

Kirkham Grammar School

Headmaster's Letter to Parents

Summer 2006





From the Headmaster

At the end of another term one is left breathless after such a busy period crammed with public examinations and the usual array of activities in which our pupils participate with such enthusiasm. In my position I would like to be there to witness them all but such is the breadth of what has gone on I am left sampling only a fraction of the term's events. As this Newsletter is now bi-annual we have also included the latter half of the Spring Term to attempt to give a balanced record of our school over the past weeks. I hope you find the Newsletter interesting and additionally that it provides our pupils with a lasting keepsake of their days at school.

Each day this term I have tried to keep an eye on the progress of our new Performing Arts Studio and Pavilion (picture far right). We understand it will be completed by the end of term, a little later than anticipated but fully operational in September. I believe this will enhance the work of both our Theatre Studies and Games Departments. For those used to covering on the touchlines at hockey matches I also hope it will provide a refuge and the prospect of a hot drink!

Having secured external Trust funding to move forward with the Pavilion the Governors have now announced the refurbishment of the boys boarding house which will be

underway at the beginning of the holiday and completed by September. New washroom facilities, study bedroom accommodation and redecoration will provide a much enhanced living space for our boarders who are very much at the core of the school community.

We are also underway with planning for the next phase of our classroom development, enabling us to dispense with the Wareing buildings. Although still in the process of planning this will mark an exciting threshold in the school's development. Such commitment to the school's future has been the hallmark of the Governors work over recent years and I am grateful for their hard work and dedication to the school.

Such is the nature of the activities undertaken during this period it is impossible to report on all aspects of school life but I do hope this magazine gives insight into many of the different aspects. The varied achievements of our Climbers, Cadets, Musicians, Artists, Sportsmen and Women, Thespians and Young Enterprise group has brought a great deal of pleasure and excitement and I can only commend the enthusiasm of all concerned. Of particular note was the outstanding success of the Young Enterprise team. After two tense finals of the competition they gave us a hatful of trophies and a good deal of excitement. The team and their guides deserve great credit

for the hard work that went into the year. To generate such a degree of teamwork over a sustained period was a real achievement and deserved the success gained.

The Easter holidays even provided a glimpse of the variety of commitment made by staff and pupils. A successful Duke of Edinburgh award expedition braved the weather in the Lake District while our skiers enjoyed the snow in Les Deux Alpes. The U15 rugby squad sampled some culture in Venice during their tour to Italy alongside our fifth formers polishing up their German in Tubingen on their annual exchange. Even beyond this the CCF enjoyed a highly successful Adventure Training week. In all 250 pupils ventured away on school organised trips led by twenty five staff in all. Such opportunities do so much to engender the independence and sense of responsibility in our youngsters and I am thrilled that we are able to continue with such a programme in the face of increasing bureaucracy.

Most recently we have seen continued success on the sports field. After the outstanding success on the Sevens circuit in March with the 1st Sevens reaching the Quarter Finals in the National Schools Sevens and our girls victories in the Cheadle hockey tournament, there was always a danger of anti climax this term. Not to be as our athletes have excelled themselves in the English Schools Tournament and Fylde championships. Equally the Tennis teams have progressed well in the County Tournaments and our cricketers continue to progress, including now regular B team fixtures. As always the commitment of the pupils knows no bounds and I must thank all the parents who have done so much to support them in all they do.

The end of the school year always brings the departure of some valued colleagues although this year there are relatively few changes. We do, however, say goodbye to Mr Warren who has taught chemistry during Miss Heathcote's maternity leave and created such an excellent impression in all that he has done both within the classroom and in his contributions to DoE and beyond. Additionally, we also say thank you once again to Mrs Fletcher and Mr Noble who have returned to the school after retirement to take over teaching groups once

again this year. It has been so nice to see them in school once again and I hope that they will continue to assist us in the future when the cry for help arises! Their contribution has been so important this year.

Within the support staff we have said our farewells recently to Mrs Hayton, School Secretary, who has moved on to spend more time with her grandchild. Mrs Hayton will be known to many through her contribution to school over 12 years both in terms of administrative support, contribution to the RAF contingent and a hugely significant role with the Old Kirkhamian Association which have all been invaluable. She will also maintain her links with the school through her work with the OKA.

As summer now approaches all that remains is to wish everyone a pleasant break before we gather together again, hopefully refreshed, in September. For those moving on after results day we hope you will all keep in touch with us back at school and that you enjoy the next exciting step in your careers. Good luck!



On these two pages are photographs of the following:

From top left clockwise. The Headmaster, 1st years act out a poem from the Poet in Residence day, Lamara Hill wins the Junior Girls Victrix Ludorum on Sports Day, the School Prefects 2006-2007 with Captains of school Alex Bonney and Tristan Brooke, Adventure training at "Go Ape", trumpeter Matthew Ross with the King's Division Normandy Band, the clock on the new Performing Arts Studio and Pavilion, Mr McDowell with Max Adlmaier at the Sixth Form Ball, Mr Douglas Walker receiving an Investor in People plaque from Mrs Georgie Marsden, Workforce Development Advisor of Business Link Lancashire and third year art student Heather Cara receives advice from Artist in Residence Pat Mountford during the "Coasters" project.





Duke of Edinburgh Award

This year over 45 students have started their Bronze D of E Award, a further 25 are undertaking their Silver and during the summer holidays 17 Sixth Formers will undertake a gold expedition, which for two of the participants (Joanne Box and Rachel Brown) will be the final part of their Gold Award.

During the May half-term twelve Fourth Years completed their bronze expedition and returned from Snowdonia wanting to return! Thanks must be expressed to the staff, Mr Callister, Mrs Copland, Miss Cummings and Mr Hancock for making their expedition an experience to remember.

Finally, to those students who started an Award and may have found other things have got in the way, remember you have until you are 25 yrs old to finish; you can even complete an Award in the Sixth Form that you started in the Fourth Year!



Climbing Club

In March the climbing club staged a sponsored climb at Ingleton indoor climbing centre. The aim was to raise funds to support Ben Fisher (who is a member of the climbing club) in his gap year project. All twelve climbers successfully completed 20 routes and managed to raise nearly £900. Ben is planning to spend a month in Sri Lanka, where he will be carrying out community work in Tsunami affected areas. He will spend his time teaching English, organising recreational activities and providing entertainment for children as well as planting trees, clearing rubbish from beaches and renovating damaged buildings.

The generally good weather in the summer term has allowed the club to climb outdoors most Thursdays, visiting the gritstone quarries of Anglezarke, Wilton and Troy as well as Crookrise Crag in the Yorkshire Dales. Crookrise provided the first experience of "Natural Grit" for many pupils and it was good to see how quickly some adapted to the demands of this lovely rock. Joanne Forrest and Sarah Quarby have both made rapid progress outdoors, so that Elena Gaddes may soon face a serious challenge to her position as top female climber. This year's Upper Sixth contains a group of very talented climbers who will be sadly missed when they leave at the end of the year, but the Lower Sixth also contains good climbers such as Paul Taylor, Nicola Clough and Joe Robinson, so this has been a very successful year for the club.



BAE Systems Schools and Colleges Micromouse Competition

On Saturday 1 July, Kirkham Grammar School was very proud to host BAE Systems Schools and Colleges Micromouse Competition. This national competition attracted students from schools across the country and during the competition 57 robotic mice battled it out across the four formulae. Sadly, due to a range of technical problems, KGS Young Engineers failed to come away with any of the formula prizes this year, however, Matthew Bousfield and Thomas Charter's mouse 'Come on England' did win a Judges' Award for the most topically named mouse. Mention must also be made of Vincent Grumme's mouse 'Trumper' who not only gained a very respectable 5th place in the difficult Formula 3 competition but narrowly missed out on the prizes when it battled its' way through to an excellent 4th place in the Formula 1 competition. Peter Armstrong, one of the club's elder statesmen, brought his winning mouse 'Rattle & Squeak' from last years' competition to secure a 4th place in the Formula 3 category and was unlucky not to win a Judges' Award for his innovative new walking mouse 'Mutant Mouse'.

At this point in the year I must thank the officers of the club, Joe Douglass, Jamie Panepinto and Oliver Youngman for all the hard work they have put in during the last two years and for all the support and help that they have given the younger members of the club. I would also like to congratulate the new club officials, Oliver Evans, Rowan Leech and Stuart Spencer on their appointment as we look forward to another year of engineering activities.



Royal Navy Operation Intercept 2006 National Finals

Pictured in front of a Royal Navy Wessex helicopter are Joe Douglass and Oliver Youngman with their boat, HMS Dauntless at the Royal Navy Operation Intercept 2006 National Finals held at HMS Sultan in Gosport.

The competition attracted entries from 80 schools nationally of which 30 were selected for this year's National Final held on 30 March 2006. In a re-enactment of a recent real-life Royal Navy operation involving HMS Westminster, teams had to design, build and remotely control a model craft that could both disable a fleeing 'drug running' vessel and collect packages of 'drugs' from the surface of the water.

Teams had to make a five-minute presentation of their design to senior Royal Navy officers and were also judged on the quality of their final design, teamwork and corporate ID. Joe and Oliver's craft successfully completed the challenge, but unfortunately in a time outside of the prize winners.

Other highpoints of the event were an over-night stay aboard HMS Bristol and a flight over Portsmouth for all competitors in a RN Sea King Helicopter.





Melanie Smith



Captains of School
Alexandra Bonney & Tristan Brooke

PREFECTS 2006-2007



Jessica Ashworth



Jonathan Knowles



Phillip Hingley



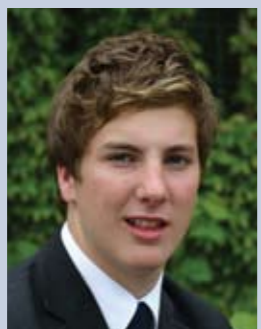
Joseph Robinson



Kerry Bargelli



Luke Sanders



Alexander Redshaw



James Walker



Simon Pitman



Richard Kwasnicki



Gordon Cheng



Oliver Fisher



Jemma Thackray



Lisa Isles



Kate Gledhill



Sarah Cooper



Rebecca Preskey



Jenny Dewhurst



Lauren Aspden



Natalie Roberts



ITALY TOUR

The U15XV team have returned from a very successful Tour to Italy over the Easter period.

They were undefeated in the three games that were played:-

- 14-5 Vs Villorba Rugby
- 19-5 Vs Pieve di Soligo
- 41-0 Vs Pordenone

The matches were very competitive and KGS played against boys that were older in each of the three games.

This is the second tour running that KGS has been undefeated on tour to Italy.

The party also enjoyed a day visit to Venice and managed to see the England U18 team defeat Portugal in a group game of the European Cup.

KENYA CLIMB

Georgina Burton (picture below) has been selected for an expedition to Mount Kenya. Just completing her third year in the Combined Cadet Force, she is now an NCO in the L6th, Georgina decided to apply for this prestigious place on a national cadet expedition to East Africa. She was fortunate to be accepted for the actual selection weekend and from that assessment she was offered a place, along with about 30 other cadets from all over the UK. This is truly a great achievement for her and we wish her well in raising the money necessary to attend this high altitude expedition. Another first for KGS CCF.





ADVENTUROUS TRAINING



It has been a very busy time for our KGS CCF since the last article in this newsletter. I must extend my sincere thanks to Lt Janet Knight for all her hard work in organising, what may become a regular event, the Regimental Dinner (photographs right) that took place at the beginning of March. As this year's 6th form NCOs have worked so hard and performed so well, it was decided to dine them out in the traditional manner. All the military finery, regimental silverware and even the Old Regimental Colours were on display. With the addition of some excellent speeches this made it a thoroughly memorable evening for all who attended.

After a very successful inspection and field day at Waddecarr in October, it was decided to offer the current 5th form cadets a chance of a more military overnight exercise at Weeton camp later in March. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part. The remainder joined the company the next day to experience full bore live shooting on the 30m range, an obstacle course, several initiative exercises and more military tasks.

Meanwhile, the 4th year cadets had a very tiring day of varied activities at Halton on Lune training camp, Lancaster. Here they all experienced their first live firing of the cadet rifle (having recently passed their weapon handling test), ran through an assault course, conducted further weapon training and had a thoroughly good time. A small group of seniors also went climbing with Mr Gaddes and Mrs Scott and the RAF visited Woodvale.

KGS CCF also provided a small standard bearers' party for a Lions International event in Preston. Thanks must go to those concerned and to Lt Reeves for his leading the colour party

The beginning of April was the date for the annual Adventurous Training camp (photographs on next page) at St John's in the Vale. (a full report appears on the web site). Easter is also the time of the Cadet Leadership Courses run at Nesscliffe Camp. This year we were allocated more places than ever before. Five L6th NCOs attended these courses and very favourable reports were received, which also improves their BTEC grading. Some cadets have applied for the Frimley leadership course in August.

I would like to congratulate acting Sgt Luke Sanders on his success in being awarded an Army Sixth Form Scholarship. These are few and far between and we have had two in as many years.

Other successes have come with the very large number of pupils being interested in armed services careers. The Army Schools' Careers Officer interviewed over twenty potentials from 4th, 5th and 6th form this term.

Currently at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, is Nick Bridges, who has helped us out over the last few years in many ways. Not only has he provided the young legs and endless enthusiasm on camps and field days, he (along with the RSM) carpeted the cadet hut! He represents Kirkham Grammar School at Sandhurst and is on his first term, while on the second term, (along with one Officer Cadet William Wales!) is another old Kirkhamian, Warren Marginson. We wish them both good luck in their future careers as we do to all our senior NCOs who leave this summer after serving KGS CCF for four years. My sincere thanks go to them along with my best wishes wherever they go. Hopefully some may even continue with University Officer Training Corps and some have already decided to go on to Sandhurst. A special best wishes goes to our departing Army Scholar, and first ever Cadet RSM in the Corp, Andy Moncrieff.

The BTEC award has gone from strength to strength this year with 12 L6th NCOs almost completed their assignments and three upper sixth awaiting their certification. It is hoped to develop this qualification even more with next year's applicants.

At the time of writing, we are in the process of organising a 3rd form induction day, possibly with the landing of a military helicopter! The 4th year (army) will have an overnight exercise and field day at Holcombe Moor Training Camp (home of the Krypton Factor assault course, if you remember it?) and the RAF will fly at Woodvale and finally in a hectic year, we all look forward to summer camp at Warcop.

My heartfelt thanks must also go to all my officers and the civilian staff that also help out on Thursday afternoons and field days, some even give up their holiday time to help us out on camps. Without their contribution, KGS CCF would not be in the healthy condition that it finds itself at the end of one of the busiest and most successful years I can remember - and I've been around a long time!

Lt Col I.M. Scott
Cont Cmdr



MUSIC

The Spring Term saw just under 400 entries being prepared for the House Music Festival. As in the previous year there were many excellent individual performances and it was very pleasing to see another increase in the number and standard of the instrumental and vocal ensemble entries, as well as some excellent compositions. We are very grateful to Miss Dorothy Dickinson for helping out in Mrs. Miller's absence with the very difficult adjudication in the preliminary rounds. We are also grateful to Mr John Reeman for judging the final for a second year; he selected Jennifer Patel, playing the xylophone and marimba, as the overall winner. School House emerged as the eventual winners in a very tight competition but congratulations must go to all four Houses for some excellent music making.

Our regular series of lunchtime Coffee Concerts has seen some excellent performances during the Spring and early Summer Terms. Third Year musicians started the year on Friday 3rd February with a very varied and most enjoyable concert. On Friday 24th March the A level musicians presented a very good concert that included Kara Williams presenting her

A2 recital pieces to an appreciative audience. Friday 26th May saw the musicians of the 4th Year present a very enjoyable, and again very varied, concert in the MPH.

A Gala Concert on Thursday 23rd March gave the finalists from the Music Festival a chance to shine before a large audience in the Old Hall. The final formal concert of the year was the Spring Concert, held in the MPH on Thursday 11th May. The audience were once again entertained by a wide range of musical expertise from the various instrumental groups and the choir.

The Concert Band has had two very exciting ventures this year. The Band was invited to perform in March in a Gala Concert in Preston Minster with the King's Division Normandy Band. An afternoon rehearsal before the Concert presented the members of the Concert Band with a very challenging and exciting programme of music in which they performed excellently. The Concert Band was then invited by the Rotary Club of Kirkham and Rural Fylde to take part in the inaugural Summer Proms, which was held in the MPH on Saturday 17th May. Again, the Band acquitted themselves excellently before a large audience.

My thanks go to Kara Williams who has been an excellent Secretary to the Music Society for 2006-7. Her encouragement and example to the younger musicians has been much appreciated.





_06FACES



Young ENTERPRISE

Young entrepreneurs from KGS took the top prize at the Young Enterprise Final Presentation Evening at Marine Hall in Fleetwood. Overall winners Phoenix, named in honour of England's Ashes victory last summer, competed against rival companies to scoop further trophies for Best Trade Stand, Best Company Report and the Customer Focus Award. Phoenix then went forward to compete in the Area Final at BNFL Springfields, where their presentation and marketing skills were judged by representatives from local businesses. The Phoenix team enjoyed a successful evening and were delighted to secure the award for Corporate Governance.

An impressive range of activities, services and products has certainly kept the Phoenix team busy throughout the year. From spirited Halloween dancing and fast-paced knockout cricket, hand-painted champagne glasses and Christmas baubles to a range of Valentine's delivery services and specially commissioned novelty Kirkham Grammar School rock, the team of twenty sixth form students have worked tirelessly to meet the demands of their target market.

Rebecca Preskey, managing director of Phoenix, believes that the company's success lies in effective teamwork and organisation. 'It has been a challenging but hugely enjoyable year. Everyone in the team has worked incredibly hard and our ability to learn from mistakes has helped us develop individually and as a company. We've had great support from the staff and students of Kirkham Grammar School and our advisers Mr Robert Dunn and Mr Paul Desborough have been invaluable'.

On Bank Holiday Monday twenty seven staff and students took part in the Rosemere Cancer Care 5 km Fun Run at Moor Park, Preston. Despite the cold and slightly wet conditions the KGS spirit was not dampened and all who took part from school completed the course and did so with much effort and enjoyment.

Kristian Musty was first home for KGS in a time of 20.18 and was closely followed by his team mates, Matthew Barnes, Clark Tung and Bryan Tung. As a team they were placed 4th overall, just behind teams from North Fylde Athletics Club, Preston Harriers and Wesham Road Runners. The 1st KGS female across the line was Lucy Knowles in a time of 24.57.

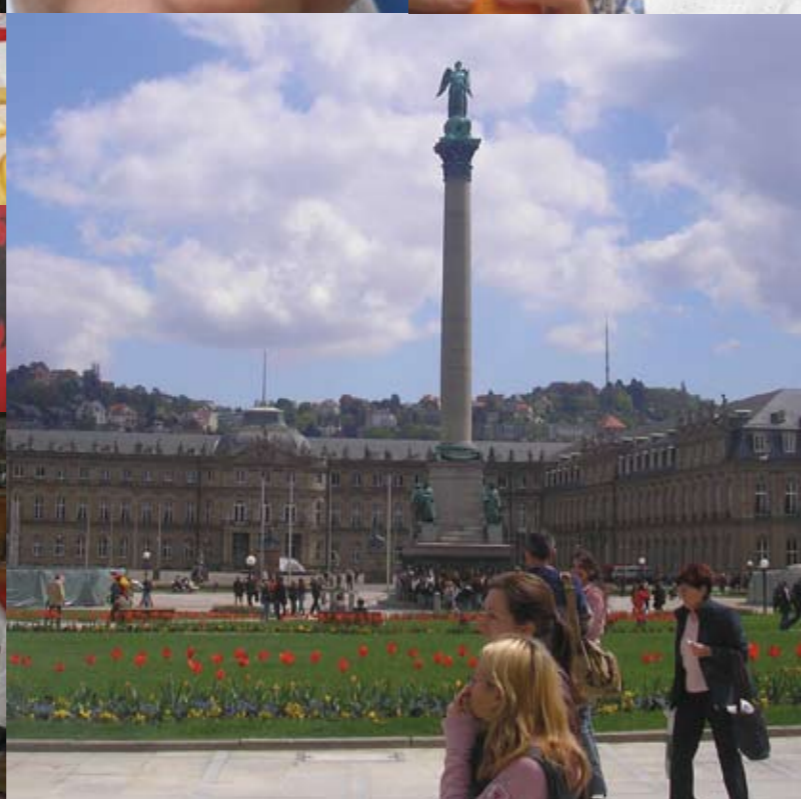
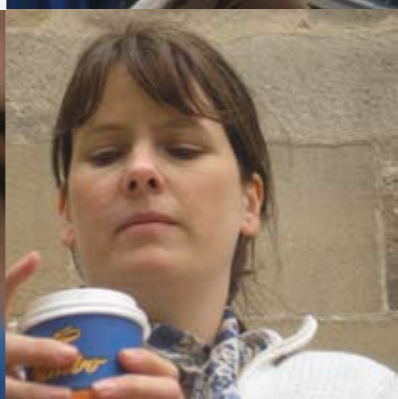
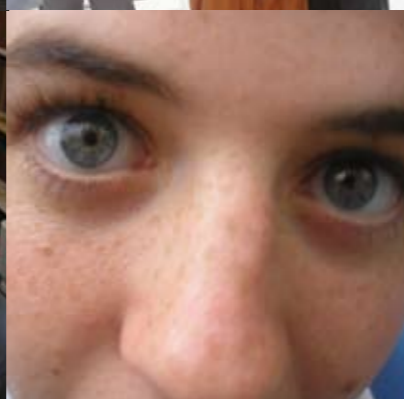
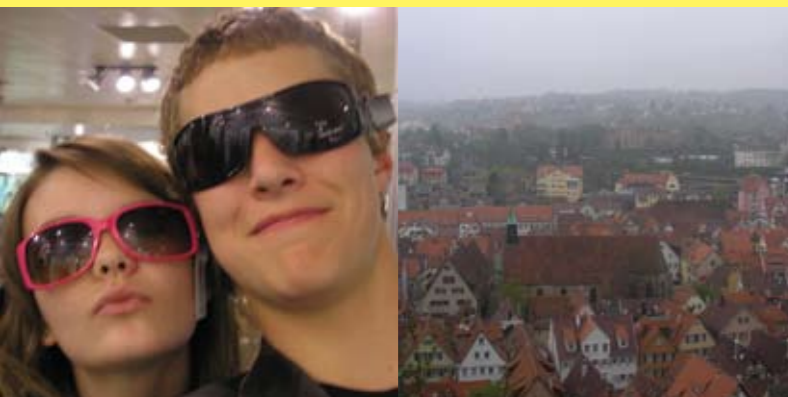
The event was not just for the elite runners; there were many, including the staff, who took on a real challenge to complete the 5km and they deserve to feel very proud of their achievement.

Special mention must go to the four who completed the course in fancy dress. Jane Duncan who ran dressed as a nun, Soraya Dunn as Pocahontas and Alice Parr and Molly Heap as fairies.

On behalf of all that took part I would like to say thank you to Christine Brown, the School's Bursar, for supplying refreshments and looking after personal belongings during the run and also a big thank you to all the parents who came to support and all those who sponsored the runners, over £900 has been raised for the Rosemere Cancer Care Foundation by their efforts.

FUNRUN





BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

The Good School Guide awarded the Business Studies Department at KGS "Best in Business Studies for Boys" as a consequence of the excellent results attained in summer 2005. This was welcome recognition of the hard work that was undertaken by the departmental staff and students in that particular year group, where results of a 100% pass rate were achieved, 94% with a grade B and above.

Once again the Department of Mrs F Lang and Mrs L Hargreaves (picture right) were very grateful for the time that was afforded to our Upper Sixth students by Mr Eric Hemming, who very kindly offered to again speak about his personal experience of management buyouts, which is a topic on the specification that the students need to cover. His valuable input and continued support of the school was very much appreciated by all concerned.

There were numerous revision days for both the Lower and Upper Sixth students in Manchester run by external providers. These proved a worthwhile extension for all concerned.

Additionally, the Lower Sixth students all volunteered to come into school on one of their official study leave days, Mrs Hargreaves and I delivered a full day revision course on the final two topics of the AS examination papers. This proved to be a particularly successful venture, with students participating in plenty of group work, exam technique practice and greater understanding of the case study scenario.

A PERFECT DAY FOR 'APEING' AROUND.

The Lower Sixth Business Studies students spent a dry and warm day being 'Apes' in Grizedale Forest, learning first hand about communication, leadership, teamworking and motivation. After a thorough safety drill from one of the Go Ape instructors, the five teams comprising 5 students and 1 teacher navigated themselves around the forest climbing to spectacular heights of over 10m by walking across rope ladders and bridges, coming down to earth in a more exhilarating fashion via zip wires some 50m long. There were five different activity sections and all of our pupils and teachers overcame any nerves and apprehensions to complete the entire course in style in just over 3 hours.

My thanks to all the students who took part on the day and were a credit to the school. Special thanks also to Mrs Hargreaves, Mr Hawkes, Mr Carter, Miss Glover and Mr Ford, who were natural "Gorillas" all day.

CROSS CURRICULAR LINK

This term the fourth year Business Studies and second year Drama students linked their learning in ethics and morals. Early in the term the fourth year had completed some work on pressure group activity and from there stemmed the idea of presenting some of the issues on subjects such as testing on animals, smoking, alcohol and drugs to the second year drama students, who then worked on theatrical interpretations and performed these back a few weeks later.

Students were particularly interested to compare the way the same message could be delivered effectively in different forms, and was a great experience for all pupils to link with different year groups through this collaboration of subjects.

We hope to be able to repeat this in future years, making full use of the new Drama facilities.

Mrs Lang
Head of Business Studies



Diary Dates

'A' Level Results
10.00 am, Thursday, 17 August

GCSE Results
10.00 am, Thursday, 24 August

1st Year Induction Day
8.45 am, Tuesday, 5 September

New School Year begins
8.45 am, Wednesday, 6 September

Senior School Annual Prizegiving and
Speech Day
7.15 for 7.30 pm, Thursday, 21 September
at the Guild Hall, Preston

Friends of KGS AGM
Monday, 25 September

Old Kirkhamians' Association AGM
Saturday, 7 October

New Parents Welcome Evening
Tuesday, 10 October

Open Afternoon
Sunday, 15 October

Open Evening
Monday, 13 November

Friends of KGS Christmas Fair
Friday, 24 November

"Young" OKA Reunion
Sunday, 17 December
Preston Grasshoppers RFC at 7.00 pm
Staff v OKA's "footie" match at 2.30 pm
on the Astro turf at School

"You don't have to be Posh to be Privileged"

The TV advertisement proclaims this, and it's true! I have had the privilege of being Chairman of the Friends of Kirkham Grammar School for four years. All that is required is a belief that KGS is the best school for your child and a willingness to support the school by giving your time.

I believe four years is long enough to chair the committee and it's time now for me to step down and allow another with perhaps fresh ideas to have the privilege of this position.

I, along with the committee have had a fantastic four years, culminating in the best ever Summer Ball. Nearly four hundred revellers dined and danced the night away in the largest marquee supplied by CK Marquees of Kirkham on the front lawn of the school. Guests arrived to a champagne reception in the Old Hall, which extended out into the grounds on a lovely summer's evening. They then entered the sumptuously decorated marquee for a delicious buffet, followed by a selective auction and raffle, and lots of dancing until carriages at 1am. The feedback has been fantastic and over £4000 was raised.

The new Sports Pavilion and Drama Studio has been built with the help of a £30,000 donation from the Friends. The raising of this amount of money would not be possible without the support from parents and I thank you for supporting the Friends events.

It would be remiss of me not to thank my committee members for all their hard work and mention that certain key members of the committee who without them, over my period of chairmanship, we would have been ineffective. There are too many to list, but when they read this article, they will know who I mean and I sincerely thank them and request they continue to support the new incoming chairperson in September.

Robert Dunn
Chairman of FKGS.



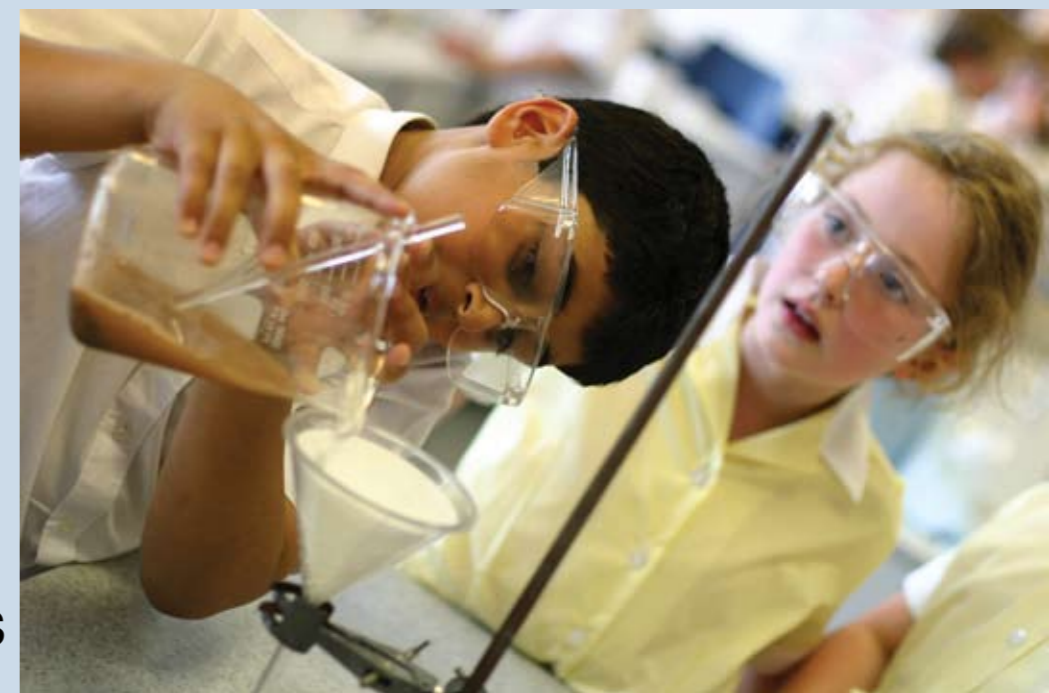
Young Engineers Club

2006 has been another busy and productive year for the KGS Young Engineers Club. The Technology Centre continues to be a hive of activity during lunchtimes as budding engineers from all year groups design and build their projects for the wide variety of competitions we have entered this year:

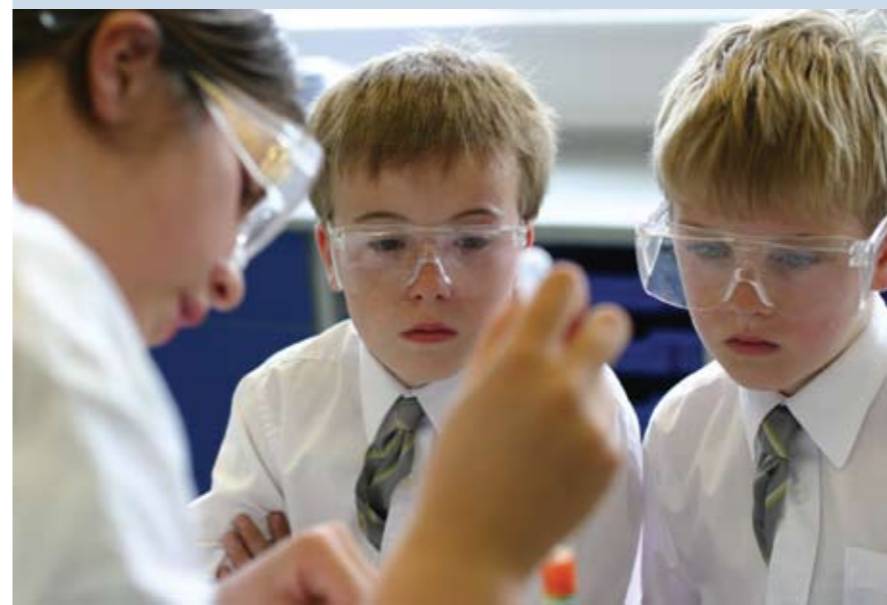
2006 Rotary Technology Competition



The 2006 Rotary Technology Competition was held on Friday 3 March 2006 at Preston Sixth Form College, attracting over 25 teams from schools across the local area. This year's task required students to design and build an automatic flashing beacon using basic tools and materials. KGS Young Engineers Club entered three teams into this competition, one in each of the Basic, Intermediate and Advanced categories. In the Basic category of the competition our Year 8 team of Oliver Evans, Georgia Cheyne, Stuart Spencer and Rowan Leech repeated the success of last year and gained first prize. This level of success was also repeated by the Lower Sixth team of William Bruton, John Kings, Paul Taylor and Phillip Hingley who won the Advanced category of the competition for the second year running. Unfortunately our intermediate team of Joe Douglass, Oliver Youngman, Peter Armstrong and Daniel Casson narrowly missed out on the honours in the Intermediate category of the competition.



Taster Days @ KGS



Library

Life continues to be busy, with library-based lessons for Psychology, R S, Biology, Maths, History, Chemistry, Physics and English; the library has been 'fully booked' since the end of the summer exams! This term has also seen visits by primary school pupils who visited KGS for a 'Taster Day'. They were introduced to Parsley, the library lion, and were then able to relax on the bean bags and listen to stories written by Louis de Bernieres and Rudyard Kipling. It was announced at the end of June that Mrs Copland has been elected to the Executive Committee of the School Library Association, following a national ballot of SLA members. She will serve until June 2009 and looks forward to extending her contacts with other schools.

A Theatrical World Book Day



Anyone driving down Ribby Road back in March would have been surprised to see a colourful collection of actors – robots, lawnmowers and farmyard animals! – crossing in front of them as KGJS infants were treated to a trio of lively performances to commemorate World Book Day. Over thirty second years, directed by A level Theatre Studies pupils Oliver Fisher and Gordon Cheng, ably assisted by Mrs Walker, and accompanied by talented pianist Iain Croall, performed theatrical interpretations of children's classics 'Winnie-the-Pooh' and 'The Little Red Hen' and also 'The Trouble with Dad' by Babette Cole.

They were delighted to receive fantastic drawings of their characters from the infants to say thank you and had a wonderful welcome from the Junior School.



COASTERS

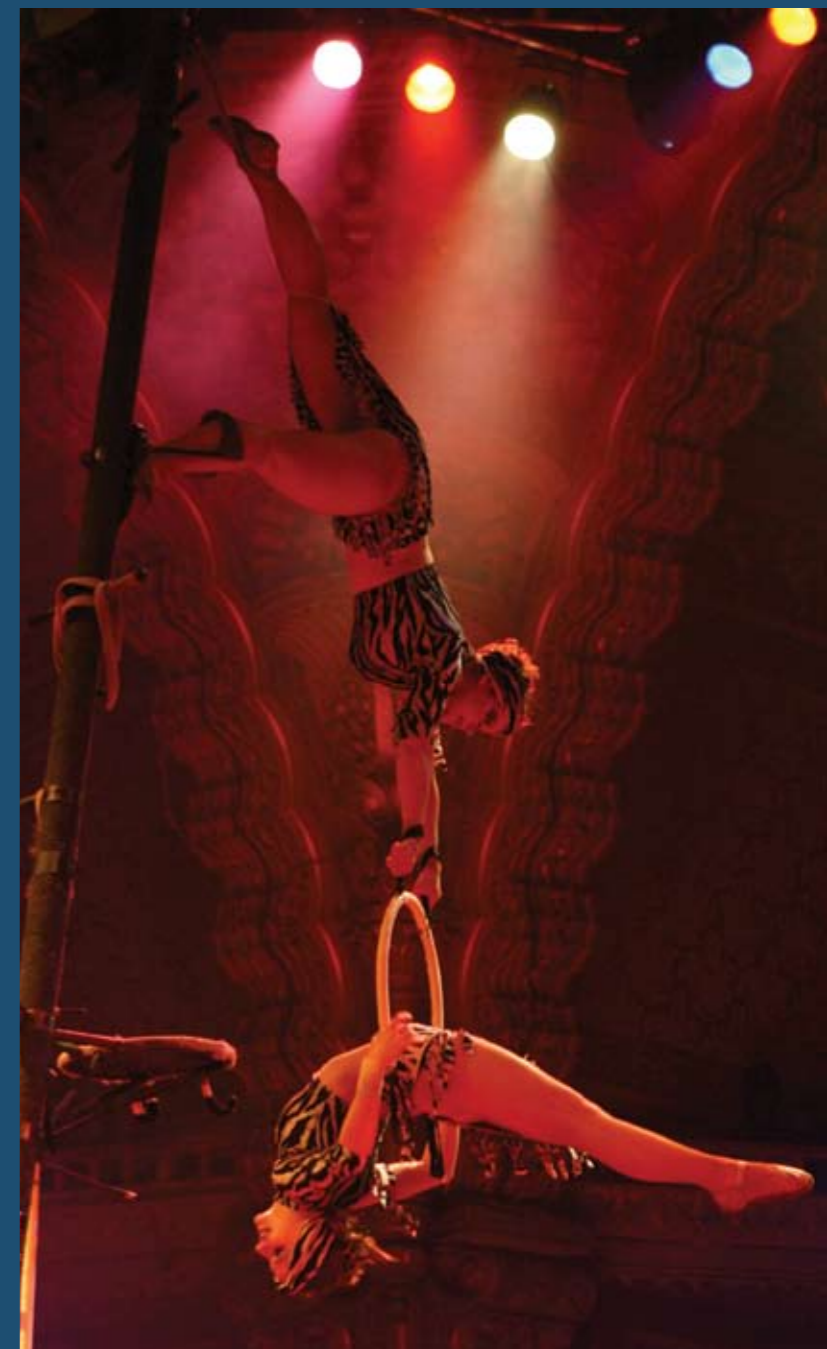
the city", painted by Scottish Artist, Ken Currie. Johnny has performed under his alias, Max Seymour, in pubs and clubs around the North West, appeared on BBC Three and picked up a national poetry award along the way. Johnny writes poems that are funny and quirky, and sometimes extremely poignant that veer from everyday reality to the utterly surreal.

In March the pupils and artists visited Blackpool Pleasure Beach and spent the day sketching, photographing and of course going on the rides. From the work gathered they then set about further developing their images using various media back at school with the school's art teachers. Over the last few weeks both schools have had the added bonus of having an Artist in Residence working on this "Coasters" project. These artists have been working alongside not only the year 9 pupils but all age groups unravelling the working methods of the artist. KGS residencies initially included Johnny Woodhams, poet / performance / photographer for one week and Pat Mountford, painter who has been heavily involved with The Booth Centre, a drop-in and activity centre for homeless people in Manchester and the Christies Hospice. In June the artists Liz Noble and Harriet Clarke spent two weeks making photographs both digitally and by pin hole cameras which our pupils found most inspiring. The project continues next term so watch this space.



In May the world was gripped by the exploits of professor Langdon as he unravelled the secrets in Dan Brown's "The Da Vinci Code". Pupils at KGS and Fulwood High School and Arts College have done a bit of code cracking themselves. Art detectives in Year 9 from both schools travelled on a thrilling voyage of discovery where the ancient arts clashed with twenty-first century culture. As part of a joint venture funded by The Independent/State School Partnerships Grant Scheme both schools embraced this unique opportunity to work with practising artists both in and out of school. The project was named "Coasters" as the main field-work was to take place in Blackpool.

The project started on Friday 27 January with 50+ pupils and staff visiting the Manchester City Art Gallery where various artists took small groups of pupils around a selection of artworks with a view to discussing and promoting the use of sketchbooks. Amongst the artist responding to art works from the gallery collection was Johnny Woodhams. To start with, our pupils were not sure what to make of Johnny. With his shaved head and goatee beard, Johnny would make a convincing villain in "The Da Vinci Code". But the only thing remotely nasty about him is - he writes a mean poem, as clearly demonstrated in his poetry performance in front of the painting "At the edge of



SCARBOROUGH

"Oh we do like to be beside the seaside"



A tale of two trips

Thirteen pupils, Mr Harrison, Mr Scott, Mr Gardiner, Miss Furness and the River Derwent and the Cliffside Hotel...Scarborough 2006

Part 1 the Geographers.....

We had heard from previous year that the sixth form geography trip was the best field trip of your life; we were at first unsure, however, upon arriving at our first stop Saltaire, (near Bradford), Sir Titus Salt's industrial town, which banned alcohol in the 19th century, we knew from the newly opened wine bar, 'Don't tell Titus' that we were in for a treat.

We soon arrived at the Cliffside Hotel in Scarborough. As there was no lift there were luggage problems for the girls who do not believe in travelling light. We soon settled in and were ready for the first trip around the Castle and historical Scarborough. After ice cream and sea food, we quickly rushed off to the beach before dinner. We then had triple geography until 9pm, where we learnt what we would be doing for the rest of the week.

First morning, and what an early wake up call for the boys! I think they now realize how cold the North Sea really is, but it didn't stop them going for a swim on numerous other occasions. After our full English breakfast, we had our first encounter with Mr Harrison's sunhat, which kept us entertained all week! We were soon off doing river surveys for our piece of fieldwork at exactly 9.00am! With lots of hard work we stopped off for lunch and enjoyed the spectacular views of the North Yorkshire Moors. We soon got back to the river and some people managed to experience a bit more than studying the river's load. They actually became part of it, much to the amusement of the budding artists who joined us on our trip to capture the local scenery in sketchbooks. At our last site a keen geographer discovered an Ox-bow lake, which was christened Darlington's Ox-bow lake, Mr Harrison will be proud to show future pupils such an impressive find.

The following day we were off to Eboracum or York, as we know it today. We learnt a huge amount of historical human geography while visiting Fairfax House, Clifford's Tower and York Museum, which proved useful for our exam. We then headed back to Scarborough to test out the local 'cuisine' – mussels and of course ice cream. We were quite impressed with the discovery of a 'one foot ice-cream!'

The penultimate day, and what better to start the day off by getting up at 5.00am to see the sunrise, a truly spectacular sight! With Mr Harrison's eager athletic ability, we were soon walking around the Scarborough coastline, learning about coastal landforms. I am sure that we would all agree that the highlight of this day was when Mr Harrison competed, and won, against a pupil three times, twice running up slopes leading to the beach and once at Connect 4, triumphant moment for Mr Harrison. Later in the evening, after having such a wonderful time on the trip, we all chipped in to treat the teachers to a well deserved nightcap.

On the last day, nobody wanted to leave after having such an enjoyable time. Nevertheless we had one final stop off at York Minster, which was magnificent to say the least. However all good things come to an end, and with packed minibuses, singing and yawning we soon arrived back at school. It definitely was the best field trip we have ever had! (Lower Sixth Geographers)



Part 2 the Artists.....

We as the artists took more of a relaxed approach to the trip, well, this is what the geographers believed!

On arriving in Scarborough, we went out into the town to familiarise ourselves with the area and to look for various drawing sites, then proceeded to the infamous castle which we can now all draw off by heart.

The first day was devoted to landscape sketching and we travelled to four locations with all completely different views, resting in-between, of course, even having afternoon tea in a most delightful setting of a five star country hotel. In the evening, we discovered the joys of the artist 'John Virtue' as we viewed a DVD on his recent work completed at the National Gallery, London where he was artist in residence for two years. This took our artwork on to a new dimension.

On the second day this new "Virtue" style became apparent when we started drawing with twigs and mud, in fact anything we could make marks with. Ink and wax became our new best friends and the castle our enemy (picture below). Blacks, whites and as much energy as we could throw at the page, gone were the days of detailed sketches.

The third day entailed a coastal adventure (top picture) as we joined the geographers on their coastal survey as we all journeyed south of Scarborough towards Bridlington stopping at various locations once again attacking our sketchbooks. The day was rounded off with a good old fish and chip dinner back at Scarborough.

On the final day we went to York, where it poured with rain, never the less we were still able to get a few quick sketches of the Cathedral and buy some wonderful chocolates from a quaint little chocolate shop. A visit to the local art gallery was also squeezed in.

We certainly adapted to the sunny seaside resort of Scarborough lifestyle eating ice-creams and bags of candy floss everyday which we have to say were delicious. Everyone really enjoyed the trip and most of our artwork has changed dramatically under the influence of "John Virtue". The success has even led us to most of us wanting to return next year to complete another unit of work around the sights of Scarborough. (Lower Sixth Artists)

A big thankyou

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Amanda Furness (pictured right with a Lamara Hill's mask piece) for all her hard work with our KGS artists. As a student teacher she has thrown herself into all sorts of activities ranging from our Lower Sixth Scarborough trip, various "Coasters" away days with the third year and helping out with Adventurous Training, not to mention her general day to day teaching. She now has a new job waiting for her in Barnsley. The Art department wishes her all the best for the future.





DRAMA

"Blue Remembered Hills"

Originally shown on TV, Dennis Potter's deceptively simple tale relates the activities of seven West Country seven-year-olds on a summer afternoon during the Second World War, in a wood, a field and a barn.

The children (played by our KGS fourth year GCSE students) play, fight, fantasize and swagger, their aggressions, fears, hostilities and rivalries a microcosm of adult interaction. Easy-going Willie tags along as burly Peter bullies stuttering Raymond and is challenged by fair-minded John. Plain Audrey is overshadowed by pretty Angela and takes out her angry frustrations on the boys. All of them gang up on the terrified 'Donald Duck' who, abused by his mother and ridiculed by his peers, plays his own, dangerous game.

There are particular difficulties facing the GCSE actor in the performance of the roles of children. Our would-be thespians had to re-learn the constant near gymnastics of seven year olds and had to research World War II in terms of costume and attitudes. Their research took them over to the Junior School where they observed playtime and through improvisation recreated their own childhood memories. They also listened to "The Archers" to perfect their country accents. The standard of the performances was exceptionally high despite the pouring rain, the chill wind and the muddy grass. We all had a wonderful though rather soggy, day.



Poet in-residence

As part of the Art Department's "Coasters" project, the performance artist/poet Johnny Woodhams a.k.a. "Max Seymour" came back for an additional day to work with the school's Drama and English departments to run improvisational workshops that were absolutely fantastic. Pupils had the chance to adapt the characters lurking in the poetry and, with the full range of the costume department to plunder, turned the text into vibrant, visual performance poetry. Ms Barrie is hoping to get him back next year to work in the new state-of-the-art Drama Studio in the Lawrence House Trust Pavilion.





Rock CONCERT



The Spring term saw the school's third charity rock concert, organised by Ben Fisher and Alex Miller of Upper Sixth band Enigma. The night was a huge success with over five hundred pounds being raised for the British Heart Foundation and Mind. A range of music was performed by the three bands of the evening. Fifth year, Sam Rowe's Narcosis began, with his own compositions and techno covers. Next up was the popular fifth year band, The Unheard. Josh Wardell, Ashley Parkinson and Ben Lucas performed a mixture of their own compositions and cover versions, which were very well received.

However, the main attraction of the evening was the final school concert from Upper Sixth band Enigma. Drummer, Tab, Ben Fisher and Will Horton on guitar, school teacher Phil Reeves on bass and vocals and lead guitarist and vocalist Alex Miller gave a brilliant performance, with music ranging from heavy metal to acoustic. New songs were combined with the crowd's favourite Enigma covers. The last song, which was revealed on Mr. Reeves's t-shirt was a particular hit, following chants for Electric Six all evening. DVD's from all three concerts will be available soon.

Thank you to all the performers and especially Enigma for their contribution to the school's music events. We wish them the best of luck in their future.

Caroline Desborough.





ski TRIP

This Easter (14-21 April) KGS visited Les Deux Alpes on its annual Ski trip with 63 pupils and 7 staff. For over 25 years KGS pupils have been visiting the Alps to learn to ski. With over 5 hours a day ski lessons taught by expert ski instructors from the ESF (Ecole du Ski Francaise) we had 37 beginners (photo bottom left) that by the end of the week were skiing down red runs. The advanced skiers in the party were pushed on attempting black runs and shown how to handle the jumps in the world famous "La Toura Snowpark". Whilst we were there some members of the party were able to witness the annual "Taravana" Pro Am competition (photos far right), which has a Tahitian theme, palm trees and Houla Music included. The trip was a holiday of a life time with all wanting to go again. Skiing is so addictive so much so that our trip next year to Alpe D'huez is already booked up.

"Skiing was a completely new and exciting experience for my friends and me and as we set off in the coach we were full of excitement in anticipation of the week ahead. We were not to be disappointed! As soon as we arrived at the hotel, we knew that we were going to have a great time. Not a minute was wasted. No sooner had we settled into our rooms and unpacked our cases, than we were eating our tea then being issued with our skis, boots and poles. We couldn't wait to get started!

After an early wake up call by Miss Glover, we ate our breakfast and set out for the slopes carrying all our clobber! Most of us were placed in the various beginner groups and began by nervously making our way down the nursery slopes under the careful supervision of our instructors. Right from the start we were learning turns, parallel turns and snow ploughs and generally getting used to controlling our skis. Our confidence grew as the week went on and by the third day we were able to up the mountain in the "red eggs" and conquer some of the blue and red slopes. Some

of the slopes were quite tricky and we acquired quite a number of bumps and bruises! By the end of the week we had all come a long way and reached the red slopes, with only the black slopes to aim for next time. We were pleased with our progress and proud to be awarded with our cards of achievement.

We skied for three hours every morning and two hours every afternoon, but it wasn't all hard work. In the evenings, we had a lot of fun laughing over the events of the day and giving out awards for achievements such as being the worst skier of the day and having the most embarrassing moment! Most evenings we did something different like ice skating, bumper cars on ice, town trail and a karaoke night. They were all great fun.

In the afternoons and evenings we were allowed to go into the village with friends. The village was very pretty although it was not covered in snow like the mountains. There were some interesting shops including a chocolate shop and several clothes shops.

On the last night we had a disco and all the other schools staying in the hotel were invited. This was a really good evening as we were able to spend time with the new friends we had made during the week and say a sad goodbye. Even some of the teachers got on to the dance floor to dance with us all!

Every aspect of the holiday was fantastic, even better than we had anticipated. The hotel was comfortable and warm and it was good fun sharing a room with my friends. The food was good too. But best of all was learning a new and exciting sport with my friends and teachers. The whole week was a great success and I recommend this holiday to anyone who fancies skiing."

Kerry Emmett 2Y



LES ALPES 3600



Sixth Form Leavers Ball 2006



The Friends' Summer Ball 2006





Fun Day Loyalty

The Friends Family Fun Day epitomizes the ethos of Kirkham Grammar School. Unfortunately on the day the rain started at 11 am and continued non-stop until 5 pm making the field soggy. The inflatable slide, football and basketball could not be used and the model aircraft flying display was cancelled. However, everybody came together to make the day a great success.

Members of the Friends, 30 additional volunteer helpers and about 20 teachers, all turned up and strived together setting up and manning the many stalls and attractions in the gymnasium, multi-purpose hall, marquee and under gazeboes. Their efforts were rewarded by the loyalty of over 500 loyal followers who, despite the rain, made the effort to come along and support the school. Financial losses and despondency were averted as the family of Kirkham Grammar supported one another and had a great laugh along the way. In fact £2500 was raised on the day, a marvellous effort by all concerned.





Invitation Hockey Tournament 2006

On Saturday 18 March 2006 Kirkham Grammar School played host to five of the most respected schoolgirl hockey teams in England and Scotland at their annual U19 National Invitation Hockey Tournament.

Millfield, Bromsgrove, Stockport, Strathallan and British Colleges joined Kirkham to compete in yet another memorable day of hockey. Millfield School performed superbly on the day, winning every game and finishing out and out winners. However, this was to be expected from such a prestigious sports school with several international players. All the other teams were very evenly matched with only one goal deciding each game. Kirkham, the home team, played some terrific hockey and the highlight for them was a convincing win over the British Colleges U19 team.

The day was once again thoroughly enjoyed by all. KGS again proved that they could compete against some of the strongest teams in the United Kingdom.



Sixth Form Visit to Oxford

Amongst the less well publicised regular school activities are the annual trips to Oxford and Cambridge Universities, led respectively by Mr Long and Mr Gaddes, who each year take a group of aspiring students to the universities where they themselves were educated.

This year's Oxford visit took place, as so often, on an idyllic Summer day at the end of June, when Mr Long took a group of this Year's Lower Sixth students to an Open Day at his own "alma mater", Exeter College – one of Oxford's oldest. Mr Long's daughter Felicity (KGS 1996-2003) is a current undergraduate there, reading Modern Languages, and a number of KGS students have followed in his footsteps to Exeter, and elsewhere in Oxford, over the years.

Students were taken on tours of the College, given a general presentation on Oxford admissions procedures, and then attended subject-based meetings with College tutors. All left inspired by the experience, but under no illusions as to the challenges they face in securing one of the very few places on offer in each subject area, against increasingly stiff competition from throughout the world.

After the formal part of the Open Day, our students enjoyed a tour of the city's and university's highlights, and were then taken to the River Cherwell, and under the expert guidance of the Head of Sixth Form, taught the delights of punting.

Our picture shows Richard Kwasnicki doing the hard graft, whilst fellow student Becky Bedford takes it easy and studies a



1st XI v MCC



interHouseevents

"Desperate Housemasters"

A Summary of Episodes From The Current Season

Resumé : School House defeat all and sundry in an excellent start to their Whitby Cup campaign. Kirkham House win swimming gala – Mrs. Glover reminisces about the "old days". Preston House and Fylde House make stumbling starts – but the episode was left on a cliffhanger. The cross country season starts on their return to school...

First Episode - Cross Country

Set on freezing playing fields with lots of standing water
Props – cattle prod, various bribes

Preston House are strong as usual in the Junior competitions, but School House shock the audience with Senior Girls AND Boys victories. Audience favourite Fulford-Brown returns to play a major role in Senior Boys event only to be cruelly let down by his supporting cast. Preston House ensure no surprises in Junior and Inter events. Reminder for next season : bring warmer wardrobe for filming.

Second to Fifth Episodes – House Music

Set in Old Hall, M1 and M2
Props – Musical instruments (various), earplugs

Main character for these episodes is Mr. Barratt. Must be in for filming from 0700 hours until 2100 hours for this period. Over 5 days of music must be condensed down to 4 hours for finale entitled "House Music Final". Many familiar

characters involved (Miller, McCarthy, Bennett, McDade, Williams) but also new characters introduced (Jordan Chadwick, Richard Kwasnicki). Cameo appearances welcomed by audience. Winner announced as Jenny Patel, with overall winners...School. House Choir episode dominated by Preston House.

Episode Six – Shooting

Set in School Indoor Range.
Props – 3 x No. 8 rifles, but most importantly ammunition.

Note : commercial breaks vital between each team shooting.

Very close scores but after a cliffhanger before the final break, Fylde House emerge victorious. Top marksman Iain Croall saves Mr. Hill from a fate worse than death with his steady nerve. Main character Kings fails to attend main filming for Preston House despite rehearsals, but stunt double Knowles gets one of the competitions top scores.

Episode Seven – Rugby

Set on luscious green fields
Props – Gumshields, boots, pads, crutches

School House return to winning ways in the Senior competition with their seven destroying all in their path, a cameo appearance from ambulance driver required. School also win the Intermediate competition and Preston win the Junior event. Main character Joe Casson given a starring role.

Episode Eight – Senior Hockey & Debate

Set on the AstroTurf and Old Hall
Props – Sticks, shipnads, body armour, a sharp mind

A female dominated episode with Fylde House letting the competition slip from their grasp. Key characters Gledhill, Bedford and Martin watch helplessly as School House take the crown, with excellent performances from Morris and Smith (School), Bonney (Kirkham) and McNeela (Preston). Debate won by Kirkham House with Jo Box featuring heavily.

Episodes Nine and Ten – Sports Day

Set on the School Fields over four days
Props – Sports equipment, house vests, prozac

Episode shortened from last year due to restrictions on time before main event. Camera must cut between seventeen different events all happening simultaneously. New wardrobe issued to make sure appearances in season finale are as smart as possible. Key characters involved are Des Bowden and Jess Morris (Seniors), Waz Riley and Lizzie Woodburn (Inters) with Lamara Hill and Lyman Choi (Juniors). All win respective Victor and Victrix Ludorum competitions. Ensure nailbiting finish to episode by making School and Fylde dependant on relays as last year. So there is no repetition of last years shock result, School House win. (Cue tears from Fylde House members).

Overall Synopsis : Another fantastic year of House Competition with School really setting the pace. All the Houses have all been superbly organised by their House Staff and Captains with 6 events still to go. All this and more in the next episode...

SPORTSDAY 2006



The School's Annual Sports Day was blessed by scorching hot weather with all athletes putting in excellent performances. The afternoon's events unfolded in front of the whole school, parents and dignified guests that included the Mayor of Kirkham, the Mayor and Mayoress of Fylde and the Mayor and consort of Medlar with Wesham. Guest of honor was Mr David Worth, former head of PE, who was accompanied by his wife Sandra.

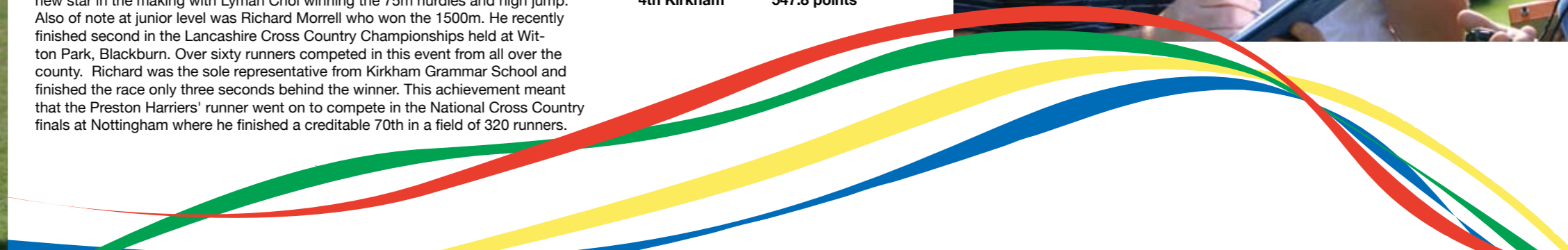
The star of the Junior Girls' events was Lamara Hill (picture top of this page), an "outstanding new talent" who won the 100m, 200m, shot and broke the school long jump record by 30cm with a jump of 4.60m. In the Junior Boys we also saw a new star in the making with Lyman Choi winning the 75m hurdles and high jump. Also of note at junior level was Richard Morrell who won the 1500m. He recently finished second in the Lancashire Cross Country Championships held at Witton Park, Blackburn. Over sixty runners competed in this event from all over the county. Richard was the sole representative from Kirkham Grammar School and finished the race only three seconds behind the winner. This achievement meant that the Preston Harriers' runner went on to compete in the National Cross Country finals at Nottingham where he finished a creditable 70th in a field of 320 runners.

At Intermediate Girls' level the Victrix Ludorum title was so keenly contested that it was shared by Lizzie Woodburn, 80m hurdles winner, and Fiona Gardner, 100m and 200m winner, who gained the same overall points. Wasim Riley (picture bottom far left) Lancashire Long Jump Champion 2005 won the Intermediate Boys by coming first in the 100m, 200m, 400m and Long Jump.

The Senior Girls was won by Lancashire County and North Regional Development Squad Hockey player Jess Morris, a "first class sprinter" winning the 100m, 200m, hurdles and long jump. The Senior Boys events were extremely competitive with 1st XV winger Des Bowden (picture above right) taking the accolade by winning the 100m, 200m and shot.

Total scores are as follows:

1st School	661.3 points
2nd Fylde	653.5 points
3rd Preston	644.3 points
4th Kirkham	547.8 points



SPORTS NEWS

This newsletter incorporates the end of our winter programme and the packed summer term. Such is the nature of this period that there are always numerous events to report. In fact it is almost impossible to cover them all such is the activity involved.

At the end of the spring term we once again hosted the International Hockey Festival. Visitors from Millfield, Strathallan, Bromsgrove, British Colleges and Stockport arrived for an intense day's competition. In an exciting event Millfield proved worthy winners, victorious in all their matches. The event proved a great success once again and our girls gained greatly from the experience.

On the rugby field Sevens dominated the latter days of the Spring Term. The 1st VII excelled themselves in reaching the Quarter-Finals of the National Schools Sevens (picture bottom left) with fine victories over Oakham and Durham School after winning their group. Ultimately weariness took its toll in the defeat by Warwick but it nonetheless represented an outstanding achievement.

This term has seen a busy athletics programme and some great success by our teams. Both boys and girls qualified for the English Schools Regional finals. The boys competed in the 'A' final in Manchester while the girls attended the 'B' final in Blackpool. As a consequence a number of KGS athletes also competed in the Lancashire School Championships at Wigan and achieved outstanding results. KGS emerged with three Lancashire Champions (picture right): Mel Smith (Senior Girls 100m Hurdles), Sarah Hatch (Inter Girls Discus) and Christopher Travis (Junior Boys Triple Jump). More recently the boys were victorious in a strong field in the Vose Cup in Lancaster defeating Lancaster Royal Grammar School, Morecambe and Arnold at U15 level and coming a close second in the U13 event. This proved a fitting preliminary to the Fylde Schools Championships where the boys won every age group! Victorious at U12, U13, U14 and U15 they performed to a very high standard on the day. In the girls event we were creditable runners up in three age groups. The girls have had an excellent season with no less than seven fixtures at all levels and victories in most of those.

On the tennis court we have seen regular Saturday fixtures for the girls and some fine individual performances. The boys U13 squad also managed to reach the County Semi-Final while the girls await the outcome of their draw.

On the cricket field it has been nice to see our B teams competing in the local league thus extending the opportunities for cricketers to get involved. A young 1st XI (picture top right) has had mixed fixtures but have grown in stature and performed well against the MCC. The U12 XI have now reached the quarter final of the County Cup, another notable achievement.

Sophie Ward (picture below centre) was awarded "Top 12 Year Old Girl" at the recent North West swimming championships having swum in ten events winning nine gold medals and one silver medal.

All in all the pupils have once again surpassed themselves but I would emphasise that perhaps the greatest achievement is to allow over 350 pupils to represent the school in all the various activities this term. Winning competitions is always nice but the opportunity to perform within a team is the crux of what we stand for.

