

Kirkham Grammar School

Headmaster's Letter to Parents

Spring 2006





From the Headmaster

As the mid-year approaches and the days begin to get noticeably longer we look forward to the culmination of our year's efforts. The next half-term represents the last to be uninterrupted by public examinations but it is also one that sees the busy conclusion of the winter sports programme. It is therefore a frantic period which keeps us all very much on our toes! The term will also see the conclusion of our new Drama Studio/Sports Pavilion. This new facility, which should open early in the Summer Term, will be a tremendous asset although, as always, the building and planning phases bring their difficulties. I have once again been grateful to all members of the school community, both staff and pupils for both their assistance and their patience.

This year has seen the most impressive public examination results in the school's recent history. The steady improvements over past years have already outmatched national grade inflation but this year saw our pupils excel themselves and outperform most of our local rivals in the National press league tables. At A-level, after re-marks, some 61% of grades were at A/B level with the pass rate at 97%. The performance of Vicky Biggs is celebrated further into the newsletter but I know that Mrs Airey enjoyed her visit to London to witness Vicky's receipt of the Student of the Year in English Award. The fifth form pupils also responded magnificently with no less than 50% of the grades being at A/A*. Some twenty pupils gained a full set of A/A* grades with two achieving all grades at A*. This level of academic achievement

has set a standard that other year groups can strive for and it is testimony to the pupils' hard work and that of their teachers. I am not a great advocate of League Tables as they do not inform anyone of the essence of a school and how much is achieved by the pupils but it is clear that these two cohorts fulfilled their potential and deserve their accolades. No less than six pupils were successful in their Oxbridge applications which once again represents a first for Kirkham Grammar School and we are now hearing of the outcome of this year's applications where a smaller entry has also met with conspicuous success. Four current members of the Upper Sixth have been successful; Joanne Box, Matthew Gaddes, Joanne Forrest & Harold Buchanan while Stuart Harrison has reapplied to Oxford and embarks on an English course in October. Such is the ferocity of the competition these days that entry into these institutions is fraught with pitfalls and all those who undertook the entry procedures deserve commendation.

Away from the academic sphere we have seen some outstanding performances in the cultural arena. I was delighted to be a guest at a number of musical and dramatic performances where our youngsters showed their talents. From charity concerts, first year music concert, Xmas concert, choir at the Carol Service, to the all-encompassing performance of The Tempest we enjoyed a series of excellent individual and group performances. The opportunity to participate in this variety of events is so important in our pupils' development and it is pleasing to see so many involved.

On the sporting front our teams continue to be busy and it has been exciting to see so many pupils selected at County level. Over twenty girls are in the hockey squads and a similar number in rugby. This level of selection is extraordinary and reflects so well on the quality of coaching currently available. It is particularly praiseworthy given the difficulties caused by the unavailability of the all-weather surfaces for the second half of term and I thank all parents for their support and forbearance during this period. Competitions came to fruition in the latter part of this term and we hope both our girls and boys will enjoy participating in these exciting fixtures. Special congratulations thus far must go to Harrison Pickervance upon his selection for the Northern Division U18 XV and to the U16 XV on their reaching the semi-finals of the Merseyside Floodlit Cup with an 18-0 victory over Lymm High School.

Further regional success has been achieved in the



Debating circles where I was very pleased to hear of Joanne Box and Joanne Forest's success in the divisional rounds. Their achievement sees them go forward to the North West finals and we wish them well in their future arguments!

The school continues to be busy in all its spheres and I was thrilled to see so many parents present on the occasion of our Annual Prizegiving where Mr Roger Peel, Secretary of HMC gave a most amusing address. We also installed a number of new prizes. Significant progress is now recognised by the year group progress prizes while the number of GCSE prizes was increased to include all the subjects. This allowed greater numbers of our pupils so share in the celebration of the year's success.

Over recent weeks the most exciting news has perhaps been the Governors announcement that the planning for the next phase of our classroom block will commence. It is hoped that phases II and III can be constructed together to completely replace the Wareing Buildings and end the school's reliance on temporary classrooms. Tendering is underway and while final decisions have yet to be made this is now a project, which is in the forefront of our minds. I hope to be able to report further on this by the summer. Equally for those associated with the Boarding House, the Governors are well underway with plans for the refurbishment of boys boarding accommodation which may well take place, in part, by next year. This continued drive to create new exciting



facilities is the hallmark of the School in recent times and is the culmination of careful planning and prudent financing.

In December we learnt that the school has attained 'Investors in People' status. This accolade has been gained through external accreditation and is a consequence of the work that has been carried out in systemising our professional development programme alongside a comprehensive appraisal scheme. Colleagues have worked hard to ensure that the school has met the standards and I must congratulate all teaching and support staff on the success of this venture. I sense this to be a suitable topic upon which to conclude my contribution to this newsletter. I do hope you enjoy the contents for Mr Gardiner and Mrs James take great pride in its creation and we hope that it will provide a pictorial record which our pupils can keep to recall their days at Kirkham Grammar School in future years.



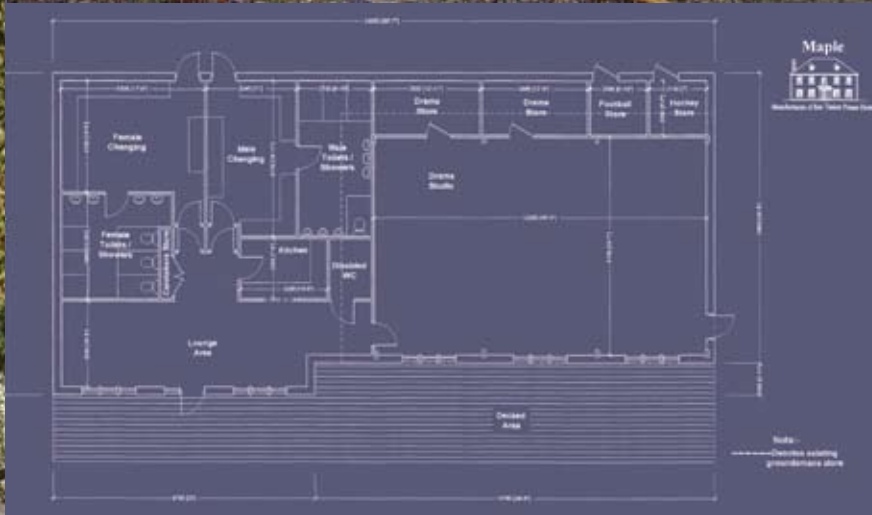
Latest DEVELOPMENT



With the Groundsman's Hut cleared and demolished late December 2005, ground work commenced on the Lawrence House Pavilion (plans below) in mid January 2006. This new and exciting facility will incorporate a drama studio, changing facilities, kitchen and lounge area that will be utilised by the school and local community.

We are indebted to the Lawrence House Trust, Friends of Kirkham Grammar School and a legacy from the late Katie Caine for providing the funding for this much needed development.

The building programme should be completed within the next six months.



Oxbridge bound

Four Upper Sixth students from Kirkham Grammar School are celebrating the New Year with offers from Oxford and Cambridge colleges, received over the Christmas and New Year period.

School Captain Joanne Box, from Freckleton, has an offer from New Hall, Cambridge, to read Law. Joanne is a genuine academic all rounder, who is studying a remarkably varied six subjects at A Level: Biology, Chemistry, English Literature, French, Mathematics and General Studies.

Harold Buchanan, a boarder whose home is in Bury, has a place at St Edmund Hall, Oxford, to read Modern History and Politics. Alongside his excellence in History and Politics, Harold is a keen sportsman, a member of the School's successful First Teams in rugby and cricket.

Joanne Forrest, from Preston, has a place to read Veterinary Science at Girton College, Cambridge - a particularly impressive triumph in a notoriously competitive subject area.

Finally, Matthew Gaddes, from Kirkham, has won a place at Hertford College, Oxford, to read Earth Sciences, a subject which will enable him to combine his academic abilities in science with his love of outdoor pursuits.

Their subject offers reflect the diversity and strength in depth which is such a strength of our Sixth Form. It is a tribute to them and their many teachers that they have impressed the selectors in so many different fields. All four are now, of course, working hard to ensure that their A Level grades match the level required by the Oxbridge tutors.



Melanie Smith

Melanie Smith a Lower Sixth student at Kirkham Grammar School has been offered a place on the Daniel Thwaites Travel Scholarship Programme for 2006. This programme, which is funded by the well-known brewery chain, sought one female pupil selected from all the Fylde schools to take part. This year's programme will take the lucky students from the participating boroughs to Northern Germany for two weeks this summer where they will enjoy a visit to Berlin followed by a home stay with a German family in the old Hanseatic city of Stralsund on the Baltic coast where they will take part in a community project with local students as well as visiting the local area. The area is renowned for its rich historical past with sites of interest ranging from medieval times to the former communist East Germany. Melanie who is taking AS courses in French, German, Latin and Politics is delighted to have been chosen and to have the opportunity to discover this region of Germany.



Tristan Brooke

Tristan Brooke was accepted into the 'National Youth Theatre of Great Britain' last year and was offered a place onto one of their courses in the summer holidays. Each year there are roughly 3000 applicants that are seen at one of the thirteen audition centres across the UK and 500 new members are recruited.

Founded in 1956, the National Youth Theatre is one of the UK's premier youth arts organisations and many of the best-known names in the entertainment industry started out with the company including Daniel Day Lewis, Matt Lucas, David Williams, Timothy Spall, Daniel Craig and Orlando Bloom.

Tristan took part in a course in the summer for two weeks in which he was acting everyday and then performed a devised piece at the end of the course. After the two weeks, from the 500 new members, Tristan was asked back to audition for their 50th anniversary season and to become a member of their company meaning that he will be eligible for parts in their many productions. He is still waiting for the result that is due in February.



Diary Dates

CCF Regimental Dinner
Saturday, 4 March

Third Year Parents' Evening
5.00 pm, Monday, 6 March

Charity Rock Concert
7.15 pm, Friday, 10 March

U19 Invitation Hockey Tournament
9.00 am – 5.00 pm, Saturday, 18 March

Whole School Photograph
28 March (am only)

Vicky Peters Memorial Hockey Match
9.30 am, Saturday, 1 April

Second Year Parents' Evening
5.00 pm, Monday, 3 April

Founders Day Service
2.30 pm, Tuesday, 4 April

OKA Southern Reunion Dinner
Saturday, 22 April
St Edmund Hall, Oxford

Rosemere Cancer Foundation 5km Fun Run
Monday, 1 May at Moor Park, Preston

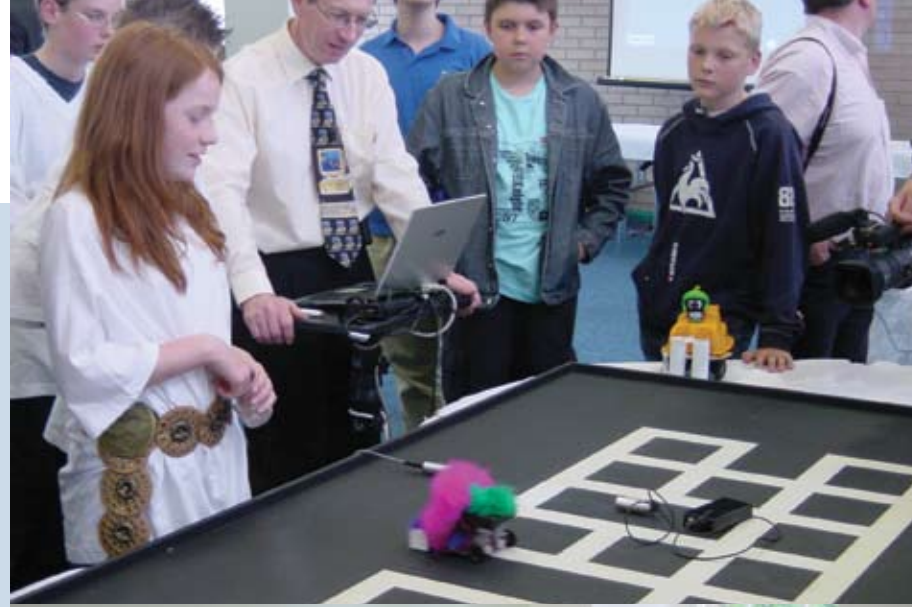
Senior School Sports Day
Wednesday, 10 May

Friends of KGS Family Fun Day
Sunday, 21 May

Sixth Form Ball
7.00 pm, Friday, 23 June

Friends of KGS Summer Ball
6.45, Saturday, 24 June

New Parents' and Pupils' Welcome Evening
7.30 pm, Monday, 3 July



YOUNG ENGINEERS

The 2005 Schools & Colleges Micromouse competition was held on Saturday 2nd July at Manchester Metropolitan University. The event attracted 37 teams from schools around the country. After last year's success Kirkham Grammar School entered eight 'mice' into the various classes of the competition. In the Formula 2 category Peter Armstrong claimed second place with his mouse 'Rattle and Squeak 2' and Thomas Fielding gained 3rd place with his mouse 'The Cheesinator'. Matthew Gladwell and Michael Sanderson narrowly missed out on the prizes by coming a very close fourth in the same competition with 'The Clever Mouse of Death'.

Next year Kirkham Grammar School will be hosting this prestigious competition on Saturday 1 July 2006.

Three of our senior Young Engineers; Oliver Youngman, Joe Douglass and Thomas Fielding have successfully made it through to the finals of the 2006 Royal Navy Challenge to be held at HMS Sultan in Portsmouth on Thursday 30 March 2006. The challenge requires the team to design and build a remote controlled model boat to undertake a number of tasks against the clock.

Young ENTERPRISE

This year's KGS Young Enterprise company is named Phoenix, in honour of England's 2005 Ashes victory, and with the support of advisers Mr Robert Dunn and Mr Paul Desborough, directors Rebecca Preskey and Melanie Smith have steered the hard-working team through a number of successful events during the winter and spring terms. A lively and well-attended Halloween disco was followed by an energetic kwik cricket competition in the MPH. The creative and marketing talents of the Young Enterprise team were much in evidence at the Friends' Christmas Fair, where hand decorated glasses, Christmas tree baubles, handmade bracelets, furry files and KGS rock were on sale. The team are currently developing plans for their Valentine's Day project, where they hope to come to the aid of the romantically afflicted with delivered messages, personalised gifts and fresh roses.

OLD KIRKHAMIAN'S ASSOCIATION



AGM and Northern Dinner 8 October 2005

The annual Northern Dinner (photo bottom left) was a little better attended than the previous year. Angela Hodgkinson and her catering team put on a "good spread", as ever. Ian Rushton as always ran the bar with help from several Sixth Formers, and the caretaking staff provided the muscle to set the Old Hall up for the evening. The AGM saw the end of the Presidency of Mr Leon Rathbone and the start of a year in office for Mrs Rosemary Greaves. We thank Leon for his work during his year as President and welcome Rosemary. We wish her all the best for her year at the helm.

Old Kirkhamians XV -v- SpoonAAs XV 9 October 2005

The day after the Northern Dinner saw an Old Kirkhamians XV take on a rugby team that combined the Anti-Assassins with the Wooden Spoon Society (photo top right). Prior to this most recent match, the Old Kirkhamians had played and beaten the Anti-Assassins three times, on occasions which were enjoyed immensely by all concerned.

Old Kirkhamian Bruce Craven (photo top left), who died of malignant melanoma in February 2005, had the honour of having played for both the Anti-Assassins and the Old Kirkhamians. Out of respect for such a well-loved and respected old boy, it was agreed that all future matches between the two sides would be played for a trophy bearing his name. We are pleased to report that the event proved so popular that a total of £1,000 was able to be donated to the Myfanwy Townsend Melanoma Research Fund.

Many of Bruce's old friends travelled long distances to play in the match, such was the respect they held for him. The SpoonAAs also selected a strong side of Bruce's friends; this newly amalgamated side played with an intensity rarely seen in Sunday friendlies, primarily because that is the way Bruce would have wished them to play and also because they had not as yet managed to beat an Old Kirkhamian side. This took the OKAs by surprise and shook them so much that the SpoonAAs completely

dominated the first half, running up a big score. A team talk by the Manager, Mark Preston; Captain, Michael Bailey, and team changes meant that the Old Kirkhamians played much better in the second half and scored more points than their opponents. Unfortunately it came too late in the day and the OKA ended up losing the match overall.

Young OKA Christmas Reunion 18 December 2005

Once again, this was a wonderful, informal, social gathering (photo bottom right) with many former pupils from recent years enjoying the chance to catch up with friends and KGS staff, whilst soaking up the hospitality of Preston Grasshoppers RFC.

The atmosphere, if a little warm at times, sparkled with the smiles and laughter of all present. There was much chatter about the University courses presently being studied, career plans and relationships, but most of all everyone just wanted to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and find out when they could meet up again over the festive period.

As a former pupil, member of KGS staff and member of the OKA committee, organiser Anna Sutcliffe went home feeling the school and association had served these members well. Such was the warmth of feeling that Anna spent the next day writing Christmas cards to old school friends and on the 'phone organising a festive drink with her KGS mates!

Dates For Your Diary

Saturday 1 April 2006
Vicky Peters Memorial Hockey Match
Bully-off 9.30 am, KGS Astro turf

Saturday 22 April 2006
Southern Reunion Dinner





The CCF continues to go from strength to strength and numbers stand now at some 270 cadets one of the biggest contingents in 42 (North West) Brigade. 2005 was a very busy and highly successful year for KGS CCF.

We started with Adventurous Training last February, then two summer camps, (one in Cyprus with our parent regiment – iQLR) and one at Barry Buddon in Scotland. We also had an RAF camp at Conningsby and several cadets have experienced flying at Woodvale.

As usual each term also provided a field day for the whole contingent. The most recent, in October, was also our Biennial Inspection from the MoD and we passed with flying colours. This was almost literally – as it was an RAF inspection and every flight in and out of RAF Linton-on-Ouse, diverted over Waddecarr to salute us by dipping their wings. We received a most favourable report from the inspecting officer and are eligible for continued support from the MoD.

The usual format for the field day has been an overnight, survival exercise for a select few volunteers, followed by an action packed day of activities. These vary from initiative exercises, assault courses, shooting and orienteering. We are currently working towards another in March, which will be a more military patrols exercise at Weeton Camp and the junior cadets will go to Halton on Lune.

Our next camp will, again be in the Lake District (Adventurous Training in April) and summer camp is already booked for a return to Warcop in July. Many of our cadets are taking the opportunity and challenge of these activities, as well as the many other courses on offer from the MoD. Last year we had four cadets accepted on the Cadet Leadership Courses at the Cadet Training Centre, Frimley; two others went to the more advanced course at Nesscliffe. A girl attended HMS Bristol; a naval training ship in Portsmouth and two boys even participated in a parachuting course on Salisbury Plain!

The BTEC qualification (GNVQ) in Public Services is closely linked to the cadet activities. This is the equivalent of four GCSE passes and is available to sixth form cadets. We now have 44 senior cadets registered, with 4 full awards already achieved, (1 distinction, 2 merits and 1 pass). Joanne Box being the first senior cadet to gain a distinction in the BTEC award. There have been 13 partial awards and already this term 11 cadets have completed their Individual Vocational Assignment and are well on their way to completion.

The importance of this award in indicating extra curricular skills is shown in by the fact that many universities, including Durham, value it as an indicator of character and leadership. Indeed it did contribute to the fact that one of this year's leavers gained a place at University and it is now being recognized as a very valuable add-on to academic education at KGS. As it progresses, more and more senior cadets are realizing what can be gained from participating in the cadet movement.

CYPRUS

Following an early start and six hours preparation at Manchester airport, the first operation of our visit to iQLR in Cyprus proved to be a great success. The inventive use of a fork and a particular magazine provided much entertainment as we checked in, as well as provoking flaming cheeks for Sgt John Gladwell. After such a good-humoured start to the trip, we arrived in the scorching Cypriot sunshine in great spirits.

During the first three days of our visit we enjoyed numerous military activities, from shooting on the range (when one of our corporals seemed to "shine" through!) and then cleaning weapons, (accompanied by the odd groan!) to first aid, section attacks and instruction in nuclear, biological and chemical warfare. We can now don respirators in a mere 9 seconds with our eyes closed but unfortunately certain members of the group persisted to wake us up each morning with

screams of "GAS! GAS! GAS!" for the rest of the week! A particular favourite was the helicopter ride; in which one of our NCOs was brave enough to overcome her fear of flying. However, the soldiers assured us that helicopter rides were not a daily feature of Cypriot life much to their disappointment!

We were also privileged to see for ourselves the tensions, which dominate the border between the Cypriot and Turk forces during a Green Line Tour by the UNFICYP. Although it is upsetting to see the ruins which remain in the buffer zone as a constant reminder of the trouble here, it was uplifting to hear the stories of the people who have continued with their lives despite such desperate surroundings and a poignant reminder of the need for armed forces across the world. We all enjoyed the chance to explore for ourselves the lively streets and shops of Nicosia after the tour and we returned to the base with considerably lighter pockets.

In addition to the above activities, we were fortunate enough to enjoy a number of water sports, from sailing and kayaking to a thrilling banana boat ride, courtesy of the instructors at Dhekelia Sailing Club and Dhekelia Water Sports Centre. These undoubtedly provided some much needed relief from the heat and we were able to soak up the sunshine in style. We also enjoyed a ferocious session of go-karting one evening, where



We would like to extend our thanks to all the officers and soldiers who, not only made our visit possible, but also made it the highly enjoyable week that it was. Thanks must also go to iQLR for providing our accommodation and meals throughout the week (and we are grateful to the patient soldiers who welcomed us into their cookhouse despite the fact that it added twenty-one people to their queue!).

By Sgt. Joanne Box and Colour Sgt. Rachel Brown

SCOTLAND

This was a totally new venue for KGS CCF annual camp. As a result of Cultybraggan camp closing, the Scottish Division Central Camp was relocated to very new accommodation near to Dundee. On arrival, after a 6-hour coach journey, we had a further couple of hours travel to Ballater on Royal Deeside to be housed in Victoria Barracks. This was the usual home of the Royal Guard that protects the sovereign when she is in residence.

The first day was very hot, indeed. Just what you want when 'taking in a Munroe', (that is a big Scottish mountain - no relation to Marilyn). The local midges are also quite big, and do like the taste of English people. Some of the less strong cadets struggled to keep up with the pace and realised the importance of correctly packing one's daysack.

Abseiling and command tasks were really enjoyed the next day, as too was the cultural visit to Balmoral, (the Queen's summer residence). On returning to Barry Buddon to start the military training, we discovered that MoD cadet regulations stated there was a maximum temperature for green training. When this was exceeded, all activities ceased and it was decided to transfer the entire contingent to Dundee, to a leisure centre and water park. As the temperature dropped that evening, the Survival Package was resumed and we bivvied out in Big Wood. Some cadets didn't listen to instructions and cooked in the woods or started fires and consequently discovered the delights of cleaning mess tins the next evening!

The shooting package on the ranges was continued the next day and all the cadets had a chance to fire both the cadet GP rifle and the LSW. The afternoon's instruction continued with lessons on various military skills, which would be put into practice over the next 36-hour exercise. An interesting obstacle course was revealed next morning. This involved getting very wet if you failed to cross some of the obstacles as several of our girls discovered. Later in the day, the engineers' package on the raft was another chance to test how waterproof our cadets were?

The training was very varied and intensive. Blank firing on a CQB (close quarter battle) run was very exiting, as were the Section Battle Drills. All this was building up to a big ambush exercise later that night and another night out under the stars. The evening snooze-out was

abruptly terminated as the Directing Staff awoke the sleepy KGS cadets in the very early hours, to prepare them to move out and attack the enemy in full strength. This included two other schools in the offensive force. Although down on their chinstraps, KGS cadets rallied and the adrenalin started to flow as excited soldiers enacted the realism of the exercise and fatigue seemed to disappear with the fun of the attack.

On return to camp, weapons had to be cleaned and stores tidied away. The early finish also allowed the cadets some time in the afternoon, for personal admin and packing ready for our final evening. Lt Col Scott had reserved the Sgts Mess for our presentations.

A small group were awarded silver pan scrubs for their efforts with the mess tins. Our CSMs, were given CCF ties and Dan Fryer was awarded a pen for having attended every possible CCF camp, both adventurous training and military, in his time with the cadets at KGS.

This year there were many possible recipients for the Anzac Trophy; the voting was very close, indeed. This award is for the best junior cadet, (usually a 4th year). The shared winners were Olivia Armer and James Edgar, but close contenders were Ben Blackburn, Paula Lomax and Lucinda McDade.

The 5th form cadets also performed very well and noticeable winners for best shooting were Jonathon Knowles and Luke Sanders. This summer four cadets are going to Cadet Training Centre, Frimley, to undertake a cadet leadership camp with a mixture of cadets from all over the country. Next year this group will provide some excellent junior NCOs for our cadre training.

Our 16th NCOs were very competitive in their trials for promotion. All acting sergeants were confirmed in rank and additions were made of Peter Greaves, Andy Hatch, Lucy Gregg and Will Horton. Two Colour Sergeants were appointed in Caroline Desborough and Rachel Brown and the Company Sergeant Majors are to be Alex Miller for Bravo Coy (5th) and John Gladwell for Charlie Coy (4th). I wish all these senior NCOs good luck in their jobs and congratulate them on their promotions. The senior position of Cadet RSM is awarded to Andy Moncrieff, our army scholar, who is hoping for an army career and this challenge will stand him in good stead and test his ability in handling and winning over his fellow senior NCOs. This essential skill, he will find necessary to get the best from his team and it is a trait he will need in his chosen career.

A final thank you must go to all the officers involved in the camp, especially to Sqn Ldr Callister, who has taken over as training officer and was i/c of the camp until Lt Col Scott arrived from Cyprus. A thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all cadets and we all look forward to next summer's camp at Warcop, which is not only our own Brigade camp and so uses our cadet training team based at Fulwood, but also much closer to home.





TGI all over party

J4 LET THEIR HAIR DOWN!

Junior School mums Helen Townsend and Shirley Hope thought it would be a great idea to hold a party for J4 pupils following the stress of the Entrance Exam. The "TGI All Over Party" was a tremendous success. It was held in the Old Hall at the Senior School. The pupils enjoyed team games and dancing with an abundance of party food.

A big thank you from J4 pupils and parents to Helen and Shirley and a special thank you to Christine Brown who kindly gave up her Saturday evening in order that this eagerly anticipated event could go ahead.



CLIMBING MOUNT KILIMANJARO

Last summer two members of the Lower Sixth, Alex Bonney and Lauren Aspden, achieved their much anticipated goal of climbing the highest free standing mountain in the world – Mount Kilimanjaro. In total the climb took six days, which included a five day ascent and a one day descent. After beginning at the Machame Gate, they changed their route and completed the ascent via the Western Breach.

Nicknamed the 'torture route', the Western Breach ascent is very steep and potentially dangerous – landslides and rock falls claim victims most years. Another danger is that turning back on the last part is impossible without proper climbing equipment.

The Rough Guide to Tanzania

On the very first day of the climb they walked through a misty rainforest environment for seven hours before reaching the first campsite situated above cloud level. A six-hour trek on the second day up very steep terrain took Lauren and Alex to the second campsite. On day three, they walked for another seven hours to the third campsite by which time the fatigue had begun to kick in. The next day they walked just three hours across to the fourth campsite (4850m) in order to rest for the final ascent. An early night was greatly accepted by all as they were woken at 11 pm to begin the climb to the summit at midnight. After eight hours of arduous scrambling in the dark with just the aid of eight small head-torches the group made it to the crater rim. They then began the final three-hour ascent to Uhuru Peak the highest point in Africa. Numerous photos were taken of the group and their surroundings, which consisted of vast expanses of bare rock and the occasional glacier. According to professionals, due to global warming the stunning ice caps are predicted to have all melted by 2015. The descent from the summit took six hours totalling the day to seventeen hours of walking to the final campsite where dinner and a chance to rest was greatly appreciated. They then had the final days descent to help recover.

Despite a low overall success rate of summing Mount Kilimanjaro, all twelve members of their climbing group (including Alex, Lauren, and ten of her family and friends) ventured all the way to the top with the help and expertise of their main tour guide, Jamaica.

The three week holiday in Africa was a most enjoyable experience for both Alex and Lauren.

Yomp

On Sunday 2 October, 41 members of the school took part in an 18km yomp (military term for run/walk) to raise funds for new outdoor cricket nets for the senior school. It was open to all 2nd, 3rd and 4th year boys. We even had three girls volunteer to take part in this unique event. Nichole Pike, Becky Keighley and Georgia Cheyne. All but two successfully completed this tough and arduous task. Mr Whalley and Mrs Sutcliffe kindly gave up a Sunday to look after and supervise Refreshments and First-Aid posts whilst Mr Taylor and Tristan Moore completed the route – bringing up the rear!

A little mention must go to Toby Townsend, who raised over £400 and Jamie Roper over £200.

The overall winners were Adam Kelsall and Michael Gyi crossing the finishing line in just over 2hrs:15mins. A remarkable achievement. The total amount raised was £2,000.



Poets on Parade!

41 young writers from Kirkham Grammar School's first three years have achieved the feat of becoming published poets this term.

The 41 members of Kirkham Grammar School's Writers' Club entered the Young Writers competition organised by the Forward Press. The "POP! – Power of Poetry" competition aims to showcase the work of talented young writers under the age of 16, and publishes the work of the successful poets in an anthology – POP! Expressions from the UK.

Mrs Jones, who runs the Writers' Club, was especially pleased that the work of all the Kirkham entrants had been chosen for publication. "I knew we had a wealth of literary talent in School, and I am delighted that this has been confirmed in such an emphatic way!"

This is the competition's thirteenth year – and certainly thirteen has been a lucky number for the poets of KGS!



GERMAN exchange

October 2005 saw the first leg of Kirkham Grammar School's second annual exchange with its new partner school in Germany, the Eugen Bolz Grammar School in Rottenburg am Neckar, which lies to the South West of Stuttgart. Following a very successful exchange in 2004-5, fourteen fifth form German pupils and two staff spent eight days at Kirkham Grammar School where they enjoyed the very warm hospitality of their host families, gained an insight into the English education system and significantly improved their language skills. They also visited Chester, the museum of Science and Technology in Manchester and the attractions of Blackpool. They were very reluctant to leave after what had been a very eventful time but did so looking forward to the return visit of their partners in late April. During their visit the KGS pupils will be working on their language skills prior to the GCSE oral examination as well as taking part in a number of excursions in the local area.

W R McDowell
Head of Modern Foreign Languages



Climbing Club

Thursday evenings in September and early October were spent visiting Denham, Anglezarke and Wilton Quarries, which provided opportunities to improve gritstone technique and the ability to read the rock. Since then the indoor climbing walls at West View Leisure Centre, Stanley Park and Lancaster University have kept the club fit. Ben Fisher is a very welcome addition to the club's "hardcore" of Sixth Form students who form the majority of the club. However there have also been new members from lower down in the school, such as Ellie Hanney and Sarah Quarmby who have successfully made the transition from the Tuesday lunchtime sessions on the school climbing wall to the after school sessions on Thursdays. Shortly after this half term, the club will be staging a sponsored climb at Ingleton climbing wall, to raise funds to support Ben Fisher in his gap year, which he is planning to spend in Sri Lanka, engaged in community work and teaching. We are also looking forward to returning Cliff's Barn, a favourite haunt of the club, which has been closed for a few years and has just reopened.





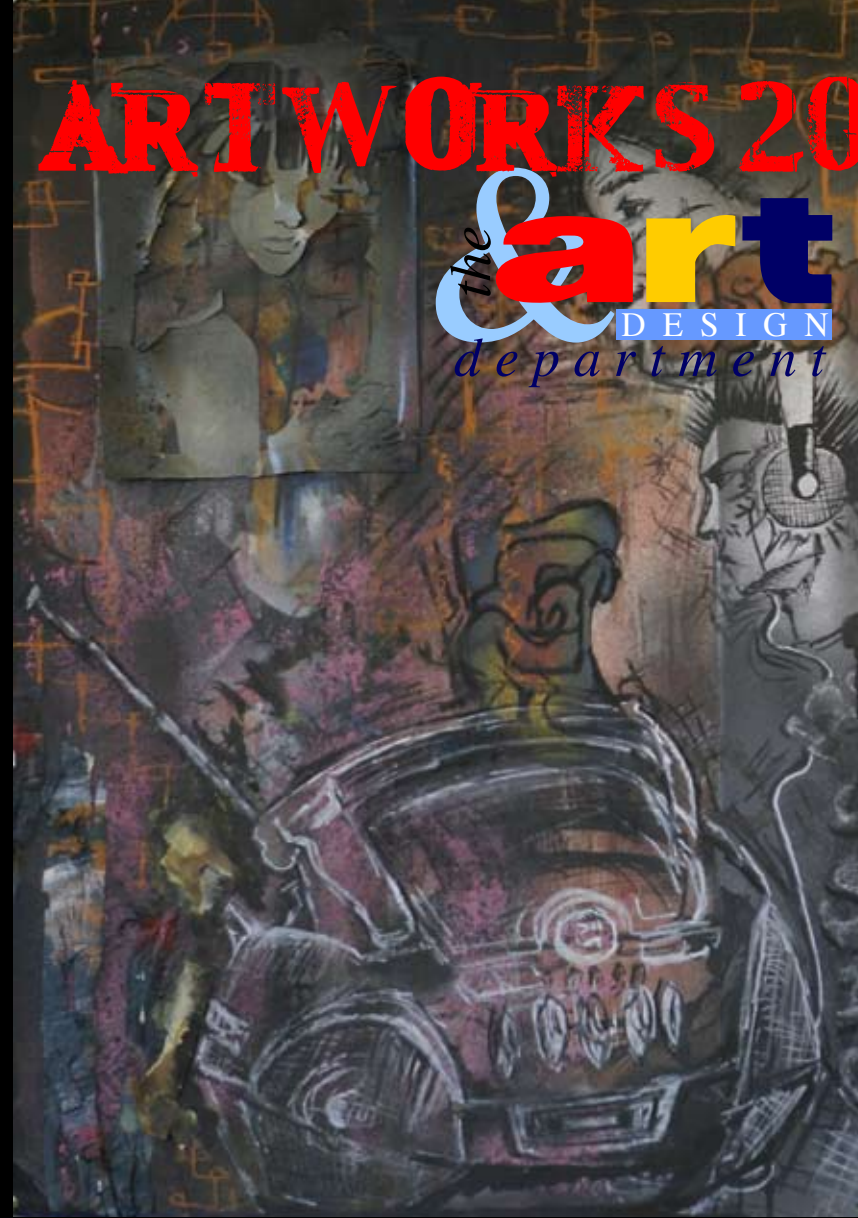
The Art Department has recently gained funding from the Government for a joint Art project with Fulwood High School and Arts College. After many months of planning and waiting for ministers to give the go ahead, we are now able to proceed with our project "Coasters". The inspiration for the project will be centred around Blackpool Pleasure Beach and the Tower Circus. Both schools are offering gallery visits, Artist led workshops, Artists in Residence and visits to the Pleasure Beach and the Blackpool Tower Circus.

Pupils will take part in a number of creative activities stimulated by various disciplines that will include working with a painter, a photographer, digital artists, a poet and a journalist to mention but a few. Pupils from all age groups will be involved in one way or another but the main thrust of the project will be aimed at our third year.

The project started on Friday 27 January with 24 pupils visiting the Manchester City Art Gallery (photos left and below) where various artists took small groups of pupils around a selection of artworks with the view to discussing and promoting the use of sketchbooks. This is an extension of the work that the third year have been doing in class since the beginning of the year.

Amongst the artist responding to art works from the gallery collection was Johnny Woodhams (photo left). To start with, our pupils weren't sure what to make of Johnny. With his shaved head and goatee beard, Johnny would make a convincing villain. But the only thing remotely nasty about him is this – he writes a mean poem. As clearly demonstrated in his poetry performance in front of the painting "At the edge of the city", painted by Scottish Artist Ken Currie. Johnny has performed under his alias, Max Seymour, in pubs and clubs around the North West, appeared on BBC Three and picked up a national poetry award along the way. Johnny writes poems that are funny and quirky, that veer from everyday reality to the utterly surreal. We are lucky to have him as our Artist in residence later this term as he responds to observations from the Pleasure Beach.

When the next Headmaster's Newsletter goes out the project should have it's own website and the pupils involved in the project should be preparing their work for two exhibitions one at the Pleasure Beach Gallery and one in the Bridgewater Gallery Manchester. So watch this space.



ARTWORKS 2006

the **art** DESIGN department

MUSIC



The Autumn Term is always a very full term for the KGS musicians with a varied range of concerts and official school occasions. The term started with the annual Prizegiving in Preston Guild Hall at which the Lower School Choir and the Concert Band provided excellent musical contributions. We were sorry that Mr. Andrews was unable to conduct the Concert Band at the Guild Hall, having had to relinquish his work at KGS owing to ill health, but were delighted when Mr. Paul Dalton, who is a distinguished conductor in the brass band world, took over the brass teaching in school and became the new conductor of the Concert Band.



The wealth of musical talent at KGS is very evident and is shown very clearly in the success of three of our first year pupils. Two of the Music Scholars, Jordan Chadwick (photo middle right) and Patrick Callery (photo top right), were selected to play in the National Children's Orchestra of Great Britain and the National Children's Brass Band respectively. Jordan plays the trumpet and Patrick the E flat bass. Chloe Walker (photo bottom right), having sung her way to success in the Rock FM Search for a Star competition, got through to the last 18 out of 650 entrants in the Sony BMG competition. Chloe rounded off 2005 by singing on Granada TV's Sing a Song for Christmas. Such is the degree of talent in the first year that 25 musicians from that year presented a Concert in November called A Celebration of Talent to an appreciative audience in the Old Hall.

In November three 5th form pupils put on an excellent concert of songs with acoustic guitar in the Old Hall. James Edgar, Ashley Parkinson, and Jamie Coleman performed a set of 18 songs to a packed hall, raising £130 for Teenage Cancer Trust.

The monthly Coffee Concerts have continued with an excellent concert given by the 1st and 2nd year Music Scholars being followed at the end of November by a concert given by the 5th year GCSE Music students. Four of these students had also given an earlier Coffee Concert just prior to Half Term.

The Christmas Concert was held in the last week of term and alongside items from the Choirs, Orchestra and Concert Band, a band of staff 'volunteers' was assembled to perform Leopold Mozart's Toy Symphony (photos left page) alongside the school's flute and string players. Intensive rehearsals in the preceding weeks plus hawk-like attention to the conductor ensured a most memorable and enjoyable performance. The Headmaster's virtuoso performance on the Nightingale and Dr. Luker's masterly contribution on the triangle will long be remembered.

The term closed with the Carol Service in St. Michael's Church. Once again the Choirs led the service admirably with beautiful solo contributions from Melissa McCarthy and Lucinda McDade. We were very grateful to Mr. Arthur Lingings for accompanying the Carol Service in Mrs. Miller's absence.



DRAMA the TEMPEST



From the Coup de Théâtre of the opening scene, a Titanic-esque representation of Edwardian elegance threatened by shipwreck, the audience was magically transported by KGS Drama Society to the enchanted isle that is the setting of Shakespeare's Tempest.

Magic is the dominant motif in *The Tempest* - the magic of Prospero, the magic of love and forgiveness, the magic of the stage - and this was emphasised in this performance from the entrance of the captivating water nymphs in Scene 1. Prospero's magical majesty was played with dominating gravity by Josh Wardell, which acted as a foil to the light tenderness of the lovers, Grace Garlington as Miranda, and Tristan Brooke, Ferdinand.

In lighter mode, the inspired cloning of the clowns Trinculo and Trincula (played by the magical maestro Matthew Denham and his glamorous assistant Caroline Desborough) gave us a visual focus on magic and the circus. To complement them, Gordon Cheng's unearthly Ariel, an acrobatic airy spirit indeed, gave wonder and a sense of threat to the play. Ariel needs a strong Caliban as his earthy opposite; this role was aptly filled by Oliver Fisher, blending fear and comedy in this demanding rôle. Comedy was also provided by another cloning, mirroring that of the jesters: the drunken Stephano (Robert Loxham) along with Chermaine Hewitt as Stephanie.





"The isle is full of noises, sounds and sweet airs that give delight and hurt not." As Caliban's comment suggests, Shakespearean romance depends on harmony, and this was emphasised by the intense focus on music as an integral part of the play. The musicians, led by thrash-metal axeman Alex Miller, with vocals from Kara Williams, Sarah Dickie and Jemima Clarke, provided an aural foundation, giving another dimension to the drama, and bridging the gap between the seventeenth century and the modern day.

The packed houses on all three nights are testament to Ms Barrie's success in staging this most accessible production of a Shakespeare play: I am convinced that Mr W.S. himself would have heartily approved of this treatment that shows that Shakespeare is "Not of an age but for all time."

Director Ms Barrie, and her assistant, Mrs Walker, deserve huge congratulations on this triumphant production, as indeed do all the cast and those who worked behind the scenes: over eighty people were involved in the play, too many to list by name, but all contributed to the success of The Tempest. It is perhaps enough to echo Miranda's words: "Oh brave new world, that has such people in't": with such a wealth of talent, the future of drama at KGS is assured.

Photographs can be found on-line at:
www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/photos





UK Mathematics Challenge

Sixth Form pupils at KGS recently took part in the UK Mathematics Challenge. The following certificates were awarded:

Gold: Derek Ho and Paul Taylor (photo left)

Silver: Heather Reid, Man-Hong So, John Kings and Paul Barber

Bronze: Jemma Thackray, Louise Nuttall, Clark Tung, Michael Walker, Joe Robinson, Danny Yu, Jonathan Knowles, Kimi Poon, David Spencer and Matthew Gaddes

American dream for 'Gridiron' star

From over 100 trialists, 17 year old Kirkham Grammar School pupil Sam Dunn, was selected for the England U19 American Football Squad for the match against Scotland on 27 November at Stratford. After a good match, Sam now hopes to be selected for the Great Britain Lions to tour Europe in 2006.

He plays regularly for Lancashire Wolverines in the Northern Conference League. Sam says, "The experience has developed my skills greatly - and I am grateful for my selection and the training provided by the best coaches in England. I am now inspired to develop my skills in the off-season to gain selection again next year.

Sam's brother, Alex, also an ex KGS pupil, has also been selected for the England Juniors - and in the future is hoping to step up to NFL Europe.



Congratulations to Mrs Miller

Thank you to the many parents, pupils, staff and friends who have already given sponsorship money or a donation on my completion of the Great North Run last Sunday September 18th. The money raised, £700 is going mainly to Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital Children's Charity (GOSHCC) £600 and £100 to Pit Pat.

The run is the largest half marathon in the World and it certainly looked it at the start! It was 13.1 miles long and the course began in Newcastle, crossed the Tyne Bridge to Gateshead and then down to the coast to the finish at South Shields.

I was very scared at the start -overawed by the sheer number of runners. The total was something like 40,000 runners! The best parts were crossing the Tyne Bridge, soaking up the amazing atmosphere created by the runners, seeing all the wonderful costumes and having people come out of their homes with orange segments, love heart sweets and ice cubes not to mention the ice pops. It did get very hot around 11.30 a.m. though and I had chosen to wear my CCF boots for the Run (I had a good reason) so ended up with two epic blisters on one foot but had a fantastic day. I was very saddened to hear that 4 runners had died whilst taking part in this year's run.

Thank you again for all the support and money for the Charities.

Three Generations at KGS

Mrs Glover (PE and 1st XI coach), Alison Glover (1st year pupil) and Mr Syl Sampey (English and Sports coach).



FRIENDS

Every member of the Friends and those who support us can feel proud that they have helped towards the building of the new sports pavilion. The Friends presented a cheque for £30,000 (bottom right) to the school at their January meeting. Without this sum, the school could not have secured the generous funding from the Lawrence House Trust to build the much-needed pavilion. Of course, making the decision to present the cheque was the easy part - raising such a large amount of money has taken over two years to accumulate, not forgetting the KGJS piano and the £6,000 a year lease for the new minibus and several other smaller items the Friends have provided during this period.

Fundraising is hard work and time consuming, but very rewarding. A great deal of satisfaction is obtained when we realise our efforts have turned into large amounts of funds which we can spend on our school to the benefit of our pupils. Our Winter Ball last term raised £4,200. The Friends started planning for the event 12 months previously booking a venue, menu, band, DJ, etc. Raffle prizes and auction items were obtained and floral table arrangements created, tickets sold and table plans produced. This all came together on November 19 at the Imperial Hotel, Blackpool where 250 guests gathered to have a great night dining and dancing the night away. In the midst of this, we held our auction. I must thank Lee Townsend here for being our auctioneer and for making a donation equal to the highest bid of the night. The feedback from the ball was tremendous.

The next event on the Friends' calendar was the Christmas Fair. This started in late September with letters going out, raffle tickets being printed and planning meetings being held. It culminated on Friday 9 December when members and helpers of the Friends gathered in the early morning to set up all the stalls and games ready for the 4pm start. The first-time little ones may have been in awe of Father Christmas and the noise of the event, but they soon settled down like the rest of the children to spend some of mummy and daddy's hard earned cash. By 6pm it was all over and all that remained was to put things away and tidy up and oh.....count up! Last December's event raised £3,500, not as high as some years, but still an enormous amount to take in 2 hours!

My thanks, as ever, go to all the members of the Friends and their band of helpers, including teachers, as well as parents for their contributions. Now, what's the next event to attend to?.....

Robert Dunn,
Chairman FKGS.

EASTER & SUMMER ACTIVITY CAMPS

Kings Sport 4 Day Easter Camp
10 - 13 April 2006

Kings Sport Summer Camp
31 July - 18 August 2006

David Shaw Tennis Easter Camp
18 - 21 April 2006

David Shaw Tennis Summer Camp
17 - 28 July 2006

David Shaw Friday Evening Tennis Club
A new initiative commencing:
28 April - 7 July 2006 (Excluding 2 June 2006)
Running each Friday evening for 10 weeks
6.00pm - 8.30pm.



interHouseevents

"I DON'T BELIEVE IT!" — Victor Meldrew

As is tradition (A.R. Baines, 1963), the Inter House report must start with a quote, and what an apt one it is. As the dust settled after another intense year, the news that Fylde House had won their first Whitby Cup travelled quickly. The summer transfer window was seized upon by Kirkham House, and with the House committee never one to shy away from controversy, we saw the introduction of our first Housemistress, Mrs Glover. With Mr Sampey a staunch Prestonian, family conflict was surely on the horizon. Mr Duncan's retirement was a disappointment to many (particularly to the new House recorder), and lucrative offers were made to lure him back to his spiritual home of Fylde House. However, his decision was to stay yellow through and through. The scene was set for another fantastic House competition.

September arrived and the Quiz teams were first to take the floor. The School teams were in intimidating form in both competitions. Jacob Hilton and "Howard" Buchanan (sic) appeared to be mirror images in their respective finals. No team could stand up to their superior knowledge or quick fingers. School House and Mr Smith were back — and didn't we know it!

The Basketball competitions are always a great spectacle and this term was no exception. The Intermediate competition resembled a heavy game of touch rugby, and the shooting was more Rodney Trotter than Dennis Rodman. However all teams played with superb spirit and Preston House emerged victorious, with the performances of Wasim Riley and Matthew Wiggins certainly worthy of merit. The Senior competition closely followed — could School replace Oye's magic of last year? The magic was there but this year it was wearing a green vest. Chris Bowden was prolific that afternoon and led Fylde to their first victory of the year, which

had Mr Smith staring in admiration. Whether or not this was at his skills on the court or Fylde House's collection of retro basketball accessories, we are not too sure.

Then to the chess board under the watchful eye of Grand Master Melling. Tom Fielding, Kirkham's great hope, led the way, fresh from his Grimbaldeston Trophy win and county representative honours. However, it was School House who emerged victorious for the first time in several years. The Red juniors were certainly playing a key part in their latest discovery of form.

The Senior Netball returned to familiar and less slippery surroundings this year with the quad full of spectators for the two lunchtimes. Kirkham dominated the competition, and Mrs Glover was rarely worried by the obvious expertise of her rival Housemasters in this field. A sweet victory indeed; their first of the year. The junior girls' competition was also full of skill and breakneck speed, with Lizzie Woodburn and Lamara Hill playing superbly. Once again, School just had the edge in the final, and won by one point.

As Wembley nears completion, Preston Sports Arena was the second choice for the Junior Hockey competition this year. On personal reflection, it was the most exciting and nerve-wracking event of the term. Support from parents and House staff ensured the atmosphere that evening was electric. In the semi-final Fylde faced a motivated Kirkham team and the superior tactics of Mrs Glover. All the girls played an excellent game and full time arrived at a stalemate situation. This brought penalty flicks — again the teams could not be separated and it went to sudden death. The girls formed a Liverpool-in-Istanbul huddle and it was down to the Dudek-like reflexes of goalkeeper Airey to put Fylde through to the final. This was a very close run affair but the skills of Nicole Pike were a little too much. Another

trophy for Mr Smith....

The Swimming Gala was then upon us, with several hundred willing volunteers being selected across the four houses. The Housemasters curse struck Preston House this year, with one junior boy informing Dr. Rollins that his menstrual cycle had started at 9:05am. The atmosphere for the event was electric and closely run throughout. Kirkham surged ahead despite the best efforts of Rachel Armistead and her Preston team-mates, and Mrs Glover was triumphant in the first double-pointer of the year. The battle for third was just as exciting, with Fylde edging out School over the last two races. This was particularly memorable due to Richard Draper ensuring that he avoided Physics homework that evening by forcing his relay team to win their race.

So, 2006 and the Whitby Cup standings see School in the lead, but only narrowly. A rejuvenated Kirkham hold the second spot while Preston and Fylde are close behind. However, the Spring term frequently sees change with Preston's athletes training at altitude over the Christmas break for the Cross Country competitions and a new addition to the Boarding House, Miss C Church, being a key competitor in the House Music.

What can stop the juggernaut of School House now? Will Fylde's victory last year just be a flash-in-the-pan? Will Kirkham be a one-term-wonder? Can Preston equal their 5 cross-country victories of last year?

All these questions and more will be answered in the next thrilling instalment....

"They think it's all over..."

Mr P T Reeves
House Recorder



Countyhonours

The thirteen Kirkham Grammar School players shown above have been selected for Lancashire Under 18 or Lancashire Under 16 squads and have shown they are all capable of playing at a level above school standards. The school hopes that some of them are selected for higher representative honours after the North selectors have watched all the county matches.

As a result of the North of England Under 18 Trial Match at Leeds Tykes Academy ground on Sunday 11 December, Harrison Pickervance was selected for the North of England Under 18 Squad to train at Leeds Tykes and played a practice match against Leeds Tykes Academy on Sunday 18 December. Harrison's position is LOOSE HEAD PROP. He was Captain of the Kirkham Grammar School Under 16XV last season. Harrison is in his first year in the 1stXV at Kirkham and has no previous representative rugby experience so has done particularly well. He has trained hard both in formal training sessions and on his personal conditioning and positional skills and thoroughly deserves all the success he gains.

Following recent trials, we were delighted to announce that no less than 25 players had been selected to represent Lancashire Schoolgirls hockey squads (photo below) for the season. This high number is a reflection on the quality of teaching and coaching at the school, helped by a tough fixture list against schools across the north of England.

Staff at the school are delighted that the pupils selected will get a chance to develop the hockey skills at such an elite level. Head of Girls PE and Games, Miss K Glover, comments, 'It is pleasing to see that so many Kirkham Grammar School pupils have been selected across a wide number of age groups, and not only at senior level. The girls will have an opportunity to work with experienced coaches and many will gain county honours when they represent Lancashire in inter-county matches.'



Richard Morrell

Richard (above) finished second in the Lancashire Cross Country Championships recently held at Witton Park, Blackburn. Over sixty runners competed in the event from all over the county. Richard was the sole representative from Kirkham Grammar School and finished the race only three seconds behind the winner.

Alex Bonney

Alex (right) has the double honour of Captaining the U18 XI Hockey team at County level.





HOCKEY 05-06

Photographs can be found on-line at:
www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/photos



RUGBY 05-06



Photographs can be found on-line at:
www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/photos



Sophie Ward

On 7 January Sophie Ward (photo top right), a first year pupil and a member of the GB Junior Swim Team, competed in the Northern Counties swimming event. Sophie managed to achieve national times in four events which allows Sophie to go through to the National Swimming Championships to be held at Ponds Forge International Sports Centre in Sheffield later in the year.

In the North Lancashire Swimming Competition, she attained six first places and four second places which left her with the best twelve year old girls' performance overall! Within these times, four were National Age Group Qualifying times.

400M Individual Medley	5.29.23
200M Back	2.30.08
200M Fly	2.36.19 and,
800M Freestyle	9.27.47 (26 seconds faster than the qualifying time)

Sophie has now qualified in eight out of thirteen possible events and hopes to add a further three events to this in early June!



Ashley Bradshaw & Sophie Abbott

After tough competition in the Northern Schools Biathlon Championships two Kirkham Grammar School girls achieved excellent results, one in the first year category and one in the second year.

First year pupil Ashley Bradshaw (left middle photo) came 2nd in the cross country run and 3rd in the 50m freestyle swim leaving Ashley in overall second place.

In the second year age group Sophie Abbott came 3rd in the cross country run and 4th in the 50m freestyle swim leaving Sophie in second place overall.

Due to such excellent results both girls were selected to compete in the British Schools Biathlon Championships at the University of East Anglia in Norwich.

Good luck to both girls!



Jenny Dewhurst

Jenny (right middle photo), a sixth form pupil at Kirkham Grammar School plays in a team for Manchester Northern. All the girls played really well in winning all their matches, not only in the finals but throughout the qualifying and regional rounds as well. Jenny is pictured on the right of the photograph with her team mates with their trophies. The girls are coached by David Shaw.

Rachel Armistead

Rachel (bottom right photo) competed in the National Youth Championships in Sheffield, finishing 16th in the 400m freestyle and 12th in the 200m. Her time for the 200m qualified her for the Commonwealth Games Trials in Swansea in December. Unfortunately, she did not qualify for the senior team but thoroughly enjoyed the experience of competing with the elite swimmers of Great Britain.

She also attended a training camp with Olympic Coach, Stephen Hill in Glasgow in October.

