

# Kirkham Grammar School

Headmaster's Letter to Parents

Summer 2009



# From the Headmaster



As another school year draws to a close I have the pleasant opportunity to reflect upon another very busy and successful year. We say goodbye to another group of Sixth Formers as they move on to the next stage of their careers. I pointed out to them at our Leavers' Assembly that this is a particularly poignant farewell for me as they were first years as I arrived at the school. I still recall vividly their first assembly on induction day and teaching them in the old Wareing buildings. I have in fact always believed the timetabler placed me in the smallest room in order to encourage our building project! It certainly seemed to work. The Upper Sixth have proved worthy Kirksamians and we hope they will retain contact with us through the Old Kirksamian Association.

Our year has not been interrupted by any major building projects which has been refreshing although the landscaping outside the Waite building took rather longer than anticipated owing to the inclement weather. This will now afford our pupils with a

welcome area for quiet recreation at break-times as well as a venue for outdoor drama if weather permits. It seems to have been well utilised thus far and should prove even more popular when more benches arrive. As I indicated last year we are inevitably in a phase of consolidation but aspects of refurbishment will continue with the prospect of rejuvenated Geography and Religious Studies rooms over the summer. Floodlighting on the quad courtesy of the Friends is planned along with improved drainage on the school fields and a further extension of ICT facilities in certain areas of the school. There is no possibility that the Governors will allow the school to stand still and our vision for the future remains rooted in the continued evolution in the facilities.

In September the school will welcome a new first year once again. This year, however, we will have a five form entry for the first time in the school's history. This is not any effort to increase the size of the school as numbers will remain around 700 but is indicative of the high demand for places last year.

One hopes this will sustain as the recession bites but it is heartening that demand for places is remaining high.

When one looks for highlights of any given year it is often difficult to pinpoint one aspect that stands out from such a busy schedule. I sense that this year has seen, however, an enormous variety of educational visits. We have always enjoyed an array of sports tours and field trips but it has been noticeable that this year has seen ever greater opportunities to extend experiences in different spheres. The recent Geography trip to Iceland represented an exhilarating way to explore the world of Physical Geography while the Battlefields trip to France and Belgium gave our students a sad and reflective insight into the horrors of the Western Front. Younger students enjoyed a varied yet cultural experience in Paris courtesy of the Modern Languages Department while our sportsmen and women enjoyed testing their skills in Italy and Holland and our skiers tested their skills in Alpe d'huez. The arrangements for these sporting trips also provides for

broader experiences including cultural visits to Venice and chances to sample the Dutch way of life. Since the last Newsletter one can quickly calculate that approximately 200 pupils have travelled abroad with the school on a trip they will hopefully remember as a highlight of their school career. This complements the further trips before Xmas where pupils enjoyed their visits to places like New York. Additional to these are the opportunities within our own country including D of E expeditions (with over 50 booked on the forthcoming trip); Adventure Training; CCF and RAF camps; Art and Geography trip to Scarborough; History visit to Clitheroe; Biology trips to Hothersall Lodge and the list goes on. These visits bring to life subjects which are central to the curriculum and therefore add significantly to learning but they also create memories which will be an enjoyable part of any student's highlights of school.

The year has also seen the burgeoning of our Clubs and Societies with new initiatives blossoming in different areas. Only this week we have been persuaded to initiate a Liverpool visit for the Marine Society in order to launch their campaign. The Law Society has sustained after its inception last year while the Gardening Club has found some green fingered students willing to engage in some planting. Latin dance has given welcome variety while LAMDA has seen continued high numbers developing their confidence in this successful programme. All these societies and the many more besides provide a variety which is so important in complementing the more central work done within the curriculum. We are constantly trying to find new enthusiasm to maintain this impetus and ensure many minority interests are catered for within the school.

The end of any year brings not only the departure of a group of students but also a number of staff who leave us. This year sees Mr Hill (photo top right) retire after 25 years teaching here. He was originally appointed by Mr Summerlee, the Headmaster, as Head of Technical Studies at a time when this largely incorporated woodwork and technical drawing and the facilities at KGS were housed in a temporary building. He led the department through challenging times and into an ultimately fruitful relationship with BAE Systems albeit with drastic changes in both personnel and facility. Alongside his work in technology he became involved with Examinations in 1999 as Assistant Examination Officer and then in charge overall in 2003. He has also involved himself in coaching sport, shooting club, CCF and assisting in the Drama performances behind the scenes. Mr Hill has made a longstanding contribution to KGS and we wish him well for hopefully many healthy years of golf in his retirement.

We also say farewell to Mrs Linda Glover who joined the school in 2003 to teach Biology. She has done so in a committed and enthusiastic manner benefiting her pupils throughout. At the same time she has also assisted in sports coaching, joined overseas tours and led a Sixth Form Tutor Group in her typically caring style. We wish her well for further challenges to come.

Mr Shackleton joined us at a time when we were depleted in Physics having retired from leading his own Science Department. We managed to persuade him to stay and now some six years later he has decided to retire – again. He has throughout his tenure here been a 'safe pair of hands' teaching physics throughout the school and always well liked by the pupils for his wry sense of humour. He will hopefully now enjoy the overseas travelling he has promised himself for some time.

On the teaching front we also say goodbye to Miss Stewart, also from the Physics department as she leaves us after only one year. Deciding that teaching is not for her she moves on to a career hopefully in media. We all wish her luck in her pursuit of new challenges.

In the Junior School Mrs Horrocks (Headmistress's PA) departs KGJS after 13 years assisting the Headteacher. Mrs Horrocks will be well known to many of our pupils who have attended the school and they will have many happy memories of visits to the office and a caring word or a ready smile. We will miss Mrs Horrocks' sheer professionalism and the knowledge from the senior end of the school that all communication and administration between the two schools was in secure hands.

Congratulations to Mrs Benter upon the birth of her daughter Chloe Grace in April. We have seen both mother and baby daughter in school this term looking equally healthy and relaxed.

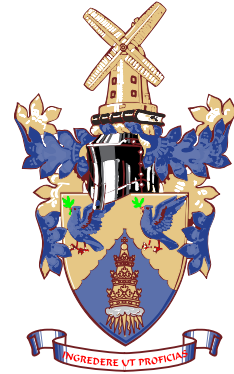
The prolonged wait for GCSE and A-level results is always a tense one but we wish all our examinees well and hope they can enjoy a relaxed summer before the big day in August.

My thanks as always to our parents as the key supporters of the school, for your efforts on our behalf in so many different spheres. Your sons and daughters continue to provide the school with its impetus and to ensure we never become complacent. We hope you enjoy this Newsletter which provides a pictorial record of the term and which is here primarily owing to the work of Mrs James and Mr Gardiner. With best wishes for the summer



# PREFECTS

## 2009-2010



Captains of School  
Christopher Travis & Alice Whitehead



Emily Atherton



Christopher Brown



Heather Cara



Grace Ford



Benedict Fulford-Brown



Sebastian Luker



Jennifer Miller



Grace O'Flaherty



Victoria Willocks



Nicholas Haines



Hannah Smith



Matthew Edgar



Melissa McCarthy



Katie Gorman



Rebecca Lewis



Stephanie de Carpentier



Francesca Hughes



Katherine Heyes



Henry Redshaw



Ben Frew



**Good Luck to our U6 & 5th Year pupils**





## Battlefieldstrip

Crawling out of bed at 4.00 am seemed like a good idea when we were first told our departure date for Belgium, but let me tell you it's harder than it sounds. The adrenaline kicked in when we boarded the coach, as a party of 44 teenagers and teachers set off for Calais. This was the start of the emotional rollercoaster that we would experience for the next four days. We would visit plenty of memorable places and enjoy ourselves more than we imagined. It is impossible to share with you everything we experienced on this visit but hopefully these highlights will provide you with an insight of what a wonderful time we had.

Saturday was our first full day in Belgium and we kicked off the trip with a visit to the "In Flanders War Museum" in Ypres. It had a variety of interactive displays which were both fun and informative, as well as a system where each person received a character to follow the story - making it seem a more personal experience. Sanctuary Wood gave us yet another chance to experience part of the First World War for ourselves, with its preserved trenches. It was an eye-opening moment to see and walk through a real trench, rather than just seeing a reconstruction photo in our textbook.

Tyne Cot and Notre Dame de Lorette (photo above) were just mind-blowingly incredible. 11,954 men are buried at Tyne Cot and 45,000 at Notre Dame de Lorette. The actions of these men, who died so gallantly for their country, stirred emotions many of us did not know we had. Reactions were mixed: some silent recollections and others simply just a floodgate of tears. You can never imagine these feelings: they spring from



confronting reality of one of the world's worst tragedies and such immense unnecessary loss of human life. Everyday worries that had been floating around our heads minutes before disappeared - they seemed so irrelevant. The same thoughts were echoed on everyone's face. To see so many men buried in one place is indescribable.

Essex Farm was yet another emotional visit. It was used as an advanced dressing station between April 1915 and August 1917 and gave first aid care to the wounded before casualties were transferred to a casualty clearing station. We stood inside tiny dirty dark rooms where doctors were expected to save the lives of critically injured soldiers and imagined how horrific it must have been. Our guide, Murray, led us to see the grave of Rifleman V.J. Strudwick who fell in the war, aged 15. Seeing this grave was particularly distressing as the majority of the pupils there were 15 too. Realising that Strudwick died at the same age as we are now was a harrowing thought that really brought home the tragedy of war.

Thiepval Memorial came as a surprise as the scale of it was just so colossal. It was built in 1932 to commemorate the lives of over 73,000 British and South African men who were "missing in battle." It is 150 foot high and has 16 pillars on which are inscribed the names of the missing. The memorial provided opportunity for the names of old Kirkhamians and student's relatives who gave their lives in world war one to be found.

Visiting the Menin Gate and seeing fellow pupils lay down wreaths during the famous ceremony was amazing. Beautiful music was sung including "Oh Danny Boy" and stirring tunes on the bagpipes. Readings and processions were also heard whilst the spectators were invited to remember the 54,896 missing men written on the walls of Menin Gate. Emotions here too were stirred.

On a slightly lighter note, the trip not only provided thought-provoking reality of World War One, but also fun and entertainment for both the pupils and the staff. Numerous football and ping pong games were held at our picturesque hotel in the evenings, as well as cards and general light-hearted chatter. Rhys Williams (photo right) was dressed up as a soldier from the war - much to the amusement of other pupils. The traditional Belgium chocolate shops in Ypres enjoyed a boom in business, as in true Kirkhamian-style pupils bought as much chocolate as they could carry. And, of course, the trip wouldn't have been complete without the karaoke night at the hotel, where group and solo performances were given, not to mention the teachers' hilarious rendition of "Come on Eileen."

The journey home was a reflective one, as our trip drew to a close, but with us we would be taking memories of both fun-filled and moving moments. Looking back, it is amazing how much we managed to fit into such a short space of time. Some were more tired than others - Miss Drew managed to nod off on the coach, providing pupils with the opportunity to take plenty of photos to use for revenge after the vast collection of passport photos Miss Drew had managed to accumulate. I would like to thank the staff who worked so hard to make the trip possible, especially Miss Drew. I am sure everyone will agree that these were four days we will never forget.

Laura Mason





# Fire & IceLand

Twenty-one enthusiastic Fifth and Sixth Form geographers set out on a trip of a lifetime to Iceland during the Easter holidays. Following the short flight to Keflavik Airport, we arrived late and soon settled down for the night at Reykjavik Youth hostel. In the morning, we started off with a site of major geographical importance. Pingvellir National Park is a rift valley, where the North American and Eurasian Tectonic Plates are being ripped apart. It was also the site of the ancient Viking parliament. We then moved on to Strokkur, a magnificent geyser that reliably erupts every few minutes. Pupils stood transfixed, watching the water boil and tried to anticipate the timing of the eruption. After lunch, we moved on to Gullfoss, a huge and most spectacular waterfall. The day then set the stage for a holiday of amazing spectacles, one after the other. After our dinner of traditional Icelandic

fare at Pizza Hut, we then did as the locals do and enjoyed a dip at Reykjavik public baths. We relaxed in the lovely, warm geothermal waters by moonlight in the outdoor pools.

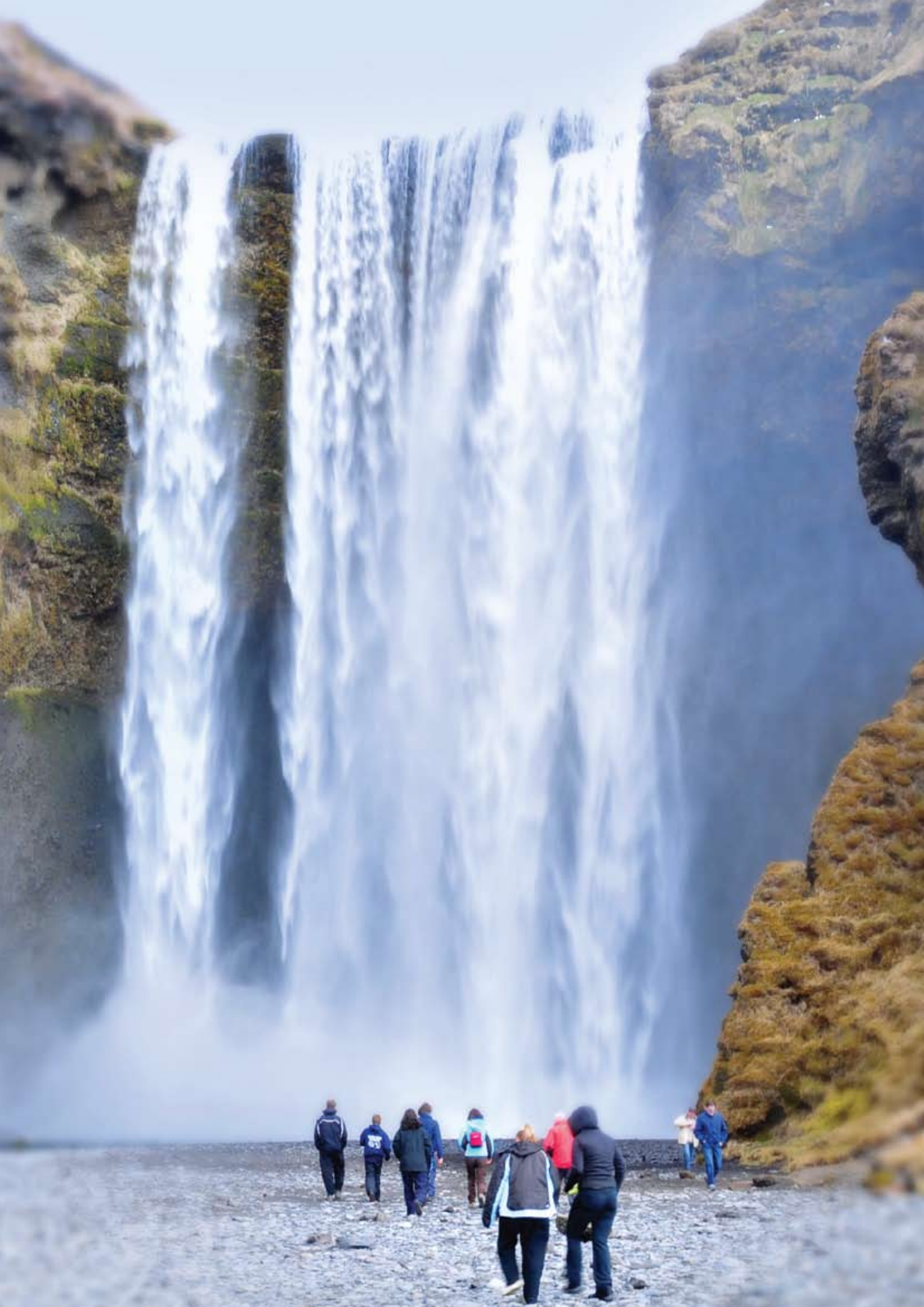
Our next full day involved us packing for our journey to the south coast. On the way, we visited Skogarfoss, a most impressive waterfall, used on many TV adverts. We were treated to the sight of a beautiful rainbow reflected in the spray. We then visited the glacier Solheimajokull where our guide very cautiously allowed us to view a Moulin where meltwater cascades down an 80 metre hole. We briefly visited the picturesque coastal village of Vik for a spot of souvenir shopping. A walk along a black basaltic beach was next on the agenda with a backdrop of impressive basaltic columns. This proved an excellent site for a group photo, something the

pupils were starting to get used to! We then checked in at our hotel for a well deserved rest.

One of the highlights of the trip was a ride behind a snowgroomer up to the ice-cap of Myrdalsjokull. The weather was perfect, clear and sunny and we were treated to amazing views. We enjoyed some time bum boarding and the inevitable snowball fight! Mr Whittle was somewhat relieved when we left the icecap as it happens to be on top of a volcano which is overdue an eruption! We then visited a high temperature geothermal area. At first the pupils were reluctant to take off their boots for a paddle in the warm stream. Then the guide announced that we were the only school not to want to do this. As true Kirkhamians, we could not allow this to happen, so Tom Reid stripped off to his boxer shorts and had a good old splash around.









The guide was suitably impressed!

On our final day we visited an area with a fantastic display of geothermal pools and solfataras where hot steam and gasses rise to the surface giving an impressive display of colours. Unfortunately, that also brings with it a rather pungent odour of rotten eggs. The pupils should have been used to this by now as just about everything smells of egg in Iceland! A few intrepid pupils and staff then had a bracing walk to the top of an ash cone and collected some rock samples to take home. We then moved on to the Blue Lagoon, a geothermal swimming pool of milky blue water where we treated ourselves to a silica mud face mask and a relaxing swim before making our journey to the airport.

We had a most educational, informative and above all enjoyable trip. It is amazing looking back just how much we managed to fit in. Both pupils and staff returned enthused and refreshed.





# Scarborough

You wouldn't think that a trip to Scarborough would have proved to be so entertaining following Iceland but then you have clearly never been with the Kirkham Grammar Geography Sixth Form.

The trip began like any other; school, early morning, long minibus journey. However as soon as Scarborough was in sight, the atmosphere changed, firstly with jokes from Kieran, Liam and Callum, then with a visit to Scarborough Castle and the "old town", which many felt was much classier than Blackpool.

The next day was river day, being hard work but also fun, particularly when Beckie Nutbrown decided she could gain a better understanding of the river system by looking at it from a tree. The following evening proved tiring but was worth it, with the much more relaxed walk around Scarborough. The next day Adam Patel and Matt Bennett didn't get lost, they merely found a new route! Press-ups proved popular as did singing on the bus, with it being proven you can have fun whilst tired.

However, the coastal day proved to be most entertaining as well as educational with coastal erosion being seen due to the path being closed. Leaving the area close to Filey, the dramatic chalk cliffs (photo above) of Flamborough was our final coastal visit where a brave few decided the North Sea would be a fun place to swim – little did they know how cold it was.

York was our final stop on the return journey, allowing a little shopping and contemplation in the Minster of an enjoyable trip.

Thanks from everyone must go to Mr Whittle and Mr Scott for an enjoyable trip which will not be forgotten in a hurry.



# ski 09 TRIP



Although it was such an early start, I have never seen so many eager, smiling faces as 6 teachers and 60 children boarded the coaches to travel to Manchester Airport for the first leg of the journey on KGS's annual ski trip to Alpe d'Huez.

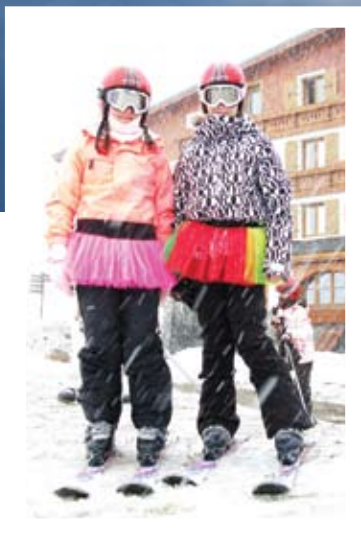
The excitement that we all felt that evening, as we got kitted out with our skiing essentials, lasted throughout the fun-packed week. The 5 hours of strenuous, but exhilarating daily skiing was followed by extra activities, such as the rowdy, karaoke singing, the fun-filled ice skating and the adventurous town trail, with the secret pit-stop for pizza! The gymnastic antics of Mr Gardiner, Mrs Parr and Mr Hancock during the organised games night will live long in our memories!

The trip provided the opportunity not only to learn or perfect the art of skiing but also to form long lasting friendships, across all age groups.

I am sure everyone would like to say a huge thank you to Mr Gardiner for all the years he has organised the ski trips and we hope his final trip to Alpe d'Huez has left him with many happy memories.

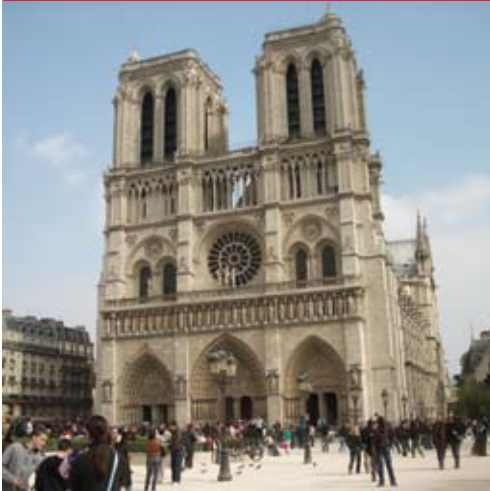
Hannah Davies





# PARIS

## trip



It was close to midnight when we left school, about to embark on our highly anticipated trip to Paris. The group travelled on two buses with a mix of second and third years on each. The journey through the night was long, however, some people managed to sleep on the bus leaving them prepared for an exciting day in the French capital.

We got off the bus in the heart of a very busy Paris. Leaving our luggage on the bus, we used underground walkways to get to the Arc de Triomphe, which in my opinion was much bigger than expected. We climbed the spiral staircase to the very top, and our tiring journey up the stairs was rewarded with magnificent views across Paris.

Once we had taken plenty of photos, we headed back down the stairs and across to the Champs Elysees, arguably the most famous street in Europe. Soaking up the atmosphere was a great experience particularly for the girls who whizzed in and out of the shops.

We then made our way to the hotel, where we unloaded luggage and eagerly explored the hotel and our bedrooms.

Soon after our arrival, we received an evening meal and went to bed to catch up on any lost sleep.

After breakfast on Saturday morning, we travelled back to the centre of Paris, where we saw many familiar sights, the most obvious one, of course, the Eiffel Tower. Standing in the shadow of one of the world's most iconic landmarks was truly amazing. We were given the chance to climb the tower, an offer we couldn't refuse; some people even made it to the top, however, no matter where you stand on the Eiffel Tower you are greeted with breathtaking views. To be on the Eiffel Tower gave us all a real buzz.

We ate our packed lunches on the grass to the side of the tower which we thoroughly enjoyed. A short trip through the city took us to the banks of the Seine, where we took in more of the sights on a boat, which took us up and down the famous river.

We then went to Montmartre for our evening meal after passing the Moulin Rouge and other sights the teachers weren't too keen on us seeing. After the meal we made our way back to the hotel, but took extra time to see

Paris after dark on a guided tour by Mrs Parr.

The next day was our day at Euro Disney which had a particular feel good factor, especially when hearing the screams of the staff on one of the rides. I don't think I'll ever be able to take them seriously again. We headed back to the hotel after a fantastic day at Euro Disney, knowing our trip was almost over. However, the hotel's Manager had put on a surprise disco which provided a great way to end the trip.

The next morning, after breakfast we boarded the coach which would take us home. We stopped at Cité Europe, where we stocked up for the rest of the journey. On the way home we all reflected on what had been a superb trip.

It wouldn't have been possible without the staff who gave up their holiday time for us. Also, the bus drivers deserved our thanks, and we made a presentation to them before leaving French soil. To all the people who made the trip as excellent as it was - thank you very much.

Lewis Holden 3Z

# FUNRUN



## Rosemere Cancer Care 5km Fun Run

On a very cold, wet and windy Bank Holiday Monday KGS was once again represented at the Rosemere Cancer Care 5km Fun Run at Moor Park, Preston. Although the weather deterred several from venturing out, there were a few from KGS who did their best to brighten up the day for the other participants. Jonathan Davies, Richard Morrell, Jake Wilson and Philip Brook were full of energy in their shocking pink outfits and certainly put the Fun into the Run. Hopefully the efforts of all those taking part will raise a considerable amount of money for this worthy charity.

# UK MATHEMATICS CHALLENGES

A record number of Second Year Mathematicians achieved awards in this year's UK Junior Maths Challenge. This is an annual competition entered by the most able Mathematicians nationwide. The challenge consists of an hour long multiple choice paper designed to promote mathematical thinking.

We are extremely proud of the following students who achieved awards:

**Gold**  
Kerri Knier (also best in school)  
Elizabeth Jenkinson  
Jessica Riley

**Silver**  
Aaron Davies  
Fenella Gabrysh  
Anna Collinge  
Anna Shackleton  
Elsie Linley  
Jonah Winn  
Rachel Howard  
Harry Mason

**Bronze**  
James Penrose  
Nichole Wainwright  
Robert Lavelle  
Catherine Davidson  
Aimee Bilsborrow  
William Lockhart  
Madeleine White  
Peter Boardman  
Ryan Powell  
Timothy Naughton  
George Allison

# CHESS



Thomas Fielding once again competed in the UK Chess Challenge 'Megafinal' on the 2 May 2009 and became the under 18 Supremo. Over the past seven years, Tom has continued to do KGS proud, by winning the title of 'Supremo' four times in this competition. Having won all six of his games, the Lancashire Under 18 champion was a formidable opponent.

Now, Tom will continue to the 'Gigafinal' of the UK Chess Challenge, competing against people from the whole of the North of England, this summer. The Chess Club will not be the same without Tom, and one can only hope that this important mind sport will not cease to exist at Kirkham Grammar School.

# Biology Classification And Evolution Field Trip 2009

Did you know it takes 16 hours to hard boil an ostrich egg? Or that a giraffe can camouflage itself surprisingly well as a tree? Neither did our Lower Sixth Biology class until we embarked on our eventful field trip to Blackpool Zoo!

It all began with an informative and interactive presentation in which we were able to expand upon our knowledge of evolution and classification. Each student was given the chance to hold a live Corn Snake (aptly named Kellogg's) as well as stick insects and Spider Shells! As the zoo is closely linked with customs we were able to see and handle a wide range of animal artifacts from tiger fur to monkey skulls. The talk ended with a quiz, which proved just how effectively adapted certain animals are at remaining unseen. The elusive Tree Gecko deserves a special mention as, even when zoomed in on its hiding place, not one of us was able to spot it.

The remainder of the day was spent completing a booklet that was linked to several of the animal enclosures. This required us to question members of the zoo staff in order to gain a further understanding of the animals in their natural habitat. Overall it was a truly worthwhile trip enjoyed by all.

Written by Christopher Coplestone, Laura Salisbury & Daniel Chow





This year we decided on a different format for our annual AT camp. Instead of the usual trek up to the Lakes, Sqn Ldr Callister opted for a long weekend in his beloved Snowdonia, where the rain he ordered didn't arrive!

We managed to gain places for 30 cadets in the ideally located Cadet Adventurous Training Camp at Capel Curig in the heart of North Wales. The venue was a perfect base for the variety of activities we concentrated into the last weekend in April. After several headaches over transport for Lt Col Scott, the army eventually provided us with a coach, which meant our school minibus was used for shuttling us about once we were there.

Our first stop was a high ropes adventure course near Betwys-y-Coed. The pictures of Tree Top Adventure need to be seen to be believed – go to the web site and see the height (100ft) of the powerfan. See a video of how our cadets 'Plummet from the Summit!' ([www.ttadventure.co.uk](http://www.ttadventure.co.uk)) It was a truly memorable experience.

With the adrenalin already rushing, we settled into mass volleyball (15 aside) on the camp. The evening meal was much appreciated and followed by a briefing from our mountain leaders for an attack on the infamous mountain called Tryfan. The morning promised sunshine but a little low cloud, and even some hail was experienced towards the end of the day! All the seasons in one day occur in Wales!

Lt Col Scott ferried the three groups to the start point and it was immediately realised that this was not going to be a simple climb: it was a steep rock scramble for much of the ascent – but highly enjoyable, and very testing, for all. A great day, in superb scenery with reasonable weather, is an amazing achievement for this part of Wales – many thanks must go to Sqn Ldr Callister, WO2 Savage, Flt Lt Taylor and Mr. Hancock, who were our MLs. Thanks must also be given to 2Lt Sutcliffe and Mrs Copland, (who also successfully completed all the activities on the high ropes course the day before!)

Back to Betwys-y-Coed for an hour before evening meal and many cadets spent a further couple of hours climbing with Mr Hancock on the climbing wall on camp. There was even time for a showing of 'Top Gun' in the conference room for those who wanted.

The next day we were shuttled to the National Mountaineering Centre at Plas-y-Brenin. Here the groups were divided into skiers and non-skiers. The three activities were: dry slope skiing, orienteering and raft building (and attempting to paddle it along a river!) Many cadets discovered that if the raft was not tied tightly – it collapsed! The beginners performed very well on skis and progress was made in only two hours lesson. Great fun was had, again, by all concerned, but all things have to end and after a brief presentation we boarded the coach home. Within minutes nearly everyone on the bus was fast asleep!

A huge thanks to all concerned with this new venture, especially Sqn Ldr Callister, as it was his idea. It was a great success and I think we will probably repeat this format next year.





## Dine out with SNCOs

On Saturday 7 March some 70 senior cadets (NCOs), officers, adult instructors and former cadets attended a Regimental Dinner to dine out the senior NCOs.

This has become a biennial event and, yet again, was superbly organised by Lt Janet Knight. All those who attended thoroughly enjoyed the evening where the guest speaker was Sqn Ldr Brian McCran RAFR, who is overall in charge of Air Cadets for all of Scotland, N. Ireland and N. England. He was suitably impressed by, not only the silverware on display (courtesy of the Duke of Lancaster's Regimental Museum at Fulwood) but also on the presentation, attire and particularly the speeches made by our senior NCOs. Sqn Ldr McCran in his thank you letter said:

'...the cadets looked marvellous in their attire, particularly the ladies who had clearly gone to great lengths to rise to the occasion. The SNCOs spoke well and with an air of maturity. I was so impressed by their ability to convey a serious approach to the CCF whilst including the all-important fun element'

He went on to comment on..

'how it is a measure of quality.... that in a compulsory activity we can produce quality cadets'.

The evening was chaired by Sqn Ldr J. W. Callister (OC RAF) as President of the Mess Committee and Lt Col I.M. Scott thanked all concerned for such a wonderful and memorable occasion.

## Two NCOs attend leadership course

Corporals Alice Whitehead and Henry Redshaw both were very fortunate to be selected to attend the Cadet Leadership Course held at Nesscliffe Training Camp over Easter. This is a very arduous and demanding week open nationally to all cadets but each brigade does have a limited number of places.

They thoroughly enjoyed the physical and mental challenge that was offered on the course and both NCOs received good post camp reports. These army courses are designed to test junior NCOs and put them under pressure to complete leadership tasks in situations in teams of similar aged cadets from all over the country.

Alice and Henry performed with the usual KGS CCF enthusiasm and impressed their respective platoon officers and now return to school with new ideas and a wealth of experience received from the course.

Alice was an outstanding cadet at Frimley last summer and continued with her success by being in the best section of the week. Henry is an army scholar and does want to develop his career within the army, possibly in the cavalry. We await the detailed report on their performances with great anticipation.

### LESOTHO ADVENTURE

To be chosen as the only two cadets from the whole of the 42 (NW) Brigade to attend a selection weekend for a national expedition to Lesotho is a real feather in the cap for KGS CCF.

Sgts Grace O'Flaherty and Alice Whitehead both decided to apply for a place on this 'once in a lifetime expedition to Lesotho' (A small country within the Republic of South Africa). Being a national cadet event, one can but hope for a place. However, both of them have been chosen to attend a selection weekend in Somerset in July to finalise the actual group to be fortunate enough to go on this trip. Some 80 cadets will be put through their paces and about half of them may be successful in attaining a place.

We wish them well and I am sure they will thoroughly enjoy the experience. It is several years since we last had a cadet on an international expedition of this kind.

Lt Col I M Scott  
Contingent Commander



# CLIMBING



The Climbing Club has been very active this Spring and Summer, visiting the indoor climbing walls at West View in Preston, in Blackpool and at Lancaster University in the early part of the year and venturing forth onto the gritstone quarries of Lancashire as the weather improved. Denham Quarry, with its sunny aspect and lack of midges was the favourite venue, but Anglzarke, Wilton and Caudwell were also visited. The core of the membership is in the Fifth and the Upper Sixth Forms and so although the club is oversubscribed at present, there should be room to take new members next September, to replace those who have left school.

In the lower part of school Tim Naughton, Jodie Gaston-Ross and Gemma Coleman are the chief activists - all three are talented climbers with much potential for the future. At the top end of the school we are sorry to say goodbye to a group of climbers who have been the mainstay of the club for several years. We shall miss the good humored exuberance of Luke Paterson, Michael Bennett, Elena Gaddes, Maria Hindley and Tom Reid and we wish them well in their future careers at university. We shall particularly miss Maria and Elena who have been good officers of the club over the last two years, during which time the club has thrived.



## Sixth Form Mentors

Eight Sixth Form students (Christian Luker, Rhiannon Brown, David Ellis, Hattie Clarkson, Robert Loxham, Nina Wilkinson, Georgia Thompson and Matthew Spedding) were selected to undergo a mentoring programme with third year forms throughout the academic year. The aim of this programme is to ensure that third year pupils have support and empathy from an older pupil who may have experienced some of the issues faced by this age group. Two mentors were allocated to each third year form and continued to meet with the relevant class weekly during tutorial time. The programme was deemed to be extremely successful and evaluative feedback was extremely positive, with mentors even spending their leisure time helping out at the first to third year disco. This programme is set to be repeated during the next academic year and chosen mentors are now preparing to emulate the success of the pilot year.

## Success for KGS volunteers

One of two teams from Kirkham Grammar School Sixth Form has won the "outstanding team" award for their part in the Lancaster University "Voltage" project.

The project, run by the Lancaster University Volunteering Unit, encourages teams of young people from Lancashire schools and colleges to set up a "social enterprise", with the aim of bringing people together and making money for charity. Teams are supported and advised by volunteer students from the university, but take full responsibility for every aspect of running their social enterprise over a 4 week period.

The winning Kirkham Grammar team, "Unite", had proposed running a movie night for younger pupils in the school, but when that project fell through due to practical difficulties, they re-focused their efforts and funds into selling end-of-term Easter treats in school. They were presented with their award at the project's Gala Presentation Night, held at Haighton Manor Hotel in Preston.

The judges praised the team's resilience, togetherness and good humour throughout the project, and the way in which they refused to let setbacks deflect them from raising money for their chosen good cause. The team's profits are to be donated to Pear Tree Special School in Kirkham.





## VICKY PETERS MEMORIAL MATCH

The sun shone brightly on what was set to be a very competitive match as both KGS and the 'KGS Old Girls' set out in good spirit to play in the Annual Memorial Hockey Match 2009. With a young KGS side, the old girls had the upper hand where experience was concerned and demonstrated this from the start with some great individual play. Not long into the first half the old girls opened the score line with a shot that seemed to be going wide!!

With a lot of the old girls still playing hockey at University and Clubs the School clan struggled at times to keep possession and were often hassled off the ball.

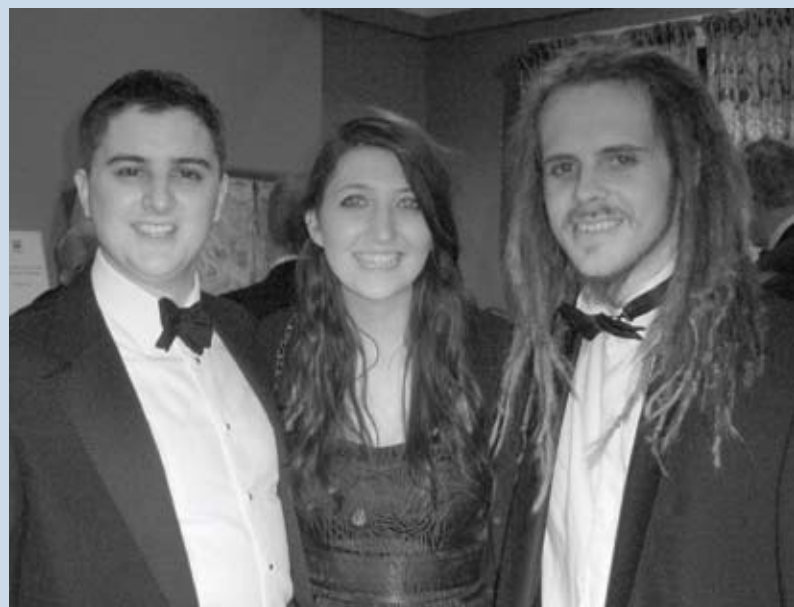
At half time the score was 3-0 to the Old Girls which showed that they still 'have it'. KGS approached the second half with a different attitude, and they

set out to remind the Old Girls about true grit and determination. At the final whistle the School achieved their goal leaving the final score at 3-0. There were excellent performances from Sam Shopland-Reed, Jade Mottley and Katie Gorman for the present KGS team and Leanne Sharples, Amy Twambley, Fran McNeela and Meg Duncan for the 'Old Girls'

Another very memorable occasion with vast support from parents past and present, players and friends and a fitting tribute to the memory of Vicky Peters.

## SOUTHERN REUNION DINNER

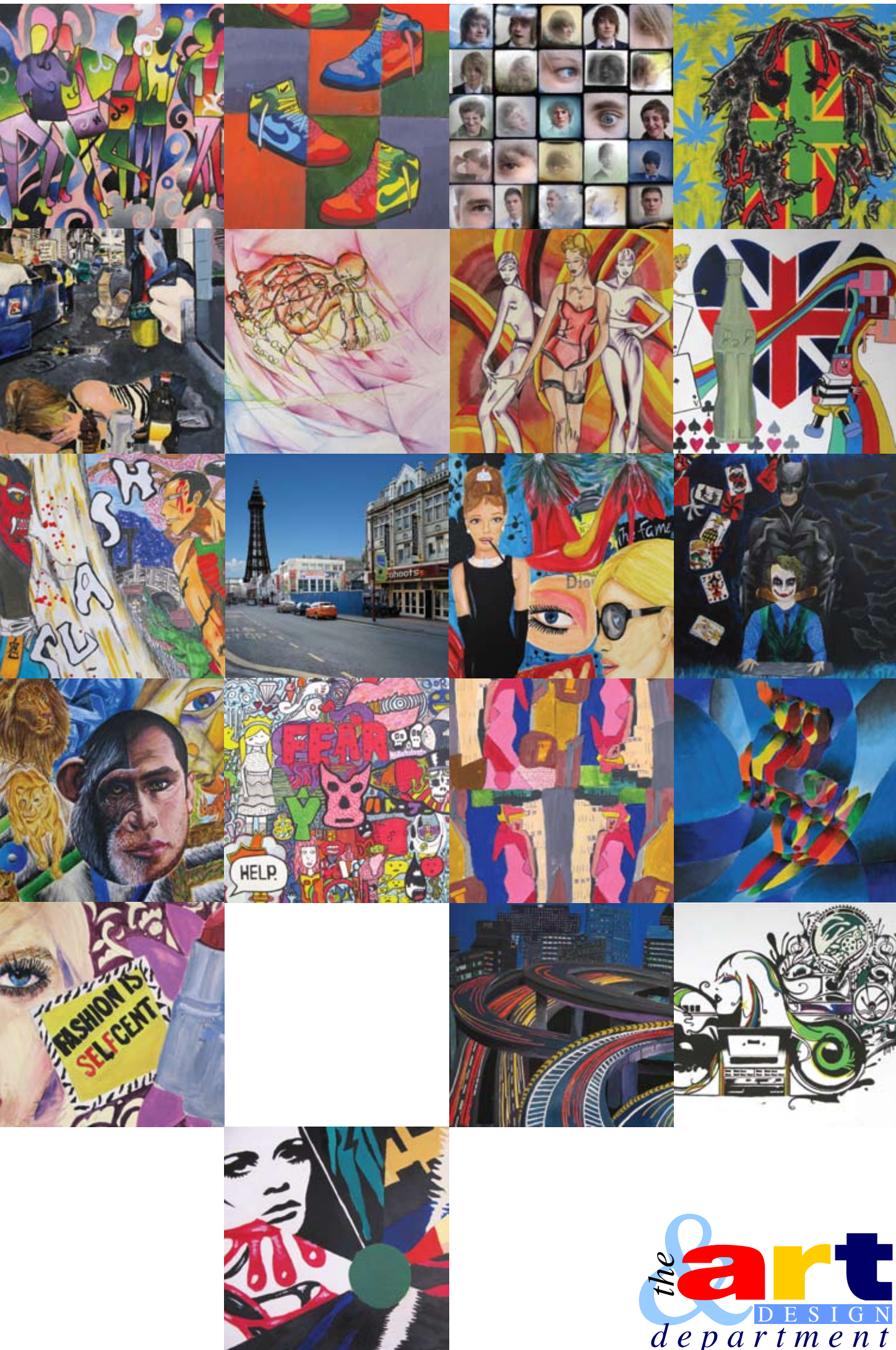
The 2009 Southern Reunion Dinner marked the 50th Anniversary of the gathering. This year the event was held at Lady Margaret Hall in Oxford and 25 members of the Association enjoyed a superb meal and splendid evening together.





**43°**  
**GCSE 2009**





# blast

# BBC

## Fashion is her game



Laura Sailsbury, Sixth Form Art & Design student, has won a place on the 'Your Label', the BBC Blast Project which gives a group of young people the chance to design their own collection and show it on the catwalk during London Fashion Week.

Laura's story is a tale of, "if you don't succeed try try again". Last year she applied for this coveted experience to work with famous fashion designers, but did not make the cut. This year armed with a very complete portfolio, she made it into the team after being short listed from many thousands of young fashion designer hopefuls.

The team have started to design their range under the brand name 1Wo/Man. Laura travels down to London on a regular basis to meet up and undergo intensive workshops and research under the mentoring of Olaf Parker (photo right), Fashion Consultant for the BBC and Creative Director and owner of

men's fashion brand Burro.

Webisodes telling their story will be on the Blast website soon.

Alongside their collection they'll be showing a 'diffusion' range of t-shirts to complement their designs. The shirts will be professionally printed, sold in aid of Children in Need and featured in the catwalk show.

They also want students to design their own t-shirt collection. The team have produced moodboards and a statement about the collection to inspire your designs but it's up to you to interpret the themes in any way you wish. The winning 12 designs chosen by the Your Label Team will be the ones which they feel show the most originality and artistic flair, best compliment the moodboards, and combine with other chosen designs to form a cohesive range.

The Prize: You will receive invitations to the catwalk show in London for you and a guest to see your t-shirt on the catwalk and you'll get a professionally printed t-shirt bearing your design from the collection. The BBC will pay your reasonable travel expenses to come and see the show. Goto the blast website for more information at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/blast/>

Laura has a busy time ahead of her as she travels back and forth to London in readiness for the catwalk display in mid-September. We wish her all the best.





# PHOTOGRAPHS 2009

The **art**  
department



# ....."Thriller":)

After a long exhausting journey the Sixth Form artists and photographers finally arrived at the picturesque seaside resort of Scarborough. On our journey we visited Saltire where the famous Salt Mill was transformed into a modern museum full of exciting artwork by the artist David Hockney. In the museum shop we purchased some specialist sketchbooks for a week full of drawing. We then travelled to Oliver's Mount where we saw our first view of Scarborough which was super-duper.

Our first day consisted of a trip to Ravenscar, Robin Hood's Bay and Whitby. At Ravenscar we sat on the mount and drew Robin Hood's Bay and the beautiful landscapes surrounding it from a distance. We then travelled to the town of Robin Hood's Bay where we bought chocolate shots and walked around the town taking further photographs of the landscape and drawing specific views. Our last visit of the day took us to Whitby where we visited Abbey Mount – the ruins of the old abbey where we did further drawings to increase the range of our portfolios.

Count Dracula may have his roots firmly in Eastern Europe, but in Stoker's story he visits a small seaside resort on England's north-east coast in search of British blood. After all, even vampires need a holiday.

In the early 1890s, when Bram Stoker was writing his famous novel, Whitby was a thriving port and fishing town. It was also an increasingly popular seaside resort for wealthy and fashionable Victorians. When the fishing industry began to decline in the later part of the twentieth century, Whitby survived because of its popularity with tourists. Bram Stoker often took his holidays here.

In Stoker's novel, after the shipwreck of The Demeter, Dracula runs up the famous 199 steps to the graveyard in St Mary's church (photo right) in the shape of a black dog. An examination of the ship's log shows that the crew members had been gradually disappearing since she left Varna in Russia. But it is the ship's cargo which gives readers a clue about how Dracula managed to travel so far without being noticed -- it is full of coffins.

This passage from the novel is based on historical fact. A few years before Stoker came to Whitby, a ship called The Demetrius was damaged on the rocks near the harbour. Its cargo of coffins tumbled into the sea. The locals revelled in telling yarns about the dead bodies that appeared on the town's beaches in various stages of decay for weeks after. A bench on the cliff top path is inscribed with the words 'The view from this spot inspired Bram Stoker (1847-1912)'. This spot was a real "thriller"

for us students.

The second day the weather was on our side and everyone was enthusiastic for another busy day of drawing. Climbing up to the castle and using the church yard as our base we drew pictures of both the castle and the surrounding landscape. As a group we set off and travelled to the nearby harbour, which was very scenic. This was a great chance for us to draw both the boats in the harbour and lighthouse at the end of the pier. After a very tiring day we headed back to the hotel where we enjoyed a wonderful meal.

Our last day of drawing involved us travelling to the South Bay, Filey and North Landing, Flamborough where we had a large range of views to draw and photograph. During our stay at Filey Mr Painter delighted us with his yoga skills on the grass. The last destination at Flamborough where we had a final opportunity to draw the scenery was beautiful and we tried to enjoy it as much as we could as it was our last stop where we had the opportunity to work.

On our final and fifth day we journeyed back to school, making a stop at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park where we picked up ideas for future work from the contemporary sculptures on display. Overall everything was a success and everyone enjoyed themselves. We would like to thank Mr Painter and Mr Gardiner for making our trip an enjoyable experience.

Maxine Galley, Katie Fisher & Rebecca Lewis









# MUSIC

"An oasis in the week, with so many surprises." This was how one teacher described one of our series of monthly Coffee Concerts, held in the Old Hall on Friday lunchtimes. The Coffee Concerts give a large number of pupils the opportunity to play or sing before an audience and there are many very pleasant surprises as pupils who have not previously performed in public discover their ability to perform before an audience. Different groups give the Coffee Concerts and this term's concerts have been given by 6th Form, 4th Year and 2nd Year musicians. Amy Wilson, Melissa McCarthy, Hannah Smith and Alice Whitehead gave the first of the term's concerts, featuring work that was to be used in GCE exams. The 4th Year GCSE pupils also included their examination work, gaining greatly from the experience of preparing for, and performing to, an audience.

The Spring Concert, held on 7 May in the MPH, gave us the opportunity to say thank you and

goodbye to a large number of Upper Sixth Form musicians who have taken part in school music throughout their years at KGS. As well as hearing excellent contributions from the Concert Band, Choir, String Group, Swing Band, Orchestra and Lower School Choir a large audience enjoyed a Vivaldi duet from Melissa McCarthy and Hannah Smith, a Mozart Flute Concerto movement from Amy Wilson and The Leaving Quintet of Grace Garlington, Fiona Williams, Sarah Dickie, Michael Bennett and Charles O'Flaherty who performed the Agnus Dei from Karl Jenkins' Armed Man.

The school was once again delighted to be invited to provide the entertainment before one of the prestigious Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra concerts in Preston Guild Hall. On Tuesday 19 May the Swing Band represented KGS, delighting a packed audience with a most enjoyable set of pieces that included a vocal

solo by our Head Girl, Caitlin McMillan. We are always grateful to the work of the Music Society Secretary and Sarah Dickie has filled this role excellently this year and has now passed on the role to Melissa McCarthy for 2009-2010.

The Band of the King's Division, under the direction of Bandmaster Gavin Holden, visited KGS on Friday 6 March, working with members of the KGS Concert Band in a morning workshop before presenting a concert to a large and enthusiastic audience in the afternoon. The Band, one of Britain's premier Army bands, has visited KGS annually over a number of years and we are always very grateful for the experience open to our own musicians when playing alongside professional players.

A C Barratt









# Diary Dates

## 'A' Level Results

10.00 am, Thursday, 20 August

## GCSE Results

10.00 am, Thursday, 27 August

## 1st Year Induction Day

8.50 am, Wednesday 2 September

## New School Year begins

8.50 am, Thursday 3 September

## Senior School Annual Prizegiving and Speech Day

7.15 for 7.30 pm, Thursday 17 September at the Guild Hall, Preston

## Friends of KGS AGM

Monday, 21 September

## Old Kirkhamians' Association AGM

Saturday, 17 October

## New Parents Welcome Evening

Tuesday, 6 October

## Open Afternoon

Sunday, 11 October

## Open Evening

Monday, 9 November

## Friends of KGS Winter Ball at Ribby Hall, Wrea Green

Saturday, 14 November

## Friends of KGS Christmas Fair

Friday, 27 November

## "Young" OKA Reunion

Sunday, 20 December

Preston Grasshoppers RFC at 7.30 pm

## Senior School Entrance Exam

Saturday, 16 January 2010



As this newsletter goes to print the DoE group will be packing their rucksacks, preparing their routes and heading to the Lake District for the summer expedition. Over 60 KGS students will be undertaking the challenge of completing either their Bronze, Silver or Gold expedition. We hope for good walking weather and another successful adventure.

This was the case during the Easter holidays when 27 students and 5 staff headed for the Keswick area of the Lake District. Although we had some very cold and wet nights the weather in the day made for a very enjoyable expedition. The 3 Bronze groups benefited greatly from a practice day walking around the Keswick area, before starting their expedition, leaving Braithwaite and heading down the Borrowdale Valley to Roshwaite, where they set up camp and prepared to complete their route the following day. All undertaking their first expedition worked very well as part of a team and they tried very hard with their navigation skills.

The two Silver groups walked into Braithwaite from north of Bassenthwaite Lake on the first day and then after a well-deserved sleep also headed down towards Rosthwaite. One group had planned to walk along the tops of Catbells and although they found the slog to the top with their expedition packs hard work, the views from the peaks made it all worthwhile. All participants had a great time and were a credit to themselves, the DoE and the school.

Hopefully with the large number of students taking part in the Summer Expedition we will have many DoE Awards to present during the next academic year.

Since the last newsletter we are pleased to announce the following:

### Gold Award:

Elena Gaddes & Chris Box

### Silver Award:

Lucy Knowles, Robert Parr, Charles O'Flaherty, Francesca Hughes, Michael Bennett & Grace Garlington

### Bronze Award:

Jessica Hewitt-Dean, Georgia Cheyne, Jenny Miller, Lauren Harris, Sara Collinge & Hannah Smith

At present we are waiting for confirmation from DoE on two Gold Awards (Charles O'Flaherty and Alice Whitehead). It is also pleasing to note that Grace Garlington and Lucy Knowles will have completed their Gold Awards after the summer expedition. Charles, Grace and Lucy have been such fun, hardworking members of the CCF and the DoE scheme and we wish them continued enjoyment of life at university. Alice will be one of the youngest KGS students to achieve her Gold DoE Award and I am sure she will continue to support the DoE throughout the Upper Sixth.

Since the last newsletter, however, we have heard that Chris Box and Elena Gaddes have been successful in achieving their Gold Awards and we congratulate them immensely for their efforts throughout their time at KGS. Chris has just completed his first year studying at Oxford University and has waited patiently to receive his Award, having completed his expedition some time ago. Elena, who has just completed her A levels, has been a keen and active member of the CCF and the DoE scheme and is a deserved recipient of the Gold Award. She is presently waiting to hear when she will be summoned to the Palace to receive her Award.

## SUMMER ACTIVITY CAMPS

### David Shaw Tennis Camp

Week commencing 13.07.09

Week commencing 20.07.09

### Kings Sport Camp

Week commencing 03.08.09

Week commencing 10.08.09

Week commencing 17.08.09

### Drama School/Workshop

Week commencing 27.08.09



The last few months have been a busy time in the Library, starting with World Book Day on March 5th. As usual it was a day of storytelling for all pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 and it was good to welcome some new faces this year. Our readers included Mrs Fearn, Mr Sampey, Mr Walker, Mrs Heney, Mr Painter and Mr Wheatland who all entertained us with excellent stories. A cheque for £100 was sent to Book Aid International, a charity which supplies books to support education in the developing world.

The Easter Scribblers' recital was popular with the pupils and provided a good event at the end of what had been a very busy Spring term.

The start of the Summer term found us pondering the deeper questions about 'life, the universe and everything'! How old is the universe? What happened to the dinosaurs? Why did European explorers set out to conquer the globe? Are we really superior to other living things? These questions are just some of those asked and answered by author Christopher Lloyd in his entertaining and informative book *What on Earth Happened*, a unique volume which covers 13.7 billion years in a single, sweeping narrative. We were privileged to be able to welcome Mr Lloyd to the school and he gave his interactive and amusing presentation to five of the seven year groups, creating much debate among both pupils and staff. Drawing on disciplines ranging from astrophysics to zoology, he presented a truly cross-curricular and interdisciplinary event to tell the whole history of our planet and to show how life, the universe and EVERYTHING are connected. The twenty physical props he used to make the story more memorable included a balloon and a pin, a box of eggs, a pair of plastic breasts and a packet of Uncle Ben's rice! The laughter generated by these objects proved that learning can be fun and ensured that the content will not be forgotten.

I was privileged to be asked to take part in the Adventurous training weekend at Capel Curig Training Camp where the company, food, weather and activities were all excellent. I survived the ordeal, albeit somewhat bruised and I took great pride in posting the photographic proof of my endeavours on Facebook!

The Lancashire branch of the School Library Association organised another Pupil Conference, following on from the success of last year's event. The branch subsidises the event and there is no cost to the pupils. Gemma Coleman, Andrew Collins, Matthew Donaldson and Liam Marrows were invited to take part because of their sterling work with shadowing the Carnegie Award. Fifty one pupils from fifteen schools across Lancashire enjoyed a wonderful day of activities and glorious sunshine at Collegiate High School, Blackpool. Having got to know each other through some 'ice-breaking' activities they then took part in a 'Speed Dating' event with a difference – it involved books, not people! Each pupil was given a short amount of time to sell their favourite book to their 'opposite partner', who then reciprocated; marks were given by the listener and then partners were changed. The delegates also enjoyed the facilities of the 'adventure' area near the Library, which includes a climbing wall, a giant chess set and some table football. An excellent lunch was followed by a literary quiz using the Activote system, which we agreed would be a wonderful resource to

use in the Library at KGS! Pupils were put into teams of three, all from different schools, with prizes for the winners. Every pupil left Collegiate with a 'goody bag' containing books, stationery and other items, as well as a Certificate of Attendance and Gemma Coleman gave a vote of thanks to the staff at Collegiate who had worked so hard to make the day such a success.

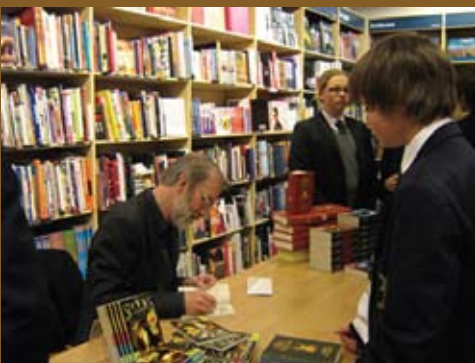
I then attended the School Library Association Weekend Conference, held at the University of Surrey and met some interesting authors as well as hosting a workshop and this was followed by a very busy Duke of Edinburgh expedition to the Lake District.

Libraries boring and librarians shy? Certainly not here at KGS!

Mrs Copland



# Library



# CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Art Club  
Chess Club  
Climbing Club  
Craft Club  
Croquet Club  
Debating Society  
Duke of Edinburgh  
Drama Club  
Environmental Action Group  
Gardening Club  
Greek Club  
Jigsaw Club  
Law Society  
Magic Circle  
Marine Club  
Modern Dance Club  
Music Society  
Photography Club  
Quiz and Games Club  
Scribblers Club  
Shooting Club  
Sixth Form Discussion Group  
Ski Society  
Table Tennis Club  
Volleyball Club  
Warhammer Club  
Young Engineers



## Croquet Society

If you happen to be passing KGS at lunchtime on a sunny day, you may well see the Croquet Society in action on the Headmaster's Lawn. A group of Sixth Formers regularly play the game in a spirited and competitive atmosphere. Before the half-term the players commented on how it was a great stress reliever at an anxious time for them – the run-up to the summer exams. Now that the exams are over, the games are less tense but equally exciting. Jenny Miller (Lower Sixth) is carrying on something of a family tradition – it was her elder brother, Alex, who was instrumental in re-founding the Society three years ago. So it looks like the Society is here to stay for as long as the sun shines and the grass is green.



## Gardening Club

This year saw the beginnings of a new extra curricular Club - The Gardening Club. The club began in the autumn term with poor weather forcing us to turn our efforts onto indoor activities. The group made Christmas wreaths to take home and provided the Friends Society with potted hyacinths for the Christmas Fair. We also signed up for the Morrisons "Let's Grow" Scheme and with support from pupils, parents and staff we managed to collect over 3000 vouchers. A big thank you to everyone who supported us and with your help we were able to buy a large number of tools, seeds and gardening equipment.

As the weather improved we were able to go outside and tend to our new plot. In went potatoes, broad beans, onions, garlic, sunflowers and pumpkins. In the greenhouse we planted tomatoes, strawberries and cucumbers. By early June we were able to harvest our first fruit and continued to tend to the large plot on a daily basis. Second year students committed themselves to the cause by watering the plants every day and attempting to overcome the huge challenge of weeding. Needless to say the wet weather did not help!

The Club has provided students with an opportunity to learn, to appreciate their surroundings and has given us a real sense of achievement as we saw our produce grow. A huge thank you to the ground staff who have provided support and advice which has contributed to the success of the Club. We hope that the Club will go from strength to strength in the new term. We have lots of ideas for new projects and look forward to welcoming new members. The Chelsea Flower Show may be calling us yet!



# Photography Club



This year saw the debut of the Kirkham Grammar School Photography Club. We began with over fifty members but this slowly condensed to around 20 dedicated photographers, hugely interested in the medium of photography. A small, enthusiastic gathering we find makes our group easier to work with and unique in that we can work on everyone's ideas with regards to the photography medium.

Each week we take our enthusiastic class of budding photographers through stages of learning. For example, the secrets of taking a better, more creative picture and learning crucial Photoshop techniques. Not forgetting the monthly teamed tasks or competitions, with prizes!

In the first few weeks we showed members how to use their digital cameras, especially concentrating on the Digital SLR (Single Lens Reflex) cameras and how the different modes that can be used are essential to capturing the best photograph possible. Then for the next few lessons we covered some practical work which involved modelling and movement photography. Finally, in the past few weeks we have been looking at the processes in which the digital photograph can be edited and manipulated on Photoshop. We then add our members work to the website "Flickr" where we can share, comment, and see each others photographic work, with other photographers around the world.

The Club has been a success in its first year and we hope to gain more members and improve their already impressive talent. Thank you to our loyal members for making this club work.

Vicky Willocks and Seb Luker



## CRAFT CLUB

Craft Club meets on Friday lunch-times in the Autumn and Spring Terms. Each week pupils can knit or stitch and, in addition, we have a special activity each week. Specials have included card-making, beading, origami, scoubidoos and glass-painting.

Recently, pupils have been encouraged to take on a slightly longer project involving creating a design, deciding on materials and completing the project. Some imaginative work has been produced.

The photo above shows a bag which has been customised by a pupil to her own design.

The Club is assisted by a parent, Mrs Sue Bourne, a talented craftswoman, who generously supplies materials, enthusiasm, expertise and endless patience each week to encourage pupils to develop their creative talents.

In this photo, one group gets help with their knitting whilst another group paints glass candle-holders for Hallowe'en

Mrs S P Long







# Sixth Form Leavers Ball 2009





# Friends Summer Ball 2009







# APPRENTICE FEVER

Apprentice fever struck Kirkham Grammar School for the third year running and this time students from Years 10, 12 and 13 took part. As in previous years students made a donation and picked who they believed to be the winner by the end of week three.

For those unfamiliar with the BBC show the 12-week competition sets the candidates through a grueling series of tasks and the first prize is the job of Sir Alan Sugar's apprentice, with a six figure salary.

The women reigned supreme in this series and Yasmina Siadatan and Kate Walsh battled it out in the final to create and market a new brand of chocolates to win a job with Sir Alan Sugar.

Yasmina Siadatan and Kate Walsh hoped that the all-female showdown of the BBC1 reality show will inspire other women in business.

However, there can only be one winner and after twelve grueling weeks, Sir Alan chose his next apprentice 27 year old Yasmina Siadatan.

We have, as always, some very intuitive students at KGS and no less than six students correctly identified Yasmina as the winner. These were Christopher Goode, Max Longhurst, Rebecca Lewis, Brogan Leeson, Oliver Rigby, John Massey and Jourdan Kenny – they all received a small prize donated by the Headmaster.

All the monies raised from the competition were donated to Cystic Fibrosis and the Meningitis Trust.



## Business Studies

Two Principal Examiners and a young entrepreneur delivered a most engaging and useful revision session in Manchester to the Lower Sixth Business Studies students. The day was focused on improving topic material and examination technique and delivered from someone else's perspective can prove beneficial for some students. The third presenter on the day was Natalie Hayworth who was a contestant last year on the BBC show The Last Millionaire. This programme took 12 of Britain's most successful young entrepreneurs and dropped them into six of the world's most exciting and demanding cities. Here they faced the ultimate business challenge; to make money from scratch in just five days. Natalie shared her experience of starting up and running Soundmob and Leaf Tea Shop, her two business ventures in her home town of Liverpool, as well as her experience of taking part in the BBC challenge.

## LAMDA

Lamda Speech and Drama Pupils have enjoyed a record year for exam successes. So far 76 senior school pupils have taken an examination in 2009, fifteen of which were the higher grade medal exams. Always prestigious indications of ability and achievement, the Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals now have added benefit. Dependent upon the level of attainment, Distinction, Merit or Pass, the medals carry points recognised by the QCA which can be used towards the UCAS university entrance tariff. Many Lamda students achieve their Gold Medal in Upper Sixth Form which, with a Distinction grade for example, can afford points equivalent to between a C/D grade pass at A Level. A fitting reward for all the hard work and effort put into acquiring and developing skills during lower and middle school years.

Out of the 76 exam successes the following pupils achieved a Medal examination;

Elena Gaddes  
Caitlin McMillan  
Jenny Miller  
Hannah Smith  
Alice Whitehead  
Vicky Willocks  
Christina Blenkinship  
Kerry Emmett  
Lucy Fielding  
Jessica Hewitt-Dean  
Catherine Moss  
Sarah Quarmby  
Sarah Robson  
Phoebe Stowe  
Grace Toland

Acting Gold Medal (Grade 8)  
Acting Gold Medal  
Duologue Acting Silver Medal (Grade 7)  
Acting Silver Medal  
Acting Silver Medal  
Duologue Acting Silver Medal  
Acting Bronze Medal (Grade 6)  
Acting Bronze Medal  
Acting Bronze Medal  
Acting Bronze Medal  
Acting Bronze Medal  
Acting Bronze medal  
Acting Bronze Medal  
Acting Bronze Medal  
Acting Bronze Medal





# ITALY TOUR 2009

After a long successful season we were ready to take on the Italians in the Easter break. After a short flight and a long coach trip we finally got to the hotel at mid-night and everybody unpacked and went to bed, ready for an exciting week.

The next day, apart from soaking up the sunshine on the beach, we managed to train for a few hours at Jesolo Rugby Club to get used to the Italian style of fast and hard rugby.

The first game was against Paese RUFC, which we won comfortably (45-5) and the next game was much harder against Piave di Soligo RUFC, which we won 32-10, and to get the wins we wanted in the last two games against Pordenone RUFC and Fontanafredda RUFC were a very enjoyable experience. This makes us unbeaten on tour.

Apart from playing rugby, we managed to squeeze in some trips such as the Go-Karting and the sight-seeing at Venice. However we were disappointed with not being able to see Mr Harrison's driving skills on the Go-Kart track. One of the most interesting excursions was to watch an Italian rugby match Pretraca vs Benetton Treviso in which we were greeted by two old boys, Richard Wigglesworth and Warren Spragg.

Overall the tour was extremely enjoyable and we thank Mr Wu, Dr Rollins, Mr Trenhaile and Mr Harrison for all their hard work.

Report by Tom Hurst and Craig Whalley-Hunter.





### U12 7-a-side County Hockey Tournament

The team improved as the tournament progressed. In their first match against St Mary's Hall KGS lacked structure, crowding round the ball and hitting the ball into open space instead of to a player. However, in subsequent matches KGS were formidable in attack, making superb breaks at goal and defended strongly beating their opponents by a comfortable margin.

The results were:

St Mary's Hall	Won 1-0
Broughton	Won 9-0
Baines	Won 4-0
Arnold	Won 2-0
KEQMS	Won 7-0

The KGS girls are to be congratulated on what was an outstanding team performance as they were crowned Lancashire Champions.

A team - Camilla Evans, Nicola Seechurn, Megan Crowther, Amber Vaughan, Grace Reddy (Captain), Lucy Gardiner, Lucy Meagh and Megan Hall (photo below left)





# Lancashire Champions





# Fylde National 7s Champions



KGS retained their title won in 2008 at the Fylde National 7s.

In group games KGS were in sparkling form averaging 40 points a game, with Kieran Marmion, Daniel Bibby and Tommy Banks in top form. KGS beat Silcoates (43-7), Rodyr (45-14), Solihull (45-22) and St David's (55-7).

The last sixteen game with Manchester Grammar School was close until just after half time, with Jonathan Edwards and Sean Condon putting them under pressure as KGS picked up the pace and eased to victory (31-12).

The quarter-final against Llanwit Major was won comfortably 41-7, with James Moncrieff, Wasim Riley and Tom Sanders playing well. The semi-final against Warwick School (one of England's top rugby schools) was completely dominated by KGS, with Edwards and Condon creating havoc, allowing Kieran Marmion, Tommy Banks and Daniel Bibby to then score a number of tries.

Kieran Marmion continued this form, into the final against Robert Clack School from London, as he scored a number of tries after excellent defence and covering from Tommy Banks. KGS completely dominated the final running out winners by 40-5 and winning their third trophy of the Sevens Season (Birkenhead School, North of England and now Fylde National 7s).

Kieran Marmion (photo left) was voted Player of the Tournament.



# National Sevens Finalists

KGS 1st VII travelled to London to participate in the National Sevens the largest schoolboy tournament in the world (110 schools entered). Although confident after winning three tournaments this season (Birkenhead School, North of England and the Fylde Sevens), KGS faced some very tough opposition in their group. Oaklands College (Saracens Academy), had three internationals in their line-up, but KGS kept their composure and with Tommy Banks in top form a 24-22 victory was secured. Further victories followed against Wimbledon College, Amman Valley and Ardingley College. Daniel Bibby and Jonathan Edwards were in good form and these victories allowed KGS to go forward into the last sixteen (knock-out stage).

On a tense second day KGS faced Sedbergh, and with James Moncrieff and Daniel Bibby leading the way, KGS controlled Sedbergh for a 26-17 victory. The team were working very hard and their ability to defend in difficult situations often won them games. The quarter-final against Henley College, was won in comfortable fashion 29-17, with Ireland U18 scrum half Kieran Marmion prominent. This pushed KGS into a semi-final spot and position last achieved in 2002.

KGS now faced top Bristol School Colston's. In a nail-biting game both teams played excellent rugby and with one minute to go were locked at 19-19, but with strong scrummaging KGS forced Colston's into a

mistake and Kieran Marmion pounced to score a crucial try to give KGS a 24-19 victory and a spot in the final. The first time KGS have ever reached the final of this most prestigious of tournaments.

The final against Millfield was always going to be difficult; the opposition containing numerous internationals have won this tournament more than any other school. KGS started well and should have scored, but with heavy legs KGS tried in vain to cut down Millfield's pace. Unfortunately Millfield ran out 36-0 victors, although this score was not a true reflection of the game. However this was certainly Kirkham Grammar School's finest ever achievement at Sevens rugby.





**1st XI**  
**v MCC**





Following on from a hectic Autumn Term it was not without pleasure that all Houses took a well deserved rest over the festive period. However, before we could all digest the excesses of the Christmas break, it was back into the action, and the first series of events were not for the faint-hearted. With the cross country events kicking things off during a rather chilly January, it was a rather brutal welcome back to the nitty-gritty of representing your House, and doing your best for the greater cause.

For the Junior boys and girls cross-country the atmospheric conditions meant that there was a hint of snow in the air. It may have been the arctic temperatures that encouraged such a great competition and there were some excellent runs from all the Houses. The Junior Boys race was won by Sam Norris for Fylde, but excellent runs from the Preston team including Henry Cameron and Macauley Murgatroyd meant that they beat School into second place as a team, with Kirkham third. The Junior Girls race saw a very strong Kirkham team run well. Imogen Pierce came first overall for Preston, with Nicky Charter in second place for Fylde. However, strong runs from Katy Ingham, Kate Lawler and Lucy Meagh saw Kirkham beat Fylde into second place by 36 points.

The Intermediate races were run in more clement conditions, yet the quality of the running was still there to be seen. Preston dominated both boys and girls races, despite School House winning both races: Joe Walsh for the boys, and Ashley Bradshaw for the girls. In the girls' race, Preston's sixth and final counting runner finished in 15th place. Great strength in depth from Dr Rollin's squad, making it 3 wins out of 4 runs. The senior races came slightly later on in the term, but the results were more of the same. In the Senior Boys race, Preston runners came 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 8th and 9th, with Richard Morrell winning the race. A truly remarkable effort that none of the other Houses could come close to matching. The final race of the competition was the Senior Girls' race, and it came as no surprise that Preston once again came out on top with 40 points, beating Kirkham into second place with 69 points. Six races, five wins for Preston House.

Moving back indoors, the cut and thrust of the House Debate saw some experienced hands mixed in with some newcomers to this noble art. In the semi-finals, Fylde beat off the challenge of School, and Kirkham pipped Preston in order to set up a greatly anticipated meeting of Fylde's pairing of Miranda Hopkins-Coman and Benedict Fulford-Brown and Kirkham's Elena Gaddes and Caitlin McMillan. Mr Hawkes presided over an intriguing encounter, incorporating the more methodical approach of the Kirkham pairing against the more impassioned style of the Fylde duo. Following much ebbing, flowing and intellectual duelling, the judges announced that Kirkham had once again retained their crown. This was a bitter pill to swallow for the Fylde team who had fought valiantly.

If any competition is to attempt to embody the full nature of the House system, then House Music would be a strong contender. A true behemoth in terms of organisation, Mr Barratt and Mr Dalton must be thanked for their efforts before the first note is even played! All eyes were on reigning champions Kirkham as they once again attempted to combine undoubted quality with blatant quantity, and there were scores of entries from the yellow house, amassing 456 points following the auditions. Making their way into the finals were representatives from all Houses, and it was a tough task for the

adjudicator, Mr John Reeman, to find an order for the 25 finalists. In the end there were 'Highly Commendeds' for Kirkham's Lucy Fielding on piano and on violin. Fylde's Bradley Johnson came out 3rd with a beautiful piece of guitar playing. Fylde's Melissa McCarthy came 2nd with her entry into the singing category, but was pipped to the title by the singing of Caitlin McMillan, a deserved House Music champion.

The Ensemble Final was won by Fylde's pairing of Melissa McCarthy and Sarah Quarmby, and for the first time in living memory the House Choir competition was won by Fylde. With the points added up from the auditions, final solos, final ensembles and House Choir sections, the final positions were: 1st Kirkham with 750 points, 2nd Fylde with 570 points, 3rd School with 369 points, and 4th Preston with 342 points.

As the term progressed it was time to put into practice some of the CCF skills that had been honed by the more senior members of the school. The House Shooting competition is always hotly contested, and this year proved to be no exception. Spread over a number of weeks, each House has a team of three. Each team member has ten shots at a fixed target. Organised by Mr Taylor, each team took its turn to enter the rifle range and aim for a top team

score of 300. The first House onto the range was Fylde, and the team of Stuart Spencer, Toby Townsend and Ollie Chambers shot a very respectable 271 points. This score was to prove too good for the other Houses, and despite their best efforts, Kirkham came second with 265 points, School came third with 247 points and Preston fourth with 178 points. Stuart Spencer had the highest individual score of the competition with 94.

This year's Senior cricket competition was played in what can only be described as 'difficult conditions'. With heavy rain making the wicket quite literally 'sticky', it proved to be an intriguing contest. The first semi-final saw Fylde play Kirkham, with one of the slippiest wickets the umpires had seen in a long time. However, both teams were raring to go, and Kirkham decided to bat first. The Kirkham batsmen started strongly and despite the best efforts of Will Stover and Chris Allen. Fylde's wicket-keeper, Matt Bennett, was in great form and his quick hands were keeping the Kirkham batsmen on their toes. However, some of the claims for dismissals, were, at times, verging on the over-optimistic. Eventually Fylde made their breakthrough, and after having dropped a ridiculously easy caught and bowled, Ahmed Zaki then bowled Kieran Brookes with his next bowl. Kirkham eventually finished on 121 for 8 after 15 overs. Adam Kelsall being their top scorer on 42, with Ahmed Zaki 3-20 for Fylde.

Fylde then padded up and Ben Pickbourn on

23 and Will Stover 22 not out provided stiff resistance. However, the run rate was just not high enough. In a desperate attempt to score late runs, Sarah Hatch batted valiantly, and Ahmed Zaki struck some well timed shots but the sticky wicket meant that consequent running was slow. Fylde eventually finished on 89 for 4.

Preston House beat School quite easily in the second semi-final thanks to an unbeaten 48 runs from Kieran Marmion. The final was a much tougher match against Kirkham. Kirkham batted first and scored 97 for 8 off 14 overs with Kieran Brookes the pick of the batsmen and Bobby Garlington in his first senior year bowling with accuracy and flair for Preston. Preston then responded with a score of 98 for 2 off overs, another 61 not out from Kieran Marmion, to gain a well deserved victory.

Unfortunately due to external fixtures and ground conditions the Senior Rugby 7s were not played. However, both Junior and Intermediate Rugby 7s did go ahead. In the Intermediates, a strong School side, presided over by Mr Marmion, dominated proceedings, beating Kirkham into second place and Preston into third. Meanwhile in the Junior competition it was Fylde who dominated, conceding only one try in the whole competition. Preston came a valiant second after having beaten School 31 - 15. School House were third and Kirkham fourth.



The final event of this reporting period turned out to be the Senior Tennis Tournament. On a sunny, yet ridiculously windy Monday evening, the players assembled on the all-weather pitch for what was to be a good natured and intriguing set of games. Each House was represented by two pairs of players, and the tournament was conducted on a round-robin basis. The Preston pairings of Lucy Knowles and Nick Evans and Joe Leeming and Sam Fleuriot led the way with some confident tennis, and pushed the Fylde pairings of Matthew Edgar and Joseph Hargreaves and Sam Wignall and Sarah

Hatch close. Further along the courts, the School pairings of James Gardiner and Richard Beswick and Jamie Roper and Henry Redshaw impressively beat the Kirkham pairings of Peter Rigby and Ashley Jones and John Taylor and Mark Graham.

It soon became clear that School were the team to beat, with four very competent players making best use of the windy conditions. Despite winning 21 games, Preston failed to win a match and finished in fourth place. Having only won 20 games, Fylde still managed to creep into third place. The flamboyance of Stanley Graham and John Taylor pushed Kirkham up into second place, but with 32 games won and a perfect match record, it was the School House pairings that deservedly won the competition. Special mention must go to Lucy Knowles and Sarah Hatch as the only two female competitors, both of whom played their part and added a touch of panache to the occasion.



# Friends

I am very pleased to be able to say that the pupils and parents of KGS are not afraid of a little rain and this was proven to be the case on the occasion of our annual Fun Day (photo above) held on May 17 this year. After lots of careful planning and arranging a variety of attractions, the wonderful British weather put a little dampener on things. However, the day was well attended and apart from the Army Zip Wire, most stalls ran as we had intended and due to the support of everyone who came, we had a very successful day. I would personally like to thank Mr Peter Corkhill and Mrs Michelle O'Neill for their hard work beforehand and many hours spent counting money afterwards.

Following on from the Fun Day, all the Committee were looking forward to our wonderful Summer Ball (see photos earlier in this newsletter and the September edition of Lancashire Life), held in a marquee on the lawn in the front of school, as is the tradition. This year we were very excited about trying a formal sit down meal and thanks to Paul Rowley and his team, this was a wonderful success. The Lancashire Rose was the theme running throughout the menu and we have received lots of positive comments about the food. After such a gorgeous meal, it was time to hit the dance floor

to the sounds of our tribute band Planet ABBA. They were just fantastic and really got everyone up dancing and in the party atmosphere. The evening's entertainment was also helped along by DJ Scotty and Mr Lee Townsend who acted as our MC for the night. Special thanks must go to Mrs Michelle Norton, Mrs Rochelle Belington and Mrs Deni Middleton for all their vision and dedication towards making the Ball the success it was.

The Friends Committee are very pleased to be able to donate money towards the new outdoor lighting system for both the Junior School and the Senior School. This will not only improve the school's safety for our children but will enable lots more sporting activities to take place in the Autumn/Winter months when there is a shortage of light after the school day. We have also provided new tents and equipment for the CCF Division and also for the use of pupils taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

Once again I would like to take this opportunity to thank all friends, parents and pupils for supporting us over the last 12 months and I wish you all a relaxing and restful summer holiday.

Lorraine Wareing  
Friends Chairman

## Fylde Conservative

Earlier this year the Fylde Conservatives selected Mark Menzies to be their candidate at the next general election. He hopes to inherit the seat from Michael Jack who is to stand down after many years' service to the local area.



Despite a very busy schedule, Mark kindly agreed to visit KGS and to speak to the 30 A Level Politics students. He spent a few minutes describing his own background and then took questions from the students. There was a wide range of questions: some students quizzed him about current political issues, including the furore over MPs' expenses and the recent success of the BNP in the North West; others were interested in how he became involved in politics and his success in being selected for one of the safest Conservative seats in the country. All agreed that he answered the questions very well and gave some useful advice for those who have political ambitions of their own. There was wholehearted agreement with his parting message – that as good citizens we have a responsibility to involve ourselves in the political world by voting at the next election and ensuring a healthy and vigorous democracy. We are very grateful to Mark for giving us his valuable time and we look forward to catching up with him again in the near future.

# SPORTS ROUNDUP

The summer term remains the busiest term of the year when sporting activities conflict with the ever growing examination burden on pupils, which results in a congested timetable. When one adds the vagaries of the weather this adds up to a term which can be very congested and a challenge for teacher, pupil and parent alike! The late cancellations of cricket or athletics are so tiresome and do cause frustration but rest assured we are always doing our best to ensure a healthy level of activity, a safe environment and also trying to communicate effectively. Where things go astray we can only apologise and plead that to provide the level of activity here can result in some administrative elements occasionally falling behind.

Despite the rainfall of May and the prolonged examination period, the level of participation by our students has remained exceptional. Tragically Sports Day was lost to the weather for the first time in living memory and the congested calendar afforded no future date. Elsewhere in athletics, however, our teams and individuals have excelled. Pride of place must go to the Junior Girls Athletics Team (photo below right) who have reached the National Final of the Sainsbury's Cup for the second year in succession. A remarkable achievement for a school with relatively few to select from! Additionally our athletes had a highly successful weekend at the County Athletics Championships where under Mr Sampey's guidance Lamara Hill, (Inter Shot) and Adam Whalley (Inter Javelin) became County Champions. A further eight KGS athletes made the podium (top 3) at this high level. Another first class performance. Even before this at the County Clubs Championships three of our athletes Kate Lawler (800m), Lyndsay

O'Brien (Javelin) and Sarah Hatch (Discus) emerged victorious. To be commended also were the Inter Girls who reached the Regional A Final after defeating all local rivals, and the two boys' teams who reached the Regional B Finals again after defeating all local opposition. Even as this report is being written news of the girls' outstanding achievements in the Fylde Championships has arrived. Victory at all age groups U12, U13, U14 and U16 surpassed all recent years. Well done girls!

On the cricket field the 1st XI has once again found things hard on their tough circuit but a young side is evolving which will hopefully see KGS senior cricket develop well over the coming years while the 2nd XI lost only one fixture. At junior level all the teams have recorded some exciting victories notably the U12 and U13 against Arnold, U15 against Lancaster RGS and U14's in their exciting cup run. The U15 side has in fact won all their fixtures except one solitary defeat.

It has been nice to see some tennis fixtures underway with victories against King Edward & Queen Mary School and Lancaster Girls Grammar School overall. Old Kirkhamian Jane Jackson has assisted with coaching along with Mrs Walter who has joined us to cover for Mrs Benter this term. This summer sport becomes more popular at Wimbledon time but one could not escape noticing the achievements of Olivia Bence (photo bottom left) who has swept all before her this year but also found the time to represent the school with distinction.

Since the last newsletter we gained significant recognition on the sporting front in the Spring Term. Our rugby players were

awarded the Lancashire County School of the Year for the performance of all the teams. Certainly the 1st VII's campaign was a sensation with notable victories in prestigious tournaments and a solitary defeat to Millfield at Rosslyn Park. Yet all the teams concluded their seasons with distinction and collected trophies in the Sevens circuits. Not to be outdone the Girls Senior Hockey team collected an honourable draw with their Millfield rivals in our own tournament, while the U14 and U16 teams carried all before them in various competitions.

Further evidence of the breadth of activity came with the news that our Volleyball team finished the season as runners up in the Fylde and Preston League. This represented their highest ever finish in the adult competition. Our swimmers also had an excellent season with both boys and girls active in the pool, representing the school with five teams for each gender. The U12 boys even managed to go unbeaten.

Such is the commitment of our pupils that it is hard to keep up with them and yet the demands of sport become greater each year. I have no doubt our teams will continue to set standards, benefitting from the hard work of all the staff who put in so much time outside normal hours in supporting them.

