

KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL • 450 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE  
1549  
1999

# In Touch with Kirkham Grammar School

## A Royal success in any language

HRH, Duke of Gloucester marked the School's 450th Anniversary with a visit to open our new Languages Centre on Wednesday 3rd November. In the words of the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire, HRH received "one of the best receptions we have ever had" from hundreds of flagwaving pupils. The Duke of Gloucester and his party received a guided tour of the International Technology Centre and the Languages Centre, after which he was introduced to Governors and Headmaster's guests in the Old Hall, prior to unveiling a plaque. The ceremony ended with the presentation to the Duke of anniversary glassware by Martha Newell, Captain of School and an anniversary teddy bear by four-year-old Cameron Watson.



The Duke of Gloucester receives a tremendous welcome from Kirkham Grammar School pupils as he is escorted to the Technology Centre by Headmaster, Mr. Barrie Stacey.



The Headmaster leading HRH, Duke of Gloucester on a tour of the Technology Centre.



HRH Duke of Gloucester with Chairman of Governors, Headmaster and Mayoral Guests.

## EXAMINATION

I would like to congratulate our pupils on achieving some of the best examination results in the School's history. Regrettably, the way the DFEE calculate the results, based on age cohorts rather than actual examination entries, has again undermined the achievements of our pupils. Nine fourth year pupils, who had reached the age of 15 years but will not sit their GCSE examinations until they complete their fifth year in summer 2000, were included in our results as if they had sat and completely failed all their examinations. In order to set the record straight and pay proper tribute to those KGS pupils who actually took their GCSE examinations, I am including with this letter a full list of our GCSE results, which were absolutely first-rate as you will see.

We should applaud a GCSE pass-rate of 94 per cent, against a national average of 56 per cent. Out of all 757 grades, 71 per cent were either A\*, A or B. This represents a record for KGS and contrasts sharply with the national average for these top grades of 32 per cent, 97 per cent of all our GCSE candidates achieved five or more grades A\*-C at an average of 8.2 'passes' per pupil. There were some outstanding individual performances. Twelve of our pupils obtained at least nine A\*/A grades and Oliver Brambles excelled with ten A's and one A.

The largest upper sixth in the School's history, 88 students, achieved one of the highest pass rates of 90 per cent. We congratulate Katharine Sharrocks, Kathryn Shaw and James Whewell on their Oxbridge successes and the many others who achieved top A-level grades and chose to go to other universities. Drapers' Company Scholarships were awarded to Bruce Helme (four grade A's) and Janine Swarbrick (five grade A's) and it was good to see three of our students who stayed for a third year in the Sixth achieve outstandingly good results and progress to the Universities of their choice - Ayse Ince (grades A,A,B) to Leeds reading Psychology; Andrew Johnson (grades A,B,B) to Bristol reading Physiology, and Kevin Turner (grades A,A,A) to



**Helen Jacomb opening her GCSE results.**

Liverpool reading Medicine. Many other students worked hard to exceed expectations.

Overall, this year's examination results, when accurately reported, confirmed the academic status of the School and the conclusion of the Inspectorate, that Kirkham Grammar School achieves the potential of its pupils and in many cases, beyond.



**Mary Wilson and Greer Timms share the joy of their outstanding results**



## SCHOOL

We were delighted to be able to open our new Languages Centre on schedule at the beginning of term thanks to the skill and commitment of Tyson's builders, who have again done an excellent job for us. Our thanks and congratulations also to Mr. David Spedding, our architect, for incorporating such modern facilities within a magnificent traditional facade. School Governors have agreed an ambitious ten year development plan which we hope will enable the School to continue to improve its facilities. In the summer of the coming year the Senior School Library will be doubled in size by incorporating two adjacent rooms and many more computer facilities will be installed. The next major project on the development plan is a new school canteen, as soon as finances permit.

## OPEN

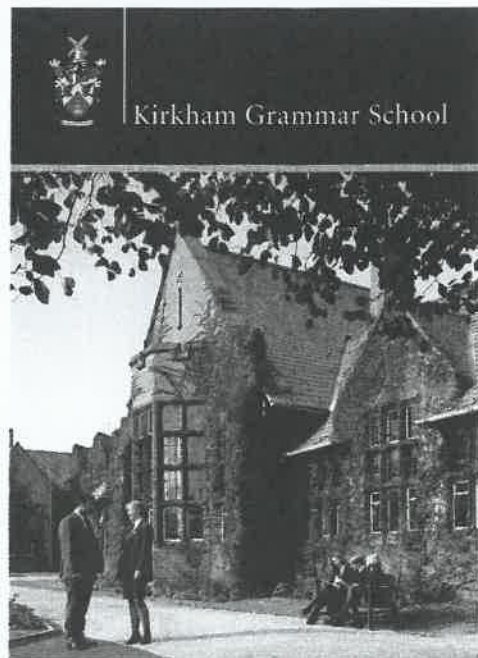
Approaching one thousand people attended the School's two Open Events in October and November, testimony to the growing popularity of KGS. I am grateful to all our staff and pupils for supporting these important events and enabling us to show our outstanding facilities to maximum effect. As a result, registrations for the entrance examinations in January are flowing in at a record rate.



**Senior Mistress Mrs. Jane Taylor welcoming children and parents to the annual Open Afternoon in October.**

## SCHOOL

After much hard work on the part of the School and printers zam Design of Thornton, the long-awaited new, impressive Kirkham Grammar School prospectus arrived for distribution just in time for our open events.





## STAFF

Congratulations to Mrs. Pauline Cooper and her husband, Mark, on the birth of a second son, Daniel Ryan, on 22nd November - a brother for David.

We send all our best wishes to our Junior School Headmistress, Mrs. Lesley Taylor, who is recovering from a hospital operation and to our English teacher Ms. Karen Gibson, who has endured a lengthy illness with such characteristic fortitude. We look forward to having them both back with as soon as possible in the New Year, wishing them speedy recoveries.

In the meantime, we are grateful to Mr. Titchmarsh for standing in so capably for Mrs. Cooper and to Mrs. Sandra Worth, who has returned to teaching to cover for Ms. Gibson.

Sadly, we have to bid farewell to Dr. Susan Wan at the end of this term. We thank Dr. Wan for her dedication and professionalism over three and a half years in the Chemistry department. Her mastery of her subject brought her a first class honours degree and a doctorate at Nottingham University. Such qualifications are rare in any schoolteacher and she will be sorely missed at KGS.

Dr. Wan will be replaced midway through the Spring Term by an old boy of Kirkham Grammar School, Mr. John Baron, who's presently teaching chemistry at St. Bees, Cumbria. Mr. Baron graduated with a good honours degree in Chemistry from Manchester University and completed his PGCE at St. Martins, Lancaster, prior to taking up his post at St. Bees. In the tradition of Kirkham Grammar School, he is a fine, all-round schoolmaster; an accomplished musician whose main instrument is the organ, he is also a rugby and cricket coach, with

boarding house experience. We look forward to welcoming him back to his old school.

Mr. Geoff Brown has also returned to Kirkham Grammar School, where he taught earlier in his career, before progressing to become Head of Science in a local comprehensive school. We are glad to have such an experienced teacher back to assist our Physics department.

After three and a half years supporting the Headmaster, my secretary and registrar, Mrs. Lyn Cockerill, has decided to move on. We shall all miss her efficiency and her humour and we wish her every success and happiness in the future. She will be replaced in the New Year by an experienced PA and secretary, Mrs. Christine Seed, who was selected from a field of over one hundred applicants. We congratulate Mrs. Seed on her appointment and welcome her to the family of KGS.



## 450th ANNIVERSARY PRIZE PRESENTATION

The Guild Hall, Preston, was the venue for the Senior School 450th Anniversary Prizegiving and Speech Day, with some 1200 people in attendance. This annual event takes a great deal of planning and this year's success was gratifying indeed.

We are particularly indebted to School Governor, Professor Barbara Robotham, for agreeing to present the prizes at very short notice. She proved to be ideal for what was an historic occasion, having such long and close links with the School and such transparent affection for it. Professor Robotham is one of our longest serving Governors, whose son, Jonathan, was educated at KGS, as was her husband, Eric Waite, who presently serves on the committee of the Old Kirkhamians' Association. The contents of her speech, so graciously delivered, with its central message to pupils to seize the marvellous opportunities they have at one of the country's leading schools, were warmly appreciated.

The audience also much enjoyed the school orchestra and choir, who succeeded in filling the huge auditorium with music of real quality, and we were all grateful to those students who returned from universities far and wide to receive their prizes.

Next year Speech Day will return to its customary time slot in September.

## STUDENT

We welcome three student teachers from St. Martin's College, Lancaster. Miss Grant, Miss Pullen and Mr. Griffiths are working in the History, Art and IT Departments respectively. They are undertaking their first block of School Experience with us. We hope that they find their time here valuable. Our links with St. Martin's have proved extremely beneficial in terms of staff development with a number of our staff now trained as mentors. Furthermore, the new ideas and approaches which the students bring are appreciated by staff and students alike.



The Headmaster, Mr. Barrie Stacey, Mrs. Catherine Stacey, Mr. Eric Waite and Guest Speaker Professor Barbara Robotham with Chairman of Governors Mr. Allan Blackburn and his wife Gloria.

# OLD KIRKHAMIANS CELEBRATE



Headmaster and President of the Old Kirkhamians' Association Mr Barrie Stacey hosted the School's 450th Anniversary Northern Reunion Dinner in the School's Old Hall.

The event was attended by presidents of Fylde Independent Schools' old pupils' associations as well as many of Kirkham Grammar School's past pupils and staff. Guest Speaker was the Revd. Michael Clarkson, former teacher at KGS, who entertained the audience with a trip down memory lane.

The highlight of the evening was the cutting of a delicious 450th Anniversary cake presented by the Headmaster and his wife, Mrs. Catherine Stacey.

## SIXTH FORM

The contribution of all our 160 Sixth Formers towards the smooth running of a busy school is easily overlooked. As well as all the visible work of Senior Prefects, School Captain and Vice-Captains, Sixth Form students regularly carry out routine Prefectorial duties at break and lunchtime with willingness and humour.

More remarkable still, however, is their consistent readiness to help out with extra tasks such as summoning pupils for medicals and vaccination, guiding visitors at Open Evening, ushering at Speech Day and so on. Many Sixth Formers also help the School's secretarial and ancillary staff at busy times, folding leaflets and addressing envelopes, typing out notices and assisting the maintenance team. Much of this work goes on behind the scenes and unrecognised by younger pupils, yet the School will not function without it. We are immensely grateful for it.

### University entrance

We at KGS "took the plunge" this year on electronic applications to University, replacing the familiar paper UCAS form with an on-screen computer version. It is anticipated by UCAS that the electronic version will become the norm within a few years, and we thought it fitting that a school equipped with outstanding ICT facilities should be among the first to go fully into the electronic version.

Thanks to the enthusiasm and commitment of Head of Sixth Form Mr Long and School Secretary Mrs Hayton, the scheme has proved very successful, enabling our students to pick up offers with remarkable speed. Electronic applications are sent to UCAS by E-mail, and are then sent on immediately to the universities by the same method. An additional benefit of this



**Good news for brother and sister Kevin and Nicky Turner as they open their A-level results!**

development has been the way in which it has helped those students who were still "computer shy" to boost their confidence in the use of ICT.

As ever, many of our Upper Sixth formers have received favourable offers from their chosen universities, thanks to their impressive qualifications and strong applications. The boost to their confidence as they approach mock examinations in January is most welcome and deserved.

## PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Public Speaking Society meets on a Monday and Wednesday after school. Teams representing KGS entered two competitions this term. First, on 18th November, we went to Liverpool to participate in the English Speaking Union competition for the first time. A team of four years comprising Evan Beswick (speaker), Travis Peters (chairperson) and Norman Ralph (questioner) delivered a speech on the power newspaper moguls. Although we did not win, the team was highly praised by the judges and spectators alike. They gave an impressive presentation displaying good research, confident chairing and intelligent debating skills. We are grateful to the supporters who came along too.

On 24th November, two girls' teams entered the BPW competition. Again, the fourth year girls team, Rachel Horton (speaker), Felicity Long (chairperson) and Ashleigh Gregory (vote of thanks), gave a splendid presentation on the subject entitled 'Modern Art or Modern Mess'. In view of the recent award of the Turner Prize it was a truly topical subject. The L6 team of Laura Clarke (speaker), Victoria Hartley-Jackson (chairperson) and Rachel Lee (vote of thanks) gave a spirited presentation on man's leaning towards self-destruction in a speech entitled 'The Psychological Implications of Vampires'.

Truly valuable advice was given by the judges and, with this experience, I hope the society will go on to greater success in the forthcoming competitions and in the meantime, I would like to thank these teams for the time they have put into rehearsals. I would also like to thank the organisers of both competitions for providing the forum for our teams to practise their skill and special thanks to Mrs. Yvonne Jones who commits such enthusiasm and expertise, not to mention her time, to the preparation, organisation and management of our public speakers.

## CHARITY

A busy term has seen donations made to the British Red Cross for the emergency appeal following the earthquake in Turkey; to Oxfam's emergency appeal following the floods in India; to Action Aid to support our sponsored children in India and Africa; to Medecins Sans Frontieres to support their work in crisis areas; to the British Legion for the poppy appeal to Childwatch; to the British Diabetic Association; to Barnados and finally to Crisis for their Christmas appeal.

Pupils have been involved in various activities, ranging from sponsored fasts to street collections and sponsored carol singing in Preston town centre. A great deal of work and energy has been put into our work this term and we are grateful to all who have given their time to raise funds.

## ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



Arkwright Scholarship winner, Laura Clarke, was presented with her prize recently by Roger Haslam.

Fund Director Mr. A.D. Pickering said that he was "extremely impressed" by her overall ability and added that he had no doubt that she will do very well at 'A' level and in the future.

The picture shows Laura receiving her award from Roger Haslam of Arkwright Scholarships in the presence of Headmaster Mr. Barrie Stacey.

## Lancashire Schools' Golf Championship

The championship was held at Lancaster Golf and Country Club on 20th September 1999. Kirkham Grammar School representatives Claudine Beaver, James Cross and Nick Cross, competed on a very wet and windy day over a long and difficult course.

Of the 21 schools represented, five did not have all three team members complete the round, so bad was the weather. Kirkham came third with all three competitors playing to their handicaps which, considering the conditions, was an excellent performance.

## MUSIC

There is probably little doubt that the ATB section of the Full Choir is one of the best in recent years and preliminary work for next term's concert item - the John Rutter 'Gloria' - has progressed remarkably well. The treble section too has some splendid voices, but many potentially good singers arrive at the school with next to no experience of choral work and there is a lot of work ahead for this group.

The Department was most fortunate in December to secure the services of Dr John Bertalot, formerly Director of Music at Trinity Episcopal Church New Jersey, and members of the Special Choir will surely have benefited from the one-day workshop which he conducted. His wit, wisdom but above all his expertise in dealing with matters choral, certainly inspired all who were fortunate enough to be present at the event.

Many congratulations to the following singers who have recently been appointed :

Senior choristers: Phillip Fairhurst and Vicky Richardson (ATB. section) and Kingsley Shaw (Trebles).

The Orchestra, now some 38 strong, has welcomed several new members this term, and they clearly enjoyed their recent performance in the Guild Hall.

There are indeed some very talented young musicians in the School at the present time. The music staff have been very impressed by the recent performances of the Music Scholars.

Next term, with the many concerts planned, there should be plenty of opportunities for them to take to the stage.



## GOVERNORS DONATE MINIBUS



Headmaster Mr.Barrie Stacey receives the keys to the new School minibus.



Dr. John Bertalot "I don't want initiative I want obedience"



# COMBINED



Colonel Stamm inspects the "Force" accompanied by CSM Tom Russell in the presence of the Headmaster and Colonel Sayer, Flight Sergeant Samuel Smith stands to attention.

Kirkham Grammar School cadets excelled themselves on summer camp at Warcop. In competition with forty other independent schools they won the coveted Leadership Trophy, finished 2nd in the Battle Initiative Test and 3rd in the March and Shoot Competition to emerge as the outstanding contingent on camp. We are immensely proud of their achievements and the many compliments they received concerning their maturity, efforts and attitude. Their successes reflect very well on the school and we congratulate Colonel Sayer, his staff and all our cadets.

Fittingly, the Combined Cadet Force emerged with flying colours from its Annual Inspection conducted in October by Colonel Bernard Stamm. The Inspection Parade, accompanied



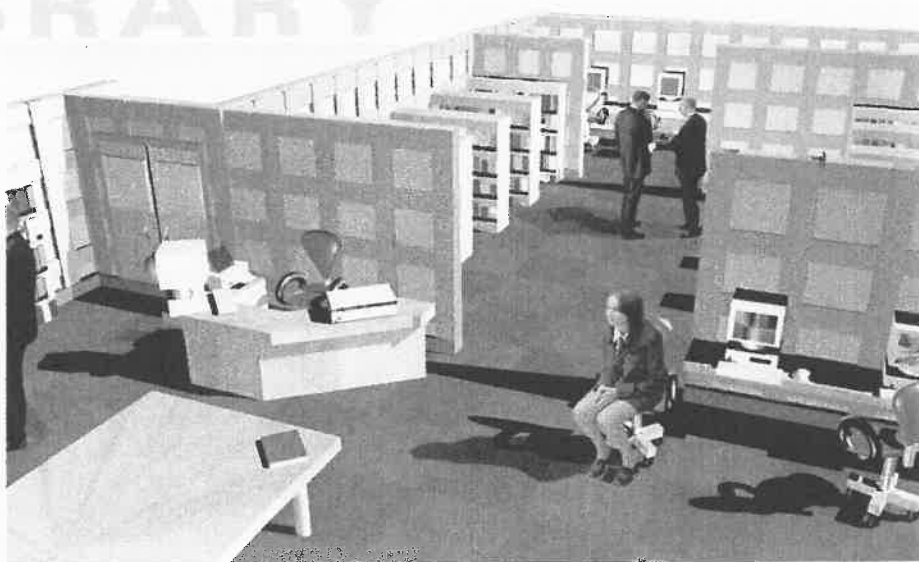
Warcop Summer camp activities: Basher building and Watermanship exercise

## THE LIBRARY

There have been quite a few changes in the Library this term. The first of many! The stock has been extensively reviewed and re-organised, and is ready for the long process of reclassification (using the Dewey system) and cataloguing onto a computer. This should start in January. The fiction stock has been modernised and improved and many new books have been put into stock. Much valuable help has been provided by Craig Cowley, Vicky Cuthbert, Emma Gough, Michael Lau, Rachel Lee, Anna Strickland, Warren Thompson, Andrew Thrower, Andrew Ward and Jonathan Wilson. Without their help the work would not be so advanced.

We have joined "School Link" - a division of "The Book People". Staff and pupils are able to purchase books at bargain prices and benefit the Library, which receives book vouchers to the value of 10 per cent of the total order. The first order exceeded £400 and it is hoped that this initiative will be well-supported in the future.

Carolyn Copland,  
Librarian.



A futuristic view of the new library refurbishment and extension by Christopher Carter (Lower Sixth) which is due to take effect next summer.

# FORCE

by School musicians, passed off well and military inspectors were impressed by the activities of the Force and its administration.

Senior Prefect and Colour Sergeant Major Tom Russell has been presented with one of the most coveted awards for any pupil keen on a forces career - an army scholarship. Tom had to undergo a rigorous selection procedure, including an interview by Army Officers and Headmasters at the Regular Commissions Board in Westbury, Wiltshire. His leadership skills and academic prowess won him a place at Sandhurst Military Academy, which he intends to take up after studying languages at University.

The Combined Cadet Force is a compulsory part of the curriculum in the fourth and fifth years, but all camps are purely voluntary. Therefore, it is good to hear that the Adventurous Training Camp, to be held in February 2000, is already fully booked, testimony to the keenness our cadets feel for CCF activities.

Next year's Summer Camp will be held at the popular venue of Cultybraggan, Perthshire, Scotland and this is also likely to be booked up well in advance.

## RAF SECTION

An eventful term began with the pleasing news that Sergeant Helen Jacomb had passed her demanding leadership course with the RAF over the summer. Well done Helen!

This was followed within a few short weeks by a Field Day held at nearby Waddecarr Scout camp. While the Fourth Year cadets joined the army section in leadership and initiative exercises, the senior cadets enjoyed the bracing air and grand views of the surrounding fells.

Just before half-term this year's annual CCF inspection was made very special with the visit of Wing Commander Clayton-Jones, the RAF's most senior CCF officer. The Wing Commander was most impressed with the enthusiasm of all the cadets he met and in particular the planning and preparation shown by flight Sergeant Sam Smith and the other RAF NCOs.

As well as the normal training programme, the section is also preparing to compete for the first time in the National Air Squadron Trophy contest involving over 200 other school RAF sections. The contest involves written and practical tests in all aspects of cadet activities and the first stage will be held just before the end of the term. Good luck!



Wing Commander Clayton-Jones presenting the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award to Corporal Katherine Palmer.



A rare sight! All the CCF RAF section officers in RAF uniform at once!

# YOUNG ENTERPRISE

This year's Young Enterprise Company, Synthesis, has made a promising start to the company year.

Orders are coming in thick and fast for a wide-ranging set of products to appeal to both parents and pupils. The perfect millennium Christmas presents have hit the market and are on sale at all major school events.

The lower school market has been met by the sale of wrist bracelets which have proved popular.

Champagne flutes for the more adult market have also sold well, with customers able to have personalised glasses made to order. Indeed, the company has received a bulk order which should keep the production team busy until the end of term.

Weekly meetings have been lively and constructive and the company is grateful for support from BNFL and Midland Bank.

The new millennium will see the launch of Photosynthesis - the 21st Century way to organise and view your photographs on CD-Rom. Synthesis's IT department can scan any picture you have, either negatives or prints onto ICD for a very competitive price. More information can be obtained from the company's web site....[synthesis.org.uk](http://synthesis.org.uk)



Rebecca Kay: A Level exam piece (The Langdales)

It has been a busy term in the Art Department with some first class artwork being produced by all age groups. The teaching of art by Mr. Painter and myself has been further enhanced by the enthusiasm and commitment of our student teacher from St. Martins, Lancaster, Miss Sam Pullen.

The Art prizes for 1999 went to pupils of exceptional talent:

Junior GCSE 'A' level	James Anderson Jennifer Birchall Ann Docherty and Rebecca Kay
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The Sixth Form once again embarked on their all-too-short day trip to London, visiting the major galleries the capital has on offer.

The Junior Art Club continues to flourish with pupils from all age groups undertaking numerous projects. In addition we also host the "War Hammer Boys" who paint up their miniature figures during the lunch break. They are in the process of building a table top environment to act out battles under the supervision of Mr. Painter.

The department's Apple Mac has once again been very

## the art DESIGN department

busy with school official publications being designed in house by Mr. Gardiner, ranging from the Open Day literature to programmes for the Anti-Assassins v Old Kirkhamians' Association and the 1st XV v Rugby School rugby matches. The school website is evolving with this and the last newsletter being posted on the site in p.d.f. format, which means that if you have the Acrobat reader on your computer, you will be able to read it in the same layout as the printed version. The new school prospectus will soon be converted to p.d.f. so anyone, wherever they are, can download it.

## TECHNOLOGY



At the end of the summer holiday, Mr. Steve Crowther, our Director of Technology, was invited by Parametric Technology corporation, to take a small group of 6th Form pupils to the launch of the Starchaser 3a rocket from Morecambe Bay. This venture is operated by Steve Bennett from Starchaser Industries, who aims to be the first independent rocket builder to launch into space: this he hopes will be during 2003. Space officially begins at 100km or 62 miles high, and this is the magic altitude to which Steve must go to win the \$10m X-Prize, which has been likened to Charles Lindbergh's Trans Atlantic flight. The launch was a complete success, and Starchaser 3a soared to a height of 20,000ft. A very spectacular sight! Since the launch, Steve Bennett has agreed to some of our pupils producing computer models of his proposed craft, and talking to him about space flight in general. This visit, it is hoped, will take place in the new year. Steve Bennett is looking for an astronaut to accompany him on this historic flight .. details can be found by looking at the web site, the address of which can be found below.

We were very pleased, once again, to have a Technology pupil, Laura Clarke, awarded an Arkwright Scholarship at a presentation in London. These prestigious awards are very

hard to come by, and Laura is a very worthy recipient.

The faculty has been developing its CAD/CAM capability, and now has accredited training status for Pro/DESKTOP 3D DESIGN software. Courses have been operated in the Design and Technology department for the Bae Euro-Collaborator schools, and further training is planned for the future. The faculty will also be accredited to deliver Computer Aided Manufacture courses in the near future. To see details of this scheme visit the Design and Technology web site ... address below.

Following on the training theme, six evening courses have been run for parents of both KGS and KGJS. These have covered topics from 'Understanding your computer', to 'Using the Internet'. Owing to the success of these initial courses, further sessions are planned for the new year, and we will be looking at 'Further Internet Use', 'Microsoft Powerpoint' and 'Computer spreadsheets using Microsoft Excel'. For further details of these courses please contact Mr. Steve Crowther at the Senior School.

The faculty was honoured by a Royal Visit in November, when HRH, Duke of Gloucester had a tour of the facilities and met staff and pupils before officially opening our neighbours', the Language Department's, new centre. This visit was just one of many the Faculty received throughout the term. We are a technology showcase, and all staff and pupils present themselves in a professional manner no matter who is visiting, or when the visit takes place.

The School was pleased to host the launch of

the second year of the Bae Euro Collaborator project. This project involves 61 schools from across the country, designing and this year building models of future passenger aircraft. The launch was attended by 120 representatives from schools and industry. The final presentation for the project will take place on 21st July 2000 and will take the form of a presentation at a major air display, hopefully with a visit from the Red Arrows.

Kirkham pupils are busily working on the engines of their designated aircraft, in collaboration with the other schools in the consortium.

The Faculty will soon be upgrading its computer systems, and taking information to the staff in the form of a school administration system. Staff will have information on tap regarding all school curriculum matters. The new networking needed to run this system will be installed over the Christmas Holiday. We are also looking forward to extending ICT facilities to the new library extension and refurbishment next year.

Finally, Mr. Hill has been working very hard on the props this term for the School play 'Our Country's Good'. His rollocks and large halberd were expertly presented, and the prison cage he constructed was so realistic that pupils tried in vain to lock him away during the construction process. Good try Technology pupils! But you can't fool Mr. Hill so easily.

### Interesting web-sites.

Starchaser Industries:  
[www.starchaser.co.uk](http://www.starchaser.co.uk)

The Design and Technology Association:  
[www.data.org.uk](http://www.data.org.uk)

Parametric Technology Corporation  
[www.ptc.com](http://www.ptc.com)

Delcam - Computer Aided Design  
[www.delcam.com](http://www.delcam.com)



# DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES



It has been an exciting and busy term for the Drama Department. In October about 40 students from First Year to Upper Sixth took part in the International Schools' Network video conference. This was an opportunity to have a cultural exchange with our British Aerospace partnered schools in Malaysia, New Zealand and Switzerland. We worked with our own Junior School and Broughton Junior School too, to produce a series of "video postcards" recording all that is most typically British, from fish and chips on Blackpool beach to Elizabethan madrigals in Stratford-upon-Avon. The pieces were written and devised by Mrs. Lynda Poole and Mr. John Catterall, and Mr. Peter Lockett provided the musical accompaniment which gave opportunities for a number of soloists. The technical support was provided by a professional communications company and the Hall in KGJS was transformed into a television studio. Our students were involved in all aspects of the studio work including acting as 'floor managers', 'best boys' and key grips.

## 'Our Country's Good'

For three nights the New Hall has resounded to the crack of whips, the creaking of timbers and the cries of brutalised prisoners. 'Our Country's Good,' a play by Timberlake Wertenbaker has been the source of these disturbances.

The play, an 'A' level Theatre Studies text, has attracted strong audiences who have enjoyed the humour and pathos. The cast was made up from fifth and sixth form students, several of whom intend to study Drama and Theatre Arts at University. Mr. John Callister joined the strong cast to play Major Ross - the 'baddie' of the piece, in his acting debut! The minimalist set used "Power Point" projected onto a 40ft. cloth to create statements about the nature of crime and punishment and the importance of drama and the theatre to create meaning and change lives.

This production has been staged with special effects in mind; there have been silhouettes, gun shots and bleeding wounds, all of which were created by our own students. The props too have been designed and constructed by the fourth year GCSE group.

Mrs. Poole went to Stratford to select the costumes from the RSC wardrobe. All the cast have very much enjoyed wearing 'professional' costumes and it has been very instructive for many of our



students to look carefully at their construction and styling. Many of our first and second years have had fun trying on the costumes and being a Royal Marine Officer or a convict from 1789!

It would be hard to single out any individual performances - each was a tour de force and a fitting tribute to the School's 450th celebrations from the Drama Department.



The Convicts, brutalised by beatings, whippings and greasepaint!



The Authorities discuss all sorts of things including why Mrs. Poole has decided to bandage the School table and chairs!

## SKI SOCIETY

At the time of going to press most people are thinking of and looking forward to Christmas. I am sure we all are. However, some 40 pupils and four members of staff are looking further ahead than that and are eagerly preparing for the New Year.

On 3rd January 2000 (to avoid the perils of the Millennium Bug), we prepare for the departure of the KGS Ski Society's annual ski holiday. This year, again, we are jetting off to the French Alps, probably from Gatwick. This will be our 19th consecutive trip to various locations in Europe. We have decided on a new venue and a different tour operator has been chosen. STS Skiplan are taking us to the resort of Les Gets, which will be obviously mispronounced by KGS pupils. I am informed that it is correctly pronounced Lay Jay!

The area is the largest skiable area in Europe with over 650km of pistes straddling the French and Swiss borders. The Portes du Soleil is one of the largest linked ski areas in the world with 229 ski lifts. This select alpine resort is a traditional Savoie village with an ambiance which is very typical of this region and is a popular choice for schools. This is probably because of the ease of access to the slopes, (within 300 metres of the hotel). It also has a superb skiing range with excellent progression from nursery slopes to the greater challenges of the longer, higher, steeper runs for the more adventurous.

So, for recreational skier or expert, there is skiing to suit all abilities. The Les Gets nursery area is ideal for first-timers with an easy progression via the Chavanes chair lift to the green and blue runs below the Tetes des Crets. Both sides of the mountain give access to good intermediate skiers with the Mont Chery chairlift and the cable car rising rapidly to 1850m. Advanced skiers will appreciate the extensive area and maybe want to try 'Le Mur' (The Wall!) - an extremely steep black mogul run! In the event of last minute panic there is a chair lift which transports skiers back to the bottom.

The Cle des Champs is a traditional farmhouse style hotel, well located close to both the lifts and the resort centre. The nearest lift is only 150m away. The hotel is arranged on three floors with a lounge/recreation area on the ground floor and a pleasant dining room on the first floor. The majority of bedrooms are on the second floor and are usually for three to four pupils. Each has en suite facilities with either shower or bath. The hotel is unpretentious and we have exclusive use of all the facilities as we are sole occupiers.

So far the organisation is going to plan and Mr. Scott has reports that the snows have arrived already in the



Alps. We all look forward to the usual good fun and excellent skiing we have been so lucky to enjoy over the last few years.

Mr. I.M. Scott,  
KGS Ski Society



This year our membership has expanded to more than 50 pupils, making club meetings very busy!

The number of animals in our collection has also grown, owing to kind donations from Sixth Formers about to start University courses. These include a terrapin from Jane Kirby and several Russian hamsters, including a breeding pair, from Katherine Sharrocks.

After three litters of baby hamsters, we decided to separate Nam and Gremlin - the parents. They had generated a great deal of interest in observing and handling young animals.

In October we hosted a successful Creepy Crawly Show by W.A.S.P. (Wild Animal Sanctuary Protection) and we followed this with a visit to WASP's premises in Church Street, Blackpool. The pupils helped with a variety of tasks at the centre, including weighing rescued hedgehogs, feeding an injured kestrel and cleaning out a cage for a litter of abandoned kittens.

## CHESS CLUB

The Chess Club continues to flourish. Its weekly meetings are attended by an increasing number of pupils from across the age range. Such is the level of interest and quality of the players that we were able to field a team strong enough to participate in the prestigious Times British Schools' Chess Championships. The team consisted of first and second year pupils. They progressed to the second round of the competition before losing by the narrow margin of one and a half points to a much older team from Austin Friars, Carlisle.

## CLIMBING CLUB

This term saw a large influx of new members into the club. The Friday lunchtime session was always oversubscribed - the 12 places available were usually booked within an hour of the notice being pasted on Monday mornings - and there were also more climbers than ever before on the Wednesday after-school trips.

Amongst the new first formers, Matthew Gaddes impressed by climbing at 5a grade, both indoors and on real rock, and Max Eaves's determination and natural ability ensured that he quickly moved up through the grades. At the other end of the age range, Katie Law and Mary Wilson are new members who have improved steadily throughout the term, and who promise to be amongst the best female climbers that the club has ever produced.

In the first half of term, the Wednesday after-school sessions were used to visit the quarries which lie south of Blackburn, but two trips planned for the Lake District were both rained off. After half term, darkness and colder temperatures forced the club indoors. As well as the usual trips to the local climbing walls, there was a trip on Speech Day holiday to the giant indoor climbing complex in Warrington, which was enjoyed by a dozen club members and which provided an insight into the rapidly growing sport of indoor climbing.



Children enjoying the climbing wall on Open Afternoon.



Morgan Shaw and Animal Ark friend!



## Inter House EVENTS

This term there has been a mixture of events ranging from the cerebral to the outright physical.

The chess competition was managed differently this term, with Mr. Melling (the School's Boris Spasky) proposing to condense the competition into one day instead of the usual month long event. This proved to be very successful, especially to Kirkham House, who won it. Unfortunately, Preston who won the event last year finished in fourth position. It just goes to prove that you can't rush things into one day and expect to win ... that is if you are Preston Housemaster. I propose to lengthen the event next year to the whole term!

The physical events this term have included the Senior House netball. School House came out the overall winners of this competition, beating Kirkham in the final. Fylde took third place in a

keenly fought playoff with Preston. The competition between the Housemasters was very hot. During the final, Mr. Smith and Mr. Duncan were giving each other lots of high spirited verbal banter. After the match, one of the competitors who thought she was out of earshot, commented that .."I have never seen two grown men get so excited about a netball match."

Fylde took the honours in the Junior netball competition. The Junior girls from all houses are to be commended for their effort on two freezing days of competition.

As I write this report, the swimmers are just returning from the Inter-House Swimming Gala held at Kirkham Baths. The event has been won by Kirkham, who do have the entire swimming team in their house, and the master in charge of all things aquatic as a House team member! In second place were School, third was Fylde and doggy paddling their way to last place was

Preston. Mr. Duncan was so keen to do well in this competition that when he had a swimmer missing for an event, he drove back to school and dragged some unsuspecting pupil from their desk to the swimming pool. This is the sort of commitment from staff and pupils alike which makes the House events such an important part of School life!

Next term is very active for all the pupils. Many events take place in a wide range of arenas. There is still time for Fylde and Preston to catch School and Kirkham, but every effort will be needed in order to close the ever increasing gap which the top two houses seem to be building for themselves. It's not over until that fat lady sings!

Mr. S. Crowther,  
Preston Housemaster and House Recorder.

### Dates for your diary

**Saturday 18th December 1999**  
Young Kirkhamians' Christmas Reunion at  
Preston Grasshoppers.

**Saturday 22nd January at 9.00a.m.**  
Examinations for 11+ entry in  
September 2000

**Wednesday 1st March, 7.30p.m.**  
Sixth Form Open Evening in the New Hall

**Thursday 16th March, Friday 17th March**  
Sixth Form Scholarship Examinations

**Tuesday 4th April, 2.30p.m.**  
Founders Day Service at St. Michael's  
Church, Kirkham. Guest preacher,  
Rt Rev. Stephen Pedley,  
Bishop of Lancaster.

**Saturday 8th April**  
Old Kirkhamians' Association Southern  
Dinner, St. Edmund Hall, Oxford



## WAIRARAPA EXCHANGE



For the tenth consecutive year we are privileged and very pleased to welcome four exchange students from Wairarapa College, Masterton, North Island. Lucy Hunt and Zoe Wyatt, both hockey 'backs', have brought their skills and experience to reinforce our youthful and talented 1st XI. The towering figures of Brent Wilson (flanker) and Jordan Saipani (prop) have made the KGS 1st XV 'pack' a very formidable outfit indeed.

We are grateful to our hosting families, Eleanor and Mr and Mrs Cairns, Jane and Mr and Mrs Meloy, Joseph and Mr and Mrs Thompson and Richard and Mr and Mrs Wigglesworth for helping our New Zealand guests to settle in and for looking after them so well. A Happy Christmas and a very special New Year to all.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

All Middle School pupils are being provided with guides to help them in a variety of ways. They have already received "An Introduction to Study Skills" and "Skills for Studying". Fifth years will shortly receive "A Revision Guide" and "Basic Examination Techniques". Fourth year pupils will receive those later in the year.

Fifth years will also be receiving a "Young Citizens' Passport" which is a guide to the law in England and Wales.





Head of German Mr.B. Taylor with Frau Heltrud Lowak, the Headmaster and the party of German and English exchange students.

The annual exchange with the Anne-Frank Schule took place in September. A group of 13 German pupils spent 10 days with their English partners. As well as experiencing the delights of the British school system with its all-day lessons, they enjoyed life with English families, with many outings arranged to see local places of interest.

There were two official excursions - to the Museum of Science and Industry (which included the compulsory(!) shopping trip to the town centre) and to the Lake District. We were fortunate in only experiencing a short, sharp shower on our gentle stroll around Grasmere, which did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of the group.

To commemorate their visit during our 450th Anniversary year Frau Heltrud Lowak, the party leader, well-known to the school after many visits in previous years, was presented with a decanter and painting of Kirkham Grammar School to take back to Germany. The return visit by the English pupils will take place next March.

Mr. B.J.Taylor,  
Head of German

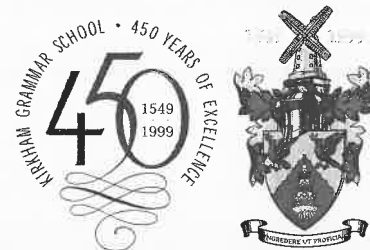
## BUSINESS STUDIES

The 'A' level business studies students recently returned from a study experience trip to London.

Seminars relating to marketing, accounts, human resources and business planning were held at the London Palladium, delivered by leading experts in the field.

The students also enjoyed two theatre performances, the first being the Reduced Shakespeare Company, who very wittily condensed 500 years of American history into just 97 minutes.

Prior to departing from London they attended the matinee performance of Saturday Night Fever - complete with white suits and medallions! A good time was had by all.

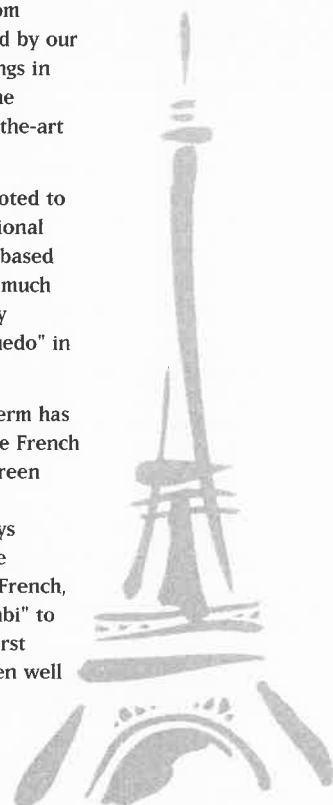


## FRENCHCLUB

The French Club is going from strength to strength, boosted by our comfortable new surroundings in the Languages Centre and the availability of such state-of-the-art technology.

Tuesday lunchtimes are devoted to language games, both traditional board games and computer-based games. It is surprising how much useful French is practised by playing "Guess Who" or "Cluedo" in French.

The real crowd-puller this term has been the Thursday lunchtime French film show, using our widescreen whiteboard and multimedia projector. Room T9 is always "standing room only" for the showings of classic films in French, ranging this term from "Bambi" to "Titanic". An audience of First Years to Upper Sixth has been well entertained and kept warm!



## CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE

In October, 'A'- level politics students attended a breakfast meeting at the Conservative Party Conference in Blackpool. The event was a fringe meeting organised by BT. Its theme was the implications of devolution for the future of the United Kingdom. Chaired by the Editor of the New Statesman, it took the form of a seminar with contributions from the Political Editor of the Daily Telegraph, the Washington Post's UK correspondent, a frontbench Conservative MP and a senior executive from BT. The discussion was lively and Will Roberts (Upper 6th) provoked some interesting comments from the panel with a question about the role of the media in undermining the image of politicians. After the seminar the celebrities mingled with the students and passed on some interesting political gossip. It was a memorable event. We are most grateful to one of our parents, Mr. Roberts, for inviting us.

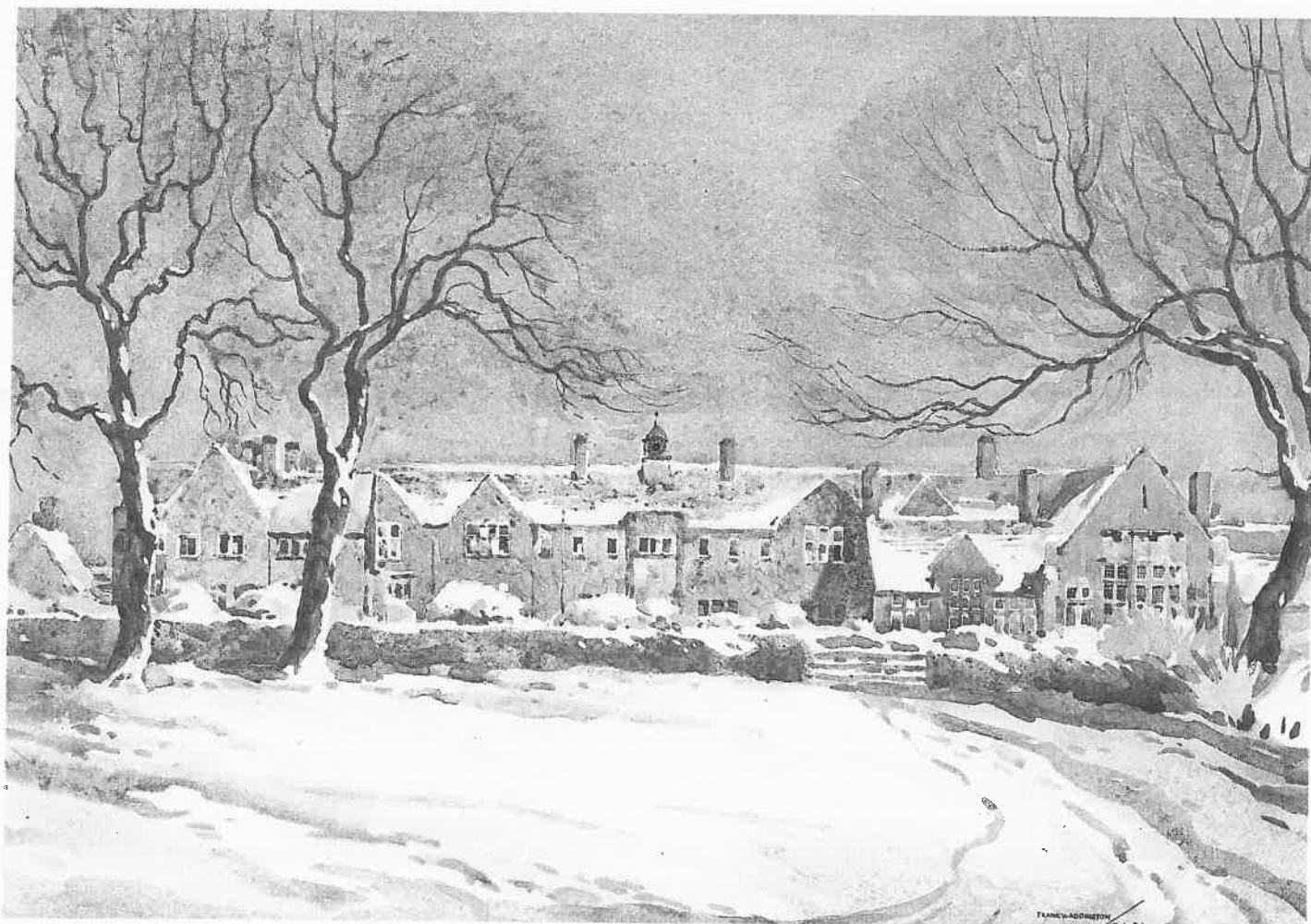
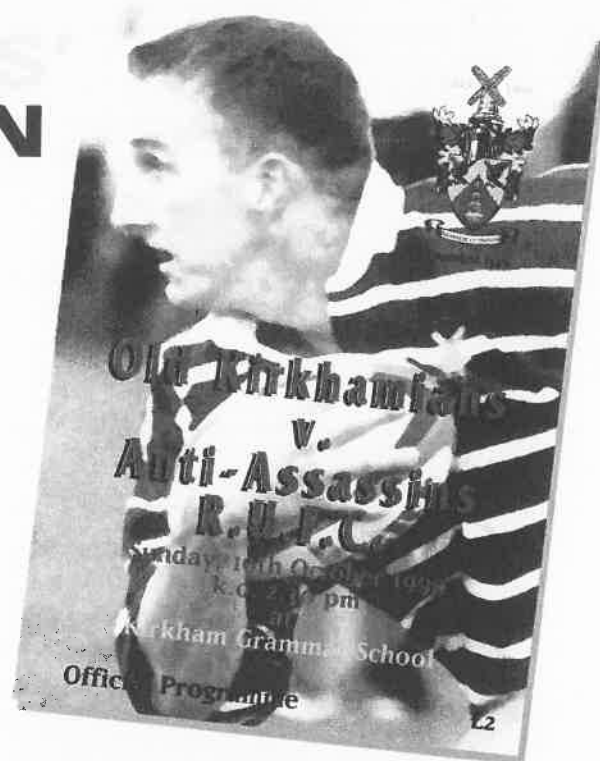
## OLD KIRKHAMIANS' ASSOCIATION

The OKA held another enjoyable and successful Northern Reunion Dinner in the Old Hall in September, with over 100 members and guests attending. The Headmaster, having completed his year in office, handed over to new President, Mr. Barry Johnson, former pupil, parent and governor.

The Southern Reunion Dinner will be held at St. Edmund Hall, Oxford on Saturday, 8th April 2000.

In October, the Old Kirkhamians played their second biennial rugby match against the Anti-Assassins. Some 300 spectators enjoyed a feast of open, flowing rugby and saw the Old Kirkhamians triumph again by the impressive score of 48 points to 12. What magic ensues when our former rugby stars pull on that navy and white shirt again! The proceeds from this event were donated to our own PE/Games department and the North West Handicapped Children's Holiday Group.

The OKAs continue to do a sterling job fundraising and the latest gift to school has made even the Headmaster envious, for the groundsman can now be seen cutting the school lawn astride a sleek red lawnmower Damon Hill would give his right arm for!



A Winter Scene - part of a series of watercolours depicting the four seasons of KGS painted by Frank Waddington in 1936, presented to the Headmaster, Reverend Cresswell Strange, and loaned to the School by his granddaughter, Mrs. Stella Gardner.

# In Touch with Kirkham Grammar School

This year the School is celebrating 75 years of rugby and the 1st XV is doing it in style!

We are grateful to Rugby School for travelling to Kirkham to help us to celebrate both a long rugby tradition and our 450th Anniversary. Although KGS won the match convincingly, the importance of the fixture lay in the friendships cemented on and off the pitch and we look forward to a return match at Rugby next season, perhaps.

## 1st XV

The 1st XV has had a magnificent season, and at time of writing our players have won all their matches, most by high margins, scoring 63 tries and over 400 points. Pre-season training, which included a training camp at Sedbergh and the customary friendly against QEGS Wakefield, went well and the team was quickly into its stride. Early on the strength of the side lay in the threequarters, but the forwards, although lightweight, provided enough ball to score many good tries, including a ten-try victory over King Edward VII School, Lytham.

As the season progressed, the pack has been strengthened by the addition of new Lower Sixth former Matthew Parr, and the two Wairirapa Exchange students, Jordan Saipani and Brent Wilson, as a result of which the team is now better balanced and tactically more mature.

In a successful squad, major successes have been Captain Jonathan Roddam, Vice-Captain Andrew Perry, Philip Hendy, Daniel Howells, Warren Spragg and Richard Wigglesworth. Major improvements have been shown by Andrew Kyriacou and Matthew and Joseph Thompson.

There can be no doubt that the present 1st XV is a match for any school team in the country. This is borne out by the fact that no less than ten members of the team have represented Lancashire 18 group.

Captain Jonathan Roddam played in the England U17 Summer Development Squad, earning the award of "Player of the Development Programme". Along with Matthew Parr, Jonathan has also been selected for Junior "Club England". Congratulations to both and thanks to our top North of England coaches, Mr. Brian Gornall and Mr. Aled Trenhaile for preparing the team so well.

## 2nd XV

Although not as fit as they might have been at the beginning of the season, the 2nd XV comfortably won the first five matches, all at home, despite both Manchester Grammar School and Ermystead Grammar School coming back at the team in the second half. The first journey away from home resulted in a lack lustre performance and defeat at Wirral, followed by two further substantial defeats away at the hands of strong Lancaster and Calday Grange sides. Since the trip to Calday and at the time of writing, three more games against Kings, Macclesfield, Stockport and Birkenhead have been won with vastly improved performances. Having now finally set a good standard, the team should aim to win its remaining matches.

## U-16/3rd XV

The U16 XV, ably captained by John Bowden, has had mixed fortunes during the first part of the season. Despite a good win in a closely contested fixture with King Edward School, Lytham, the side has had to struggle against much stronger opposition when they have played their fixtures, often on Wednesdays. Indeed, the team has played a 2nd XV (Bolton School) and outright U16 A (LRGS) and even a 1st XV (Heysham HS).

In all matches, the team has played with true Kirkham

spirit and there have been some notable performances. John Bowden has led from the front, Luke Newell and Philip Brierley have worked tirelessly at scrum half and Adam Parker, Marshall Hargreaves, Yamanee Adam-Zahir, Jonathan Swift and Simon Jude have all displayed true 2nd team potential.

We hope to find more evenly matched fixtures after Christmas but I am certain that, regardless of the opposition, this side will continue to make great strides this season.

## U15 XV

Despite some heavy defeats earlier on in the season, there has been a big upsurge in morale and commitment. The squad has now increased to 30 which highlights the overall effort and enthusiasm for school rugby. Training nights are always well-attended and the boys never seem to lack enthusiasm or humour.

Our finest performance to date was the narrow defeat away to Stockport Grammar. The forwards have shown great tenacity and determination in order to play with such uniformity and strength. Townsend, Ogden, both Lancashire U15 trialists, have led by example. The front four of Griffiths, Kirkham, and Gregg have played a significant part in the overall improvement of the side this season.

The backs have never lacked ability and talent. Discipline under pressure has been our downfall. Nevertheless, Cottam, Hendy and Westerman have worked tirelessly, both on the training ground and in games and are now reaping the benefit. The absence of Swarbrick through injury has hampered our progress a little but his successful return has been appreciated and admired.

## U14 XV

Despite some hard work in pre-season training and a comfortable win against Morecambe HS, it was to become very clear at the beginning of the season that the lack of physical presence in this team would shape its results. The team has played against some huge sides including Ermysteads, Manchester Grammar School, Wirral Grammar School and Lancaster RGS. In these games it was beaten by much more physically dominant teams. In all the matches the side has played with heart, dedication and enthusiasm. At times the side has tackled poorly but generally the level of commitment has been admirable. Such determination has produced good wins against St. Anselm's College, King William's College, Isle of Man and a hard fought draw against Castle Rushen HS.

These players must continue to work hard in training and improve their personal fitness. They are a skilful team and, if they continue to play with dedication, all will come good in the end, when they catch up physically with other sides.



Kirkham Grammar School's unbeaten 1st XV squad

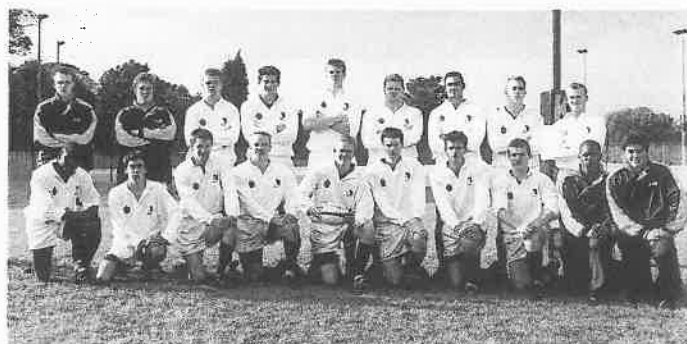
## U13 XV

An encouraging term's rugby where the U13s have gradually improved and are at last starting to develop an understanding of the game. There is a lot of talent in this team which was reflected especially in fine wins over Wirral Grammar, Lancaster RGS and Calday Grange. If they continue to learn and listen they have the potential to do very well in the future.

## U-12 XV

The U12 XV has made good progress since the start of the term. The side has taken some time to settle, but we now feel that many players are finding confidence in their selected positions. It is early days, though, and we will continue to monitor performances so that the correct balance can be achieved.

The team was narrowly defeated against two very strong schools - Wirral Grammar and LRGS and had mixed fortunes in the PH Bailey Trophy at Fylde RUFC. However, since then the team has made rapid progress resulting in two good wins over Calday Grange Grammar and Stockport Grammar. We hope for continued progress from now on. The side is well led by Oliver More and ably supported by many promising players. Will Hawtin, Mark Hodgkinson and Charlie Hoyle are notable examples. All the squad, both A and B players (who have made a good start with a draw against Stockport) must continue to work hard. No places are guaranteed in the first year, but we feel that, if all players listen to the coaching and push themselves, they will have a successful season.



Rugby School 1st XV





## JUNIOR HOCKEY

The junior girls' teams have had a splendid start. Out of 45 matches played the teams have lost three, drawn four and won 37.

The U-15 team has grown from strength to strength and has played at an excellent standard.

The U-14s have only lost two matches and have played with real grit and determination throughout the term.

The U14s are a real force to be reckoned with! They have defeated all of their opponents and many of their victories have been in double figures.

The U12s have had three matches so far this term, and it has been wonderful to be able to field four first year teams so early in their very first term at hockey. Out of 10 matches they have won eight, drawn one and lost one.

## SENIOR HOCKEY

It has been extremely rewarding to see the hockey continue to flourish at the senior end. We have a senior squad of 46 girls and a mixed XI squad consisting of 16 players. This year, for the very first time, we have fielded three U18 XI ladies' teams and once again an U18 mixed XI hockey team. The third XI has been a credit to the school. Our players have played with real determination and have certainly developed their skill levels and knowledge of the game. Out of eight matches played they have won five, drawn one and lost two.

The second XI is a very good team. The players have grown from strength to strength throughout the term and out of 12 matches played they have won 10, drawn one and lost one.

Strong school opposition has been very difficult to find again this season, with our first XI girls excelling on the hockey pitch. Many schools who used to provide us with exciting matches now struggle to compete! This season we have therefore added four new fixtures to the school fixture list. We have played 14 matches against school and college teams around the North and have lost only one. We have also played six matches against North West premiership ladies' teams and we have won four, lost one and drawn one. Superbly led by Martha Newell, the first XI has had a tremendous start to the season.

### Lancashire U16 President's Cup Competition

Our U16s have had an excellent start in this prestigious competition. They defeated Walshaw High School, Burnley 10-0 in the first round match and now look forward to playing against Brownedge St. Mary's here at Kirkham on December 8th.

### National U15 Cup Competition

Our U15 Cup team has had an excellent start to this competition. They defeated St. Nicholas High School, Northwich 11-0 in the first round; in the second round they defeated Adel Hockey Club, Leeds 3-0 and in the third round they defeated Giggleswick 6-0. We now eagerly await the fourth round draw which is due to be made before the end of term.

### British Aerospace National U18 Competition

The county round of this competition was held at Stanley Park on Thursday 25th November. Our U18s battled superbly and defeated Lytham 4-0, Queen Mary 2-1 and were very unfortunate to lose 1-0 to Ripley. With one match to be played all points were level and Kirkham finished the tournament in a nail-biting deciding match against Arnold. The girls played with real commitment and determination but unfortunately lost 2-0.

### British Aerospace National U16 Competition

The county round of this competition was held here at Kirkham on Saturday 13th November. Our U16s performed superbly throughout the tournament defeating Lytham, Ripley and Arnold to emerge as clear winners. At the time of writing they are looking forward to competing in the Regional Finals at Stanley Park on Saturday 4th December.

### County Honours

**Congratulations to the following girls who have been selected for Lancashire:**

U18 - Martha Newell, Rachel Sissons

U16 - Katie Threlfall, Ellie Cairns, Vicky Peters, Amy Twambley, Lorna Sissons, Jane Meloy, Kate Sannegadu.

We also have 20 girls who have been selected to attend either the Lancashire U14 development centres or the U15 Lancashire training sessions.

### North

U21 - Martha Newell

U16 - Rachel Sissons, Hannah Spacey

### Territorials

Congratulations to Rachel Sissons and Hannah Spacey who represented the North U16s in the territorials. Both of our girls played key roles in helping the North to win this tournament.



The Junior Hockey Tour party

The junior hockey tour to Valkenburg, Holland and Disneyland, Paris, which runs every two years has once again been a great success and a thoroughly enjoyable - if somewhat busy - experience.

After leaving KGS on Saturday morning, immaculately kitted out thanks to several generous sponsorship offers, our party entered onto a non-stop schedule of diverse activities.

There was a tiring night of line-dancing on the ferry, and during a long journey over to Valkenburg, the girls and staff had time to perfect their Karaoke performances. The staff 'Spice Girls' rendition was again a big hit and the night was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

The World Cup competition which took place each morning whilst we were in Holland was a very competitive and high-spirited affair, with two teams (Australia and South Africa)

eventually being proclaimed as joint winners after drawing on points scored and goal difference.

Bobsleighting on Monday afternoon was great fun for everyone, even for those tentative few who were initially a little wary. By the second run, few of us used our brakes, which led to the inevitable derailing of one or two "wallies."

We visited the Marl Caves (50 miles of man-made caves, including a nuclear war shelter and numerous carvings and paintings) on Tuesday afternoon which were very interesting, and, on Wednesday afternoon the U-13 squad went 10-pin bowling.

As for the hockey, the girls experienced some demanding games, playing against club teams of a very high standard. The U-13 team won

one match, drew one match and lost one match. The U-14 team won one match and lost one match. The U-15 team won one match and lost one match and the joint U-14/U-15 team lost one match after a very close end to end game. The girls gained a lot of valuable experience whilst playing against their Dutch opposition and thoroughly enjoyed their matches.

Following their four hectic days in Holland, the girls were rewarded with two nights in Paris. We visited the Eiffel Tower, celebrated Halloween in true spooky fashion in the hotel and spent two full days in Disneyland, Paris, experiencing the thrills of Space Mountain.

Thanks are owed to Mrs. Tabb for organising the tour and to Mrs. Glover, Ms Baxter, Miss Fryer, Mr. Tabb and Dave (the coach driver) for all of their hard work and endless energy on tour.



# HOCKEY

## JUNIOR HOCKEY TOUR

# FRIENDS OF KGS



**The Friends' Autumn Fair**

The 450th Anniversary celebrations have been a busy but enjoyable time for the Friends and a staggering success in terms of money raised. The Friends have supported and helped at many of the 450th events throughout the year to compliment their fundraising activities.

Our AGM in September was well-attended. We welcomed five new members to our committee and we enrolled Sarah Sharples and Sarah Fulford-Brown as our Secretary and Assistant Secretary.

The Friends' New Parents' Welcome Evening was a great success. The Old Hall was alive with chatter and laughter as everyone got to know each other. The Friends also helped with the J4 Parents' Evening, which also provided an opportunity to meet new friends. Our two major events this term commenced with the Autumn Fair in the MPH on 19th November.

Although the date had to be changed at the last moment, it certainly did not detract from the staggering amount raised - over £3,400. Our team, headed by Betty Dawson, worked extremely hard to make this event such a success in such a short space of time. Everyone enjoyed themselves and entered into the spirit of the occasion, including Father Christmas and his little elves.

Our Winter Ball was attended by 326 party enthusiasts determined to have a great time. We certainly celebrated the 450th Anniversary in true KGS style, which enabled the revellers to demonstrate their inexhaustible stamina dancing until well after 2am and raising approximately £4,100!

Over £7,500 has been raised in just two events. Well done everyone!

In addition, the Friends have provided flowers in both the Senior and Junior School throughout the year and provided a small Christmas gift for all Junior School pupils. They have also donated a £25.00 book prize for both the Junior and Senior School Speech Days.

None of these remarkable achievements would have been possible without your help and support. It is with sincerity and with great pleasure that I say a very big "thank you" for all your enthusiasm and support. We hope to see you at our Summer Ball on 24th June and on Family Fun Day on 2nd July 2000.

My committee and I wish you a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

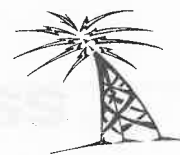
Best wishes

Ros Ince, Chairman of FKGS



**In party spirit at the Friends' Christmas Ball**

## Stop Press



The Regional U16 Hockey finals were held at Stanley Park on Saturday 4th December. In horrendous conditions our girls played extremely well and defeated St. Annes Windermere 4-0; Altrincham Grammar School 1-0 and Queens, Chester 5-0. Kirkham Grammar School emerged as clear winners and now look forward to the North Finals at Stanley Park on Saturday 15th January.

Congratulations to the following girls:- Rachel Sissons (captain) Katie Threlfall (vice-captain), Hannah Spacey, Jane Meloy, Katie Severns, Ellie Cairns, Vicky Peters, Lorna Sissons, Kate Sannegadu, Amy Twambley, Vicky Wilson, Danielle Hanley, Sarah Kellett and Danielle Grundy.

Catherine and I extend to you all our best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.

B. Stacey

B. Stacey Headmaster

**In Touch with Kirkham Grammar School**

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**BRITISH AEROSPACE**  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS NETWORK