

Kirkham Grammar School

Headmaster's Letter to Parents

Spring 2010



From the Headmaster



The recent snowfalls have dominated the news of late and have provided us with plenty of headaches at school! The hard work of the groundsmen and caretakers, and the generosity of parents in assisting with the provision of grit saw the school close for only one day which was remarkable given the conditions.

The 'big freeze' did bring some interesting scenes both in terms of the variety of footwear as we relented on uniform regulations to promote safety, and also in the wonderful pictures of the school under snow. These evoked memories of yesteryear as we consider two important dates in the history of the school. We celebrated the 30 year anniversary of the school's independence at the school prize-giving last year while we now sit on the brink of the centenary of the original school building on the Ribby Road site.

The current building was started in 1910 under the leadership of the then Headmaster Rev Walton. His

determination to gain support from the Education Board necessitated a development of facilities, hence the building. As a school of 50 pupils and a handful of staff this was a visionary project especially as the school had not enjoyed great security over the past century. It was said of Rev Walton by his successor "the school is his lasting memorial" after the Headmaster died in office in 1919. The new building benefited not only from the Headmaster's enthusiasm and vision but also from a grant from the Drapers' Company of £3000 along with donations from parents and friends. The new building not only cemented the school's position with the Board of Education but also led to a rapid rise in numbers as the school roll rose to 111 by 1917. It is fair to say that Rev Walton's action not only created the beautiful building which passers-by admire but also laid the foundation for the future of KGS, upon which we believe we are still building. The traditions of the school are still dear to us and it is appropriate at this time to reflect on the contribution of our forebears as we celebrate the achievements of the past.

This year has seen no major new developments although we were pleased to be able to upgrade the '38 block' over the summer. A fresh look for the Geography Department coincides with Mr Whittle's inception as Head of Department while a new look Religious Studies Department is now under the shared leadership of Miss Taylor and Mr Trenhaile. These areas now match other areas of the school in terms of facilities and provide an improved working environment for our pupils. Certainly removing lockers from classrooms has created more space and reduced interruptions. We are now planning changes for this summer and looking closely at an upgrade for the Sixth Form Centre to incorporate a 'bistro/cafeteria' type facility. Perhaps Rev Walton may have been surprised at this inclusion in the context of 1910-

11 but I sense that he would have approved of the continued development of the school site.

The pupils of 1910-11 certainly did not have to endure the continual barrage of examinations undertaken by our current students! They have, however, continued to excel in this public arena and the recent School Performance Tables indicated the high levels attained by our examinees. GCSE results saw near perfect pass rates and very high numbers gaining results which included the core subjects of English, Mathematics and the Sciences.

Results in Biology, Chemistry and Physics once again saw over 90% of pupils gaining grades at A*/A while overall the school has seen no need to extend the curriculum to include subjects purely to improve statistics. The broad curriculum continues to offer relevance but ensures our students are exposed to the challenge of the core subjects, including a Modern Language, and it is to their credit that they continue to rise to the challenge with results that also continue to improve.

At A-level our students saw the strongest 'Value Added' statistic in the area and gained results in line with the best ever achieved at school - with almost two thirds of grades at the highest levels. All four students with offers from Oxbridge Colleges attained their requirements and also gained Distinctions in their 'AQA Baccalaureate', a new venture for KGS. About a dozen students have embarked on the qualification this year, to complement their A-levels and provide an extension award demonstrating their willingness to challenge themselves academically.

Certainly we enjoyed the celebration of these results and the overall academic performance at our Annual Prizegiving where we were joined by Mr Alan Roff to present the prizes. He, even in the short time he was with us, felt the sense of purpose of the pupils.



This occasion is one in which we are able to put the academic achievements of the school at the heart of our celebrations and I was delighted that so many parents felt able to join us at the Guild Hall.

Life at KGS offers so much more than solely academic work as we know so well and this year so far has seen the outstanding performance of 'Twelfth Night' enjoyed by audiences totalling nearly a thousand people who attended the three nights. A splendid Christmas Concert rounded off the Christmas Term splendidly, dovetailing as it did with a resounding Carol Service. The choir excelled themselves while the sounds created by the Concert Band, Swing Group, Orchestra and various smaller groups entranced a full house in the Main Hall in the last week of term.

The snow and ice have played havoc with the sporting calendar but have done much to reinforce how important sport is within the pupils' school lives. The school appeared so quiet in the evenings and it will be nice to see the hordes of youngsters once again practising their skills on the All Weather Surface and on the fields.

The news received this month that our Girls and Boys Cross Country Teams had gained such success was a real highlight of the term so far. To win three of the four age groups in the Fylde Cross-Country Championships was a remarkable effort and Bradley Yates and Ben Everson deserve special congratulations on their individual victories in their respective age groups. This success was replicated in the regional Biathlon Championships while Imogen Pierce became a World Champion in the discipline.

In the swimming pool last term we also saw unprecedented success. The girls and boys junior teams swam in the National knockout rounds for the first time in many years and the boys relay squad came an impressive second in their section. This increased breadth in the sporting arena has done nothing to



detract from the strength of traditional sports as the girls' hockey teams continue to excel with the Under 16's gaining pride of place, reaching the North Finals. On the rugby field the boys, competing in a very strong fixture list, perform admirably at all levels. This year the U12 and U13 teams have had significant success while the 1st XV has lost only to Sedbergh, Colston's and Newcastle RGS and all by narrow margins.

As with every New Year we had a number of new staff joining us. We welcomed Mr Carter into the Physics Department joining us from the wilds of Cumbria while Mrs Cottle also joined the Science Department to cater for the increased numbers both at A-level and in the junior area of the school. Miss Eagle amends the gender balance within the Technology Department and also is a welcome addition to the CCF. We have recently also welcomed Mrs Williams into the Biology Department after a delayed arrival owing to maternity leave while Mrs Walter joins the permanent PE staff after covering last term for Mrs Alcock who has now retired from KGS after seven years teaching here. We wish Mrs Alcock well as she starts a new life in Yorkshire. It is always sad to say goodbye but as one chapter closes another one opens and we hope all our new colleagues will be very happy at KGS.

Having reminisced about one previous Headmaster we were saddened to hear the news in December that William Kennedy (photo right, Inspection Day Guard of Honour) had died, Headmaster of KGS from 1959-74. His role as Head was in running a school of 350 boys in a state run grammar school and it has been written "He proved a sympathetic leader, remaining a man of strong character and head masterly appearance for more than 12 years at the helm. Though not all his hopes for expansion were fulfilled, he saw pupil numbers rise from 350 to a maximum of 450 boys, and was gratified in his last year when two pupils won scholarships to Cambridge". Kirkham Grammar School has much to thank Mr. Kennedy for in steering the school through these transition years.

Even more recently we had much better news as one of our Old Boys and ex-Governor received an award in the New Year's Honors List. Mr. Peter Hosker chaired the Governing Body on two occasions - 1984-1991, November 2002 to November 2004 and was deservedly awarded the OBE for his distinguished services to the community. He has worked tirelessly through a variety of organisations to the benefit of others but we selfishly feel we have derived also great benefit from his contribution to KGS and were all delighted at the recognition of his achievement.

We now look forward to the second half of the year, hopefully with better weather! Certainly our cricketers should experience this in Grenada but perhaps the skiers hope for more of the same in Les Deux Alpes. I hope travel will be easier for the German trip, and for the Creative Arts Group planning their second visit to New York. Such is the diversity of life here that I find it increasingly difficult to keep up with all the activities but it certainly makes for an exciting and fulfilling life!

J.R. Walker



New Prospectus

This newsletter has already touched on the fact that the school's main building at the front of school is 100 years old. In researching for this newsletter we came across a prospectus from around the same time that showed the school facade (photo right) and the pupils hard at work in the Science Laboratory, now the Staff Common Room and the Woodwork Room, demolished and replaced with the Technology Centre (photos below right). A further photograph shows the stone work for the building being prepared (below left)

This find has an added interest, as we have just recently published our new school prospectus packed full of photographs of our pupils undertaking academic and extra curricular activities. These two pages feature examples from the two prospectuses, the major difference being our present version with colour photographs, just like this newsletter. In 100 years time this new prospectus and photographs from our newsletters might well feature archive material in the school's publications. We are making history!







first impressions
1st Formers







sixth sense

news from the 6th form

Out of Africa

Over the summer Ben Frew spent two weeks in Nakuru in Kenya working on a number of different construction projects, including the Philadelphia Orphanage and the Gabriel Learning Centre. The work included constructing classrooms in the schools and even basic housing structures in the slums of Nakuru. As expected, the work was hard, extremely demanding and exhausting. The whole experience, however, proved enjoyable and rewarding.

The money needed to participate in the project amounted to £1500 and was raised primarily through quiz nights, raffle competitions and sponsorship from local businesses. The OKA also very kindly made a contribution to the cost.



JUNIOR APPRENTICE

Upper Sixth student Vicky Willocks decided in the summer to apply for the 'Junior Apprentice' having seen the adverts for Alan Sugar's new senior version. Vicky, along with 30,000 other applicants, attended a series of interviews, screen tests and impromptu speeches and managed to get to the final round of only 40 candidates. Here she took part in a series of initiative tests with a business base similar to those on "The Apprentice". Unfortunately it was not to be and Vicky did not quite make it through the last round but it was nonetheless a valiant effort. Vicky wrote "The process was one which I will take much from and I have been fortunate enough to meet many of the business men and women of tomorrow along my journey in the competition".



Wind Appeal

Lily Charlesworth reached the highest level in World Sailing last year. She competed in the Mirror Class, World Championships held in Wales in the summer holidays. A total of 109 entries competed in the class with teams from Australia, South Africa, Canada, Ireland, Sweden etc. ensuring an event of the highest level.

The weather conditions were very challenging with heavy winds for the majority of the nine days sailing. Lily, although not placed on the podium, enjoyed the whole experience. "The competition proved to be extremely enjoyable and was an amazing experience not only to compete in something of this scale, but to meet so many people from around the world who shared my passion for the sport".



Fashionista

In 2009 the BBC Blast Creative Team launched a competition to find a team of ten 14-19 year old students, who could put together a design label collection at London Fashion Week. Laura Salisbury (photo above), KGS Sixth Form Art & Design student, won a place on the 'Your Label' as one of their two designers. Put together in just a few short months, the BBC Blast project fashionistas really threw themselves into their working fashion roles proving the kids are more than alright. This BBC Blast 1.Wo/Man collection was designed and produced ready to be shown on the On/Off London Fashion Week catwalk.

Laura's designs featured an exciting range of asymmetric layering, soft lines, and neutral block colours alongside splashes of graphic florals. Her designs were a big hit with the large catwalk crowd (photo below). Laura said, "The result was overwhelming. It was everything I expected and more! I just want to continue learning more and become part of the industry, designing and showing collections for the rest of my life".

Once back at school Laura has not stopped designing and making her own collection. As part of her portfolio for her A Level Art & Design and her portfolio submissions for entry into Fashion School she has taken advantage of our new photography studio. Fellow Sixth Form Art student Rebecca Nutbrown was her model (photos right).



OLDKIRKHAMIAN'S ASSOCIATION



The Kirkham Grammar School & Fylde RUFC Link

In early December last year I was putting together a programme for KGS's 1st XV v Glanfaf 1st XV floodlit game at Fylde RUFC. In the programme there were items regarding school, county and club representation, tours and general philosophy regarding rugby at KGS. As an Old Kirkhamian and member of Fylde Rugby Club I decided to feature the link between KGS and Fylde. It became quite apparent that there was a very interesting theme in that there is a large number of KGS players who have recently made it through to Fylde's 1st team. This season's squad at the club includes: Adam Lewis, Will Stover, Matt Gargett, Jack Ward, Ollie Moore, Johnny Roddam, Dan Bibby and Tom Banks. Last season's Fylde squad also included Kieran Brookes and Mark Darlington.

This link between club and school continues with many present pupils, old boys, girls, staff and parents who follow Fylde.

Kirkham Grammar School Old Boys currently playing for Fylde (1st - 5th teams):

Jonny Roddam
Adam Lewis
Matt Gargett
Jack Ward
Ollie Moore
Joe Brockbank
Sam Bensky
Simon Heyes
Craig McIntyre
Jak Blanthorn
Sean Townsend
Luke Newell
George Brockbank
Matt Roberts
Steve Brownlow
Matthew Edgar

Tom Hanney
Dave Rees
Ash Parkinson
Danny Bibby
Tommy Banks
Will Stover
Ben Godfrey
Marshall Hargreaves
Richard Mason
Matt Thompson
Richard de Carpentier
John Boyle
Richard Draper
Gareth Jones
Callum Bennett

Simon Gardiner (OKA 1976-80)

Kieran Brookes, now a full-time member of the Newcastle Falcons squad, made his debut in coach Mark Mapletoft's England Under 20s warm-up 61-7 win against Cambridge University. The game was part of the preparation for the coming 5-Nations international season.

Kieran made his debut for Fylde's old friends and rivals Tynedale on Saturday in their fine National One win at promotion contenders Cambridge. He has been loaned by the Falcons to Tyne due to their shortage of tighthead props and his need for more competitive game time. How well did he do? A correspondent writes:

"Kieran Brookes came on for the last 25 minutes of this game on Saturday, shored up the scrum and helped inordinately in Tynedale's 89th minute winning try."

So no change there!

Another former Kirkham Grammar School & Fylde Mini Junior is Sale & England scrum-half Richard Wigglesworth who has just announced that he's moving to Saracens for the 2010/11 season after nine years at the Stockport-based club.



YOK'S CHRISTMAS REUNION

Despite the heavy snow, change of date and venue, the 2009 Young Old Kirkhamians' Christmas Reunion was a huge success.

Many Old Kirkhamians congregated at the Grapes Inn, Wrea Green to meet up with friends and former teachers. The KGS staff supported the occasion in great numbers and all enjoyed hearing how life had changed for their past students. Recent leavers discussed their first term at university whilst others told of their leap into the real world of work. However, the biggest topic of conversation was of course, who had built the biggest snowman and where to meet up to go sledging.

Make a date in your diary for Monday 20 December for the 2010 Christmas Reunion at the Grapes Inn Wrea Green.



OKA v Spoon A-A's



Diary Dates

Third Year Parents' Evening
5.00 pm, Thursday, 4 March

U19 Invitation Hockey Tournament
9.00 am – 6.00 pm, Saturday, 13 March

Richard Wilson U14 Sevens Tournament
12.00 noon – Thursday, 18 March

Second Year Parents' Evening
5.00 pm, Thursday, 18 March

Vicky Peters Memorial Hockey Match
9.30 am, Saturday, 20 March

Founders' Day Service
2.30 pm, Wednesday, 24 March

Modern Foreign Languages Trip to Germany
25-30 March 2010

OKA Southern Reunion Dinner
Saturday, 27 March
Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford

Ski Trip to Les Deux Alps
3-10 April 2010

Friends of KGS Family Fun Day
Sunday, 23 May, 2-4 pm

Sixth Form Ball
7.00 pm, Friday, 18 June

Friends of KGS Summer Ball
6.45 pm, Saturday, 19 June

southWalesRugbytour U13



The U13 rugby squad embarked on their annual Tour of South Wales as soon as the autumn term ended en route to a Cardiff Youth Hostel where they stayed for two nights. The first full day began with an 11 am kick off at Monmouth School who were proudly showing off their new sports pavilion recently opened by BBC TV rugby commentator Eddie Butler. We were met, on a brisk morning, by former British Lion, John Bevan, who kindly hosted us despite Monmouth having finished school the previous day. The match was a tight affair with the KGS forwards dominating large parts of the game but too much ball lost in contact ultimately let Monmouth stay ahead. In fact KGS conceded all five tries from 60 metres or more with the Monmouth centre causing havoc with his pace and elusiveness. At 21-7 down KGS came back strongly, after Connor Wilkinson's opening score for the visitors to add two more tries by Daniel Broughton and David King. With only four points in it KGS had a chance but an interception by Monmouth led to another long range try forcing KGS to come back yet again. To their credit they did and Connor Scott's try set up a thrilling finish but KGS had too much to do and ran out narrow losers 29-22. Following the game the boys feasted on some high quality food and headed straight to Cardiff for some shopping and then a trip to see the James Cameron blockbuster 'Avatar'.

The second day of the tour included a trip around the Millennium Stadium prior to the second match at Plasmawr School on the outskirts of Cardiff which was played in freezing conditions. KGS fell behind early to a try from the Plasmawr outside centre but equalized with a Connor Wilkinson try after fine work by the forwards. The lead changed hand three more times to leave the half-time score 17-17, David King and Connor Scott adding the other scores. In the second half KGS really upped their game, Oscar Twitchett giving KGS the ball from a thumping tackle and instant pick up to allow Captain Wilkinson to sprint away. By now Plasmawr were finding the KGS pick and go style hard to cope with and after a particularly bruising period of play Connor Scott scored to allow KGS to pull away. There was still time for the best try of the afternoon when KGS pressed down the right then spinning the ball left for Sam Sisson, who found himself in the outside centre channel, to sprint over from 20 metres after handing off a cover tackler. KGS fully deserved their 21-22 win. The final evening was spent at the Holiday Inn, Newport after taking in the Dragons v Biarritz Heineken Cup Game; however, this was postponed until Saturday afternoon due to a frozen pitch so Plan B was put into operation with a lengthy trip to McDonalds followed by an early night.

Many thanks to the staff at Monmouth and Plasmawr who looked after us and also to the KGS staff members who accompanied the boys namely Messrs Trenhaile, Wu, Harrison and Duncan.

CHARITY

In a long and hectic term significant contributions were made towards several charities. The weekly collection provided the funds to support three children's education through Action Aid (a boy in India, a girl in Peru and a boy in Nigeria). In October a selection of our first and second years, ably supported and encouraged by their fifth form mentors, took part in a frantic sponsored aerobics session to support Lepira. Eager pupils rushed to the MPH in their lunchtime and many finished the session exhausted but to be congratulated on raising a tremendous amount.

In our search for new ways to raise money, over half term Sixth Former Ashley Jones persuaded Ben Frew and the staff charity

organisers to take part in a fire walk over 30 feet of red hot coals in support of Rock FM's Help a Local Child. It was good to see members of the School at the event, although it was unclear whether they were there to offer support or in the hope of seeing the participants burn! In any event, after thorough preparation, details of which the firewalkers refuse to reveal, all four emerged unscathed. Following their success, their next venture is to spend a night in a haunted house, although difficulties do seem to have arisen as several ghosts on hearing this have already packed their bags and left the area.

Following half term many of our Fifth and Sixth Formers agreed to help with a collection

for Barnardo's and the British Legion Poppy Appeal. Their time and efforts were much appreciated.

So, we came round to our annual charity concert at the end of term. For the past two years, the Charity Committee have organised a talent show, just a few days before we break up for Christmas. See full report KGS Has Talent.

A very busy term but again one in which pupils and staff has responded well. We hope that the support will continue through the coming terms.



Since the last Newsletter KGS CCF has had a very busy and successful time. Our annual Summer Camp at Warcop was well attended and enjoyed to the full by over 60 cadets, former pupils, officers and staff. It was, as usual, a very demanding and tiring week, but great fun for all. Even the Headmaster joined our new Brigade Commander, (Brig Bill Aldridge) on the VIP day and was treated to a full presentation and visit to all the different activities on offer for our cadets.

The Brigadier was suitably impressed by the variety of different tasks and leadership opportunities ranging from military exercises to rafting, shooting, obstacle course training, first aid and initiative problems.

Immediately following that exhausting week, the RAF camp was held at RAF Brampton in Cambridgeshire. Several very keen cadets attended both and only had a brief period at home to wash and change their uniforms. Again this was another very enjoyable and successful camp due purely to the hard work of our RAF CO Sqn Ldr J.W. Callister. Our thanks go to him for all his efforts and enthusiasm not just on camps but throughout the year.

Later in the month two Fifth Form cadets attended the Cadet Training Centre, Frimley, for a Cadet Leadership Course. Even more success was achieved by both RSM Alice Whitehead and CSM Grace O'Flaherty as they were both chosen from many applicants, nationally, to go forward for selection on the Cadet 150, Lesotho expedition next summer. Both girls were successful on the course and now represent two of only nine CCF cadets chosen from the whole of the UK and the only two from all the North West cadets including ACF.

In her efforts to raise sponsorship money, Alice also won the Lions Club Young Ambassador Competition in the NW and goes forward to the National Finals soon. She was also short listed to the last 40 for the prestigious Duke of Westminster Award for the BTEC diploma but has had to withdraw because of all her other commitments.

As a result of all these successes Alice has been invited for an audience to meet the Queen at Buckingham Palace and a reception afterwards at Lancaster House. This is to be one of the first celebrations in the year which marks 150 years of the cadet movement in the UK. Grace has been asked to stand by as first reserve, just in case, which is a real coup for KGS CCF.

The new Fourth Year intake of over 100 cadets were soon 'kitted out' and began their Recruits' Training. The NCO cadre continues to thrive and 25 of the L6th decided to continue with CCF and nearly 20 of them have registered for the CVQO BTEC Diploma in Public Services, which is worth four extra GCSE qualifications. Both Sam Newton and Michael Sanderson have completed and certified with Distinctions recently.

The first major event of the autumn term is always the overnight and field day at Waddecar. This year it coincided with our Biennial Inspection. So enjoyable have these become that we had over 60 volunteers wanting to partake in the overnight, survival exercise! The soup and stew was very welcome later that night and many photos of the evening activities (and the next day) appear on the school's P:Drive, and a fuller report is on the school's website.

This year we were inspected by Group Captain Lawler, from RAF Cranwell, who is in charge of all air cadets nationwide. Upon his arrival he was met by a Guard of Honour, called by Flt Sgt Toby Townsend, which comprised of 15 NCOs trained in rifle drill. The presentation and perfection of the drill was superb and was a delight to watch! They set a very positive first impression to our visitor. Our SNCOs, Grace and Abby then gave a very informative presentation to the Group Captain and



then showed him around the camp; he was taken to each activity where he chatted to our cadets, NCOs and officers. It was the Fourth Year drainpipe and tennis ball activity that captured the attention of the Group Captain, as it showed the commitment, enthusiasm and team work of our cadets as they were repeatedly drenched in river water, in their attempts to cover the holes in the drainpipe as more water was poured in. Despite being cold, soaked to the skin and covered in mud, the devotion shown to the task and team was exemplary.

Group Captain Lawler was very impressed with Kirkham Grammar CCF and in his address afterwards he said that "It was one of the best Contingents I have seen on my initial inspection tour of the UK..."

Further successes in courses have continued into 2010. As well as Lesotho and Buckingham Palace, Henry Redshaw (an army scholar) received an exemplary report from an army climbing course. Jake Wilson, Alex Lister and Johnny Davies have all been selected to attend a skiing course in Bavaria in February. Finally several current Fifth Form cadets have already shown an interest in next summer's CLC courses at Frimley. Two L6th NCOs have applied for this year's Nesscliff leadership course.

Congratulations must also be given to 2Lt Lloyd as he has recently been granted a commission in the CCF and we welcome the younger legs and hope he will soon get involved with the shooting, one of his main interests. The next venture for the CCF (despite recent

financial restraints from the MoD) is to be a selection weekend for potential NCOs, to be held at school and Weeton camp to reduce transport costs. Also we will have our shooting field day at Weeton with the Fourth Year cadets and finally after Easter we have booked Capel Curig in Wales, again, for our AT camp, as this was so successful last year. Finally Summer Camp is not far away! Already booked for the 3rd – 10th July at Barry Buddon in sunny Scotland.

So all in all, KGS CCF is no sleeping giant – at 274 cadets on strength, we are one of the biggest school contingents in 42(NW) Brigade and are continuing to thrive despite the government cutbacks in cadet financing.





MICROSOFT FORGE LINKS

KGS was the centre of attention from the IT giant Microsoft recently, following an invitation to talk by the Headmaster and Business Studies Department.

Mark Bebbington and Amanda Ford from Microsoft Premier Field Engineering provided an insight into workforce planning and business challenges facing a rapidly growing business unit within The Microsoft Corporation. Mark and Amanda were able to reinforce Business Studies learning objectives by setting a real life workforce planning task.

The students were placed into teams and a prize was given to the team with the solution which Microsoft felt best addressed the issues. The prize, donated by Microsoft, was an X-Box Elite, subsequently donated by the students to The Manchester Children's Hospital.

The Headmaster was delighted to welcome such a prestigious company into the school. Extending his thanks to Mark and Amanda, Mr Walker looks forward to forging future collaborative projects.



Dramatic Society

As always we offer a huge variety of theatre trips every year. This year we are going to, or have gone to the following:

2009 - 2010

Mixed Up North: Bolton Octagon: Out of Joint theatre company directed by Max Stafford-Clark

All My Sons: Arthur Miller: Bolton Octagon

Dorian Gray: Matthew Bourne's dance adaptation: The Lowry, Manchester

Chicago: The Palace Theatre, Manchester

The Sound of Music starring Connie Fisher: The Palace Manchester

Les Miserables: The Palace Theatre, Manchester

A Midsummer Night's Dream: the Bolton Octagon

Brave New World: The Royal Exchange, Manchester

For every visit we take a full size coach and sometimes three! The Sound of Music was super at Christmas but my favourite so far this year has to be Matthew Bourne's ballet Dorian Gray; a highly athletic, imaginative and sumptuous production lending a contemporary twist to a classic novel. We are very lucky to have seen so many diverse and exciting productions.

Jane Barrie





portraits



Sixth form photography portrait work:
Top counter clockwise - Matthew Gladwell, George Naylor, Sebastian Luker and Jonathan Davies





Local History

Once again the History department took the third year pupils to Helmshore Textile Museum. Timed to fit in with the current unit of study, the Industrial Revolution.

Pupils enjoyed workshops on hand carding and spinning, illustrating how woollen cloth would have been made in the days of cottage industry. Everyone saw the Revolution Gallery, seeing a family's experiences of the changes from cottage to factory and beyond.

A working demonstration of Samuel Crompton's spinning mule brought home the many dangers the workers must have faced. In the fulling mill, the pupils were amused to hear that the woollen cloth was washed in urine, whilst people called 'walkers' beat the cloth with their feet.

The guides at Helmshore helped to make our visits both enjoyable and informative. Pupils will use the information they collected to do project work in class.



Biology Trip

The Upper Sixth Biology sets departed for a very busy three days at Malham Tarn, in Yorkshire, at the start of the winter term. The trip allowed us to practically use the skills and techniques we are learning in our Unit 4 Module including sampling and data analysis. Malham Tarn and the land that surrounds it are National Trust areas and Sites of Scientific Interest. To have the opportunity to study in this protected habitat was very useful.

Despite the bitterly cold weather and the 12 hour working days the experiments were often rewarding and interesting with the chance to use lots of specialist equipment. The first day was spent kick sampling in Gordale Beck, a tributary into Malham Tarn. After a herd of highland cows and calves passed us we spent several hours by the riverside identifying our catch of invertebrates and creatures, including the largest Bull-Head fish ever seen from the river, much to the delight of Heather and Gemma. Evening lectures followed where we were able to analyse our raw data collected from that afternoon, which was tiring but useful. We also set Long-Worth traps in the forests in the hope of catching woodland mammals for population analysis.

From water to mud, we spent our next day on the Malham bogs analysing plant succession. After our succession experiment on the Ainsdale sand dunes last June, it was interesting to study this change in different habitats. Henry Redshaw enjoyed eating the plants we identified, some of which tasted of lemon and mint, but was less impressed when told of the side effects. When we returned to the centre we revisited our mammal traps and found we were successful in catching two wood mice and two voles which we promptly named Sally, Winston, George and Jerry.

Despite the bitterly cold weather, the 12 hour working days and the long evening lectures the field trip was deemed very interesting and successful by all. It was useful to put into practice the techniques in our course and analysing our own data was very valuable. The free cups of tea and cake were also a bonus.



SUMMER ACTIVITY CAMPS

6-9 April
6-8 April
23 April
30 April
7,14,21,28 May
11,18,25,27 June
12-17 July
19-24 July
26-31 July
2-7 August
9-14 August
16-21 August

David Shaw Tennis Camp
Rugby Course
David Shaw Evening Tennis Class
David Shaw Evening Tennis Class
David Shaw Evening Tennis Class
David Shaw Evening Tennis Class
David Shaw Tennis Camp
Davis Shaw Tennis Camp
Andrew Flintoff Cricket Academy
King's Sport Camp
King's Sport Camp
King's Sport Camp



Design & Technology Department new Laser Cutter.

Although it was installed just before Christmas the new laser cutter in the Design & Technology Department is already proving invaluable for at all levels from 1st Year projects through to GCSE and A Level coursework.

Students studying Product Design, Electronic Products and Systems & Control Technology have found the machine very simple to use and are already seeing the benefits in the quality of their coursework.

The acrylic gears in the photograph are part of a mechanisms teaching aid being designed and manufactured by Mo Riley for his A Level coursework.

The machine will cut and engrave a wide range of materials including plastic, wood, card, glass and even stone and is proving a very useful addition to our Mircorouter and CAMM-1 machines as we continue to develop the range of CAD/CAM work undertaken in the department.

Design & Technology Staff and Students undertake joint CPD day.

Sixth Form D&T students recently joined the Design & Technology Department staff for a full-day course to develop their skills using the latest version of the ProEngineer 3D Computer Aided Design package. The course, held within the department, was run by Mr Tim Brotherhood, the Education Project Manager for the company which produces the ProEngineer CAD software. The intensive course allowed staff and students to develop their existing skills with the software and to be introduced to the new feature of this powerful 3D CAD package. The knowledge gained by the students will be invaluable not only in their current work at A Level D&T: Systems and Control Technology but in future careers in Design & Engineering.



Young Engineers at the Design & Technology Show

Six students from the 1st and 2nd Years represented the KGS Young Engineers Club at the Design & Technology Show to showcase some of the work they had been undertaking in the lunchtime club sessions at school. Not only were the students able to talk about and demonstrate their projects to visitors at the show but they also had the opportunity to take part in a number of exciting activities during the day, including making rocket powered cars.



Party Politics

The Upper Sixth A Level Politics students spent a day at the Conservative Conference in Manchester last year. After successfully getting through the intimidating security checks, the students mingled with the movers and shakers of the Conservative Party. They had meetings with local politicians, including Ben Wallace (MP for Lancaster and Wyre) and Mark Menzies (the Conservative parliamentary candidate for Fylde). Both men emphasised the importance of young people participating actively in politics. The rest of the morning was devoted to trawling round the numerous stands in the hunt for 'freebies' – teddy bears, pedometers, chocolate, pens, playing cards and all the rest. There was, of course, a huge press corps in attendance and some students were interviewed by reporters from the heavyweight papers including The Observer and Financial Times. Others waved to their mums during the live Daily Politics broadcast. The highlight of the day was the Leader's Speech, a rare chance to witness a potential Prime Minister in action. One student, Matthew Gladwell, managed to get among the entourage escorting the Cameron's out of the hall and joined them on the steps of the building in front of a wall of paparazzi. Overall, it was a memorable occasion for everyone, an exciting glimpse into the world of the elites of British politics.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The months before Christmas were especially busy for the members of 3Y. They have been collecting a dazzling array of things that have been carefully packed into empty shoe boxes, which in turn have been lovingly wrapped in Christmas paper.

They have been part of 'Operation Christmas Child'. Operation Christmas Child is the UK's largest children's Christmas appeal and has been running for over 19 years. This is a charitable organization which collects these gift boxes from all around the country. They then deliver them, in time for Christmas, to children who have never known the joy of Christmas presents.

Imagine, you are a child, it is Christmas and you have never had a present! Members of 3Y have made sure that over twenty children will receive a Christmas present this year. Boxes full of toys, sweets, brushes, hats, gloves, toothpaste, soap and a myriad of other things we take for granted, are on there way to make someone's Christmas. There will have been smiling faces in some of the poorest countries in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia this Christmas, simply because 3Y cared.



CLOTHES SHOW LIVE

art
DESIGN
department



See it, Believe it!

In early December the Art Students of KGS took their Annual Clothes Show Live Trip to the NEC Birmingham to watch one of the most anticipated fashion shows of 2009. The Clothes Show celebrated their 21st birthday in amazing style throwing a six day beauty and fashion event.

Radical clothing, roaring music and ripped guys, pretty much sums up the whole experience of the Clothes Show Live. This year didn't fail to disappoint with the face of the Clothes Show being the one and only Roxanne McKee who is best known for her role in Hollyoaks as Louise Summer. Many celebrities turned out for this big event including Zoe Lister who also stars in Hollyoaks and also another Hollyoaks star Kevin Scare who plays Jake.

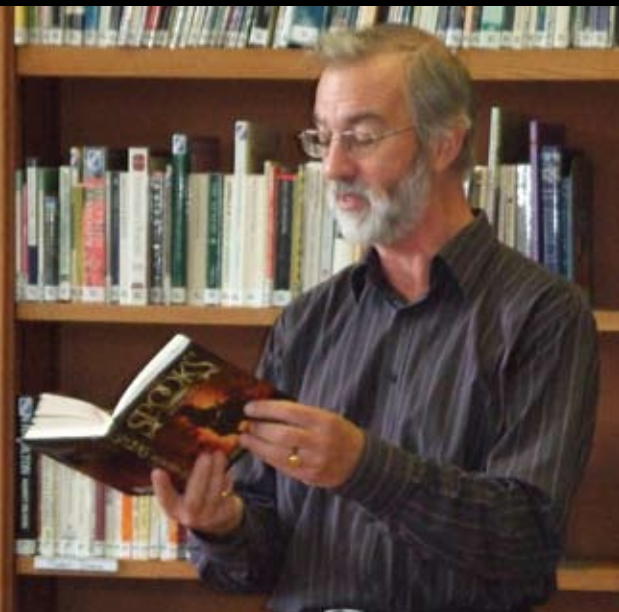
There were many genre's to the show which was all based around the Christmas feeling, in one scene it was based around lingerie. All the girls wore striped knee high socks and walked down to Kylie's song "Santa Baby". It had an essence of Victoria Secrets' famous catwalk when the girls wear just lingerie and massive angel wings. Well, it wasn't just the girls who were wearing angel wings the ripped guys came down and all I could hear was screaming girls who were dazed by the abs of the model, Parris.

Going to see the Clothes Show Live is amazing. If I could describe the show in three words it would be inspirational, unique and, of course, fantastic. The Clothes Show Live exceeds your expectations and more. You will leave the show thinking "How did they do that" and "That is amazing". This is the most amazing fashion show that would put John Paul Gautier to shame.

By Olivia Bence







LIBRARY NEWS



Phew - what a year! It has been all systems go since September with lots of events and visits.

Book Talk Groups

The first event occurred on 21 September with the launch of Book Talk Groups, set up and run by specialist childrens' booksellers, Hazel Ferguson and Jane Froud. We were delighted to welcome to the Library the best-selling local author, Joseph Delaney, who was here to support the launch. He talked about his new book "The Spook's Stories: Witches" and answered questions from the audience, which included pupils, staff and the Headmaster.

The event prompted a visit by Steve Becker, from BBC Radio Lancashire, who came to interview Hazel and Jane about their new venture and to report on the event for the Drivetime slot on Monday afternoon. Not even the staff and pupils escaped the microphone - it was a bizarre experience to hear myself on the radio later that day!

Book Talk Groups meet in the Library at lunchtime on the 3rd Monday of every month. Recent events at Borders have caused some difficulties but it is hoped that the Group can continue.

New author David Whitley

Two days later we were privileged to welcome an exciting new writing talent. David Whitley, from Chester, spoke to the pupils in Years 7 and 8 about his book "The Midnight Charter". This first book of a planned trilogy is based on the unsettling premise that everything, including emotions, can be traded. Even children are possessions until their twelfth birthday. The two lead characters try to break free of the poverty and servitude. Their lives depend on this question: what is the Midnight Charter? David tempted his audience to enter the world of Agora and consider the ramifications of buying and selling emotions - can you have too much hope? An interesting philosophical question!

David won the Cheshire Prize for Literature at the age of 20 and graduated with a double first in English Literature from Oxford University, where he was a member of the winning Corpus Christi team in 2005's University Challenge.

Chris Lloyd

The next two weeks were spent finalising arrangements for a trip to London which had been prompted by the author Christopher Lloyd during his visit to Kirkham in April 2009. He enjoyed his time here so much that he issued a personal invitation for a party of us to attend the launch of his new book at the Royal Institution on 8 October, 2009.

This was the first long-distance school trip organised by yours truly and I was very grateful for Mr Walker's support. Mrs Scott accompanied us, having done a fantastic job of enthusing her pupils so that all ten places were taken by pupils from the 4th, 5th and Lower 6th years. We stayed at the Premier Inn County Hall on the Embankment, with wonderful views of the London Eye and the Thames, and our central location made travel very easy.

The thrill of being in the famous Lecture Theatre, where Michael Faraday initiated The Christmas Lectures, was matched by hearing our school acknowledged by the author at the start of his talk; he appreciated the distance we had travelled and was delighted to personally inscribe copies of his new book for us. "What on earth evolved: 100 species that changed the world" tells the story of evolution in a concise, humorous and entertaining way and Mr Lloyd used a snakes and ladders board on the night to demonstrate the winners and losers in the 'game' of evolution.

Mrs Scott organised our visit the next day to the new Darwin Centre (The Cocoon) at the Natural History Museum; this stunning building houses some amazing exhibitions and interactive resources. We all enjoyed our whistle-stop tour and agreed that the Natural History Museum was worth another visit. We arrived back after two days, tired but full of science and knowledge. A wonderful time, with even the weather in our favour!

Pupils meet award-winning author, Patrick Ness

Just a few days after our London trip a group of our pupils visited Moor Park Business & Enterprise School to meet Patrick Ness, author of the successful series "Chaos Walking". The first book "The knife of never letting go" was shortlisted for the Carnegie Award and won both the 2008 Guardian Children's Fiction Prize and the Booktrust Teen Fiction Prize. The theme of the books is 'resistance under the most extreme pressure' and the stories are gripping and unusual.

Patrick Ness gave an entertaining talk on how to weave personal events into a fictional story and the questions at the end displayed the level of interest amongst his readers. The event was organised by Borders (Deepdale Retail Park) and attracted pupils from several local schools.

Travels with a whippet - on a narrow boat!

Later that same week we were delighted to be able to welcome Terry and Monica Darlington to the school - together with their two whippets! Mr Darlington is the author of "Narrow dog to Carcassonne" and "Narrow dog to Indian River", which chart their adventures on board their narrow boat, together with the whippet Jim, who is a very reluctant sailor. Mr Darlington's quirky and amusing writing style makes for a good read. They talked to all the pupils in Year 9, while Jim and Jess lay in their baskets and snoozed!

After half-term

Life quietened down somewhat after our short holiday but the Library continued to be busy with classes and 6th Form students. We always support Children in Need with donation of fines but this year saw an extra activity. The 6th Form organised a Jigsaw Sorting Day so that staff and pupils could pay a small fee and help to sort the jigsaws which had become badly muddled. A total of £15 was collected and the jigsaw pieces have now been marked so that we can return stray pieces to the correct box!

And finally...

Term ended with a very successful Christmas Recital from the members of the Scribblers' Club. Festive refreshments were provided and the audience of staff and pupils enjoyed a varied programme read by the members. Mr Sampey runs the Club and it is popular with pupils across all year groups, who enjoy being able to showcase their efforts to an appreciative audience.

A young boy with short brown hair and glasses is shown in profile, playing a brass instrument, likely a trumpet. He is wearing a red zip-up jacket over a patterned t-shirt. The background is a warm, reddish-orange color with a grid pattern in the upper left corner.

Music

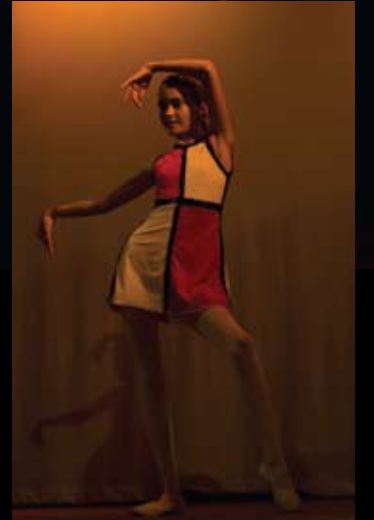
We returned to school in September to excellent news of musical success for a number of our students. During the summer Melissa McCarthy passed her Grade 8 in Singing with Merit and Bradley Johnson attained a Distinction in Grade 8 Classical Guitar. The Grade 8 examination is the highest grade and marks a considerable achievement. Bradley also went on to represent the Kirkham Rotary Club in the Rotary International Music Competition, being narrowly beaten in the regional round by a student from a London music college. Two further students, Ellie Schuller-Smith and Jack Linley, attained Distinctions in Grade 7 Piano. Gemma Broomhead received the Florence Purdy Prize, which is awarded for the highest marks in Grades 6, 7 and 8 for students entering string instrument examinations in Preston. Gemma has since gone on to add the harp to the list of instruments she plays, becoming possibly the first Kirkhamian to play the harp! Hannah Culver, who plays the violin and the piano, was awarded the Barton Grange Music Trophy for all round musicianship and progress over the past year.

Our first year musicians showed what a talented group they are when almost a quarter of the year performed in the Celebration of Talent, held in the Old Hall at the end of November. There were some excellent individual performances, auguring well for the musical future at KGS. Our monthly series of Coffee Concerts, held on Fridays in the Old Hall, attracted very good audiences and contained a wide variety of talent from the 4th Year Music Scholars (September), 1st Year Music Scholars (November) and the 5th year GCSE Music students (December).

The end of the Autumn Term is always a very busy time in the Music Department. The Choirs as ever performed excellently in both the Carol Service and the Christmas Concert, with the senior Choir entertaining the school with 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' in the final assembly of the Autumn Term. The Christmas Concert took place before a capacity audience in the MPH on Thursday 11 December and gave all the main instrumental ensembles and choirs the opportunity to perform before an audience. In this they were joined by a very entertaining selection of seasonal readings from a number of Mrs Heney's LAMDA pupils.



KGS HAS ★ TALENT





For the past two years, the Charity Committee have organised a talent show, just a few days before we break up for Christmas. It has become something to look forward to during the dark and cold days of the onset of winter. The last two shows have been amazingly successful - amazingly because of the very little time we have to organise a show for the whole school and involving so many people.

Auditions got underway only a week or so before the final. As usual, we were spoilt for choice, the talent was astounding. A shortlist was drawn up and we then only had the morning of the final to complete sound checks and rehearsals. We were lucky to have the help of our caretaker Russell and ex pupil Alex Miller who did an excellent job with the sound.

That afternoon, the MPH was buzzing with excitement as the whole school packed in waiting for the show to start. Mr Taylor opened the show, doing a fantastic job as our presenter, holding the whole show together with the help of Vicky Willocks and Joe Hargreaves who went around the audience asking for their opinions on the acts.

Our opening act was a Fourth Form band with Oli Hulme, Theo Harvey and Carolyn Evans. They were the first of several bands. We also enjoyed performances from Joe Martin, Gus Graham and Oli Carpenter. The fifth form band included Josh Longhurst, Vincent Grumme and Elliot Bannister. We also had a first performance from our staff band, with Miss Howe singing, Mr Wheatland on drums and Mr Fairey on guitar.

We were lucky to have a variety of instrumental performances. Tom Newton's Christmas medley on the cornet went down very well with the audience and he was not at all put off when the smoke machine was accidentally set off during his performance. Michael Lewthwaite and Ellie Schuler Smith did brilliant performances on the piano. Bradley Johnson did a guitar solo named "Glasgow Kiss".

Our girls did us proud with some lovely singing. Natalie Yates, Annabelle Mole, Chloe Nebard and Chloe Walker all sang solos. Abi, Chloe and Nicole from the third year also sang together.

We also enjoyed Carolyn Evans singing "Valerie" with George Shuttleworth Brown and Jack Ingham accompanied Nina Harrison who sang the Paolo Nuttini number "Last Request".

It was great to have some true variety in the show, with Maddie White dancing and Hazel Fox and Ellie Higham doing some amazing gymnastics.

The boys did not let us down. Grady Rawlinson and Joe Martin both sang solos, whilst we were entertained by our winners of the last two shows, Beno Fulford Brown and Nick Evans. Our final performance of the afternoon was our sixth form group Boyz 4 Men, consisting of Alex Lowe, Matt Edgar, Stan Graham and David Egelstaff. They brought the house down with their performance of "Ain't no Sunshine", followed by an exciting dance routine.

Ashley Jones organised the backstage crew of Seb Luker, Ben Frew and Chris Allen to make sure the show ran smoothly. We were delighted at how well the whole show went and how brilliantly everyone performed. We are always so impressed with the talent that we see and are never disappointed.

During the final assembly on the last day of term, the Headmaster announced the winners. Bradley Johnson was runner up with his astounding guitar solo and our very popular winners were Boyz 4 Men. They all looked delighted as they collected their prizes.

A tremendous amount was raised from the whole day and was split between the charities Crisis and Brian House Hospice.



Twelfth Night

A puppet show opening to a monster full house. From a 'Heat Wave' of music to a sea of colour as dancers flooded the floor to establish an energy and impetus that was to be maintained throughout this hugely entertaining and vibrant performance.

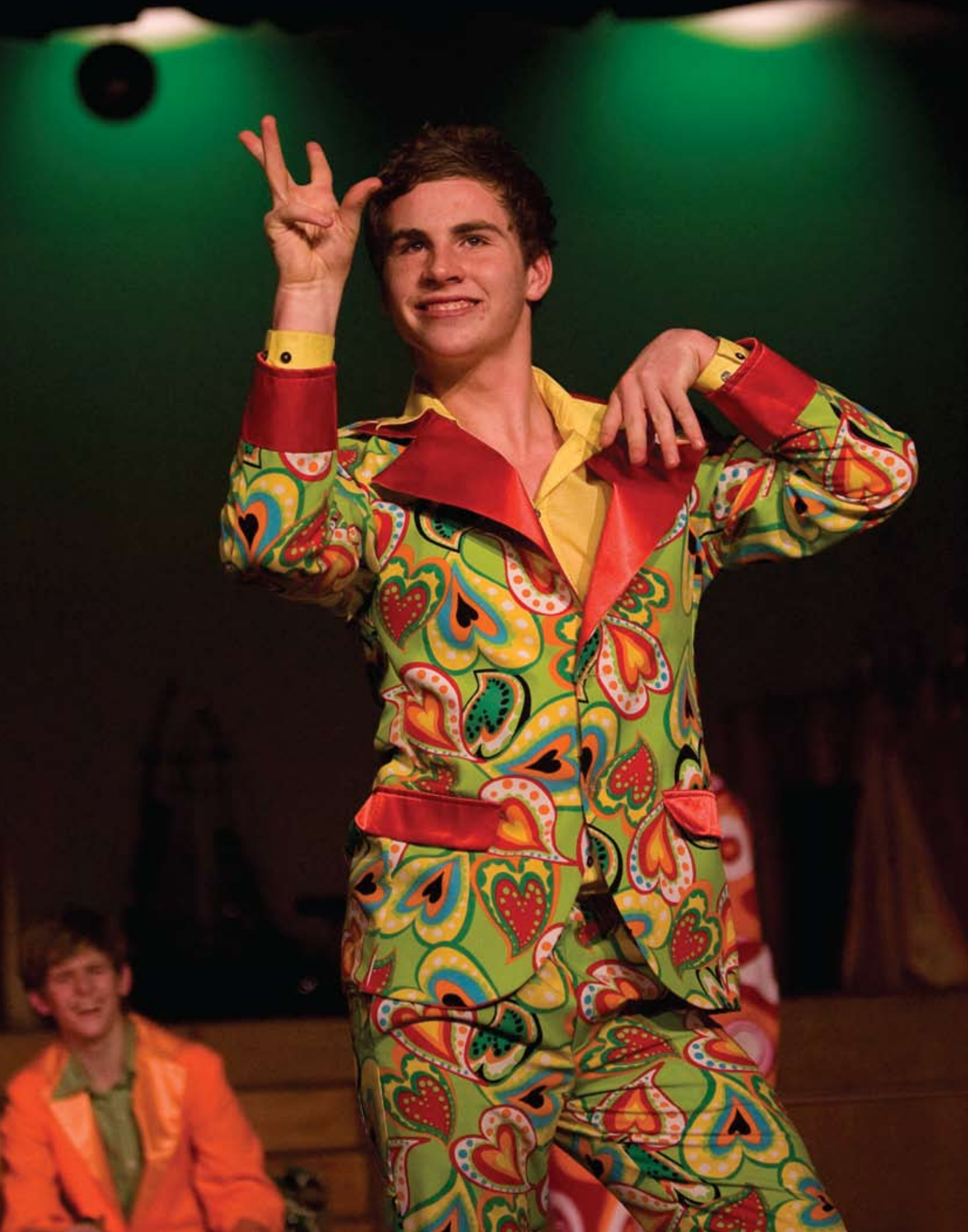
Twelfth Night, historically a time of merrymaking and the reversal of the normal order of things, centres on mistaken identity. Viola is focal to this switching of roles and Cat Moss cleverly moves between her increasing attraction to the forlorn Orsino (Jack Walker) and her near frantic efforts to distance herself from the advances of an ardent Olivia. Cat's body language and facial expressions in particular are a constant source of amusement.

If music really is 'the food of love' then we had a feast of it as the ingenious link up pieces were delivered with rhythm and panache by Chloe Walker, Melissa McCarthy and Nina Harrison, and then the dynamic input of Nick Evans. Combined with a range of dance sequences from the restrained ballet piece to the frenetic 'Twist and Shout', the pace never slackened, and when the strains of 'Stay Mr Postman' heralded a great Christmas scene the audience were roaring at the antics of the revelers and Matt Edgar's inflated Sir Andrew in particular.

Sir Toby (Andrew Best) and the revellers, Sir Andrew and the nurses, neat, confident cameos here from Lucy Fielding, Hayley Forrester and Steph Thornber, together provided a focal point of humour and they entertained the audience with riotous singing and a constant array of changing expression and gesture. However they are mischievous too. Malvolio is seen as an adversary to their festive enjoyment and their concocted letter leads Malvolio to believe that finally he has had 'greatness thrust upon' him. The impact is visually stunning as the audience see the superior aloofness swept away to be replaced by a love-sick suitor.



If music be the food of love, play on ...





But his mistress's (Olivia's) eyes are firmly fixed on Cesario, and here Alice Whitehead superbly presents a passionate Olivia whose overt physicality frightens the life out of Cesario, whilst delighting the audience.

Max Baker's Malvolio holds a fascinated audience whenever he appears, testing the limits of our emotions. At first a pompous, aloof figure whose hands seem constantly to act as semaphores to the audience, then a figure of fun as seen in the comic 'Benny Hill' routine, and then when labeled a madman the bathos turns to pathos as he is imprisoned and ridiculed by Feste (a cheeky Oliver Turnbull) and Fetina (an impish Helen Kelsall). Max gives a brilliant performance throughout and, for all Malvolio's faults I think the audience would agree with Olivia when she acknowledges that 'he has been most notoriously abused'.

Congratulations to Ms Barrie, and Assistant Director Mrs Walker, on this triumphant production. They led a splendid cast and a host of people behind the scenes who all contributed to the great success of Twelfth Night. A special mention to Choreographer Elizabeth Cross and Musical Director Graeme Barrie whose contributions added a new and stimulating dimension to the production, and to Stage Manager Steph de Carpentier, who was unflinching in her determination to get it right on the night.

".....Our play is done" concludes Feste
"And we'll strive to please you every day"
The pleasure was all ours for three wonderful Nights.

Syl Sampey





CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

The Debating Society

It's all change at the Debating Society for 2009-2010! Our top table debaters, Misty Hammond, Gracie Garlington, Elena Gaddes and Caitlin McMillan, who have been with the society since the Third Year in 2004, have left us for the verdant pastures of academe – and university debating teams will benefit from our loss. However, under the guidance of Lucy Fielding and Rowan Leech (who have taken up Misty's mantle as Secretary – a testament to Misty that it took two people to replace her!) the society has built on past success with a most pleasing beginning to the new year.

Our first outing was in Youth Speaks, the Rotary Club's National Public Speaking competition. For the first time we were able to field two teams for this event: Jack Rayson, Alex Edge and Alice Whitehead, all new speakers, presenting "The Credit Crunch: a Paradigm Shift for Generation 2000", a closely argued speech linking recession to the experiences of young people, and Lucy Fielding, Rowan Leech and Tiffany Connor (also on her first outing) with a speech entitled "Necessity is the Mother of All Invention". Both teams performed well against stiff opposition from other local schools, and we were pleased that Lucy's team came second in the judge's adjudication.

A busy week for the society, as the next day saw Lucy, Rowan and Tiffany Connor in action at the Business and Professional Women's Public Speaking Competition. Again, facing strong opposition and several interesting speeches from other schools, the team was deservedly picked by the adjudicators to go through to the Regional Round, which will be held in February.

Special thanks at this point are due to Ms Jordan, who has agreed to take over the Public Speaking side of the society, and ran all teams for these two competitions. Under her tutelage I am sure we shall see further success!

The Society was also pleased to be chosen to host the English Speaking Union's prestigious Mace debating competition in December; Lucy Fielding acted as a most efficient Chair for all three debates, with motions including "This House would make organ donation compulsory", "This House would make voting compulsory", and "This House would assassinate dictators". Jack Rayson's contribution as Timekeeper was also much appreciated.

Sadly, one of the teams was unable to turn up on the night: bravely, Tiffany Connor and Jessica Hewitt-Dean, a new pairing, volunteered to become "Swing A" to allow the debate to go forward. Although they had no time to prepare their Motion, they acquitted themselves well and (although not being eligible to place in the competition) won special mention from the Judges' Panel.

KGS's team of Rowan Leech and Benedict Fulford-Brown produced a lively and well argued defence of compulsory debating, shaking their opponents with their knowledge of constitutional affairs; at the end of the evening they were adjudged the winning team, and go on to the Regional Final in February.

Perhaps more important than external competitive success, however, is the success of the society's weekly meetings; these have been very well attended by students from the First Year to the Sixth Form, enjoying balloon debates and rounds of "Just a Minute" as well as short notice and parliamentary debates. Regular meetings are the lifeblood of any club, and by this yardstick the future of Debating Society looks to be a bright and lively one!



MARITIME SOCIETY



Last year the Maritime Society embarked upon an enjoyable and highly educational trip to Liverpool and its world-famous docks. Firstly, we would like to thank Mr Harrison and Ms Johnson for accompanying us on this trip and transporting us safely to Liverpool and between attractions; without them the trip would not have been possible.

We started our day by parking the minibus at the Albert Dock and boarding the Yellow Duck Marine for an interesting and varied amphibious tour of the city and docks. On board this highly impressive vehicle, a welcoming and humorous local tour guide provided an excellent insight to the city. We saw many sights of interest on the land tour including St John's Beacon which towers above the city, Rodney Street with over 60 Grade II listed buildings, the Royal Philharmonic Hall and the two impressive cathedrals. Once we had completed the land tour we returned to the Albert Dock where the vehicle was swiftly converted to a boat. The tour around the docks gave us an excellent overview into the history and changing use of this unique area of the city. Beside the dock, historic buildings stood alongside modern apartments and the imposing Liverpool Echo Arena featured prominently in the heart of this regenerated area. This part of the tour provided us with an excellent example of how former decaying dockyards can be rejuvenated to become an asset to the local area.

After we left the tour, we explored the Albert Dock on foot and after a brief stop for lunch at a waterside café we were ready to visit our next attraction, the HMS Ramsey, a working naval vessel which was last positioned in the Gulf. We toured various areas of this ship and many thanks go to the Navy who allowed us on board and arranged the tour. Additionally we would like to thank the sailors who provided a very interesting insight into the components of the ship. On our tour we were introduced to different areas of the vessel including the control room where the sonar is monitored, the bridge, the diving area and compression chamber and the bow of the ship where the artillery were located. The tour provided members with key knowledge of a working naval vessel, while enjoying a unique and fascinating rare experience.

Our next stop was the Merseyside Maritime Museum. We enjoyed a casual browse of many exhibits including The Titanic Exhibition which delved into the great mystery of shipping history. This visit was highly beneficial to members as we have studied the Titanic in our weekly meetings. We also appreciated the slavery exhibition which explored the connection between marine history and this world-wide tragedy.

ART CLUB

The Art Club is now in its third successive year. The club proved very popular last year enabling different year groups to exchange ideas, trial new techniques and processes, or simply extend their class work. So if you are feeling 'colourful and creative' or would like to improve your artistic range of skills take time to make a visionary visit to the Art Department.

In the year ahead, we plan to extend the range of activities within the club offering pupils the opportunity to try their artistic skills in felt-making, printmaking, wax-resist, stencilling, three dimensional card constructions as well as the more traditional activities of drawing and painting.

Mrs L Lovell



Despite the hot and very humid weather the summer expedition to the Lake District was a huge success. 31 Bronze, 17 Silver and 6 Gold participants not only planned, navigated and walked their way around the Southern fells but did so with great humour and good spirit. Their co-operation and teamwork were tested as many of the participants found the conditions a little more demanding than expected and a number of motivational skills were called into use!

The Gold Group's account is below:

The hardest yet most rewarding experience we have ever undertaken. The first day we were eager to set off, leaving the campsite at 6:30 am. Within ten minutes we found ourselves peeling off clothes in the extreme heat; little did we know at this point that the next few days would be the hottest, most humid Duke of Edinburgh expedition KGS had ever experienced. The first few hours we set a good pace, until the midday sun meant we started to struggle. Knowing we had to reach our wild camp before dark, panic began to lurk. However, our team pulled through, and together we reached the wild camp with time to spare.

It seems to be a tradition of Duke of Edinburgh expeditions to get lost, but our teams really reached the extremes! We had set off well again, but soon found ourselves stranded on a mountain surrounded by a mist that had descended within five minutes. At this point, we were on the brink of giving up, but once again, sheer determination pulled us through, and we found our way off the mountain and to the next checkpoint. Things that go up must come down. The path down was littered with loose rocks, meaning we had to be constantly aware, and soon our feet were in agony! Having tackled treacherous mountains and slippery paths, we eventually reached the campsite and settled down to hot chocolate.

The third day picked up: our spirits were high and determination was palpable! Having gotten through the last two days, we realised as a team that we could cope with anything, and quickly settled into an easy pace. The beauty of the surroundings and the remarkable weather meant we were really able to enjoy and appreciate our expedition.

The final push! Again, setting off in high spirits, we tackled the first few mountains with relative ease, witnessing brilliant views and magnificent waterfalls. However, shortly after lunch we realised we had the most difficult challenge yet. The sheer size of the mountain was daunting, and, once on it, it seemed never-ending. Finally, after hours of struggle, we saw the checkpoint at the top and realised just how close we were; just down the mountain was the end! As a team, we sped down the steep descent and ran, holding hands, to the pub, where we met Neville, our assessor who revealed we had passed.

It was the hardest experience we had ever had, yet we wouldn't change it for the world. We worked well as a team, and together have accomplished something very few have, in the most extreme of conditions. We will never forget the sheer sense of achievement and it will be remembered by all of us forever. We would recommend it to anyone up for a serious challenge!

Jenny, Gracie, Katie, Chessie, Gracie, Lucy

Since the beginning of this academic year over 60 fourth year pupils have signed up to do their Bronze Awards and many of them are well on their way to completing their Skill, Physical and Volunteering sections of the Award. Each year more and more students are continuing with DoE and we have large numbers now working towards their Silver and Gold Awards. With this in mind Mr Callister has planned a number of expeditions for the summer term and we hope that the participants gain a great deal from their experience.

It gives me great pleasure to announce the following Awards which have been achieved since the last Newsletter:

Gold:
Charles O'Flaherty
Lucy Knowles
Alice Whitehead

Silver:
Heather Cara
Sawdah Jakda
Alex Lister
Vicki Rowe
Elly Heney

Bronze:
Ben Green
Patrick Parr
Kirsten Martin
Robert Malings
Sarah Quarmby
Emily Bourne
Abigail Kos
Venkata Dwarampudi
Sam Donaldson
Vincent Grumme
Sarah Dickie
Charlotte Lucas

We would like to thank the staff who so graciously support the DoE, their humour and helpfulness on expeditions knows no bounds: Mr Hancock, Mrs Copland, Miss Knight, Mrs Batty, Mrs Parr, Mr Gardner and Mr Eccles.

DoE information sessions take place in L3 every Monday and Thursday lunchtime and expedition training takes place in the CCF Hut on a Tuesday lunchtime.

Mrs Sutcliffe and Mr Callister

THE ONLY WAY IS UP

KGS Climbing Club (photo right) is well underway with many new starters enjoying the Climbing Wall. Volunteers Vincent Grumme, Daniel Chow and Helen Bailey helped Mr Gaddes with the induction of new members who all seemed to enjoy the experience. The Club operates each week and many enjoy further activity on a Thursday when they venture further afield.





FRIENDS



On a damp and slightly chilly evening, 195 parents, staff and friends were transported into a Winter Wonderland for our 'Sparkle Winter Ball'. The Woodland Suite at Ribby Hall was our venue and after a champagne reception, we were all treated to a delicious meal and thoroughly entertained by Mr Paul Guard and DJ Robin Graeme. Due to the continued support of kind parents and sponsors we were able to hold an Auction, play Heads and Tails and take a chance on the Teddy Lucky Dip. Once again Mr Lee Townsend was our auctioneer and on behalf of the Friends of KGS we thank him for his continued and generous support. It was a fantastic evening and it is always a pleasure to meet up with friends, old and new. We were extremely pleased with the amount of new first form parents who attended what was their first but hopefully not their last ball.

No sooner had we put our dancing shoes away then it was time for us to entertain our children with the annual Christmas Fair. Once again the MPH was turned into a bustling throng of grandparents, parents and children all eager to try out the selection of games on offer and be tempted by the goods on the various trade and gift/food stalls. We were totally overwhelmed by the amount of baking that had gone on in lots of homes on the Fylde Coast, as the Cake Stall was positively groaning under the strain. I am pleased to say that everything

had gone by 6pm and thank you everyone for your donations, in whatever capacity, for this event. The children at the Junior School took part in the Christmas Tree Decoration Competition and as usual the standard was amazingly high and extremely difficult for the judges. The fair made over £3,000 for school funds in just 2 hours but so much preparation is done behind the scenes for many weeks and even months. Our caretakers worked tirelessly with the Committee and we could not manage without them.

December saw the Friends reviving the very popular Ladies Lunches and we were thrilled that 72 ladies attended Singleton Lodge for the first one, in what is a very busy time of year for everyone. A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all and lots of chatting followed an excellent three course meal. The next event with a speaker will take place at Bartle Hall on Monday 15 March 2010. We look forward to seeing you there.

As the days get brighter and we look forward to spring, may I thank you for your constant and continuing support for the FKGS and wish you and your family a happy and healthy 2010.

Lorraine Wareing
Chairman of the Friends

interHouseevents



Report on the House Events Autumn Term 2009

The winners of the Whitby Cup for 2008-9 were Kirkham House and congratulations must go to all the pupils, staff and of course Mrs Glover for a thoroughly deserved victory. The start to the 2009-10 season was very competitive with one or two surprises in the first few weeks. The semi-finals of the quizzes went down to the final questions, the Basketball Tournaments were decided on the final whistle and the Chess tournament decided on the last move.

The winners:

Intermediate Basketball.....Fylde
Senior Basketball.....Preston
Junior Quiz.....Fylde
Senior Quiz.....Fylde
Chess.....Preston

The overall standings in the Whitby Cup at half term:

1st with 17 points.....Fylde
2nd with 15 points.....Preston
3rd with 11 points.....School
4th with 9 points.....Kirkham.

The competitive nature of the House system continued unabated during the second half of the term with the Junior and Senior Netball tournaments, the new 'trial' Senior Volleyball and the Swimming Gala also all being decided on the final whistle or the last relay race.

School have an excellent Junior Netball team and beat Preston in the final.

Kirkham won the Senior Netball event and managed to hold on to the Swimming trophy after a late surge from Preston in the relays.

The new trial event, the Senior Volleyball Tournament, proved very popular and was won by Fylde. The quality of play on show was excellent, and there was a real sense of teamwork in all four Houses.

Preston continued to pick up many second places and valuable points along the way. The swimming gala was its usual frantic affair, and a very open competition. Last year's winners Fylde got off to a very strong start with some good swimmers from their junior members. However, as the competition progressed it was Preston and Kirkham who fought each other for 1st place, with last year's runners up Kirkham eventually edging it.

The winners:

Senior Netball.....Kirkham
Junior Netball.....School
Volleyball.....Fylde
Swimming.....Kirkham

The overall standings in The Whitby Cup at the start of the Spring Term

1st with 28 points.....Preston.
2nd with 27 points.....Fylde
3rd with 24 points.....Kirkham (Holders of the Whitby Cup)
4th with 23 points.....School

All very close with many events in the Spring Term to look forward to.



HOCKEY





2009-2010







1stXVRUGBY09-10

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



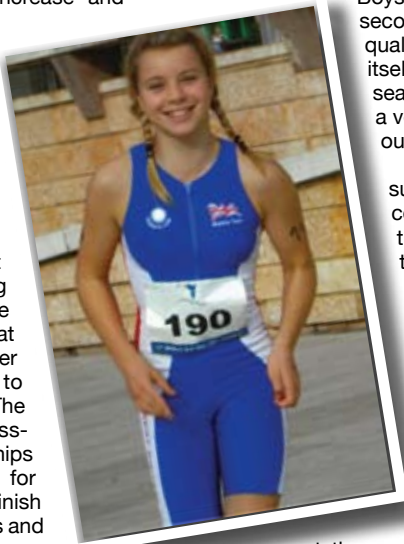


The year so far has seen, once again, the boundless enthusiasm of our pupils for their sporting pursuits. What has been very encouraging has been the fact that our teams in traditional areas have continued to excel but we have seen other areas like Swimming, Cross-country and Biathlon come to the fore. The number of youngsters representing the school continues to increase and reaches even wider proportions when House matches are taken into account. The breadth of House activity adds much to the sporting year and complements that provided by the school.

The recent successes in swimming and cross-country are exciting in the way that they afford even further means for our pupils to perform and excel. The Fylde and Wyre Cross-Country Championships provided a challenge for all our runners and to finish with three team trophies and two individual winners was an outstanding performance.

Bradley Yates and Ben Everson took the accolades as champions in their respective age groups while the team performances showed the depth of talent available. The first year girls' team ran out convincing winners against Arnold and Cardinal Allen with Olivia Anderton in second place and Fiona Lockhart in third. In the boys' events both age groups emerged as champions.

In the first year race Bradley was well supported by Oliver Crankshaw in third place while in the third year event William Lockhart was sixth. We look forward to no less than fifteen of our runners representing Fylde in



the County Championships.

In the pool we entered teams in the National Championships for the first time in many years. In the North West round our junior swimmers showed real potential with both girls and boys performing well. Junior girls' teams finished in the top ten while the Junior boys' managed to reach the top three in the Junior Boys' Medley Relay finished second and failed narrowly to qualify for the National Final itself. This follows an unbeaten season for this age group and a very promising season for all our teams.

Perhaps it is not surprising when one considers the success in the running and in the pool that our Biathlon teams (photo bottom left) have also met with success. It is, however, also down to the outstanding individuals who have pursued their sport to the highest levels. For Imogen Pierce (photo left) to be crowned World Champion in her event and Bradley Yates (photo right) in third place

at the same level is a matter of pride for us all. This success also transferred to team success where both junior girls and boys won the North West heat of the National Championships and now progress to the next level. An exciting prospect ahead.

It has been a memorable year thus for our traditional sports. The hockey teams have been busy despite the weather and a young 1st XI has seen considerable success with victories over strong opponents. Perhaps pride of place has gone to the Under 16 team who became North West Champions having won the local knockout phases. They missed out on the next phase of the National Competition by just one goal in a tough group competition. Sadly the weather has had an impact so far this term but we look forward to a

strong series of hockey competitions.

On the rugby field the boys have once again competed well on their tough circuit and we are delighted that the U13's (photo below) confirmed their place in the Lancashire Cup Final a few weeks ago with a victory in the semi-final against



Hutton Grammar School. Elsewhere the U12 A & B XV's are showing great promise, while the Senior XV's ended a good season with wins against Hutton. A young 1st XV including two U16 players enjoyed some good victories and it has been pleasing to see Sam Hall and Thomas Hurst reach the North Trials at

U16 level. Kieran Marmion has also once again reached the Ireland International U18 Squad while Ben Rhodes-Power, Matthew Beaty and Ben Swift have gained County selection at U15 level and Lewis Leach also at U14 level.

This term represents the culmination of the winter sports programme with so many of the competitions reaching the final stages. So we look forward to some exciting competitions as the term progress and hopefully some better weather!

