

Kirkham Grammar School

Headmaster's Letter to Parents

Spring 2008





From the Headmaster



This year has been dominated by the ongoing building programme as we complete the recent extensive developments in our classroom provision. While there has been some inevitable disruption we have seen the rapid building of twelve new teaching rooms, having taken occupation of the first six rooms in September. As we now survey the spacious corridors and the modern classrooms those days seem a long time ago but not so long as when we laboured to teach in the 'temporary' buildings. Such a transformation can only benefit our pupils as these new facilities liberate the teachers and enable a greater variety of learning opportunities. Certainly it will be refreshing to be free of contractors over coming weeks as they seem to have been an ever present aspect of our lives over recent years. At one stage in September we feared being overrun as the new surface for the All Weather Pitch was delayed. Now, however, with a brand new surface and a fitness centre provided by the Friends we have seen a welcome extension of our sporting facilities. In all respects the school has moved significantly forward and we now look to consolidate these gains and make full use of these excellent new facilities.

The annual publicity extravaganza regarding League Tables struck again in August and we once again performed well this year with the best ever A-level grades (67% of grades at A/B) and recently the GCSE results were ranked the best on the Fylde. Our concentration on traditional subjects is demanding when other schools take on "easier" subjects, but the continued excellent performance of our pupils in English and Mathematics ensures the school is well represented in these seemingly endless tables. Recent news which added to the year's accolades was four of our students (photo top right) receiving offers from Oxbridge Colleges. Christopher Box (St Edmund Hall), Jonathan Jacobs (Somerville College) and Rose Whitehead (Corpus Christi) received the news in December while Paul Taylor, who left us last year, re-applied to Peterhouse College, Cambridge and was delighted to receive an offer to read Mathematics.

Changes in the buildings have been mirrored by some recent changes in personnel. We said goodbye to Mr Harrison and Mr Bostock at Christmas both of whom has served the school for some considerable time. Mr Bostock joined KGS 22 years ago after

teaching overseas in the Seychelles. Since then he has taught in the Design and Technology Department specialising in Resistant Materials. We now wish him well in his retirement. Mr Harrison (photo top right as "Buffalo Bob" on the ostrich) joined KGS from Washington, County Durham 19 years ago, and he has pursued his interest in Geology and Physical Geography. His contribution has however extended much further than the Geography Department, both within the Boarding House and in an ever increasing contribution to school tours, either within the UK or overseas. Mr Harrison remains within School House until the end of the year and then he retires with our best wishes.

We now welcome Mr Gardner who takes over leadership of the Technology Department having found KGS from St Christopher's, Accrington. Mr Whittle replaces Mr Harrison in the Geography Department moving from the South back to his native Preston, having taught at St Bede's, Hailsham. We hope they will both be very happy in their new posts.

I am pleased with the evidence of academic achievement and this was nicely encapsulated by the Rt. Hon.





Michael Jack on the occasion of our Prizegiving at Preston Guild Hall. Mr Jack congratulated the pupils on their achievements emphasising quite rightly that hard work in the classroom was important but that he was also struck by the wealth of opportunity available to our pupils. This remains at the very heart of our work here, and this year has seen the continuation of this wide array of activity. I hope this Newsletter gives a flavour of the enrichment available. The balance of these activities is so important – from those who tread the boards in “The Taming of the Shrew” (photo middle right, Benedict Fulford-Brown), to our musicians performing in tandem with The Band of the King’s Division, to our successful Debating Team progressing to the Oxford Union or to Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award recipients at St James’ Palace, all those involved have committed themselves to produce performance at the highest level. Similarly our sports teams continue to reach national standards in a broad spectrum of different areas. Most recently our hockey players embark on an exciting trip to Barbados while our rugby players are still reminiscing about their tour to South Africa. The cultural experiences of such visits are just as important as the sport.

The Cadet Force burgeons with increased numbers and a first class Inspection Report. There is no room here to refer to all our varied clubs and societies but I continue to be grateful to my colleagues who give so much of their time to enable the pupils to develop their skills and talents.



Photos below from left to right: Jodie Gaston-Ross delivers a reading at the Carol Service, first years Sophie Breddon, Elsie Linley and Megan Kitchen help out on the Open Afternoon and the School Choir perform at the Carol Service.



OLDKIRKHAMIAN'S ASSOCIATION



OKA's v Wooden Spoon AA's

On a damp Sunday in November the Biennial rugby match between the Old Kirkhamians XV and the Wooden Spoon AA's was played on a soggy 1st XV pitch (photos right). The skies were grey and it was not warm but the atmosphere was tremendous for two reasons. One was the huge crowd of students, parents, friends and OK's who came to support and watch both sides and the other was the fact the trophy being contested was the Bruce Craven Memorial Trophy.

It was fitting that a tree was planted before the match in the Memorial Garden by Mark, Bruce's brother, also an OK, in a simple ceremony attended by Bruce's family and many friends. It was also fitting that as he planted the tree Mark's comments made everyone laugh and be grateful for the memories we hold of Bruce.

The match ended in a win for the Wooden Spoon AA's who fielded a very strong side but the attendance of so many old pupils, both playing and spectating, made for a very worthwhile and enjoyable occasion. A total of £1000 was donated to the two charities, Wooden Spoon and the Myfanwy Townsend Melanoma Trust.



OKA Reunion Dinner

The venue for the 2007 Northern Reunion Dinner, held on Saturday 6 October, was once again in the Old Hall at KGS. This year the Hall looked spectacular with elegant floral displays and candles adding a real sense of sparkle to the event. Our thanks must go to The Flower Shop of Garstang for adding this aspect of the evening.

The event was very well attended with over eighty five Old Kirkhamians and guests, including a strong representation from the 1987 World Rugby Tour Squad, who earlier in the day had the opportunity to tour the school and watch the rugby game. The display of photographs from the archive attracted a lot of attention and comment, with the picture of Messrs Smith and Hall sporting grass skirts being the subject of particular amusement – well 20 years ago it probably did seem a good idea!

Speeches were heard from Captain of School Rose Whitehead, the Headmaster, Mr Roy Wilkinson on behalf of the guests and Mrs Rosemary Greaves also spoke as immediate past President.

As is customary at this event, the President's Chain of Office was passed on by the Headmaster to Richard Tomlinson, incoming President. The OKA's now look forward to a busy year incorporating a Sportsman's Dinner and a possible reunion for the class of 1996.



Young OKA Christmas Reunion

Once again this was a fantastic, well attended event 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 RFU Club. The atmosphere 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.

Next year's OKA Christmas Reunion will be held on Sunday 21st December from 7.30pm. Hope you can make it!

SPEECHnight



Speech Night

The Rt. Hon. Michael Jack, on the occasion of our Prizegiving at Preston Guild Hall, congratulated the pupils on their achievements, emphasising quite rightly that hard work in the classroom was important but that he was also struck by the wealth of opportunity available to our pupils.

Photos right feature Precious Nwaokomah, Heather Cara and the Headmaster Mr Douglas Walker with The Rt. Hon. Michal Jack

Diary Dates

U19 Invitation Hockey Tournament
9.00 am – 6.00 pm, Saturday, 8 March

Third Year Parents' Evening
5.00 pm, Wednesday, 12 March

Richard Wilson U14 Sevens Tournament
Thursday, 20 March

Second Year Parents' Evening
5.00 pm, Thursday, 27 March

Vicky Peters Memorial Hockey Match
9.30 am, Saturday, 29 March

Founders' Day Service
2.30 pm, Tuesday, 1 April

OKA Southern Reunion Dinner
Saturday, 5 April
St Edmund Hall, Oxford

Rosemere Cancer Foundation 5km Fun Run
Monday, 5 May

Senior School Sports Day
Wednesday, 7 May

Friends of KGS Family Fun Day
Sunday, 18 May

KGS Golf Day, Fairhaven Golf Club
Friday, 6 June

Sixth Form Ball
7.00 pm, Friday, 20 June

Friends of KGS Summer Ball
6.45 pm, Saturday, 21 June



Fairhaven Golf Day

The KGS Golf Day is to be held at Fairhaven Golf Club on Friday 6 June. Companies and individuals are invited to enter a team of 4 in this year's competition. It will be a Stapleford competition with all to score on a Par 3, two to score on a Par 4 and three to score on a Par 5. There will be the usual prizes for winners/runners-up, nearest the pin and longest drive. This will be followed by a Gala Dinner at Fyle Rugby Club in the evening. If anyone is interested in entering a team the cost will be £550 +VAT for the Four Ball and a table of 8 at the Dinner. Contact Sharon Kay on 01772 689100. All monies raised will go to the school's sport tour fund.

EASTER AND SUMMER ACTIVITY CAMPS

EASTER 2008

Kings Sport Camp	7 - 11 April 2008 (4 days)
Premier Sport Day	12 April 2008
David Shaw Tennis	14 - 18 April 2008 (4 days)

SUMMER 2008

David Shaw Evening Tennis Classes	25 April – 27 June (Friday eve)
David Shaw Tennis	14 - 25 July 2008 (10 days)
Kings Sport Camp	28 July – 15 August 2008
Rugby Class Residential	11 - 15 August 2008
Rugby Class Residential Dads & Lads	16 - 17 August 2008
Rugby Class Residential	18 - 22 August 2008

U14 Invitational Sevens Competition Richard J Wilson Trophy



U14 Invitational Sevens 2008

KGS hosts the U14 Sevens Tournament on Friday 20 March 2008, which last year saw some exciting rugby culminating in a fiercely contested final between KGS and St David's, Llandudno. Ten schools competed for the Richard J Wilson Trophy which was presented in honour of KGS old boy and former 1st XV Captain Richard Wilson who was tragically killed in 2000. The winning trophies were presented by Richard Wilson's father, Richard, to the delighted Captains.

This year we expect a similar number of teams and equally expect to see some fine rugby sevens skills on display.



Climbing Club

Good weather in the first half of the autumn term allowed the club to climb outdoors until nearly half term. The gritstone quarries of Wilton, Troy, Anglzarke and Denham were all visited. New members were recruited into the club to replace those who had gone on to university; however it was pleasing to see an ex-officer of the club, Paul Taylor on some of these meets.

The most promising new recruit is Tanja Schriendl, who has arrived new into the Sixth Form, from her home in southern Germany. Perhaps we should not be so surprised that she is such a good climber, given that she lives within sight of the Alps, but in fact she has done relatively little climbing before joining KGS. Max Longhurst, also shows much potential, both when climbing indoors and on real rock. Another very promising recruit is Tim Naughton, who is moving up through the grades with alarming ease and who is clearly the best amongst the younger climbers in the club.

In the second half of the Autumn term the club visited the indoor climbing walls in Preston and in Blackpool and on the Speech Day holiday, the giant indoor climbing complex in Warrington was visited. The term finished with a Christmas special which somehow managed to combine climbing with mince pies and chocolate Christmas tree decorations. After Christmas the bespoke club hoodies arrived and they proved very popular, whilst also adding to the club's sense of identity. During the Spring term visits to the climbing walls in Ingleton and in Kendal are planned.



The D of E Award scheme at KGS continues to flourish; presently we have over 140 students working towards their awards. Over the past six months a large number have completed their Awards and have received their certificates and badges.



Bronze Award

Harriet Martin, Francesca Lee, Leanne Tuck, Ross Martin, Corin Heney, Catherine Gaskell, Toby Townsend, Alice Whitehead, Mark Graham, Robert Parr

Silver Award

John Kings and Elena Gaddes

Since the last Headmaster's newsletter, four of our former students have received their Gold Awards. Rachel Bird and Peter Greaves went to St James' Palace in December and met the Duke of Edinburgh. They were presented with their certificates by Linford Christie and by all accounts had a truly wonderful and rewarding experience. Prior to this, in October, Rachel Brown and Joanne Box were also invited to their presentation ceremony at St James' Palace.

Over fifty 4th years started their Bronze Awards since September and we are looking forward to taking those who have completed their Skill, Service and Physical Sections on their expedition in July.

The October expedition was once again fully booked with three minibus loads heading for the North Lakes, there was not a cloud in sight as the tents were pitched and the sunset over the Keswick fells bought gasps of wonderment to many. As the temperature dropped, the extra layers were put on, but not many were really prepared for the first very hard frost of the autumn!

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the work of those students who have completed their Service section of their Award. Many have given their time to help various projects within school and the community. We have students giving their time to assist with after school clubs at junior schools, ours included. Many help at local sports clubs, coaching juniors and officiating in their matches. We have some students giving their time to help their local Church; others are helping at youth clubs, Brownies, Cubs, and Beavers. Some have enjoyed working with animals at the local RSPCA centres; whilst a number have given their time working at local Charity shops. Last year Toby Townsend organised a rugby kit collection for the SOS Kit Aid Charity www.sosirbkitaid.org and presently three of our 5th year, Ethan Harvey, Chris Travis and Yaa Shahid, are organising a concert where the proceeds will be given to charity. It is a true delight to hear about their efforts.

Any student from 4th year upwards can sign up for the D of E Award, please see the school calendar for more information about meetings.





This year's CCF Annual Summer Camp at Wathgill was another roaring success in July and, despite the poor weather nationally, we were very lucky to remain dry up until the last day. (A full report was included in this year's Kirkhamian Magazine and also appears on the school's website.) The RAF camp at Lyneham also went very well, but much wetter, being located in the south west not far from Tewkesbury! All the cadets had air flying experience and the huge Hercules is a magnificent sight when landing in flood conditions!

One of this year's NCO leavers had an enjoyable summer in Africa. Georgina Burton was selected from many national, senior cadets to be part of a select group to go on an expedition to Mt Kenya. This was a first for KGS CCF and we await her returning to school to tell of her adventures.

September saw the initial kitting out of our new recruits in the 4th year. Their basic training started early and now they are well into their weapon handling and safety

testing. We started a new training venture with the 5th form cadets this year. They can now choose between several different options such as infantry, outward bound, climbing or shooting. These courses run for 4 weeks each and result in a final assessment. The initial feedback has been very positive and several cadets have had promotions to Cadet 1st class as a result of their performances. Many have shown interest in staying on next year for the Methods of Instruction Cadre.

This year 32 L6th NCOs applied to continue with cadets and 23 of them have entered for the BTEC Diploma in Public Services. This national GNVQ award is going from strength to strength and is recognised by most universities as a valuable 'add-on'. A further six U6th NCOs have completed so far this year, 4 with distinctions, which is the equivalent of 4 A* grades at GCSE. Not only are numbers growing here, but the total contingent now stands at 266, the largest it has ever been!

A weekend early in September (14-16th) saw us send two teams to the annual Brigade Cadet Skill at Arms meeting at Altcar, near Southport. Most schools and ACF units in the NW and Isle of Man, send teams to this shooting competition. No trophies were won by us, but the A and B teams gained some success finishing 13th and 24th in the Montgomery of Alamein Competition and 10th and 21st in the Deliberate Shoot. These competitions involved 38 teams and over 150 Cadets. Individually, however, Catherine Gaskell finished a highly creditable second in the accuracy pool-bull competition and won some cash, while Alice Whitehead was placed third in the overall female competition.

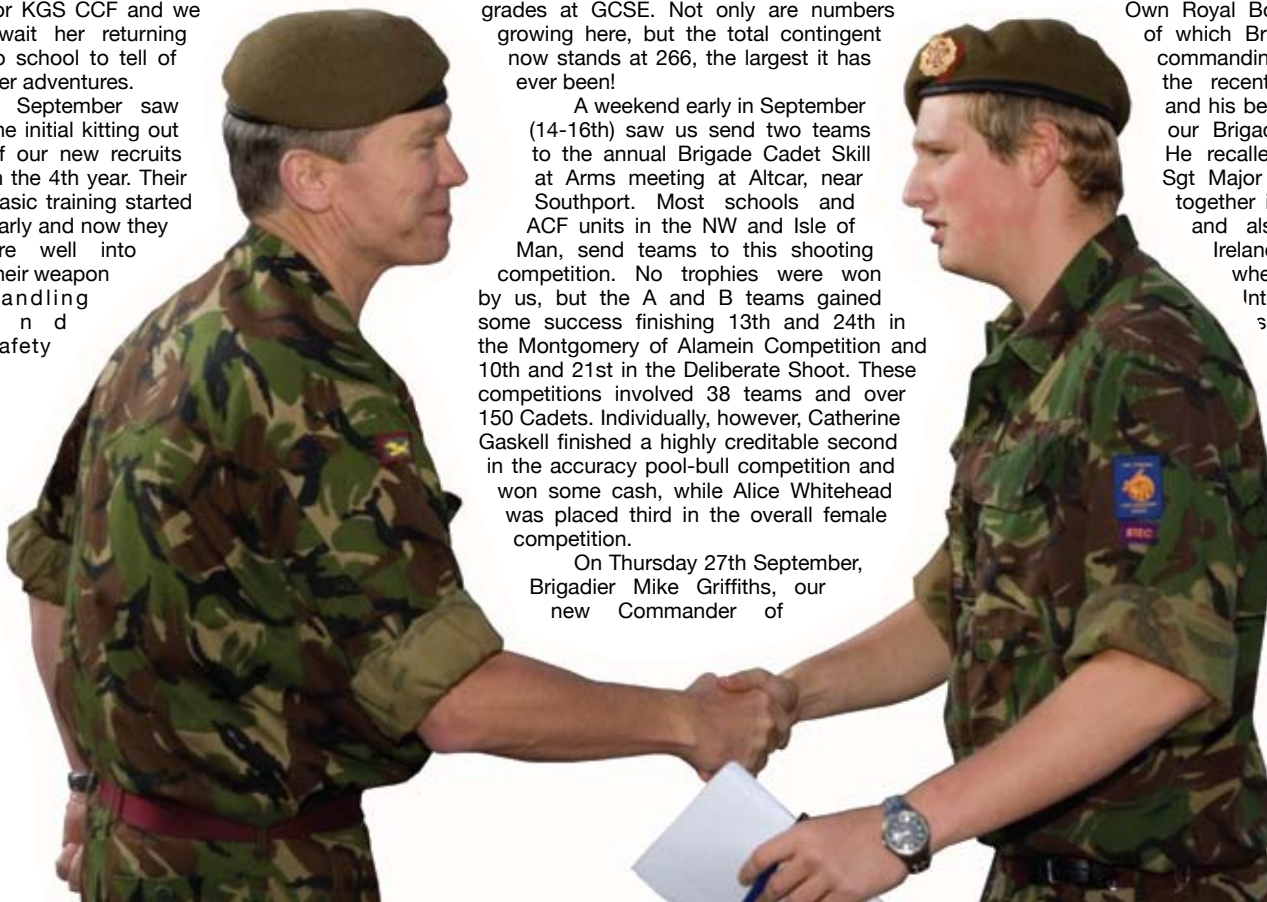
On Thursday 27th September, Brigadier Mike Griffiths, our new Commander of

42(NW) Brigade (pictured above with Lt Col I. M. Scott and below with CSM Jonny Drake), paid a visit to KGS CCF. As part of our biennial inspection, a report was written on the overall performance of the cadets and the Contingent, by our HQ.

The Brigadier was due to visit our annual field day, but at short notice his other duties within the Division forced him to withdraw. So as part of his introductory tour of the CCF Contingents in his area, he came to school for the afternoon and was shown around by Contingent Commander, Lt Col I. M. Scott and accompanied by CSM Jonny Drake.

He was very impressed with the training and especially with the responsive attitude of all our cadets. It was quite a nostalgic visit for him as our SSI, (WO2 Shaun Savage), was formerly a regular in the King's Own Royal Border Regiment, of which Brig Griffiths was commanding officer before the recent amalgamation and his being promoted to our Brigade Commander. He recalled that he and Sgt Major Savage served together in the Regiment and also in Northern Ireland in the 1990's, where he was his Intelligence Officer, so past memories were rekindled.

The most important event on our calendar, The biennial Inspection, continued with the annual Waddecarr Field Day, where Col Jolley, Colonel of Cadets (NW), took the place of Brig. Griffiths.





(photos above and on the web site).

Some of the new recruits in the 4th year volunteered to take part in an overnight survival exercise and so be 'out of the comfort zone' for 24 hours. This included cooking compositions, bivvying out under a poncho or basha and performing several night exercises such as rescuing a crashed RAF pilot in the dark whilst under attack! The remainder of the contingent arrived the next day to partake in various other training activities. It only started raining in the afternoon, but with true KGS grit and determination, the cadets continued to smile through the very wet conditions. It really was quite pleasing to see so many thoroughly soaked and muddy cadets looking so happy after such a hectic 24 hours.

We received a highly commendable inspection report and some of the comments from HQ are quoted below:

Colonel E.A. Jolley (Colonel Cadets 42 (NW) Brigade)

.... 'Upon inspection I found the Guard of Honour to be most impressive. I was treated to a quite excellent presentation by WO2 Blackburn.'

'All stands were excellently executed..... and were imaginatively devised. It was pleasing to note that so many teachers, not formally part of the contingent, had volunteered to help run some of the stands and to act as instructors where required. This they did with infectious enthusiasm, a quality that was plainly evident in all adults and cadets alike.'

'I was much impressed by the way the adult staff balanced the need for conventional instruction with that of the development of leadership and initiative by cadets, the success of which I feel has much to do with the spirit and joy displayed by all.'

'All in all this was an exceptionally enjoyable day for me - one which left me elated by the experience of the visit.'

Maj J.E. Cunningham (Chief of Staff HQ 42 (NW) Bde) adds....

'KGS CCF should be congratulated on

another outstanding Review. All of the adult staff and a few senior cadets were involved in the instruction of the lessons which were thoroughly enjoyed by all the cadets. Lt Col Scott and his officers can once again be proud of the achievements of the Contingent... and the cadets can look forward to a varied, productive and challenging programme over the next two years.'

Finally Brig. Mike Griffiths concludes...

'The tone of this review does not surprise me. They are well mannered, very positive and a delight to be amongst. Most importantly their training is focused and imaginative. The Headmaster and his staff are great supporters of this Contingent which is a great bonus to all.'

Mention must be made of Charles O'Flaherty (photo below left), who has been fortunate to be granted a Sixth Form Scholarship from the Army. Charles hopes for a career in the Armed forces and this is the first step to enhance his future profession. He underwent a rigorous selection process at Westbury in Wiltshire, similar to that which is used to choose potential officers for the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst.

Charles is the third army scholar in as many years from KGS CCF to be awarded such a prestigious and lucrative scholarship. Indeed, last year there were three former KGS pupils attending the three separate courses at Sandhurst, (something few schools can claim), all of whom are now regular, serving officers in the army. More recently, Alex Dean, who left last year, also passed the Army Officer Selection Board, which allows him to start his army officer career at RMA Sandhurst. It appears KGS is certainly gaining a good reputation for providing excellent candidates for both the

University Officer Training Corps and the regular armed forces.

This very busy time looks to continue throughout the New Year of 2008. Both RAF and Army Careers Liaison Officers interviewed several potential recruits. BTEC candidates have completed their projects and are finishing off their workbooks. At the time of writing, preparations are well under way for our annual adventurous training camp in the Lake District and field day at Weeton Camp. Several L6th NCOs have been accepted on the Cadet Leadership Course at Nesscliffe and even more 5th form cadets have shown interest in the leadership courses at Frimley in summer. Our own summer camp will be that long trek north of the border to sunny Barry Buddon in Scotland. The RAF will be at RAF Coningsby at the same time.

Congratulations must go to Sqd. Ldr J W Callister (photo below right) for his continued hard work on behalf of the Royal Air Force in running RAF camps for cadets from all over the country.

Finally, for the first time ever in KGS CCF history a cadet has applied to go on the six week long adventure and military training course in Canada. It is very competitive as only 12 places are available, nationally! I hope he is successful; it will be a wonderful experience.

Lt Col I. M. Scott
Contingent Commander





The Magic of Maths!

September 2007 saw the visit of Mathemagician Andrew Jeffrey to KGS. He was with us for two days. On the first day he performed his Magic of Maths show to all first and second year pupils and some of the sixth form mathematicians in the Senior School and on the second day he performed different shows to pupils of all ages in the Junior School. As well as being an experienced Mathematics teacher and until recently, a Deputy Head of a Preparatory School in Brighton, Andrew is also a professional magician. He has combined his passions for maths and magic to create an unforgettable show for students and staff alike.

Andrew started the shows at the Senior School with tricks designed to make students realise the importance of reading the question carefully and to make them see that the solution to what seems a difficult problem is often easier than they think. He showed various tricks where he predicted numbers that pupils were secretly thinking of, all based on numerical and algebraic techniques. He discussed the symmetry of shapes, making a circle turn into a square before their eyes. Pupils were tricked into correctly guessing the order of shuffled cards, despite the probability of them being able to do this being only 1/120 and as his finale, Andrew made two pentagons spring into 3-D to form a dodecahedron.

The shows were a success, making pupils see mathematical principles used in a different way. All pupils were keen to be involved, many of them going onstage to help with the mathemagics. Many pupils stayed after the shows with questions for Andrew on how the tricks worked. For more about Andrew Jeffrey and some examples of his mathematical tricks visit www.andrewjeffrey.co.uk.



Party Politics

The Upper 6th Politics group enjoyed a day at the recent Conservative Conference in Blackpool and were lucky enough to witness party leader David Cameron's famously "unscripted" speech. For two members of the group, Joe Douglass and Oliver Youngman, the fun began the previous evening when they attended the Conservative Conference Ball. There they met a host of little-known minor soap stars and were entertained by rock legend Tony Hadley from iconic eighties band Spandau Ballet.

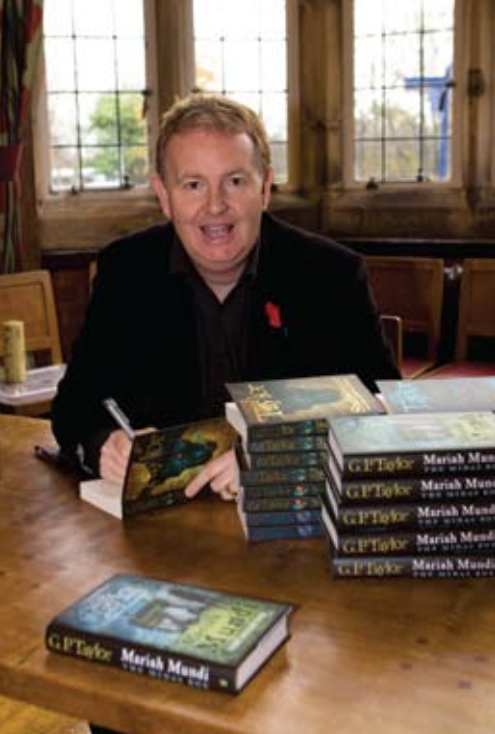
On the following day the group of nine A Level students and teacher Mr Melling managed to gain security clearance and enter the political hothouse that was the Winter Gardens. They rubbed shoulders with top BBC journalists Nick Robinson and Jon Sopel and The Telegraph's veteran correspondent George Jones. All the talk was of the possibility of a November election and the people on the BBC stand told us it was definitely going to be November 1st. As political giants William Hague and George Osborne mingled with the Tory faithful, the students gathered as many freebies as they could from the jungle of trade stands, from pens and chocolate to USB mug warmers.

Then came the moment everyone had been queuing for, the speech that would make or break Cameron, that would determine whether an early election would take place or not. And what a speech it was. In the words of the students themselves: awesome, amazing, electric. It had been a day to remember. Many thanks to Councillor Ian Fowler for inviting us along to a momentous political gathering and giving us a day to remember.



Some mothers do have 'em

The 1st XI hockey squad celebrate Christmas with their mothers in a challenge match dressed as Christmas presents. The mothers dressed as angels clearly enjoyed themselves as can be seen by this half time festive photograph.



LIBRARY NEWS

It has been a busy time in the Library since September, with two author events, a Scribblers' recital and the handover of lunch duties to a new team from the Lower Sixth. This is in addition to the library-based lessons, which have included Religious Studies, Biology and Physics.

Our Christmas Scribblers' recital was very popular with both pupils and staff, who supported the talented authors and speakers. The seasonal refreshments were also much appreciated by everyone who participated.

The Quiz and Games Society is proving popular with many children and our 'regulars' have helped to encourage others to attend on Monday lunchtimes.

As a customer of Borders Books we have been able to participate in author visits, which are organised as part of the publicity process for new books; this is a very cost-effective way to enable pupils to meet authors. The first of these was in November, when G P Taylor (photos above) visited Preston; he is the best-selling author of the 'Shadowmancer' series and other supernatural and Gothic adventure stories. His work has been compared to that of C S Lewis and he combines fantasy, mysticism and reality, together with very scary villains. The original venue (the Council Chambers at County Hall, Preston) was changed at the last minute and

we were happy to help out by providing the Old Hall as a venue. Staff and children from Longridge C of E Primary School and Darwen Vale High School joined thirty of our pupils to be entertained and amused by an exciting speaker, who has done much to encourage reading and writing in schools; he worked in the music industry before becoming a policeman and then being ordained into the Anglican priesthood.

The second visit occurred on January 21, probably the wettest Monday in living memory! The authors this time were Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell, author and illustrator of 'The Edge Chronicles' series. Not only did I manage to take the wrong turning, necessitating Mr Sampey to wait for me to catch him up, but the taxi driver failed to turn up to collect the authors and this, together with the bad road conditions, caused the event to be delayed by over an hour! The surroundings of the Council Chambers at Preston helped to pass the time and the pupils enjoyed a very amusing talk from two people who have been working together for many years; the partnership is interesting because it can be a picture from Chris Riddell which prompts a story from Paul Stewart. Their books are very popular and the event will have increased their popularity.

Mrs C Copeland

Rosemere Cancer Run

This year's Rosemere Cancer Foundation 5 km Fun Run takes place on Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May at Moor Park, Preston. The Rosemere Cancer Foundation is a local charity which funds cancer care in Lancashire and the Lakes. Last year KGS fielded an impressive number of participants and we raised nearly £800 for the Foundation. Participants from KGS included staff, students, parents and Old Kirkhamians and all who took part had a great day. If you are put off by the thought of running 5km, there is a 2km sponsored walk taking place on the same day at Moor Park. If you would like to enter the fun run or sponsored walk this year, please pick up an entry form from either Mrs Sutcliffe or the School's Bursarial Department, alternatively they can be downloaded from www.rosemere.org.uk.



LEPRA fund raising

On Wednesday 21 November over 100 teachers and pupils filled the MPH ready for the aerobics session of a lifetime. The music started playing and everyone began jogging in time to the music, except for Mr Painter who was always a few seconds out of time! Just a week earlier, no one knew what the LEPRA fund was really about. However, after a rather moving powerpoint presentation by Jackie from LEPRA, many people began to realise how terrible leprosy was and wanted to do something about it.

The people from LEPRA organised a sponsored aerobics session for us to raise money and as it only costs £21 to cure a person from leprosy, many people started to raise money straight away. People raised money on their own or in groups. In the end over £1000 was raised.

Ashley Bradshaw and Chloe Walker worked together with Katie Penrose, Emily Crowther and Bronte Edgar to raise a total of £90.

The Charity Committee would like to say a big thank you to all who took part.



FRIENDS



The Friends of Kirkham Grammar have been extremely busy since the new school term began in September 2007.

We kicked off the festive season by holding our Winter Ball at Ribby Hall in November. This year we had a -Tickled Pink This Christmas - theme in the Woodlands Suite thanks to a small very hard working team. The party room was transformed into a pink, silver and sparkling wonderland! After a pink champagne reception we had a delicious five course dinner concluding with pink marshmallows and chocolate fondue - just to keep in with the pink theme. After dinner we had an auction of various items including a signed Wayne Rooney Manchester United shirt plus a few new party games which everyone took part in before opening their own individual party bags. We raised £5129.00 on the night and the committee have agreed to donate £1000 of this to the Rosemere Ray of Hope appeal as mentioned on the posters and tickets.

Moving straight on from the ball, we had another sub-committee organising the Friends Christmas Fair. (photos on these two pages) This was held as usual in the MPH and we tried a few new ideas this year. The Junior School held a very successful Christmas tree decoration competition and for the first time we invited trade stalls to attend the fair. The fair always seems to go so fast and there is a marvellous atmosphere in the hall. We were very pleased to raise £3772 in two hours but without all the preparation before hand and fantastic prizes, gifts, bottles and donations from yourselves we could not have achieved such a tremendous amount.

Before our final meeting in December, the Friends unveiled a plaque on the new timber building that was erected in the summer down by the rugby field and CCF building. This is a great new resource as a fitness centre for school and much needed storage for games and equipment the Friends have acquired over the years. The Friends have dedicated their side of the building to Mr Barrie Reed, my Vice Chairman, who unfortunately passed away before the building was complete. Barrie was passionate about this new build and so supportive of the Friends and KGS over the many years he was connected with the school.



Looking forward to the summer we have already starting planning the Fun Day which is to be held on Sunday 18 May and also the Summer Ball - this is the highlight of the Friends year - which will be Saturday 21 June. Both events are held at school.

I do hope that you can come along and support us at either or both of these occasions, as it is a great way to meet people and make new friends whilst raising money that will benefit our children.

I wish you all a healthy and happy 2008.

Lorraine Wareing
Chairman
Friends of Kirkham Grammar School



After the long, hot summer we returned in September ready for another year of intrigue, suspense and excitement, the return of the Inter-House Competition. It is worth remembering the final positions of the 2006-2007 Whitby Cup as this is often a motivating factor for the following year. The winners Fylde were pushed all the way by Preston in second place, Kirkham narrowly finishing a creditable third and School unusually in fourth place.

The Quiz teams were first on the floor with Fylde winning the Junior competition due to a strong team, including Jack Linley and Sarah Quarmby, performing well in the individual rounds. This was all the more impressive considering that the malfunctioning buzzers in the final round becoming 'Put your hands in the air as fast as you can if you know the answer round'. Well done to Mr Duncan for keeping the peace in a very tense competition. In the Seniors' competition, Jacob Hilton of School led the team to victory in the final against Preston; maybe the change of venue at the last minute gave School home advantage or put Preston under too much pressure we will never know. Many thanks to Mrs Amey for providing an excellent variety of questions throughout the competition.

Next up was the Chess competition. Grand Master Melling organised the tournament and the winners for the first time in ten years were Preston House. Dr Rollins was over the moon with the victory because five minutes before the event two of his Senior competitors were discovered to be ill and absent from school. Walking across the quad he picked the first two members of Preston that he came across to stand in at the last moment, Chris Travis and the House Captain Richard De Carpentier were the lucky two. Little did he know how well these two would perform! Both won their matches and with the Juniors also performing well a victory for Preston was guaranteed.

The Basketball competitions are always a great spectacle and this term was no exception. A very close Intermediate competition saw Preston gain another victory with a team consisting of half the U15 rugby players showing great teamwork. The Senior event was dominated by a strong Fylde team but a resurgent Kirkham pushed them all the way to a victory on point's difference, the Fylde House Captain, Joe Brown leading his team to victory.

School House dominated the Senior Girls' netball with a high standard of play throughout, especially from Emma Fagan, Emily Whiteside and Lizzie Woodburn, but Kirkham House finished a creditable second. In the Junior competition Mrs Glover was also unlucky finishing second again after another top performance from Fylde House, the star players being Jess Balmer and Alison Glover (sorry mum).

On a cold November night we saw the arrival of the Junior girls at Preston Sports Arena for the most nerve wracking and intense competition of the year so far, the annual Hockey tournament. As usual, goals were bound to be rare and Preston v Fylde, after an end to end battle, finished 0 v 0. The next stage was the penalty flicks but amazingly all players from both sides scored their goals and so it went to sudden death. This was a repeat of last year's final and Preston were unfortunate to lose on sudden death again. The final was much more comfortable for Fylde beating School 1 - 0 but all competitors agreed that it was another enthralling tournament, with the floodlights and spectators all adding to a wonderful atmosphere.

The final event of the term, the Swimming Gala at Kirkham Baths, is always on the coldest day of the year (it is in the rules), and sees hoards of competitors trudging along Ribby Road to the baths. Preston, the winners last year, had lost two very strong swimmers and struggled all day to gain any momentum in the competition but the other three Houses fought neck and neck until the final relay events and any of them could have won the trophy. When Mr Taylor announced this and the only event left was the Senior Boys' relay you could feel the tension rippling in the pool. Ironically, Preston won the race but Fylde finished second with enough points to win the Swimming Gala for the first time in eighteen years.

So at the end of another hectic term the positions are 1st Fylde, 2nd School, 3rd Kirkham and 4th Preston, all very close and nicely poised for the Spring Term.

The House Recorder.



Young Engineers

The KGS Young Engineers Club continues to attract a large number of students from across the lower and middle schools. During the three lunchtimes the club runs each week the new members of the club have been designing and manufacturing their 'Jitterbug' robots and older members of the club have been developing their 'Micromouse' designs ready for the national competition in the summer. The three officers of the club, Oliver Evans, Rowan Leech and Stuart Spencer, have been actively helping the younger members of the club with the design and manufacture of their project work, with Rowan using this work to count toward the service section of his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. At the time of writing the Young Engineers Club is looking forward to the 2008 Rotary Technology Tournament to be held at the University of Central Lancashire on 7 March and will be aiming to win back the trophies we narrowly lost last year. The year will be rounded off by participation in the Schools section of the UK Micromouse competition which is being held at the Technology Innovation Centre in Birmingham on Saturday 28 June 2008.



Biology Field Trip

The weather was appalling with rain showers every day but this could not dampen the determination of the Sixth Form Biologists at Malham Tarn Field Centre. They all collected full sets of data for their coursework investigations. The four who had chosen to collect invertebrates from the stream (Lewis, Sam, Chelsea and Alex) deserve special praise as the stream had doubled in size overnight and the kick sampling technique resulted in cold, water-logged wellies.

The afternoon tea and cakes became a highlight of each day and the food in general was well received with a choice of menu for the main meals. Our Field Tutor, Robin, impressed us all with his local knowledge and encouraged everyone to think like an Ecologist!

Speaking at the Union

KGS debaters, Grace Garlington and Caitlin McMillan, (photo top right) achieved a stunning double recently having won the English Speaking Union Mace debate at Hutton Grammar School they repeated their success the following evening at the prestigious Oxford Schools' Debating Competition at Manchester Grammar School.

The Oxford Union, praised by Harold Macmillan as "the last bastion of free speech in the Western world", is perhaps the most famous forum for debating in the world: it also runs the Oxford Schools' competition, and two KGS pairs competed with over twenty teams from other schools across the North West. The teams enjoyed two debates, "This House would ban violent video games" and "This House would introduce compulsory drug testing in schools": as Oxford is a short notice debating competition, the teams only had 15 minutes to plan their addresses.

Misty Hammond, the Debating Society Secretary, and Nina Wilkinson, in her first appearance at short-notice Parliamentary Debating, acquitted themselves well as Second Opposition for the first motion and First Proposition for the second, and were praised by the judges for their strong performances, despite Misty succumbing to the Norovirus during the course of the debate.

Caitlin and Grace, as first Proposition and Second Proposition in the respective debates, however, were adjudged clear winners – their passionate defence of both motions was accompanied by excellent debating tactics including a very powerful example of "Shifting the Burden of Proof".

In the Mace debate the girls faced strong teams from Arnold and Hutton Grammar School. They opposed the motion "This House Would Support the Introduction of Compulsory National Service for all School Leavers". As ever with the Mace, the arguments were pursued vigorously but with a courtesy and respect for the conventions of debating that would have put the House of Commons to shame.

The pair now progress to the National Final at the Oxford Union on Saturday March 8th: they will hold stage in the chamber that has been audience to speakers such as Gladstone, Malcolm X and O.J. Simpson. We wish Caitlin and Grace every success!



The above photograph features Wasim Riley, Lucy Knowles, Elizabeth Whittle and Theo Mason as the faces of the 2008 Sixth Form.

FANTASTIC FOUR

Four KGS students (three pupils in photo bottom right) are celebrating offers from Oxford and Cambridge colleges, received over the Christmas and New Year period.

School Captain Rose Whitehead, from Hutton, has an offer from Corpus Christi, Oxford, to read Biochemistry. Rose's excellence in the sciences is complemented by her outstanding musicianship: she is a talented pianist and vocalist, who regularly performs with fellow students in concerts raising money for the school's charity efforts.

Jonathan Jacobs, a boarder whose home is in Preston, has a place at Somerville College, Oxford, to read English Literature. Alongside his excellence in English Literature and Language, Jonathan is a keen student of languages ancient and modern, who is also studying French and Latin at A-Level.

Christopher Box, from Freckleton, has a place to read Materials Science at St Edmund Hall, Oxford. Christopher's six A- Level subjects illustrate the breadth of his ability and interests: alongside Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry and Physics, he is also studying German and General Studies.

Finally, Paul Taylor, from Longridge, who achieved a clean sweep of Grade 'A' passes at A-Level last summer, has won a place at Peterhouse College, Cambridge, to read Mathematics, a notoriously competitive subject at Cambridge. Paul is currently on a gap year after leaving school last summer.

Commenting on their well deserved success, Head of Sixth Form Adrian Long said: "It is particularly pleasing to report their success at a time when there is so much comment nationally and locally about the increasing difficulty of securing Oxbridge places, even for the most able students. Their subject offers reflect the diversity and strength in depth which is such a feature of our Sixth Form".





MUSIC



The Autumn Term in the Music Department started with an excellent Coffee Concert presented at the end of September by the Music Scholars of the 2nd and 3rd Years. November saw a series of concerts, beginning with a Coffee Concert presented by three Upper Sixth musicians, Suzanne Midgley, Jenny Patel and James Edgar. Suzanne and Jenny then had the wonderful experience of playing with the Lancashire Youth Concert Band in the National Festival of Music for Youth at the Royal Albert Hall in London. During this Concert Jenny performed Rossini's William Tell Overture in an arrangement for xylophone and concert band.

Three concerts in the space of eight days in late November saw the members of the KGS Music Department very busy, presenting an extremely varied programme of music. The series began with a Concert entitled A Celebration of Talent given by musicians from the first year. A wide variety of excellent solo performances showed the great wealth of talent present in the year. A week later it was the turn of three of our Upper Sixth musicians to present a charity concert that raised a significant amount of money for heart research. James Edgar and Ashley Parkinson (guitars and vocals) have presented similar charity concerts for the past two years and this year, their final year at KGS, they were joined by Rose Whitehead (piano) in a most professional and most enjoyable performance. The final Concert took place on Friday 23 November at Park Street Methodist Church, Lytham and was performed in support of NCH, the Methodist Church children's charity. The Orchestra, Concert Band and String Group were joined by soloists in a Concert performed to a large and appreciative audience.

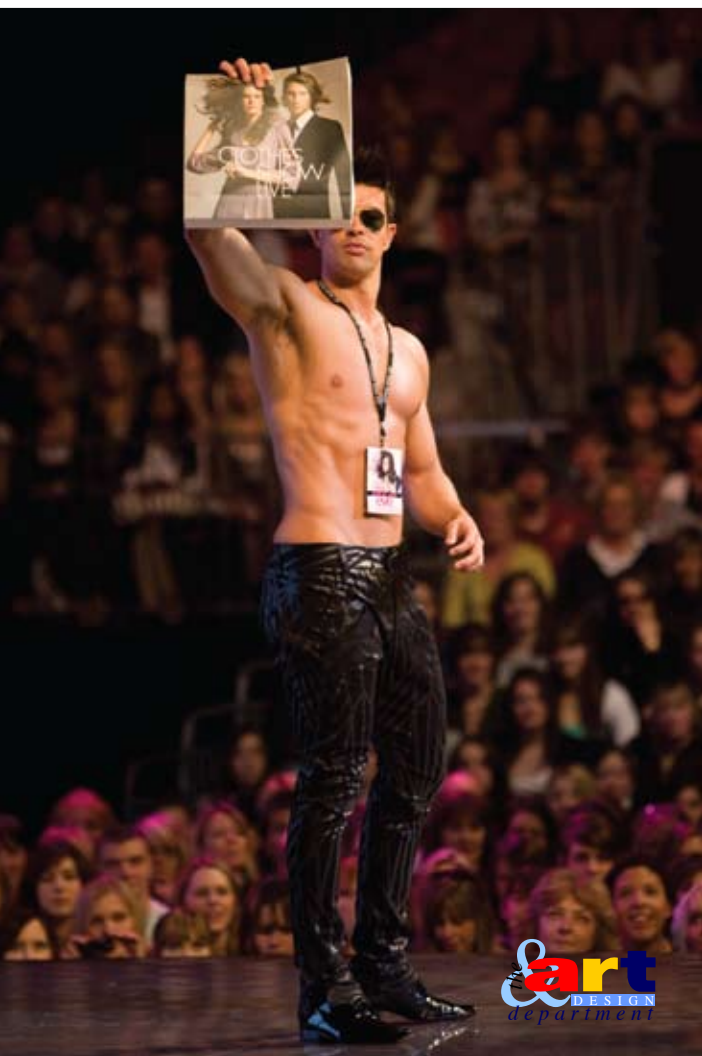
The Choirs performed to their usual high standard in the annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Michael's Church and on the following day they were joined by member of the various instrumental ensembles (Orchestra, Concert Band and String Group) in a very well

supported Christmas Concert. The Autumn Term drew to a close with a final Coffee Concert, this time presented by 5th Form GCSE students.

The Spring Term 2008 has seen us once more welcome The Band of the King's Division to KGS (photos on these two pages along with rehearsals). The members of our Concert Band greatly benefited from a Workshop with the Band before presenting a joint Concert in the MPH. The Concert was enjoyed by a large audience of pupils and parents. The final concert of the Half Term saw over twenty musicians of the 2nd Year present a very varied evening concert in the Old Hall.





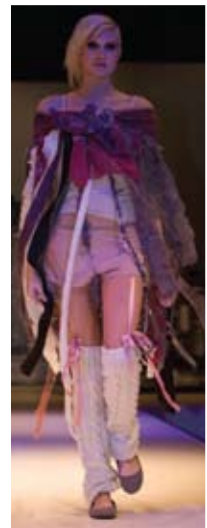


CLOTHES SHOW LIVE

Pupils from the 4th and 5th years commenced on the GCSE Art and Design trip to the Clothes Show Live on 11 December 2007. The coach departed from school at around 9.00 am and headed to the NEC in Birmingham for what was to be a very exciting and educational trip. We arrived at Birmingham at around 11.00 am and everyone was keen to head off in groups to explore. For those interested in an art-related career or further education, there was a section where you could visit a whole range of university and college stalls. They were very inviting and welcomed anyone interested in what they provided. They ranged from the City College, Birmingham, Cambridge School of Visual & Performing Arts, Thames Valley University and my favourite and also the most famous, The London College of Fashion.

We all had tickets to see the fashion show at 1.45 pm, hosted by the star guest Peaches Geldof. The fashion show included many new trends for summer. The show consisted of models but also dancers who acted out part of the show through dance. This brought a new modern vibe to the show and created a new dimension to fashion. It was an amazing experience and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the event. Unfortunately we had to depart from Birmingham at around 6.30 pm to arrive back at school at about 10.30 pm. A big thank you to Mr Gardiner for organising and leading the trip and I can't wait till the next Clothes Show Live in 2008.

Laura Salisbury 5Z



THE TAMMING OF THE SHREW





“A Pleasant Comedy” or How to Tame a Shrew!

What’s the connection between line-dancing, misogyny and the Bard of Avon? Those who were fortunate enough to secure tickets for the sell-out performances of this year’s KGS play know the answer: Shakespeare’s *The Taming of the Shrew*!

The play is a bold choice for any director: it seems to preach the moral that

“Such duty as the subject owes the prince,

Even such a woman oweth to her husband.”

The sexual politics of this story is a real challenge to a modern audience: and this is the challenge that Ms Barrie confidently accepted in her production. Her leads, Benedict Fulford-Brown (photo right) as Petruchio, and Alice Whitehead (photo right) as the Shrew, Katherina, bore out their roles with aplomb. Alice was the epitome of the “wild Kate”, and Hannah Duckworth’s beautiful but placid Bianca was an excellent foil to Alice’s energy and (disturbing!) violence. Kate was well matched by Benedict: his Petruchio embodied the enigmatic combination of humour and cruelty in his “Taming” of Katerina.

So why the American context? Ms Barrie’s “Cast of Thousands” included many talented dancers and musicians, and the audience was captivated by the country-and-western classics belted out by the vocalists, fronted by Melissa McCarthy and Sarah Dickie, and the duelling guitars and drums of the band. And the visual and aural excitement afforded by the line-dancing was justification enough for the choice of setting. However, there was a clear plot justification here too: by moving the play to an American Western context, Ms Barrie was underlining the sexism of the play – the American cowboy embodies the same demeaning attitudes to women that are seen in Shakespeare’s Elizabethan world.

“A woman moved is like a fountain troubled. Muddy, ill-seeming, thick, bereft of beauty, And while it is so, none so dry or thirsty Will deign to sip or touch one drop of it.”





More, the movement to this setting, where the archetypal cowboy “breaks” or tames and then rides his horse highlights the theme inherent in Shakespeare’s repeated punning on the fact that Petruchio is Kate’s “bridegroom”:

“A bridegroom, say you? 'Tis a groom indeed, A grumbling groom, and that the girl shall find.”

A groom is, of course, one who tames and looks after horses – it is telling, therefore, that we still use the word “bridegroom” today!

However, it was the coup de théâtre in the finale that rescued the misogynistic reputation of this play. Kate’s submission to the cruelties of Petruchio was resolved by this interpretation: Alice’s Kate clearly finally understands how to win this game, and the moral force of her offering her hand for Petruchio to step on compels Petruchio to subjugate himself in return, sleeping with his head, as the idiom says, “in the palm of her hand”. This frozen tableau celebrated the need for equality in relationships – and left more than one member of the audience reaching for his handkerchief.

There were, of course, a number of set-pieces to treasure too: Matt Edgar’s Hortensio wearing the guitar (or lute!) that “Kate the curst” has broken over his head; the Tailor (Joe Casson) in tears after Petruchio’s assassination of his beautiful dress. However, perhaps the most startling

– and genuinely frightening – parts of the play belonged to the Cronies, who with their Gothic costume and makeup reminiscent of Kubrick’s *A Clockwork Orange* threatened to steal the stage.

All those who assisted in this theatrical triumph deserve both praise and thanks, whether as actors, musicians, or as part of the Crew, without whom the play could never have been produced. And of course, the audience and cast alike would wish to thank Ms Barrie and Mrs Walker, the Director and her assistant, as well as the Musical Director Graeme Barrie and the Choreographer, Liz Cross.

But who received the loudest ovation as the curtain fell? All the cast were vociferously cheered by the audience, but the Pantomime Horse (Cerys Buck and Rachel Kitchen) bore away the prize! And indeed, the greatest testament to the success of the production was the enthusiastic response of the audience. “Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells” is often heard complaining about directors “mucking around with Shakespeare” – but no-one had the temerity to make such a criticism of this performance. For ultimately Shakespeare was a showman – and I can confidently give the greatest compliment possible to any troupe of actors performing the works of the Bard: Shakespeare would have LOVED it!

Mr C Hawkes

www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/drama/







"In a country well governed, poverty is something to be ashamed of. In a country badly governed, wealth is something to be ashamed of".
Confucius

In a time of greed and selfishness, three gods are sent down from heaven to find one genuinely 'good' person to prove that humanity is worth saving. In the run down outskirts of Szechuan they encounter Shen-Te a prostitute who gives them a room for the night. As a reward for her compassion they give her one thousand silver dollars with the understanding that she must sustain this goodness and charity in every aspect of her life from now on...

Is it possible to live a good life in a corrupt world? Does money bring automatic happiness? Do people always do the right thing under any circumstance? Can you be truly good without being split in two?

The performance of 'Good Woman' was coupled with a practical workshop which gave our GCSE and A Level drama students a chance to experience Brechtian technique for themselves. Through the performance and the workshop the Splendid Productions helped our students demystify gestus, montage, song, spass, dialectics and the V-Effekt.

The photographs on these two pages captured the performance and the workshop.





KGS HAS ★ TALENT

The Charity Committee has had an eventful and busy Autumn Term with fundraising activities taking place on a regular basis. It may then have seemed rather foolish that Mr Rushton and I decided to hold a charity talent contest in the last week of term. Being a worrier, I asked Mr Rushton when we would be doing the auditions. "Oh, the week before the concert will give us plenty of time" was the reply. Worried? I should say I was!

The auditions were organised and in due course we were entertained at lunchtimes by an array of talent. Nothing could have prepared us for the awesome standard of the acts. We quickly realised that we were in for a treat, and some difficult decisions followed as to who would go through to the finals.

A shortlist was drawn up and we looked forward to the finals with a mixture of excitement and trepidation. We had so little time to get everything organised. Would the whole event be an embarrassing disaster? We need not have worried.

Sound checks were completed with the help of Mr Duncan and Ben Blackburn and the afternoon of the finals arrived. The whole school packed into the MPH and soon there was a fantastic atmosphere as everyone looked forward to an afternoon away from the classroom. The whole event was compered by Matt Edgar and Tom Anstiss who did a fantastic job of introducing the acts and being generally very funny.

Joe Martin and his band opened the show, setting a high standard that was to be maintained throughout. Miranda Hopkins Coman, Ellie Schuller Smith and Rose Whitehead all entertained us at the piano, whilst we had vocal performances from a group of third year girls and from Sarah Dickie

and Natalie Yates. We enjoyed magical performances from Jack Clarke and Matthew Denham. The variety of acts was amazing, with ballet from Rosie Spedding, Theo Harvey on drums and James Edgar and Ashley Parkinson singing and playing the guitar.

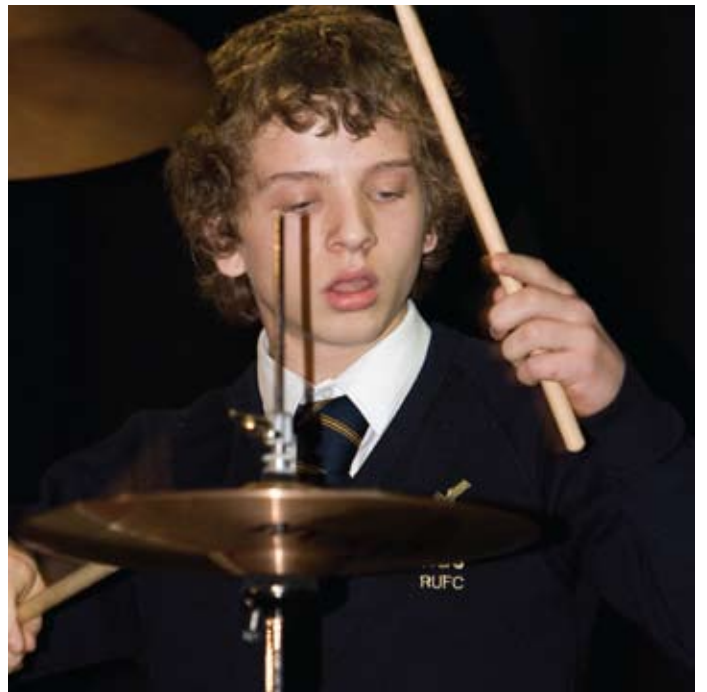
A fantastic afternoon was had by all, and it all went perfectly well. We were all spellbound by the talent we saw that day. The Monday after the show, on non-uniform day, everyone voted for their favourite act and a total of over £1000 was raised for our chosen charity which was CRISIS.

During final assembly, the Headmaster announced the winners. An excited hush descended on the whole school. Runners up were announced as Ellie Higham and Hazel Fox who amazed us with their acrobatic display. Joint runner up was Bradley Johnson who played electric guitar to what can only be described as professional level.

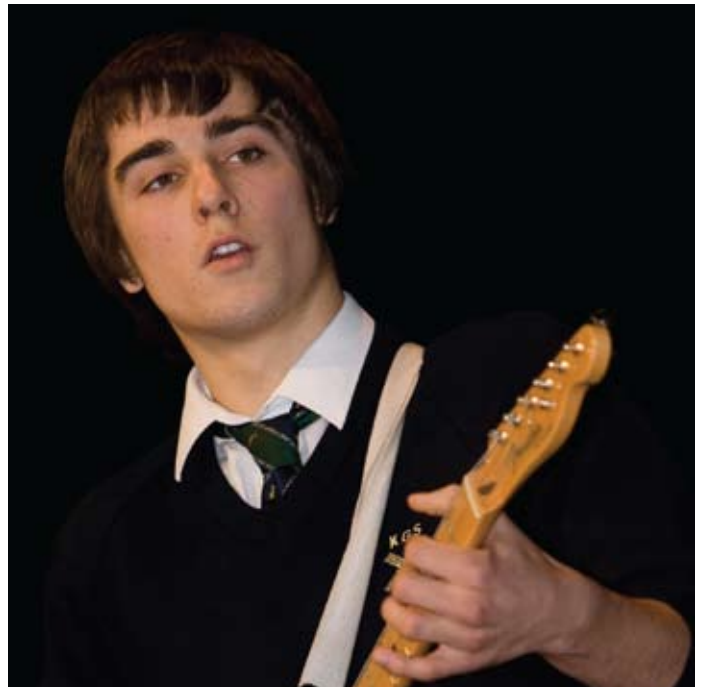
The winner of this year's competition was the Tokyo Polo Club. They brought the house down by ending the concert with numbers by Amy Winehouse and the Pigeon Detectives. The members of the group, Nick Evans, Benedict Fulford-Brown, Michael Lomax and Michael Kings looked delighted as they collected their prize. I couldn't help but wonder if we had seen a star of the future that afternoon, such was the amazing talent we witnessed.

Photographs of the event feature on the next few pages and can be viewed at: www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/photos

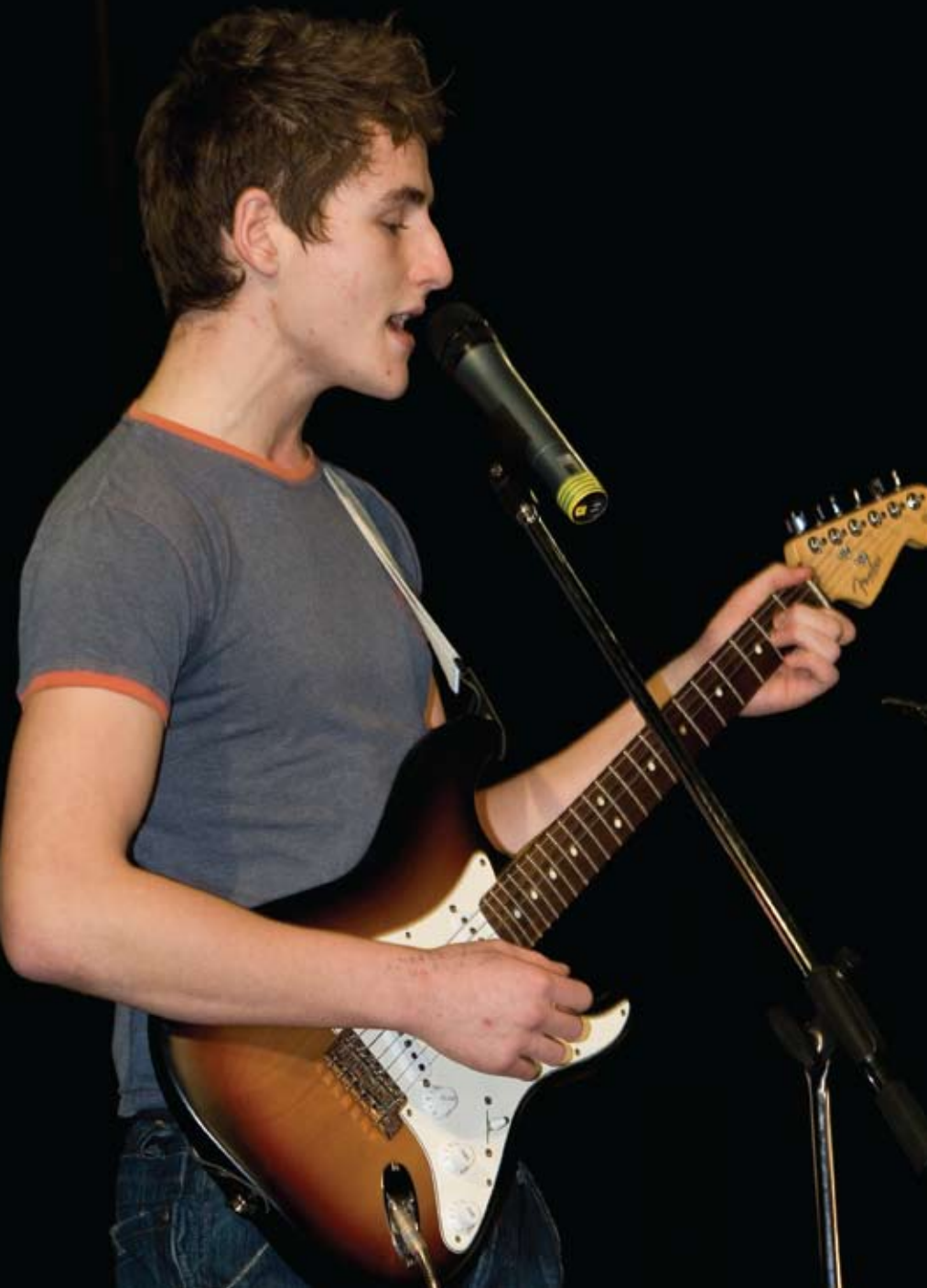
Mrs S John



tokyo
polo
club



KGS HAS
★ TALENT



KGS HAS
★ TALENT





KGS HAS
★ TALENT





KGS HAS
TALENT

South Africa Rugby Tour 2007



KGS's rugby touring party undertook an adventure of a lifetime in South Africa where they not only played rugby, but explored the Western and Eastern Provinces of the country. The touring party consisted of a young development squad of hopeful future 1st XV players from the U15 XV and U16 XV squads. The teams played some memorable games that included the 36-0 win against Hamilton Seapoint RUFC and an agonizing 8-6 defeat to Nico Malan High School. The boys won many admirers for their tenacity and sportsmanship on the field as well as their charm and friendliness off it. All opposition sides sang KGS's praise particularly with regards to the strength and skill of our forwards. The boys' rugby improved significantly as the tour progressed and they will no doubt be much better players for the experience. Throughout the tour they made many new friends and were cheered on by the locals as well as our own 'Barmy Army' (photo below) of parents, family and staff.

In addition to the rugby an enormous amount was packed into this 19 day tour. Cape Town was the starting point with visits to the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, Table Mountain and the old Maximum

Security prison on Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela and many other political prisoners were incarcerated. Perhaps the most unusual excursion was a visit to the Langa Township. The tour party was met by an African guide and shown around this famous township where Nelson Mandela lived and was instrumental in setting up the ANC. Features of the tour included areas of interest such as the sheep's head kitchens, the local hostel, the old Shanty Town dwellings, the local home brew house and the herbalist/witch doctor.





The boys were a real hit with the locals, especially the young children, who posed for photos (see photo of Kieran at end of this article) and played cricket with them. This was the first encounter of the real Africa and the warmth and generosity shown by the township people left the group with a great sense of humility.

Meanwhile the parents of the boys at home were following the tour party's movements via the web. Staff uploaded a blog (web log) with daily reports and photographs of each day's highlights via whatever Internet access they could find. Parents and friends were able to add comments, with a number of parents remarking that they were able to feel part of the tour.

The days were very busy, packed with either rugby matches, training sessions or excursions. In the Cape Town area the boys had matches against False Bay RUFC (photo right) and Hamilton Seapoint RUFC. These two club opponents were a warm up before the tougher school rugby they were later to encounter. Having said that, the first games against False Bay RUFC were very closely contested matches. The U15XV showed some real team spirit and were narrowly defeated in the last minute of the game 17-12 whilst the U16XV should have defeated the opposition but were defeated 14 - 7. Against Hamilton Seapoint RUFC we witnessed a more business-like approach from both teams as the U15XVs won 36-0 and the U16XV lead by Richard De Carpentier (photo right) won 27-17.



Moving on from Cape Town the group travelled the short distance to Simon's Town visiting Cape Point and the Cape of Good Hope where they experienced the full force of the Southern Atlantic Ocean crashing against the Cape Peninsular shoreline. In Simon's Town the boys had a day of contrast as they visited the penguins at Boulders in the morning and played rugby in the afternoon on a ground that had a spectacular view of False Bay. The two teams were to experience two very good wins, with the U15XV beating Fish Hoek HS 30-3 and the U16XV defeating Simon's Town HS 31-0.

The following day they were on the road again travelling 250 miles east along the "Garden Route" to the Wilderness. On route the boys took in some seal spotting at Hout Bay. From the Wilderness stopover a trip into the Little Karoo (thirsty land) followed. Travelling via the Outeniqua Mountain's pass to Oudsthoorn the group visited the spectacular Kango caves and an Ostrich farm where a number of boys and Mr Harrison (Buffalo Bob photo right) had the opportunity to ride the large birds.





After another 200-plus mile drive up the coast to the university town of Graham's Town, the touring party stopped off at J-Bay (Jeffery's Bay) home of Billabong and South African surfing. Four more hard-fought games were played against two very strong rugby schools, Graham's College and Nico Malan, with the boys staying with families and boys from Nico Malan. Against Graham's College the U15XV's lost 28-5 and the U16XV's lost 18-6, whilst the games against Nico Malan were also defeats, 24-7 to the U15XV and 8-6 against the U16XV's. The scores particularly in the U16's could have gone the other way in both games. You have to take the rough with the smooth whilst on tour! At these two schools the two teams felt the full passion of South African rugby



as they played on pitches with stands full of supporters.



At Nico Malan the boys experienced an Afrikaans lifestyle staying with local families with the added bonus of some of hunting, shooting, fishing, orange picking or just "chilling" and the opportunity to have a near normal day.



The final two days were a real treat for the tour party as they stayed at the Game Reserve, Kariega (photos

last page) and undertook two game drives. Wrapped up ready for the late afternoon game drive there was an air of excitement as the group drove off into the bush in their open top Toyota Land Cruisers. The vehicles split up in pursuit of elephants, driving up and down hills, stopping occasionally to watch wilderbeest, impamla and nyala, both South African antelopes. An hour into the drive a small herd of elephants was spotted just off "Ambush Alley" (all dirt tracks have a name), a group comprising of three females and two males, one being a large bull. It was a fantastic sight to see these magnificent creatures in the wild. The vehicles were parked up within twenty metres of the beasts. Suddenly the engines fired up and were quickly put into reverse as the big bull, ears flapping, made a move towards the vehicles. It was time to move on. The bright red African sun was rapidly dissolving into the distant hills. With the dark of night upon them, imaginations only exaggerated what was beyond the reaches of their vehicles. On the second game drive in the early morning, after a hearty breakfast, the group once again mounted their rangers' vehicles for the last time in pursuit of big game. They







were after the "Big 5". They did manage to see a vast amount of game with the highlight of the day tracking a pride of lions whilst in their open top vehicles. It really was a heart pumping moment when the lions passed by the vehicles just metres away. A perfect end to this South African Tour.

Throughout the trip the camaraderie of the players was outstanding and they were wonderful ambassadors for the school. The tour was truly memorable and a great deal of thanks is due to our hosts in South Africa and to all of the parents, supporters, sponsors and friends of the school who helped to make this possible.

For the day by day reports of the full 19 day tour, go to <http://southafricatour07.blogspot.com/>



Graeme College Exchange

After KGS's rugby tour to South Africa, an exchange programme was set up between Graeme College, (Eastern Province) and KGS. Graeme College sent one young player to KGS this winter term and a coach who helped with KGS U15s team. KGS will hopefully be sending two players to join Graeme College in their winter term 2008.

Photo below - left to right: Ringo Wu, Douglas Walker (Headmaster), Adam Whalley (U15s), Wikus Coetzee, Aled Trenhaile and Pierre Jacobs from Graeme College







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



HOCKEY 07-08





girlsCountyhonours

After a series of trials KGS are delighted to announce that for the second year running over forty of its pupils have been selected for the Lancashire Schoolgirls' Hockey Association (LSHA) squads for the present season. Selection to the county squad is no easy achievement. The girls have to prove themselves in terms of skill level, tactical awareness, fitness levels, and potential. The trials for each of the different age groups are conducted by a selection panel nominated by the LSHA, consisting of the team manager and representatives from schools and clubs in the county.

The photograph above features our Lancashire players in front of the Lawrence House Pavilion on the new astro turf. Alix Townsend and Hannah Pike are in the photos to the right in a recent match against Stockport Grammar School.



Barbados Hockey Tour

Thirty nine girls are about to embark on the trip of a lifetime this February when they board the Virgin Atlantic flight to Barbados for the KGS Senior Hockey Tour.

Travelling to another part of the world to play a sport that you love and meet new people provides an experience that will never be forgotten.

On this tour to Barbados it is important that each and every girl grabs every opportunity with both hands and experiences all that Barbados has to offer in terms of the standard of hockey and the very different culture. As always we support our girls 100% and all that we ask is that they play hard, play fair, support each other and enjoy the game.

Whilst on the Tour the girls will play nine hockey matches in total between three teams and experience all that the island has to offer. We have already planned a Catamaran Cruise which will allow the girls to swim with turtles and booked local restaurants to experience local cuisine.

Over the past few months we have worked hard to fundraise for the tour to help provide evening meals, kit and excursions for the girls. We hosted a Family Quiz Night, an Auction Dinner at Fylde Rugby Club, a School Disco and a whole-school Sponsored Hockey Play in which no less than 100 girls took part. With respect to fundraising, our thanks must go to Mrs Meg Hughes and Mrs Sharon Pike who organised the Auction Dinner (photo below) and helped with the Quiz Night: Mr Lee Townsend for his work with the Tour Brochure and the Auction Dinner; All of the businesses who have placed adverts in the tour brochure; the players individual sponsors and finally all the parents, friends and family who have supported each fund raising event.

So without further ado, let's pack our sticks and shin pads and embark on this trip of a lifetime to Barbados!



boysRugbyhonours

The following boys have played representative rugby in the 2007/2008 season:

England Six Nations Squad 2008

Richard Wigglesworth (1994-2001)

North U18 (photo right)

Tom Bowden
Richard De Carpentier
Sam Kindred
Thomas Banks
Tom Bowden
Richard De Carpentier
Phillip Berry
Gregor Aitken
Jonathan Edwards
Matthew Davies

Lancs U18 Squad

Daniel Sissons
Gregor Aitken
Kieran Brookes
Matthew Spedding (Captain)
James Hesketh
Daniel Bibby
Wasim Riley
Chris Travis
Bobby Garlington
Matthew Ellis
Bobby Garlington
Adam Whalley
Jake Hodgkinson
Ben Jones
Jonathan Davies

Wales Exiles U18, North Wales U20

Scottish Exiles U18

Irish Exiles U18

Lancs U17

Lancs U16

Lancs U15

North Lancs U15







RUGBY 07-08

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





KGSport

This sporting year has been as busy as ever and exhibited both individual success, team achievement and breadth of activity. The usual busy programme of hockey and rugby fixtures has seen some outstanding successes at different age groups. On the hockey field the girls boast no less than forty county players and were additionally pleased that Hannah Pike and Sophia Crawshay gained selection for the North Division. The first XI has begun a rebuilding programme and the team are growing in confidence and stature as the major competitions approach. On the rugby front the 1st XV season closed with the team justly proud of some fine results. The defeat of Llandovery in Wales was a first as was the creditable draw against Colston's. Despite three defeats they can be pleased with their achievement on a tough fixture list. Elsewhere the U16 XV have progressed to the Finals of the North West Floodlit Cup after a tumultuous draw with Stonyhurst, emerging winners by the toss of a coin. Sadly the weather has undermined some fixtures particularly at B team level but we remain committed to providing this breadth for our pupils. Individually Sam Kindred, Captain Richard de Carpentier and Tom Bowden have gained North Division honours whilst Jonathan Edwards, Phillip Berry and Matthew Davies have represented the County. We now await news of whether Kieran Brookes will achieve his goal of an International Cap for Ireland. We wish him luck.

This year saw the first major overseas tour for ten years when the U17 rugby squad visited South Africa. Their experiences are well documented but it was a pleasure to hear of the fact that they had represented the school so well and that they had gained so much by their varied experience. As the girls set out to Barbados we look forward to hearing news of their tour over the next week.

Our Netball teams continue to compete in the local leagues and are growing in strength each year while the boys compete in the local Volleyball league, gaining tremendous experience in a different field.

Perhaps most notably this year has been the success of our swimming and cross-country teams both individually and collectively. In the recent Fylde Cross-Country Championships Richard Morrell emerged as the first runner home in the Intermediate Boys event and the team as a whole won the overall trophy. Elsewhere the 1st year girls came second from twelve schools with Imogen Pierce finishing an outstanding third overall. We now hope to hear of Richard's success in the National Championships in March.

Individually congratulations must also go to Ellie Higham and Hazel Fox (photos left) who participated in the Lancashire Schools Trampolining Competition. Ellie was finally placed in second position while Hazel was placed in the top twenty. I had the pleasure of watching both girls perform in the Garstang Gymnastics Annual Show and they certainly show promise as gymnasts for the future.

Sport at KGS continues to take a central role in our lives and we were pleased to welcome Mr Geoff Wappett, Ex England U21, U19 and U18 Coach to help with rugby teams throughout the school. His expertise has proved a valuable asset and he has also set up the Rugby Class Course this summer which adds to our extensive community programme run by the Bursar and her team. Our facilities are used extensively not only by our own pupils but also by the community and it was exciting to hear that our bid for being considered as an Olympic training venue for 2012 has been accepted with a decision pending soon.

