a testament to Jill's kindness that many former pupils make the effort to pop over to the Junior School to see her, to let her know how they have got on as they know that she will share in their joy and successes.

Jill has always taken a full and active part in school life and has enjoyed leading her famous 'Infant Ensemble.' She also enjoyed her time on the 2015 ski trip to Gstaad, Switzerland, being an energetic, kind and nurturing part of the staff team. On one particularly arduous morning, after a long walk to the top of a hill to catch the train to the ski slopes (with 35 children and skis!), the Swiss lady conductor, having witnessed this spectacle for nearly a week, was very concerned one morning that she had not seen 'The Little Lady.' It was with good humour that it was established that she had counted Jill as a child, lost in the camouflage of the ski equipment! Jill was also part of the 2016 KGJS 'Pretty Muddy' team, whereby it was probably only Jill who could knock the Headmistress off an obstacle and into the mud headfirst without recourse!

For a lady with a small physical footprint, she has left an enormous legacy to the school and, although it is with sadness that we say 'goodbye' to Mrs Knowles, we are delighted to say 'hello' to Miss Knowles. She is following the family tradition of teaching, inspired in the first instance by Jill's parents, who were both teachers, and we look forward to welcoming her to the KGJS family in September.

As a colleague, Jill has simply been a first class team player. She is the first to give a kind word or remember a birthday and she is someone of integrity and loyalty. We wish her the happiest and healthiest of retirements with her husband Rob and beautiful family, including her mum, Gladys, and with her newly found hobbies, namely golf, travelling and more opportunity to be a 'lady who lunches'.



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Elizabeth Hamilton

After graduating from Liverpool University, Liz Hamilton, or Miss Carr as she was then, joined KGJS in September 1998 as a J2 class teacher and she has very fond memories of her first class of children, who are all in their late twenties now. Liz spent four years with this age group and was known for her firm but fair discipline and fun but challenging lessons. With her background in ICT, she quickly became the go-to girl for all things technical. The rest of the staff always knew she could be relied upon to sort out their computer problems!

In 2002, Liz took on the challenge of teaching our oldest pupils and she never looked back. At this time she saw many changes at KGJS. The curriculum, the staff and, of course, the children all changed. Even the building changed, with the addition of an ICT Suite, a DT room and two upstairs classrooms for the J4 children.

With the newly built ICT Suite, Liz was now able to run a lunch time IT Club, which was always a firm favourite with the Upper Juniors, even when the sun was shining and the ICT Suite became stiflingly hot! With all the new technology that had now been installed, thanks to our collaboration with British Aerospace, Liz entered a competition run by Promethean, the firm who had, at that point, installed our first ever interactive whiteboard in the ICT Suite. Much to her surprise, she won this national competition and her prize was a trip down to Earl's Court, London to present her winning flipchart, linked to PowerPoints and videos, to other education and technology specialists.

After marrying Richard Hamilton in 2004, Liz went on to start her own family. Charlie was born in 2008 and Jack in 2011. At this point, Liz decided that she wanted to be able to pick her boys up from nursery and school so she went part time, teaching the core curriculum subjects in the mornings. Liz has fond memories of organising the week-long French trips which superseded the ski trip and Wales trip. She had great fun winding the children up about the 'gotcha' fly that could be kept away by intermittently stamping your feet on the ground or how blue string (it had to be blue!) tied around the base of the trees would catch the scorpions' tails and stop them getting into camp, to name just a couple! She was also instrumental in implementing the first ever Enterprise Week to KGJS which has now become a firm favourite for our J4 children.

Liz always enjoyed the friendship and chatter in the staff room and she has made some lasting friendships. She also left her own legacy when, on her final day at KGJS, she brought in a new school policy and appointed a new staff role.... And so the Biscuit Policy was born, with Mr Oddie in the role of Biscuit Monitor! Liz was forever bringing sweet treats into the staff room which were extremely well appreciated! Her Rocky Road will never be forgotten, but then, neither will she. We wish Liz all the very best for her future as she moves on to pastures new.

Rachael McGregor

We say farewell for a second time to Rachael McGregor, who some will remember as the Pre-School Manager seven years ago, before she spent four years with her family in Germany. After a year teaching J4 and this year teaching J2, Rachael has proven her ability to cover all ages. She will be missed as both an inspirational teacher and friendly face to all her pupils in the classroom. As well as dropping in on our School Ski Trips to Switzerland and Austria, Rachael has enjoyed accompanying her classes to Wales, Castle Head and, most recently, Samlesbury Hall. She has stretched pupils with her Maths Challenge Group and even started running a popular Classics Club. We wish Rachael and her family all the very best, wherever the future takes them!





10yearsago

Kirkham Grammar School





An extract from the Headmaster's Newsletter reads:

This term has been dominated by the demolition of the Wareing buildings (photos far right) and the commencement of our new twelve classroom development. The bulldozers arrived on cue on May 16 and the first blow was struck by KGS Governor John Waite. Mr Waite has been a member of the Governing Body for over 30 years and with his great engineering experience has played a key role in the development of the school facilities since the Multi Purpose Hall was constructed in 1990. This new development sees the completion of another phase in the school's evolution with the major upgrade in the teaching space that began with the science facilities. The school now boasts a full range of exciting interactive classrooms and I hope our staff and pupils will enjoy the opportunities these will bring to their learning environment. We will take occupation of six of these classrooms in September with the remaining work being completed by November. While there will be a degree of dislocation in the early weeks of next term we are confident that this will not impinge on the working of the school.

This will not be the only development over the summer as the Governors have made the much needed decision to re-surface the All Weather Pitch. We will have a new surface to match the Lawrence House Pavilion and I hope this will provide our hockey teams with a reliable platform where they can hone their skills for future success. Additionally a new All Weather Cricket Surface and nets have been provided in conjunction with Wrea Green Cricket Club. This partnership has not only provided these excellent facilities but also wider community access which is so important for the school and its future. In another partnership, this time with the Friends of KGS, a replacement building will be provided for the Old Drama Studio - an evesore if ever there was one! Over the summer the Friends will gain much needed storage for their many in-school activities and the school will gain a suitable venue for aerobic and weight training equipment used in the new P.E. Curriculum. The summer promises to be a busy time at school but this will mean an exciting set of new facilities in September.



OKA Digs In

Kirkham Grammar School continues its investment in state of the art educational facilities as it starts to build a major new teaching centre comprising 12 classrooms. The new classrooms are the second phase of a major Development programme at the school and will feature full ICT multimedia teaching aids, providing access to laptops with wireless Internet facilities at the touch of a button.

Phase one of the science laboratories and classroom project was completed in November 2005.

Former Kirkhamian, John Waite, MBE, who has been closely involved in the redevelopment of the school, drove a bulldozer (picture below) to start the demolition of the old temporary classrooms. This continues school's investment in state of the art educational facilities as it started to build a major new teaching centre comprising 12 classrooms.



Since the last Newsletter in February the school has received the outcome the CSCI Inspection Report of conducted in the Boarding House. The report reads wonderfully well with the school being adjudged excellent in every category. Great credit must go to Mr Smith and his team for this accolade. The report also reflects well on so many whole school issues such as Pastoral Care, Educational Visits, Health and Safety, Safer Recruitment and many more. The outcome provided a boost, therefore, for us all but must be seen as further evidence of the central role of boarding at KGS in helping to create the ethos which benefits our children. It is also pleasing to report that the boarders dining room and recreation facilities have been refurbished to bring them into line with other upgraded areas.



Easter saw the arrival of Mrs Annette Roberts (photo above) who has joined us to replace Mrs Lesley Taylor as Headmistress of the Junior School. Mrs Taylor left us to take over Kettlewell C of E Primary School in the Dales after ten years as Headmistress. Her contribution to the Junior School from its inception has been inestimable and it was with great sadness that we said goodbye to Mrs Taylor. The show must go on, however, and we were delighted to welcome Mrs Annette Roberts who joined us from Rossall School. She is now well installed in school and has been seen receiving a discreet hug from some of the infants in the corridor so it is clear that the ethos of the school remains unchanged. I look forward to working with Mrs Roberts in taking the Foundation forward over coming years.

5yearsago



This term has also seen the Governors' exciting announcement of our new development. We have been planning improvements for our music provision for some time but have worked very hard over recent months in identifying a scheme which brings not only an exciting new Music Centre but also enhanced sporting provision. The refurbishment of current facilities creates greater opportunities and our current Gym will be revamped as a Concert Hall, while other areas around this will be completely transformed to create a music technology room, more practice rooms, new music classrooms and an extension to our Art provision. This effective use of space will result in a self-contained Music Centre which I will hope bring great encouragement to our talented musicians, both current and future

The displaced PE department will be relocated in the current music facilities and in a newly constructed indoor sports area and brand new changing rooms. This building immediately behind the MPH will provide a much bigger indoor sports area than the current gym and two new large changing areas. It will also provide the school with a permanent weights room and Groundsman's office. The scheme has been led once again by Mr Fulford-Brown, School Governor, and has required a great deal of time piecing together a cost-effective means of achieving our goals and I would like to register my gratitude to "SFB" for his dynamism and support over recent years. The completion of our ambitions outlined ten years ago would not have been possible without his focus and determination and the support of the Governing Body. We hope it will go yet further in ensuring that KGS has facilities of which we can all be proud.

The year has also been my first as resident within the school. It has certainly enhanced my appreciation of just how busy a place it is and also how many people in fact play a part in the success of the school. Hardly a night goes by without the campus being used for some activity and often parents and support staff are here well into the evenings, either heavily involved or just waiting for their youngsters to return to school. Our organisation relies on the army of support staff who ensure that school runs smoothly and I have never been more aware of this than now. I also have been made even more aware of just how many parents spend so much time supporting our children, either as spectators, helpers or just on the endless taxi service. These contributions are too often taken for granted and certainly my life on site has just reinforced my recognition of these enormous contributions.









Tim Miller: His life at KGS

I'd like to start by reading an extract under the heading 'Staff Changes' from the Kirkhamian magazine published at Easter in 1986:

The end of the summer term 1985 saw the departure of three well known faces from the staff of KGS. In place of Mr West we welcome Mr Tim Miller to the History Department. A native of Chorley, Mr Miller was educated at the local grammar school and at Runshaw Sixth Form College, then at Hull University and St. Mary's College, Newcastle upon Tyne. Having worked for the Lancashire Area Health Authority, he then taught at Runshaw Tertiary College and Upholland College before coming to KGS. He is a keen sportsman, with particular skills in hockey and cricket: the under 14 girls hockey team has this year had the benefit of his enthusiastic coaching and umpiring, while the under 15 and staff cricket teams look set to profit from his expertise. He was also once Secretary of Blackburn Rovers' Supporters Club, but that is perhaps best forgotten! (The magazine's words - not mine.)

With such a glowing introduction it has been no surprise that Tim threw himself whole heartedly into school life. I would suggest that he was what you might call an old-fashioned schoolmaster, an all-rounder whose love of school life saw him devoting hours of his free time to the broader life of the school.

He certainly did add his expertise to the girls' hockey when it was in its infancy, before even the Astroturf had given the girls the chance to develop their skills properly. He did coach the under 14s for a number of years before switching to the second eleven in the early 90s and this continued up to a couple of years ago. He took part in a number of overseas tours, including the legendary 1992 World Tour of which so many girls of that era have such fond memories. On one evening on the tour the party attended a wonderfully entertaining Maori evening which saw Tim and other staff as part of the cabaret – I believe the girls set them up. I have it on good authority that his forte was the air guitar. I'm sure you can form a picture in

your own mind of how that went.

On the cricket front Tim coached the under 15s for many years and a vast number of boys improved their technique under his watchful eye, with many of them going on to represent the First Eleven. Before the active number of cricketers on the staff dwindled, the staff team benefited from his ability with the bat. He might not have scored many runs, mainly in singles, but he was always difficult to get out. On one occasion, one cheeky young member of staff was heard to applaud Tim for getting the ball off the square.

He also played in the early days of the staff football team which played on a Friday night after school, before the lads got too quick for us. After he retired from actively playing he became an honorary member of the team which gave him the excuse to attend the annual lunch at the end of the Easter term at Guys.



Tim joined the CCF straight after his arrival, rising to the rank of Major during his 30 years' service. He was an outstanding officer and totally devoted to the CCF. He gave so much to the CCF and the cadets through so many Army Camps, Adventure Training camps and Field days. He loved every moment and the cadets loved him. Everyone he met valued his professionalism, honesty, integrity and his wonderful warm persona.

Talking to the current CCF staff it would seem that one of the most prominent memories was of Tim driving a rather high empty Army minibus under a low bridge and turning it into a convertible in under 4 seconds!! The Commanding Officer of the camp was left speechless, so was Fred Sayer, the then commanding officer of the CCF, which was a unique event! Tim was also infamous in being able to turn his 8ft x 6ft bedroom space, which on arrival would be immaculately neat, spartan and glearning, into what could be perceived as a nuclear explosion within the hour, dispersing his suitcase into every corner of the barrack block.

Oh and he did teach some History, becoming head of department in 1992. He was loved by successive generations for his personal and engaging style as well as for his famously awful jokes. It has been said that if they had all been written down and published, it could have been a best seller. It is a measure of his success that dozens of his former students have elected to read History at university. Tim also accompanied History students to the First World War battlefields and demonstrated a concern for the welfare and enjoyment of his students. My lasting memory of that side of Tim is seeing him staggering across the quad weighed down by the plastic bags full of the books he was taking home to mark.

There have been over 100 messages on social media and I'd like to share some of them:

A really lovely bloke and a great teacher (comments repeated by many) – always fun to be around on the hockey pitch and a fantastic form tutor who always had time for a chat about anything and everything.

A very inspiring teacher for me. He had a way of bringing History to life in the classroom.

He was such a great teacher, form tutor and all round lovely person.

Mr Miller was a fantastic educator who encouraged children's enthusiasm in education. A great guy who always had a smile for you and an answer to pretty much every question you could ask.

He was an inspiration to many of us and one of the reasons we can all say that our education was enjoyable. He made an impact on a lot of young minds.

A brilliant teacher who knew his subject inside out. Such fond memories of A- level History.

Mr Miller was my History teacher and tutor and is the reason I am a History teacher today. I try to emulate his enthusiasm, humanity and humour every day.

Always striving to give his best and always so enthusiastic from the classroom to the hockey pitch. Wonderful memories from my school days.

I could go on.....

I received a text from one former student recently who said:

'Tim taught me, was my form master, coach or lieutenant in most of my years at KGS. Remembering him leading 30+ girls in a game of dead ants in the foyer of a nice hotel in New Zealand makes me laugh. He moulded so many of us OKAs into the people we are today'

And that probably sums Tim up – tourist, humourist and educationalist. I must say that I feel privileged to have valued Tim's friendship for over 30 years. I will miss the chats and texts about cricket, whether it be Lancashire or England, and the reminiscing about Rovers. It's not often that you get a text which just says 87 for 7, followed by one that says 95 for 8. (Apologies to the non-cricketers among you.)

Thank you Tim for all you did for KGS. You have touched the lives of so many.

As one member of staff said, 'You will be sorely missed but never forgotten.'

Richard Browning



MATHEMATICS Masters



Numerous Mathematical enrichment activities involving a large number of KGS pupils this academic year have taken place:

The National Senior UKMT Mathematics Challenge involved over fifty 6th Form students with 20 Bronze Awards, 8 Silver Awards and 2 prestigious Gold Awards achieved by Upper 6th students Andrew Whittingham and "Best in School" Sonic Ho (who also achieved a highly prized Merit Award on the next round of the National challenge). On the Intermediate National UKMT Mathematics Challenge James Caton achieved the top Gold Award and there were also 5 Silver Awards and 5 Bronze Awards, which is a fine performance by the 4th Year pupils.

Mrs Pascoli travelled to the annual local Senior Team Mathematics Challenge with a strong KGS team of 6th Formers James Smith, Sonic Ho, Andrew Platt and Mason Forrest. The students performed excellently against tough opposition, and in the process enhanced their numerical problem solving skills.

luean Corcoran (5th Year) and Kate Parkinson (4th Year) have attended 6 Mathematics Masterclasses at Lancaster University on Saturday mornings since Christmas. This has been a fantastic opportunity and has enabled the two pupils to gain numerical skills above and beyond the curriculum, whilst mixing with many of the best young Mathematicians in the county. Mr Carter and Mrs Cooper have also attended some of the Masterclasses.

House Mathematics Competitions for the 1st Year (won by School House – Lucy & Penelope Blackmore, Jessica Zhou, Talia Armstead) and the 2nd Year (won by Kirkham House – Niamh Barry, Harry Booth, Libby Baxter, Thomas Peet) have recently taken place. The inaugural Senior House Mathematics Competition was completed at the end of the Spring Term. This was a highly competitive affair as the top 6th Form Mathematicians battled it out against each other, with School House (James Smith, Sonic Ho and Marco Wong) being the victorious team.

Staff and students from UCLAN presented an exciting morning of STEM Mathematical activities for a group of 4th Year pupils in the Old Hall. The focus was on problem solving using a variety of Mathematical techniques. All pupils commented on the enjoyment and usefulness of the activities, and consequently this may become a regular fixture in the Mathematics calendar.

The outcome of the Junior National UKMT Mathematics Challenge is eagerly anticipated, and with more team challenges to come, there is much to look forward to in the Mathematics Department at KGS.



Mr D R Carter



BAE SYSTEMS



My time at BAE systems was an interesting experience. I was based in the engineering department, specifically the design, software, CONOPS and performance sectors. I only managed to brush over the basics in my short week there but the run down is this....

The design sector taught me and my fellow pupils how the design software is manipulated to form a plane's wing. I was given a set of instructions that I worked through like a computer program. It took me an hour to fully complete my design of the wing and most of the time was spent on learning how to control the design software.

The CONOPS sector taught me how planes are envisaged and how they are thought of and then designed. CONOPS is where the customers' requirements of the product have to be taken care of. These requirements can be anything from what colour it has to be, to what fuel the plane has to use. These requirements then must be encompassed into the design. Once a design has been made they then check the design against the customer requirements then the cycle repeats and repeats until there is a finished design.

The software sector. This was perhaps one of the trickier subjects. Again, the software has to live up to customer requirements. This means checking and working on the software for years. Firstly, they have to devise the software systems; then they have to check them to see if they can handle any sort of situation. The computer system has to know how to communicate with every piece of technology on the plane from the array of sensors to the complex weapon systems. This makes the software one of the most tested systems on the plane; it has to do everything and know everything about the plane. But the software engineers don't just create the software they then figure out how to display it to the pilot whether it needs a warning on a screen or more of a huge flashing light!

Overall my time at BAE was an unforgettable trip and I would recommend it to anyone interested in engineering. I learnt some great things and got incredible experience of what it's like to be an engineer at BAE and how you are a small cog in this huge machine to produce a single, but complex, product.

KGS MEANS BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

At KGS we believe that a school trip or access to specialist speakers on the subject of Business studies or Economics is a fantastic way for students to get engaged and make the links between classroom concepts and real life situations. It enables students to have a better understanding of how individual business work and economic policies are played out on a national or international scale.

Here are just a few of the activities we have taken part in during 2016/2017

In February 2017 we were delighted to take a number of our 6th form pupils to KPMG's new offices in Manchester to take part in the KPMG employability workshop (photo below). Designed to give pupils an insight into what employers are looking for when recruiting as well as providing an opportunity to develop the much prized 'soft skills'. The workshops also gave pupils an opportunity to consider possible careers in accountancy. The experience was most illuminating.

In September 2016 we welcomed Mr Brett Warburton to KGS to talk about the 'business of entrepreneurship'.



Institute of Economic Affairs

A group of Economists from the Lower 6th attended the Institute of Economic Affairs Sixth Form Conference at Sedbergh School on Tuesday 28th February. The students engaged in lectures by Dr Steve Davies, Dr Matt McCaffrey and Dr Richard Wellings who spoke on a range of topics including the Eurozone crisis, government borrowing and Globalisation. These topics and the format of the sessions presented a fantastic opportunity for the students to broaden their economic knowledge and discuss real world examples whilst also getting a glimpse of what university style lectures will be like. The students actively took part in all of the discussion activities and displayed great confidence and knowledge when asked to share their suggestions with the group.



KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL







At KGS we recognise the need for schools not to just look at the successful outcomes as simply results, grades and potential for Higher Education, but to ensure that we prepare our young men and women for the world of work. To this end we aim to provide modern career guidance as they prepare for their futures and were delighted to become the first school in the North West to become a member of the Young Chamber North West Lancashire to bridge the gap between education and work. Membership of the NW Young Chamber of Commerce will enable pupils of KGS to develop an understanding of the range of employability skills that employers look for in their future employees and to provide real meaningful insight about business, jobs, careers and range of potential opportunities.

NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK 6-9 MARCH 2017 Kirkham Grammar School has "career exploration" at its heart and we aim to give pupils the widest possible perspective on the available opportunities on leaving KGS.

In light of this, we were delighted to support National Careers Week in the drive to improve the life chances and social mobility of our young people. A departure from our usual Annual Careers Fair, the Career Workshops looked at opportunities within STEM, medicine, commerce, wealth management and law. We also had programmed tailored sessions to help develop the all-important 'soft skills', so highly prized by potential employers.

The Career Workshops were supported by a line-up of truly inspiring sector specific speakers including: Norman Tenray, CEO Obas; Janet Thornton Managing Director Inspired Energy; BAE; True Bearing Wealth Management and Dr Linda Hacking, Director of Medical Education at Blackpool Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, to name just a few.

Our Career Workshops were instrumental in helping our young people make informed choices about their next steps. Here is what Daniella Parziale had to say.

The Careers Evening Workshops held between the 6th and 9th March at Kirkham Grammar School, provided me with an interesting and informative opportunity to gain an insight into a range of career pathways that are available to me when I leave school.

My main focus was the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) workshop because I am interested in a possible career in Engineering. I found the key note speakers to be inspiring, approachable and very willing to pass on advice. The three other workshops were equally interesting and gave me a view of alternative professions that I might not have otherwise considered.

These event evenings also gave parents the opportunity to talk to staff, career advisors and other parents about pathway options for their children, enabling them to have a clearer focus on matching their personal education route to their chosen career path. Although I am only in the Fourth Year the careers evenings have encouraged me to think about possible A-level options choices that I would like to look into in the near future. I particularly found the interview techniques workshop interesting as it was the most interactive of the four evenings and gave the sixth form students an opportunity to talk about their previous experience of interviews and compare these with the advisors' experiences. This workshop has given me pointers towards what interviewers look for from prospective candidates.

I thoroughly enjoyed the evenings and all they had to offer. If the careers evenings were to be held again, I would definitely attend and now I am armed with the new knowledge acquired at these sessions, I can focus my efforts on a particular career path, which I enjoy, suits my skill set and pays well!



the piper





















s do NOT talk or ource we distract people shooting.

session

J4 WALES TRIP

In June, J4, along with Mr Lewis, Mrs Tickle, Mr Butterworth and Mr Roberts, set off on a once in a lifetime trip to Manor Adventure, Wales. After a five hour bus journey, the children arrived at Abernant Lake Hotel, where they were staying. The children and teachers enjoyed an action-packed five days of activities which included stand up paddle boarding, raft building, canoeing, kayaking, archery, fencing, cycling, climbing, crate stacking, abseiling and orienteering! On the final night, the children enjoyed a disco put on by the Manor Adventure instructors. There were times when some children got nervous about some of the activities, but they were all determined to try absolutely everything. Every single child and teacher had the most incredible time and this trip was an experience they will never forget.



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FOOD AROUND THE WORLD

As part of the I1's topic on 'Food Around the World', the children had a number of visitors into school. Mrs Thompson and Mrs Taylor came in to talk to the children about Norwegian and South African food and the children were able to try waffles, brown cheese and South African meat, to name just a few! It was an extremely interesting and informative visit! Mrs Watson visited to talk to them about African food and cultures. The children were able to sample some 'Tanzanian' food and have a go at playing some of the African musical instruments! The children had a truly wonderful afternoon. The I1 children also celebrated Burns Night by making Scottish biscuits, tasting haggis and oat biscuits and even had a go at Scottish Dancing!! The children experienced the tradition of 'Piping in The Haggis' when Mrs Knowles brought the Haggis into the classroom! The children experienced a wide selection of Thai food and cultures when Mrs Holmes came in and Mr Vavoso and Felix from Spagó in Lytham came in to show the children how to make pizzas! They had a wonderful time learning how to roll the dough and enjoyed adding lots of different toppings to their pizzas! The children visited Poppy Remtulla's family factory to learn about, and sample, cuisine from Italy, India, China, Mexico and England! The children had an amazing time! Thank you to all for making the children's learning a hands on experience and so much fun!



MARTIN MERE

The I1 children enjoyed a wonderful class trip to Martin Mere Wetlands Centre during May. On arrival, they enjoyed a tour with Cathy, their guide, to see a variety of wildlife including ducks, geese, moorhens and flamingos. After this they went to a special outside 'classroom' to have an educational talk about the different ways birds move and find their food. They also acted out a little play about how swans make a nest and lay their eggs. It was exciting to watch the otters being fed in their enclosure and to learn more about their behaviour. The children had a fantastic time on the extensive adventure playground which included big slides, rope ladders and the zip wire! Their perfect day ended by feeding bird seed to the ducks, ducklings, geese and goslings. All the staff were very proud of the 11 children who represented KGJS so well throughout the day.









12 EUREKA



What a brilliant day I2 all had at Eureka in June! The children were an absolute credit to the school! The museum was so interesting, exciting and interactive. First they went to an Energy Workshop and learned that energy can't be made or destroyed, it can only be changed from one type to another. After that they were given some free time to play in the Post Office and M&S Shop and visit the bank, petrol station, house and dark mirrored room! After lunch, the children were given the chance to look round the gift shop before visiting the top floor which was 'All About Me'. This was so cool as they saw giant mouths, brains and noses! I2 had a really fun day with lots of learning opportunities!



3 BROCKHOLES

At the beginning of May, I3 set off for their trip to Brockholes Nature Reserve. They were met by Phil, their guide for the day, who took them to the classroom and started with a quiz, asking questions about some of the animals and plants found in the reserve. Everyone then went outside and played games which taught them about what plants need to live and how bees pollinate plants. The children then made plant pots out of old newspaper and planted poppy seeds in them. After lunch, the I3s had fun on the adventure playground and then went back into the park to try some nature They took rubbings of tree bark, made tree spirits with clay art and things they had found in the forest and finally, in groups, made larger 'Art Attack' pictures using logs as a frame. They were lucky to have such beautiful weather and Phil taught them lots of new information about plants and animals. I3 had a great time! Thank you to Brockholes for making our learning so much fun!









At the beginning of June, the J1 children enjoyed a fun packed visit to the Chester Grosvenor Museum. The day started with an exciting workshop in a room full of Roman artefacts. The children learned all about how the Romans entered Chester and what daily life was like. They were then able to take part in lots of interesting activities such as wearing Roman costumes, building with Roman bricks, working in a Roman kitchen and digging for Roman artefacts. Jack was chosen to be a Roman soldier and he was very lucky as he was given the opportunity to wear Roman armour and hold Roman weapons. He looked fantastic! After lunch, everyone else was able to dress in armour and the children each had their own shield. They were led through the streets of Chester by their very own Roman Centurion who was excellent at shouting commands and keeping his new army in order. The children learned lots of Latin army commands and how to process as an army. The day ended with a trip to the museum gift shop where everyone was able to purchase a souvenir to take home as a reminder of their day. Everyone had a fantastic time!



J2 SAMLESBURY HALL

In June, J2 went to Samlesbury Hall. They were met by Mistress Marjory, the lady of the house. She told them that she didn't like the boys! They had a tour of the house and found out what life was like for the peasants and the Lord's family, who enjoyed lots of feasts in the Great Hall. The children were a little scared by the ghost stories and by George, who acted as a Catholic priest hiding from the King's soldiers. Everyone enjoyed their lunch outside in the courtyard and then designed their own shields and scary gargoyles. They ended their super day in the outdoor play area.



J3 WADDOW HALL

On a gloriously sunny day during May, the J3 children enjoyed a fabulous day at Waddow Hall on an outdoor activity day. All the children completed an assault course, crawled through tunnels, competed in a crate challenge and whizzed down a huge hill on a grass sledge! It was a fantastic day out and everyone returned home full of smiles!





t h i s y e a r ' s a d v e n t u r e weekend we travelled to Lincolnshire to the PGL centre, Caythorpe Court, near Grantham.

For

The students and staff had a tremendous time throughout the weekend participating in nine different adventure activities; from aeroball and kayaking to high-ropes sessions. The evening activities: Wacky Races, PGL Sports Night and Capture the Flag, certainly got the KGS competitiveness going strong! All had a fantastic time and made new friendships as well as cementing existing ones.

The outstanding attitude of our students was commented on by the PGL staff; everyone got involved, followed instructions and did their best. There was nothing but positive encouragement for others, especially those who were finding things a little tough reaching the higher points on some of the activities.

The KGS staff are very proud of all the students who came and are looking forward to next year's adventure.

Geography Fieldwork

On Friday 10th March, the A-level geographers set out to study how aspects of their local environment back up the theory of the water and carbon cycles that they had been studying in class. The day also allowed all pupils to experience a range of fieldwork techniques.

Starting off at the River Brock they measured aspects of the river channel as well as looking at infiltration rates and soil characteristics. They then set off up to Beacon Fell to continue their work moving from the summit of the fell down into the managed woodland and out to the visitor centre area. Throughout the morning the pupils looked at how the slope gradient changed, along with vegetation type, and how these factors influenced infiltration rates and soil characteristics.

The day finished with a visit to the confluence of the River Brock with the River Wyre, and a study of how the drainage basin as a whole operates and how it is both unique in nature, yet follows theoretical models and requires a significant level of river management.









Eco Committee - Potato Growing





I1 Chicks











J2 Science Topic - Teeth & Healthy Eating

















OPPORTUNITY *at KGJS*





J4 Design Technology Cars

















For the past seven years the Sixth Form artists and photographers have travelled to Europe as part of their preparation for their A-level examinations. Cities visited to date include Berlin, Paris and Rome. This year was an emphasis on French Art and Architecture so once again Paris was the destinations of choice. Once again it was a trip that was visually rewarding for everyone including staff and Sixth Formers.





THE FRENCH CONNECTION

201



GOSE & A-Level artwork 201















After getting to school at 7:30 in the morning, it's fair to say that excitement and disbelief had mixed into one feeling in our stomachs by the time we reached Manchester Airport. Having never been to New York before, I didn't know what to expect or whether it would live up to so many expectations... but only 6 hours later and I would be enlightened.

After arriving at JFK Airport, the first thing we noticed was an American Diner - I mean how more American can you get? As the beautiful view of the Big Apple drew nearer and nearer, the more the skyline was emphasised by the sunset, the more this magical experience began to feel

real. So many photographs were taken on the coach, because everybody was so amazed by the vastness of the city and the millions of bright lights. Upon arrival at the hotel, we put our luggage in our rooms and had a quick change before a much-needed meal at the Hard Rock Café in Times Square. We had the opportunity to marvel at all the dazzling lights, as well as experiencing the true hustle and bustle of New York City. However, we took kindly to a comfy bed after a long day travelling. This was only the beginning of our action-packed trip...

On our second day in the concrete jungle, we travelled by subway until we got to the building where we were going to take part in all our drama workshops (with professionals!) The first workshop was a stage combat class Here we would be taught how to stage fight by Christian -who choreographed stage fighting for hundreds of people in one of the Batman films! It's safe to say. we all felt a little star struck. During this time, we learned many new skills like how to successfully act out hairpulling, slapping and punching! We also learned the importance of posture, pressure. timing and facial

expressions. This will be extremely beneficial in terms of our practical performances for GCSE and A level, where we'll be able to successfully apply our newly found skills.

For the rest of the day, we went to the famous Grand Central Station (where we felt like we were in a movie), wandered down Fifth Avenue and squeezed in some other sightseeing before going back to the hotel. I loved how we were able to be independent during our free time and we could do what we wanted for short periods, but we would always be close to a member of staff so we would be able to contact them easily if needed. Quickly after returning, we were off out again exploring and arrived at Dave and Busters for a meal. We enjoyed the huge arcade there where we traded in our points for special prizes. Our workshop the next day was all about being quick-witted and always thinking one step ahead. Personally, I was a little intimidated by this one (because I didn't think I would be funny enough) but it ended up being my favourite workshop out of the three! The actor who ran the class, Lou Liberatore, has been in TV shows like 'The Good Wife' and used to be in the same acting class as Lisa Kudrow. "Friends" fans like me were so amazed - and a little jealous. The class developed our quick-thinking and improvisation skills. We were also able to work with different people in different years, which made everyone feel comfortable with each other. These improvisation skills will benefit everyone in the future, because a large portion of drama is improvising and creating our own scenes. The Quick Wits class definitely will help us in the coming years.

Later, we ventured up the Empire State Building which I knew was going to be great (after seeing all the incredible photos that have been taken in the past). However, I wasn't prepared for how windy it was going to be at the top. It was lightly snowing too! Nevertheless, it was one of the most breath-taking views I've ever seen, no picture can capture the beauty of this city. Then, we went to spend a little free time in Times Square followed by dinner at Ellen's Stardust Diner where the waiters and waitresses were aspiring Broadway performers who would burst into song because there was such a warm and welcoming atmosphere, it was impossible not to sing along! It also inspired me to be more confident as I saw how out-going and enthusiastic the privilege to see was 'Kinky Boots' which was absolutely incredible: the dancing, singing and acting was world-class. To be able to witness such great acting on Broadway at such a young age is something I will be forever grateful for.

The Statue of Liberty Cruise gave another exciting photo opportunity and we actually had the chance to go onto Liberty Island. This was lucky because previous New York Trips from KGS weren't able to do that (due to the weather) so it was particularly exciting to experience this. I was impressed to find out that Lady Liberty was given as a gift by the French to the people of the United States and how she is a sculpture of the goddess Libertas. I also found out that she was built by the same civil engineer who built the Eiffel Tower, Gustave Eiffel. The Statue Of Liberty provided me with knowledge, such as how the broken chains at her feet represent freedom and how she welcomes immigrants arriving from overseas.

After returning to the mainland, we walked down Wall Street, which looked very historical and smart. The next tourist place we went was the 9/11 Memorial where we admired and remembered all the people that were tragically killed back in 2001. This was a very emotional visit for many of us, as we didn't actually realise how beautiful the memorials would be. At the memorial, there was a pear tree known as the "Survivor Tree" which we learned had endured the terrors of the attack 16 years ago and is still undamaged to this day. It's amazing how this wonder of nature managed to live through such an event. The two huge waterfalls which lie where both the Twin Towers had been situated were packed full of the nearly 3,000 names of those who had passed away. Of course, many of us found this upsetting but it reminded us to consider how lucky we are. There were a few white roses placed on specific names which represented their birthdays, which just happened to be on Valentine's Day. I thought this was particularly moving and beautiful, as it represents how they are not forgotten.

Later we returned to Times Square for food, enjoying Bubba Gump Shrimp where we did a quiz about Forrest Gump. Following this, we went to see our second fabulous Broadway show which was called 'A Bronx Tale'. Once again, the singing and acting were to such a high standard and the plot line definitely tugged on my heart strings a little. Nonetheless, I left in high spirits.

All too soon, the final day was upon us and I really wasn't ready to leave. Who knew 5 days could go so quickly?



Jesse Swimm, who is currently performing in 'School Of Rock' on Broadway. He taught us the dance routine to one of the songs, 'Stick It To The Man'. We practised some vocal exercises beforehand to warm up our voices, so we could sing our hearts out when it came to performing the dance routine! We also learned many unique dance moves (that really helped to develop my dancing skills) as well as timing, which could contribute to my drama performances where we might need some degree of dancing expertise. It was a memorable experience that came with lots of nervous laughs from everyone, but I'm so glad we were given the opportunity to work with somebody who is on Broadway!

After that, we walked through Central Park which was still snowy after the recent snowfall. It looked so picturesque, so pretty. Some people went on a carousel - which was quite funny to watch, considering the rest of it was empty! Back onto Fifth Avenue to finish up some last-minute shopping to buy gifts for friends and family. Sadly, it was time to go back to the hotel, pack and get on the coach to the airport to go back home. But to be completely honest, I was so fulfilled with all the things that we did and all the things I had experienced with my friends that I wouldn't have traded it for anything.

We managed to fit so many incredible experiences into such a small space of time, so much so I didn't even believe it could be done... Yet we managed it (thanks to the great organisational skills and dedication from our great teachers!) I would whole-heartedly recommend this amazing New York trip to anybody considering it for the future, as it packed so much fun and learning into such a memorable experience.

Chloe Hyde



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CHARITYreport

In March 2017, Mrs Walter challenged pupils, parents and staff to cycle around the world; a distance of 18,674 miles in 31 days. A route was plotted that would take us over land and sea, through key cities and countries, before returning to Kirkham. This was a huge challenge. To complete it meant cycling a minimum of 602 miles a day on spin bikes hired in for the challenge. Two charities were chosen to support this challenge. Air Ambulance and a contribution towards specialist physiotherapy for a local 16 year old boy, Tom Carus, from a nearby school who suffered a freak accident during a rugby game. His recovery has been nothing short of a miracle. Air Ambulance's quick response helped to save his life but he continues to need physiotherapy (not available on the NHS) to regain full use of his left arm.

Money was raised by pupils 'hiring' a spin bike for £1 for every 15 minutes they cycled. Generous sponsorship of the bikes by parents covered our bike costs meaning every pound earned went straight to our charities. Parents were also encouraged to be part of our challenge by either coming in on a designated Saturday to cycle or by using their own bike to clock up the miles.

By March 31st we had done incredibly well cycling just over 12,000 miles. Mrs Walter extended the challenge over Easter and was delighted with the number of families sending in their miles. A further 5,313 miles were recorded taking our final mileage cycled to 17,374, just 1,218 miles short of our target! As we ended in the Atlantic Ocean, close to the East Coast of Ireland perhaps there could be a swimming challenge in the future?

Despite not quite making our target, we managed to raise £1,652. Lynne Whittaker from North West Air Ambulance visited our school assembly to receive a cheque for £1000 (photo above right). The remainder of funds raised will be given to Tom Carus which will enable him to have 10 sessions of physiotherapy.

A huge thank you has to go to the KGS community who got behind this challenge and made it such a success.



2X Charity challenge

2X took on the challenge of raising money for charity. They chose two charities to support: The Critical Care Unit at the Royal Preston Hospital and Cancer Research UK. The Critical Care Unit was chosen as this ward and its dedicated staff had been of utmost support to a member of our form and her family. Cancer Research UK was chosen, as a parent of one of our form members was involved in a Lands End to John O Groats cycle ride raising money for this charity.

2X held a cake sale, sold sweetie quizzes and organised a Guess the Name of the Teddy Bear competition. The form raised £400 in just under 3 weeks and we were delighted to hand £200 to each charity. The form not only had to work as a team throughout, but their understanding of the work of the Critical Care Unit and the support it gave to Lydia and her family was really appreciated by all, as was their understanding of the teamwork and support of others for the massive cycle ride challenge undertaken by Ethan's father and his friends. 2X would like to thank all those in the school community that supported their fundraising efforts.





FUNDRAISING FOR BRIAN HOUSE



Towards the end of May, the Junior children took part in the annual House Singing Celebration. Each house performed a song of their choice to our adjudicators, Mr Berry and Simon Cox, the producer of the charity song, Golden Days. After this, the children recorded 'Golden Days', which has been produced to raise money for Brian House Children's Hospice. Thank you to Simon for allowing us to be part of this fantastic experience, for a very worthwhile cause!

The recording will be available to purchase in due course so watch this space!



In April, over forty children, along with Mr Oddie, Mr Butterworth, Mrs Aldeen, Mr Lewis and Miss Cooper took part in a Charity Triathlon in aid of Brian House Children's Hospice. The event was held at Kirkham Baths for swimming and Preston Sports Arena for running and cycling. When they arrived at Kirkham Baths everyone swam 10 lengths of the pool, with most choosing different styles for each length. Everyone had so much fun. Next, everyone travelled to Preston Sports Arena to do both the running and the cycling. There was a slight change this year with everyone running one lap of the cycle track before jumping on their bikes for the three miles of cycling. Everyone tried their best and it was wonderful to see the encouragement and support they gave each other. This showed great sportsmanship and team effort. A huge thank you to all pupils and parents who made the 'Copper up for Cancer' such a success with your generous contributions of 1ps and 2ps for our 'Pink Wheelbarrow'. A fantastic £1396.50 was raised from the triathlon and the Copper up for Cancer appeal and all monies raised have been donated to Brian House. A huge well done to everyone on your fantastic efforts for this very worthwhile cause.







COPPER UP FOR CANCER





Over the last six months our DofE students have worked incredibly hard on all aspects of their awards. The activities undertaken for the Skill, Physical and Volunteering sections show the breadth and variety of amazing pursuits our students take part in. Their efforts with learning a new skill whether that be playing a musical instrument, learning to cook or growing garden vegetables are so interesting to hear about as are the reports on the sporting hobbies undertaken for the physical section. The time given to help others for the volunteering section is phenomenal, the reports from both assessors and our students tell of how eyes have been opened to the importance of helping others and the enjoyment that is achieved from doing so.

As our 4th, 5th and 6th Form work through the Award system our 3rd Years have started their Bronze Award; a new initiative by the DofE Award Scheme has allowed all students in the 3rd Year (irrespective of when they turn 14) to start the Bronze Award. Our 3rd Year enjoyed a practice expedition in the Lake District in June and will hopefully complete their Bronze Award in the Autumn term.

Over 70 of our 4th Year will have completed their Bronze expeditions this year and those undertaking their expedition at Easter enjoyed very good walking weather, however the previous months of rain did mean the route was very muddy in places. All completed the walk in great spirits and were a credit to the School.

At Easter our Silver and Gold groups were also out on expedition and enjoyed a practice

expedition in the North Yorkshire Moors. They have been working hard on their navigation skills, route cards and menu plans ready for the assessed Expedition this July. We wish them every success as they head from the Langdale Valley to Keswick and then take in the beauty of the Northern Lake District Fells. Since the last newsletter we have had a great number of awards and two of our former students have attended Buckingham Palace to receive their Gold Awards from HRH Duke of Edinburgh. Another 6 are off to Holyrood Palace in July.

We wish all our DofE participants well as they continue with their DofE Awards and future plans.





IOHADA FOOTPATH

NEWOOD ALE VALLEY

GOLD

Sian Atkinson Hannah Fingleton Cara Townsend Caroline Paley Jack Culver Cara Roberts James Smith Robert Ellis Olivia Gornall Rachel Horsfield Grace Reddy Rebecca Chatwin Finlay Burnie Will Smith Owen Hay Cameron Hartley Josh Elliot Charlotte Bell Arron O'Neill Nathan Wood Alex Latham

SILVER

Isabel Kavanagh Danielle Begley Philippa Armstrong Eleanor Moss Francesca Furnival Ella Townsend Ieuan Corcoran Matthew Lewthwaite Marco Wong Venkata Karri Niall Higham Jack Livsey Chloe Hyde Niamh McFarlane Lawrence Gebbie Sebastian Roche Lily O'Brien Ran Parkinson Sam Davies Zoey Wong Charles Bradbury Aaron Bradshaw Ella Dowds James Devereux

BRONZE

Charles Partington Charlotte McDonald Matthew Cooke Tom Treaddell Luke Fuentes Moreno Hugo Morris Alexandra Oddie Cameron Hawkes Thomas Giles Callum Doyle Isabelle Slater Aaron Bradshaw Alastair Cairney James Harrison Amelia Schreiber Lauren Fraser Lansona Kershaw Cameron Wilkinson Joseph Shield Freyja Powell Sadie Schreiber Will Dowbiggin Aaron Hardman Eva Carroll Jordan Bamber Megan Hughes Lydia Williamson Óakley Pendergest Will Gregory Oliver Wright Charlotte O'Neill Chris Savidge Hannah Standley



The last two terms of CCF have been filled with activity, with the contingent going from strength to strength, and some cadets winning honours at the highest level. After Christmas, we began our first ever NCO Cadre for the 5th year to prepare them for being Non-Commissioned Officers next year. The Cadre, run by Sgt Charlie Bradbury and Cpl Kieran Butler has been a huge success, and has incorporated the 10 volunteers from Carr Hill who have joined our contingent as part of the expansion program. The Cadre has been very successful with 26 new potential NCOs, with training using our new BB weapons in a Close-quarters Battle Range to test the cadets teamwork.

Also, Flight Sgt Rachel Horsefield who is the current Lord Lieutenants' Cadet for Lancashire attended a reception in Buckingham palace (photo right), and had the chance to meet several dignitaries. Sadly, this will be Rachel's last formal duty before she hands over to next year's Lord Lieutenants' Cadet. The contingent has been extremely fortunate, despite winning Lord Lieutenants' cadet last year and several other honours; Sgt Charlie Bradbury (photo opposite page top) has been awarded Deputy Lord Lieutenants' cadet for Lancashire, and Cpl Ran Parkinson (photo opposite page bottom) has been presented with a commendation for outstanding service to the cadet and reserve forces.

The contingent was requested to provide a Flag Party for the centenary National Lions Charity Convention in April, where 6 cadets attended the convention centre and met the world president of the Lions Association, and carried out the Flag Ceremony in front of hundreds of spectators. Also in April, we held the Spring term field day and overnight exercise where a platoon of lower 6th, 5th and 4th year deployed to Halton training camp for a blank firing overnight exercise, with the upper 6th playing enemy, and the lower 6th testing and developing leadership skills in senior command positions in the platoon. The exercise tested cadet's leadership, team work and military skills. The field day the next day was enjoyed by cadets across all four years, and involved over a dozen activities from archery, live shooting on the range, leadership tasks and basha building, to climbing and BB CQBR (Close Quarter Battle Range).

Now the emphasis is on training ready for annual summer camp, the highlight of the CCF Calendar, where we will be taking 50 cadets and 7 staff to Nescliffe Defence Training Estate, for what promises to be the crowning event in a year of success for the contingent.











Amazing tale of survival expert Dave

THINK of the most extreme and challenging environments and terrains on the globe and Dave Pearce has more than likely braved them. Survival specialist Dave, 47, has travelled the world on wild adventures in humid jungles, scorching deserts and freezing mountains while lending his expertise to some of the country's top television adventures.

The dad-of-three is a safety adviser to the television and film industry and has worked with famous explorers Bear Grylls and Bruce Parry. A former Royal Marine Commando of 24 years, Dave spoke to the CCF about his many adventures. Dave's wealth of extreme experiences range from scaling Everest's challenging North Face in 2003 to dining on bugs and maggots in far flung corners of the world.

When Dave left the Royal Marines he got the opportunity to go on a trip with television adventurer Bruce Parry and spent three months in Greenland on an expedition to the North Pole.

"The biggest thing for me in many ways was when I summited Everest," said Dave.

"I stepped over dead bodies on the way to the top and was the only Brit to summit that year. I was quite lucky to get down. My mate had to turn back with frostbite quite close to the top. It was a lonely and haunting place."

Dave's mantra is 'come back alive, come back friends and come back successful'- in that order.

Speaking about Bear Grylls, with whom he has become a friend, he said: "We've had lots of adventures together around the world in all sorts of environments. It's been good, bad, tough and great, emotional, non-emotional, funny and sad. That's what these environments throw at you."

The key to survival is the combination of skills, ingenuity and determination and there are few men with whom display these qualities as comprehensively as Dave Pearce.









KGS CCF CADETS HONOURED

Sgt Charlie Bradbury (photo above) has been awarded Deputy Lord Lieutenants' Cadet for Lancashire, and Cpl Ran Parkinson (photo top) has been presented with a commendation for Outstanding Service to the Cadet and Reserve Forces.





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ENSIC SCIENTISTS J3 FORENSIC SCIENTISTS J3 FOREN





As part of J3's Science Topic, Super Scientists, Caroline, a forensic scientist, came in to speak to the children about her role within the police. The morning was very interesting for the children (and staff!) and everyone was amazed by how the material evidence gathered from the crime scene, victim and/or suspect is used by the forensic scientists. Their role is to examine these materials to provide scientific evidence to assist in the investigation and court proceedings. All the children lifted fingerprints, swabbed for DNA, collected fibres and took an impression of their own footprint. Miss Evans even had a clay shoeprint made from her shoe which can be used as evidence! Thank you Caroline for coming into KGJS, the morning was not only educational, but fascinating and great fun, too!





















'Fabulous show', 'incredibly talented children', 'hard to believe the children are only seven to eleven years of age', 'superb and professional production' and 'absolutely loved every second of it' were just a few of the wonderful comments from guests after the March production of 'Aladdin'.

The audience were amazed from the moment the curtain lifted to reveal a 'West End' stage set, matched by equally stunning costumes, which brought the characters to life, wonderful singing and dancing, as well as a little humour thrown in, too! The show was absolutely phenomenal, enhanced by special effect lighting, smoke machines and pyrotechnics, which added amazing effects to the magnificent backdrop for this fairytale story! Every child performed superbly to make a truly spectacular and breathtaking show. Huge congratulations to all involved in making this a tremendous success... a true team effort! Well done, everybody!







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RESENTS SCHOOL

MUSIC

The spring term saw the return of the annual House 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, or maybe even progress to 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 Alistair McKenzie was the adjudicator for the day and he had the unenviable task of selecting a winner of the House Music and winner of House Choirs. After a compelling and exciting day, Alexandra Clarke was declared the winner. She was pushed all the way by Brioni Crowe who was runner up in a sensational final. The House choirs were equally thrilling and it was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and participation from all students and staff. The winners of the Ensemble final were Louis Johnson and Aaron O'Neill, with a beautifully arranged pie of Jazz. The Gala Concert in late March gave an invited audience the opportunity to hear the winners and items from the final. It was a truly wonderful evening with outstanding contributions from all performers in the rather more relaxed environment of a concert. With talent like this, KGS music is clearly producing some of the highest standard music making in the northwest and it continues to be a beacon of excellence and high standards in all genres of music.

Again the choir excelled in their performance at the Founders' Day service at St Michael's Church. They sang music from Pitoni, Pachelbel and Rutter, their voices ringing clear and true. A great example and so polished.

There are many students who are performing at the highest level outside the school; members of the National Youth Orchestra, National Children's Orchestra, Lancashire Schools Symphony and Concert Bands, Halle Youth Orchestra, Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, together with numerous prize winners from the annual Lytham Festival, where this year Kirkham Grammar won in most categories. We also have students who attend the Royal Northern College of Music Junior Department and a student who has just played flugel horn in the final of the BBC 2 Young Brass Musician of the Year, not forgetting an organist who has had the prestigious honour of playing at St. Paul's Cathedral.

There have also been many achievements in the ABRSM exams where many students received Merits and Distinctions.

Spring Concert showcases Sixth Form leavers and up-andcoming talent

The remarkable range and depth of musical talent fostered by the Music Department was showcased at the Kirkham Grammar School Spring Concert. With prominent roles for the many Upper Sixth A-Level musicians for whom this was their final official appearance in a school concert, the audience was treated to a range of styles of music by soloists and ensembles.



Solo items by Upper Sixth Leavers came from Hannah Fingleton, who performed Cesar Franck's Violin Sonata in A Major as well as her parts on flute, saxophone, violin and voice in various ensembles; Joanna Bako singing Danny Boy; Robbie Ellis with Seafret's Skimming Stones on guitar and vocal; and Freya Bennett with the Third Movement of Mozart's Violin Concerto on flute. All of these Upper Sixth students excelled, reminding us how much they will be missed next year, and they and their year group colleagues in the various choirs and ensembles also reminded us of the annual challenge of replacing talented and dedicated students as they leave to continue their careers at university and beyond.

However, talented Lower Sixth musicians Lydia Lythgoe, singing Gurney's Spring, James Nash with Charlier's Solo de Concours on trumpet and Molly Andrews singing Hahn's A Chloris provided a reassuring reminder that they will step up next year to lead KGS music's sustained excellence. The Orchestra, String Group, Choir, Concert Band, Flute Group and Swing Band also entertained in a variety of styles ranging from Tchaikovsky to Gounod, from Pitoni to Fauré, whilst readings from our LAMDA students provided a pleasing and appropriate contrast to the music.

Outgoing Secretary of the Music Society, Upper Sixth student Hannah Fingleton spoke on behalf of all in her vote of thanks.







OKA MUSICIANS





I arrived at Kirkham as a music scholar and immediately joined the concert band and the choir. These groups were to form many of my lasting friendships through KGS and beyond. Music was central to my life throughout KGS leading Kirkham House Choir to victory in the House Music competition still goes down as one of my proudest achievements. Even when I stopped studying it as an academic subject (I instead took English, Maths, Politics and Chemistry through to 6th Form) it remained what I spent the majority of my lunchtimes and free periods doing – my family always said that I didn't have time to get into trouble as I was always busy with music.

When I left to go to study English at Oxford University, my music came with me – quite literally (I had bags full of musical theatre scores that lived in my university rooms). I sang with a jazz group. I joined a rock band, playing college bars, balls and the occasional wedding.

Music is the habit that I have never quite managed to break. In my career as an actor, the musical skills that I honed at KGS serve me professionally on a daily basis. Last Christmas, I performed in a musical touring children's hospices. Last summer I played my clarinet in a play celebrating William Shakespeare. Music has given me such joy and brought me wonderful professional opportunities, and the start that I got at KGS has played an enormous role in this.

Caitlin McMillan



Joe Martin, a former student of Kirkham Grammar always had a passion for music, performing in school concerts, musicals and plays. He went on to study music at Runshaw College when he was seventeen, and while at Runshaw, he studied all music subjects which included Music A Level, Music Technology and a specialised Music Virtuoso course.

Joe recently graduated from the Leeds College of Music with first class honours, and has since been carving his own path in the music industry. Just before moving to Leeds, Joe started to write and perform country music.

At university he formed a band that went on to perform at some of the most respected and recognised Country and Folk festivals across the UK, including London's Country to Country festival held at the 02, the Great British Folk festival and The High and Lonesome festival in Leeds.

Over his three years there, Joe also supported Country duos The Shires and Ward Thomas as part of their UK tours. Joe is now back in Lancashire and focusing exclusively on his own solo endeavours, releasing an EP on the 1 May after his second trip to Nashville Tennessee, performing and collaborating with other songwriters while he's there. A recent collaboration between Joe and two others during a songwriting retreat in Normandy France, was played by Bob Harris on Radio 2 earlier this year.

Joe Martin





I studied Latin, English Literature, Maths and Further Maths for A-Level and went on to read Classics at Oxford University. I am now an accountant, working in London's West End. Music was a large part of my life at KGS, with a different rehearsal every day of the week. It was always amazing to see so many students involved in music at school, especially during House Music. The Gala concert was one of the highlights of the year! Some of my best memories of school were from the concerts and performances. At university, I was keen to keep up my musical exploits and was involved in college choirs and ensembles. I also spent much of my free time producing and directing musical theatre.

Music is still extremely important to me, and I am currently co-writing a musical with my boyfriend, who happens to be a music teacher! Although I don't play as much as I would like to. I do regularly dig out my old pieces and have a go - I may be a little rusty but the fingers don't forget!

Lucy Fielding







Since becoming a Classical music student at Leeds College of Music, I have thrived in all aspects of my playing, not only in technique but in performing as well. Having weekly performance classes in a venue that seats 350 people has enabled me to become more accustomed to a performance setting. As a soloist, I have had the opportunity to perform in masterclasses with renowned flautists such as Fiona Fulton (2nd flute for the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra) and Anna Noakes. Masterclasses like these are vital to grow as a soloist because it allows you to get feedback on pieces that you've been working on.

In September I gained a place in the LCoM Wind Orchestra, where I got to work with older students and professional conductors on a wide variety of repertoire. After working with Tom Newall, I was then asked to play in the pit band for the Leeds Youth Opera's rendition of Les Miserables in February 2017 and I am currently in the process of auditioning for their next production in July.

As first flute of the Student Union Camerata, I have performed at Leeds Minster and recently finished filming for the Leeds City of Culture bid for 2023. I will also be touring to Amsterdam later this year, playing in some amazing venues across the city.

My most recent opportunity to perform has been with the newly formed Yorkshire Symphony Orchestra which was set up to help <u>ease musici</u>ans in to the professional world.

Kezia Taylor

In October 2015, I participated in the PercussivLinz International Marimba Competition held at the Anton Bruckner Privatuniversität in Linz, Austria. I was a semifinalist and received the Wave Quartet Award. Shortly after the competition in January 2016, I moved to Linz, Austria to start my bachelor degree in Music, studying marimba under the tuition of the international marimba soloist Professor Bogdan Bacanu, and percussion with the solo timpanist of the Bruckner Orchestra Professor Leonhard Schmidinger. From March this year I also study piano as a second instrument with Alisa Besevic-Busslechner.

The Wave Quartet award took place in September 2016, where I featured as one of the soloists in a CD recording on the renowned Sony Classical Label alongside the Wave Quartet and L'Orfeo Baroque Orchestra. The recording consisted of 4 Bach Harpsichord Concertos adapted for 2, 4 and 8 marimbas and orchestra. Concerts from this project were held at the Brucknerhaus Linz.

Other projects have included playing percussion with the Austrian-Korean Symphony Orchestra in Linz and Vienna; with the EUphony Central European Youth Orchestra with concerts in Linz, Graz, Ljubljana and Zagreb; and 3 concerts in Romania, Linz and Salzburg with the Romanian National Orchestra and the Wave Quartet. In the summer of 2016, I also participated in the International Summer Academy held at the Mozarteum in Salzburg.

Future plans include concerts at the Vienna Konzerthaus with a mass percussion ensemble featuring in the latest CD recording of the solo percussionist Christoph Sietzen which will be recorded at the Atheneum Hall in Romania.

Elliott Gaston-Ross







KIRKHAM Grammar School

AIMING HIGH





ISLE OF MAN TRIP

At the beginning of February, 22 KGJS U11s set off early on a three day Sports Tour to the Isle of Man. Their first destination was Liverpool Airport for their 11am flight. 23 minutes and 51 seconds later they landed in the beautiful IOM! The tour party were based at King Williams College in Castletown where, once again, they were really well looked after, as they have been for the last 10 years. During the 3 day tour they played Rugby, Hockey, Netball and Football. They experienced wins, losses and draws against The Buchan School, King Williams College and the Isle of Man teams. Away from the fixtures, the pupils took part in Laser Blast, Swimming and a local quiz which was based in Castletown. All the children had a wonderful time and, even though they were playing away, almost 30 travelling supporters also made the journey over! The tour party would like to thank the following parents for providing sponsorship for the purchase of our tour kit, which enabled us to look extremely smart; Mr and Mrs Maude, Mr and Mrs Gut, Mr and Mrs Jones, Mr and Mrs Margerison, Mr and Mrs Thompson, Mr and Mrs Kane and Mr and Mrs Cole. Finally, all the pupils were an absolute credit to the school, both on and off the sports field, with many favourable comments made from everyone we met. Well done, you all made KGJS very proud.









J4TRIPTOCHILLFACTOR & MEDIA CITY At the same time, J4 pupils travelled to



Manchester for an amazing day out at the Chill Factore and Media City. When they arrived at their first stop, the Chill Factore, they went to the Snow Park. The children had a brilliant time, slipping and sliding in the freezing cold snow. They had a go on the downhill doughnuts, the Sledge 'O' Mania and Slip n' Slide. Once their hour of snowy awesomeness was over, they enjoyed lunch at Pizza Hut which, of course, included a trip to the Ice Cream Factory to flood their ice creams with sprinkles!! After lunch, they travelled to Media City, where they had a personalised tour to show them what it was like for the presenters, producers and actors. The children met Karim and Hacker from CBBC and even managed to get their autographs/paw prints! The J4s were then split into two groups with one group having a go at vlogging and the other watching Karim and Hacker perform live. They then swapped activities. Everyone thought it was an amazing experience! As always, the children were a credit to the school.



























SKI TRIP

During the Easter holidays, twenty four KGJS pupils and four teachers travelled to Zell Am See in Austria for the KGJS Ski Trip. They arrived at the Gartenhotel Daxer, their hotel for the week, where they enjoyed five fun-packed days of skiing. Evening entertainment included a karaoke night, a visit to the best pizza restaurant in Zell Am See, a swim at a spa, a walk into town to watch an ice hockey match, a movie night and, on the final night, a disco. Everyone had an amazing time and all agreed they would love to go skiing again! Thank you to all the instructors at TGM for a fantastic trip.



After an early start from school and a direct flight from Manchester to Salzburg, the KGS party enjoyed a picturesque journey to Zell am See; arriving mid-afternoon in glorious sunshine. As last year, Hotel Gruner Baum did not disappoint with a superb new dining room constructed since our last visit.

The first day's skiing was sublime. The sun was shining and the clear blue sky was dotted with hot air balloons. All found their ski legs quickly with one pupil ably demonstrating the importance of the emergency card system by losing his group... Despite his phone not working, he was safely returned to the group with the help of some English tourists who contacted Mrs Parkinson and met up at the gondola station, Areitbahn1. The evening activity was an introduction to Austrian curling, with other activities during the week including: night skiing, ice hockey match, pizzeria visit and quiz night.

Day 2 commenced with blue skies and brilliant sunshine once again with conditions remaining for the visit to the glacier at Kaprun the next day. It really was picture postcard perfect, with the wide slopes and good snow boosting the progress made by our skiers. In fact, with five days sunshine and blue skies, the group's diligent application of sun cream is to be commended. No burns or extreme goggle tans in sight!

Sadly, conditions were very different for the last day of skiing. KGS were up and ready in full fancy dress (we looked good!) but the weather was not kind. We all got to experience where snow comes from, which made it difficult to



see and very wet. A rather soggy party of skiers returned to the hotel mid-afternoon to get warm and dry – and with a suspected concussion and hospital visit, not a moment too soon!

A later start on Saturday morning was most welcome after the evening's festivities, with one final opportunity to purchase gifts before the party left, with all back at school by late afternoon. Phew!



Sandham Fitchett Arts

Commited teachers with high expectations.A fun and hardworking dance school to be a

- Facebook Review

part of!

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. We cater for all ages from total beginner through to vocational Students, gaining 100% successful examination results with the British Theatre Dance Association.

Our Studio classes are held in Preston, Fulwood, Cottam, Blackburn, Longton, Woodplumpton and Kirkham & Wesham.

Classes held at... Woodplumpton Preston Kirkham & Wesham Fulwood Blackburn Longton Cottam

Please visit our website or contact us on: www.fitchettproll.co.uk 01772 682019/07770233007 I love my Mummy



During the Pre-School and I1 Mothers' Day Afternoon Tea at the end of March, the children presented their mummies with a single rose and then sat with them to enjoy a cake and a drink. They then performed a special poem and each of them told their mummy why they love her so much! A wonderful afternoon was had by all!



SPORTS DAY 2017 Inter House Athletics Competition







Junior Boys SPORT

U12 Boys Badminton

The U12 boys' badminton team enjoyed playing against a number of local schools in two tournaments organised by the Wyre & Fylde PE Assosiation.



U12 Boys Basketball A and B Teams The A and B basketball teams coached by Mr McLaughlin enjoyed two festivals at Garstang High during February.







U12 and U13 Boys Hockey

The Under 12 and Under 13 `A` and `B` Squads embarked on their first ever series of matches during the Easter term which proved a useful exercise. The Under 12 team, although playing a solitary match had a very creditable 3-3 draw against Rossall.

The Under 13 squads played their initial game at Lancaster with the 'B' team winning comfortably by 6-0 and the 'A' team 10-0 with Charles McNamee scoring 4 goals, the rest were shared between Aaron Pope, Jake Merrick and James Thompson. Both teams played with a sound structure and possessed goalkeepers, Ben Dhillon and Tobias Parkinson, who defended their territory as if their lives depended on it. The second game at Rossall proved a much sterner test, however in the 'A' game Kirkham enjoyed the majority of the ball throughout but had very little luck in front of goal; Rossall defending resolutely to repel the Kirkham attacks. Jake Merrick stood out with his relentless running, tackling and skilful stick work.

The last fixtures were played again at Rossall in the In2 Hockey' Tournament with both squads playing in a group of four teams, the top two from each group going forward to the semifinals. The 'B' team could not manage a win but were tireless in their efforts but the 'A' team, after two wins and a draw against the hosts, went onto the semi-final but lost narrowly 1-0.



Boys & Girls Swimming

Both the girls and boys swimming teams have produced some excellent performances this year in mixed galas. They have competed in the Stanley Cook Trophy at QEGS Blackburn and The Blackburn Quadrangular Gala as well as friendly fixtures against Hulme Grammar School, Westholme School, QEGS and Bolton School. The team enjoyed success in several events and were very ably led by Sammy Jo Hollings.

Many of our Swimmers have gone on to represent the county and beyond which takes a lot of time and dedication. A special mention should go to Imogen Moss and Kirsty Williams for their achievements this year.



SPORTING EXCELLENCE





GRAMMAR

RUGBY

SCHOOL

KIRKHAM



ENGLAND CAPS

Three Sixth Formers gained their England RUFC Caps.

England U18 XV Kieran Wilkinson Arron Reed

24

England Counties U18 XV Henry Pearson

Rugby **REPORT** 2016/2017

1st XV

Coach:

Captain: Player of the Year: Most Improved Player: Mr A E Trenhaile Mr J P Roddam Arron Reed Arron Reed Matthew Gallagher

Season Statistics

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points For	Points Against	Points Difference
16	15	0	1	644	117	527

Although KGS 1st XV had a slow start to the season the team improved dramatically after playing and losing to Blackrock College Dublin. The side were always able to score tries at crucial times and especially Captain Arron Reed. The team's defence was a major feature in being able to secure away victories at Abingdon School (32-12), Sir Thomas Rich (45-3), Sedbergh School (15-9) and Woodhouse Grove (20-6). Arron Reed scored 19 tries and Kieran Wilkinson scored 142 in points during an outstanding season which was maintained in winning The Christ Brecon 7s, The Colstons 7s and The North Of England 7s. For full reports on games and tournaments please use www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk

2nd XV

Coach: Captain: Player of the Year: Most Improved Player: Mr J R Lyon Will Smith Connor James Andrew Bullman

Season Statistics

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points For	Points Against	Points Difference
14	11	0	3	530	168	362

The 2nd XV enjoyed another productive season only losing three games all season. There were excellent wins against a strong Queen Ethelburga's side who raced to a 19-5 lead before Kirkham hit back to race to a 34-19 victory. This was followed by comfortable victories over St Ambrose, Lancaster GS, Denstone and Audenshaw 1st XV, with winger Andrew Bullman and Full Back Leon Simpson prominent in all the games. Further wins over St Mary's, Crosby and Sir Thomas Rich from Gloucester (36-15) led the squad into the hardest part of the season. The matches at Sedbergh and Woodhouse Grove saw two losses, the first a very competitive affair, the other at the 'Grove' a hangover from the bruising battle at Sedbergh. The season was rounded off with three wins against Kings Macclesfield (34-3), Ripley St. Thomas (48-0) and Runshaw College (19-17) which was a re-match from earlier in the season. A fantastic effort from the whole squad throughout who benefitted immensely from the many sessions with the 1st XV, well done to all and in particular Captain Will Smith who led the squad with maturity and huge commitment.



U16 XV

Coach:

Captain: Player of the Year: Most Improved Player: Mr J D Walker Dr A B Rollins Nathan Wood Nathan Wood David Towers

Mr J P Roddam

Oliver Barnett

Chudi Ezeigbo

Elliot Callow

Season Statistics

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points For	Points Against	Points Difference
11	8	1	2	357	115	242

The U16 XV had a positive season on the whole, a share in a Lancashire Cup and a positive run at Rosslyn Park demonstrate this. The team will be frustrated with a couple of missed opportunities against good quality opposition, with a narrow defeat against Sedbergh proving to be a frustrating result. However against most U16 opponents this KGS team were dominant, with huge wins against RGS Lancaster, <u>Denstone College and Wirral GS</u>.

The team was well led by Nathan Wood, with several other strong characters supporting him. The quality of rugby on show was also consistently good, with the boys demonstrating a real ability to play from all areas of the pitch, this is something I believe that the boys deserve particular praise for.

U15 XV

Coach: Captain: Player of the Year: Most Improved Player:

Season Statistics

 Played
 Won
 Drawn
 Lost
 Points For
 Points Against
 Points Difference

 18
 17
 0
 11
 332
 533
 -201

The U15 XV had a tough start to the season with a couple of difficult fixtures on the road at Northampton School for Boys and Wirral Grammar. However, a hard fought win over St Ambrose in their first home game helped to instil self-belief and confidence in their ability. New pupils Elliot Callow (wing) and Jonty Cope (scrum half) made a significant impact to the team, with Captain Olly Barnett leading by example throughout the season. Angus Wheeler's move to fly half mid-way through the season brought composure to the backline and really allowed centres Sam Davies and Alex Carson to flourish. Olly Mills was abrasive as ever on the right wing and Archie Cooper counter attacked well from fullback. Max Bailey was the powerhouse of the forward pack, providing plenty of go forward ball. Second rows Luke Dean and Chudi Ezeigbo complemented each other well, with Ezeigbo emerging as the most improved player. The team finished runners up in the Lancashire Plate Final where they put in a fantastic performance against a strong Merchant Taylor's side.





U16XVrugby Joint Lancashire Cup Winners KGS 5:5 MGS





U13 XV

Coach: Captain: Player of the Year: Mr G S Partington Gregor Anderson 'A' Jake Merrick 'B' Theo Mihell 'A' Yande Nkonge 'B' Will Hooper

Most Improved Player:

Season Statistics <u>'A' Team</u>

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points For	Points Against	Points Difference
16	10	0	6	420	295	125

'B' Team

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points For	Points Against	Points Difference
6	2	0	4	115	210	-95

An encouraging season for the entire U13 XV squad, with all of the boys adapting well to the new laws of the game.

The 'B' team trained incredibly well throughout the course of the season and found deserved victories in a number of fixtures, scoring some impressive tries along the way. Furthermore, a number of boys went on to represent the 'A' team, indicating the depth of talent evident in the squad.

The 'A' Team had a promising season in their weekend fixtures, which eventually led to some cohesive, dominant performances against several strong sides. In addition, the team went on to win the Lancashire Cup and enjoyed a successful campaign in the National Cup, progressing through to the last 16. Further to their success in the XV's, the squad remained unbeaten throughout the 7s season, winning tournaments at Packwood Haugh, AKS and Stonyhurst, as well as a successful visit to the prestigious Berkhamsted invitational.

I look forward to seeing the future development of the squad as they progress through the school and wish them well for the future.

Mr J R Lyon

Mr M Sutcliffe Mr G Brookes

Charlie Read

'A' Archie Dowds

'B' Jorge Zacharias

'B' Ben Nicholls 'A' Matthew Wright

U12 XV

Coach:

Captain: Player of the Year:

Most Improved Player:

Season Statistics

4' I	eam

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points For	Points Against	Points Difference
16	6	0	6	330	245	85

'B' Team

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points For	Points Against	Points Difference
8	3	1	4	100	175	-75

The Under 12 XV season was an encouraging one in terms of performance and effort from all the boys. Attendance at training was excellent throughout, with all the coaches impressed by the boys energy and enthusiasm.

There were good wins for the `A` team against Lancaster RGS (20-20) and Kings Macclesfield(40-15) and narrow defeats away at Woodhouse Grove (5-10), a notoriously hard school to beat at their home ground, and Hutton Grammar School, losing to a last play try by 25-30. The season was rounded off with two wins, one a 70-5 victory at Altrincham Grammar School, the other a very hard fought win at Calday Grange (15-10)

The `B` Team, who won 3/8 with one draw fought hard in every game. There were wins against Birkdale (20-5), Denstone College (25-10), Woodhouse Grove (50-10) which was a superb effort by the whole squad at a very difficult venue to succeed. The draw away at Hutton was very encouraging with the boys scrapping for everything and tackling well.

U14 XV

Coach: Captain: Player of the Year: Most Improved Player: Mr J D Walker Teddy Bruce Rory McKirdy John Ellis

Season Statistics

Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points For	Points Against	Points Difference		
17	11	0	6	439	265	174		
'B' Team								
Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points For	Points Against	Points Difference		
5	2	0	3	132	152	-20		

A mixed year in some ways, however in my view the most important feature of the U14 XV season is that there were some huge positives shining through by the end of it.

I do firmly believe that going unbeaten as U12s created difficulties for this team. It made learning more difficult, after all what do you need to learn if you have been unbeaten as a teenage boy?! However it is testament to the personality of the boys in the team that they developed a real thirst for knowledge through the season and anybody who saw the 7s season will certainly agree that the boys developed themselves hugely, especially after Christmas.

The most pleasing point I have to make is that we are half way through a two year programme with this team and we are in all likelihood ahead of where I expected to be at the end of year one. I have high hopes that the U15 XV season will demonstrate the best in these boys as players and people, which will lead them into senior schoolboy rugby in the best possible position.

RUGBY 7s

During March, the U11A Rugby team travelled to St Mary's Crosby to take part in a 7s Rugby tournament. The team achieved wins against Altrincham Prep (20-5), Merchant Taylors A (25-10), Merchant Taylors B (40-0) and St Anselm's (35-0) and only lost one game against St Ambrose. Kirkham progressed to the final to again face St Ambrose. The final score was 30-0 to Kirkham and they were crowned the Daniel Davies 7s Cup Winners. Well done to all!



Kirkham took part in the AJIS Indoor Athletics Championships again this year which was held at the excellent facilities at Robin Park in Wigan. 26 schools from throughout the North West took part and the atmosphere was electric! The competition was always going to be tough but the team had prepared well and were highly motivated to represent KGJS with pride. We were not to be disappointed and yet again we exceeded expectations. There were many excellent performances which only just missed out, in what is a very competitive event. We are immensely proud of what our athletes achieved against many larger schools. Noteable performances included new records in the following events; Owain Heathcote-Jones U11 Boys Balance, James Shuttleworth U10 Boys Balance as well as Harry Marsh, Ben Firth, Jenson Stott and Mason Wilkins in the U10 Boys Obstacle Relay. Mason Wilkins achieved three golds over the course of the day, which is a fantastic achievement. Our pupils were a credit to the school as they also had to fulfil roles in the organisation as we were running this event, involving over 650 athletes. Well done to all who competed.

JUNIOR HOCKEY

KGJS hosted the annual AJIS U11 Boys Hockey Tournament with nine schools taking part in what was a very competitive, but very enjoyable, tournament. The competition was divided into two pools of five teams. In the pool games, Kirkham A team beat St Bedes, Manchester 2-0, Manchester Grammar School 1-0, Redcourt 3-0 and drew 0-0 against The Grange. This meant they topped the group and played Cheadle Hulme in the semi-final. The score after full and extra time was 2-2. The game could only be decided by penalty rushes, where a player has to score a goal against the keeper within 10 seconds. Will Davies was the Kirkham keeper and was outstanding, preventing the opposition from scoring. Our players scored twice which put Kirkham into the final against AKS. An early goal by James Stacey settled the nerves and, whilst both teams played really well and were a credit to their schools, Kirkham eventually won and were crowned AJIS Champions!

At the end of March, KGJS hosted an U10 Girls Hockey Tournament over at the Senior School. The KGJS U10 Girls won two and drew one in the group stages which took them through to the semi-final against Kings Chester which they won 1-0. They then faced the other group winners, AKS, in the final. A well matched game was played but Kirkham scored in the second half of the match. Some excellent defending and play allowed them to keep the lead until the final whistle. Well done girls!

At the end of February, the U11 Girls and Boys Hockey teams travelled to UCLAN Sports Arena in Preston to play in the Lancashire Hockey Tournament. The day was a great success with the Kirkham U11 Boys being crowned Lancashire Champions and the Girls, Lancashire runners up.











Hockey **REPORT** 2016/2017

1st XI

Coach:

Captain:

Lindsey Osborne Jane Glover Amelia Dalzell

The 1st XI have done extremely well this season after losing so many upper 6th players at the end of the last academic year. The girls worked hard to re-build the side with lots of young, fresh players battling for places. It was certainly competitive and not easy when it came to selection. The team were captained by Amelia Dalzell who led by example throughout the season. At times the squad didn't quite achieve the results they were capable of but they definitely were on fire when they needed to be! The start of the season saw them lose out to Millfield 3-1 in a very tough game, but they were sure to improve and did so with positive results against Altrincham Girls Grammar School 3-1 and Cheadle Hulme 2-1. The girls drew against Stockport 3-4 to a very strong Grammar School at Leeds team.

A special mention should go to our four Upper Sixth pupils who are leaving us this season after representing the school from U12 – Senior Hockey with them ending their Hockey careers as captains and vice captains respectively; Amelia Dalzell, Freya Bennett, Sian Atkinson and Camryn Spector. We wish you all well in all that you do and hope that you continue to play competitive Hockey in the future!

2nd XI

Coach:

Captain:

Lindsey Osborne Jane Glover Sian Atkinson

It has been very difficult to source quality 2nd XI matches this season which has resulted in our 2nd XI taking on other 1st XI squads. This in turn has been challenging, but great leadership from Sian Atkinson as Captain has ensured that the girls stepped up and produced some outstanding performances. The start of the season saw the girls meet their most difficult opponents, Millfield School Somerset. The game started well but it wasn't long before a strong Millfield team took control and dominated the game. KGS held their heads high, shutting them down quickly and forcing errors whenever they could. The end result was 0-7, a game never to be forgotten but one to be built upon for next season. The season certainly got better! A 2-2 draw with Kings College Taunton was extremely pleasing followed by a 2-1 win away at Cheadle Hulme and a 0-2 loss against Rossall 1st XI. A great season from a great set of Hockey players!

U15 XI

Coach: Captain:

Jane Glover Olivia Gebbie

The U15 Hockey team were an absolute delight to work with. After a slow, nervy start where they played with little confidence the girls soon got into their stride. The first few games were lost narrowly as we struggled to convert our chances. However, the Hockey tour to Holland was a turning point. The girls mastered their team shape, grew in strength and started to show real flair all over the pitch. The girls dial't look back and the progress they made was excellent. The victories started to pile up and the confidence continued to grow. The girls had a wonderful end to their season when they were crowned Lancashire U15 Hockey champions.

The atmosphere throughout the season was terrific and the level of commitment unquestionable. Olivia Gebbie led the team by example and with real pride.

U14 XI

Coach: Captain: Matt Percy Anna Wilkinson

The U14s had a solid season of Saturday fixtures with a mixture of results against some high quality opposition. Games against the likes of Cheadle Hulme, Altrincham, Wakefield and GSAL have helped the U14s develop their team play and shape over the course of the season with regular opportunities for all of the squad to be involved.

In the National tournament, the U14s finished 3rd in the North of England for the second consecutive year. After finishing the county round as runners-up, the KGS girls were then victorious in the regional round as they beat strong opposition including Sedbergh and Altrincham. At the North finals, the KGS girls finished runners up in their group before eventually losing to Cheadle Hulme in the semi-final to finish third overall in the North of England.

U13 XI

Coach: Captain: Nicki Walter Beth Dowbiggin

For the first term, the U13s concentrated on the 11-a-side game. The squad learned to pass with greater pace and distance and started to use the space on a full sized pitch to their advantage. Matches against other strong hockey schools namely Altrincham, Cheadle, The Grammar School at Leeds and Wakefield, to name but a few, were closely fought. As the term progressed and the KGS players increased in confidence, so did the number of goals scored in Saturday matches.

For the Spring term, the focus was on 7-a-side in preparation for the National Tournament. Again, another successful term was enjoyed with large numbers of girls representing KGS in Saturday matches. In the first round of the National competition, KGS won the tournament convincingly, scoring in every game and conceding no goals. They fully deserved the title of Lancashire Champions. In the Regional Round KGS went through as runners up losing only one game to The Grange. The North finals in March were nail biting. Despite a brave and determined effort, KGS came fourth out of eight incredibly strong schools. This was a great achievement and a fantastic finish to an exciting Hockey season.

U12 XI

Coach:

Lindsey Osborne

Both the U12 A and B teams have experienced a fabulous first season at KGS. The A team have gone undefeated beating Cheadle Hulme 11-0, Rossall 14-1, Grammar School at Leeds 4-0, Wakefield 7-1, Kings Chester 4-0 and Altrincham Girls Grammar School 7-0 to name just a few. They went on to become Lancashire Champions at the end of the season beating all opponents in their pool without conceding a single goal. The B team have also experienced much success this season with some great competitive fixtures. They opened their season with a 1-1 draw against a strong Cheadle Hulme team.

The girls trained hard throughout the season and before long some very positive results started to show, beating Kings Chester 2-1, The Grammar School at Leeds 2-0, Wakefield 1-0 and Altrincham Girls Grammar School 3-2. In the end of season Lancashire Tournament the B team also were crowned Lancashire B Champions without conceding a single goal.

As both teams approach U13 Hockey next season it is clear that they will be a force to be reckoned with as an 11 a side squad.



U15 XI Lancashire Champions







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Diary Dates

A-level Results Thursday 17 August 2017

GCSE Results Thursday 24 August 2017

1st Year Induction Day Monday 4 September 2017

New School Year begins Tuesday 5 September 2017

Senior School Annual Prizegiving & Speech Day Tuesday 14 September 2017

Open Afternoon Sunday 24 September 2017

New Parents' Welcome Evening Wednesday 4 October 2017 Old Kirkhamians' Association AGM & Northern Reunion Dinner Saturday 14 October 2017

Sixth Form Open Evening Tuesday 14 February 2017

Celebrate Sport Ball Friday 17 November 2017

Friends Christmas Fair Friday 1 December 2017

"Young" OKA Reunion at The Grapes, Wrea Green Monday 18 December 2017

Senior School Entrance Exam Saturday 27 January 2018

SPORTING EXCELLENCE













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