

Kirkham Grammar School

Headmaster's Letter to Parents

Spring 2009





From the Headmaster



In the middle of a term, which has been noticeable for its cold and at times extremely wet weather, it is nice to be able to look back on some of the highlights of the current year so far, albeit that even in the autumn we suffered an unusual number of days under torrents of rain! This year has once again seen some excellent external examination results including the school's second best ever GCSE results at the higher levels. With nearly half the grades awarded at A*/A our students had every reason to feel proud of themselves. Results in the core subjects were particularly noticeable with English and Mathematics once again achieving well but this year pride of place perhaps went to the Sciences where pupils in the discrete sciences scored A*/A rates above 90%. A remarkably high standard. At A-level the school gained nearly two thirds of grades at the highest levels for the fourth consecutive year, cementing the academic progress over recent years. The judgement of schools by such statistics, however, still represents a superficial policy undertaken by a system which seems to have lost touch with the reality of what makes good schools tick. We must clearly strive for the best our pupils can achieve but to assume that percentage points indicate significantly what is good about a school has to be flawed. The key to good schools remains the people within them, both pupils and staff learning in an environment where there is extended opportunity and a sense of community. This must over-ride such statistical analysis which is so easily manipulated to suit the media.

Our community has sustained well, despite the weather, and we welcomed another full cohort into our first year and boast the biggest Sixth Form in the school's history.

With over 180 installed into the top two year groups our Sixth Form Centre

creaks at the seams, but our seniors continue to make an outstanding contribution to the school. Leadership is a word used easily in management circles these days but it is a pleasure to see the manner in which so many of our senior pupils conduct their roles around school. From Captains of School, Caitlin McMillan and Wasim Riley, and their team of Senior Prefects; the House Captains and NCO's within the CCF; Captains of Boarding House; Librarians and Captains of sports teams we are fortunate to exhibit such a cohort of strong personalities who show a sense of care and determination in pursuing their roles. As I watch the way so many leaders flounder in acting as role models, I am always impressed to see the way our young people adapt to their crucial roles in leading the school community and this year we have been particularly well served by so many outstanding individuals.

We recently heard news that no less than four of our Upper Sixth had gained offers from Oxbridge Colleges. Michael Bennett to read Natural Sciences at St Catherine's, Cambridge; Ellie Gaddes to read Geography at Regents Park College, Oxford; Caitlin McMillan to read English at Balliol College, Oxford and Tom Sanders to read Psychology, Philosophy and

Physiology at St Edmund Hall, Oxford. There are inevitably disappointed candidates and it is becoming ever more difficult for colleges to differentiate between highly qualified and able candidates but it is still the case that we should celebrate these successes for they represent continued evidence of the aspirations of our young people. The fact that the media bemoan the dominance of independent schools in gaining places at all our top universities is certain evidence of what the recent European educational poll indicated; that the UK's Independent Schools are at the top of any sector, Europe and indeed world wide. Such achievement is something that should be applauded and we are pleased just to be a small part of it.

We are well aware in school, however, of the economic gloom that has overwhelmed us all in recent months. The sacrifices that have to be made have increased and we must all be aware that some difficult times face us. At school we are determined that we will continue to provide a broad and balanced education and maintain the progress made by the school over recent years. We recognise the need to do this without pressure on costs but we must not stand still. Testimony to the success of this philosophy was again borne out by the popularity of



our Open Events which saw over 1,000 visit the school on the occasion of our Open Afternoon, once again blessed by excellent weather. Numbers, in fact, increased from last year which provided us with a boost as we undertook the arduous admissions cycle once again.

Our community is epitomised by the number of staff who have served the school for long periods and it is always sad to say goodbye. Yet the corollary to this is the pleasure in welcoming new colleagues to our teaching staff and seeing the different strengths they bring and varied opportunities they provide for our students. This year we welcomed Mr & Mrs Marmion (photo bottom right) into the Boarding House. Mr Marmion takes over from Mr Smith as Head of Boarding but he would be the first to say that this is very much a husband and wife team, along with their two boys, and we hope they will all be very happy in School House.

It is rare that a member of staff is replaced by two but that is the case for Mr Reeves. His departure saw the appointment of Mr Wheatland, who joins us from the world of industry and Miss Stewart from teaching in Cumbria. Both are enthusiastic physicists and are already making an

impression in the science world at school. Our new recruit to the Music Department requires little introduction as it has felt as though he has been here for some time. Mr Dalton has helped us in recent years and now becomes a permanent member of staff, already making his own impact in the musical side of school. Changes were also afoot in the English Department where Mrs Fearn joined us permanently after making such an impact in her time here on a supply basis. She was joined by Miss Jordan, whose enthusiasm has even seen her tackle a little psychology. We had to recruit an assistant to Mrs Stanbury, such was the popularity of her subject and we were pleased when Miss Harford answered the call.

I recently received a delightful e-mail from Australia with the news that Mrs Amey had gained her first teaching role "down under". This news made me realise that Miss Taylor has only been with us a matter of weeks and yet she has already made her mark, taking the addition of an extra sixth form set in Religious Studies completely in her stride!

Within the support staff we have seen Mr Kitchen depart as ICT Technician in order to begin teacher training and we welcomed Mr Fairey in his place, while Mrs Chmura began her role as Science Technician in September. All are important elements of the KGS team and I look forward to working together with them over coming years.

So as we continue to wrap up against the cold I look forward to the continued progress of the school, to meeting many of you at our various events, fixtures and parents evenings and hope you enjoy this review of our year so far. My thanks to all those involved in its creation and particularly to Mrs James and Mr Gardiner who bear the brunt of the editorial at such a pressured time.





Debating

For the second year running, the KGS Debating Society has won the Manchester round of the prestigious Institute of Ideas and Pfizer "Debating Matters" Competition.

Debating at Abbey College, Manchester, the KGS team of Bryony Wood, Miranda Hopkins-Coman, Nick Evans and Benedict Fulford-Brown faced teams from Abbey College, Loreto College and Rishworth School in this competition which is dedicated, the Institute of Ideas explains, to "Taking ideas seriously – substance not just style".

Bryony and Miranda led the competition, proposing the motion that "Animal Experimentation cannot be justified" against Rishworth. Although arguing the more difficult end of the motion, the team's complementary blend of emotive appeal and scientific factual argument proved overwhelming, and some rather hostile questioning from some members of the Floor only provided grist to the team's mill, demonstrating their ability to argue vigorously and logically in the face of attack.

Bryony and Miranda's success allowed Nick and Benedict to enter the Final against the other successful semi-finalist, Loreto College. Opposing the motion "In sport, winning is everything", the KGS team faced stiff opposition both from Loreto, and because they were debating on the eve of Team Great Britain's Olympic parade in London! However, Nick and Benedict won over the judges with their structured, rigorous and well informed debate – and Benedict's argument that the attitude that winning is everything was both destructive and fascist proved devastating. Even the opposition's riposte, that if the team believed the argument then they would not care whether they won or lost was ineffective against Nick's cool rebuttal; after a brief discussion between the three judges, KGS was acclaimed the winner.

For all four debaters this was their first competition outing: although, as many of the audience commented, no-one would have guessed! This of course makes their success even more praiseworthy, as they were competing against several very experienced performers.

And further congratulations must go to Miranda: she was awarded the Judges Prize for the Most Influential Speaker and Floor Questioner – a well-deserved honour.

Last year's Final's Judge, poet Wendy Cope, commented that she supported the competition because "It is invaluable that young people are encouraged to present consistent rational argument". These four young KGS debaters have certainly shown that they possess this skill at a very high level.

The team now moves forward to the North West and Wales Regional Final, which will be held early in 2009: we wish our four star debaters every success.



All Sports

Imogen Pierce, a second year pupil, had remarkable all round success last half term. She has in the sporting sphere emerged victorious in the North West Modern Triathlon Championships and then moved onto the National Modern Triathlon Championships in November, held in Wolverhampton. She beat a strong field over the three events and was placed sixth in all three disciplines, running, swimming and shooting.

Within the same week Imogen also won the "Maud Greenhalgh" trophy for Pianoforte Solo (U12) at the Fleetwood Music and Arts Festival. Her performance of Henri Mancini's Pink Panther was highly commended by the judge giving her the trophy by a close margin from two other girls.

In November Imogen narrowly missed to qualify by one place in the National Biathlon Championships but continues to compete in Biathlon/Swimming and Cross-Country Competitions – winning another North West Modern Triathlon on 23 January 2009. She was also selected in December for the Lancashire Schoolgirls Cross Country Team who will be competing at Witton Park in early February.

In another cross-country event, she was also selected in January to represent Lancashire at the National Cross-Country Championships in Nottingham in March.



In the swing

Third year pupil, Lucy Mellor-Bates started playing golf in 2007 and is showing a natural talent for the game after successfully winning numerous competitions in her second year of play.

Lucy, who is also a keen hockey player and plays for the school A team and Lancashire Girls U14, started playing competitions for the Colts at Green Drive Golf Club, Lytham and found a natural aptitude and keenness for playing golf after winning several stableford competitions and moving through to the Juniors Section (mainly 16-18 years) reducing her handicap from 48 to 20 in 18 months.

Lucy is a member of Lancashire Girls' Golf and in May 2008 won the England Women's Golf Association Award for best nett score in UK whilst playing and winning a LGG Competition at Royal Lytham. The competition was held again for a second time later on in the summer and Lucy won it for a second time. Other successes include: Winner of the Green Drive Junior Open, Winner of the Girls Section of The Daily Telegraph 2008 Junior Competition and Green Drive Ladies Prize for the Junior Winner.

Lucy is currently leading the winter junior league at Green Drive after winning the last three competitions held over the winter season, but as Lucy says "Anything can happen in golf – your score can change really quickly, so it's best to just get out there and enjoy it – whatever happens!"



Poetry in print

A NATIONWIDE search for budding young poets found imagination and creativity to be buzzing within the walls of KGS, as many pupils snagged second prizes and runners-up prizes or simply had the honour of having their work selected to appear in a published anthology of verse.

A special note of congratulations should go to cash-winners, Rhys Williams and Jonathan Box, who both gained second prize in their age categories for their dramatic and thought-provoking poems. Stephanie Ashcroft and James Baxter should also be commended on their success in the runners-up category, as well as the scores of other pupils who had their work selected to be published. Well done to all who took part!

The nationwide poetry competition is held annually by publishers 'Poetry in Print' and the anthology is entitled "A Play on Words" The two poems can be found on the school website.



Oxbridge success

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

School Captain Caitlin McMillan, from Wrea Green, has an offer from Balliol College, Oxford, to read English. Caitlin's academic excellence is complemented by her outstanding work in the fields of music and drama: she is a talented actor and vocalist, who regularly performs in productions both in and out of school.

Ellie Gaddes, from Kirkham, has a place at Regents Park College, Oxford, to read Geography. Ellie's enthusiasm for Geography is reflected in her work for the school's Environmental Action Group, which does much to promote "green" habits across the school community. Ellie's many other successes include achieving Gold in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, Grade 8 at LAMDA, and representing the Lancashire Sailing Team.

Tom Sanders, from Freckleton, has a place to read PPP (Psychology, Philosophy and Physiology) at St Edmund Hall, Oxford. Tom's A-Level subjects and extra-curricular activities illustrate the breadth of his ability and interests: alongside English Literature, Psychology, Chemistry and Physics, he is also a regular First Fifteen rugby player.

Michael Bennett, from Bamber Bridge, has won a place at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, to read Natural Sciences. Michael is a true all-rounder, who also studies A-Level German alongside the sciences and maths, and is also an enthusiastic participant in the school's cadet force.

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 has been a sharp increase in the number of applicants to Oxbridge, making it increasingly difficult to secure 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."

LEPRA fund raising

During a recent Wednesday assembly, Mr Rushton invited Jackie from the leprosy charity LEPRA to talk to the school about their excellent work in curing this debilitating disease in developing countries. There is a simple and relatively cheap cure for this condition and LEPRA aim to make this treatment more accessible to the poorest and most vulnerable communities.

Jackie introduced their fundraising idea of a lunchtime sponsored aerobics workout. The Charity Committee supported this initiative last year and we raised over £1000. So, on Wednesday 8 October, first and second year pupils, together with members of the Charity



Committee, joined together in a fun and energetic workout.

On the day, over £800 was raised in sponsorship. Added to this will be two weeks of our usual Friday collections to hopefully reach the £1000

mark once again. LEPRA and the Charity Committee would like to thank pupils and their friends and families for supporting this worthwhile event.

Mrs S J John (Charity Committee)

Riding High

KGS pupil Ellie Jolleys has enjoyed outstanding success in her recent horse riding events. Competing in the National Dressage Championships in Northern Ireland, Ellie represented her country with distinction. In the competition held at the beautiful Necarne Castle, Ellie emerged victorious with her team against stiff opposition from the other Home Nations.

In August Ellie represented her country as an individual and became the Elementary Fledgling National Champion in the event held locally at Myerscough College. She has subsequently been awarded three British Dressage Achievement certificates and has been invited to an awards ceremony in London in January. Ellie looks to be a rising star in British equestrian and there is no doubt she will have an eye on the Olympic Games!



OLDKIRKHAMIAN'S ASSOCIATION



threeUPfront



Recently two Old Kirkhamians Adam Lewis and Mark Darlington and KGS 1st team player Kieran Brookes took to the field for Fylde Rugby Club's 1st team against Halifax. This was a great moment for the the eighteen year old. Coach Mark Nelson commented in the match report, "Irish U'18s International prop Kieran Brookes, shaded the front row contest on his starting debut for his home club. Up against the highly experienced, gnarled Halifax loose-head Adam Blades, Brookes had an abrasive and outstanding match. These three Kirkhamians are in addition to Tom Albinson who was injured prior to this match.



First Class Honours at Oxford

When pupils leave Kirkham Grammar School 99% go on to university to read their chosen subject. Three years ago Lucy Martin who was our then School Captain, went to Oxford University to read Physiological Sciences. This summer Hertford College contacted us informing us that she had gained a First Class Honours Degree. In addition she was awarded the Physiological Sciences Prize for Outstanding Achievement for coming second in the year. She also gained the highest mark out of all the Physiology and Medical students for her research-based dissertation on a process called LTP which is thought to underlie learning and memory.

At KGS she was a very active member of the school's 1st XV and indeed carried this passion on at Oxford by being awarded a hockey 'Blue' for competing for Oxford in the annual Varsity match against Cambridge in her first year (Oxford won 6-2). Due to an injury she took up rowing and rowed for Hertford College - winning a 'Blade' in the Oxford Summer Eights Competition. On top of her academic studies, she also found time to play netball for Hertford College.

Lucy really carried on where she left off at KGS with her active involvement in all aspects of college life. She was elected to be JCR Food and Housing Officer for Hertford College and Treasurer of Atalanta's Club (The Women's Sports Society of Oxford which you are invited to after playing in a Varsity match)

After a very high paced life she is now having a gap year whilst applying for jobs. She does not stand still for very long, as she has been travelling to Australia, snorkelling the Great Barrier Reef and camped at Ayers Rock as well as visiting Singapore and Hong Kong.

The school congratulates her for what she has achieved and waits to read the next chapter in her life.

The Old Kirkhamians' Association has had a very busy time since the last Newsletter was published. During the summer they had a very successful reunion of the class of 1996. Organised by Edward Oldfield and the OKA Committee the school hosted 35 class mates many of whom had not returned to school since their A level results day 12 years previously. The group enjoyed a tour of the school and all were amazed at the development and progress of the school, but all were pleased that the KGS ethos and magic had remained unaltered.

In September an extra event was added to the OKA fixture list: A celebration of KGS Sport Dinner Dance (photos featured) was held at Ribby Hall and Old Kirkhamians from throughout the years attended and enjoyed reminiscing their time on the sports field as well as hearing from Guest of Honour Brian Gornall (BG) (photo above) and ex-British Lion, John Bentley (photo far right). A raffle was held and over £750 was raised for The Wooden Spoon Charity.

This event was quickly followed by the Annual Northern Reunion Dinner which was a most enjoyable evening for all the guests who enjoyed a delightful meal in the nostalgic surroundings of the Old Hall, whilst Miranda Hopkins-Coleman played the piano beautifully giving an enchanting background for recollections of the good old days!

The final event of the Winter Term was the Annual Christmas gathering of the Young Old Kirkhamians'. Held each year at Preston Grasshoppers Rugby Club on the Sunday before Christmas, it is always a well attended and enjoyable evening, this year numbers were lower than usual, but a great night was still had by all.

The Old Kirkhamians' Committee under the leadership of Colonel Sayer (photo below) are presently looking forward to and busily preparing for a number of events this spring term. On Saturday 21 March they have the Vicky Peters' Memorial Hockey Match where an Old Kirkhamians' side will take on the School's 1st XI and on Saturday 4 April the Southern Reunion Dinner is taking place in Oxford. Later in the year the OKA v Headmaster's XI Cricket match is hopefully scheduled for a sunny afternoon.





We must congratulate the Lytham Round Table on what was a fantastic day's event, especially with the fine weather. Plans are already under way for the "Lucky Dragon" team (photo below and above in action) to take to the water in the 4th Annual Lytham Round Table Dragon Boat Festival.

In addition to having a great day out on the water the whole school community contributed to our chosen charity the Joshua Aldred Memorial Trust Fund, with donations being used to fund local projects and organisations in memory of the youngster.

We are pleased to report that the school community raised £550 for the Trust Fund. Headmaster Mr Douglas Walker presented Mr Aldred the cheque on behalf of all the children, staff and friends at Kirkham Grammar School.



On Sunday 28 September the 3rd Annual Lytham Round Table Dragon Boat Festival took place at Fairhaven Lake, Lytham St Annes. It was an exhilarating day for the competitors, a thrilling show for the spectators, and a fantastic local community day. Dragon boat racing is steeped in Chinese mythology, and has been around for over 2000 years. One of the popular legends has it that through the dragon boat racing it will bring good luck to the community.

Kirkham Grammar entered a team of 32 pupils that included boarders, staff and parents. Mr Townsend and Mr Travis (photo right) in our KGS boat the "Lucky Dragon", with 10 pupils helping out the crews from various local companies. Throughout the day the team were supported and cheered on by parents, staff and pupils.

The team had 3 races where the timings from each race were added together, KGS had the fastest time (first race crew photo below). In our second race we posted the fastest race time of the day (48.2 secs). The top 9 crews out of the entry of 21 went into knock-out races for the finals which our boat also won. When it came to the final our luck ran out for the "Lucky Dragon", or was it that our crew had put too much into the earlier races as they came third. Throughout the day you could always tell when KGS had their team on the water, as they all shouted out the strokes of the paddles in time with the drummer, with Mr Townsend leading the way.





This year's CCF annual Summer Camp was at Barry Buddon in Scotland. It was another very successful adventure and nearly 60 cadets, NCOs, Old Kirkhamians and KGS officers attended. Despite the poor weather nationally, we were quite lucky to remain dry up until the last two days. However, when on the survival tasks stand (being instructed on how to collect water!) it was obvious that the Scottish rain was 'set in' and the proposed 'bivvy out' under the stars and subsequent night exercise was cancelled. Much to the disappointment of all involved! However, the rest of the survival training continued inside and fire was made by rubbing sticks and rabbits were skinned but not eaten! But we did picnic later on our compo rat packs, (army composite rations). Some photos and the full report of the camp appear on the KGS website.

I must express my sincere thanks for all the adult volunteers who gave up the first week of their summer holidays to help out. Not just my fellow officers and SSI NCOs but also the former pupils who attended. They were last year's cadet RSM, Natalie Roberts along with Sheffield UOTC Junior Under Officer Nicola Clough, Charlotte McNeela and a very 'old boy' Sgt Michael Ward, who is a regular sergeant in the Royal Engineers. Our thanks, good wishes and congratulations also go to Capt Phil Reeves, who has taken up an appointment at Leicester Grammar School and has served KGS CCF for several years. His input will be missed, but we look forward to his appearance both at our Regimental Dinner in March and on camp in summer.

After the highly successful cadet leadership courses held at Nesscliffe earlier last year, James Moncrieff and Charles O'Flaherty have been appointed Contingent RSM and CSM respectively. Their leadership qualities were further recognised and rewarded by their promotions after the summer camp at Barry Buddon, along with the other CSM Grace Garlington. Grace managed to lead her drill section to win the overall Drill Trophy from 18 other schools. It is a very rare occurrence that an English school ever wins a competition over Scottish schools, especially when the instructor was a Scots Guards Sgt Major! It certainly was a first for KGS CCF!

RAF cadet Toby Townsend (photo far right) was to endure even more physical challenges when he went straight from the camp to the Cadet Training Centre, Frimley, for the Cadet Leadership Course. He did admit he was more than a little fatigued after the most strenuous, but highly enjoyable week.

Alice Whitehead (photo top left) sensibly went on the same course, but a week later. She too had a wonderful week and performed so well in all the exercises that she was one of only a handful of cadets awarded the 'excellent' category for all her efforts.

Meanwhile Fit Sgt Michael Bennett attended a Summer Mountain Leadership Course at Halton on Lune and found this very rewarding and is already looking at more of these highly useful qualifications, (run especially for cadets), to gain Adventurous Training qualifications and he has been accepted on a climbing course in Scotland over the half term.



Last term KGS CCF was again delighted to hear of even more success. Cpl Henry Redshaw (photo above and bottom left), a Lower 6th NCO, has received an Army Scholarship. He is the most recent in a long line of successful applicants and he now looks forward to a career at Sandhurst after the completion of his A-levels and degree course. Henry is a keen NCO within the Army Section, and his brother Alex also hopes to pursue a career at Sandhurst and is currently studying Physics at York University. Most recently Charles O'Flaherty gained the same award, so Henry continues a line of achievements for the contingent here at Kirkham.

September saw the usual, 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. Last year's new training venture with the 5th form cadets continues 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 and several cadets have already had promotions to Cadet 1st class as a result of their performances and look forward to fast-tracking to NCO cadre next term to start on their Methods of Instruction and Leadership Training.

Again the number of Lower 6th who continue with cadets is high and 20 of them have chosen to enter 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' to A-levels.

Early in September we sent another two teams (photo right) 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 but both teams enjoyed the weekend.

There was no formal inspection this year but the whole contingent enjoyed fun and frolics at Waddecar Scout Camp in October. Several cadets volunteered for an overnight exercise devised by the ingenious Sqd Ldr Callister and thoroughly enjoyed the experience but managed very little sleep with the excitement of the event.

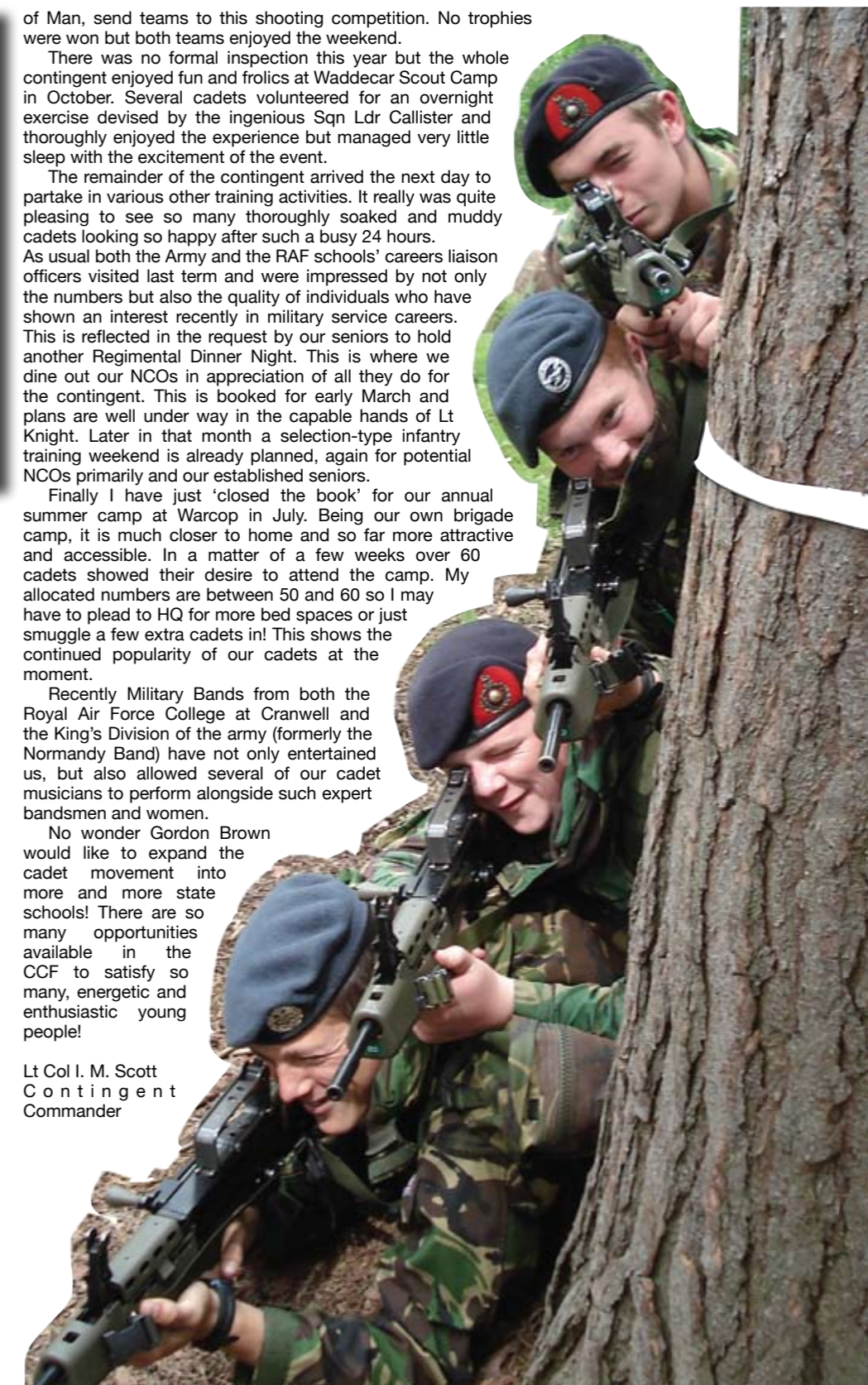
The remainder of the contingent arrived the next day to partake in various other training activities. It really was quite pleasing to see so many thoroughly soaked and muddy cadets looking so happy after such a busy 24 hours. As usual both the Army and the RAF schools' careers liaison officers visited last term and were impressed by not only the numbers but also the quality of individuals who have shown an interest recently in military service careers. This is reflected in the request by our seniors to hold another Regimental Dinner Night. This is where we dine out our NCOs in appreciation of all they do for the contingent. This is booked for early March and plans are well under way in the capable hands of Lt Knight. Later in that month a selection-type infantry training weekend is already planned, again for potential NCOs primarily and our established seniors.

Finally I have just 'closed the book' for our annual summer camp at Warcop in July. Being our own brigade camp, it is much closer to home and so far more attractive and accessible. In a matter of a few weeks over 60 cadets showed their desire to attend the camp. My allocated numbers are between 50 and 60 so I may have to plead to HQ for more bed spaces or just smuggle a few extra cadets in! This shows the continued popularity of our cadets at the moment.

Recently Military Bands from both the Royal Air Force College at Cranwell and the King's Division of the army (formerly the Normandy Band) have not only entertained us, but also allowed several of our cadet musicians to perform alongside such expert bandmen and women.

No wonder Gordon Brown would like to expand the cadet movement into more and more state schools! There are so many opportunities available in the CCF to satisfy so many, energetic and enthusiastic young people!

Lt Col I. M. Scott
Contingent
Commander





RAF SUMMER Camp 2008

The RAF camp this year was held at RAF Cottesmore, which is near Leicester, and is home to three squadrons of Harrier jump jets. On this camp cadets from Portsmouth St Mary's, and Whitgift School also joined us and soon many new friendships were made. All the cadets were accommodated in large tents on the RAF Station's sports fields and a routine was soon established with early starts and lots of marching! The week seemed to pass very quickly with visits to the Harrier squadrons, flying at RAF Wyton, Laser Quest in Peterborough, a High Ropes Course, Bowling, shooting on the range, sports competitions, and a visit to the National Space Centre. The week was topped off with a drill competition in torrential rain and the smokiest disco I have ever been in! All in all an excellent week and I give my thanks to Miss Janet Knight and ex-pupil Philip Hingley for helping to make it happen and of course the cadets for their enthusiasm and excellent attitude throughout the week.

Sqn Ldr J W Callister



Cranwell selection

After one year at Bristol University Phillip applied to the RAF through his University Air Squadron (BUAS) and went for selection at RAF Cranwell. He got through first time, much to his astonishment, and was accepted onto the Initial Officer Training Course (starting on 12 October 2008) to begin his career in the RAF as a pilot.

Initial Officer Training consists of three terms of training each comprising ten weeks. You get one week off between terms. The first term includes training on RAF history, officer standards and essential service knowledge. There is also a huge fitness element. Term two consists of similar but more advanced aspects and more emphasis on leadership. The third term (or officer development phase) is not structured like the previous two terms and encourages the officer cadets to train and develop themselves.

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, he will graduate at the rank of 'pilot officer' and after some leave will begin training as a pilot. This will take approximately 1½ years depending on whether he is streamed onto fast jets, multi-engine or rotary aircraft.



DoE Expeditions report Summer and October 2008

The contrast between the summer and October expeditions could not have been starker. The summer expedition was a dream, a wisp of warm dry weather in which it was a pleasure to be in the Lake District with the various Gold, Silver, and Bronze groups. We were based initially near Coniston, but then moved onto the Langdale Valley and beyond after a couple of days. And while the usual chaos of lost groups and demanding assessors pricked at the dream the fact of the matter was that the teams were clearly enjoying the experience and each others company. They even had time for a paddle in the lake! The two Gold groups in particular were complemented on their level of pre-expedition preparation by the external assessor and throughout their gruelling 5 day expedition from Coniston to Wasdale and then down to Eskdale were quite simply amazing.

The October half-term expedition to Snowdonia was a lot shorter but also a lot more exciting! The journey and setting up of the camp on the first evening in the Ogwen Valley went exactly to plan. All seemed well till midnight when the winds began to rise. A steady breeze gradually increased in strength till it sounded like an approaching train and the rain arrived horizontally. By two thirty in the morning the large staff tent had been blown absolutely flat and some of the pupils

tents were barely coping with the wind. It got worse. By four in the morning it had become dangerous. The winds, funnelled by the valley, were now gusting at over 80 miles per hour and many of the pupils were being literally blown over and were soaking wet. Many of their tents had by now been destroyed or had simply taken off into the night and I was conscious that tent-poles, tree branches, and other debris were becoming airborne missiles. We all therefore retreated behind a farmhouse in a hurry and waited till daylight to assess the damage. As fingers of light began to break through onto the valley it was apparent that too much damage had been done to safely continue the expedition so I reluctantly decided to return to school. The same extreme weather front went on to create havoc in the Lake District two days later.

Out of this turmoil however we have learnt some valuable lessons for future expeditions and in the end everybody got back safe and sound which is the only thing that really matters. I am also very pleased to report that the Friends of KGS have kindly donated £1500 to replace the equipment lost that night. My final thought however was that our pupils and staff that night were fantastic in so many ways and, despite the sometimes terrifying weather conditions, were a credit to us all.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme continues to thrive with students from 4th, 5th and 6th form working hard towards completing their Awards. During the past 6 months we have had notification of a large number of successes:

Bronze Award:
Emily Fisher
Lucy Fielding
Vicki Rowe
Richard Draper
Charlotte Airey
Jonathan Davies
Jake Wilson
Alex Lister

Silver Award:
Fiona Williams
Toby Townsend
Alice Whitehead
Catherine Gaskell

With over 70 of our present 4th year signed up to do their Bronze Award. A large number of expeditions have been planned for the spring and summer terms and we hope for good weather to allow all our students to enjoy and complete their Award.



Diary Dates

CCF Regimental Dinner
7.30 pm, Saturday 7 March

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

U19 Invitation Hockey Tournament
9.00 am – 6.00 pm, Saturday, 14 March

Richard Wilson U14 Sevens Tournament
12.00 noon – 4.00pm, Thursday, 19 March

Second Year Parents' Evening
5.00 pm, Thursday, 26 March

Vicky Peters Memorial Hockey Match
9.30 am, Saturday, 28 March

Founders' Day Service
2.30 pm, Wednesday, 1 April

OKA Southern Reunion Dinner
Saturday, 4 April
Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford

Rosemere Cancer Foundation 5km Fun Run
Monday, 4 May

Senior School Sports Day
Wednesday, 6 May

Friends of KGS Family Fun Day
Sunday, 17 May

Sixth Form Ball
7.00 pm, Friday, 19 June

Friends of KGS Summer Ball
6.45 pm, Saturday, 20 June



Krispy Kremes invited the KGS Lower Sixth Business Studies students to visit their new "doughnut factory" at the Trafford Centre in Manchester. The Manager, Mr Tony Booker, and his staff made us very welcome, providing background history and details of their expansion programme in the UK via means of a Power Point presentation; had been updated and adapted to meet the specific requirements of our students by Mr Don Henshall the Managing Director of the UK operations, for this American based company.

This was followed by a frank and interesting Q&A's session, in which all the students participated fully, before a tour of the premises and further discussions on the operations in specific relation to production, stock control and distribution, rounded off with the obligatory tasting session of the end product.

The students all benefited greatly from this valuable visit, and we very much appreciate the time and resources that were provided for us by Mr Henshall and Mr Booker, who in fact gave up his day of rest for the benefits of our KGS students.

TopMarks



Adam Calvert was one of the Upper Sixth students who scored one of the top 5 marks nationally in Business Studies with the AQA Board.

This exceptional result was achieved as a consequence of a fully committed and positive approach to A-level studies from his first day of Sixth Form.

He achieved top marks in 5 out of 6 modular papers, never re-sitting any exam paper twice in all the two years of study.

Adam has secured a place at Durham University to read Economics, and we wish him continued success in this next phase of his life.

U14 Invitational Sevens Competition Richard J Wilson Trophy



KGS hosts the U14 Sevens Tournament on Thursday 19 March 2009, which last year saw some exciting rugby culminating in a fiercely contested final. 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 teams taking part are:

Arnold School
Audenshaw School
Caldy Grange Grammar School
King Edward & Queen Mary School
Leicester Grammar School
Lytham St Annes High School
Sandbach School
St Ambrose College
West Hill High School





Clubs and Societies in action around the school.



LIBRARY NEWS

It has been a busy time in the Library since September with an author event, a Scribblers' recital and the handover of lunch duties to a new team from the Lower 6th. This is in addition to the library-based lessons, which are increasing in number; it is such a positive sign that many of our new staff wish to use the library resources to enhance the learning process.

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 club continues to grow, thanks to the enthusiasm of Mr Sampey, who does so much to inspire our young writers.

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

It was a privilege for Mr Sampey, Mrs Heney and myself to take a small party of pupils to an author visit, organised through Borders. We had been asked to host this but the date clashed with exams and we could not find a suitable venue able to seat the large number of pupils who attended. The Librarian at Carr Hill High School kindly stepped into the breach and hosted the event for pupils from KGS, Baines School, Moor Park and Our Lady's, as well as from her own school. The author, Jonathan Stroud, writes humorous fantasy stories and is translated into many other languages: his famous series "The Bartimaeus Trilogy" is due to be made into a film. He gave a very interesting talk, with amusing illustrations, and then answered some very varied and intelligent questions from pupils; the only complaint from all of us was that we did not have long enough!

The next half of the year promises to be busy, with World Book Day on 5th March, an Easter Scribblers' recital and another author visit early in the summer term news of these events in July!

Mrs Copland



Ribby Hall 5K Fun Run



It was delightful to see a large number of KGS parents, students, staff and Old Kirkhamians taking part in the recent Cancer Research UK 5km Fun Run at Ribby Hall. In fact over 35 entries in the race were connected to the school and a further 12 KGS stalwarts were involved with marshalling the course and recording the results! The very successful event was organised by Old Kirkhamian Rachel Maher (KGS 1998-2004) and was a first for her and for Ribby Hall.



All those from the KGS contingent completed the course and despite the bitterly cold conditions all were smiling at the end and were very proud of their achievements. Hopefully a very large sum of money will have been raised from this event for Cancer Research UK.

The next 5km Fun Run that "Team KGS" will be taking part in is The Rosemere Cancer Care Foundation Fun Run at Moor Park Preston on Bank Holiday Monday 4th May. For more information on this event please see Mrs Sutcliffe.



Music

A wide range of different performances brought a very busy Autumn Term 2008 to a close. Mid November saw 24 musicians of the First Year present a most enjoyable Celebration of Talent to a large and appreciative audience in the Old Hall. The standard of the solo performances from our youngest musicians was very high and is very encouraging for the future musical life of KGS. The following day the Music Scholars of the 2nd and 3rd Years took part in one of our series of lunchtime Coffee Concerts. These Concerts take place in the Old Hall on Fridays at 12.35 pm and are well attended by pupils, parents and staff. Again, the standard of the solo and ensemble performances was excellent, illustrating a wide range of talent in these two years. The December Coffee concert gave the 5th Form GCSE musicians the opportunity to perform their examination solos and ensembles before an audience. The experience gained by performing to an audience is invaluable and the musicians gave us a most enjoyable musical break in the middle of the day.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is one of the highlights of the year for the Choir. Several of our Upper Sixth Form members commented that this marked their seventh and final Carol Service and we are always grateful to those students who make this significant and very valued contribution to the musical life of the school. The solo verse of Once in royal David's city, which opens the service, was sung beautifully by Gemma Broomhead. Further solos from Hannah Smith and Melissa McCarthy complemented the singing of the Choir, who were joined in the service by the Lower School Choir.

The term closed with the Christmas Concert, performed before a packed audience in the MPH on the final night of term. The newly formed Swing Band, whose numbers included Mrs Batty and Mr Wheatland, were joined by the established ensembles Orchestra, String Group and Concert Band. A number of Mrs Heney's LAMDA pupils provided a special seasonal contrast with their expert readings. We were grateful as always to Mr Sampey who acted as compère.

Associated Board Music Examinations take place every term and the candidates who took examinations in December deserve many congratulations for their successes, with over 50% achieving Distinction in their examinations. (A Challenge lies before the KGS students taking exams in the future as it was a member of staff, Miss Howe, who achieved the highest mark!) These examinations, the most prestigious in the world, are a valuable part of the school's musical provision. Over 120 pupils receive music weekly lessons in school from our visiting music staff and the work of these teachers is greatly valued by all in the Music Department.





the American Dream



It isn't very often that you can experience history in the making, but that is exactly what KGS Expressive Arts pupils and staff did as they witnessed the countdown to the election of Barack Obama as President last October.

As we approached John F Kennedy Airport after our seven and a half hour flight from Manchester you could feel the excitement in our party. Long Island could be seen through the aircraft's windows with freeways and beach houses some thousand feet below. This excitement and wonder was to stay with us during our four day whistle stop tour of the city that never sleeps.

In our short stay we were to see two fantastic Broadway shows, "Hairspray" and "Young Frankenstein", that in the words of the monster, were "super duper". These shows were complimented by three Broadway workshops for our drama students they

included Stage Combat, Step by Step - dance from Hairspray and Theatre Sports.

The Broadway musical 'Hairspray' was fast, fun and full of energy! The dancing and the music were hugely uplifting and there was definitely an infectious enthusiasm which radiated from the whole production. The story followed Tracy Turnblad, a plump 16 year old girl from Baltimore in the 1960's with a passion for dancing, whose lacquered hair was as nearly as big as her heart. The fast moving story was laced with themes of racial segregation and the efforts to integrate everyone through dancing, accepting others for who they are and most importantly, of accepting yourself. The show was hugely comical, with Tracy's mother, Edna Turnblad, played as a drag role and watching the teenage infatuation between Tracy and heartthrob Link Larkin, was very amusing. We came away feeling elated and we all queued outside the stage doors to get autographs from

the performers. It was a fabulous show in which all colours, classes and sizes were embraced and accepted as one. We would all love to see it again!

One huge bonus to our stay was that our hotel was a few blocks from Central Park and seven blocks north of Times Square where we had our evening meals, that truly reflected the American's love of carbohydrates. Perhaps the best eatery being the "Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. Restaurant and Market" which is part of a chain of seafood restaurants inspired by the 1994 film Forrest Gump. At Planet Hollivood we had express tickets so we didn't have the American experience of standing in line, we went straight to our tables. At the end of a long day the last thing we wanted to do was stand around, we had places to see.

Art & Design artists and photographers were to experience the art that New York has on offer at the Guggenheim and MOMA. The

Guggenheim visit followed a walk through Central Park, strolling from East to West dodging the Sunday joggers as they put in their last minute training for the New York Marathon that was due to take place on the following Saturday. En route we came across a fashion shoot involving a group of male models. Our girls' were suitably impressed! The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, which opened on October 21, 1959, is one of the best-known museums in the world and one of the 20th century's most important architectural landmarks. Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, the museum, which is often called simply The Guggenheim, is home to a renowned permanent collection of Impressionist, Post-Impressionist, early Modern, and Contemporary art, and also features special exhibitions throughout the year.





above photograph by Yaa Shahid



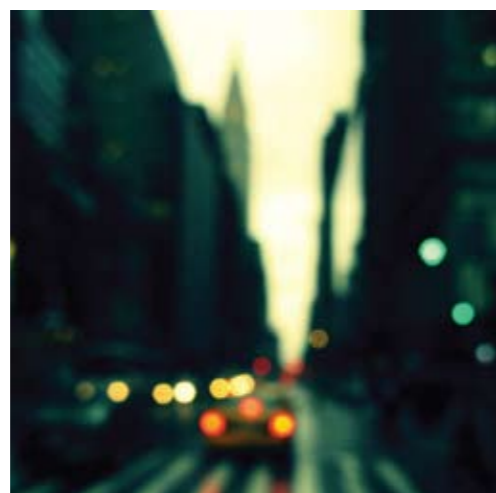
Whilst walking around New York it soon became apparent that wherever you looked there was a view to capture on your camera. The city also has a familiar feeling about it from the hours of film and video footage that we have all witnessed over the years. It was like stepping into a film set. It was on one street corner that Mr Gardiner spotted a small Barack Obama sticker attached to a stop light. It wasn't until he was back in England and with the aid of the web tracked down the artist who produced these viral advertising stickers. Shepherd Fairey was commissioned by Barack Obama's team to produce an iconic image of the then President Elect in the form of posters and stickers. As a result of his research Mr Gardiner then produced his own version on his computer. He combined it with a stencil art piece of the Stars and Stripes along with the Inauguration logo to create the image above, to go with this account from New York. This image was also picked up by numerous US and British magazines and papers when Obama became the 44th President of the United States of America.



In addition to the gallery visits the group were able to see some of the world famous sites of the city that included the Grand Central Station and the Rockefeller Centre.

The trip did not end with cultural activities, there was time to shop on Fifth Avenue that included the Apple Store, Macy's and Abercrombie and Fitch. A cruise round Manhattan and a night time view from the top of the Empire State Building were the icing on the cake.

This experience of New York has really whetted our appetite and Ms Barrie and Mr Gardiner propose a return visit in October 2010.





CLOTHES SHOW LIVE

KGS's annual art trip to the Clothes Show Live on 8 December 2008 saw a unique catwalk performance take place. Indeed it was one not to be forgotten. The crowd was captivated with music from "The Saturdays" as well as over 40 models and dancers from around the world in a breathtaking 45 minute performance.

Introduced by Vernon Kay, the show got off to what was to be a very memorable event. It began with a ballet theme comprising of pure white garments in the form of tutus and ball gowns. Shattered fragments of a chandelier stood as a background to such exquisite dancing epitomising the theme of a country mansion. This linked very well with the Victoriana theme which led to the next subject of the show.

Break dancing introduced the next line-up of clothes sporting a winter theme. Accompanied by "head thumping" music, huge oversized hoods on jackets and knitwear took centre stage. Colours were kept neutral until near the end of the genre when two models emerged in neon green outfits. A fashion statement was clearly made here. The neon, psychedelic colours were the focus point of the next collection. The choice of music, dancing and bold light brought movement and excitement to a much less formal, but nevertheless professional catwalk show.

The show finally ended with a Stepford Wives Theme. The idyllic suburban setting that it possessed was well matched with the prom and heritage theme.

However, this wasn't the only catwalk show to be seen. The designer catwalk allowed visitors to view a selection of designer collections as well as the up-and-coming student collections on the catwalk next to the college forum. It was a chance for people to see the final year students' collections live on stage. This was a great opportunity for visitors to understand the advantages of becoming involved in the fashion industry and to gain vital contacts from the college and university stands.

Full of fun, excitement and many memories. A truly worthwhile trip to be had by all.

Laura Salisbury (6SPG)

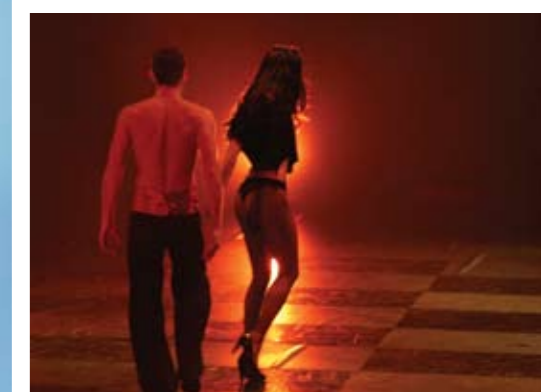
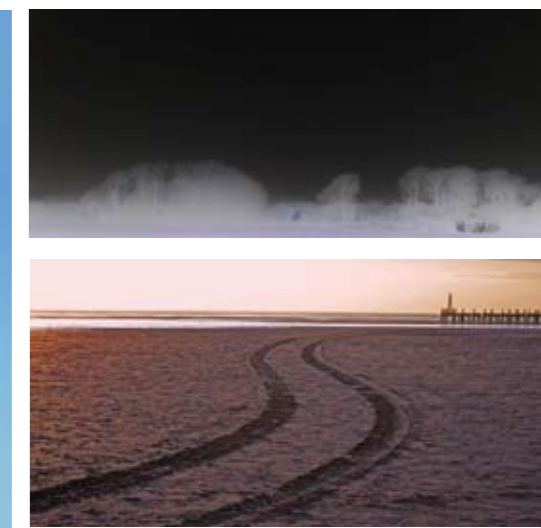
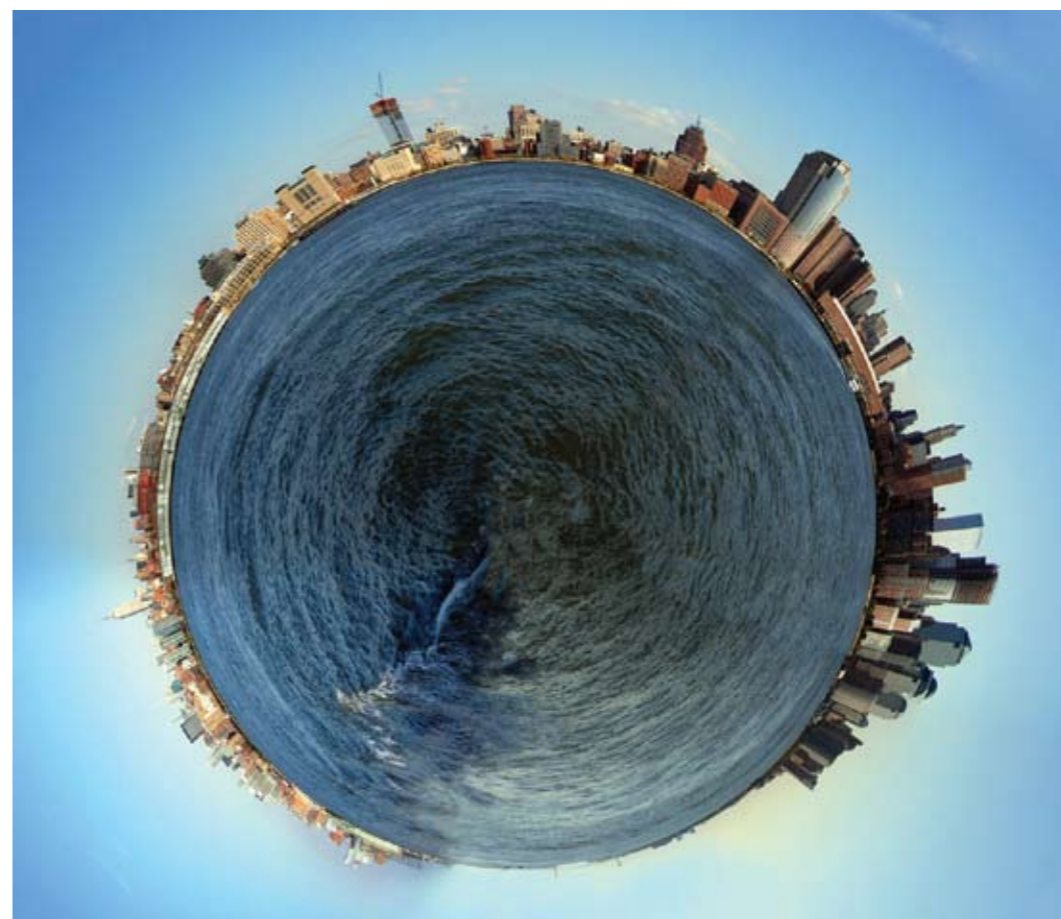
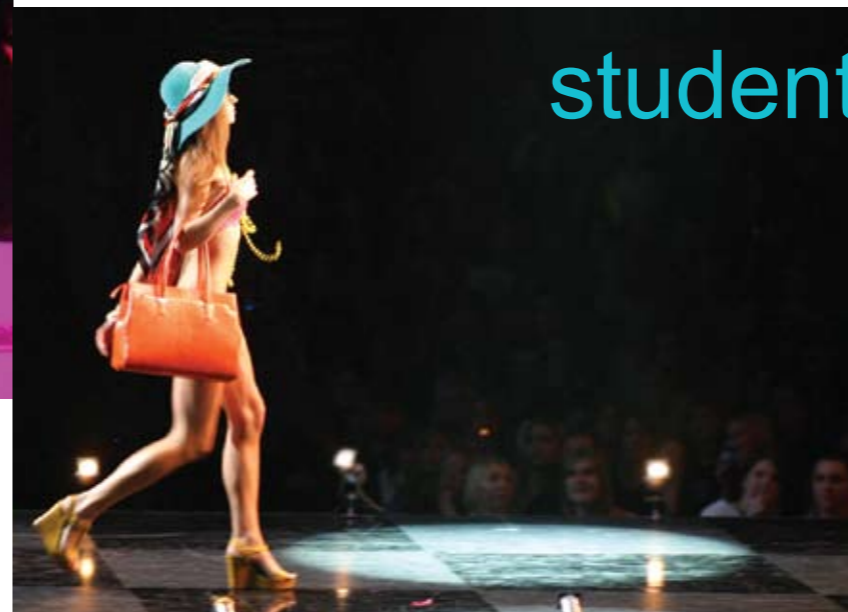


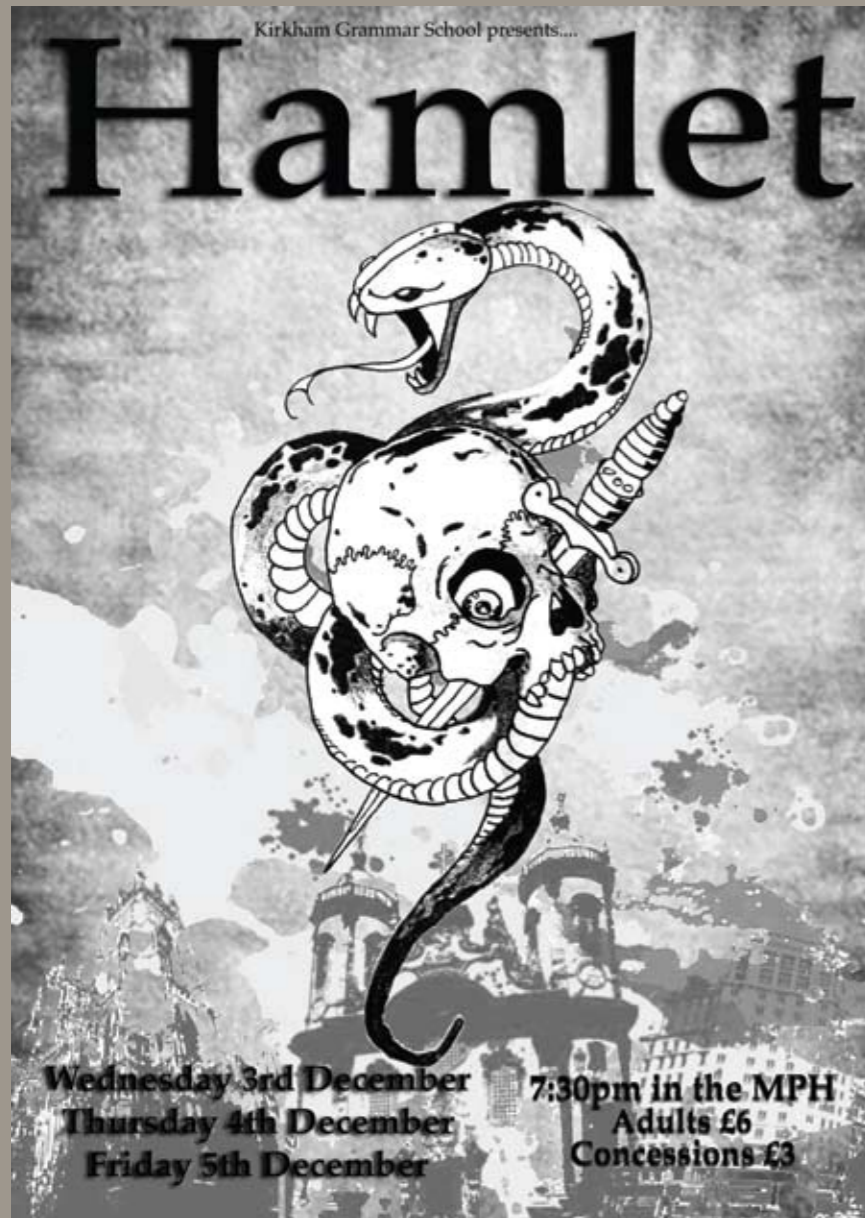
photographs by Matthew Gladwell

students photos

photographs on this page by:

- Hayley Forrester
- James Gardiner
- Joe Hargreaves
- Ethan Harvey
- Sebastian Luker
- Victoria Willocks





“The Play’s the Thing”

From the proleptic entrance of Old Hamlet’s coffin, Kirkham Grammar School’s MPH was transported to the Danish seat of kings, Elsinore Castle, to bear shocked witness to the “carnal, bloody, and unnatural acts” that are the dénouement of Shakespeare’s Hamlet.

As ever with Ms Barrie’s productions, wide participation characterised the play: as well as the actors, the dancers were visually essential to its success, the harmony of music and dance serving as an ironic counterpoint to the play’s descent into chaos. As the bright colours of the troupe of players and dancers formed a stark contrast with the increasingly polarised black and whites of the protagonists, the riotous joy of the dancers (superbly choreographed by Elizabeth Cross) acted as a perfect backdrop to highlight the ever-darkening tragic events on the main stage.

The performance of the actor playing Hamlet is, of course, key to the success of the production. Matthew Edgar’s interpretation of the role was the mainstay of the play: Hamlet’s progress from the moody prince “Too much in the ‘son’” to the towering avenger “Hamlet the Dane” was consistent and, more importantly, psychologically true.

The tragic hero must, of course, be supported by his counterpart, and Benedict Fulford-Brown’s Claudius provided a sinister, tormented foil to Matthew Edgar. A consummate politician with an ever-present edginess, Benedict’s Claudius became a complex character not easily contained by the epithet “tragic villain.” Matthew’s performance was ably supported by Alice Whitehead as Gertrude: a character demanding a great deal of decision making by the director, Alice’s queen echoed Ophelia’s fragility in her movement here from the morally suspect “sometime sister, now our Queen” to the shattered figure on the “enseamed bed” who finally realises the truth of her relationship with her “husband’s brother”. Alice’s performance had an emotional intensity that was both devastating and totally convincing.

In this production, the emotional and moral violence was visually echoed on stage. The visceral raw brutality in the fight between Hamlet and Max Baker’s Laertes literally pulled no punches, and underlined the truth behind this interpretation of the play: that violence and revenge, even when seemingly justified and authorised by some spiritual higher authority, are ultimately dehumanising. Shakespeare’s contemporary, John Ford, wrote “Revenge proves its own executioner”, a fitting subtitle to this production. Ms Barrie’s Elsinore is dark and mortally infected by political machination degenerating inevitably to violence: and it is not just Rosencrantz and Guildenstern (Rhiannon Brown and Rob Malings) who are “hoist with his own petard”. The addition of Stephanie de Carpentier’s Velaqua underlines this: her threatening dominatrix provided an avatar of the violence and plotting that permeates this play. No one is safe from this disease: even the innocent have no escape.

The vulnerability of innocence in a corrupt world is highlighted by Ophelia. All those involved with this production are stars; but no-one could begrudge a special mention of Bryony Wood’s interpretation of this challenging emotional role. Her Ophelia was deeply internalised and utterly compelling: without histrionics she compelled the audience with her portrayal – “I, of ladies most deject and wretched” – and more than one cheek felt the brush of tears. Stanislavski would have applauded as loudly as did the audience, and surely here we were privileged to witness the final school performance of an actor ready to tread a wider stage to triumphant acclaim.

Her performance culminated in an affecting coup de theatre – a vividly choreographed stylised representation of the drowning scene where Ophelia, dressed in the colours of water and waterweed, ultimately welcomed the embrace of death by water, a metaphoric consummation (perhaps) denied to her by Hamlet.

All involved in the production deserve congratulation; in particular those who worked so hard behind the scenes under the command of stage manager Georgia Thompson to realise the triumph. And, as ever, we should fête “the onlie begetter”, Ms Barrie, and her assistant and Lighting Designer Mrs Walker; once again they have shown the wealth of talent there is at Kirkham Grammar School. We wait impatiently for details of their next tour de force!



photographs by Matthew Gladwell

the FACTOR



photographs by Jonathan Davies



The Charity Committee had a very busy and successful Autumn Term. Our main event was our KGS X Factor. Following the great success of KGS Has Talent in 2007, we looked forward to another amazing show. At the beginning of December, we began the job of auditioning a long list of talented pupils, all hoping for a place in the final. Mr. Rushton and Mrs John greatly enjoyed listening to a wide variety of different musical styles. The standard of talent was every bit as good as last year and we knew that the final was going to be excellent.

Once we had completed the auditions, we then had the difficult task of deciding who would be in the final. A list was drawn up and this was greeted with great excitement, particularly from our first year finalists. The day of the final quickly came along and the MPH was soon packed with pupils eager to enjoy an afternoon of entertainment. Our sound checks were complete, thanks to Mr Duncan, and we were ready for the show to begin.

Our third year band, Alchemy, started off proceedings with a well known festive hit by Slade. We were then treated to one of our two staff groups, The Wotsits, who gave us a hilarious rendition of 'Umbrella'. Our second staff group 'Sh'Abba' was made up of our PE staff plus special guest Mr Harrison. Their fabulous costumes and dancing nearly brought the house down. We had some excellent girl singers. Evie Evans, Caitlin McMillan, Sarah Dickie, Chloe Hudson and Chloe Walker all gave super performances with a range of different styles of music. We were also treated to lovely singing by Annabelle Mole and Fenella Gabrysch. There were memorable performances from our duos, Lottie Lewis and Helen Kelsall and also Bradley Bushell and Stuart Spencer from the 4th and 5th year, and Nicole Wainwright and Abby Shelton from the 2nd year. Boys were rather thinner on the ground, but Adam Patel and Connor Wilkinson more than made up for that with crowd pleasing songs.

Our groups included The Promise, a 5th form band who played a song they had written themselves. We also had Kids Aloud, a first year group who had been coached by Mr Rushton and Mrs John to give an enthusiastic performance of a Girls Aloud song and the whole of 3W sang together as a choir. Nick Evans and Benedict Fulford-Brown finished off proceedings in good style with a memorable and moving performance. Tom Anstiss and Matthew Edgar kept everyone entertained in between the acts and did an excellent job of being comperes whilst Ashley Jones, Ben Frew and Chris Allen worked hard backstage to ensure everything was set up quickly during the very brief change-over time.

Votes were duly cast and our task of counting began. It was very close and everyone had to wait until our final assembly of the year for the result. We also had the job of counting all of the money we had raised, over £1,000. This has been donated to Brian House Children's Hospice, Crisis at Christmas and Medecins sans Frontieres. Connor Wilkinson was announced in third place, whilst Kids Aloud gained second place. Our very worthy winners, however, were Nick Evans and Benedict Fulford-Brown who then performed their winning song to end our assembly in fine style.

As last year, the whole experience of organising the event has been a rewarding and enjoyable one. We now look forward to next year and our return to KGS Has Talent – so start preparing now!!





Biology fieldtrip

We set off for Malham in glorious September sunshine, lifting our spirits for the tasks ahead. The 'pit-stop' at Clitheroe service station gave a welcome opportunity to stock up on chocolate and other treats to boost energy levels. On arrival at the Field Centre we were directed to our rooms. The girls were pleased with their cosy rooms close to the laboratory and the boys occupied the newly refurbished High Stables block in the top section of the woods. This proved to be very entertaining later that night when only the teachers had taken torches and the boys had to use mobile phones to light the path through the woods to their rooms.

Our first afternoon was spent kick sampling in Gordale Beck which runs out of Malham Tarn. We enthusiastically identified the numerous freshwater invertebrates and many students decided that it was a great location for their coursework investigation and planned to return two days later. The small 'Bull-head' fish that were in some of the nets created much interest but Grace decided that leeches were more fascinating and tried an impromptu experiment to see if one could suck blood from her wrist.

On return to the centre, the afternoon teas and cakes were very well received and became a much anticipated highlight of each day. At first the prospect of evening lectures seemed daunting but this became part of the Fieldwork experience and allowed thorough discussion of the data collected.

The next day was spent on the bog at the edge of Malham Tarn. The boardwalk to the study area took us through the rare protected habitat of this National Trust and SSI- designated area. The bog plants were quite difficult to identify but everyone worked very well to ensure successful collection of data along two transects. Some students were a little unlucky in their allocation of sample sites. Tommy's wellie disappeared in the bog and had to be dug out, by which time his toes were rather cold. Back at the field centre we celebrated Amanda Yu's 18th birthday with a huge chocolate cake. Fiona had done a great job getting the cake and candles to the Field Centre and Amanda was totally surprised. Having eaten a massive evening meal, including chocolate pudding and sauce, meant that we didn't do justice to the cake but it allowed us to save some to take back to the Boarding House to share with Amanda's friends.

We were very fortunate with the weather throughout the field course, only experiencing a short shower on the Woodland Ecology day. Our experience of sampling techniques grew and all felt confident about collecting individual data for coursework investigations. The wide variety of investigation topics was pleasing and the careful planning by each student was very impressive.



Geography Field Trip



On Friday 10 October, Mr Whittle and Mrs John took ten Sixth Form Geographers to the Trough of Bowland to collect data from the River Marshaw Wyre for their practical A2 Geography paper. The weather forecast was not looking too favourable, but nevertheless, our group was in good spirits as we set off. We stopped on the way at Scorton for our now obligatory stock-up of Haribo and Coke.

On arriving at the Trough, it remained fine until lunchtime, enabling the two groups to take various measurements in order to assess how the river changes from source to mouth. The weather began to change over lunch, so we retreated to the minibus. It was Tom Reid's 18th birthday, so we were all treated to a lovely piece of cake, complete with jelly babies and chocolate buttons.

We managed to measure ten sites in all, giving the students plenty of data to think about back at school. A quick stop off at Garstang on the way back to look at the flood defences finished off a most enjoyable and informative field trip. The Geography Department are now busy planning our Fifth and Sixth Form trip to Iceland, and are very much looking forward to it.



FRIENDS

On the evening of Saturday 15th November 2008, a golden glow was to be found around The Woodland Suite at Ribby Hall, as we held our Winter Ball "Nights of Gold" Party Night. What a fantastic time we had! From the moment all our guests arrived and enjoyed a champagne reception, there was such a wonderful atmosphere. The room looked stunning, thanks to Mrs Deni Middleton and her hard working team. Ribby Hall produced yet another delicious meal and after dinner we played the traditional Heads and Tails game and had an auction towards our fundraising. The highlight of the evening was most definitely the dancing and entertainment provided by The Sensational Motown Gold Show. Everyone was up on the dance floor straight away and from all the supportive and positive comments we have received, this seems to have been the most enjoyable Winter Ball in recent years. With numbers over 200 and with a waiting list, we were very pleased with the success of this event.

With our party shoes packed away, we were straight on to the Christmas Fair, which was held in the MPH after school on Friday 28th November 2008. We had a new co-ordinator this year Mrs Susan Cartmell, or should I say Mrs Susan Christmas. Such was Susan's commitment and enthusiasm for this event, even finding fake snow for the lucky-dip, this was always going to be a great family occasion. Although prizes, gifts and cakes etc. were slow coming into school and raffle ticket sales were down, the Hall was soon extremely busy and lots of stalls sold out very quickly. It is always



lovely to see families together, visiting Father Christmas and trying their luck on all the different stalls. Of course, we could not hold this event without your help and we do appreciate all the different ways the parents at school support us. As we held our final meeting before Christmas, we were pleased to be able to make funds available for improvements to both schools, which of course, will benefit all our children.

As spring approaches, we are looking forward to our Family Fun Day on Sunday 17 May 2009 and to welcoming the Army back to school with the Zip Wire (photo left). The Summer Ball planning is also going very well and this is to be held on Saturday 20 June 2009.

If it is not too late may I wish you a belated Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you at our 2009 events.

Lorraine Wareing
Chairman of Friends of Kirkham Grammar School



interHouseevents

Following the departure of half the school's Housemasters over the summer, the new academic year started off with much gossip and rumours of 'strange folk abroad', as Messrs Marmion and Whittle took the helms of School House and Fylde House respectively. Both have settled into their roles well, and the House Recorder is pleased to report that competition for the Whitby Cup is as hot as ever, although (thankfully) currently seems to involve less skulduggery than in previous years.

Proceedings began with the Senior Quiz, and a cracking final saw a strong Preston team, specialising in 'The Kings and Queens of England and Wales', facing a talented Kirkham team. With the questions favouring the Royalist knowledge of the Preston team; Michael Bennett, Luke Paterson, Alice Whitehead and Ben Jones ran away eventual winners 41 points to 29.

The quiz then turned to the juniors, and Mrs. Copland's questions posed allsorts of problems to the quizmaster, a Mr. S. Duncan, who could not help but read out a real 'Whopper'. That would be 'Cygnus Cygnus' sir, more commonly known as a whooper swan. Thankfully, the teams carried on regardless of the mispronunciations, and a strong Fylde House captained by Liam Marrows edged out Kirkham in the final.

As the autumnal evenings drew in, the first 'athletic' event saw the House basketball teams take to the MPH. During the warm up stages of the junior event it became very clear that Fylde had a 'big' advantage; and so it was that the skilled Andrew Collins led his team to a precious win, beating the other houses in what turned out to be a very fair and exciting round-robin competition. The senior basketball competition was very hotly contested, but the extra skill of School House saw them edge it, despite the protestations of some of the female supporters from the sidelines who were itching to get on the court and show the boys how it should be done.

Autumn turned towards winter, and despite all the presidential excitement occurring 'on the other side of the pond', Mr. Melling had time to preside over the annual chess competition. This was to be one of the tightest competitions in years, as all Houses brought with them some experienced players, as well as some raw talent. Performances of note included Kirkham's Tom Fielding who, playing in his 7th House Chess competition, once again won all his matches to remain unbeaten in 7 years, a truly impressive feat. In addition, James Lau of School House also managed to win all his matches, and the standard of chess on show was really something to behold. However, when it came down to the wire there was nothing to separate Fylde House and School House, who eventually shared the spoils with 12.5 points each (although Mr. Whittle has asked me to point out that in head-to-head matches Fylde did beat School).

It was about this time of the term when a glint could be noticed in Mrs. Glover's eye, as the nature of the House events shifted, and a very strong set of junior Kirkham girls were soon to be allowed to shine. So it was that the Preston Sports Arena was the suitable backdrop to a marvellous evening of junior girls' hockey. One tight semi-final saw Fylde squeeze past Preston, where Kirkham, convincing winners over School, met them in the final. The experience and talent of Kirkham players such as Jennifer Malings and Rachel Williamson, combined with the exuberance of Katy Ingham was too much for the opposition, and Kirkham came out worthy winners. In keeping with the spirit of House events it was great to see the junior hockey so well supported by pupils and parents alike, and the hockey on show was appreciated by everyone.

However, Kirkham House were on a roll, and much to the frustration of the other Housemasters, it came to pass that the junior netball competition saw another great performance from the girls in yellow. Cruising past Fylde in the semi-finals, Kirkham met School in the final. The skill of the Kirkham players was great to see, and a packed quad witnessed netball of the highest quality. Kate Meagh and Courtney Rawcliffe dominated the court, and their movement allowed the players around them to play to their potential.

With the days getting increasingly shorter and news of a massive anticyclone brewing, the senior girls took to the netball courts for

the last outdoor competition of the term. The first semi-final saw favourites Fylde House beat School House, with a fine display of shooting from Sarah Hatch. The second semi-final between Preston and Kirkham was a much closer affair, but the presence of Steph de Carpentier and the tireless work of the Preston team got them through to the final. The final itself was one of the sporting highlights of the term, as the game ebbed and flowed between the two teams. With Fylde in front for long periods of the game it seemed that the pre-tournament favourites would run away with it. However, with Dr. Rollins becoming increasingly animated on the sideline, a committed Preston team brought the scores level at 9 - 9. With two minutes to go, and with some frankly dire shooting from both sides, the game was still up for grabs. However, the extra quality of the Fylde team meant that players such as Emily Rayson and a steadfast Rebecca Keighley allowed the Fylde girls to edge it in the end.

Finally, with the winter solstice on the dim horizon, it was time for the House Swimming Gala. The gala is always a sight to behold, as the Houses and associated supporters, parents, lucky charms and mascots pack into Kirkham Baths. With Mr. Taylor in charge, the first of the days 33 events began with the junior girls' 50m back crawl. The tension was palpable in the pool, as all Houses boasted a number of competent swimmers. However, it was Kirkham House that took an early lead. Throughout the gala all swimmers tried their best, and there were some genuinely remarkable performances. Luke Paterson has to be commended on breaking the record for the senior boys' 50m freestyle for Preston House; and it was no surprise to see the remarkable Sophie Ward speed through the water for Kirkham House. The Fylde junior boys were also winning many points, and Rob and Will Lockhart were swimming well.

As is nearly always the case, the double points relays were going to decide the winner of the gala, and as the final races began it was a two-horse race between Fylde and Kirkham. The very last race of the day was the senior boys' freestyle relay, and it was in fact a superb win by the Preston quartet that allowed Fylde to pip Kirkham by 2 points. As Mr. Taylor announced the results, Mr. Whittle found himself completing a length ('it's tradition sir....'), before one and all made their way back to school.

So, with one third of the school year gone, and a long way yet to go, the current Whitby Cup standings are as follows:

1. Fylde 32 points
2. Kirkham 28 points
3. School 24 points
4. Preston 19 points

The House Recorder



NETBALL





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



U15XI HOCKEY 08-09



The standard of hockey at Kirkham Grammar School continues to go from strength to strength as for yet another season a large number of girls have been selected to represent their county in the Lancashire Schoolgirls squads.

girlsCountyhonours



- U18
Sam Shopland-Reed
Katie Gorman
Emma Fagan
- U15
Ashley Bradshaw
Hannah Pike
Alison Glover
Alix Townsend
Jessica Balmer
Jennifer Malings
Bronte Edgar
- U17
Nicole Pike
- U16
Charlotte Dalzell
Katie Penrose
Anna Rigby
Vicky Greensmith
Sarah Quarmby
Emily Crowther
Alex Fell
- U13
Beth Kenny
Katy Ingham
Courtney Rawcliffe
Lucy Meagh
Grace Reddy
Camilla Evans
- U12
Megan Crowther
Megan Hall
Maddie Kearsley
Ellie Greenhalgh
Millie Foley
Olivia Anderton
- U14
Rachel Williamson
Georgina Cameron
Lucy Mellor-Bates
Lindsay O'Brien

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.

To have such a large number of girls that have been successful in the selection process is testament to the dedicated coaching and training that they receive at KGS.



boysRugbyhonours

The following boys have played representative rugby in the 2008/2009 season:

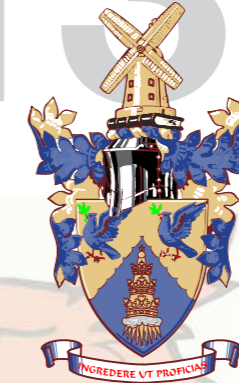
- North U18
Daniel Bibby
James Hesketh
- Lancs U18
Daniel Bibby
James Hesketh
Matthew Spedding
- Independent School Barbarians (U18)
Tommy Banks
Jonathan Edwards
- Ireland AER Squad (U18)
Kieran Marmion
- North Wales U18
Callum Bennett
Will Morecombe
- Scottish Exiles U19
Stephen Hamilton
- Irish Exiles U19
Fylde RUFC 1st XV
Kieran Brookes
- Lancs U16
James Coulthard
Jonathan Davies
Josh Keay
Alex Lo
- Lancs U15
Sam Hall
- Lancs U14
Matthew Beaty
Sam Gale
Ben Rhodes-Powers
Ben Swift
Ryan Wilkinson



U13 southWalesRugbytour



photographs by Mr Robert Harrison



1stXV



2ndXV



The U13's played two top Welsh schools on their recent tour. After losing 50-0 to Glantaf High School, KGS feared the worst about playing Monmouth School (recent victors over Glantaf). Inspired by visits to Cardiff's Millennium Stadium, home of Welsh rugby and by watching Newport Gwent Dragons v The Ospreys, KGS produced their best performance of the season. A number of changes were made to the team, especially positional. The new centre partnership of Thomas Hunter and James Penrose gave the side stability and now the forwards had a target. New no. 8 Lewis Leech was dynamic and was definitely player of the tour, whilst prop Navid Soltan and flanker Josh Burrows improved greatly. William Lockhart, also playing in a new position of scrum-half, started to run with confidence and created a number of try-scoring chances. KGS lost 12-5, but hopefully this will be real encouragement for the team enabling them to go forward in the next few months. Thanks to Mr J Lyon for arranging the tour, it was a magical experience.



South African visitors at KGS

After the success during the summer of KGS students Daniel Bibby and Kieran Brookes' stay at Graeme College, Eastern Province, South Africa, two students (Neil Booysen and Thato Lesoro) joined KGS. They enjoyed studying Information Technology, Religious Studies and Sport Studies. They have also enjoyed playing rugby for KGS during their stay as well as watching Sale Sharks and Manchester United. They both have participated fully in the life of Kirkham Grammar School, as well as suffering the cold and wet weather of a typical North of England winter. They were looked after during their stay by 1st XV Captain William Stover and fellow 1st XV player Kieran Brookes.





2ndXVRUGBY08-09





1stXVRUGBY08-09



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





Photographs feature from left to right and top to bottom. Rugby U15 XV Daily Mail Squad, Sophie Ward with Olympic Gold medalist Rebecca Adlington, the Hockey U16 XI Lancashire Champions. Jame Moncrieff.



KGSsport

In a winter season more affected by the weather than for some years we have once again seen some outstanding performances in an array of sports. The traditional winter team sports of hockey and rugby have seen hundreds of our students busy both in the evenings and at weekends but my report starts with one of the less lauded sports at school Cross-Country. This season has seen triumphs in the Fylde Championships where KGS has outperformed for a school of its size. Although this arduous sport is very much based on individual dedication it has been pleasing to see so many successes by our runners representing school and region. To win three of the six age groups at the Fylde Championships with a further two individual winners was outstanding. The victorious runners were Richard Morrell and Henry Cameron. It is nice to be able to applaud this aspect of school sport and its talented participants representing the breadth of achievement here at KGS.

In swimming too we have seen a significant move forward in both the boys and girls teams. Regular gala's have seen results gradually improve over recent years and fixtures against local rivals are now close and exciting contests. We look forward also to Sophie Ward's return to full fitness and of hearing of her achievements over the remainder of the year.

While the boys also participate in Volleyball on Monday evenings, the girls take on all comers in the local leagues in netball. From humble beginnings the girls now boast three county players, Courtney Rawcliffe and Lucy Meagh (U13 level) and Kate Meagh (U16 level). The teams are recording outstanding records against schools for whom this is their major sport. It is good to see the increasing breadth of achievement especially when this is being attained, in fact the U14's are the Fylde Champions.

In hockey this year pride of place should perhaps go to the U16 XI who were crowned County Champions and went on to the Regional Final. Victory against Durham School and a draw against Altrincham saw them pitted against Wakefield for a place in the National Final. Unfortunately they lost against worthy opponents but did so with spirit and determination that did them great credit. Mr Sampey was extremely pleased with them all in every respect. School are again boasting over thirty County players at different levels and excellent playing records at all levels. Nicole and Hannah Pike have also gained national recognition with Scotland at U16 and U18 levels.

On the rugby front the senior sides have had outstanding seasons. Both 1st and 2nd XV have recorded only one defeat, both narrowly away to Sedbergh but gained remarkable victories against Llandoverly, Lancaster and Newcastle. At U16 level the boys are still in both knockout competitions and have responded excellently to Mr Passenger's leadership.

Hot off the press is the news that the U15 XV has reached the Daily Mail Vase Quarter Final with a hard fought victory against Ermysted's, Skipton. They now visit The Leys, Cambridge in the next round. Not to be outdone the U14's continued their excellent season with a semi-final place in the County Cup and no less than five boys being selected for the County side. Junior sides continue to out-perform against a strong fixture list often against much bigger schools.

Overall the year promises a great deal and our pupils and coaches continue to work hard to set the highest standards in all their sports providing an ideal basis for healthy and worthwhile competition. Long may it continue!