

**It's official! Kirkham Grammar School is now the International Education Centre and the flagship school of British Aerospace's Worldwide Schools' Network. The School's impressive new Technology Centre was opened in July by the Minister of Education from Malaysia at a highly successful launch which incorporated a video conference link with a school in Malaysia. Equipping of the facility has continued throughout the term and is now almost complete.**

Some seventy brand new computers are networked into this magnificent new Centre, which contains a spacious unit for computer assisted design and technology, adjacent to an engineering systems and control room, incorporating electronics, pneumatics and robotics. A vast and splendidly equipped multimedia manufacturing workshop containing plastic, wood and metal working facilities, together with a superb heat treatment area, completes the ground floor. The first floor includes a dedicated ICT suite and a bookable resource with an interactive whiteboard, both air conditioned and equipped to the highest specification and both in use almost every lesson of the week by the full age range of pupils across the curriculum. The video conferencing equipment is shortly to be updated to a widescreen



*The Malaysian Minister of Education conducts a video conference link at the launch of the School's new Technology Centre*

camera and screen which can be moved around the faculty as required. Video conferencing and collaboration using the interactive whiteboard will soon be a possibility. Simultaneously a superb new ICT suite, complete with new computers, scanner, printers and interactive whiteboard has been installed in the Junior School.

The School is immensely grateful to its industrial partner, British Aerospace plc, for placing its confidence in KGS and resourcing our new Technology Centre to

such a high standard. We were delighted to host the Chairman, Sir Richard H. Evans, CBE, who visited the school to view the facilities and present the prestigious Investors in People Award to our Junior School, earlier in the term. We are also grateful to School Governor, Professor Stephen Grigg, for his constant support and we welcome Mr Ted Cosway as our link man within the International Schools' Network. The School and British Aerospace plc have also combined to provide a technician to keep the technology afloat from January 1999.

# TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AT K.G.S.

During the term our Technology Department played a pivotal role in the launch of the British Aerospace Global Schools' Network. This prestigious event linked KGS with schools in Japan, Malaysia and Norway. Other schools in the Global Network are located in Canada and the USA and schools in South Africa and Australia are hoping to join the group in the near future. The event involved three pupils from KGS, Michael Strickland, Matthew Hopton and Emma Crowther, discussing their thoughts on the recent Commonwealth Games held in Malaysia. The audience around the world numbered over 800 and our pupils rose to the occasion splendidly. We are now looking forward to working with our global network partners on collaborative projects.

The Jet-Set project is due to be launched before the end of term. This project, sponsored by the British Aerospace International Centre at Loughborough University, involves our first year pupils, designing and modelling their own aircraft on computer, then, using Microsoft Flight Simulator software, they are able to test fly their creations. Pupils will learn about the theory of flight and aircraft design, as well as establishing a virtual airline with scheduled flights ... and delays!

The Euro-collaborator project is now in operation. This major programme involves pupils from fifty schools designing the next generation of passenger aircraft and Kirkham Grammar School has been designated the training centre for the North West. Thus the school has been hosting teachers and engineers on courses on most Thursdays during the latter half of term. The aim is to get schools to collaborate together in the manufacture of a finished model aircraft through video conferencing, e-mail, electronic file transfer, remote manufacturing and face-to-face meetings. The courses at KGS have been operated jointly by our Director of Technology, Mr Steve Crowther, and former pupil, John Harris from the CBI. Some of the teaching material held on the CBI website has been produced by KGS and is being widely used in schools throughout the country.

Few would argue that the Internet, and primarily the World Wide Web, is set to play a significant role in education, especially in the light of the Government's 'National Grid of Learning'. Now that the school is 'on line' we have a wonderful facility to offer our pupils and staff. As well as having the ability to 'surf' the Internet and use e-mail, we have our own web site, which contains information about the school, ranging from how to find us to the

latest school news. This web site was designed by Mr S P Gardiner (Head of Art and Design). We intend to build upon the basic core of pages and develop a resource site for pupils and staff, along with pupils own web pages. The school site can be found at <http://www.kgs.lancs.sch.uk>, so please check it out if you have Internet access and contact us at [info@kgs.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:info@kgs.lancs.sch.uk) as we are keen to find out how many pupils have access to the net from home.

The school has already recruited its first pupil from the Internet site, a sixth form student from the International School in Moscow, who will join our Boarding House in January 1999.

The Technology faculty is also setting up a number of extra-curricular societies such as the Mechatronics Club and the Robot Users Club. A lower school electronics club is soon to be launched, led by fifth form pupil, Laura Clarke.

Michael Strickland was awarded his Arkwright Engineering Scholarship at a ceremony held at the Institute of Electrical Engineers in London. These awards are exceptionally keenly contested and highly prized, and we congratulate Michael on achieving a notable 'first' for Kirkham Grammar School.

## SPEECH DAY 1998

Owing to the recent growth in school numbers, the Board of Governors felt that the time had come to break with the tradition of holding the Senior School Annual Prizegiving in School and take it to the more spacious venue of the Guild Hall, Preston. This evening function, held on 26th November, gave many more of our parents the opportunity to attend and attracted an audience of well over 1000.

The Chairman of Governors, Headmaster and Prize Presenter all paid tribute to the outstanding success of the school and it was good to see so many accomplished prize winners mount the rostrum. One wonders what these many successful young Kirkhamians will achieve in the years ahead, as some already make their mark in the life outside school.

We are grateful to Mr Peter Attenborough, a Director of the Rank Foundation and former Headmaster of Sedbergh and Charterhouse Schools, for travelling north to present the prizes and speak so glowingly of the school's achievements.

Looking forward to next year's event during our 450th year, I hope that we can fill the Guild Hall with many more parents, friends and relatives in attendance.



**Speech Day and Prize Giving 1998**

*Guest Speaker, Mr Peter Attenborough, Mrs Blackburn, Chairman of Governors, Mr Allan Blackburn, Mrs Stacey and the Headmaster*

# EXAMINATION SUCCESS AT K.G.S.

I would like to congratulate our pupils on their examination successes this summer. There were some outstanding results at all levels, by some measures the best the school has ever achieved, and our GCSE results have been widely acclaimed as the best in the area. As our parents and pupils know, I shall not allow the school to be caught on the hook of league table positions, judging year on year the success or failure of the school by misleading one-dimensional statistics. Our vision of education at Kirkham Grammar School is much broader, more realistic and sensible than this. Thus we celebrate our academic successes as part of our mission to educate the whole person.

Outstanding results in an area of high priority deserve recognition, however, and we rightly applaud a GCSE pass rate of 93%, against the national average of less than 55%. We were delighted to see that almost 40% of all the 786 grades awarded were at A\* or A. 85 candidates from KGS sat the GCSE examinations and 98% achieved 5 or more grades A\* - C, at an average of 8.3 'passes' per pupil. Eleven pupils obtained at least nine A\*/A grades and Martha Newell's outstanding record of 11 straight A\*s was about the best individual result in the country. I hope these results prove beyond doubt that academically gifted pupils flourish at Kirkham Grammar School.

We were delighted to see our A-level high fliers get more top grades than ever before and we congratulate Stephen Clark, Sheree Halliwell and Deri Hughes on their Oxbridge successes. Drapers' Company Scholarships were awarded for outstanding performance at A-level to Mark Devine and Chloe Scott, both of whom obtained five straight A grades. Many more modest results reflected real value added achievement for our less academically able students.

It has been fashionable in the past to put KGS down as 'merely' a good all-round school. Increasingly, however, the school is fashioning a deserved reputation for excellence across the board, not least in the academic arena. It was gratifying to hear the Inspectors' approval of the school's exam results and to learn from no less an authority that the school fulfils the potential of its pupils, in many cases well beyond.



*The moment they have all been waiting for!  
GCSE Results Day 1998*



*Martha Newell gained 11 straight A\*s at GCSE - one of the best individual results in the country*

## SIXTH FORM

It is pleasing to see so many Sixth Formers enthused by the challenge of ideas and creative thinking. This term's two Inter-House debates have both been very well attended by a keen and active audience of Sixth Formers, ready to support or challenge the views of the official team speakers.

Meanwhile, the lunchtime staff-student Discussion Group goes from strength to strength, attracted not only by Mr Long's French coffee, but more importantly by the prospect of "putting the world to rights" in an atmosphere of civil, lively and often amusing conversation among students and teachers.

Once again, large numbers of our Upper Sixth students have picked up early and generous offers from universities, well before the official UCAS deadline in mid-December. There can be no better boost to a student's morale at this busy time than to know that a realistic target is in sight, and that someone somewhere wants you! We wish our ten Oxbridge candidates every success at interview, knowing how difficult it is to obtain offers at this level.

We also thank our Sixth Formers for the impressive manner in which they lead the school. This certainly caught the eye of the Inspectors who were quick to praise the leadership, conduct and sense of responsibility of KGS Sixth Formers and made a point of commending them in their written report. The Inspectors were particularly impressed by the way our Sixth Form Prefects relate to younger pupils. They were also impressed by the character and self-confidence of our upper school. We are rightly very proud of our Sixth Form students at KGS and we thank them for all the support they willingly give to the school at open events and constantly throughout the school year.

## MUSIC

C.C.F. Inspection, Speech Day, Remembrance Day Service, Carol Concert, Carol Service, Carmen at the Charter Theatre - just a few of the events in which the School Musicians have been involved recently. It certainly hasn't been a term for either Choristers or Instrumentalists to sit back and relax!

Congratulations go to second former Kingsley Shaw who auditioned earlier in the term for the Royal School of Church Music and who has gained a place in the Northern Cathedral Singers for the 1999 Season, as well as being selected by them to sing in York Minster for a fortnight next August. I would also like to congratulate Emily Ross who passed The Associated Board Grade VIII Flute Examination with Merit.



*KGS 'urchins' from the cast of "Carmen"*

## DRAMA

The Autumn term is always a busy one for the Drama and Theatre Studies students. It is the term when the school production gets fully under way. This production, "The Tempest", has allowed pupils to take control in areas of directing, designing, stage management, make-up and theatre administration. It is the aim of the department to provide an integrated learning programme wherever possible.

With this in mind, the students regularly visit local theatres, providing a range of experience. These support work done in class and have included: "A Doll's House" at the Library Theatre, Manchester, "The Tempest" at the Unity Theatre, Liverpool and "Our Country's Good" at the Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

During the February half term, a trip to London has been organised which will incorporate a West End production, together with a professional workshop and visit to the Museum of Theatre at Covent Garden.

Special mention must be made of Derek Howarth, a fifth year GCSE student, who has been accepted as a member of the Grand Youth Theatre and will act in "The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole in March, 1999.



*Members of the cast of the School Production, "The Tempest"*

## ART AT K.G.S.

This term has seen some stimulating artwork produced by pupils of all ages. The excellent standard of work by the Sixth Form can be found on the top corridor and in the Sixth Form art studio of the '38 Block.' There are also displays by the junior classes outside and in room 21. Parents and friends are always welcome in the department.

The Art Department has been working closely with Mr Steve Carter, former pupil and current parent, to produce the audio-visual computer effects for "The Tempest" which were well received. Son, Chris, put together the video clips and sound on the Art Department's Apple Mac computer, under the expert guidance of his father, and the images were projected using the Technology Centre's recently acquired projector.

During the half term holiday, Mr Gardiner, with the help of Ms Gibson, led a party of sixth formers to Paris on a cultural visit. The group experienced Mass in the Notre Dame, ascended the Eiffel Tower, savoured the night life of Montmartre and visited many art museums including the Musée Picasso, Musée Rodin and Musée d'Orsay.

Mr Painter reports that the Junior Art Club has had an interesting and successful term. In association with the school production of "The Tempest", a decision was made to produce a whale-like creature (Leviathan). Accordingly, a most ambitious project was completed using wire, papier maché and paint. The real value of this project was the opportunity it presented for pupils in the first and second year to make something on a grand scale beyond the realms of day-to-day lessons.



# CLUBS & SOCIETIES

## PUBLIC SPEAKING SOCIETY

The school's newly formed Public Speaking Society got off to a dream start by winning its first competition, the Lancashire round of the BPW National Public Speaking Competition for Girls, thereby advancing to the regional round in Manchester.

The KGS team was made up entirely of 5th year girls who had to compete against 6th formers from seven other schools. It is a great tribute to the talents of Laura Clarke, Victoria Hartley-Jackson and Jennifer Leigh, team captain, that they won the competition, despite the maturity of the other teams. They looked magnificent and gave a splendid presentation on a very difficult and controversial topic "Genetics - the Double Helix".

Laura Clarke was voted best speaker and Jennifer Leigh and Victoria Hartley-Jackson were highly commended. The team was supported well by our 'B' team and its questions. Mrs Yvonne Jones, founder and coach of the new society, was delighted and very proud of her team, and rightly so.

We wish the girls every success in the regional round which will be hosted by Manchester City Council and held in the Reception Rooms of the Victorian Town Hall, Manchester.



*The KGS Public Speaking Team - winners of the BPW Lancashire Schools' Public Speaking Competition at their first attempt!*

## THE ANIMAL ARK CLUB



*Sarah Critchley and 'friend' at the Creepy Crawly Roadshow*



The Animal Ark Club is a newly formed club, aiming to learn more about looking after animals and to discuss environmental issues.

Trips this term were made to the Aqualife Centre at Auldene Garden Centre and to W.A.S.P. (Wild Animal Sanctuary Project) in Blackpool. We were asked by W.A.S.P. to adopt a Syrian hamster and a king snake, now part of our growing collection of animals, which also includes Russian hamsters, stick insects, tropical fish and mice.

The club also organised a visit from the Creepy Crawly Road Show which gave the opportunity to hold pythons, tarantulas, giant millipedes and giant African land snails.

## GERMAN CLUB

An enthusiastic group of juniors began meeting two terms ago and managed to gain recognition by the General School Committee in July.

With the allocation of a grant, it has meant that games and CD's have been bought and these have been used regularly at meetings.

With the opening of the Technology Centre and the availability of computers and the Internet, we have also been able to surf the net and have made contact with the Grammar School in Bad Brückenau, Kirkham's twin town.

We have also been able to hire videos and cartoons from the Goethe Institute in Manchester and these have proved most popular, as did the Christmas party, culminating in a rousing rendition of "O Tannenbaum".

## FRENCH CLUB

The French Club has once again proved to be a popular lunchtime activity, with the significant added attraction this term of the Technology Centre, providing access to language games on CD Rom and the Internet. Pupils have enjoyed this whole new dimension to language exploration, whilst at the same time continuing to take part enthusiastically in the traditional board games such as French 'Cluedo', 'Guess Who', 'Scrabble' and 'Operation'.

## K.G.S. SKI SOCIETY

Probably at this time of the year most people are thinking of, and looking forward to, Christmas. I am sure we all are; however, some 64 pupils and staff are looking further ahead than that and are eagerly preparing for the New Year.

The second of January, 1999 sees the departure of KGS Ski Society's annual ski holiday. This year, again, we are jetting off to the French Alps. This will be the first official school function in the important 450th Anniversary Year. However, it is merely our 18th consecutive trip to various locations in Europe and, because last year's venture was so successful, it was decided to return to the same venue in the Les Arcs system.

This region of the Haute Tarantaise is ideal for all types of skier. The gentle forest slopes are ideal runs for the beginners to learn their turns as they progress from the wide open pistes, while the intermediates soon discover the more challenging runs of the Les Arcs resorts - especially the 7 km black run of the Aiguille Rouge (3200m).

The hotel is magnificently placed and offers true doorstep skiing. From skis off to boot room is about five paces! We have been informed that the early snows have arrived and there is already sufficient snow above 2000m to last until March. The hotel is at 1650 m, therefore all we will require is the beautiful clear skies.

So, as you all recover from your New Year's festivities, think of fortunate skiers who will be braving the rigours of sub-zero, early morning temperatures just to launch themselves down the slopes of the Isère Valley with planks strapped to their feet with typical KGS spirit - not quite War and Piste!

## BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP

The Lower Sixth Biologists spent a week of their Summer holiday in the uncharacteristically wet conditions of North Wales!

Fortunately, the enthusiasm remained buoyant, even when sampling the plant life in a moorland bog.

Each day was spent in a different habitat, including the sand dune system at Harlech, the rocky shore at Penmon Point, Anglesey, and an ancient oak woodland in Betws-y-Coed.

With lectures each evening and a coursework investigation to organise, the students did very well to keep working hard. This was a demanding but very worthwhile course.



*Lower Sixth Biologists sample the plant life in a moorland bog in North Wales*

## TENNIS CAMPS

David Shaw will again be holding his Tennis Camps at Kirkham Grammar School during 1999. The Camp dates are as follows:

**May 31st - June 4th**  
**July 12th - July 16th**  
**July 26th - July 30th**

If you are interested in taking part, please contact David on 01772 786995 or 0370 618148 to add your name and address to a mailing list. During the early part of 1999 you will receive an application form automatically.

## ITALIAN CLUB

Following requests from a group of junior pupils, it was decided to start an Italian Club at lunchtimes during the week. Meetings have been held regularly and have been well attended.

Starting the language from scratch has meant that it has been a slow process, but we have learned some basic Italian and have been able to play some games. We have watched some videos, used the Internet for some simple exercises and, thanks to the generosity of our two members of staff, have been able to use some CD's on the computer for role playing and have learned that old Italian traditional song "Santa Lucia".

We are now able to cope with some basic situations such as ordering food and drink and asking the way, as well as introducing ourselves. We look forward to learning how to make people an offer they can't refuse!

## CLIMBING CLUB

The Climbing Club has been very active this term.

There were the usual visits to local crags such as Anglezarke and Troy Quarry early in the term and visits to indoor climbing walls later in the term as the weather deteriorated. A trip to the Lake District enabled some pupils to experience multi-pitch climbing in a mountain setting for the first time and a trip to the impressively large climbing centre in Warrington took place on Speech Day holiday.

However, the most significant event of the term was the sponsored climb at Ingleton just before half-term which, together with a generous donation from the Old Kirkhamians' Association, brought the climbing wall fund up to the sum required to extend the school's climbing wall. It is planned that the contractors who built the original wall will extend the wall up into the suspended ceiling of the MPH over the Christmas holidays.

The climbing club is eagerly anticipating the greater challenge of a higher wall

# K.G.S. COMBINED CADET FORCE

This year's summer camp was held at Wathgill Field Training Centre in North Yorkshire (part of Catterick Garrison). This was an excellent venue with superb modern facilities and the cadets all performed admirably, with typical KGS enthusiasm. Excellent times were recorded in both the Orienteering and The Assault Course Competitions and, although we did not win, we were in the top few schools out of 36.

This term saw a very successful Inspection Day by an Old Kirkhamian, Captain Simon Salt. He is in charge of the Army Youth Team recruiting at Fulwood Barracks and enjoyed coming back to his old school immensely. The Cadets, as usual, gave a creditable display of their abilities and Capt. Salt enjoyed trying to find the camouflage exercise by the RAF.

Field Day was again an enjoyable experience, especially for the new, fourth year cadets. A very strenuous day was held at Waddecarr Scout Camp and much fun was had by all. The seniors shot on the 30 m range at Weeton and the RAF yomped across Darwen Moor.

KGS Combined Cadet Force is still thriving and looking forward to Adventurous Training next February half term. I am particularly grateful to Major Scott for taking command of the Force at such short notice this term and maintaining the same high standards as ever.



*Old Kirkhamian, Captain Simon Salt, inspects the KGS Cadets at their Annual Inspection and Review*

## INTER-HOUSE EVENTS

This term has been very busy with many House events taking place. We have seen a diverse range of competitions, from sporting to intellectual, and all Houses have had mixed fortunes. Housemasters from School, Fylde and Preston were on their guard, as Mr. Duncan took over the reins of Kirkham House from Mr. Baines. Would we be able to handle his complete enthusiasm for the House competition?...No problem!

The House Chess was keenly fought, with all Houses putting up a strong challenge. School once again were the favourites, and they met Preston in the final. Preston came out the overall winners by beating School by half a point overall. Preston were also victorious in the House shooting event, once again narrowly beating School. The whole competition was shot in a great spirit with all team members keen to do their best for the House. Hard luck Mr. Duncan for the 4th place!

Kirkham House then came to the fore in the Debating Competition when they defeated a much fancied School House Team in the semi-final of the House debate competition. Kirkham successfully proposed that 'censorship is necessary'. Kirkham now meet Preston in the final in March. Preston beat Fylde in their semi-final, defending the motion that 'Football culture is the scourge of modern youth'. The final should be a very interesting contest.

Fylde are obviously the sporting House to watch this year. They won both the Senior House netball and the Junior hockey competitions. Mr. Scott is hoping that the boys perform to Fylde House girls' standard in the rugby competitions next term. The final event of the term was the swimming competition held at Kirkham Baths. Teams were eagerly organised ... and re-organised .... and re-organised until the day of the competition. The eventual winners were Kirkham whose strength in depth in this sport easily won the day.

The Housemasters and pupils look forward to next term when we meet in a range of competitions. And yes, perhaps we do need to worry about Mr. Duncan and his House management team!

**S. Crowther**  
**(House Recorder)**



*School House Debating Team  
Last year's winners of the House Debating Cup*



*Butts party at the Annual CCF Camp at  
Wathgill Field Training Centre*

# SPORT

## HOCKEY

The girls' hockey teams have played 54 matches between them so far this season. They have made a splendid start once again and are achieving excellent results. The results to date are made up of 40 wins, 5 draws and only 9 defeats.

The 1st XI this season has had a very good start only losing two games out of twelve played. The team started the season with nine new players and, after a tentative start, the team has grown in stature. The match played against Arnold on the 25th November was the first time for many years that KGS controlled and dominated 95% of the game. The girls have trained hard and have improved tremendously. We look forward eagerly to the Lancashire Schools' U.19 tournament.



*England v. Australia. The KGS U.15 host a touring team from Townsville, Queensland*

The U16's are as keen as ever and were a real credit to KGS when we hosted a hockey touring team from Townsville Grammar, Queensland, Australia. We won in true KGS style 2-1. The U15 cup team are now in the fourth round of the U15 National Schools' Hockey Competition. The team remains unbeaten so far this season and the girls are continuing to play at an exceptionally high standard. The U15's, U14's and U12's also remain unbeaten! Our present first year is a strong year group and look to be very good prospects for the future, with some excellent high-scoring results already under their belts.

### COUNTY HONOURS:

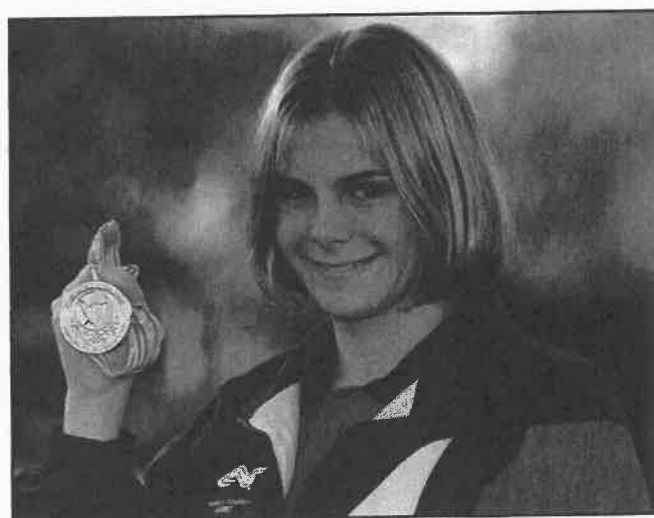
**U18** - Anna Tomlinson, Martha Newell, Rachel Sissons. **U16** - Ruth Burns, Jane Meloy, Lorna Sissons. **U15** - Vicky Wilson, Katie Severns, Katie Threlfall, Amy Twambley, Eleanor Cairns, Helen Green, Vicky Peters, Kate Sannegadu, Hannah Spacey. **U.14** - Ten girls have been selected for the Lancashire Hockey Development Squad.

We are delighted to be able to report that Lorna Sissons, Rachel Sissons and Hannah Spacey have again been selected for the England Development Centre. All three girls are outstanding prospects, so much so that the Times newspaper devoted substantial coverage to their early promise and prowess in the sport. They are a credit to their school and we congratulate them on such a notable achievement.

## SWIMMING

The Autumn is always a busy term for the school swimmers, with four very competitive fixtures against Stonyhurst, Bolton School, Hutton and Arnold School (Boys), not forgetting the School Inter House Swimming Gala. The team worked hard to achieve overall victories over Stonyhurst and Arnold School. The Junior squad this year has provided strength in depth, winning all its matches at U.12 level, which is a particularly notable achievement. Adam Cooper (U.12) and Greg Skinner (U.13), earn mention for their overall commitment and performance. Among the Intermediate Girls, Nicola Hendy, Jenna Rees, Emma Walker, Katy Threlfall and Fiona Morgan are very much the nucleus of the teams and are thriving on their success.

The early morning training sessions on Friday are as popular as ever; at the last count the maximum attendance was 56! The Captains of Swimming, Andrew Walker and Kate Oades, have played an admirable part in the team's successes and in fostering the enthusiasm and team spirit which is always apparent. The School Swimming Team is very much a 'voluntary' activity and its success is down to the dedication and commitment of the individuals concerned.



*Michelle Harrison - Silver Medallist in the World Schools' Swimming Championships, Shanghai, China*

Michelle Harrison, our international swimmer, has had a truly outstanding and memorable term, becoming the first swimmer in the history of Kirkham Grammar School to represent England Schools in the World Schools' Swimming Championships in Shanghai, China. To get there was an enormous achievement in itself, to return with a silver medal from the freestyle relay was the icing on the cake and we congratulate Michelle on her magnificent success. It is also heartening to report that, despite the demands of a very heavy training schedule, Michelle has found time to represent both her School and her House. She is an excellent ambassador for her School and an outstanding role model for our younger swimmers.



# SCHOOL RUGBY

## 1st XV - P10 W8 L2

Having lost six of last year's very successful pack, the team took several weeks to bed down and develop to KGS standard. During this early period, we were unfortunate to encounter a strong Bradford GS team in the third round of the 'Daily Mail' Cup. After being ahead at half time, the game was lost and too many penalties were given away, a failure which has continued to hinder progress. This important game came too early, for the 1st XV has improved greatly over the term and is now more than a match for any team in the North.  
Sponsor: Healthlife

## REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS Scottish Development XV: Richard Wire

**Lancashire:** Ben Davis (Capt), Ben Godfrey, Richard Hopkinson, Andrew Perry, Jonathan Roddam

**Lancashire 'A':** Mark Hill, Richard Wilson

**Lancashire U.16:** Adam Watts (Capt), Michael Lau

## 2nd XV - P11 W11 L0

At the time of writing the 2nd XV remains unbeaten, scoring 500 and conceding 81 points in eleven games. Under the present coach, Lancaster were last beaten in 1988 and Stonyhurst had never been beaten; so these victories were most satisfying. Having also recently taken Kings Macclesfield's unbeaten record, it would be easy to say that the team has played unbeatable rugby. This certainly has been true in patches, with a back division capable of testing many first teams, but never consistently for an entire game. Lancaster showed this to be true when they came back from a nineteen point deficit to level at nineteen all, before KGS started playing again to run out winners.

## 3rd XV

A strong 1st and 2nd XV is only possible if there are good players in the 3rd XV. This has certainly been the case this season with several players, who would in other years have been 2nd XV regulars, playing for the 3rds. The frequent calls due to injury for players to move up a team has meant that the same side has never played together for two consecutive matches. There have

been several excellent team performances despite this and, although suffering several defeats, the score line has not always been a true reflection of the performance on the field.

## U.15 XV

The team has had a very successful start to the season, remaining unbeaten until November, with victories over King Edwards and Stonyhurst College being the highlights. Although handicapped by a number of injuries, this promising team has still managed to progress through several rounds of The Daily Mail Cup, latterly at the expense of Arnold School.

## REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS North Lancashire U.15: George Leeming, Paul McNamee, Stuart Blackburn, James Holmes, Patrick Lewis

## U.14 XV

After a successful season last year the U.14s have struggled to come to terms with losing two strong backs and the fact that they have not grown as rapidly as boys in other schools. Despite this, they have put on some sterling performances in defeat, not least their match v. Stonyhurst which, on an appalling day, could have gone either way until the final five minutes. There is a good deal of potential in the side and with hard work and increasing maturity will develop into a good team.

## U.13 XV - P10 W6 L4

After virtually going through the first year with an unblemished record, it was never going to be easy maintaining such a success rate. The first hurdle encountered was that nearly all the teams had doubled in size and weight whilst, if anything, we had become smaller! Nevertheless, the 'pack' proved it is not the 'dog in the fight' but the 'fight in the dog'! The very close defeat away at Wirral was without doubt our finest performance to date. The forwards technically have made great strides. The Captain, Andrew Stevens, leads from the front. The backs have now realised the importance of defending as well as attacking - particularly after losing a last minute winning try to Lancaster. Jack Ward works hard at motivating and has played a significant part in the team's success. Chris Gorman, James Cooper and Oliver Twambley are also worthy of commendation.

## U.12 XV - P5 W2 D1 L2

There has been considerable ground work put into the U.12s this year, with guidance and coaching by Dr Rollins, Mr Taylor and Mr Holland. It is never easy selecting a team of 15 players from a squad of over 40. There will always be disappointed faces; however, there is a long way to go. The team has started to work well together. The pack, under the leadership of Andrew Crook, has shown tremendous potential. For a Junior team, with a limited number of boys to pick from, to win against large schools such as Wirral GS and Calday Grange is quite an achievement. The backs certainly have attacking flair; defensively there is a little way to go, but they are a side with a promising future. Captain Marcus Jackson has led the team well and Stephen Hatch has emerged as the top try scorer.

# ATHLETICS & CROSS COUNTRY

Lower Sixth Former, Gareth Rees, received the news this term that he is 6th in the national rankings for his main event, the Inter Boys 400 metres hurdles. We congratulate Gareth on an outstanding season of athletics during which he won both the 100 and 400 metres North of England titles, and repeated these victories when competing for Lancashire in the Northern Inter-Counties competition. He also finished a splendid 6th in the final of the England Schools' Athletic Championships 400 metres hurdles, a race which saw some exceptionally fast times.

First former, Stephen Hatch, is, enjoying an excellent cross country season, regularly winning district events such as the Fylde Schools' Cross Country Championships. We hope that KGS will shortly establish a running club to support runners of Stephen's obvious potential and give others the opportunity to take part in middle and long distance running over the winter months.

# NETBALL

The U15's are competing in the Blackpool Schools Netball League and have only lost one game so far they are currently in second place.

# NEW ZEALAND EXCHANGE

Welcome to our students from Wairarapa College; Wicki Harwood, Katherine Wyatt, Nick Bunny and Daniel Toloa.

They have settled in quickly and are being well looked after by our hosts - Emily Rhodes, Cara Backhouse, Philip Hendy and William Roberts.

The Kiwis are already making their mark in the 1st Hockey XI and 1st and 2nd Rugby XVs and lending valuable coaching skills to our games staff. We wish them a happy and memorable eight weeks at KGS.



## YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Building on last year's achievements, Young Enterprise continues to make excellent progress. 'Imagine', this year's company, is working tremendously hard to produce two distinct lines of product. With regular company meetings each Monday evening, the company is well motivated and committed.

Utilising the school's new Technology Centre, 'Imagine' has produced a calendar for 1999 for parents and children from the Junior School. Pupils from J1 to J4 have had great fun drawing pictures of themselves for the calendar. After scanning these pictures on to a P.C., the production team has produced the calendar 'on-site'. The infants at the Junior School have been working hard producing pictures for a tea-towel. Both these products are now available for sale and will make ideal Christmas presents.

As we go to print, 'Imagine' is busy preparing two new products; decorative glassware and hand painted scarves. The company, after careful market research, has realised the need to target a different customer and it is hoped that pupils and adults alike will welcome its new lines. As well as producing, marketing and selling products, 'Imagine' has learnt the necessity for clear planning and strong company discipline. Under the leadership of Jonathan Whiteside, the company is well led and motivated. All bodes well for next year when the regional competition begins.

It is pleasing to report that the company is taking advantage of the Information Superhighway. If you would like to visit 'Imagine's' web site the address is ...  
<http://www.yeimage.freemove.co.uk>

## CHARITY

Weekly collections have continued as normal and a variety of causes have been supported. Both staff and pupils support children via the Action Aid sponsorship scheme with help being provided for a boy in India, a girl in Peru and a girl in Gambia.

The dreadful events in Bangladesh in late September and October meant that support had to be provided from the emergency allocation and later in the same month a contribution was made to the Harvest in Europe appeal for Romania and Bulgaria.

Locally we have supported Barnardos, with many of our fifth and sixth formers agreeing to collect for the charity, after visitors spoke in one of our senior assemblies. Likewise in November a group of our senior pupils agreed to collect for the British Legion Poppy Appeal. For the rest of November the weekly collections were designated for the relief agencies working in Central America following the terrible disaster there. By the end of term a non-uniform day will have been held and the proceeds from that divided between Crisis, a local charity for the homeless and Mencap.

## STAFF NEWS

We welcomed former pupil, Miss Anna Fryer, to the Biology Department in September. She is delighted to have rejoined her old school and has immersed herself in the academic work of the department, in addition to giving valuable help on the games field and to the CCF.

Mr John Wade has proved to be a valuable temporary addition to the Biology Department, bringing great enthusiasm and professionalism to his work, and Rev. Tom Taylor's part-time contribution to the Music Department has been an invaluable asset.

The school staff has also been strengthened by the return of two of our strongest and most experienced former teachers, Mrs Yvonne Jones in the English Department and Mrs Pauline Cooper in the Maths Department. It is marvellous to have them back.

Mr Michael Whalley, from Hutton Grammar School, has been appointed as our new Director of PE and Games with effect from January 1999. Mr Whalley is an experienced teacher of PE and Games, skilled in coaching a wide variety of sports, a rugby enthusiast and a particularly keen cricketer. We much look forward to Mr Whalley joining us. We thank Mr Henry Porteous, whose work this term has been quite outstanding and seeing the School through a potentially difficult period. Though Mr Porteous has only been with us on a temporary part-time contact, we shall miss his commitment, experience and marvellous sense of humour. He has done a magnificent job for KGS.

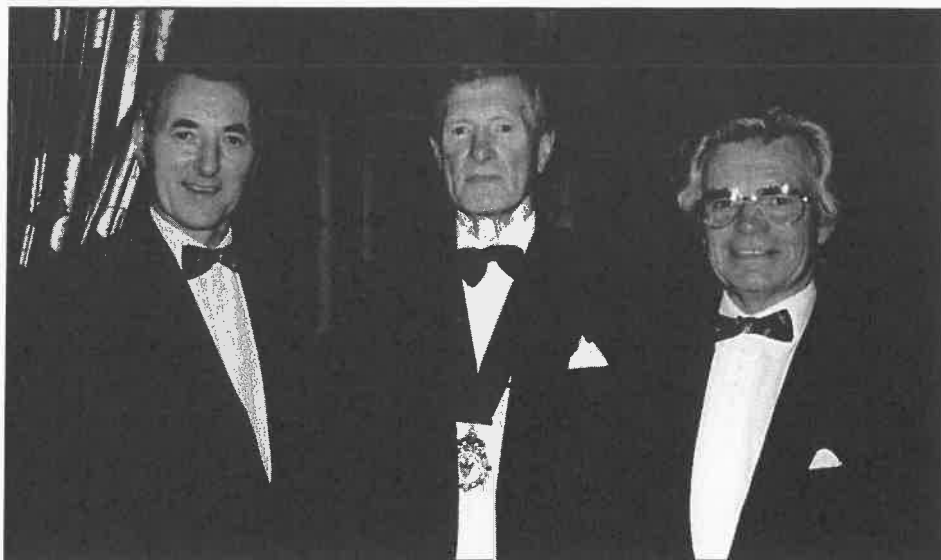
The school bade farewell to our long serving and much loved Matron, Miss Elizabeth McCade at half term. Miss McCade had become completely identified with the success of the Boarding House during her ten years here and gave the School, and especially our boarders, the most outstanding service. We wish her every success in her new post as Deputy Manager of a Nursing Agency, based in her home town of Cockermouth in Cumbria. In her place we are delighted to welcome former pupil Miss Stacey Valentine, who brings both experience and excellent qualifications to the important post of Matron at her old school.

# OLD KIRKHAMIANs' ASSOCIATION

At the Annual General Meeting, outgoing President, Mr Lawrence Abram, passed on the chain of office to the Headmaster, who is privileged to accept the Presidency during the year of the School's 450th Anniversary.

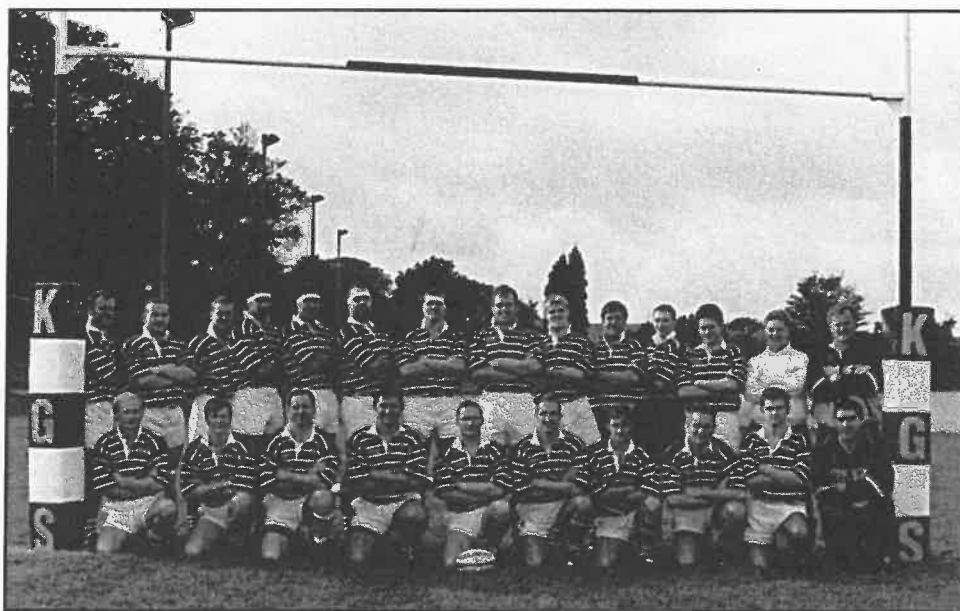
The Northern Reunion Dinner was a most enjoyable occasion, attended by some seventy former pupils in the School's Old Hall and enlivened by the address of guest speaker, Mr Arthur Baines, who recounted many of his long memories of life at KGS. Mr Baines has experienced 38 years of close contact with his old school and few have a better knowledge of the School's recent history.

The Association is hoping for a full attendance at the Southern Dinner, to be held, as usual, at St Edmund Hall, Oxford on Saturday, 27th March 1999.



*Barrie Stacey (OKA President 1998/99), Lawrence Abram (retiring President) and Arthur Baines (Guest Speaker) at the Association's Northern Reunion Dinner*

The OKA event of the year in 1998, however, was undoubtedly the inaugural match between the Anti-Assassins and a star-studded Old Kirkhamians XV. Some 500 spectators witnessed a pulsating display of open flowing rugby, which saw the Old Kirkhamians emerge as comfortable winners of a superb match. John Mitchell, former All Black and current Sale and England coach, played for the AAs and the Old Kirkhamians' squad included: Pat Sanderson, Sale and England; Alex Sanderson, Sale and England U.21; Mark Preston (Capt) Wigan and Halifax RLFC, Fylde and England A; Richard Robinson, Leicester, Coventry, Barbarians; Ian Aitchison, Waterloo, Fylde, England Schools; Bruce Craven, Great Britain U.19 Athlete. The Anti Assassins have accepted our invitation to return during the School's 450th Anniversary year and the match, scheduled for Sunday, 10th October, kick off 2.30 pm, should provide compulsive viewing.



## OLD KIRKHAMIANs' ASSOCIATION RUGBY SQUAD 1998

**Back Row:** Rob Porteous, Daniel Davies, James Porteous, Alex Sanderson, Pat Sanderson, James Woodsell, Mark Grey, Michael Bailey, Adam Baines, Ian Aitchison, Richard Robinson, Matthew Wildig, Keith Aitchison (Manager), Brian Gornall (Coach).

**Front Row:** Craig Seed, Jonathan Carpenter, Simon Taylor, David Whittingham, Mark Preston (Capt), Bruce Craven, Keith Quigley, Martin Williams, Mark Ledsham, Craig McIntyre

Alex Sanderson, KGS Rugby Captain 1997/98, has already won a regular place in Sale's 1st XV. He was honoured to captain the North and Midlands U.21 side to victory over South Africa U.21 and has recently achieved the remarkable feat of captaining England U.21, at just 19 years of age. Alex led his England team to an emphatic 32-10 victory over the touring South African U.21 team at Twickenham on Saturday, 5th December.

Deri Hughes, in his first term at Oxford University, has played for the University 2nd team and for Oxford against Cambridge in the Freshers' match. He was also selected for the England Universities U.19 team which played the Welsh Universities. We congratulate Deri on some remarkable early achievements at Oxford.

It is also good to hear of Matthew Leyden, playing for Bath Academy, Keith Quigley, playing for Leeds Academy, Adam Baines selected for Leicestershire U.21s and Rob Porteous (Capt. of KGS 'Daily Mail' Cup Final Team 1997) playing for Loughborough University and Sale 2nd XV.

**Copies of the OKA Rugby Squad photo are available (£10 - including mount) from The Marketing and Development Office at the School. Tel. 01772 688104.**

# FRIENDS OF KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL

This has been a very busy term for the Friends' Association and I was particularly pleased to welcome six new members, who joined us at the 45th A.G.M., bringing the Committee up to forty members. We have grown from strength to strength, developing into what can only be termed as an exceptional, hardworking and cohesive team. I thank you all for your unrelenting support throughout this term.

The Friends' New Parents' Welcome Evening in October was musically supported by Sam Smith and Alistair Kipling's jazz quartet. This was thoroughly enjoyed by 80 new parents who sipped their wine and chattered away to Committee members, Governors and staff, helping to create a warm and informal social occasion.



*The Headmaster, Mrs Stacey and Guests at the Friends of Kirkham Grammar Winter Ball*

The Committee have also actively supported school events, providing the buffet for the J.4 Parents' Evening, helping with the Technology Open Evening and the Anti-Assassins rugby match.

The Winter Ball was held this year in the Paradise Suite at the Pleasure Beach. It was attended by 332 parents, friends, Governors and teachers. The food was delicious and certainly made up for any little problem that may have been apparent on the night. The usual Kirkham party spirit radiantly shone through, as guests laughed and danced the night away, raising a staggering £4500.

The Christmas Fair was held in the MPH; in true festive style, the hall was buzzing with activity and the money raised will now go towards providing books for a long needed Junior School library. This is to be our target for 1999.

It has been an outstanding year for 'The Friends' in terms of fund raising. Setting aside the regular contributions made to school for flowers, Speech Day prizes, Christmas presents for the Junior School, supporting sporting exchanges and a charity trip (not to mention a £50 share in a snake!), we have been able to provide a new school minibus costing £16862.50.

None of this remarkable achievement would have been possible without your help and support. I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to you all; our success depends on you. With this in mind, I would like to draw your attention to the revised date for the 1999 Summer Ball which will now take place on 26th June.

I do hope you will be able to join us in helping Kirkham Grammar School celebrate 450 years. Until then, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

**Ros Ince**

*Chairman of The Friends of KGS*

## 450TH ANNIVERSARY

The calendar of events for the year is being printed as I write and the first items of commemorative ware are now in stock. China Anniversary mugs and trinket boxes will already have been on sale at the Christmas Fayre when you read this letter. Every pupil will receive a commemorative medallion and a diary for the year at a special assembly of the whole school in January, 1999.

I have been assured that the School will receive a visit from a member of the Royal Family at some stage during the year, though it now appears to be unlikely to be Her Majesty, the Queen..

In any event, we can all look forward to an exciting and enjoyable year ahead. How we shall cope with the millennium the year after, I cannot imagine!

**the art**  
DESIGN  
department

*This newsletter has been produced by the School's Art and Marketing Departments using an Apple Mac kindly donated by The Old Kirkhamians' Association. Photos are courtesy of The Gazette, The Astbury Studio and Studio D Photography.*



**Catherine and I extend to  
you all our best wishes for  
a happy Christmas and a  
peaceful and prosperous  
New Year**

**B. Stacey**  
Headmaster