

Kirkham Grammar School

Headmaster's Letter to Parents

Summer 2005





From the Headmaster

was struck by the many varied roles they have played. The combination of prefect duties with major sporting responsibilities or leading theatrical roles together with the commitment to our comprehensive programme of musical events alongside major NCO responsibilities within the CCF. These many varied and often onerous responsibilities are at the core of what makes a sixth form education so fulfilling. We must hope that greater opportunity can be created for further academic reflection to alleviate such cramming for exams and liberate our students to allow them to gain a true balance in their experiences.

As we look forward to the results days to come it was pleasing recently to attend a conference which included the representative for OFFA (Office for Fair Access) discussing university entrance. He was adamant that prejudice against Independent School candidates does not exist and that individual University Access policies evidence this. These documents are readily available on the websites and do not include the Quota system the press are so keen to evidence. Certainly it is our experience that our applicants have not had difficulties; in truth they have an excellent record gaining entry to their first choice university. It is this success in Independent Schools which leads to the debate in the first instance and we are certainly proud of the achievements of our students as they go on to higher education.

The end of the summer term is also a time for farewells and this year is no exception. Mr John Wood departs to take up his headship at the Dixie Grammar School in Market Bosworth. Mr Wood's contribution is well documented elsewhere in this Newsletter but I must take this opportunity to wish John and Johanne happiness as they go on to further challenges and to thank them both for the outstanding contribution made to the development of Kirkham Grammar School. They will be a tough act to follow but we hope that Dr Luker (photo bottom middle next page), Mr Wood's replacement, and his wife Yvette and their two children will be very happy at Kirkham Grammar School.

Mr Reid (photo bottom left next page) leaves the Mathematics Department after 20 years as Head of Department. As he sets out to seek new challenges he can reflect upon the significant numbers of senior mathematicians he has guided towards Oxbridge entry and success in Mathematics. He has overseen the department's introduction into the UK Mathematics Challenge and taken a particular interest in our Hong Kong students as a consequence of his interest in Cantonese.



I am sure we all wish Mr Reid well as he seeks further challenges in the world of mathematics.

Within the Technology Department we also see the departure of our first DT Technician, Mr Chris Rimmer. Mr Rimmer is well known to many students for his teaching as he played a significant role before Mr Hancock took up his appointment. Mr Rimmer has provided excellent technical assistance within the department and leaves to take up a teaching appointment at Baines Grammar School. Mr Duncan has also relinquished his position as Housemaster of Kirkham House after a successful tenure. Mrs Glover takes over in September as the School's first Housemistress.

The term began with exciting news, the school having been awarded a significant grant by the Lawrence House Trust. This will enable us to build a Drama Studio combined with a Sports Pavilion adjacent to the All Weather Surface. We hope to have this underway very soon and further details are included later in this Newsletter.

The latter half of the year has been filled with the usual highlights within the extra-curricular sphere. A fine, energetic production of Macbeth saw our Thespians tackle the 'Scottish play' with verve and we now look forward to Ms Barrie's further plans with eager anticipation. Our musicians once again hosted the Normandy Band alongside a refreshing Spring Concert in a packed Old Hall. Once again they have been busy at many external events and presented an excellent Summer Concert in May.

On the sporting front the Hockey and Rugby seasons ended in exciting fashion. This was best exemplified for me as I spent one Saturday watching an inaugural Hockey Festival (photo top right) at School where British Colleges emerged narrowly

victorious above Millfield, Glasgow Academy and ourselves. On the Sunday I witnessed an exciting County Cup Final where our young rugby players lost bravely to a powerful Liverpool side at Under 13 (photo above) level and then moved on to Fylde RUFC to see the 1st VII (photo top right previous page) in the Quarter Final of the Northern Sevens and the 2nd VII in the final of the Bowl. A breathless weekend indeed, but it certainly gave me an insight into the commitment shown by so many parents in the support they give their sons/daughters in travelling the countryside in pursuit of their activities. There is, however, a great benefit from these competitive team sports and I am always struck by the manner in which Kirkham Grammar School teams take such pride in their school. Their achievements in the cold month of March are testimony to their hard work and commitment.

The summer has seen the usual damp start sadly adversely affecting our cricket, tennis and athletics programmes. Nonetheless we have seen some good performances on the cricket field and of particular note in athletics was the success in the Regional TSB Competition where all our teams qualified for the next stage. A remarkable achievement.

So as the pupils go off for a well earned rest plans will now move on for year 2005-6 and the future evolution of the school. The Governors are working hard to ensure that our pupils opportunities are further enhanced by ever-improving facilities and this commitment keeps us all on our toes! Exciting times indeed! All that remains is to wish you all a good summer and a fond farewell to all our leavers. I wish them every success and hope that they will keep in touch with us over coming years.

JOHN WOOD

Mr John Wood (bottom right) leaves us this summer after over seven years as Deputy Headmaster at Kirkham Grammar School. Joining the School in January 1998 from Nottingham High School he arrived with an outstanding record as Head of Mathematics in one of the Midlands leading Independent Schools. Throughout his tenure at KGS he has maintained his enthusiasm for his subject, teaching to all levels, writing and publishing a textbook and generally putting his Cambridge degree to good effect. The move to Kirkham from the Midlands must have been a significant wrench after some seventeen years at the High School but his return to the county of his childhood has been a highly successful one for John and his wife Johanne.

As Deputy Mr Wood first supported Mr Stacey in promoting significant changes within the school. A firm advocate of the use of ICT in education Mr Wood has overseen, with notable success, the implementation of a whole school computer management system, a rolling programme of ICT development and continuing professional development for staff in all areas of school life. His expertise in the timetable has allowed greater flexibility in A level and AS level provision. Certainly the challenges of Curriculum 2000 were overcome without any mishap.

During Mr Stacey's absence through illness, Mr Wood took the helm in School as Acting Headmaster and handled the respon-

sibility with his usual aplomb. An outstandingly efficient administrator, John is able to take most situations in his stride.

Perhaps one of Mr Wood's greatest challenges was playing a key role in the induction of a new Headmaster. He has carried out this task with his usual good humour, clear thought and educated guidance. His strength of solving perplexing problems and thinking "outside the box" have been of great influence in the continuing development of the School and he has played a significant role in the recent planning for the new Science Centre.

I am sure parents will be grateful for his work on the Friends Committee and many old pupils recognise the loyalty shown to the Old Kirkhamians' Association. Without doubt John and Johanne's first love has always been the music at school and I know that both Mr Catterall and Mr Barratt have valued their support in all its guises.

Mr Wood will be a hard act to follow but I have no doubt that he will relish the challenge of the Headship of The Dixie Grammar School and we look forward to hearing of his success in years to come. We hope he will feel able to visit us from time to time to keep us up to date and renew the many friendships made at KGS.



Continued DEVELOPMENT



Ariel view of the school - March 2005



OPENING OF THE NEW SCIENCE CENTRE

We welcomed Master Draper, Martin Sankey and Clerk to the Drapers' Company, Rear Admiral Alastair Ross to perform the ceremony in opening our new Science and Mathematics facilities in February. Over one hundred guests joined us in a function held in the Old Hall where the plaque commemorating the event was unveiled. Chairman of Governors Simon Fulford-Brown welcomed the guests and thanked the Drapers' Company for their generous support and all those who had responded to the appeal and contributed to the building. He also paid tribute to the contractors who have worked so hard to complete the building to such tight deadlines. He stated the Governors' further commitment to maintaining progress made over recent years in upgrading the facilities and that he hoped to undertake further planning initiatives in the near future. The Headmaster went further on this

theme emphasising the School's commitment to the development of teaching and learning in all its aspects but also reiterating the deep traditions of the School that were represented within the Old Hall itself. The commitment to modern facilities would never mean the School lost sight of these intrinsic values. The challenge is to develop the best in modern educational practice and facilities and combine it with all that is best in the traditions of the school.

The guests were then escorted by a band of School prefects on a tour of the facilities. They witnessed a display on the interactive whiteboards conducted by Mr Reeves' second year and a sixth form group working on the wireless connected laptops. The event concluded with a fine buffet lunch provided by Mrs Angela Hodgkinson and her staff.

PHASE II AND III

The implementation of Phase I of the Governors' Classroom proposals has created the inevitable anticipation for the further stages. The image provided gives an artist's impression of these plans which will incorporate space for Mathematics, English and Humanities in purpose built classrooms with adjoining departmental offices and further much needed toilet and locker facilities. The development will adjoin Phase I and project to the west of the school maintaining the open aspect. Detailed planning will get underway soon and financial investments are already under review.

LAWRENCE HOUSE PAVILION

The School has been fortunate to receive a significant grant from the Lawrence House Trust to build a Drama Studio and Pavilion on the site of the current Groundsman's hut. This building will provide not only much needed space for our Drama Department with a purpose built hall with sprung floor and dedicated storage facilities but also changing rooms and catering facilities for both our Community users and our own pupils. The terrace overlooking the all-weather surface will allow the building to be used as shelter for spectators. We hope to see this building underway in coming months with the aid of a further generous grant from the Friends of Kirkham Grammar School. Needless to say both the Drama Department and the Games Department are excited about the development although obstacles such as planning permission remain as cautionary milestones to overcome. Once again, however, this will represent another welcome development in our teaching facilities alongside a partnership with our parents' who have been requesting such a building via the representation on the Friends Committee.

Excitingly this also represents our first venture in a Community Programme that sees the school developing its facilities in liaison with Community users to mutual benefit. We hope this partnership will flourish and benefit us all.



Phase II and III of the Development in red
The Lawrence House Pavilion in orange





Jennifer Ireland



Captains of School
Joanne Box and Christopher Calvert



PREFECTS 2005-2006



Matthew Stanbury



Paul Bowden



Rachel Brown



Clarke Tung



James Carpenter



Caroline Desborough



Joanne Forest



Max Fulford-Brown



Matthew Gaddes



John Gladwell



Elizabeth Tomlinson



Natalie Hayhurst



Thomas Higham



Jane Jackson



Matthew Lee



Emily Martin



Francine McNeela



Alex Miller



Andrew Moncrieff



Andrew Hatch

Libraries are such quiet places not!

It's been a busy two terms. Alan Gibbons (pictured right), an award-winning author from Liverpool, spent a day in school in February. He entertained children from all year groups and provided ideas and techniques for creative writing and his books have been much requested since his visit. He has promised to come again.

A week later we celebrated World Book Day: it followed the usual format, with staff entertaining pupils by reading stories and extracts from favourite books. As always this has introduced unfamiliar literature to a new audience and prompted an increase in requests!

The final week of the very long Spring Term enabled some pupils to meet another author. This time it was Joan O'Neill, from Ireland, who writes excellent stories aimed at teenagers. She talked about her background and where she finds the inspiration for her stories. She also read extracts from her latest book "Fallen star", about the experiences of young Irish girls in the Magdalene laundries of the 1950s.

This term has seen a steady procession of library-based lessons for History, Biology, Religious Studies and Geography. It has been very gratifying to see the pupils take the first steps to becoming confident independent learners, able to access and select suitable information from a variety of sources.

The mammoth task of cataloguing the entire library stock is now complete – the last books were completed during exam week amid much celebration! Hopefully new purchases will be entered into stock more quickly.

Carolyn Copland



THE BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

The Business Studies Department invited Chris Siveright for the second year running from The Oxford School of Learning to deliver a two day revision programme to both upper and Lower Sixth Business Studies students.

Chris delivered a variety of exercises based around many different areas of the specification, concentrating specifically on reinforcing a greater appreciation for the June examination case study on Wei Foods Ltd, which in the past has provided great benefit for our AS students.

The Upper Sixth were set a business objective of adapting an existing product for the education market, and had to present their case to a panel of investors in order to raise the start-up funds required.

This followed a similar theme to that of the recent popular BBC2 TV series, "The Dragon's Den". The upper sixth unfortunately fared badly in getting the imaginary panel of investors to part with any capital; so in that sense it mirrored the series in more ways than one.

A2 students also felt that they benefited from re-visiting decision making models and areas of A2 finance, which could form part of the final summer examinations.

Mrs Lang

CHOC FOR CHARITY

A busy year for Jennifer Ireland who has taken overall responsibility for the sixth form Cadbury's chocolate machine.

This year we adopted a different strategy when donating the proceeds, and invited staff and pupils to make suggestions for sponsoring causes.

A variety of sums has therefore been donated to:

- TRINITY HOSPICE
- THE ROSEMERE TRUST
- FOX STREET HOMELESS
- WISH UPON A STAR
- PEAR TREE SCHOOL
- DERIAN HOUSE
- SUPPORT FOR AFRICA

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss any requests for donations from current or future members of the sixth form. If there are any current fifth year students who would like to manage this service next year to specifically raise funds for their chosen cause, we would be pleased to hear from them.

The old (and rather temperamental) machine has now been replaced with a fully new operational dispenser, that does not demand payment in Deutchmarks because of low battery life, so all should function that much more smoothly next academic year.

We would like to acknowledge the continued support offered to us by Cadbury's and also that of our patient bursarial staff. Their continued contributions are very much appreciated.

Mrs Lang

YOUNG ENGINEERS

As the school year draws to a close it also marks the end of a remarkable first year for the Kirkham Grammar School Young Engineers Club. Each lunchtime T2 has been a hive of activity as pupils from a wide range of year groups' design, build and test their particular projects under the guidance of the club secretaries Joe Douglass and Jamie Panepinto.

In March this year the Young Engineers Club entered three teams into the 2005 Rotary Technology Tournament. See "Rotary winners" page for more details.

Later in the same month four of our 4th Year Young Engineers, Peter Armstrong, Joe Douglass, Jamie Panepinto and Oliver Youngman, headed off down to HMS Sultan in Portsmouth to take part in the 2005 Royal Navy Operation Storm National Finals. The challenge involved piloting their radio-controlled salvage craft, HMS Panther, through a harbour entrance before picking up a range of objects from the 'sea-bed' and transferring them to designated areas. The students also had to make a presentation of their ideas and designs to a panel of Navy Officers. Technical problems with the radio-control transmitter and the sheer complexity of the challenge saw the team achieve only limited success, but many lessons were learned and the team are keen to enter next year's challenge.

At the time of writing eight teams of Young Engineers are making final adjustments and modifications to their 'Micromice' in preparation for the National Schools & Colleges Micromouse Finals to be held in Manchester on 2 July. Micromice are small autonomous robots, which can navigate their way around a maze made up either of while lines or small wooden walls using motors and infra-red sensors. The teams are looking to better the 1st and 2nd places we attained in our first attempt at the competition last year. A tough undertaking – but watch this space!



'SUCCESS WITH CCF COURSES'

Two NCOs were selected for the Cadet Leadership Course at Nesscliffe, again this year. Unfortunately our Army Scholar, Andy Moncrieff was unable to attend, but 5th form cadet, Natalie Roberts, stepped into the breach to accompany John Gladwell on a very demanding and testing course. Both acquitted themselves very well and discovered a lot about leadership skills.

Four of our fifth form cadets have been allocated places on the Frimley Cadet Training Centre courses this summer and three more are on the provisional reserve list. This is the largest number to volunteer for this course. We have even been successful in obtaining a place on HMS Bristol for a sailing course. Mel Smith decided to apply for a Royal Navy course and was accepted. We wish all these cadets luck and hope they enjoy their experiences.

Finally, Will Bruton and Alex Redshaw have been selected to attend a parachuting course. Why anyone should wish to jump out of a perfectly serviceable aircraft is a mystery, but I am sure they have their reasons and will thoroughly enjoy themselves.

SUMMERS CAMPS

This summer will be a very busy time for KGS CCF as we are running three camps.

Firstly the Queen's Lancashire Regiment in Cyprus is hosting a party of 25 of our senior cadets and officers in early July. This is another first for the unit and we are looking forward to a military/adventurous package with plenty of sun, sea and fun.

Straight after that, the main summer camp will be at Barry Buddon in Scotland. This is the replacement training camp for the old, former PoW establishment of Cultbraggan. The accommodation and facilities are obviously much more modern!

Finally the RAF is also running a camp this summer. The initial hopes of an attachment in Germany unfortunately did not materialise but instead they are visiting RAF Coningsby.

All this points to the continued success and popularity of the cadet movement. Next year the total numbers of the contingent will approach 300 cadets, as more sixth formers volunteer to stay on as NCO instructors. Many also opt for the BTEC course in Public Services (GNVQ), which may even expand next year to include performing arts.

ADVENTURE TRAINING

February half term saw the annual return to the Carlisle Diocesan Youth Centre in, the very pretty, St John's in the Vale near to Keswick in the North Lakes. We also reverted to a more wintertime of the year, rather than the spring-like April of 2004.

Fearing this maybe more arduous training than usual, especially as Sqn Ldr Callister had some devious 24 hour expedition planned, we set off from school on the Sunday of half term, with a wealth of Arctic gear, prepared for the worst weather. Despite certain problems with minibus keys, we managed to squeeze our 32 cadets and numerous officers, civilian staff and Old Kirkhamians into our transport. The first section departed earlier than the rest as they had to set up their overnight camp in Borrowdale and live off ORPs for 24 hours, (operational ration packs). Although Seathwaite is the wettest place in England, we were exceptionally fortunate all week; the weather was extremely dry but, as expected, sub zero temperatures were experienced. This exercise was designed to test the cadets' camp craft, navigation and mapwork skills and satisfied the demands of the BTEC expedition unit.

Other activities included an interesting orienteering course at Great Tower Plantation, which tested even the most adept and fit competitor. The best recorded time was by Matt Gaddes; the best girls time was set by Georgina Burton, and congratulations to all are well deserved. All the cadets worked hard and enjoyed their day in the south Lakes. The competition was so intense that, for the first time ever, two sections tied for the highest score, so prizes were divided. I must thank all the NCOs for their input and leadership. We were without several U6th NCOs and

the L6th had to take up the reins. They all fully deserved their promotion to full corporal. A mention must be made also that this was the first ever adventurous training camp where the number of girl cadets exceeded that of boys. A sign that girls are tougher, or that they are going for their BTEC qualifications next year?

The duty section spent a few hours on mountain bikes around the Keswick area and returned relatively early in the afternoon to prepare for the expedition. A few spills were recorded, but there was very limited damage to body or bike, which was quite fortunate.

The newest adventurous training activity for KGS cadets was caving. As 40 CTT had a well-qualified instructor, in Sgt Mick Lloyd, we were allowed to take up a package at nearby Ingleton in the Yorkshire Dales. None of the cadets had ever tried this, which was described by one individual as 'climbing in the dark, underground, while it was raining - with wellies on!' Everyone had great fun in the potholes and the apprehension was overcome once they had mastered the 'Cheese Press'

The week went exceptionally quickly and we were all well fuelled by the culinary delights of Lt Col Scott, our CO and master chef. The last evening saw the various presentations and thanks were given to, not only the CCF staff but also 40 CTT, (Sgt Lloyd) and former pupils Nick Bridges and Paul Stanford for all their help.

Lt Col I M Scott

FIELD DAYS

We have had excellent field days over the last two terms. With Sqn Ldr Callister taking over as Training Officer this year, he has devised some interesting and highly enjoyable, night exercises for the cadets. So much so that a limit on numbers has to be put on these events.

The usual Waddecar Inspection day was a success in October, and gave the current 4th year cadets a taste of 'sleeping out'. The new Brigade Commander graced us with his presence and was very pleased with what he saw.

The 5th year decided that they too would like another chance of a night exercise, so Weeton Camp was chosen for the March Field Day. The intention was to create a more tactical, military experience for the troops, as well as the usual bivvy out under the stars. Although very tiring, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the exercise. We were fortunate in having DCCT (rather expensive video game) range available on the camp, which added some realism to the exercise. All the cadets really enjoyed this and it also ran as a stand on the following day.

The 4th years had their very successful field day at Halton-on-Lune, Lancaster, where an assault course, initiative tests and command tasks were undertaken. The main purpose of the day was to test the cadets on their weapon safety and allow them to shoot full bore for the first time.

It is proposed that the summer field day for the 4th year will be another overnight exercise, this time at Holcombe Moor Training Camp near Bury.

BTEC

Mention must be made of the progress with the GNVQ BTEC Qualification in Public Services. After our success last year with three girls completing the award. Charlotte Berry attained our first distinction last term and this was due to hard work and effort on her part. Several more of our NCOs are well on their way to fulfilling the certification later this year.



A Grand Day for Kate

Thanks to Deutsche Bank, Kate Denham, 18, is now £1000 richer. Kate, a Sixth Form student at Kirkham Grammar School and part-time waitress at Dizzy Ducks Tearooms in Wrea Green, was one of 340 young people to be nominated for the Deutsche Bank Spotlight Awards. The awards are for young campaigners who have taken practical action about something they think should be improved in their community. Kate ran the successful STAN campaign, aimed at promoting environmental education among primary school children. Having designed the poster and the slogan, 'Do A Stan: Save the World, Man', Kate visited over 40 primary schools in Lancashire to publicise the campaign. The Spotlight judges were impressed with Kate's work and chose her as one of only five winners. She received her prize at a ceremony in London. Kate described the event as 'a bit like the Oscars - no one knew who was going to win and you had to make a big thank you speech at the end.' Back in Wrea Green, where she is currently living in temporary accommodation, Kate was keen to get on with her A Level studies. 'It's been a funny old year,' she said, 'My house has been consumed by fire, I've been offered a place at Oxford studying Politics, Philosophy and Economics, and now this award! Whatever next?'



Rosemere cancer Run

On Sunday 1st May, over 40 Kirkham Grammar School students, staff and parents donned their running kit and headed for Moor Park in Preston to take part in the Rosemere Cancer Care 5km Fun Run.

All participants took part with typical KGS effort and spirit; the ambition of those out to beat last year's time was equalled by the determination of those who just wanted to reach the finish line in one piece. Clark Tung and Daniel Fryer set the pace for KGS with finishing times of 21.08 and 23.58 respectively. Antonia Price was the first female across the line for Kirkham in a time of 26.53, quickly followed by Emma Jordan and Camille Knowles. Special mention must go to Mr Watson whose dynamic running style and clear determination to beat Mr Taylor reaped rewards in his finishing time of 28.28. A full list of results can

be found at www.ukresults.net. The steady stream of KGS runners crossing the finish line was an impressive sight. They were met by Mrs Brown the school's Bursar who administered a welcome cold drink and chocolate.

The day was an emotional one for many and I cannot thank those who took part enough for their efforts. Money is still being collected, but at the moment we have raised over £1,300 for this very worthwhile charity.

Thanks must be given to Mrs Brown, Mrs Desborough and Mrs Cheyne for their support and enthusiasm with organising the KGS Team and with their cheering on the day.

A Sutcliffe

UK Mathematics Challenge

Over fifty pupils from the fourth and fifth years entered the UK Intermediate Mathematics Challenge. The challenges are aimed at the top end of the ability range so to get even a bronze certificate is an achievement. We were delighted with the results. Eighteen pupils gained either a gold or silver award with gold awards going to John Kings (awarded best in school), Paul Taylor, Heather Reid and Nicola Clough. Even more impressive was the fact that John and Paul both scored highly enough to gain entry into the European round of the competition in which they were both able to gain very creditable marks.

We also entered twenty-six pupils for the UK Junior Mathematics Challenge. Of these, over sixty percent gained a certificate, well above the national average. There were eleven gold and silver awards with golds going to Jacob Hilton, Cat Gaskell, Heather Cara and Alice Whitehead. Jacob achieved the high distinction of being selected to take part in the Junior Mathematics Olympiad. He will be undertaking the examination for this event soon. We wish him all the best.

It is pleasing to see once again that, despite problems nationally which we read in the press about engaging pupils with the subject, at Kirkham interest in mathematics is high and the department continues to flourish.

Beetle Drive

Photograph of the 1st year Beetle drive held in the Old Hall last term organised by Kate Denham and other sixth formers.

SCIENCE AND ANIMAL CLUB

A visit to Blackpool Sea-Life Centre in February gave us hands on experience of handling starfish, crabs and shrimps. The shark feeding demonstration was another highlight, especially since we were directly underneath the feeding platform in the underwater tunnel. Finding 'Nemo' also caused much frivolity although he was probably rather dazed by the numerous camera flashes which resulted.

Another successful outing was to Martin Mere. We were lucky to have a warm, dry afternoon at the end of the Easter term and yet the visitor centre was relatively quiet and peaceful. In fact some of our group were so engrossed, colouring badges and fridge magnets that we practically had to drag them outside to actually see the birds! However, once our tour was underway, we had great fun discovering the various hides and spotting unusual waterfowl. The Hawaiian geese were a popular attraction as they could be encouraged to peck seeds from our hands.



MUSIC



The House Music Festival dominates the Spring Term in the Music Department. Once again there was a very large entry with many excellent individual performances particular Isolyn Donaldson-Ellison who was the overall winner (photo above right with Mrs R Greaves, competition judge). I was particularly pleased this year with the standard and scope of the instrumental ensemble groups as well as some excellent compositions. That students engage in these activities, organising and rehearsing their own groups, is very pleasing to see. Preston House emerged the eventual winners but congratulations must go to all houses for some splendid music making and particularly to Fyde House for a 'revitalised' entry in 2005.

We have had some excellent concerts in our series of Coffee Concerts during the Spring and early Summer Terms. Third Year musicians started the year on Friday 29 January with a very varied and most enjoyable concert. On Friday 29 April the A level musicians presented an excellent event that included Chloë Spencer presenting A2 recital pieces to an appreciative audience. Friday 27 May saw the musicians of the 4th Year present a very enjoyable, and again very varied, concert in the MPH.

An Evening of Music and Verse on Thursday 10 March gave many of the finalists from the Music Festival a chance to shine before a large audience in the Old Hall. The more intimate setting of the Old Hall provided an ideal venue for these musicians who were joined by four of Mrs. Heney's LAMDA pupils in an excellent concert. The Summer Term started with a further visit from the King's Division Normandy Band (photographs above) on Monday 18 April. Almost thirty members of our Concert Band enjoyed an excellent workshop with the Bandmaster, Adrian Kingston, after which they took part in an exciting and excellent evening concert. The final formal event of the year was the Spring Concert, held in the MPH on Thursday 12 May. This concert gave us the chance to say our farewells to a large group of Upper Sixth form musicians, including solo performances from Nicholas Long, Jamie Hill and Chloë Spencer as well as items from the various choirs and instrumental groups.

My thanks go to Leanne Bonney who has been an excellent Secretary to the Music Society for 2005/6. Her encouragement and example to the younger musicians has been much appreciated.



Paristrip

Inspired by their study of Paris as a special topic for part of the A Level French course, our Upper Sixth French students were joined by a number of their colleagues from both Upper and Lower Sixth for a short break in Paris during the February Half Term.

Accompanied by Mr and Mrs Long, they enjoyed a highly enjoyable stay in the French capital, with various groups and individuals each pursuing their own particular area of interest: some were there to practise their French and conduct field work for their A Level coursework; some were there to visit the museums and galleries; one of the party met up with her French penfriend and was entertained by her family; and yes, we all did some shopping, sightseeing, and enjoyed some fine food and wine!

We travelled by Eurostar, trying hard to look like seasoned channel-hoppers, but feeling more like excited children let loose in a sweet shop. Armed with Mr Long's home-made Paris guidebook, the students wasted no time in mastering the Métro and heading for their chosen favourite places: within minutes of our arrival, groups were heading for the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe or Montmartre, and by day two, we all felt like Parisian boulevardiers, hopping nonchalantly on and off the Métro trains, skilfully dodging traffic and ordering food and drink in cafés without translating the menus (well nearly!)

A group of us even joined the Sunday afternoon crowd at a cinema on the Champs Elysées to watch *Le Manège Enchanté* - better known as *The Magic Roundabout*!

Like all trips to Paris, it went too quickly, and left us vaguely wishing we could own a little pied-à terre somewhere on the Ile Saint-Louis, but knowing we probably never would. As consolation, we took away some wonderful memories, loads of photographs, and for the A level French students, bags of inspiration for the coursework project.

Thanks go from all the students to Mr and Mrs Long for their organisation, guidance and enthusiasm. Au revoir, Paris, et à bientôt!!



GERMAN exchange

A new German Exchange for Kirkham Grammar School. Twelve very happy German youngsters and two staff left last Friday to return to Southern Germany after eight days at Kirkham Grammar School. The Head of Modern Foreign Languages, Mr Richard McDowell, began the preparation for this first visit when he joined the school making use of his connections in the area around Tübingen, South of Stuttgart, where he lived for a number of years.

The youngsters were delighted both with the warmth and hospitality of their host families and the reception they received at Kirkham. "The school is just like one very big family", commented one of the pupils from the Eugen-Bolz Gammar School in Rottenburg am Neckar. The party enjoyed a variety of visits and outings and three full days improving their English in school.

The return visit for KGS pupils to Rottenburg began with auspicious weather and an inauspicious flight delay! All pupils were collected at Stuttgart Airport late in the evening and driven home for a brief night's sleep.

They all assembled the following morning bleary-eyed at 07.50, with their partners, for the first of their four mornings in school where they built on the language around them in preparation for their GCSE oral exam.

This time in school was complemented by two full day excursions: the first to Lake Constance and the Swiss border to visit the world-renowned Sea Life Centre. The second to local jurassic caves and onto a nearby water fun park - for many the highlight of the exchange! To draw the day to a close both the KGS pupils and their partners got together for some competitive ten-pin bowling and a meal.

The weekend was spent in the host families many of whom had arranged a variety of outings for their guests, including visits to Munich and the German Alton Towers. The last day saw scenes of tearful farewells at Stuttgart Airport and arrangements being made for return visits in the Summer holidays. A sure sign of a successful exchange!

WRM



Magic Circle



Sorcerer Matthew Denham (4th Year), an amateur magician, has been introducing a group of apprentices to the arcane world of magic throughout the Summer Term. Members of the Circle are sworn to secrecy, but it is rumoured that they have been learning card tricks and sleights of hand. Our undercover photographer managed to snap them in action before the group turned him into a frog. Next term they hope to practise sawing people in half. Any volunteers should contact Matthew.

Diary Dates

'A' Level results
10.00 am, Thursday, 18 August

GCSE results
10.00 am, Thursday, 25 August

1st Year Induction Day
8.45 am, Tuesday, 6 September

New School Year begins
8.45 am, Wednesday, 7 September

Senior School Annual Prizegiving and Speech Day
7.15 for 7.30 pm, Thursday 22 September
at the Guild Hall, Preston

Friends of KGS AGM
Monday, 26 September

Old Kirkhamians' Association AGM
Saturday, 8 October in the Library
followed by
OKA Northern Reunion Dinner
in the Old Hall — 7.00 pm

OKA XV V SPOON A-As XV
Sunday, 9 October — 1st XV pitch

New Parents Welcome Evening
Tuesday, 11 October

Open Afternoon for 11+ entry, September 2006
2.00-4.00 pm on Sunday 16 October

Open Evening
7.15 pm, Monday 14 November
in the Multi Purpose Hall

Friends of KGS Winter Ball
7.30 pm on Saturday, 19 November
at the Imperial Hotel, Blackpool

Friends of KGS Christmas Fair
Friday, 2 December

"Young" OKA Reunion
Sunday, 18 December
Preston Grasshoppers RFC at 7.00 pm

Golden Girl

In early May Paralympic Swimming Champion, Sarah Bailey, visited Kirkham Grammar School in order to talk to A Level Physical Education students. Sarah has competed at the last four Paralympic Games in Barcelona, Atlanta, Sydney and Athens and has won a total of 27 gold medals in international events. Awarded with an MBE in the Queen's New Years Honours List of 1998, Sarah now continues with her swimming career at the grand old age of 28, and looks forward to the next Paralympic games in Beijing.

Sarah spent an hour with the AS Level PE students to discuss topical sporting issues such as disability within sport; sponsorship and Lottery funding; drugs in sport; and media coverage of minority sports. Sarah also shared her own experiences as a top international athlete with the pupils, describing the many hours of work she had to put in as a junior athlete alongside studying for GSCE, and A Level exams, before she moved on to Leeds Metropolitan University to study for her degree in Sports Science.

The PE students were overawed with the swimmer's achievements, remarking on her ability to complete her studies whilst training and competing at the top level. The group wished Sarah well for her forthcoming Paralympic World Cup Competition which takes place in Sheffield between the 6th to 8th May 2005.

KGS TV

Have you ever made the statement 'Exams were far more difficult when I was at School' then read on.....

Everyone likes to think they are smarter than their children and Granada TV is putting them to the test. In January and May 2005, Granada's Department of Documentaries, History & Science, chose Kirkham Grammar School as the backdrop to a unique experiment. Exams are easier these days - that's what we are told, so Granada challenged eight parents to sit GCSE exams alongside their children this summer to find out.

With Kirkham Grammar School as the perfect location, the parents arrived one Saturday morning in January and met in the Old Hall where they sat a series of short tests to give them a taster of what was to come and to give their tutors an insight into just how great a challenge they all faced. GCSEs in Maths and English were compulsory and the parents chose up to two additional subjects. Over lunch and dinner in the Boarding House dining room the parents had an opportunity to gain vital advice from some of our own students on the magnitude of their challenge.

In May, the parents returned to Kirkham to sit their mock exams - only 3 weeks before the real thing! This time they brought along their 16 year old children and what a surprise was in store for them. They had to sit an old fashioned 'O' level in Maths and English and controversially, the children found the 'O' levels easier than GCSEs!

So please beware the next time you make a 'when I was at School' comment to your children - you just may end up back at classroom.

To see how the families got on, you will have to tune into Granada in the Autumn to watch 'Smarter Than Your Kids' which is due to be broadcast on ITVi between the 1st and 9th of September at 9.00pm.

Our School is just the PERFECT LOCATION.



School Uniform Shop

SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2005

From week commencing 11 July — 29 July 2005
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
9.30 am — 12.30 pm
1.30 pm — 4.30 pm

Week commencing 1 August 2005
CLOSED

From week commencing 8 August — 2 September 2005
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
9.30 am — 12.30 pm
1.30 pm — 4.30 pm

Week commencing 5 September 2005
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
8.30 am — 12.30 pm
1.30 pm — 4.30 pm

Thursday & Friday
12.00 noon — 5.00 pm

FROM THE START OF THE AUTUMN TERM

From week commencing 12 September — 21 October 2005
Monday — Friday
12 noon — 5.00 pm

Week commencing 24 October 2005 (Half Term)
CLOSED

From week commencing 31 October — 15 December 2005
Monday — Friday
12.00 noon — 5.00 pm

OLDKIRKHAMIANS' ASSOCIATION



Old boys from across the North West gathered at their alma mater as staff, Governors and Boarders attended a commemoration service to acknowledge the 60th anniversary of VE Day. For some of them, it was the first time they had returned to the school since being educated here during the war years.

Reverend Bill Knowles left school in 1945, subsequently attending St. Johns, Oxford, where he gained a degree in modern Languages. He moved on to Cambridge gaining a first class honours degree in theology. Shortly thereafter he served in the Church of South India, on the Ivory coast and Republique Populaire du Benin.

The service, which took place in the school's Old Hall, was led by the Reverend Bill Knowles. Although now retired, Bill still had the charisma to hold his audience in hushed silence, his address to the congregation beginning with a reading from his diary 60 years ago to the day. Musical accompaniment was provided by the Music Department's Barbara Miller, with Nick Long, Jamie Hill, Suzanne Carter, Jemima Clarke and Lucinda McDade leading the singing and providing a moving rendition of Be thou My Vision (Bob Chilcott).

Old Kirkhamian, Jim Rigby, read out the names of 34 old boys of the school who had lost their lives in the service of their country between 1939 and 1945. Thanks to Head of History, Tim Miller, and a group of Third Year pupils, each of those named was traced through the Commonwealth War Graves website and certificates produced showing name, rank, serial number and squadron/regiment, together with photographs of the cemetery where they had finally been laid to rest. These certificates were added to the display of wartime posters which adorned the back of the Old Hall.

Archive material was brought out and dusted, as was a variety of artefacts from the period, courtesy of John Holland, the youngest old boy of the school to take part in the celebrations. Not only did he arrive in a WW2 jeep, he was also dressed for the part!



Left to right: G Chatburn (1937-47), J Major (1940-48), J Rigby (1936-42), GWS Knowles (1938-45), J Kerr (1934-39), H Parkinson (1929-34), L Rathbone (1941-48, President of the OKA 2004-05), J Prew (1943-48) and A Wood (1940-47)



New School Mascot
On sale in the Uniform Shop at £8.50 is the new school Teddy Bear Mascot wearing a KGS 1st XV rugby shirt.



School Captains Old and New
Gerry Chatburn (Captain of school 1946/7) first time back at KGS after 58 years with Nick Long (Captain of school 2004/5)



Hazel Fox



Joan Wong



John Kings

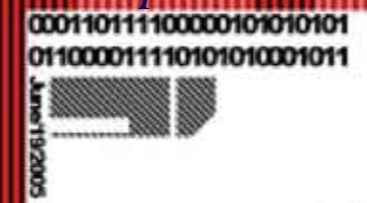
John Kings



Kimi Poon



A Level Art group



Background by Marcus Evans

GCSE Exhibition



ARTWORKS 2005



Service to the Community

This year (2005) the Rotary Club marked their Anniversary with the presentation of a new award for 'Service to the Community'. Natalie Hayhurst (picture above) was chosen from a number of possible candidates for her outstanding record of commitment to charity work, both within the School and in the local community. Her work takes her into her local junior school, keeps her active in her parish and involves her in school both on the Charity Committee and within the Young Enterprise Group who direct their funds to charitable purposes. Natalie was presented with the cup by Mr Paul Leeson, President of the Rotary Club of Kirkham and Rural Fylde.

Rotary North West Regional Essay Writing Competition

Two talented young writers from Kirkham Grammar School were excited to hear that they had won prizes in the Rotary North West Regional Essay Writing Competition.

Following Heather Cara's success last year in scooping Fourth prize in this prestigious competition, Kirkham Grammar School, with the support of Kirkham Rotary Club, entered three essays (the maximum permitted) for the 2006 competition, which was on the subject "Why Animals Matter". The partnership of Kirkham Grammar School and Kirkham Rotary Club were delighted by the success of Kerry Emmett and Antonia Price (picture below), both first year pupils, who were awarded second and third prizes respectively. The two wordsmiths received a Rotary Certificate of Achievement and book tokens from Mr Paul Leeson, President of the Rotary Club of Kirkham and Rural Fylde.



Rotary Technology Tournament

In March the Young Engineers Club entered three teams into the 2005 Rotary Technology Tournament. The competition held at the University of Central Lancashire attracted over 25 teams from schools across the local area and required the students to design and build a weight-powered vehicle. Our 1st Year team of William Rickson, Stuart Spencer, Oliver Evans and Rowan Leech (picture above) took first prize in the Basic category of the competition. A team comprising Paul Taylor, Philip Hingley, William Bruton, Joe Robinson (picture top) won the Advanced category of the competition with our 4th Year team narrowly missing out on the honours in the Intermediate competition.

Rotary Youth Leadership Award

Once again The Rotary Club of Kirkham and Rural Fylde very kindly offered to sponsor a student from KGS to go on the Rotary Youth Leadership Award Course at Castle Head Field Centre, Grange over Sands. Rachel Brown (bottom left picture) from our lower sixth was selected and she had a brilliant week of adventure.

Rachel took part in many activities for example: Ghyll Scrambling; Traversing at Humphrey Head; Abseiling; Charity Car wash for Derian House Children's Hospice; Mountain Expedition up Scarfell Pike the list is endless. She also listened to many interesting talks and enjoyed debating on topics she felt strongly about.

Many thanks must go to Rotary for all their help and support in order to make the week possible as Rachel learnt many new skills and developed her young leadership skills. Rachel also managed to overcome her fear of heights and win the award for motivator of the week from within her team. Rachel would like to say a special thank you to Mr Derek Cookson and Mr Barrie Stacey who took the time out of their busy schedules to visit Rachel for the final dinner and presentation evening.



FRIENDS



Teachers do make a difference!

Whether retired or not, some teachers really do make a difference at Fun Day. The return of the very likeable, outspoken Fred Sayer to cook at our barbeque, the wet sponge throwing at the Junior School Headmistress, Lesley Taylor, the gunge pouring over Junior School teacher, Chris Butterworth and the Junior School Ensemble led by Peter Lockett really did make a difference to the fun experience by children and parents alike. Other teachers, too numerous to mention by name, but nonetheless critical to our success, give their time year after year to raise money to help the school. This year we raised approximately £3,500 in just over four hours and the feedback from the pupils was "best ever"!

New this time were the snakes and spiders, donkeys and a giant slide and the Rock FM Thunder Truck, but familiar attractions still proved popular such as the climbing wall, the Army's Assault course and Paintball Shooting to name but a few. For parents, the search for a bargain could be obtained from the traditional cake stall, the plant stall, the 'As good as new' uniform stall, Julie's stall and the two tombola stalls. My thanks to everyone who made the day such a success: the members of the Friends, teachers, those parents who manned the attractions and those who contributed cakes, sellable goods and prizes.

I think it is worth mentioning a comment given to me by the operator of the inflatable slide and echoed by his wife. I quote "This is the best mannered school I have ever attended. The children are so well behaved and polite and I have been

to a lot of schools". A tribute to the school and parents.

The school year would not be complete without a mention of the Friends Summer Ball. This was another remarkable event. It was sold out within weeks of the letter going out. We had to extend the marquee to accommodate a massive 394 guests. We still had a long waiting list for cancellations. Guests arrived to a Champagne Reception in the Old Hall and then transferred to the beautifully decorated marquee where they ate a magnificent buffet and partied the night away in style. These events are planned well in advance and require a lot of hard work. My thanks to all those involved for making the evening such a memorable occasion.

Another school year ends and another commences. Some pupils start, others leave and so it is with parents which means the Friends lose experienced members. We are constantly looking for help throughout the year to assist at our fundraising events, but if you would like to meet other parents and get involved in the life of the school, then join the Friends. For a 'friendly' chat (excuse the pun!) give me a call on 01253 712890. We do make a difference raising over £13,000 a year and having fun in the process.

R Dunn
Chairman
Friends of Kirkham Grammar School

HELMSHORE MILL

On Tuesday 1st March 2005, two third year classes (3X and 3W) went on a history trip to Helmsshore Textile Museum. On arrival, we were split into four groups and sent on our way.

Our guide, Berni, took our group to the River Ogden just outside the mill. As we walked, she explained how the water from the river was regulated and used to power the machinery in the mill. We saw the weirs that are used to slow the water flow, the head-race, which connects the river to the mill pond and the sluice gates which controlled the flow of the water.

When we went indoors, we were taken to see the water wheel and all the machines that it controlled. We saw the Felling Stocks, which were used to flatten the cloth. We also saw the Rotary Milling Machines, which were more modern machines that used detergent to clean the cloth (rather than the urine that was used previously!). Then, it was lunchtime.

After lunch, we watched several videos on different inventions, and inventors, that helped to develop mills and cotton production. We then went into the actual mill room and saw some working machines making the cloth.

Our last activity, though the hardest, was the most enjoyable. We were each given some wool and taught how to turn it into thread. It's not as easy as it looks!



Young ENTERPRISE

Shazaam's efforts throughout the year were rewarded at the Fylde Area Board Competition, which took place in Fleetwood at the beginning of term. At the competition, this year's Young Enterprise company produced a five minute presentation in the style of a news broadcast to summarise their company year. They also produced a trade stand and a company report which included financial accounts as part of the competition. Shazaam received the trophy for 'runner up' company in the Fylde. The team were a little disappointed with this but all members should be proud of their performance.

The company year has now drawn to a close leaving the members to concentrate on their AS levels. All profits have been donated to various charities. We hope that all involved have enjoyed the Young Enterprise experience

as well as gaining skills which will be useful to them in the future. We would like to thank the company's business advisors, Paul Desborough and Robert Dunn, who have helped to make Shazaam such a success and also all staff and pupils at KGS who have supported the company throughout the year.

We look forward to starting again next year with the current fifth year and we encourage all potential entrepreneurs to begin to think of ideas.

Sarah Howe / Andrea Johnson





DRAMA 2005



The Drama Department continues to thrive with another successful production behind us as well as some wonderful theatrical activities and workshops to boot. The KGS production of Macbeth in February has been the theatrical highlight of the year. With a cast and crew of over 70 pupils across all years, this was a major event and a triumph. We set the classic Shakespearean tragedy in modern times and really went to town with the grit and gore of the play. Macbeth, played by Tristan Brook, evolved into a truly evil dictator, a world away from the loyal soldier and sensitive husband of the opening; the final fight scene between Macbeth and Macduff (a fabulous interpretation of the role by Josh Wardell) was almost too realistic to watch. We also went to town with several gory special effects; blood bags that burst on the butchered Macduff children (Peter Chapman and Rowan Leech) who were slaughtered despite the best efforts of their mother, Lady Macduff played by Melissa Swain; we had a knife that drew blood and a stage jugular vein which successfully spurting as Banquo (Freddie Buxton) had his throat slit. Luckily the stage blood we used was edible as Freddie also had to dribble it from his mouth during the banquet scene. Yum yum!

We also created a vast metal frame on three levels from which the witches constantly watched and plotted as their temptation of Macbeth drew to its terrible conclusion. In our version the witches (Caroline Desborough, Lucy Cherry and Chloë Spenser) were life-size string puppets controlled and encouraged by their puppeteers (Abby Wilkinson, Maddie Eaves and Liz Poskett) and witch goddess Hecate (Sarah-Jayne Kerfoot). Fiona Wright produced a powerful and engaging performance as Lady Macbeth destined to die at her husband's hands in our interpretation.

The cast were ably supported by a dynamic back stage crew lead by Susie Leyland and Grace Skinner. The overall production concept created with spectacular lighting design by Alison Walker, some atmospheric music choices by Graeme Barrie, dynamic choreography from Katie Glover and fabulous costume by Mrs Nancy Barrie, was haunting and unsettling but truly fabulous. Tristan Brooke as Macbeth produced a tremendously energetic and terrifying performance and it will come as no surprise that Tristan has been accepted into the National Youth Theatre. This is tremendous achievement particularly for a student so young; we congratulate him. Watch this space for further developments in this budding young actor's career.

Other events this term have been theatre visits to see Fame and The Seagull, with future trips to Talking to Terrorists and Jim Cartwright's Eight Miles High plus a London trip to see The Tempest in The Globe as well as Guys and Dolls. Finally all of the fourth and fifth year and many sixth formers enjoyed Splendid Productions' The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui performed in the MPH with drama workshops to follow for all the exam class drama students.



MACBETH





Rock CONCERT



Kirkham Grammar School enjoyed a night of extrovert performances and superb music. 3 rock bands played in aid of a charity concert to raise money for the Tsunami appeal. First on the bill were a 3rd year group (below) specially formed for the concert, who despite a few technical glitches were received well. Next up were The Unheard (above), fronted by 4th Year students Ashley Parkinson and Josh Wardell, with an excellent display of drumming from 2nd Year Ben Lucas. Their own compositions blended well with their selected cover versions and show much promise for the future.

The main attraction of the evening was the 6th Form group Enigma (left). Consisting of rhythm guitarists Will Horton and Ben Fisher, drummer Tab, lead guitarist Alex Miller and bass/vocals from staff member Phil Reeves, the band blazed through songs from over 20 years of music. The set list was varied, with heavier music being balanced by indie/alternative tunes and all agreed it was a spectacular finale to an exhilarating evening. A DVD and photos from the night will be available soon, with Enigma hoping it will result in other gigs around the Fylde area.

Photographs of all the bands can be seen on the web at: www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/photos





ski TRIP

This year's ski trips were a great success with over 120 pupils and staff hitting the slopes of Europe. Due to popular demand the annual party quota of 60 doubled as deposits flew into school. Therefore it was decided to run two trips simultaneously. A junior trip led by myself to Pra Loup in France and a senior one led by Mr Scott to Tonale in Italy.

The day before departure to Pra Loup, the rep from the ski company contacted me with some bad news. Due to a sudden rise in temperature in the French Alps, our resort was about to close, the snow was melting fast. However, they were arranging contingency plans for us to ski from a nearby resort.

After a nine hour journey we finally arrived at Pra Loup. This was to be our base camp as we would now be skiing in the nearby resort of Vars due to the deteriorating snow conditions. As our party poured into our new home for the week, the Hotel Patenoire, the staff prepared for the next phase of our alpine adventure.

For all skiers the first part of any ski holiday is the fitting out of boots, skis, poles and helmets. Within an hour we had all pupils and staff ready and sun-creamed for the scorching slopes. Unlike most resorts where we would now ascend via cable car to the slopes, we took a rather leisurely scenic route with our resident Italian bus company to transfer to Vars. We wound our way down the steep Alpine valleys past WWII hilltop fortresses, then threaded our way up to Vars. During the week we did this one hour "Hannibal run" twelve times which, on reflection, was not as bad as it sounds as the scenery was spectacular. Also the return journey each day was an opportunity to relax and in some cases (Mr Watson) have a sleep before the evenings' entertainment.

Each morning all ski school classes were in progress by 10.00. After two hours skiing we had a picnic lunch. Some pupils sought to supplement the food provided with crepes whilst furthering their command of spoken French in the local shops. For others it was a good chance to sit down and discuss what had happened during the previous ski session. The more energetic amongst us took part in the lunchtime sport session, snow balling. Generally this was confined to our group but on the odd occasion it revived the love between the two countries separated by the English Channel, as the battle of 'Agincourt' was re-enacted. All weapons were laid to ground and skis were promptly mounted as the ski instructors approached to take pupils for a further two hour ski lesson each afternoon.



After very good evening meals each night pupils still had room for crepes and pizzas bought from the local takeaway. We also enjoyed a full week's entertainment programme including Ten Pin Bowling, a quiz night, town trail, table football and pool competitions and also the popular Disco Night. Each night before the meal we would also have our own award presentations. Categories included 'Blond on the piste' and the 'Huggy Bear Awards' with winners required to wear a selection of silly wigs. These were awarded for acts of daring or silliness while skiing that day. Recipients of the awards included Henry Redshaw, Rebecca Bridgewater, Thomas Watson and James Gardiner. Several incidents included Tom Watson skiing over a cliff, Matthew Bennett trying to ski through a shed, Rebecca Bridgewater wiping out half her own ski group in one swoop and James Gardiner doing the splits on landing from a jump onto a metal box in the Jump Zone. Thankfully after all that we had just three minor injuries, one occurring when Mrs Miller was poleaxed by a snowboarder.

We all have happy memories of an excellent trip that will stay with us for many years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff that helped make the trip run smoothly and all the pupils for their enthusiasm and good behaviour. Mr Scott reports that his trip came to an equally good conclusion.

Photos of Pra Loup can be viewed at:
www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/photos

Mr S Gardiner

Photos On-line

The school's website now has an archive of photos ranging from Drama to Rugby and The Sixth Form Ball to Cricket. Photos taken by Mr Gardiner can be viewed in a slide view format. The web address is:

www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/photos





Sixth Form Leavers Ball 2005



CRICKET



interHouseevents



an early collapse by Kirkham (he's obviously been watching Mark Chilton!), his 27th guiding the House to 70 for 7. Kirkham bowled and fielded gallantly in reply, but alas to no avail, Fylde reaching 71 for 1 with just 2 overs remaining. But make no mistake; this was not as easy a victory as it looks on paper. A decisive factor was when Darren Bell stepped on his own wicket. Darren, I'm delighted to report, walked immediately having informed the umpire — you're to be applauded for your honesty and sense of fair play Darren.

"Bang! — Steady on Bill", School's hard and fast approach in the semi-final completely destroyed Bangladesh influenced Preston house, in what turned out to be the biggest win for years in House cricket. In the final Fylde were victors' thanks largely to some crackerjack shots from the Brylcream boy himself, centurion Robert Sissons. Compton would have been proud of you, Robert.

A great turn out for Sports Day once again, and fortunately the showers of earlier weeks remained far away. Things were close, mighty close, 1st and 2nd places hingeing on the final relays. School's Senior Boys team were going for Gold — looking awesome on the team sheet. Disaster! On the 3rd leg 'King' Harold Buchanan's hamstring went. School House's troops fled the scene blinded by panic. But not so 'Housecarl' Oye who fought right to the end. Alas Harold's injury meant 'Hastings' and hence the crown was placed in hands of the House of Fylde. It was certainly 'one in the eye' for School House — sorry! It was definitely not the way to lose Sports Day. Credit to Fylde, who seemed stronger and better organised than in previous years.

Events still to come include Junior Cricket, Tennis and Rounders and also the Work Cup (Kirkham's, I'm sure!). Even so, it is highly likely that Fylde will win the Whitby Cup (Overall winners). Well done to their Housemaster Mr. Reeves who has organised his House well and kept morale high. An excellent achievement.

And so that's it, from both this report and also from myself, the mantle being passed to Mrs. Glover. It's been both my pleasure and my privilege to serve my House family over the last few years. I'd like now, if I may, to add a thought on the subject of 'victory'. Maybe Frasier Crane and Lord Tennyson can best explain (the below verses are from Tennyson's Ulysses and were quoted in the last episode of the television show Frasier)....

"It may be that the gulfs will wash us down;
It may be we shall touch the Happy Isles.
And though we are not now that strength which in
old days
Moved earth and heaven; that which we are, we
are;
Made weak by time and fate, but strong in will
To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

Over to Frasier...

"I've been thinking about this poem a lot recently. I think what it means is that while it may be tempting to play it safe, it is the chances we didn't take that we regret the most".

May we be encouraged to be bold in our pursuit of excellence whilst loving the competition beyond the prize. As the ink dries, the rainclouds have now departed, and night, "making all things dimly beautiful", has settled on the Fylde.

Goodnight to you all. Pleasant dreams...

Mr. S Duncan (House Recorder)

Rainy Days and Mondays. (Inter-house events)

"All men dream, but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake in the day to find that it was vanity; but the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act their dream with open eyes, to make it possible."

T. E. Lawrence.

Have you ever met a girl called 'Rain' before? There's a girl in the Woody Allen film *Husbands and Wives* named Rain, so called according to Woody, "because that's a beautiful name". Mr. Allen continues, "I love the rain. When I get up in the morning and I look out of the window, if it's cloudy and grey, I'm ok - the more dreary the better. If it's really grey and raining, it's fine. If it's bright and sunny, I have trouble dealing with the day." Fortunately for Woody and myself (a like-minded fan of the wet stuff) it's been pouring it down all day. I've just returned from a Monday evening stroll absolutely soaked to the bone and am now sitting in a mild state of delirium in front of the fire. Somewhere down the line I think I'm meant to write a House Report...I'll get to that in a minute! Our great film director concludes, "Rain forces people together — suddenly people have to stay inside the house, they have to be together, and it becomes more intimate. It gives an atmosphere for sharing and togetherness. Things become more moody, more confessional. You tend to want to confess more and express your deeper feelings more." In such light I'll put pen to paper and have a look at some of our own "togethernesses" (confessions and all) over the last term or so.

It's summer, so let's begin with Rugby?! But rest assured, despite Dr Rollins and his Wigan Rugby League ways, the code remains firmly Union. So, no half time pies then! Whilst recognising that "oranges are not the only fruit" the Jaffas and Outspans remain, much to the relief of Mr. Trenhaile and his strict diet sheet! Fylde's victory in the senior competition was significant as it has been School House who have dominated proceedings over the years. The School v

Fylde match was extremely competitive, School were strong but unable to deal with Fylde's pace. All-round sportsman Robert Sissons (rugby, cricket and football — plays for Bolton Wanderers don't you know) proved to be the key man. School finished 2nd followed by Preston and Kirkham. In the Intermediates Kirkham House had a strong side but I'm afraid somewhat lost their cool, finishing 3rd. No surprise that under Dr. Rollins' influence that Preston were the victors, having played well throughout, followed by Fylde 2nd and School in 4th place. The juniors, it must be said, are just beginning to learn the game. Despite some atrocious downpours throughout, there were still several close and entertaining games. Fylde look good for the future (1st) whilst School struggled (4th). Preston pipped Kirkham to be runners-up.

"Anyone for tennis?" — Not now Cliff! Although it was certainly a case of 'Congratulations' for Preston's Michael Briggs and Jenny Dewhurst, whose Doubles pairing lost only one game out of three rubbers, playing some thrilling stuff en-route to victory. It was extremely close for the remaining places, 2nd, 3rd and 4th, honours falling to Fylde, School and Kirkham respectively. A word here regarding the sartorial elegance of Mr. Reeves, Fylde's Housemaster. A fine line in this season's designer tracksuits was modelled for us on the Monday of the Senior Tennis competition. "More changes in a day than Mr. Benn," was one comment! Still, it certainly had the desired effect on the team!

"I don't like cricket...I love it!" — and wasn't the standard high this year. (Mind you as a Lancashire member I have been starved of any quality for a couple of years, but nevertheless...) One of our cricket pitches has a lovely pastoral setting with splendid views over rolling fields — very much Betjeman's England. And so maybe it should come as no surprise to discover that, on an idyllic Monday, our Cricketers were "summoned by bells" to the various outfields. "Summoned" largely by the enthusiasm of the Bell brothers, Messers Sam and Darren. Fourth Year Sam (the youngest member of the senior team) held things together to ensure respectability after

SPORTSDAY 2005

1st	Fylde	667.0 pts.
2nd	School	660.0 pts.
3rd	Preston	608.5 pts.
4th	Kirkham	585.5 pts.



Victrix and Victor Ludorum winners

Seniors:

Jane Greenwood (School) Stephen Hatch (Fylde).

Inters:

David Kos (Preston) / Matthew Davies (Kirkham)
Abigail Wilkinson (School).

Juniors:

Chris Travis (Preston) Elizabeth Woodburn (School).

These photographs and many more can be found
on-line at:
www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/photos



SPORTS NEWS

SPORTING REVIEW (February-July 2005)

It is impossible in any review of sporting highlights to mention everyone in a school as busy as this. It is, however, evident when one examines what has gone on that a remarkable number have participated, be it anywhere between international level or 'B'/'C' team. This breadth is so important in giving so many the opportunity to be a part of a team and its availability owes so much to the hard work of the Games staff and all those who help and assist them.

Since our last Newsletter in February a great deal has occurred on the sporting front, beginning with the exciting conclusion of the Winter Sports programme. Our rugby players basked in the limelight with five of their number gaining recognition with Under 18 International Caps. Captain Glen Townson, Luke Doherty, Marcus Jackson, Adam Lewis (picture right England action) and Jordan Page (picture above right) all achieved this high accolade but I am sure they would be the first to admit that they benefited from the high level of competition and commitment within the 1st XV Squad this year. They played some excellent rugby and acted as superb ambassadors for the school. Their example appears to have been well heeded as the junior teams recorded some notable successes. From the Under 16's who enjoyed a memorable Floodlit Cup Final at Liverpool St Helens to the Under 13's who lost bravely in the Lancashire Cup Final at Fleetwood, all our teams performed admirably. Great improvements were made by the Under 14's and Under 12's while the Under 15's began to find a successful rhythm towards the end of the year.

In the world of Hockey we were excited to host our first ever Hockey Festival at KGS. The event saw Millfield, British Colleges, Glasgow Academy, Strathallan and Stockport join us on a cold day in March to compete for the inaugural trophy. It could not have been more exciting with the final moment of the final game determining the destination of the trophy. In missing a penalty flick Millfield succumbed to the British Colleges team who became our first winners. Our own performance was most creditable, with a draw against the winners. We finished in mid-table and Jessica Morris finished as the tournament's top scorer with Zoe Kirkham adjudged the best goalkeeper. While the girls themselves were a little disappointed this was only a consequence of the standards they had set through the season as winners of the U19 Lancashire Trophy and the Cheadle Seven-a-side Cup. As always our teams performed to high levels throughout the age groups, with a particularly strong 2nd XI recording many victories against school 1st teams. At Under 16 and Under 15 level we acquitted ourselves well and the U14 XI were a revelation, turning their back on the last two years and recording a long unbeaten run in the second half of the season. The Under 13's and Under 12's appear to have tremendous potential and both suffered only the odd defeat at the start of the season. It is a reflection of the quality of the teams that no less than twenty players represented the County at age group level.

Without our own dedicated swimming facilities it is of enormous credit that our swimmers are so active. The year has seen some exciting competition with some productive mixed galas. The teams have recorded victories against powerful opponents in Bolton Grammar School and Stonyhurst – the latter after a swim off won by Luke Paterson. Individually it is pleasing to see Rachel Armistead reach the National Swimming Championships.

The summer Cricket season has been a little waterlogged especially with the early start to the term. The 1st XI has had mixed success with victories against Merchant Taylor's and Clitheroe Grammar School alongside defeats against local rivals Arnold, Hutton and King Edward and Queen Mary, Lytham. Robert Sissons once again recorded a century with 106 against Clitheroe Grammar School.

At junior level the Under 15's progressed well with no less than three of the team gaining selection for the 1st XI. At other levels mixed results have been seen amidst some close games. What has been particularly pleasing has been the instigation of a 'B' team league at U13 and U14 level against local 'A' teams. This breadth of opportunity has done much to offset our failure to progress in the Cup competitions this season.

Athletics has also suffered from the weather with the cancellation of two fixtures and even as I write we await a damp return of our teams from the English Schools Regional Finals. This has most certainly represented one highlight of the year with all our teams (junior girls/boys and Inter girls/boys) reaching the Regional finals of this prestigious competition. Training has gone well and while it is difficult for a school with relatively small numbers to compete at this level the athletes have done extraordinarily well to reach this stage. The strength of competition has been further exemplified with no less than four of our pupils becoming County Champions. Sarah Hatch (Discus); Rody Hothersall (Javelin); Wasim Riley (Long Jump) and Christopher Travis (Triple Jump) all won their events but the day also saw us record three further second placements and three third (picture above right).

Most recently our athletics competed in the Fylde Coast Championships. In the boys event we came out winners overall alongside victories in the U12 and U13 age groups. The Girls came away with the U17 trophy (picture right Mel Smith) after an excellent display at Stanley Park against strong opposition.

Please use the school website for the latest information/reports on sports at KGS at:

www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/sport

