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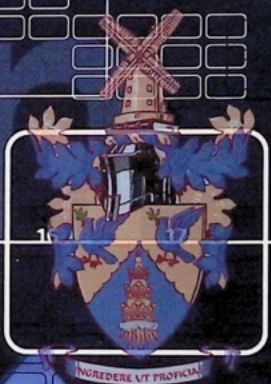
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We would like to thank all who have advertised in this magazine and ask that you support their businesses.

Another very eventful year has seen a great deal of change and development at Kirkham Grammar School. Much to the satisfaction of all concerned, the progress of the school has recently been confirmed by a very favourable inspection, greatly to the credit of staff during a year which has seen several changes of personnel. Academic results have been good, the numbers on roll have again grown considerably and the development of school facilities has continued to progress at a relentless pace. The extra-curricular life of the school, much admired by the inspectorate, has continued to flourish with some outstanding achievements on the sports field, a full programme of house events and much good music and drama.

The growing popularity of the school has been reflected in increasing numbers of pupils across the age range. From September 1998, the Junior School will have advanced to a two-form entry school with an anticipated 245 pupils on roll between the ages of four and eleven years. Demand for places in the Senior School has grown sufficiently to enable the recruitment of a second successive four-form entry. This is an excellent achievement in a year in which the loss of assisted places has dealt a serious blow to recruitment in a very large number of independent schools across the country. Thus far, however, KGS has survived the loss and continued to prosper. With sixth form numbers continuing to grow and a full Boarding House, the future for the school appears to be as sound as it has ever been and it is good to see a balance of the sexes with almost as many girls in the school as boys.

The past year has seen considerable changes in the staffing structure of the school. After six years loyal and committed service, our Deputy Head, Mr. Paul Stockdale, progressed to the Headship of Ballard College, an independent day and boarding school in

Hampshire. We shall not forget the enormous contribution Mr. Stockdale made to KGS and we shall always cherish his many outstanding personal qualities. In order to see us through the long Autumn Term, Mr. Baines was promoted to Senior Master in his final year at Kirkham Grammar School, a fitting finale to a teaching career which has spanned 31 years at the school. An Old Boy and former Captain of KGS, Mr. Baines has served the school as Head of Biology, Head of Science, Housemaster of Kirkham House and President of the Staff Common Room - not an easy man to replace! The Music Department will also miss Mr. Baines' talents as a vocalist and we shall all miss his whole-hearted commitment to the school and unique sense of humour. He will be replaced as Senior Master by Mr. Sayer, another experienced and long serving member of staff. Mr. John Wood joined us as Deputy Headmaster from

A MEMBER OF THE

BRITISH AEROSPACE



SCHOOLS NETWORK

Nottingham High School in January 1998. A Cambridge mathematician, with outstanding academic credentials, Mr. Wood will be responsible for the school timetable, the curriculum and staff training. We welcome him and look forward to the contribution he will surely make.

The past year also saw the departure of Mrs. Kelly, Headmistress of the Junior School since its inception, and we welcome Mrs. Lesley Taylor in her place. Mrs. Taylor, formerly Head of Music in the Junior School, has made great strides over the past year in establishing close links with the Senior School. She has emerged with great credit from a veritable baptism of fire, having led the Junior Department through a successful inspection and the lengthy process of Investors in People. The award of Investors in People status

is a marvellous achievement for all the staff of the Junior School.

With the support of the Board of Governors, I took the opportunity of strengthening the management structure of the school, an advance which has been long overdue, by appointing Mr. Watson as Head of Middle School, Mrs. Devine as Head of Lower School and Mr. Gaddes as Assistant Head of Sixth Form. The chief purpose behind these appointments is to enable us to drive up academic standards by monitoring the work of our pupils more closely.

We are particularly sorry to lose Mr. Bruce, Head of Business Studies, who has been forced to take early retirement on health grounds. Popular among staff and pupils alike, Mr. Bruce will be missed as a successful exponent of his subject specialism and a fine all-round schoolmaster. We wish him a speedy and full recovery and many happy and fulfilling years of retirement, during which we hope to see him return often to KGS.

As the school grows in size, staff numbers inevitably increase and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new staff and wish them a long, happy and successful career with us.

At the time of writing, I still await the written report of the school's first full inspection for twelve years. I can only comment, therefore, on the oral feedback, which was lengthy and very good indeed. A team of eight inspectors spent three days with us, a process I am familiar with as a School Inspector myself, and they were clearly delighted with what they saw. The inspection confirmed the excellent progress the school is making. The inspectors picked up on the marvellous ethos of the school straight away, describing the corporate life of the school as a great strength. They commented on the quality of relationships between staff and pupils and between the pupils themselves and were impressed by the leadership shown

by our sixth form prefects. I was told more than once that the school was going a long way towards achieving its aims and that is the highest accolade an inspection team can give. They commented on the quality of the teaching and I was particularly pleased to hear that the inspectors judge that our pupils are achieving their potential and in some cases well beyond it. GCSE and A-level results were described as very good, especially considering the breadth of ability on intake. The inspectors were also much impressed by the breadth and success of the school's extra-curricular activities, especially the quality of music and drama and the school's outstanding achievements on the sports field. They were full of praise for the Sixth Form and the Boarding House, commenting on the quality of the final product and the family atmosphere exuded among the boarders. The Junior School was described as a great strength, as was the breadth of the curriculum. If the written report bears out these remarks, as it should, the school can feel well satisfied with its work and progress.

The past year has been memorable for the extensive development of school facilities. We have endured a year of building work on the Senior School site and I am grateful to staff and pupils for their patience as our magnificent new Technology Centre has steadily taken shape. The waiting will be worth it! With the support of British Aerospace, we have created a uniquely grand and very modern resource which blends so well architecturally with its surrounding buildings. We have every reason to hope that this latest addition to the school's impressive facilities will be designated an International Centre of Excellence for the teaching of technology and become the flagship of the British Aerospace Schools' Network.

What is presently the Spearhead Centre Room, when cleared of its equipment this summer, will become a sixth science laboratory. In addition this year, we have acquired the other half of Greystones for much needed office space, erected a climbing wall in the New Hall and developed a second rugby

pitch on our new playing fields across the Kirkham by-pass. Meanwhile, a large and impressive extension to the south side of the Junior School has provided sufficient classrooms to enable a two-form entry throughout and create the space required for the Junior School's own technology suite. Kirkham Grammar School is certainly gearing up for the 21st century!

The school's reputation for success on the sports' field continues to grow. There have been some outstanding individual performances over the year and the results of team competitions have been very impressive. Alex Sanderson's selection as rugby captain of England 18 group was a 'first' for Kirkham Grammar School and the manner in which he led his England team to victory in the Five Nations Rugby Championships deservedly earned him the plaudits of seasoned coaches throughout the country. The news that Alex's brother, Patrick, rugby captain of KGS only two years ago, had been selected for the England Senior Rugby Squad to tour the southern hemisphere this summer was an enormous boost for school rugby. Patrick played for England against New Zealand 'A' team and, at the time of writing, we confidently expect to see him win his first full international cap as an open side flanker, another 'first' for Kirkham Grammar School.

There have been many sporting successes in various disciplines, illustrating the enormous breadth of talent that exists at KGS. It is astonishing to see the magnificent achievements of our pupils that are recorded in the pages of this magazine. Such remarkable sporting success would not be possible without coaching and preparation of the highest quality from committed and enthusiastic staff and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

We also acknowledge the immense amount of extra-curricular time, professionalism and enthusiasm which produces music of a similarly high quality and in such abundance year on year. We must never take for granted the expertise and rehearsal time which is

required to produce such an ambitious concert programme and bring the sheer joy of music to so many. The school is full of talented musicians, well prepared and directed by the Music Department and the peripatetic music staff. It is a tribute to our musicians that the Mayor of the Fylde has asked specially for a second concert in aid of Mayoral Charities in the coming year.

The provision of a myriad of extra-curricular opportunities is the key to enabling the school to fulfil its vision of educating the whole person. In this respect it is important to appreciate that Kirkham Grammar School goes well beyond offering its pupils the opportunity to take part in so many diverse activities. What really counts in the shaping of the individual pupil and team spirit is that pupils themselves are encouraged to lead and organise so much of the life of the school, whether they be prefects assisting staff to run the school on a day-to-day basis, NCO's in the Combined Cadet Force, house prefects running the House System, directors of plays in the Junior Drama Festival, form captains sitting on the General School Committee, organisers of clubs and societies or captains and vice-captains of teams and so on. The list of opportunities for our pupils to grow and develop their talents is endless and so it should be.

Throughout all we do, however, our principal objective should be the pursuit of academic excellence and, as I write, all our good wishes go to our fifth and upper sixth form pupils who have just completed demanding GCSE and A-level examinations. We want to see all our pupils fulfil their academic potential, whether they be strong Oxbridge candidates or those on the borderline of 'pass' grades. We congratulate all our scholars on their successes and particularly this year our three Rank Foundation Scholars and our Arkwright Engineering Scholar, fifth year Michael Strickland, whose achievement is another notable 'first' for Kirkham Grammar School. We are immensely grateful to all our staff who willingly and enthusiastically put in so much extra

work to ensure that our pupils are thoroughly prepared for examinations, and to those staff who work so hard to maintain an active and flourishing Combined Cadet Force and a remarkably busy programme of inter-house activities. No one should be in doubt that our staff are our greatest resource and I am privileged to be able to say, with hand on heart, that I have never worked with a more talented and committed staff than ours at KGS. In this I include all our staff, academic and non-academic.

We are fortunate also to enjoy the support of a thriving parents' association, the Friends of Kirkham Grammar School, whose committee is presently raising funds for a new school minibus and helping the school to organise its 450th anniversary celebrations. The committee of the Old Kirkhamians' Association is also actively involved in planning the coming year's activities and the school owes the association a debt of gratitude for providing the Art Department with an excellent computer and printer, and for having the vision to endow a Sixth Form Bursary, which has enabled one of our talented fifth form pupils to progress into the sixth form.

We are greatly appreciative of all the marvellous support we receive from parents, former pupils and industry.

It is impossible, within the space of a few pages, to do justice to all who contribute to the success and prosperity of the school, but we recognise the efforts of all and appreciate that the school's progress is founded on team work. It is a privilege, as Headmaster, to lead such an impressive and enthusiastic team. Kirkham Grammar School has made rapid strides in recent years, but there is much more to be achieved and there can be no grounds for complacency as we move forward.

We hope you will join us as we celebrate the school's 450th anniversary next year. The school is privileged to have the Rt. Rev. David Hope, Archbishop of York, as our guest preacher on the occasion of Founders Day, 1999 in St Michael's Church, Kirkham, and we hope to be able to prevail upon a member of the Royal Family for the official opening of the new Technology Centre, which is scheduled to be opened and ready for use by September, 1998. May I close by reminding all our readers that the Senior

School Annual Speech Day will be held for the first time this year in the Guild Hall, Preston, on Friday, 20th November. The Guest of Honour is Mr. Peter Attenborough, formerly Headmaster of Sedburgh School and Charterhouse.

B. Stacey

B Stacey, Headmaster.



Mr. A. R. Barnes



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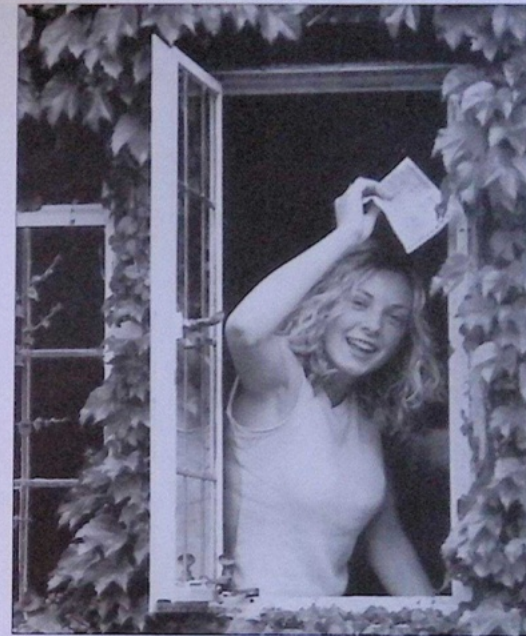


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JULY 1997

Shortly after the end of term a 24-strong rugby squad, accompanied by three members of staff, set off on a seven match tour of South Africa. Matches were played against several schools in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Pretoria before ending with a match against the Northern Transvaal Development XV. In the midst of the gruelling schedule, there was still time for trips to such memorable tourist spots as Table Mountain, the Cape of Good Hope, safari parks, game reserves and ostrich and alligator farms. During their visit to the township of Eesterust the squad also helped with the coaching of budding rugby players who have virtually nothing in the way of sports equipment.

In her open age debut in international swimming, Michelle Harrison, representing England in the Portuguese National Championships, won a bronze medal in her specialist event, the 50 metres butterfly, and a gold medal as a member of the freestyle relay team. Michelle also competed in the 100 metres butterfly, 100 metres freestyle, 50 metres freestyle and the medley relay.



A-level results day

Other international honours came to Alex Sanderson and David Giles who were selected for the England Schools'

tour of Australia. During the tour, Alex captained the side on several occasions.

AUGUST 1997

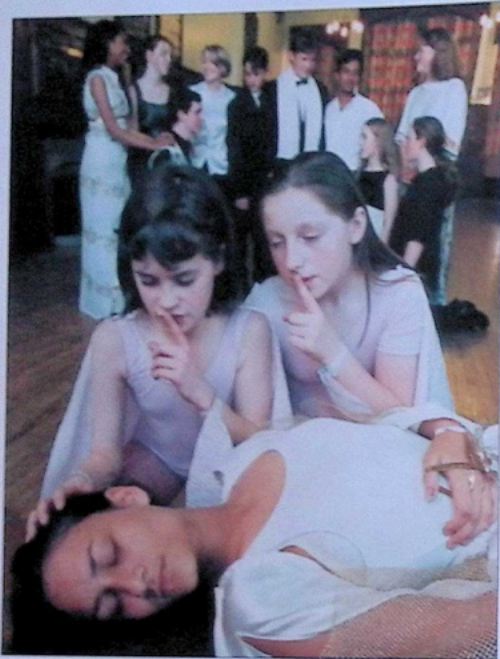
Examination results were published and there was a 90% pass rate among our A-level students this year. Of those, 40% of results were grades A and B. Simon Tsang achieved four grade A's.

At GCSE 98% of our pupils secured grade C or better in five or more subjects and more than two thirds of these were grades A*, A or B.

Gary Jones produced a fine performance to win the Fylde's most prestigious junior golf tournament. Gary shot a record five under par to secure the Fylde Junior Golf Society Championship at St. Annes Old Links.



Michelle Harrison, International Swimmer



Rehearsals for the School Play

Gary Jones, winner of the Fylde Junior Golf Championships



Members of Young Enterprise



Alex Sanderson, Captain of the England Under 18 Team



Members of the CCF preparing for the overnight yomp

SEPTEMBER 1997

Speech Day was held in the new hall at the end of September. Guest of Honour this year was Sir Michael Craig-Cooper, Master Draper of the Drapers' Company, emphasising our historic links which go back to the seventeenth century.

OCTOBER 1997

The school's new climbing wall was officially opened by former member of staff and keen climber, Dr. Brian Summers. After much hard work and various sponsored events and fund raising activities, the equipment had finally been bought and the wall installed. It is indeed a great asset to the school.

Three girls were chosen for the first ever national under 15 development hockey squad. After attending training camps at Lilleshall, Rachel Sissons, Hannah

Spacey and Lorna Sissons were invited to join the squad.

The annual inspection and review of the C.C.F. took place at the end of the month. This year the reviewing officer was Group Captain DRG Rennison, the officer commanding Royal Air Force Sealand, Deeside, Flintshire. After inspecting the Guard of Honour in the morning, Group Captain Rennison reviewed a wide range of cadets' training activities in the afternoon.

County representative honours came to a large group of our rugby and hockey players, with no less than six players selected for the under 18 rugby team and three in each of the under 16 and under 15 rugby squads. Jody Billington was selected for the North of England under 18 hockey squad and was joined in the county under 18 team by three more of our senior girls. Three of our hockey players gained places in the under 16 squad.

NOVEMBER 1997

The annual dramatic production was *All you need is Love*, a kaleidoscope of music, dance and drama and involved over 80 pupils, ranging in age from the first form to the sixth form. The pupils themselves choreographed all the dances and designed the costumes and set.

A selection of girl hockey players completed a highly successful tour of Holland, winning eight games out of nine and drawing the remaining one.

Four students arrived from Wairarapa College in Masterton, New Zealand, for the annual exchange. Joe Harwood, Shane Lett, Jayne McNae and Lucy Evans soon settled into life at Kirkham and established themselves in the rugby and hockey teams.

DECEMBER 1997

The Young Enterprise company, *SHOX*, was established and soon began trading under the watchful eyes of Mr. Duncan and Mrs Lang.

The Friends of Kirkham Grammar School's annual ball was held at the De Vere Hotel in Blackpool and was, as always, a resounding success, as was the school's carol concert, held in the new hall to accommodate the large numbers wanting tickets for this most popular of events. The school choir had an exceptionally busy time as this followed hard on the heels of the annual Carol

Service, held as ever in Kirkham Parish Church.

Shortly after the end of term we were delighted to hear the news that Patrick Sanderson had been selected to play in the England A team against the touring All Blacks.

JANUARY 1998

As the new term started the school was deeply saddened to hear of the death of one of its most distinguished Old Boys, Professor Eric Laithwaite. Professor Laithwaite was best known for his invention and commercial development

of the linear motor, the principle behind the hovertrain. He had appeared many times on television programmes, produced numerous papers for scientific journals and wrote many books. A full obituary appears later in this magazine.

The school entrance examination was held for over 200 candidates and to date approaching 100 have been offered and accepted places. A pupil from KGJS, Jamie Hill, achieved the highest mark overall and the following scholarships and exhibitions were awarded:

Academic: Leanne Bonney, Kate Denham, Jamie Hill, Lucy Martin, Rebecca Norman, Helen Thrower.
Music: Sophie Barton, Katie Edgar, Hannah Gledhill.

Hopes of a return trip to Twickenham for the First XV in the Daily Mail National Cup were cruelly dashed deep into injury time in the match against local rivals, Hutton.

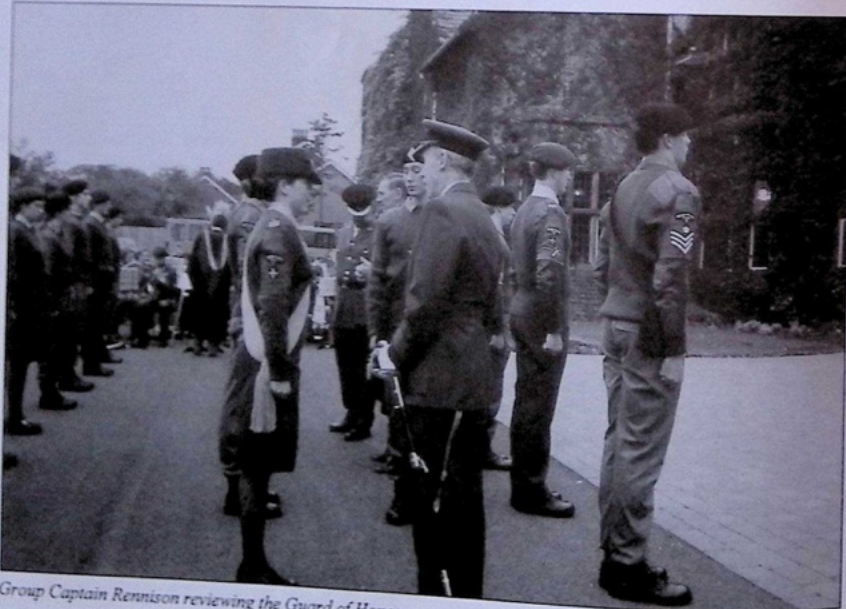
FEBRUARY 1998

Members of the cadet force took part in a 50 kilometre overnight sponsored yomp in appalling weather conditions along the Lancaster Canal to raise money for an extension to the climbing wall. It was an arduous and demanding task and the cadets rose magnificently to the challenge.

We were delighted to receive news that pupils Jonathan Whiteside and Norman Ralph had been chosen by the West Lancashire Scout Council to represent the area at the world jamboree in Chile in December. They will leave for Chile shortly after Christmas and will spend nine days at the jamboree and a further two weeks with a scout family elsewhere in South America.



Adam Watts, selected for England U16



Group Captain Rennison reviewing the Guard of Honour



The Under 12 and Under 15 Hockey Squads



Pupils involved in the Junior Drama Festival

MARCH 1998

Alex Sanderson earned the highest accolade in schools' rugby when he was named captain of the England 18-Group team for the Five Nations Championship. This is the highest rugby honour ever achieved for a pupil at the school and a just reward for Alex's dedication. In addition, David Giles was selected for the England 18-Group squad and Adam Watts selected for the England 16-Group squad.

We were delighted to hear that Gary Jones had been selected to play for the Lancashire under-18 open golf team in the inter-county championships.

The under 12 hockey team capped an unbeaten season by winning the prestigious Jean Torrance Memorial Tournament at Arnold School. Twelve teams from throughout the country took part. In the same sport the under-15 team reached the semi-final of the National Clubs' and Schools' Championships and

the first XI were crowned Lancashire champions.

The Junior Drama Festival took centre stage towards the end of the month after weeks of hard work and frantic rehearsals. Several short plays were directed and produced by the lower sixth Theatre Studies group and a thoroughly entertaining evening was enjoyed by packed audiences.

APRIL 1998

As the Easter break came, the school saw a large number of pupils head off on various trips, either on rugby tour to Wales, on the annual French trip, this year to Brittany, or to RAF camp at Laarbruch in Germany, home to two Harrier and Rapier missile squadrons.

No sooner had we returned to school than we were plunged into a full inspection. The report was extremely encouraging. There was high praise for

the quality of teaching, the breadth and success of extra-curricular activities and the ethos and corporate life of the school.

MAY 1998

Former KGS pupil Patrick Sanderson was included in the full England rugby squad to tour Australia, New Zealand and South Africa this summer and, as the tour progressed, Patrick gained his first international cap against Australia.

On the academic front, Michael Strickland won a prestigious award in recognition of his engineering skills and became the school's first ever Arkwright Engineering Scholar. To achieve the award, Michael designed a project and then had to sit two examinations in design technology and undergo an interview at Trent College, Nottingham. It is a wonderful achievement as Arkwright Scholarships are rare and extremely prestigious.

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JUNE 1998

The Leavers' Ball was held in a marquee on the front lawn on a beautiful midsummer's evening. Over 150 sixth formers and guests attended this well-established event. The following evening, the Friends' Summer Ball was held and was a magnificent success.

Katie Mellor's all-round talent proved too much for the opposition in the annual school challenge run by the police and the Blackpool company Electronic Data Systems. The challenge includes quizzes on general knowledge, initiative and dexterity tests and is rounded off with an assault course. It is indeed the ultimate test of fitness and guile for first year pupils and Katie deserves our congratulations for emerging as a clear winner of a very tough competition.

More international honours came to another KGS pupil when Katy Parker was selected to represent England in the European Youth Table Tennis Championships in Italy.

JULY 1998

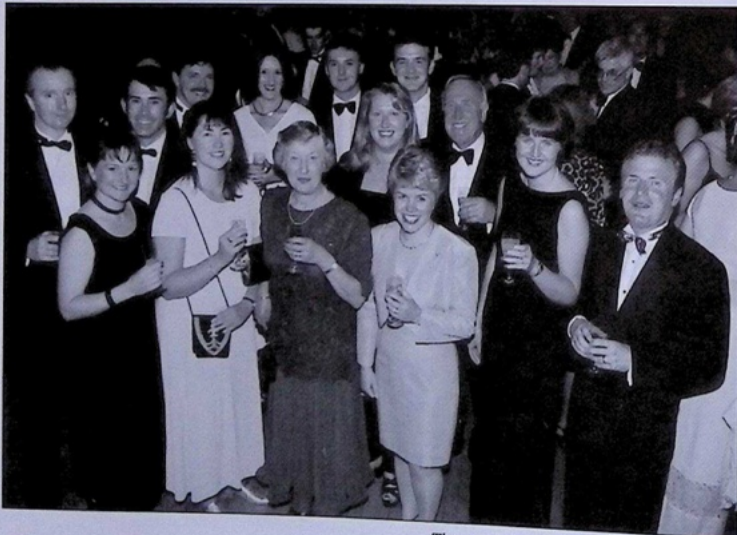
Our boys' athletics teams swept the board at the Fylde Coast Athletics Championships, winning all four age groups against opposition from seventeen other schools. The girls' under-14 team won their age group also.

Shortly afterwards, KGS was chosen to host a Vimto Masterclass which involved many of our girl athletes participating in a hurdling session run by Diane Allahgreen, one of Britain's top hurdlers. After the coaching session the girls were asked to help raise money, through sponsorship, to help support the England team in their preparations for the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur this September.

International honours, yet again. This time for Michelle Harrison, who received another call-up to represent England in the schools' national swimming team in the World School Games to be held in Shanghai. Michelle has been chosen to swim the 400 metres freestyle on this occasion. We congratulate her and wish her every success.

Three of our girls achieved success in the world of equestrianism. Jodie Stevens, Laura Feeley and Kate Westerman have been selected to ride at the Horse of the Year Show at Wembley in October. We are thrilled for the girls and wish them good luck.

And so another busy and successful academic year comes to an end for us. A report such as this can only highlight certain events and achievements. The editor apologises for what he has been forced to omit. The length of this report shows the tremendous talent that there is in the young people at KGS and the tremendous breadth of ways in which they show it. We are honoured to be entrusted with the education of such fine young people and thank all our parents for the confidence they show in us and the constant support they provide. As this report is being written, we are awaiting results of public examinations and we wish our fifth and sixth formers every success in these. We hope that their hard work and efforts over the past years will bring their just rewards. Let us never forget that in the midst of this rich diversity of talent our primary aim is for each individual to achieve his or her best academically. Thanks to the hard work and efforts of many people, KGS is indeed a flourishing community.



The reception at the Friends' Summer Ball

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As we come to the end of this academic year, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all parents, friends, members of the teaching staff and committee members who have given their time, help, support and generous donations which have gone towards making our events both a social and a financial success.

A traditional marquee on the front lawn of Kirkham Grammar School set the scene for our third Summer Ball on the 20th June which was attended by 197 very willing dancers intent on enjoying every minute. The evening proved to be a resounding success and one certainly not to be missed next year when we will be celebrating 450 years of KGS. The evening helped to raise £2,300.

As we have focused all of our efforts towards replacing a mini bus, we have selectively supported the hockey and rugby exchange to New Zealand, giving a total of £400. Flowers have been provided for both the Junior and Senior School throughout the year. Despite the weather, the first Family Fun Day on the 5th July was most enjoyable as well as being financially successful, raising a grand sum of £3,000. We hope that with a little fine tuning and a lot more help, we can turn this into a spectacular Family Fun Day in 1999. We welcome your ideas and help and hope that this event will grow in popularity, becoming an annual occasion to be enjoyed by the whole family.

I am sure that you will be very pleased to know that an opportunity to purchase a nearly new mini bus presented itself and subsequently the Friends have been able to donate £12,000 of the required £16,500 to secure the mini bus which will be in operation from September. In consultation with the Governors it was decided that the Friends would continue their efforts until the end of the year to raise further funds towards the total cost of the mini bus.

R. Ince
Chairman



Lots of fun on Fun Day

Annual General Meeting

Date: 22nd September 1998
Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Old Hall

New Parents Welcome Evening

Date: 2nd October, 1998
Time: 8pm
Venue: Old Hall

Winter Ball

Date: 14th November, 1998
Venue: Paradise Suite, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

Christmas Fair

Date: To be arranged
Venue: New Hall

From the President

Apart from the euphoria which would accompany the formation of the Kirkham Grammar School Old Boys' Association in 1920, there can scarcely have been a time in its history which compares with the incentive for joining as there is today. I firmly believe that the Old Kirkhamians' Association has entered a new and greatly enhanced phase, by virtue of the new, comprehensive and frequent communication to all - with news, views and notices of events - and trust that you approve of the direction in which we are proceeding.

To any individual ex-student who is not already a full member, we would warmly welcome you to our various assemblies and hope that you would remain an interested and active member throughout life. Through your membership and attachment to the OKA - and our beloved school - you will continue to receive that "benefit" which is promised as you "enter" by the main door - that benefit is manifold, varied and lifelong - I can testify.

I have been a member continuously from first leaving school and have never lost an opportunity to let it be known that I am proud to have been at KGS, as were six generations of my family before me. My gratitude is profound and my debt could never be repaid.

However, notwithstanding the many changes and modernisations, the intrinsic character of the school remains intact and is so readily perceived as one enters the building. I am honoured to have served as your President, and I thank you all for allowing me the privilege. To conclude, may I quote the words of the Revd. Cresswell Strange, MA, "Given a fair wind, the good ship K.G.S. will continue her successful voyage and may the Lord ever prosper her ways, and those of all who are concerned with her".

Lawrence Abram
(K.G.S. 1937-1942)

AGM and Annual Reunion Dinner - 1997

The Annual Reunion Dinner, following the Annual General Meeting in September, was a very enjoyable evening with an entertaining speech from Brian Marshall, a former teacher at K.G.S. Lawrence Abram was presented with the chain of office by retiring President Paul Gaskin. Graham Benstead was thanked for his hard work and good service to the Association and Donald Allison was elected as Hon. Secretary for 1997/98. John Penrose was re-elected as Hon. Treasurer and Anna Fryer (1986-93) was welcomed to the Committee.

The AGM saw the resignation of Harold Longstaff (KGS 1934-39). Harold has been a member of the Association since 1946 and we are grateful for the hard work and loyalty he has devoted over the past 51 years. We must thank him for his stalwart efforts in organising tennis matches for many years and for his assistance at social functions and look forward to seeing him at future OKA events for many years to come.

Ribby Reunion

The 'Young' Old Kirkhamians' Reunion for recent leavers was held at Ribby Leisure Village shortly before Christmas. This event is mainly for OKA's who have left school over the last ten years and, as usual, there were no formalities and the evening provided the opportunity of meeting old friends and catching up on the gossip.

This is the third year that event has been held and numbers increase each year, with over 300 attending in 1997. The Ribby Reunion for 1998 will be on Sunday 20th December, from 7.30 p.m. in 'Celebrations' cabaret lounge. Please spread the word and make this a really good night out!

Southern Reunion Dinner

The Old Kirkhamians' Southern Reunion Dinner was held in April at St Edmund Hall, Oxford and, although numbers were fewer this year, all those who attended had a very enjoyable evening, and some even made a weekend of it! St Edmund Hall has been booked for Saturday 27th March, 1999 when we hope that a larger number of Old Kirkhamians will gather to celebrate the school's 450th anniversary.

AGM and Annual Reunion Dinner - 1998

The Annual Reunion Dinner is being held on Saturday 5th September in the Old Hall at 7.30 p.m. This follows the AGM which is held in the Library at 6.45 p.m. The Guest Speaker at the Annual Dinner will be Arthur Baines, who retired in July after a teaching career which has spanned 31 years at Kirkham Grammar School. Arthur Baines was a pupil at KGS from 1950-57 and was Captain of School in his final year. He returned in 1967 and has served the school in many capacities: Senior Master, Head of Science, Head of Biology, Housemaster of Kirkham House and President of the Staff Common Room. He was President of the Old Kirkhamians' Association in 1990/91 and will, I am sure, continue to contribute much as a committee member. We wish him a long and happy retirement, sure in the knowledge that he will retain his ties with his old school.

Old Kirkhamian Donations to School

The first two editions of "OKA News" have been produced by the school's Art and Marketing Departments on an Apple Mac computer. This equipment, plus a laser printer and scanner, has recently been purchased by the Old Kirkhamians' Association and donated to the school to be used for the teaching of desk top publishing to A-level art students and also by the school's Marketing Department for the production of newsletters and promotional material. The school web site will be operating shortly and this will feature Old Kirkhamian pages, thus enabling members to keep in touch and will supply e-mail addresses for contact.

The Old Kirkhamians' Association has provided a bursary for September 1998 to enable a student to continue education in the sixth form at the school. This decision was prompted by the loss of the government assisted places scheme and the association is pleased to be able to provide the necessary assistance to such a worthwhile cause and very much hopes that it will be able to continue helping future students in a similar way.

OKA Sport

The OKA v KGS 1st XI match was held on 28th December 1997. An excellent turnout of players generated a fierce but friendly competition. The final score of 5 - 0 to the present 1st XI did scant justice to the play of the OKA team. The main difference lay in goalkeeping, not that the outstanding exhibition of skill by stand-in goalkeeper Mr Richard Wareing should be denigrated in any way, but the display of polished perfection demonstrated by Chloe Scott as she defended the numerous awesome attacks by the OKA team must be credited with the high goal difference. Luckily for us, Chloe will be in the OKA team next year! Future fixtures for OKA hockey players are being planned for September 5th 1998

HOCKEY

(the day of the 1998 Annual Reunion Dinner), during the weekend of the Christmas Ribby Reunion and also during the Open Afternoon in July.

Anna Fryer (KGS 1986-93)

CRICKET

At the end of another demanding (?) season, both traditional matches, versus the staff and the school, have been completed and the OKA record reads ... played two won neither! With such a disastrous set of results, and in anticipation of the inevitable vote of confidence at the next OKA committee meeting, the cricket organiser did the only decent thing and made way for a younger, more qualified captain (the new man must be a real cricketer ... he owns his own bat, pads etc.!)

OKA v. Staff XI

On a bright evening, the OKA's achieved a moral victory over a suspiciously young (in parts) looking staff team, assembled by Richard Browning. Having taken pity on the staff and loaned them Phil Griffiths, the OKA's were soon to consider that 12v10 would have been a better idea! An outstanding display of controlled big hitting by Dave Worth gave the Staff a start of 127 after the allotted 20 overs. If only we'd let Dave run more 'quick' singles, things would have been very different! The kindest description of the bowling performance heard on the night was 'interesting and varied', which brought an agile display of wicket keeping from the evergreen John Montgomery.

In a spirited OKA response, Tom Moore knocked 50 odd before retiring to give the rest of the team a bat, a decision that probably cost the OKA's the match by just 6 runs in an exciting finish.

OKA v School

Once again a pleasant evening and a moral victory, if only based on the (warped?) logic that we would have no doubt won if we'd played the match on the originally scheduled date, but changed it to accommodate the school

team who would have been depleted by club calls on the previous Saturday! In the event, an OKA total of 86 for 9 off the 25 overs always looked as if it would need a tighter bowling performance than was likely to prove possible! There were good batting performances, this time from Chris Butterworth (24 not out) and Grahame Benstead (16 not out), with the rest of us ranging between 0 and 6 (names omitted to protect the innocent).

Yet another doubtful decision by the captain in agreeing a 'maximum of 5 overs' rule saw the OKA's committed to the use of a minimum of 5 bowlers, thereby guaranteeing another 'varied and interesting' bowling attack. Geoff Tomlinson and Andy Butterworth were the pick of the bowlers with 2 for 8 and 2 for 19 respectively, the school reaching the target with ease for the loss of just 4 wickets, with Davies hitting an impressive 49 before falling to Geoff's 'funny un'.

And so to the end of my ten year stint as 'organiser'. A big thankyou to all those of you who have supported the cricket since I took over from John Montgomery. Please give my successor, Matt Stuttard, your continued support.

Keith Aitchison
(KGS 1969-1974)

KGS First International Cap

We were all delighted to hear of Pat Sanderson's selection for the two England rugby test matches against New Zealand and the contest that followed with South Africa, a remarkable achievement for a young man of 20 years of age who became the first Old Kirkhamian ever to have won an international cap in the sport of rugby at senior level.

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In Memoriam

Professor Eric E. Laithwaite
 Msc, PhD., DSc.
 (KGS 1930-40)

Professor Laithwaite was a remarkably talented man, a scholar/sportsman in the best traditions of the school. He was School Captain in his final year, 1939/40, played in the rugby and cricket first teams and went on to win a County Major Scholarship to Manchester University, where he took a 1st Class Honours degree in Electrical Engineering. No mere academic, he captained his university table tennis team which won the U.A.U. Championship and in 1947 he reached the last sixteen of the English Open Table Tennis Championships, playing with and against those former "greats" of the game: Richard Bergmann, Victor Barna and Johnny Leach.

Professor Laithwaite went on to complete his PhD in 1956 and was made Professor of Heavy Electrical Engineering of the Imperial College, London, a chair he held from 1964 until his retirement in 1988, rising to the status of Emeritus Professor in 1986. He was awarded the S.G. Brown Medal for Invention from the Royal Society in 1966 and the Nikola Tesla Award in 1985. He was made Honorary Fellow of Imperial College in 1992 and Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Electrical Engineers in 1993. Latterly, he was a consultant and visiting Professor of the University of Sussex.

In the world of engineering science, Professor Laithwaite is best known, perhaps, for his invention and commercial development of the linear motor, the principle behind the "Hovertrain" and "Maglev" trains. Over the years he produced over 400 papers for scientific journals and wrote seventeen books, mainly on electrical engineering, but one on butterflies and moths of the world. His latest book "An Inventor in the Garden of Eden" was dedicated to the late Bernard Stevenson who was Head of Biology at Kirkham Grammar School from 1922 to 1960.

Professor Laithwaite also appeared on numerous television programmes, including "Eye on Research", "Tomorrow's World", "Young Scientist of the Year" (as a judge), "Heretics" and "Horizon".

His passing is an enormous loss to the school and the world of engineering.

Robert (Bob) Rigby
 (KGS 1933-1938)

Bob Rigby was one of the most hardworking, reliable, kind and undemonstrative of men and a true friend to his contemporaries and generations of schoolboys at Blackpool Grammar School, where he taught from 1946 up to retirement in 1986.

After leaving KGS with a very good Higher School Certificate in 1938, he went up to Birmingham University to read History. However, the war intervened and he volunteered for Air Crew, trained as a navigator in Canada and became a member of the Bomber Command with an Australian Squadron, flying from Binbrook in Lincolnshire in Wellingtons, Avro Hansons and then Lancasters. His plane was the only one to survive a full tour of duty over the Ruhr out of the whole squadron.

He obtained a 'B' release to return to University to complete his degree and a Diploma in Education. He took up a teaching post in 1946 at Blackpool Grammar School, where he stayed for the whole of his career, culminating in becoming Deputy Head, by which time the school had merged and had 1200 pupils.

He was an avid reader and keenly interested in all forms of sport, not least Lancashire C.C.C. which he supported up to the time of his death. He was extremely patriotic, a true Lancastrian and a gentleman with many friends and few enemies, who always thought of the needs of others rather than his own.

Robert (Bob) Bentley
 (Master at KGS 1950-1972)

Bob Bentley began his higher education at King George V School, Southport and later went on to St Peter's College and Birmingham University, gaining a B.Sc in Chemistry and a Diploma in Education. He commenced his teaching career at Heyhouses Endowed School in 1933 and, soon after the outbreak of war, volunteered for entry into the RAF and was granted a direct commission. He trained as an armament torpedo officer and was later posted to North West Africa where he became responsible for arming Lancaster bombers.

On returning to civilian life after war service, Bob returned to teaching in St. Annes at the Lytham St. Annes County School. In 1950 he was appointed Chemistry master at KGS. Being a tennis and badminton player of no mean ability, he helped to found the school's badminton club and petitioned for the provision of tennis courts. He was an ardent winter sports fan and a competent skier, regularly taking school parties abroad.

He was RAF Flying Officer and storekeeper for the school's CCF and was granted the rank of Flight Lieutenant for services with the CCF and for war service. Bob was a loyal and active member of the Old Boys' (Old Kirkhamians') Association and was awarded the office of honorary vice president by the Association. His association with the Friends of KGS was long-standing and he was chairman of the committee for seven years.

During his retirement he travelled widely, spent many hours on his allotment and played tennis into his seventies. Bob Bentley was a schoolmaster in the fullest sense, believing that the teaching of a subject is not the be-all and end-all of a teacher's job and his career at KGS aptly proved this. He gave loyal service to the school and generations of boys.

Eileen Hewitt

Eileen Hewitt, wife of the late Denis Norwood (Headmaster 1945-59), died peacefully on 4th November 1997. Her son, David, informed us that his mother always treasured her memories of her days at KGS and had kept in touch with a large number of Old Boys, especially members of School House.

**Ian Corbit
(KGS 1985-92)**

Ian died tragically in December while playing in a hockey match for Preston Hockey Club. Ian was well respected by his team mates and friends and will be much missed by all who knew him.

1997/98 has also seen the passing of Old Kirkhamians:

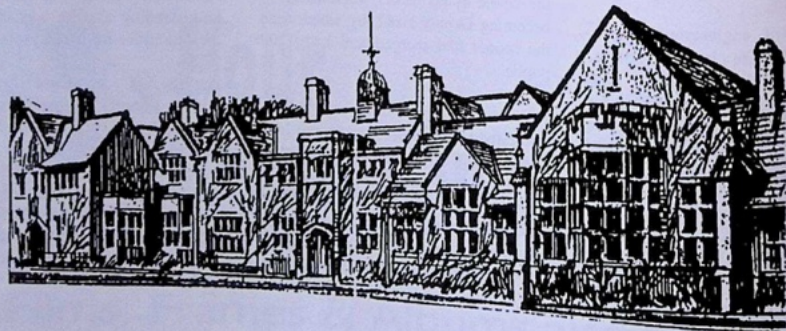
- Frank C. Hargreaves (KGS 1915-1920)
- Bill Rumney (KGS 1942-51)
- W.H. Twist (KGS 1935-38)
- Harold Hoyle (1914-18)
- Dr. R.N. Stansfield (KGS 1923-31)
- George Graham (1943-46)
- David Crowe (KGS 1948-53)

Young Old Kirkhamians' Memorial Garden

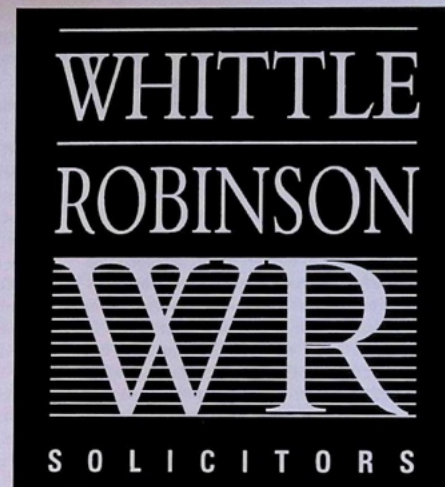
A group of young Old Kirkhamians gathered on the morning of Saturday, May 2nd, 1998 to mark the planting of three young trees in the school grounds in memory of the three young ex-pupils who have died in the past year and a half. A simple ceremony in memory of Jason Awbery-Taylor, Sarah Flack and Ian Corbit was attended by friends from their year groups, staff and the parents of all three. The trees will have a bench under them, creating an attractive memorial garden which will stand as a lasting reminder of the happiness that these three fine young people brought to their school.

Degree Successes

| | | |
|----------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Emma Anderton | BAH in Performing Arts | |
| Dawn L. Gaskin | BAQTS Geography | University College of St Martin |
| Daniel P. Jones | BA (Hons) English | |
| Andrew C. Clegg | MEng & Man, Mechanical Engineering, Manufacture and Management | University of Birmingham |
| Peter Coventry | BA (Hons) Biological Sciences | Jesus College, Oxford |
| Shula I. Swift | BSc. (Hons) Biochemistry | University of Reading |
| Leon P. Skorczewski | BSc. (Hons) in Materials | Loughborough University |
| James M. Clark | MEng (Hons) in Systems Engineering | Loughborough University |
| Graham G. Miller | BA (Hons) Geography | University of Leeds |
| M. R. Aarathi George | BSc. | Glasgow University |
| Maria Panayi | BSc. (Hons) in Genetics | Sheffield University |



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As always, the school charity committee has had a busy year and has continued to try to support as wide a variety of causes as possible.

When we return to school in September our immediate attention focuses on the three children we support via Action Aid, one in India, one in Peru and one in Ghana. Our donations help to support various educational projects in the areas in which the children live and so provide the children with opportunities which we so often take for granted. We receive regular reports on the projects and updates on our sponsored children, together with touching messages and drawings from the children themselves.

Visiting speakers from Barnardo's came to speak to the sixth form and, as a result, many of our pupils volunteered to help with the street collection and form representatives agreed to sell Barnardo's badges within the school.

In October we welcomed Father Stuart Edwards from Holy Cross Church in Blackpool who came to talk to us about the problems of homelessness in the

local area and to give us details of two projects, Bay House and the Kensington Foundation, which aim to provide support in Blackpool for young people.

In November, as always, we supported the Poppy Appeal and we were grateful to those senior pupils who willingly gave their time in a bleak November to take part in the street collection.

Also in November a select band of hardy pupils and staff completed the Oxfam fast and a further group attended the Oxfam Poverty Breakfast in the early morning at the Harris Museum in Preston. On arrival, lots were drawn to see whether we would be enjoying a full English Breakfast, a breakfast of coffee and toast or a breakfast of bread and water. The point was made tellingly as one of us disappeared to the 'wealthy' corner, whilst the rest of us were forced to huddle in a cramped space on the floor with our meagre meal.

In support of the 'Children in Need' Appeal, three members of staff took to the streets of Kirkham dressed in school uniform and raised a significant amount.

Towards the end of term we welcomed a visiting speaker from the charity Crisis, an organisation which we support annually at Christmas. A non-uniform day was held to raise money for the work of Crisis and a pleasing sum was raised.

As we returned to school in January, Mr Daniel Todd came to one of our assemblies to tell us of the work of the Kidney Foundation and encouraged those of us who were old enough to carry donor cards. Shortly after the end of term two teams, one of staff and one of pupils, took part in a charity bowling evening in Blackpool to raise money for the Kidney Foundation.

In February and March we turned our attention to the Save the Children Fund and at the end of term a competition was arranged for pupils to identify staff from their pictures as babies. This proved most popular and for added interest a bonniest baby vote was also included. Not surprisingly, Mr. Rushton proved a clear winner in this contest, although Mr. 'Damian' Sayer attracted some touching support.



The children from Chernobyl with KGS pupils preparing to go to Camelot

At the end of term a visiting speaker came from the Kirkham Friends of the Children of Chernobyl and a non-uniform day was held to raise money towards our support of this cause.

A busy summer term saw a great deal of activity. As we returned to school in late April, our attentions turned to Christian Aid and it was encouraging to see a number of our older pupils and also several members of staff volunteering to take part in the door-to door collection.

In May we continued our efforts to raise money for the Kirkham Friends of the Children of Chernobyl. This year is the tenth anniversary of the accident which occurred in the nuclear power plant, devastating a huge area and destroying the lives of many. The children from several families come to this country for a month in early summer each year, providing them with a brief respite from the terrible situation in which they are forced to live their lives. The school sponsors one of the children, Viktor Kurgozov. Viktor's mother died when he was only six months old and his father left him with his grandmother on the day of the funeral. Viktor has lived with his grandmother, who is now in her mid-seventies, and his fifteen year old cousin on the outskirts of Mogilev in a wooden hut since then. During their stay in Kirkham, the children were accompanied by a group of our pupils on a trip to Camelot and staff also arranged a collection of toiletries and medical supplies for the group to take home with them.

Following an assembly given by Mr. Sayer, a group of six third year girls arranged a sponsored silence during the last week of term. Perhaps there is a hidden message for those who regularly speak in assembly! Their efforts raised over £380, which the girls decided they wanted to give to one of the organisations working to relieve the suffering in the Sudan. The girls are to be congratulated for their efforts and ingenuity and will probably be forgiven for the noise they made on the day following the silence as they lined up

outside the staffroom to collect their sponsor money.

During the summer one of our sixth form pupils, Gwennie Jenkins, departs for Romania to help with work being carried out in orphanages there. Once again a collection was organised, in both the Senior and the Junior Schools, for clothing and toys for Gwennie to take with her for the children in Romania. We wish her well and assure her of our thoughts and our admiration at this time.

Other activities this term have seen our pupils involved in a sponsored aerobics session to raise money for the Kidney Foundation, whilst the weekly community service programme with various projects in the local community continues to be well supported by our sixth form.

So, much work has been done this year, as always, by a large number of people in support of a wide variety of causes. Unlike some of our neighbours, I refuse to have our work publicised in the local press. The work goes on steadily and quietly week by week and is far too important to be used for publicity purposes. As privileged members of society, it is our duty to share what we have been given with our fellow human beings. But, quite naturally, we hope that it will become for us much more than a duty. As we were reminded in an assembly, we forget all too easily the power we have. It is within our power to help provide food, clothing, shelter, education, relief and even, in some cases, life itself. It is the work of the members of the charity committee to put before the school uncomfortable truths and painful facts and thereby to disturb our consciences.

We hope that our response has been worthy of us as individuals and as a community, realising that ultimately our stewardship will be called to account. So, thanks go to the many members of school who have taken part in the many events over the past year and to all who contribute regularly to our Friday collections, which remain the foundation of our sharing.

Donations 1997-1998

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| Action Aid | £360 |
| Oxfam | £120 |
| Crisis | £400 |
| Barnardos | £300 |
| Poppy Appeal | £100 |
| Bay Housing | £200 |
| Kensington | £150 |
| Kidney Foundation | £180 |
| Children of Chernobyl | £750 |
| Christian Aid | £250 |
| Save the Children | £250 |
| UNICEF | £250 |
| CAFOD | £380 |
| Meningitis Trust | £100 |
| Children in Need | £210 |

Total: £4,000

The Sun - Friend or Foe?

Radiant energy from the unknown.
Silent furnace of piercing brightness.
Ever present, but often reluctant to reveal itself.
Shy on wintry days.
Only glimpses that burst through clouds.
A thermal king, glaring down over its royal domain,
Rewarding the fortunate with gold and bronze
But punishing the pasty, pale and freckled with blistering soreness,
A reminder of its burning power.

This same mother star, source of heat and light,
Promoter of growth and ripener of food,
Whose warm breath makes us smile,
Also sends rays that bake and parch and make limp with thirst
The very life that it supports.
The wise, with weeping brows and dripping shirts,
Seek protection under wide brims and behind shades.
The foolish fall into traps that it sets.
For those who bask and over expose,
Beware!
The solar god, worshipped from afar,
Treats disrespect with cancerous anger.

Jane Meloy 3Y



The Parrot

It soars through the vines
In a flash of colour,
Beating its wings in unison
To the driving rhythm of instinct.

Alone amidst the bustle and clutter,
Ruthlessly proud of the sky,
Its kingdom of sapphires that
Sparkle in the twilight moon.

It speaks of nonsense,
Its own language and ours,
The wild, incessant chatter
Of unintelligible squawks.

A figure of explorers,
Raiders in the sea.
A clear insult, offensive
To the wonder of secrets within.

As a species, they're dying.
Their grace threatens their future.
Popular as pets,
Does their beauty carry the seed of destruction?

Felicity Clarke 3X

Threads of despair

Trapped in an endless mesh of silvery fibres,
Sensing the worst is yet to come, but
Still not knowing, not understanding,
Why this should happen to me.

This is the way it was meant to be.
This is how my world has grown.
This happens so life can go on living,
But why is it happening to me?

I once galloped across the plain,
As free as a bird in flight.
But where am I now, struggling against
The confines of my unforgiving prison?

As I struggle, the web is spun faster and faster.
I want it to stop, but it constricts me more,
So tight into my wounded chest,
Without a thought for my existence,

It just presses harder and harder.
This is not me. But it is.
I have no will, no choice, nothing left
But to accept what life has done to me.

Rachel Sissons 3Y



King of the Night

As the trees swayed in the gentle breeze
And the silver moonlight shone on the clear blue lake,
Casting eerie shadows through the bare trees,
The hoot of a hungry owl harassed the silent midnight air.

As the stars lit up the sky
And a solitary cloud drifted across the midnight moon,
Distorting the image of the floating woods,
A scurrying shape through the autumnal leaves
Caught the eye of the king of the night.

As the small shape emerged, almost unwillingly,
Hesitated, darted across the clearing,
The owl's claw sank deep into the vulnerable mouse.

The trees still swayed in the gentle breeze
And the silver moonlight shone on the clear blue lake,
Casting eerie shadows through the bare trees,
And the hoot of a well nourished owl harassed the silent midnight air.

Samantha Young 3Y



CULTYBRAGGAN, 1997

Sixty five cadets enjoyed a successful summer camp at Cultybraggan in Perthshire during the first week of the summer vacation in 1997. During the week, the KGS contingent was placed second in the Assault Course Competition, second in the Initiative Exercise and fourth in the March and Shoot Competition, an excellent overall performance in competition with fifteen other leading independent schools. Cadet Matthew Primmer deservedly won the Anzac Trophy for the best cadet on camp, while Junior Cadet Christopher Ingram displayed remarkable talent with a twelve bore shotgun, winning acclaim from the Scottish Full Bore Champion Shot. Colonel Sayer also strongly commended Cadet Ryan Appleyard for personally overcoming his fear of heights and abseiling from a 300 ft dam.

The Autumn Term saw an excellent Inspection Day, an occasion on which our cadets gave an impressive account of themselves and the 'Force' passed with flying colours. Field Day was held at Waddecar, Halton and Woodvale and was a great success, providing both great fun and good leadership opportunities for our cadets.

CCF ADVENTURE TRAINING CAMP

A very good Adventure Training Camp was held in the Lake District during the Spring half-term holiday and the thirty cadets who attended enjoyed good weather and a wide variety of training activities.

CCF OVERNIGHT YOMP

Led by Flt. Lt. R. Taylor, officer commanding the RAF Section of the CCF, ten intrepid cadets completed a 50 kilometre sponsored overnight yomp from Glasson Dock to KGS on Saturday

28th February. The team, made up of Paul Baer, Andrew Blackley, Tom Hanney, Bruce Helme, Tom Johnson, Nicholas Jones, David Rees, Timothy Upton, Richard Wigglesworth and Richard Wilson, left Glasson Dock at 10.30pm in some of the worst weather conditions of the year.

They encountered gale force winds, snow, sleet and driving rain. To test them further, the canal had burst its bank in places. The fact that all completed such a daunting and lengthy expedition is an enormous tribute to their morale, team spirit and powers of endurance. Their ordeal ended at school at 7.45am.

Two of our senior cadets, Andrew Blackley and Tom Johnson, one from each service, were selected to attend the UKLF Leadership Course in Shrewsbury during the Easter holiday.

During the summer term, Field Days were held at Halton, Holcombe and Woodvale on Thursday 2nd July for the fourth year cadets.

RAF SECTION - CCF

RAF cadets took part in an overnight camp at Waddecar, learning to survive in the wild, including cooking and eating and the use of snares and traps. The following day all cadets took part in camouflage, concealment, assault course, first aid, map and compass and basic infantry skills. The RAF is not just about flying and servicing fighter aircraft!

Cadets Smith, Boyle and Bridges attended and successfully completed the National Leadership and Initiative Course, held at RAF St. Athan. The icing on the cake for the RAF this year, however, was being selected to attend an overseas military camp at RAF Laarbruch, Germany.

SHOOTING AT ALT CAR

In May, the KGS CCF Full Bore Shooting Team entered the Skill at Arms weekend at Altcar rifle range to compete against 40 other teams and 160 other cadets.

The 'A' Team came third and eleventh in two competitions with excellent shooting from Matthew Primmer. The 'B' Team also shot well finishing eighth and tenth in two competitions.

The captain, Alistair Kipling, would like to thank the teams for attending, the two butt markers Phil Bennett and John Bolton, and Mr. Crowther for ferrying the teams around.

Shooting against teams who practise up to sixteen hours a week was tough. Hopefully next year a more experienced team will bring home a trophy.

SPONSORED YOMP IN JUNE

More than fifty cadets accepted the challenge presented by the 'yomp' from Glasson Dock alongside the Lancaster Canal to the 'Hand and Dagger' at Salwick on the longest day of the year.

Lester Short and Phillip Hendy, closely followed by Warren Marginson and Joseph Thompson, were the front runners and both groups broke the existing record. There were many others who achieved personal bests and perhaps the most impressive statistic was that all but two cadets successfully completed the course.

It was an enjoyable and successful event well supported by parents and staff on a glorious day in June, and it will, we hope, go a long way towards raising the funds necessary to extend the climbing wall.



March and shoot, not march and snooze!



Becki, give us a leg up



Plenty of camouflage here

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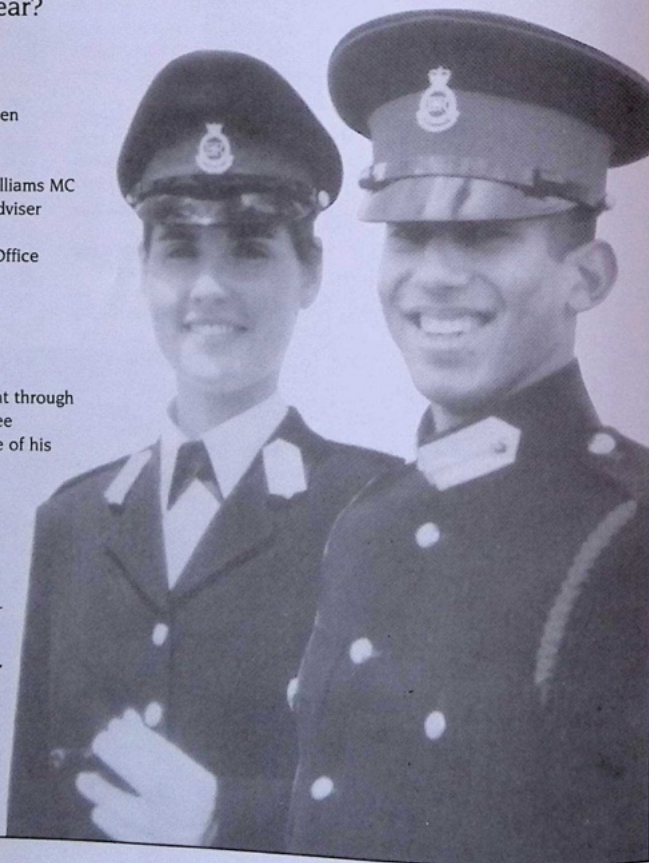
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SUMMER CAMP, 1998 WATHGILL

July 1998 saw some sixty cadets and nine officers and civilian instructors venture forth into North Yorkshire, to a different venue than usual for the annual camp. The Army Field Training Centre at Wathgill is part of Catterick Garrison and so accessible to some of the largest training areas in the North of England. It is also one of the newest camps (built in 1983) and with some of the best facilities, especially the NAAFI.

The weather in this part of the country is always variable and we experienced the vagaries of the Yorkshire Dales upland climate - heavy rain, cold winds, followed by bright sunshine.

The first day was a gentle introduction. Signals in the morning, with an engineers' package in the afternoon including some command tasks. The evening was a little more strenuous with the assault course competition. We entered two teams, but everyone was taken around the obstacles to have a go. Some people had great difficulty with the twelve foot wall and the rope swing - especially if they were not much over five foot tall and Mrs Scott decided that the best way to attack the wall was to 'chin it'. Our A Team put up the second best performance of that week, beating schools like Wellingborough and Epsom. Later on in the NAAFI we even managed to see the World Cup final on a giant screen.

The second day consisted of adventurous training. Canoeing for some, climbing for others and a small group went mountain biking in Keswick. There then followed three days rather strenuous military training.

The army days were quite hard but interesting and fun. Running around the moorlands with much vegetation protruding from the body and faces covered in cam. cream seems to be what KGS cadets enjoy most. Sixteen hard, budding SAS troopers, plus the RAF officers, Messrs Taylor and Callister,

stayed out all night and took part in an exciting night exercise with lots of pyrotechnics - fireworks for big boys! They later became the enemy for our own day's training which was cunningly devised by Maj. Scott.

Both these exercises became very real as we discovered on the same training area some two hundred regular soldiers from the Prince of Wales Royal Regiment on a similar training exercise! It is quite perturbing when the natural vegetation suddenly moves and challenges you! This made good camouflage and concealment essential and added a little life to the final battle with the enemy, especially as they did not know from which direction we were coming and that we greatly outnumbered them. That evening we said our goodbyes to the lower sixth biologists who were going straight on to Wales for a fieldcourse with Mrs Scott. It's a tough life at KGS!

The final day of training consisted of a full day's shooting at Battle Hill ranges. Bleak is an understatement to describe this location. Army live firing ranges are not the prettiest of places and this part of County Durham is no exception. It was cold, it rained incessantly all morning and the wind blew hard. But a great day was had by all. Every cadet had a chance to fire several live rounds on the Ensign Rifle but better still, all had at least twenty rounds on the Light Support Weapon (a regular army machine gun). This, and the fact that the sun began to shine, made the day worthwhile. Our march and shoot teams also competed in the afternoon. Although we did not come first, a good time was recorded by our A Team. It must be mentioned that Jenna Rees (a third year girl) competed on a par with the bigger boys of the A team.

Indeed, all cadets performed with typical KGS spirit and enthusiasm throughout the week. They were a credit to the school, the contingent and themselves. Thanks must go to them for their participation, but also to all the staff, officers and civilian help for their tireless support and encouragement. Unfortunately Colonel Sayer could not

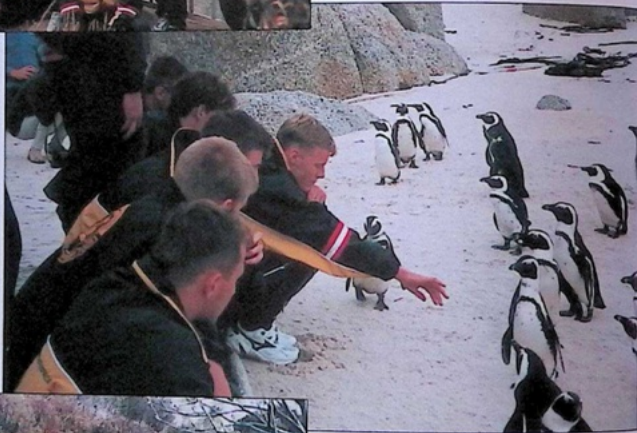
attend owing to illness, so Major Scott was forced to step into the breach at the last minute as Acting Commanding Officer: a job he appeared to handle with his usual vigour.

On the whole an excellent camp was had by all. We did not collect any trophies, but I think everyone learned something. Simply living together and getting on with each other is part of the hidden curriculum and we will no doubt return to Wathgill in the not too distant future. In the meantime KGS CCF will be preparing for our camp at Warcop in the summer of the school's 450th celebration. It's a shame it could not have been Belize!

G. I. Jane



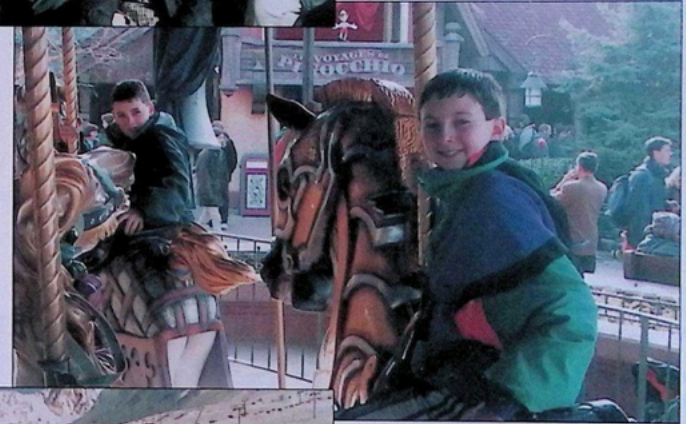
Tour of South Africa



Geography Field Trip



Paris and EuroDisney



The Ski Trip

Ski Report

The annual ski trip, organised once again by Mr. Scott, took us to the French Alps, to the resort of Les Arcs, renowned for its quality of snow and numerous ski slopes.

The journey began on a mild January morning with everyone eager with anticipation at the prospect of a fun packed week of skiing. After a reasonable flight from Manchester to Lyon, and then the journey along some very winding roads, we finally came across snow covered mountains.

We were welcomed at the hotel by the proprietor Andy Lago, and also by our adopted rep., Dave Worth, an old teacher of KGS, remembered only by the very old members of our party!

The first morning was typical, with everyone bright and breezy and ready to go (well almost!) and some not even needing the delicate wake-up roar of Mrs. Taylor. However, this soon deteriorated throughout the week, until even the teachers could not get out of bed, only just managing to beat the sixth form lads to breakfast.

Lessons took place officially for two hours in the morning and two hours after lunch. This was good at the start of the week, however later on we opted for a continuous four hour lesson, taking sandwiches to eat on the go. This enabled us to see more of the area and ski from a higher altitude. Due to these longer lessons, the beginners progressed at a rapid rate and were confident enough to tackle the more adventurous and higher slopes. The intermediates seemed to specialise in ski jumps after much practice, and as for the advanced group... well, the girls would follow their instructor anywhere, so it didn't matter where they went!

The second night saw the skies fill and it started to snow and snow and snow! In fact, it only stopped the next afternoon. It was an amazing sight seeing everyone knee deep in the best powder snow. The

chance of skiing now with style, for most of us, was out of the question, apart from the instructors who were glued to the piste. They took great delight in laughing at the many bodies tumbling like dominoes one by one, then appearing covered in snow! One of Dr. Hall's falls left him looking like Frosty the Snowman.

After whizzing around the piste following Dave Worth's shadow, the teachers seemed to lack stamina after being frequently spotted soaking up the atmosphere and scenery, relaxing in the on-piste café bars. Such a hard life.

There were many great (or stupid) performances on the piste, in fact too many to name. However Nick Jones deserves a mention for his carefree attitude. He also seemed to enjoy the odd conversation with some trees... after crashing into them. A few lads attempted snowboarding with Arren Perfetti the best beginner, whilst Joseph Thompson was obviously more experienced.

After ski tests at the end of the week, medals were presented according to levels of achievement, along with several more of Mr. Scott's comical awards and presents were given to the teachers.

We all knew the end was near after some spectacular performances on and off the piste. Mr. Scott's karaoke performance will go down in history!

Finally, we would like to thank all the teachers for making it a most enjoyable trip and entertaining us all throughout the week. If next year's trip is as good as this one, then everybody should try to go!

R. Kay & H. Scott

Geography Field Trip - Scarborough

On Tuesday 21st April, the lower sixth geography students set off from school to undertake our field trip in Yorkshire.

The next day we completed a town survey of Scarborough, then undertook a village study on Thursday. A two hour work session ended every day, reiterating everything we had learned and preparing us for the following day.

Friday was the Heritage Day. We headed west to York as 'culture vultures' to visit Clifford's Tower, the York Story Heritage Centre and the Castle Museum. On the way back to Scarborough we visited the Danelaw village at Murton Park. Here those with the inclination could dress up and experience Viking life (in the mud).

Saturday saw us studying the Yorkshire coastline from Scarborough to Bridlington (a long way). Plenty of sun and useful information from Mr. Harrison concerning rocks and waves and beautiful sunshine.

Sunday saw a change in the weather. It happened to be the day when we were standing chest deep in the River Derwent doing a river survey. However, we retired to the warmth of a strategically placed pub when thunder and lightning started to accompany the torrential rain. The 70's jukebox was much appreciated.

On Monday we studied the soil, along with a Tornado aircraft on the North Yorkshire Moors. Later on we saw Pickering Castle, Ryedale Folk Museum and a trout farm basking in the glorious North Yorkshire sunshine.

On the return journey we undertook further field work in York. We walked the walls, visited the Minster and Chapter House.

Thanks must go to Mr. Scott for his organisation and local knowledge and to Mr. Harrison and Miss Tabb.

Mr. Rushton's Brilliant Trip to Paris, 1998

In February, Mr. Rushton organised what was going to be a great trip to Paris. The offer was to anybody from the first to sixth form. During the half term break, a coachload of children (that was us) left Kirkham Grammar on a thirteen - yes, thirteen - hour journey to France. After a few garages, travel sicknesses, and the Channel Tunnel, the coach arrived at our wonderful hotel, late at night. After a traditional French meal (hamburger and chips!), we all had a well deserved sleep.

Early in the morning, after a wake up call from Mr. Rushton, the same coachload of children set off to the magical world that is EuroDisney. What a great day! Thanks to Mr. Rushton I got to go to a place I've always wanted to visit. The rides were brilliant, especially the white knuckle rides: *Space Mountain, Thunder Mountain, Indiana Jones* and many others which, of course, Mr. Duncan didn't go on. Even *The Mad Hatter's Tea Party* was too much for him - but at least he held the bags! We spent

the whole day at EuroDisney, from the time it opened until the time it closed, and I enjoyed every bit of it (except when we had to follow the girls around the clothes shops). When it went dark, we saw a marvellous parade through the streets before leaving to return to our hotel.

The next day was when everybody was taken to the centre of Paris, which was another great day. We all had the chance to go on a boat trip down the River Seine and see all the wonderful bridges and buildings, especially Notre Dame cathedral. Most of us went right to the very top of the Eiffel Tower, which was very scary (and a long walk too). We also walked around the main part of the city looking in the shops and buying souvenirs and presents. Later, we went to Montmartre and visited Sacre Coeur from where we had a view of the whole city. Then we saw the pavement artists and some of us even had our portraits drawn. Then disaster struck - Mr. Rushton and Mrs. Long got their hands on a map and started to direct us to the restaurant for our evening meal. Quite a while later, after seeing some strange shops and even stranger people,

we arrived at Flunch. Then we had an evening coach tour of Paris and saw the Arc, the Eiffel Tower lit up and lots of other famous sights.

After another night of sleep and a quick breakfast in the morning, the coach took us back home on the same thirteen hour journey. We all arrived safely home at 9:15pm. I would like to thank Mr. Rushton for a brilliant holiday which was packed full of things to do and also Mr. Duncan, Mrs. Stanbury and Mrs. Long for making the holiday so much fun.

James Anderson 1y



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1st XV Tour 1997 South Africa

In 1995 there was a general feeling among rugby coaching staff, parents and players that as K.G.S. had not undertaken a major tour since the 1987 World Tour and K.G.S. would be strong in the 1996/97 season, then consideration should be given to a tour in the summer of 1997. South Africa, with its high rugby profile, favourable exchange rate, climate and hospitality was decided upon.

After the unbeaten '96/97 season culminating in the Daily Mail Cup Final at Twickenham, training had to be greatly reduced because of the imminence of external examinations. It was nevertheless impressed upon the players that the tour would be tough and players should look after their personal fitness whenever time allowed. It was stressed that organised training after examinations was vital if the team was to justify such a venture. This was not understood by some players who went on a camp in the week before the tour and another player felt it sufficient to tour on one training session. I feared the worst after this.

On arrival at Cape Town we booked in at the same hotel the Lions had used when playing at Newlands. Newlands is a beautiful area of Cape Town with Table Mountain so close and Nelson Mandela's house nearby, but the party noticed that all the houses were fortified and many linked to 24-hour security firm headquarters.

The following morning the party staged its first invasion of sports shops at Newland Test Ground before playing the first game against Westerford High School. The team understandably was out of touch, but played with determination to win 19-12. The game was marred when Mark Hill broke his wrist.

Because of the lack of preparation for the tour it had been decided to train hard in Cape Town, but the party looked so

lethargic on the following day that training was cancelled. Maybe it was the shock to the system of starting school at 7.30! The party spent the day looking around Cape Town but it was a pity the Table Mountain cable car was out of use as they missed a memorable experience. The following day was spent training, followed by a trip down Cape Point to the Cape of Good Hope.

Sunday we spent travelling to George along a beautiful route including Mossell Bay but unfortunately the mountains were shrouded in mist. The next morning was spent visiting the world famous Kango Caves and the Ostrich Farm, where some players proved to be potential jockeys. After the return journey through the awesome Outeniqua mountains the second match was played against Outeniqua High School. I had this match downgraded because of our lack of preparation and we beat their second team unconvincingly 12-0.

Coach journeys are one of the binds of touring but the journey the following day to Kareedouw along the famous garden route through Knysna, Plettenburg Bay and the surfing mecca, Jeffreys Bay, was beautiful. Paul Sauer High School in Kareedouw, a small rural town, hosted KGS. The 'reserves' were played in this game, which was won 15-8, but the memory lingers on the morning spent on the edge of Tsitsikama Forest at the mouth of the beautiful Storms River.

I knew that the honeymoon period of the tour was over and that from now on there would be much tougher matches to come. I noted that the cobwebs had not been blown away and I felt a distinct sense of foreboding.

Framesby High School in Port Elizabeth accommodated us most generously by playing us the day before a 7-a-side tournament. I feel it cost them the tournament. The morning of the match was hilarious but hardly ideal preparation for a big match. Twenty nine people were ferried around Port Elizabeth, including a visit to the Oceanarium in a twenty-seater bus by a

driver who selected a chosen path and followed it regardless of the other traffic. A serious game was the last thing on players' minds. The Framesby team consisted largely of under-16 players, but the average Afrikaaner is much bigger and tougher than the average Englishman and K.G.S. did not seem to have the appetite for the battle and lost 0-45.

The next day we flew to Johannesburg after visiting Addo Elephant Park although we were unlucky and did not see a lot of wildlife. The flight was through an electric storm but this was nothing compared to the captain's message on landing, "Welcome to Gauteng. If you are a native of Gauteng I hope your car is where you left it and the contents inside. If not, please remember our road manners are not what you would call user friendly." No more reminders to the players regarding safe conduct were needed after that.

I was most concerned about our next fixture as Waterkloof School had four Springbok players but I discovered to my relief they were putting out their second team against us. We visited Pretoria Centre, the Voortrekker Monument, which has a special place in Afrikaaner culture, the Union Building where President Mandela was installed in 1994, and Loftus Versfeld, the test ground, before training.

Tuesday was match day and we played under lights on the school pitch. The team regained its commitment and dominated the game but lost 5-12. Nevertheless, Waterkloof were so impressed by the party as a whole they wish to start academic, cultural and sporting exchanges between the schools. A spell of rest was taken at Kruger National Park which was enjoyed greatly despite rising at half past five for an early game drive. We travelled along the edge of the veldt for miles. It was truly magnificent scenery and we visited the largest green canyon in the world.

We returned to Monument High School, Krugersdorp, who had played at K.G.S. in a titanic struggle in 1993. Because of

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this and our successful season which they had read about, they had asked for the top South African referee to officiate in the game. Unfortunately, a side weakened by withdrawals, virus, injury and loss of form was beaten 5 - 61 in an anti-climax for everyone.

The afternoon was spent at Ellis Park, where the World Cup Final was played, watching Gauteng and the next day was spent at Sun City which was hugely enjoyed by all.

The last section of the tour was spent coaching underprivileged children at Mamelodi township and playing a Northern Transvaal Development side at Loftus Versfeld. British Aerospace and Mitre donated equipment to the children, but when our players donated their own kit the Northern Transvaal party was touched.

In all, the tour was a memorable experience although the standard of rugby was well below our normal when we needed to be at our best. The players should have a much wider view of life after staying in the homes of people from a different culture and experiencing many new things. They should also know what they have to do to reach their potential as players.

I would like to thank all parents who helped in fund-raising, especially Mr. Sanderson, Mr. Porteous, Mr. Carpenter and Mrs. Jones. I am grateful to British Aerospace for sponsoring the Pretoria / Johannesburg part of the tour, Guy's Thatched Hamlet, and M. Threlfall Haulage and Storage in particular and all who helped financially to support the tour.

Lastly, I wish to thank Mr. Browning and Mr. Trenhaile for their help in ensuring the tour ran so smoothly.

*B. Gornall
Manager and Coach*

RAF Easter Camp

Ten cadets and two members of staff spent part of the Easter break at RAF Laarbruch in West Germany on the annual camp. RAF Laarbruch is situated on the Dutch/German border near the small town of Wesse and is about 75km north west of Cologne. RAF Laarbruch is a large operational base which is home to two Harrier ground-attack squadrons, a rapier missile squadron and a RAF Regiment Field Squadron along with numerous other supporting personnel.

The busy week at the base involved visits to various sections, including bomb disposal, the fire section, police dog section and the operation hangers of the flying squadrons where the cadets could speak with the pilots and ground-crew and have a close look at the aircraft. The cadets also had the opportunity to fire weapons on the range, use a Virtual Reality trainer and take part in a night exercise in the depths of the German forests! The formal training ended with flying and work experience.

It was not all work, however, with a night out swimming at Holland's Centre Park, a shopping trip to Cologne, a bowling night and visits to Arnhem, the airborne museum at Oosterbeek and the Riechswald war cemetery. The visit to Arnhem proved to be a very moving and awe-inspiring experience.

With the current financial restraints being made on all three services, it was a tremendous accolade to be given the opportunity to take ten cadets to an overseas camp and was a tribute to all the work the RAF cadets' have undertaken over the past two years.

Emily Ross and David Rees were at the forefront of all military plans and manoeuvres and T Chadwick and P. Baer were commended by the Commandant for all round commitment and participation.

Mr. R. D. Taylor

Junior Hockey Tour

On the 25th October 1997, the 52 strong party of third to fifth year girls, teachers and helpers set off on the first leg of our journey to Hull, where we boarded the overnight ferry. The group spent an eventful night on board before disembarking to make our way to Valkenburg, where we would be spending the next four days.

The first afternoon was spent unpacking, exploring the town and most importantly rehearsing for the fiercely contested karaoke competition of which the winners would win, amongst their accolades, the coveted and highly acclaimed award that is a giant Dairy Milk. The well rehearsed, brilliantly costumed and vocally superior ABBA won convincingly, but the highlight of the evening was the staff's rendition of the Spice Girls.

Sufficiently psyched we began our World Cup competition the following morning and then spent the afternoon tobogganing back in Valkenburg, where the fifth years led by example with a few well executed collisions. With just minor injuries we went on to our first fixture at H O D Hockey Club. The fierce reputation of the club went before it and all the teams performed excellently. The under 14 side won 7-0, the under 15 side 2-0 and the under 16 won 3-0.

After the second round of the World Cup the next day, the teams travelled to Galeen Hockey Club for our second fixture. Against the might of foreign opposition we once again triumphed. The under 14's won 5-0, the under 15's 1-0 and the under 16's won 2-0.

Our last day in Valkenburg began with the last round of the World Cup, of which the winners, Germany, went on to play the talented staff team. After a fiercely disputed thirty minutes, experience triumphed over innocence as the staff won 6 - 0.

The afternoon was spent at our leisure around Valkenburg and most indulged in some shopping. Some spent time (and money) on the lucky dip teddy machine, a futile activity but for the acquisition of 'Bertie', the fifth year mascot. That night we played our final fixture at Concordia Hockey Club. Here we enjoyed great hospitality and repaid the favour with three Kirkham victories. The under 14's won 4-0, the under 15's won 2-0 and the under 16's won 6-0.

With the hockey over we all eagerly awaited our two day trip to Disneyland, Paris and Thursday was spent travelling to our destination. We arrived there in time for dinner and after sampling the very best of French cuisine, we began our Hallowe'en party. By the morning we were ready to experience the thrills and spills of Disneyland and those who had not spent all their money in Valkenburg were able to buy some souvenirs.

After our final day in Disneyland, stomachs sufficiently churned and pockets most definitely empty, we went on a bus tour of Paris.

We returned to the mundane sanity of Kirkham that Sunday after a truly enjoyable week. Thanks must go to Dave, the bus driver, Deborah Hanley, Miss Baxter, Mrs. Tabb, Mr. Glover, Chris and Alison, our faithful supporters, and finally a big thank you to Mrs. Glover, whose organisation and enthusiasm are second to none! All the girls are grateful to you for a brilliant week!

*Martha Newell
U16 Hockey Captain*



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


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Drama Society

The annual school production, *All You Need is Love*, which played to full houses on November 27th and 28th, was a series of montages centred around the theme of love. This production marked a break away from the previous concept in as much as it was an open invitation to pupils of all ages and talents. Productions of this nature become an education in themselves, such is the power of drama. Some eighty plus pupils became involved and were responsible for all aspects of the programme: original music and choral singing (Emily Ross and Katherine Sharrocks); choreography (Lisa Brambles and Kate Daley) and costume design and making (Janine Swarbrick and Emma Travers). Lisa Helin and Helen Scott became reliable, proficient assistants to our new Director of Drama, Mrs. Holdsworth, and Joanne Hedley ably assisted Ms Gibson with stage management. Auditions began in the early weeks of September and rehearsals took place on three evenings per week, plus weekends and during half-term. By the time of performance, the pupils had forged themselves into a cohesive unit that crossed the boundaries of age and

talents. The finished product delighted its audiences with its mix of theatre, music and dance.

The Junior Drama Festival was held in March. An evening of entertainment was staged by over eighty second and third year pupils, under the guidance of seven Lower Sixth Theatre Studies students. The evening consisted of several short plays and audiences were shown how to make a *Do-it-yourself Frankenstein Outfit* and shared secrets from *The Diary of Adrian Mole* and *Pictures of Adolescence*. They were able to laugh at the comedy version of *Romeo and Juliet*, enjoy the adventures of *Benny and Woodwoose* and visit the *School of Witches*. The show finished with *All's Well That Ends As You Like It!* The Junior Drama Festival aims at giving 13 and 14 year olds the chance to perform in front of an audience, develop the characters and to have a lot of fun! For the Lower Sixth Form students, the Drama Festival gives them the opportunity of directing and producing a short play, assisting with props, costume and make up and to realise the trials and tribulations of coping with stage-struck or stage-frightened young actors and actresses.

LAMDA RESULTS

The speaking of Verse and Prose

Grade Five:

Tim Chadwick (Pass)
Jak Berry (Dist)
Sarah Pook (Dist)
Gemma Wallace (Pass)
Daniel Coyle (Pass)
Lauren Ainge (Pass)

Grade Six:

Ruth Burns (Dist)
Katherine Palmer (Dist)
Liz Rossall (Hons)
Andrew Pook (Dist)
Richard Kellett (Hons)

Grade Seven:

Laura Clarke (Dist)

Acting

Grade Five:

Rebecca Turner (Pass)
Caroline Brown (Dist)
Felicity Clarke (Dist)
Jennifer Leigh (Dist)

Grade Seven:

Warren Thompson (Dist)
Wesley Harker (Dist)

Grade Eight:

Thomas Gray (Pass)
Tracey Thornley (Dist)

Bronze Medal:

Kate Sullivan (Pass)

The summer term saw us travelling to Stratford-upon-Avon for a backstage tour and theatre visit to see *The Tempest*, which will be the next school production. Rehearsals are now well underway for the production which is going to take *The Tempest* into the future in virtual reality style.

All in all, the drama school year has been action packed and full of fun.

KGS Ski Society

The KGS Ski Soc. continues to thrive and paid one of its annual visits to an artificial ski slope on the Speech Day Holiday in November. This year a different venue was decided upon, the 'Snowdome' in Tamworth, where our winter sports enthusiasts skied on 'real' artificial snow! A great day was had by both proper skiers and snowboarders, although the latter spent more time in a prone rather than an upright position! Many thanks must go to Chloe and Helen Scott for organising the visit and to Mr. Maymon for attending at short notice.

Music Report

The first performance of the year was for the CCF Inspection, when the school orchestra played several pieces to accompany the parade. Anthony Rawlins of the fourth form played the general salute very competently on the trumpet, whilst the rest of the orchestra tried to prevent their music from flying away in the wind.

In Preston Guildhall, the KGS choir joined with the choir of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in an evening of high quality choral singing and brass band music for Round Table charities. Richard Evans conducted the Leyland Band and ex-KGS pupil Michelle Carter gave a stirring rendition of *Rule Britannia*.

As usual, the Carol Concert introduced the Christmas spirit. The new first year and lower sixth pupils had their first chance to perform, as the girls' choir, special choir and concert band all took part. At the end of this term, music honours were awarded to David Rees, Emily Ross and Richard Wire. Later in the year, music honours were also

awarded to Peter Benson and Katherine Sharrocks.

The Spring Term began with the Interhouse Music Competition. A huge number of pupils took part and, although judging was difficult, the competition was won by Annabel Fowden for her rendition of a piece by Mozart played on the flute. School House won the competition overall.

Mr. Ashmore made his final appearance during the Spring Concert and a superb performance of the Mass in G by Schubert was enjoyed by all. The accompanists for this included two ex-Kirkhamians, Mr. Rodger Boyes and Miss Myra Watson. The fifth form had a great influence over this concert by bringing many different musical styles to it. They are by far the largest GCSE group there has been at Kirkham Grammar School and include talented musicians with a wide variety of musical tastes.

Music for a Summer's Evening was the first concert involving the new music master, Mr. Taylor, who has taken over the organisation of the girls' choir and the concert band. Musicians of all ages

performed and soloists were accompanied by Mr. Dowding. Haidee MacGregor, the first music scholar, played the flute and piano in her last KGS concert as a pupil. The Fun Day at the beginning of July included jazz and modern music played by two of our fifth formers, Alistair Kipling (piano) and Sam Smith (clarinet).

During the summer vacation, Gareth Jones will visit the Czech Republic to play the double bass, Jak Berry will play trumpet in Italy, Kingsley Shaw will sing on the Royal School of Church Music course in King's College, Cambridge, and both Kingsley and Peter Benson will be taking part in a choir tour in France.

Under Mr. Catterall's leadership, it is quite clear that music at KGS continues to flourish.

Katherine Sharrocks
Music Secretary



Junior musicians tuning up

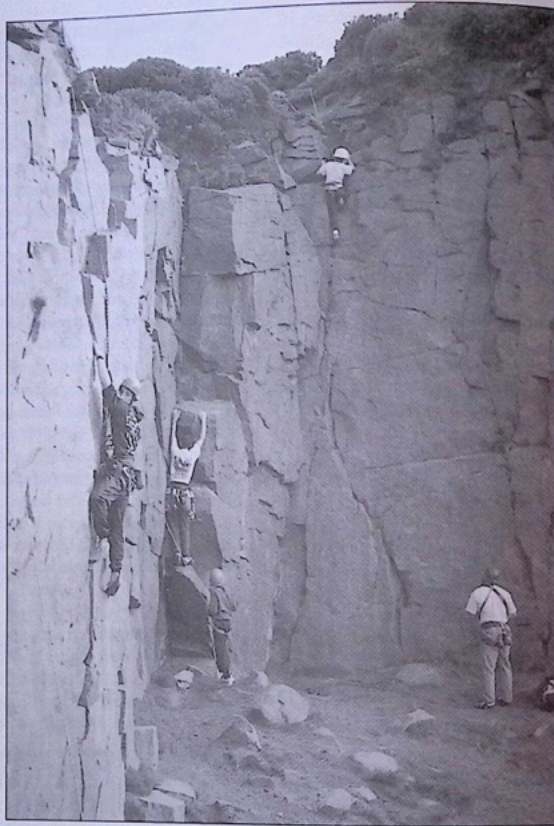
Climbing Club

The start of the academic year saw the eagerly awaited opening of the school's own climbing wall in the Multi Purpose Hall. The generous support of the Friends of Kirkham Grammar School, the CCF, together with sponsored climbs and 'yomps', for which special thanks go to Mr. R. Taylor, has enabled us to install a high quality wall which is as near to the real thing as present technology allows.

Over the last year, the wall has been used by the Climbing Club at lunchtime and by the CCF on Thursday afternoons, as well as becoming a popular attraction at Open Days and similar events. It has proved to be a great success and the club is already some way towards raising the funds necessary to extend the wall up onto the suspended ceiling of the MPH.

The Climbing Club has been an official school society for nearly three years and in this time has attracted a number of regular followers of all abilities. In the past year a number of first year pupils have made a welcome addition to the club's membership. Weekly trips have been made to outdoor crags and cliffs when the weather permits, otherwise the club has been dependent on synthetic indoor walls. Any pupils are welcome to join the society and we will teach any new members how to climb and how to use the equipment.

Thanks must be given to Mrs. Scott and Mr. Gaddes for giving up their time for the club, and to Mark and Adam Devine, outgoing and incoming secretaries.



Climbers in action

KGO

After the excitement of Mallorca last April, this year might have seemed rather ordinary a prospect, but we should have known better. A long haul to Bridlington in September was rewarded with one of the best North Sea cruises in recent years. We soon ticked our sooty shearwater and were delighted to pull up alongside a pair of grey phalaropes (swimming waders) but the boat rocked with excitement as a Cory's shearwater flapped past.

The new RSPB hide at Marshside provided us with excellent views of merlin on a November trip and the

wader count was impressive. The fact that you can shelter from the elements on the South Ribble marshes now makes this a much less daunting venue and one to which we shall return, but our old Martin Mere haunt produced a spectacular barn owl, an incredible pinkfoot flypast and a distant lesser yellowlegs which should really have been in Florida.

The New Year brought us back to Hest Bank and Leighton Moss. This time we observed two of the most dazzling British birds: kingfisher and the rarely seen male smew. Our visit to the Solway was as good as ever with both male and female hen harrier to accompany the barnacle geese.

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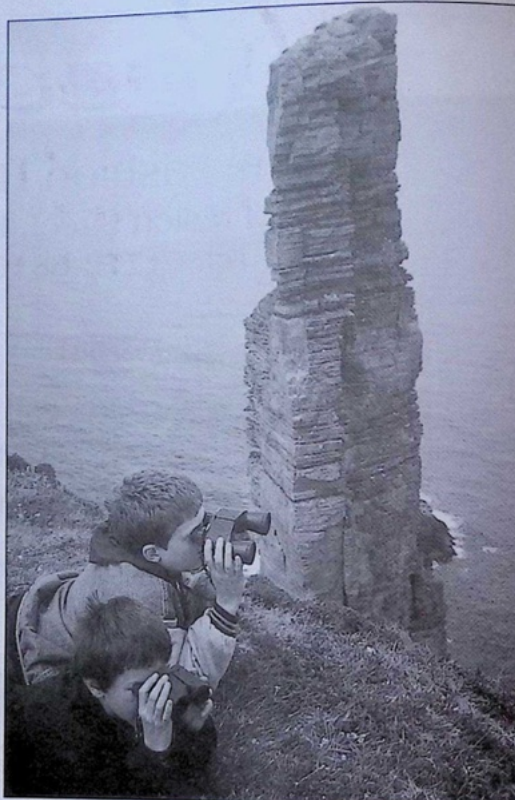
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It was good, too, to glimpse the roe deer of the Clarencefield woods. We even managed a little culture by calling in at Ruthwell Church to touch the ancient Saxon cross upon which is carved, in runes, the oldest surviving example of English literature.

Still there was excitement to come. Once again we went to see England's only golden eagles on a fine sunny May day. Redstarts and pied flycatchers were added attractions, but the highlight of a splendid day was undoubtedly the unexpected osprey at Leighton Moss which perched and ate its fish supper for us all to see at really close range. And this was just a taste of what the term held in store as we prepared for our annual expedition to Orkney. Thanks to King Edward's School, Bath, we not only had a splendid minibus but also an excuse to go back to Leighton Moss to get our best bittern yet, sky-pointing a few feet from the path near the public hide. What a portent! Remarkably we reached Scrabster just after 2pm having departed at 5am. The crossing to Stromness was foul and every bit as savage as another ferry passage to Islay in February 1995.

We only had four days on the islands so the visit was intense. Most days we were up at 6am (though well after dawn) and finally fell into bed at about 11pm. Yet the party was robust as we tried to do justice to the archaeology as well as the avifauna. Orkney has some Stone Age sites of global importance. The Neolithic village at Skara Brae is yet more breathtaking than its state-of-the-art interpretation centre. Equally intriguing is the Tomb of the Eagles on South Ronaldsay where Stone Age man clearly fared better than his Bronze Age counterpart. Most romantic of all was the oldest house in Northern Europe, the Knap of Howar, on far flung Papa Westray. Bill Bryson's superb article in June's National Geographic captures the scene as he recalls the old joke that one day, when the wind stopped in Orkney, everyone fell over. This was our day on Papa as huge waves churned where the last great auk in Britain was shot and where, in a sheltered bay, we were followed by fifteen inquisitive seals just



On the expedition to Orkney

a few feet away. Arctic terns and skuas wheeled about us and we inched very close to an obliging puffin perched above the spume. Our last day took us to Hoy. The sun still shone but, at last, the gale abated. Hoy is covered in heather moorland and is the haunt of hen harriers and yet the sandy bay at Rackwick, beneath its towering sandstone cliffs (the tallest in Britain), is stunning. From here we hiked to the famous Old Man. Now, as promised, we were bombed by bonxies (great skuas), more terrifying than any of us imagined and, before leaving, we trod a beach untouched by any other footprint.

Our return took us to Speyside after a stop in Caithness where we caught sight

of hen harrier, short-eared owl and a nesting common scoter. A final dawn rise found us in a damp Abernethy Forest but we managed to pick up crossbill, crested tit and the celebrity ospreys of Loch Garten before we left. Amazingly our expedition species count of 119 exceeded, by six, our Mallorcan list which only goes to show that British birding can be every bit as rewarding if you have enough stamina for the Simmer Dim.

N. G. Clark

**Young Enterprise
1997-1998**

Shox, KGS' Young Enterprise Company, has had a busy and most successful year. 25 students from the Lower Sixth met weekly to run a vibrant and hard working company under the direction of Lucy Preston and Lucy Peters. After the company sold its full allocation of shares, a number of products were marketed and produced over the year. A demand for fashionable stationery was met with production of a variety of products. Fluffy folders, mirrors and photo-frames were produced and sold by the company both at school and in the local area. Sales were good and a new Spring Collection was introduced after Christmas with immediate success.

As well as producing and selling goods, a vital part of the scheme is the annual competition in which schools on the Fylde compete to take part in the Lancashire finals. *Shox* had to produce a full company report and prepare for a business presentation. In a particularly

strong year, Kirkham performed admirably in all sections of the competition. Their presentation was particularly strong, thanks largely to the efforts of Tush Bhuiya, the company's Technical Director.

The year has been very successful and the company certainly "learned by doing" - the motto of Young Enterprise. All the achievers have gained a lot of valuable experience from the scheme and I hope this will prepare them well for the world of business when they leave school. Special mention must go to Lucy Peters, Pradip Ray and Bruce Helme who obtained the rare awards of distinctions in the Young Enterprise Examination. I would like to thank all the achievers, our advisers from BNFL and Midland Bank, and especially Mrs. Lang for all her help over the year. It has been a most enjoyable year for everyone involved. Young Enterprise is enjoying somewhat of a renaissance at Kirkham, largely thanks to the efforts of this year's company. They have been a credit to the school and fully deserve the credit they have received.

S. Duncan

Midland School Bank

Eighteen fifth year Business Studies students successfully ran the school's bank each Tuesday and Friday during the Autumn term.

This 'real-life' commercial experience has offered the participants many opportunities for personal development, linked with curriculum based learning.

The two teams of "Kirkham Bankers" were led and directed by team co-ordinators, Andrew Davies and Sally Atkinson. Between them, they succeeded in attracting almost 70 KGS pupils to open accounts by means of successful promotion of the initiative.

Midland Bank are to donate £68 to KGS. However, more important has been Midland's active involvement with the students in offering guidance and assistance in areas which will benefit them in adult life.

F. Lang



A group of KGS bankers

This page

A small seed,
In spring a miniature.
Leaves golden now,
Until branches bare to winter harshness.

Gentle, no cares for time,
Blossoming brightly in spring
And withering slightly in summer heat,
Then leaves dropping peacefully to the grave.

The yellow monster now advances,
The control grinning contentedly
While advancing on the gentle but mighty tree,
Who watches its death coming.

The lorry lumbers down the motorway,
Carrying wooden stumps
That once were alive.
The trees have done nothing to deserve their fate.

So again the seed is planted,
To grow to a fine height,
All those springs and summers,
To be the page on which I write.

Jenny Wright 3K



Caterpillar

Tiny footsteps wander by,
Like a train on its tracks,
But the train diverts
And clanders up familiar wilderness.

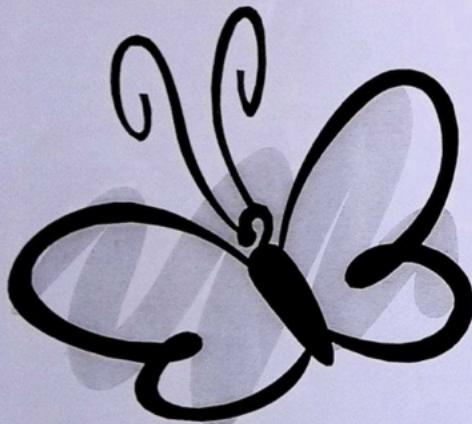
It bypasses carpets of grass
And detailed leaves
And elegant flowers,
But not as elegant as what is to come.

It is a vision of no apparent beauty,
But looks can deceive.
The footsteps fade,
It goes into a sleep.

Awakened from an oyster pearl labyrinth,
To the outside world is revealed
An image of desire and elegance,
A butterfly, breathtaking beauty.

Each wing like a mirror,
A filigree network of detail,
Once a vision of emptiness,
But looks can be deceiving.

Kym Rawlins 3X



The Shark

Moving stealthily through the dark, cold water,
An assassin of the sea.
Swift and silent and secretive,
A perfect killing machine.

Camouflaged to perfection with
Dark bluey-grey skin
Matching the eerie dullness
Of the immense ocean it rules.

The shark, king of all fish,
Senses its next victim
And begins to move
Menacingly, yet majestically, towards its prey.

As the deadly mechanical jaws
Clamp down on the unsuspecting victim,
The shark is suddenly transferred from its
Own world to another, unknown world.

Starved of its natural surroundings and
Fished out of its world for fun,
The shark dies slowly,
No longer ruler of its ocean.

Daniel Houseman 3x

Nature's Loss

A single shot, the searing pain,
The fox falls softly to the ground.
It lies still, not quite dead yet,
Thinking, thinking, thinking...

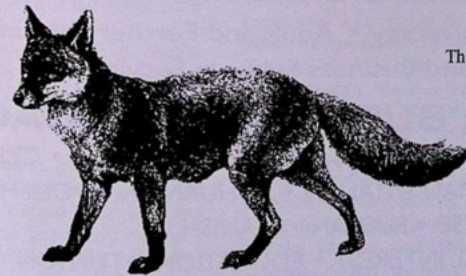
As the hounds close in
He is a cub, curious and small.
As the triumphant shouts of the men are heard
The fox snatches his first rabbit.

The horses' hooves pound impatiently on the ground,
The fox now has cubs of his own.
The men are anxious to find their trophy
The fox's pain grows greater at every shout.

He closes his eyes for the last time,
The pain is finally too much to bear.
His beautiful coat now stained with blood,
His lifeless body so limp and pathetic.

A hound finds the body and returns it to his master
And the hunt moves on, unbothered by Nature's loss.
Tomorrow is another day and everything will go on,
No one will mourn, nothing will cry, as if the fox had never been there.

Rebecca Turner 3X



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Inter House Competitions

| | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|---------|
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| Music | School | | Inter. | Preston |
| Debating | School | | Senior | School |
| Play Reading | Preston | Cricket | Junior | School |
| Chess | School | | Senior | School |
| Shooting | School | Cross Country | Jun. Boys | Preston |
| Swimming | Kirkham | | Jun. Girls | Kirkham |
| Hockey | Junior | | Int. Boys | Preston |
| | Senior | | Int. Girls | Kirkham |
| Netball | Junior | | Sen. Boys | Kirkham |
| | Senior | | Sen. Girls | School |
| Rounders | Fylde | Athletics | | Kirkham |
| Tennis | Junior | Inter-House Cup | | SCHOOL |
| | Inter. | | | |
| | Senior | | | |
| | Fylde | | | |
| | School | | | |

Preston House

Housemaster: Mr. S. Crowther
House Captains: R. Kanda, K. Johnson,
C. Scott

"I'd love to be Preston House Master," I said eagerly, when asked by the Headmaster to take on this prestigious position. Little did I realise the enormity of the post when we shook hands. It is difficult to believe, but I have even less hair now than when I began last September. Most of it has either fallen out through the anxiety of trying to ensure that pupils are at the right place at the right time in the correct kit or it has been pulled out when things have not gone quite according to plan.

My grateful thanks go to my House Captains: Raj Kanda, Katy Johnson and Chloe Scott. Without their help and support over the last twelve months, I probably would have been completely bald. They all coped with last minute crises and worked tirelessly in the background to make my job easier.

We have not performed badly this year, but we have had too many close second places and not enough outright wins. We did begin well, however. Our chess teams performed very well to earn a

creditable second place, only losing out in the final match. Tush, our Lancashire team member, was brilliant. Basically his tactics were to bore the opposition to death by making one move every ten minutes. Tush will captain the team next year. Play reading was won by a dedicated team led by Claire Marshall. Her choice of play did make me cringe at the time, but, after all, it is art, which lets you get away with murder. Well done to all who took part. Our debating team also did well. We won the first round by successfully opposing the motion that "popular culture was the downfall of modern youth". So now you know what isn't ruining the youth of today. We never did establish what was! The team on this occasion was Tush and Claire Marshall. We changed the team slightly for the final. Claire was replaced under the pressure of examinations by Lewis Watson. We had to oppose the motion that "vegetarianism has been vindicated". A hard one this, and one in which the audience in the straw poll thought we had won. However, we failed to impress the adjudicator, Ms Gibson. Perhaps I bought her the wrong chocolates before the final.

Everyone's favourite event, and the one I had been warned about beforehand, loomed in December. I kept hearing the words "I can't swim" in my sleep. We did muster together a team of reluctant

water babies, but the result matched the enthusiasm of the squad on the day. We finished fourth. Room for improvement next year, I fear.

A good result was gained in the shooting competition. We finished second overall, with the team of Scott, Leeming, Appleyard and Walker being narrowly outshot by School. With some excellent shooting talent coming through the ranks I see a win on the horizon next year.

The junior and intermediate boys won their cross-country, another favourite event. The senior girls finished a narrow second to School. Our unstoppable intermediate boys easily won the sevens rugby competition. To show how easily they won, Daniel Tolley never touched the ball. Well done, boys.

What a logistical nightmare the music competition turned out to be. All of a sudden some of our school musicians suddenly lost the capacity to play. We finished fourth.

The most public event of the year was Sports Day. A second logistical nightmare, and one which required expert shirt changing, to ensure everyone was properly attired. We failed to retain the trophy as Kirkham pulled out all the stops to win this event for Mr. Baines as a tribute to all his hard

House Reports

work and dedication over the years. Either that or we just let them win!

I look forward now to the summer holiday, not having to worry about the weekly assembly or chasing pupils for events. How I will miss the job over the next couple of months. However, we will return refreshed and ready to take on the challenge.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Baines for his help and encouragement over the past year. His advice and gentle prompts meant a lot to me.

Mr. S. Crowther

School House

Housemaster: Mr. P.B. Smith
House Captain: M. Martinez

Without a doubt, this has been an exceptional year for School House. Individual and team performances have been outstanding in all events.

The hectic Winter Term began rather slowly with two third places in both the play reading and the junior hockey. School House was second in the junior netball and then second in the Swimming Gala, in which we gained a total of eight first places. Simon Gray, Bradley Hamilton, Richard Westerman and the junior and intermediate boys freestyle team all came first. Michelle Harrison, our full international, was first in both the butterfly and individual medleys in new record time.

School House went on to gain four first places in the senior netball, hockey, chess and shooting competitions. Kim Peake, Sonya Thomas and the famous Fowden sisters played well in the netball, with Hannah Proffit and Rebecca Kay outstanding in the senior hockey. In the chess competition, Paul Preston, Deri Hughes, Matthew Leyden, Phillip Pearce and Mark Gregg all played well and in the shooting not only

did the team win, but David Battaglini was the top individual scorer.

The Spring Term saw School placed fourth in intermediate rugby and third in the intermediate boys cross-country. We were then placed second in the four other cross-country competitions and also in the junior rugby sevens. However, the senior girls won the cross-country competition and, not to be outdone, the senior boys were victorious in their rugby competition.

In the Music Festival, the huge number of entries guaranteed School first place even before the final. Thank you to all participants, especially Richard Greathead, Sam and Hannah Smith, Emily Ross and Matthew Leyden who all made the final, not forgetting Annabel Fowden who was the overall individual winner.

Our final first place of the Spring Term was in the debating competition. In the semi-finals Kate Sullivan and Lisa Helin were outstanding and in the final the experienced duo took the audience by storm with clear, well rehearsed speeches of the highest quality. It was a marvellous way to end a most successful term. Well done to Kate and Lisa and all our supporters.

In the Summer Term, the junior rounders team were placed fourth and the intermediate tennis team third. On Sports' Day, School House was placed second overall, with some outstanding performances. The senior tennis team, captained by Simon Dixon and aided by Kim Peake, Ben Godfrey and Stephen Brownlow was victorious. Both the junior and senior cricket teams won their respective competitions. The junior team won by one wicket in a very exciting final and the seniors dominated their competition. Finally, in the Work Cup Competition, School were placed second overall - just a few points behind Kirkham House.

School House has gained eleven first and ten second places in house competitions. A most successful year! I would like to extend my thanks to all house members

who have taken part in the many competitions over the past twelve months and achieved so much. Well done to you all.

Martine Martinez
House Captain

Kirkham House

Housemaster: Mr. A. Baines
House Captain: H. Newell
M. Roberts

The first event of the Winter Term was the house play reading. Directed by Salma Abdelati, the Kirkham House dramatists performed an extract from 'Gregory's Girl'. Although the performance was said to be very comical, Kirkham House only secured a third equal position. Lisa Brambles and Chris White led the house debate for Kirkham against Preston House. Kirkham proposed the motion that "This house believes that modern culture is the cause of the downfall of modern youth". Kirkham gained a third equal position, but Lisa Brambles should be commended on the strong points that she put forward.

The house chess team consisted of L. Sergeant, T. Cawdell, J. Wilson, G. Long and the two Ralph brothers. The team came third and it was a good attempt considering the strength of the School House team. Kirkham house came fourth in the house shooting competing, although C. Purdie was on top form, gaining a top score of forty one.

The senior house netball fared well considering the stiff opposition. Kirkham House gained a third equal position. Victoria Wilson captained the junior girls in the hockey competition. The team fought well and was narrowly defeated by a penalty flick.

David Rees and Kate Oades should be commended on Kirkham House's only triumph this term. The house swimming competition is the proof that when



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House Reports

Kirkham House sets its mind on something, it really can succeed.

The Spring Term started well, with a first position in the cross-country. Kirkham gained this overall position following wins by the junior girls, intermediate girls and senior boys. Excellent runs came from all three members of the Rees family.

The next event of the term was the senior rugby competition. Kirkham fared well following a series of difficult matches, especially against School who were the overall winners. In the end, Kirkham House gained a third position and thanks should go to the organisers, David Rees and Matthew Roberts.

The Music Festival was especially disappointing for Kirkham House because we only gained a third position, but our participation in the auditions was very creditable. Congratulations should go to Philip Fairhurst who reached the final.

The junior girls won the house netball competition for Kirkham. They fought a series of difficult games to eventually take first place. Special mentions should go to the first year girls who took part in this event - S. Critchley, S. Harrison and L. Sharples. Our intermediate boys came third in the rugby sevens, followed by a tremendous victory for our junior boys who gained a first position.

The final event of the Spring term was the senior house hockey. Unfortunately, the result was slightly disappointing for Kirkham, because out of the three games we played, two were played with only seven girls. Nevertheless, it was a valiant effort and thanks should go to Martha Newell for her spectacular performances.

Hannah Newell

Fylde House

Housemaster: Mr. I. Scott
House Captains: A. Ince, C. Lindsay

Once again Fylde House have found it difficult to perform to their full potential. In spite of this, we have achieved some excellent results along the way.

At the beginning of the term Fylde was drawn against Preston in the semi-final of the inter house debate competition. Despite a well structured proposal by Mark Devine, we were outspoken by Preston. Kirsten Chatwin must be thanked for her organisation and performance in the play reading competition resulting in an eventual close second place.

The senior netball had a disappointing ending, despite a talented team performance in the semi-final where we defeated Kirkham. Our place in the final was wasted, because on the day the team was depleted to such an extent that the captain had to forfeit the game. This gave School House the points, leaving us to take second place.

The inter house hockey competitions are often one of our successes and this year was no exception. Our junior team won convincingly, out-playing other sides with team work and individual skill. Thanks and congratulations must go to the team and their captain, Rachel Sissons. The senior team also put up a good fight, not losing a game. Both Fylde and School were on equal points and equal goals at the end of the competition. However, we had conceded more short corners than School, giving us second place. Congratulations must go to all the team and commiserations for losing in such a harsh way. Thank you to Ayse Ince the captain and organiser.

The intermediate house sevens team was successful, playing a good standard of rugby and finishing the competition in a creditable second place. The juniors had a good report from the organisers.

The house music was extremely successful this year. Haidee McGregor must be thanked and congratulated, particularly as she gained a place in no fewer than three classes in the final.

The cross country was not a success for us, but congratulations go to Ayse Ince, who won the senior girls' event, and also to the junior girls who put out a strong team to finish in second place.

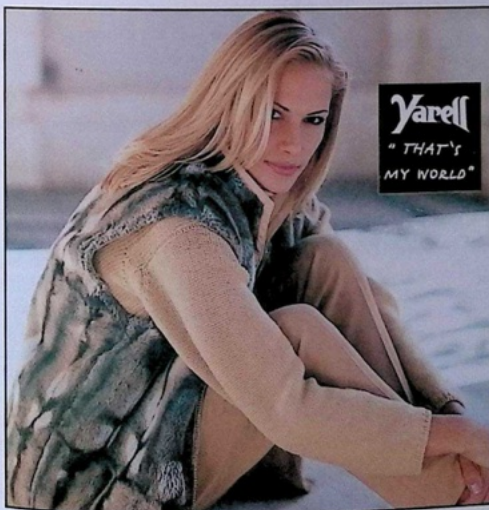
The summer term began, as usual, with the organisation of one of the year's most difficult and important events, Sports Day. Fylde had a promising start, a lot of potential, full teams in all events and entered the day in first place following good results in the preliminary events. Then the hot weather and injuries began to affect our overall performance. We found long distance events difficult due to the blazing sun and injuries. Spaces began to appear in the starting line ups and we finished the day in last place, having started it in first. Congratulations go to Ayse Ince for winning the senior Victrix Ludorum and Yvette Brindle for winning the junior girls' trophy.

The intermediate tennis competition was much more successful. We gained one of our first victories this year. Their standard of play was excellent and they convincingly beat all the opposition they came up against.

One late, yet extremely promising, result came from the rounders team, who avenged our defeats in the cricket. First they beat School convincingly. This put them in the final, which was a closely fought match against Kirkham, but they rose to the challenge and came out winners. A good way to finish the term.

There have been some excellent individual performances for the house this year and these must be applauded. So congratulations to all those who took part. The house captains and the house master would like to thank all participants, organisers and teachers for their invaluable help and support this past year.

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RUGBY

First XV

P:16 W:12 D:2 L:2

The team remained unbeaten in 1996-97 and the season culminated in a thrilling appearance in the Daily Mail Cup Final at Twickenham. With seven players and two replacements from that squad returning this year, it was hoped for an outstanding season. By the end of the season the squad included two full internationals, one North of England player and two North trialists, four Lancashire players and one Lancashire 'A' XV player.

Many matches were won by large scores when quick ball was secured, especially when opposing teams appeared resigned to defeat from the kick off. The team showed a wide range of attacking options when able to take control of a match but sometimes faltered when playing totally committed sides. In these matches the team at times lacked the willingness to graft and the composure to play a tactically astute game until dominance had been asserted. This weakness was the Achilles heel of an exceptionally talented side.

Representative Honours

England 18 Group
A. Sanderson, Captain
D. Giles

North of England 18 Group
D. G. Hughes

North of England 18 Group Trial
B. C. Davis
K. A. Quigley

Lancashire 18 Group
B. S. Godfrey
J. R. Leigh
M. Leyden
M. J. Roberts

Lancashire 18 Group 'A' XV
R. J. Wilson

Outstanding performances were given against Birkenhead and King's, Macclesfield, both good teams who were dominated. The worst performance of the season was against Lancaster, when the team was caught cold against a totally committed side playing on the top of its form. There is no doubt that the team had to play a 'cup final' in many games because of last season's record and the individual talent in the side.

After the experience of playing at Twickenham last season, we attempted to repeat the feat. However, the team came unstuck in the last sixteen match in the eighth minute of injury time to a very coherent, committed Hutton G.S. side. KGS players were as nervous as Hutton in the first half but in the second half gave away an interception try which was a '14-pointer' and turned the game. Nevertheless, KGS went ahead at the end of normal time, only to concede the crucial try eight minutes into injury time.

After playing some excellent rugby, the team was the beaten finalist at the British Aerospace Sevens, held at Fylde RUFC. The National Sedbergh Tens was entered for the first time and after the first day only Millfield, St. Joseph's, Ipswich and KGS had 100% records, despite the absence of Alex Sanderson and David Giles on international duty. The next

day, easy chances were missed and sadly, therefore, the team did not qualify for the final, but demonstrated to all that they were capable of playing excellent rugby.

Alex Sanderson has been exceptional, both in the standard of his play and the totally committed way he plays and trains. Many dream of playing for their country but few achieve it. He showed what could be achieved. It was a great honour for him and the school that he should be chosen to captain England 18 Group schools. I would like to thank him and Deri Hughes, the vice captain, for their efforts this year and Willow Bank Nursing Home, Burnley, for their sponsorship of shirts.

Lastly, I wish to thank Mr. Trenhaile for coaching the team when he also coaches the under 14's and Mr. Browning for helping coaching the senior squad and being invaluable with his quiet, self effacing work in organising the many things that are too often overlooked. Their contribution was massive, again.

B. Gornall

Awards

Full Colours

D. A. Giles, D. G. Hughes, A. Sanderson, K. A. Quigley, B. C. Davis, M. J. Roberts, R. J. Wilson

Half Colours

M. A. Hill, M. Leyden, B. Godfrey, J. R. Leigh

Second XV

P:13 W:8 D:0 L:5

Having been able to field a very experienced team in the 1996-7 season, the 1997-8 season started with a team containing only four players with previous second fifteen experience. Rossall were comfortably beaten, but then the team encountered a strong Ermysteds side and lost a close match. After winning the next three games, including a very good first victory at Wirral, the team was defeated, but not disgraced, by very powerful sides from Lancaster and Macclesfield. Daily Mail calls from the first team sent a very inexperienced side to Birkenhead, where, despite scoring first, another close game ended in defeat. The Christmas term ended with an exciting victory against Merchant Taylors. In the Spring term, Stonyhurst were given a run for their money before they won a wind affected match. The season ended with comfortable victories against Hutton and Arnold.

By the end of the season nine forwards and six backs had played in over half the games. As stated earlier, they had little second team experience at the start of the season, but developed steadily as the season progressed. Chris Jones, with most experience, captained the side with authority and is to be thanked for his efforts.

Liam White comfortably led the try scoring list with ten, including four against Arnold, where Paul Blackburn scored his first try for the second fifteen. Rumour has it that he had to run well over half the length of the pitch to score it! I wonder if the rumour is true. Chris Jones contributed five tries and Gareth Rees four in his only appearance at Penrith. The remaining tries were shared amongst thirteen other players. Richard Wire undertook the kicking role, though Ben Godfrey and James Gee made substantial contributions in their limited appearances.

R. J. Browning

Under 16 XV

P:8 W:3 D:0 L:5

With only a handful of matches, it was important that the under 16's maintained continuity and discipline. Good early season wins against Rossall and St. Anselm's provided a platform, but a disappointing attitude saw the squad size diminish and matches were lost.

Although the squad possessed good potential, a lack of commitment to training cost them dearly. Hopefully this will not continue when they reach the higher echelons of senior rugby.

Adam Watts played for Lancashire under 15's and under 16's and went on to represent England under 16's 'A'-team against a Midland selection. Will Roberts was selected for the county and Philip Hendy and Roger Anderton were also part of the county squad.

S. Teasdale

Under 15 XV

P:15 W:4 D:0 L:11

The season began superbly with four wins before half-term. These included an excellent away performance at Ermysteds and a comprehensive win against local rivals King Edward VII. The inclusion of Adam Watts helped the team greatly, but determination and effort from all the players was a major factor.

Six boys were put forward for North Lancashire trials, with Daniel Tolley and Paul Ashton being selected for the squad.

After that, the opposition seemed to become bigger and faster and the early season heroics dissipated. Close matches against Stockport and Birkenhead were the highlight of a poor pre-Christmas programme. The remainder of the matches were lost, but

the team finished well with a hard fought encounter against Coundon Court from Coventry.

All the boys deserve praise for the way they have persevered. With more self-discipline and maturity, they can look forward to senior rugby next year.

S. Teasdale

Under 14 XV

P:18 W:11 D:0 L:7

I knew from a very early training session that things were not right. The talent was there, but very few of the squad seemed to have any confidence or will to win. This feeling was reflected in early matches with a poor win against Rossall and defeats against Ermysteds and King Edward VII. A change in attitude was needed, but this would take a long time. Positional changes certainly helped but it was not the long term answer. Much hard work was completed in training and gradually the squad responded.

By early November more determination was shown, which resulted in a fine win over Lancaster. There was suddenly competition for places. Even though we suffered a string of defeats in late November and early December, I knew we were nearly right. Over the Christmas holidays a number of the squad came in to train; there seemed to be a new enthusiasm.

Suddenly, the team thrived. Excellent wins were achieved over Stonyhurst, Hutton and Arnold. We were starting to fulfil our potential and progress was maintained on tour in Wales. If this progress is maintained, the side should have an excellent 1998/1999 season.

Many thanks must go to John Boyle and Sam Wright for helping in training and also to our kind sponsors, Swift & Son Ltd., Longridge and Metal Roofing Systems, Ribchester.

A. E. Trenhaile



Under 13 XV

P:14 W:12 D:1 L:1

The under 13's rugby team continued their excellent form, losing only one game in another season of very tough fixtures. They have developed a fast, free-flowing style of rugby, throwing the ball out wide at the first opportunity, but maintaining a strong determined defence. This fifteen man rugby is a joy to watch and has evolved over the many hours the boys have put into their fitness and training nights.

There are some tremendous individuals in the team, most notably John Townsend, the top try scorer with a remarkable thirty this season. In the backs there are some extremely fast players, such as Richard Westerman, Simon Cotnam and Shaun Swarbrick, but it is the effort of the whole squad which is the strong point.

The start of the season was excellent, with the team going into the Christmas holidays undefeated. The best performance of the year was against a strong Lancaster side, a game Kirkham was determined to win. Another very tough game away at Stockport GS on a wet and windy day was eventually won by a fantastic effort by 31 points to 27. This form was maintained throughout the rest of the season with strong individual performances from Stuart Blackburn, Marcus Plowright and the most improved players of the season, Simon Cotnam and Chris Brannigan.

I have thoroughly enjoyed coaching this squad and it only remains for me to thank the parents for their support and also the coach, Graham McIntyre, who gave up his free time to help the boys have such a great season.

A. E. Rollins

Under 12 XV

P:16 W:15 D:0 L:1

An outstanding set of statistics which very much speaks for itself. For a junior team to achieve 15 wins out of 16 is quite remarkable.

The season started with a bang, winning the PH Bailey under 12 tournament at Fylde RUFC, convincingly beating King Edward VII and Arnold and eventually overcoming Hutton 28-14 in the final. The forwards were well organised and the back division of Twambley, Ward, Cooper and Gorman was quite outstanding.

With any under 12 team playing fifteen a side rugby, the most important aspect is to try and prevent thirty players all occupying five square metres around the ball, wherever it may be! Once this was overcome, the team started to develop. For the first six weeks, the forwards worked on their rucking and 'eight-man' scrummaging, with Wigglesworth and Stevens leading from the front. Both showed excellent qualities as front row forwards, a position that requires that little extra mental tenacity.

What the pack lacked in size this season, they certainly made up for in their tackling and all round mobility. Newton, Rudd, Gargate and Leeming have been the nucleus of the forwards. They were superb. On top of this, our left footed hooker proved a very difficult proposition for the opposition front row. He was able to win as much ball against the head as he did on his own ball.

The backs were capable of injecting great speed and vision into the game at any time as well as fitting the tight channels, quite a task for eleven year olds. Ward and Cooper excelled in their defensive commitments. Best, Keohi, Houseman and Emuey continually showed tremendous speed and flair and gave the team many additional options. Hanley scored some excellent tries from what seemed impossible positions through speed, vision and natural flair. But, rugby is very much a squad game,

hence we must not forget Daniels, Shaw, Talbot and Ralls who have been instrumental in the success of the under 12's this season.

N. D. Taylor



Under 13 Rugby Team



Under 12 Rugby Team



Lisa Helin, U6



Chloe Scott, U6



Mark Ford, U6

HOCKEY

First XI

The first XI have had another excellent season, defeating very strong opposition, with wins over Arnold, Altrincham, Stockport, Hulme, Wakefield, Queen Mary and Bury to name just a few, and succeeded in winning the Lancashire Under 19 Hockey tournament.

The team was led by Ayse Ince, who is one of the best defenders Kirkham has produced. Her work rate in every game was outstanding and her strength and skill in defence was second to none. She was ably supported by Dawn Blackburn, a very good sweeper with first class vision and distribution skill and a very strong tackle. Sonya Thomas was a solid right back with speed and strong defensive skills; Hannah Proffitt was a terrific centre back with very good pace, agility and defensive skills; Chloe Scott was a fine goalkeeper who did not make mistakes. Her strength certainly instilled confidence in the rest of the team!

Our midfield was just as good. Jane Kirby and Anna Tomlinson had terrific seasons. Jane's skill, speed and first class vision often took the opposition apart. Anna's outstanding work rate in both defence and attack solidified the midfield even further. Martha Newell proved to be a dynamic central midfielder, she helped out in defence and supported the attack and she was naturally in the right position at the right time. Martha just got better and better as the season went on. Michelle Lee was an extremely versatile player. She could play anywhere and did a terrific job. Her work rate was outstanding throughout the season.

For any team to be successful, it has to have a strong forward line. Jody Billington was one of the most talented individuals the school has ever had. Her skill, vision and distribution were first class and she scored in virtually every game. Rebecca Kay was a dynamic right wing with excellent dribbling and crossing skills. Every time she had the

ball, we looked dangerous. Charlotte Bancroft ably supported Jody and Rebecca. She worked well on the left wing and scored some important goals. Finally, but by no means least, Claudine Beaver, an out and out attacker, worked well in her first season of senior hockey. Her work rate was outstanding and her skill and vision improved as the season progressed.

The squad was an absolute pleasure to work with and I thoroughly enjoyed the season. Unfortunately, eight of the team leave us at the end of this school year. I would like to wish them every happiness and success in the future and thank them for their efforts, commitment and loyalty during their time at Kirkham Grammar School. I would also like to extend my thanks to all the girls; they were an absolute credit throughout the season.

I would like to thank Tony Irving for his expert goalkeeper coaching throughout the season and also Peter Nicholson. We have been extremely privileged to experience the expert coaching of such a highly qualified man. His wonderful personality and first class knowledge of the game will be greatly missed next season, but I wish him well and congratulate him on his new appointment as Great Britain Ladies under 21 Coach. I do hope that he will be able to do the occasional coaching session for us next season!

J. Glover

Second XI

Yet another excellent season. The girls played a high standard of hockey throughout and for such a young team this augurs well for the future.

With just three upper sixth players available, it was feared that there would be a lack of experience in the squad. However, the standards set by Katie Johnson (captain), Leanne McLoughney (vice-captain) and Katie Fowden were an example to all. Helen Scott and Lucy Russell, both in the lower sixth, made a

significant improvement as goalkeeper and defender respectively.

As already mentioned, the bulk of the squad were fifth years and all acquitted themselves well at this level - some even playing under 16 county hockey. The season saw a number of notable wins, a number being against other schools' first XI's. The honours against rivals Arnold were shared, each school winning a match each, but there were successes against Wakefield, Bradford GGS, Stockport and Altrincham.

I would like to thank all girls for an outstanding season of skill and endeavour. I hope that Leanne recovers from the serious injury that kept her out for most of the season and wish her a speedy recovery from her recent operation.

Once again, I would like to thank the captain, Katie Johnson, who set such an excellent example both on and off the field. I wish the whole squad well for the future at KGS.

T. P. Miller

Under 16 XI

The Under 16's only played together as a team in the Lancashire President's Cup Competition. Having defeated the opposition convincingly in the early rounds, the girls played in the semi-final and defeated Lytham High School 3-0. We met Arnold in the final at Preston Hockey Club. The girls fought bravely and battled well throughout the game. At the end of full time, the scores remained 0-0. Penalty flicks therefore followed and at the end of those the score still remained level. The winners of the under 16 Lancashire Tournament was decided by sudden death penalty flicks. We were very unfortunate to lose 1-0. This is the closest that we have been to winning the competition in five years.

Congratulations girls, you have been an absolute pleasure to coach! Thank you for all your efforts this season and

special thanks must go to Martha Newell for leading the team superbly.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to all those people who supported the under 16's in the final at Preston Hockey Club. It was certainly appreciated.

J. M. Glover

Under 15 XI

The under 15 hockey squad have proved to be a lively group of girls, keen and eager at training sessions. On the whole, they have had quite a good season, although having a unsettled side has presented problems at times.

Congratulations to Emma Johnson who has captained the team. She has led by example, with some outstanding performances and a first class attitude. Emma Gough, Elizabeth Rossall, Helen Jacomb, Ruth Burns and Philippa Leeming have all improved tremendously. The work rate and effort of all the team players have been excellent, but particular congratulations to Nicky Furber for all her endeavour. I have thoroughly enjoyed taking the team. They are a very pleasant group of girls and I hope they all continue to play next year.

L. Baxter

Under 15 Hockey Cup Team

For the first time, Kirkham Grammar School entered a team in the under 15 All England Hockey Cup, which, as the name suggests, attracts some of the best school and hockey club teams in the country.

Following a bye in the first round, our second round opponents were Kirby Kendal. Our team played outstandingly well and won the game convincingly 8-0. A great start for Kirkham! We continued to play well for our third round match against St. Annes (Windermere) which we won 4-0. In the fourth round, the pressure was beginning

to increase, but we kept our cool and finally defeated Wakefield by four goals to one - the highlight being a superb hat-trick by Emma Gough.

In the quarter finals, we were drawn away to Eastbourne Hockey Club. We benefited greatly from our overnight stay at a seafront hotel which allowed us a good night's rest after the long journey and we awoke eager (but very nervous) for our game. Kirkham attacked "all out" from the moment the game started, but we had to wait until the second half before defender Katie Threlfall slammed in our "golden" match winning goal. We were through to the semi-finals!

There was no shortage of support for our home draw against Queenswood with the pitch being lined by KGS fans - but this only added to the pressure on the team. For a while, we seemed to have the run of play and all our players rose well to the occasion, but disaster struck after ten minutes, when our opponents scored from a good short corner. Holding our heads high, we battled on and continued to dominate the game. Despite numerous strikes on goal, the score remained unchanged and the minutes kept ticking away. By now, the Kirkham supporters were screaming for a goal, but all to no avail. When the final whistle blew, Kirkham's glorious cup run had come to an end.

I would like to say a big thank you to our players, and even bigger thank you must go to Miss Baxter and Mrs Glover who put so much time and effort into our coaching, which enabled us to get so far in the competition. Finally, thank you to all the people who gave their support through what proved to be a very memorable and enjoyable season.

Emma Johnson (Captain)

Under 14 XI

The under 14 hockey team has completed an outstanding season and remains unbeaten for the third consecutive year. This is an excellent record.

Throughout the season the girls have been a credit to the school, both in terms of flair on the pitch and commendable sportsmanship.

The team has developed during the year to become a highly effective and cohesive unit and this bodes well for their success next season.

I have been delighted with all of the girls' dedicated and enthusiastic attitude towards their hockey and I have thoroughly enjoyed coaching them this season. My special thanks to Jane Meloy who has captained the team to their success.

I would also like to thank the parents who have supported the girls on and off the pitch during the season.

J. K. Tabb

Under 13 XI

The under 13's have enjoyed an excellent season marked by an outstanding set of results and a relentless improvement in the standard of hockey played. Although the team does possess accomplished individuals, it was on the quality of the play as a team on which opposition coaches most often commented.

Katie Gough proved to be an able, reliable captain who led in the best possible way and with Lorna Sissons as sweeper and Hannah Spacey in goal, it was not surprising that a clean sheet was kept so often (or was it just that the opposition dared not mount a serious attack against a defence which included the ever improving Kate Sannegadu?)

However, the team also looked good going forward, with Danielle Grundy

and Sarah Kellet on the left and Fiona Morgan and Yvette Brindle on the right providing quality balls which Katie Parker was able to exploit effectively in the centre.

I am sure that the team will achieve much as it moves up the school and these successes will be thoroughly deserved as the squad is hard working, receptive and a pleasure to coach.

M. Gaddes

Under 12 XI

The first year 'A' team have had an outstanding season. They remain unbeaten and won the Arnold Invitation Tournament, a prestigious end of season tournament.

Congratulations to Lara Schofield who has improved tremendously and is now a talented right wing. Laura Holmes, Kathy Hold, Alex Wilkinson and Claire Taylor have all proved to be solid defenders and both Leanne Sharples and Lorna Sissons have proved to be capable captains and extremely talented players.

The first year 'B' team has had quite a good season, losing only 4 games. They have improved particularly since Christmas, with notable performances from Jessica Wilkinson, Katie Walker and Katie Mellor.

All of the first year hockey squad have worked hard in training and have been a pleasure to coach. Good luck next season.

L. Baxter

At the start of the season, there was quite a difference between those girls who had played a lot of hockey at the Junior School and those who had played little or none at all.



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TENNIS

BOYS

This has been one of the most enjoyable and successful seasons for boys' tennis at Kirkham for some time. Competition for places in the teams has been keen and enthusiasm high, especially among the juniors, who have experienced much success.

For the Seniors, public examinations mean that the season is a short one and this year's terrible weather, combined with the reluctance of some of our neighbours to play us, meant that fixtures were hard to come by. However, we managed to complete fixtures against Rossall, where enjoyment exceeded success, and against Arnold, in which honours were even, thanks to a fine win by Ben Godfrey. The relaxed atmosphere in which seniors play their matches is a pleasure to see. I hope that they enjoy this break from their studies in what is for them a most hectic and intense term.

The intermediate team has some players with fine ability. The captain, Richard Wigglesworth, has a fine temperament and a sharp tennis mind. John Melling always plays hard and Joseph Thompson produced some good results also. However, I was disappointed that the team was let down badly in the first match by one of the most able players in this age group, but the situation was retrieved by 'super-sub' Nicholas Fox, who turned up at a moment's notice and then proceeded to win his matches. It was a fine performance and I was very grateful to him. In the following matches he remained unbeaten and proved to be a very tough competitor.

The junior team, however, posed no such problems. From the initial lunch time practice, it was quite clear that there was a wealth of talent in this age group and the difficulty would be in choosing four players from a squad of a dozen or so very able and enthusiastic players. Jack Ward is a very talented player, a fact recognised by the County

Association, as he was selected for a county under 12 coaching squad. This is the first time that I know of this honour for a KGS pupil, boy or girl. Jack deserves our congratulations. Mark Gregg was a fine captain, always fighting hard and achieving many fine wins. Adam Tuck had an excellent season, remaining unbeaten in the league matches. Gavin Phillips proved a tough competitor and James Leeming showed that he has much talent and determination. These players provided the nucleus of the team, but there were many others who were always available and ready to snap up one of the places. Not surprisingly, then, this team swept through all its league matches, defeating all of our local rivals, and progressed to the semi-finals of the Lancashire Schools' Cup. A fine achievement and one of which all the boys in the squad should be proud.

In the Lancashire Schools' Under 13 Singles Competition, three of our players, Gavin Phillips, Adam Tuck and Liam Hanley reached the quarter-finals and Jack Ward progressed to the semi-final, where he lost to the eventual winner. In the plate event, Mark Gregg lost a very close semi-final after having matchpoints and James Leeming lost a very close and tense final, again after having matchpoints.

So, a most rewarding season's tennis, giving cause for optimism for the future. All those boys who have competed this year have represented the school well and deserve our congratulations. It has been a pleasure to have been associated with them.

I. Rushton

GIRLS

The results of the girls' tennis teams have been better than any ever experienced at KGS before and the standard of tennis has been a delight to watch. The girls enjoyed some very tough encounters, with their sheer determination to win always providing them with the cutting edge.

The Lancashire under 13 and under 15 tournaments brought much success. L. Ainge won the under 13 singles plate competition, P. Leeming and E. Johnson won the under 15 doubles plate competition and J. Meloy and R. Burns played some excellent tennis to become the under 15 doubles tournament runners up.

The under 13 and under 15 Lancashire league competitions have also been very successful. The under 13 team, consisting of L. Ainge, K. Parker, K. Gough and H. Spacey, narrowly missed out on qualifying for the semi-finals. The under 15 team, consisting of P. Leeming, E. Johnson, R. Burns and J. Meloy, successfully reached the finals and was narrowly beaten on a count back by just 2 games after drawing the match.

The Lancashire under 14 cup team, consisting of J. Meloy, E. Cairns, R. Ward and R. Sissons, won an extremely tough quarter final match to progress to the semi-finals which are to be played at the South Ribble Indoor Tennis Centre on Sunday 11th October.

The under 13, 14, 15 and senior teams have played four friendly matches experiencing yet more success, and the under 12 team played some wonderful tennis to beat Arnold convincingly in their first match.

The girls have again thoroughly enjoyed their breakfast tennis sessions with David Shaw. The sessions have proven to be a valuable and productive experience for all involved.

J. K. Tabb



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ATHLETICS

GIRLS

The girls have had their most successful season to date. They have competed against seven schools during this summer term and have achieved some excellent results.

TSB National Athletics Championships

In the county round our teams performed very well indeed and scored sufficient points to qualify for the regional finals. The junior girls competed at Lancaster but unfortunately did not perform to the best of their ability and finished sixth. The intermediate girls competed at Wigan and performed superbly to finish in second place, just fifteen points behind the winners. This was an excellent achievement and one which we must aim to build on next year.

Fylde Coast Athletics Championships

In the annual Fylde Coast Championships, the girls competed extremely well indeed. I was especially pleased with the first year team who finished in second place in their very first athletic championships. I was absolutely delighted with the third year girls, who won the competition for the third consecutive year - an excellent achievement!

Lancashire Schools' Athletics Championships

The following girls were selected to represent South Fylde in the Lancashire Schools' Athletics Championships: Victoria Peters, Victoria Wilson, Emma Gough, Jenna Rees, Danielle Hanley, Ruth Burns, Jane Meloy, Amy Twambley, Nicola Hendy.

VIMTO Masterclass

Kirkham Grammar School was chosen to host a Vimto Masterclass on 22nd June. This involved girls aged 11-14 years participating in a hurdling session which was run by Diane Allahgreen, one of England's top 100m hurdlers (indoor European bronze medallist). Diane Allahgreen demonstrated her skills and passed on her knowledge, providing the girls with an insight into competition at the very top level of sport. It was a great opportunity for the girls to meet a top international competitor.

The girls were then asked to raise money, through sponsorship, to help support the England team in their preparation for the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur this September.

A most enjoyable session was had by all. The girls responded well and gave their all in the coaching session. The question and answer session was extremely informative.

Diane Allahgreen enjoyed her visit to KGS so much that she accepted our invitation to Sports' Day in 1999 and said that she hoped to be bringing a Commonwealth medal along with her. The future of girls athletics in the school looks very promising indeed.

I would like to thank Mr. Syl Sampey for his expert coaching and Miss Linda Baxter and Mrs Jenny Tabb for their assistance with the coaching and organisation of the big events.

Jane Glover

BOYS

The boys have enjoyed an outstanding athletics season with every year group making a significant contribution. At the beginning of term the fifth and sixth form teams finished close runnersup to Lancaster RGS in their annual four school competition at Lancaster. The fifth year team, a very strong squad, was later to be denied the opportunity of competing in the Fylde Coast Championships by a late change of rules.

The first year team have developed in confidence and, after a comprehensive victory over King Edward VII, went on to great things by winning the under 13 trophy in the Fylde Coast Championships. Outstanding this year has been James Houseman, who has remained unbeaten over 100 and 200 metres and in the long jump.

The second year team began their campaign as runnersup in the seven school tournament at Lancaster and have remained unbeaten ever since, with victories over Hutton, King Edward VII and everybody else in the Fylde Coast Championships. There have been major contributions from John Townsend and Stuart Blackburn and the unbeaten combination of Marcus Plowright and Terry Ogdin in both the 800 and 1500 metres has been inspirational.

The third year team has the strongest in depth squad and, having won the prestigious seven school tournament at the start of the season, they have swept all opposition aside, culminating in a decisive victory at the Fylde Coast Championships. While George Leeming has been a dominant figure in both track and field, significant contributions have been made by Daniel Houseman, Tom Hooley and John Bowden.

If a prize could be given for the best late developers, it would surely go to the fourth year team. There were signs at the end of last year that they were coming together as a team and this has continued this year. Following wins over King Edward VII and Arnold, they went to the Fylde Coast Championships and

achieved a magnificent result by winning their trophy. This was team effort at its very best and it would be unfair to single out individuals.

The collective achievement of winning all four age groups was the first of its kind since the championships began in 1931. The school provided ten individual Fylde Coast champions, ten boys were selected to compete in the Lancashire Schools Championships and two boys, Gareth Rees and George Leeming, were selected to compete for Lancashire in the English Schools' Championships in July.

Individual achievements

Fylde Coast Champions:

D. Houseman, M. Kolodziejczak, J. Townsend, T. Ogdin, G. Leeming, A. Parker, P. Lewis, J. Wilson, W. Marginson, M. Lau.

Lancashire Schools:

R. Wire, W. Marginson, G. Rees, G. Leeming, S. Blackburn, P. Hendy, G. Eaves, P. Lewis, G. Dawson.

English Schools:

G. Rees, G. Leeming.



The Boys' Athletics Teams

CRICKET

1st XI

The season has been one of frustration and general disappointment, mainly due to the weather regularly turning for the worse on match days. As a consequence, a season of some six matches was rather unsatisfactory. The record of two wins, one draw and three losses indicated that there is a lot of potential and no little ability, but it simply did not have the opportunity to gel into a very good unit. The highlights were the excellent wins at King Edward's, Lytham, where captain Philip Watkinson showed the ability that he undoubtedly possesses with a lively 90 not out, and the high-scoring draw at Q.E.G.S., where Ben Godfrey had a fine match of 71 runs and 4 wickets, ably supported by a responsible 52 from Ben Davis. Two of the three losses could have gone our way and only a weakened side were well beaten at Batley G.S. The players were keen and eager, but were let down by the reluctance of too many upper sixth form boys to make themselves available. The side was built around the lower sixth and fifth year with two notable additions, Paul Ashton and Adam Parker, from the fourth and third year respectively. The experience should hold them in good stead for the next few years. Ben Godfrey had a good all round season with runs and wickets. Ben Davis looked a very good bowler, but did not really get it together. He did, however, bat stylishly and skilfully late in the season. Simon Mathews, David Meloy and Chris Stewart contributed enthusiastically in their own particular way, while Adam Watts and Tom Russell showed glimpses of real ability at times, whilst there were others who performed well on a more limited basis.

S. T. Godfrey

Under 14 XI

The weather played havoc with the under 14 cricket programme and only two matches were played. We visited King Edward's on a dreary evening in May and batted first to score 90. G. Leeming made a forceful 35. The opposition reached our total comfortably against an experimental bowling attack.

A fortnight later, we made the trip to Hutton and set them a target of 73. The highlight was A. Parker's stand of 42 which included seven fours. Hutton fought well against some accurate bowling from A. Parker, J. Swift and P. McNamee and surpassed the target with one over to spare. Overall, the cricket played by the under 14's was encouraging. Team spirit was good and the approach of the players positive. It was unfortunate that the weather was so malign.

M. P. Melling

Under 13 XI

The under 13's have had a most enjoyable season and their enthusiasm and dedication have been first-rate. Indeed, the whole squad has made a contribution, with all players involved in practices and matches.

The team learned a lot from close defeats by strong opposition, notably Hutton and Arnold. A shortage of runs has been proved to be costly and made the bowlers task somewhat more difficult. However, Alastair Griffiths has made some excellent contributions and has been the most consistent performer with the bat.

Matthew Hopton has been a most reliable captain and has set an excellent example with his bowling. His ability to maintain line and length coupled with pace has brought rewards at crucial moments in games. He was ably supported by Mark Gregg who has also had a good season.

The season's "champagne moment" came in the last match of the season, when James Melling proved his ability in the field by stopping a certain boundary with his now bruised and swollen ankle!

Finally, special thanks must go to Mr. Michael Feeley for his kind sponsorship of the team and the donation of KGS cricket jumpers for the squad which has been greatly appreciated. Dr. Rollins and Mr. Duncan would like to thank the whole squad and we both look forward to coaching the team next season.

*Dr. A. B. Rollins
Mr. S. Duncan*

Under 12 XI

During the early season preparations the team showed a lot of spirit and enthusiasm for the game. Most of the first year had a little knowledge of the basics and in most respects they have the right attitude towards learning. The season began against Hutton at home with an excellent batting display from P. Reeh (27) and J. Emery (45 not out), as we scored 96-4 from our allotted 20 overs. An all round bowling and fielding performance from the school restricted our visitors to 75-8 and provided a convincing winning start.

The team continued its fine bowling and fielding performance against Ripley St. Thomas, when no fewer than eight bowlers were used to demolish the visitors' batting. Seven catches were held as Ripley subsided to 46 all out. Throughout the season the opening pair of Steven Ralf and Peter Reeh were a reassuring sight at the wicket, their opening stand of twenty five gave the team its winning momentum. The loss of both batsmen did expose an early weakness in our line up as we crept past Ripley's total for the loss of eight wickets.

The first real test of our ability came against Arnold. After an unfortunate run out to P. Reeh (18), a catalogue of inappropriate shots were played as the

team could only manage 49 all out. The stern words of encouragement and motivation during the interval appeared to be working, as at 25-5 Arnold were in trouble. The tight bowling and ability to turn the ball by Steven Ralf in particular was causing their batsmen several problems. However, a fine stand guided Arnold to a deserved victory.

In our next game, against King Edward's, Lytham, the school witnessed an outstanding batting performance by the opposition. Steven Ralf bowled beautifully with match figures of 7 overs - 4 maidens - 3 wickets for 10 runs. Chasing 167 to win, we battled willingly, but closed on 91 all out.

In an eagerly anticipated fixture, the final game of the season was against Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School. Once again, we bowled and fielded to a high standard and restricted the opposition to 97-6 after 25 overs. In a well paced response the school cruised to victory at 98-2 with a few overs to spare. Liam Hanley excelled with both

bat and ball, his innings of 34 not out was an impressive finish to the season, with the prospect of a lot more to come in future years.

Under the captaincy of S. Ralf the under 12's are a talented team, possessing four genuine all rounders, P. Reeh, L. Hanley, J. Emery and S. Ralf. Able bowling support is provided by J. Wigglesworth and O. Twambley. The ground fielding and general catching is good, whilst the wicket-keeping berth is an ongoing battle between K. Ingham and J. Cooper, both of whom shared the role and equally displayed sound handling ability. With more match practice and a desire to do better, this team is capable of beating bigger schools.

Mr. S. Painter

Women's Indoor Cricket - a new departure!

The competition was organised on a divisional basis involving four schools from the area. The team soon established themselves over their opposition and proved to be too strong all-round. The school played with commendable consistency.

In the final they met Penwortham Girls' High School in a tense and very exciting conclusion to the tournament. Kirkham batted first and scored a formidable 51 runs, largely due to a tremendous knock of 25 not out from Rachel Sissons. In reply, Penwortham put Kirkham under pressure with well taken runs between the wickets. With one ball remaining, four runs were required. As it turned out, three were scored, resulting in a tie, 51 runs a piece. The team with the loss of fewest wickets was deemed to be the winner. On the day Kirkham proved triumphant and progressed to Old Trafford as the North West regional winners against other regional winners.

Marc Antony

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SWIMMING

KGS swimming teams competed in five matches during the Autumn term scoring some notable victories. The comprehensive victory over local rivals, Arnold, was a fitting end to another successful term for our swimmers. Kate Oades and David Rees captained our teams well, motivating a squad of some forty swimmers who train at an unenviable early hour every Friday morning. Our thanks to their parents who show such commitment in support.

A strong first year contingent has been a welcome and promising addition to the squad whose team spirit was much in evidence in the girls' and boys' second and third places respectively in the Blackpool Schools' Swimming Championships.

In the Spring Term, Hutton Grammar School held their own on their own territory, but Stonhurst were soundly beaten in spite of a change to match rules at the eleventh hour. The team organised themselves with enthusiasm under the guidance of their captains and little time was lost in showing the Stonhurst home side what they could do. The tea and buns were well earned and disappeared in an instant! The girls' team faced Bury Girls' Grammar and were frustrated to be beaten in the last relay of the match.

Finally, I am delighted to report that lower sixth former Michelle Harrison has been selected to represent the England Schools' National Swimming Team in the eleventh World School Games to be held in Shanghai, China from 12th - 19th October 1998. Michelle has been chosen to swim the 400 metres freestyle, one of her strongest events. We congratulate her on achieving selection for her country again for such a prestigious swimming event and wish her every success.

R. D. Taylor

NETBALL

Under 16

We started this season with the same commitment and enthusiasm as the last one. The girls battled hard all season and although victories were few, spirits remained high. The climax of the season was the annual tournament held at Stanley Park in which we displayed a high standard of netball. Unfortunately, we were eliminated in the early rounds by the eventual runners-up.

However, the performance of the team was commendable, with outstanding shooting from Hannah Smith and Annabel Fowden and strong defending by Vanessa Walker and Amy Wareing. There were also good performances from Kimberley Peake, Emily Rhodes and Gemma Swift and constant encouragement from our two reserves and Mrs. Tabb!

Emily Rhodes

Under 14 Teams

The Under 14 'A' team has continued to play a very good standard of netball indeed. Throughout the season the girls have trained and played with great enthusiasm and determination. They have developed their skill and tactical awareness in both attacking and defensive phases of play. They are a talented team with the ability to succeed in league and tournament competition.

In the Blackpool and Fylde Schools' netball tournament, the team was not at full strength and therefore the girls did not really do themselves justice.

This team is one of the most able teams we have had at KGS. Their results each week are super, yet in tournaments they lack confidence and composure. If this psychological barrier could be overcome, I am sure that they would achieve the success that they richly deserve.

Although the 'B' team has not had many fixtures this season, the girls have remained committed and enthusiastic throughout. Their standard of netball has steadily improved and in the Blackpool Schools' Tournament, they were an absolute credit to KGS. Although they did not make the finals, they won four out of six matches in their section.

A final thank you must go to the parents for their loyal support throughout the season. I wish you every success next years, girls!

J. M. Glover

Under 12

The under 12 'A' and 'B' teams have made very promising starts to their netball careers at KGS. Throughout the season the girls have trained hard and given 100% effort at all matches and practices. Both teams have made outstanding progress throughout the season, peaking just in time for the under 12 Blackpool and Fylde Tournament, an annual event held at Stanley Park.

The B team played some excellent netball, playing with sheer determination to achieve a well deserved place in the quarter finals. The A team, who have developed into an outstanding unit and for whom I have great expectations next season, made it to the semi-finals. These were excellent achievements for both teams. All of the girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were a credit to the school.

It has been a real pleasure to work with such enthusiastic individuals and my congratulations go to all the members of both squads.

J. K. Tabb





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Music



The music in KGJS continues to flourish in all areas. We now have nine peripatetic music teachers in school and 120 children taking individual lessons on a range of instruments. It is especially pleasing to see an increasing number of infants starting to learn. There is also a brass ensemble, clarinet group and string group which give children of varying standards the important opportunity to play alongside other musicians.

The school ensemble has grown to 65 members and they are performing at the KGS Funday as well as all their other annual commitments, Carol Service, Summer Concert and Prize-giving Evening.

The choir made its first ever appearance at Freckleton Music Festival last December. They also sang in both the school concerts and have recently taken part in a special event, a choral masterclass, set up specifically for junior choirs. All the children have worked exceptionally hard for these events and we are all very proud of them. The juniors have begun work on our Christmas musical production 'Ebenezer' by Malcolm Sircom. This will be performed next December in the Multi Purpose Hall.



Music Scholarship

We all offer our congratulations to Hanna Gledhill who has been awarded the music scholarship. She plays the trumpet, piano and sings to a high standard, alongside her other commitments with the ensemble, brass ensemble and choir. She has made a great contribution to music in school and we wish her continued success in the future.

Ms. D. Heathcote

Infant Ensemble

The young musicians in the group are studying a range of instruments, including piano, keyboard, recorder, glockenspiel, chime bars and percussion instruments.

The children practise weekly and worked hard to give performances in the Junior School Christmas and Summer concerts in front of large audiences. They deserve congratulations for this achievement.

The musical elements which the children experience enable them not only to practise their chosen instruments, but to learn to play with the other musicians to perform a piece of music.

This achievement provides valuable experience prior to possible entry into Junior Ensemble.

Mrs. J. E. Knowles.

Swimming



Two swimming fixtures took place in the Autumn Term. The first was a trip to Q.E.G.S., Blackburn. Despite some strong performances from the U9 swimmers, the overall result was a 102-153 defeat. This was an improved performance on last year. The second fixture was against a combined team from Merchant Taylor's boys and girls schools. Despite an overall defeat, there were good performances by Aja Hall, Kirsty Hamilton, James Hall and Jonathan Collin.

Cricket



The Under 11 cricket team have played two fixtures at the time of going to press. A convincing win at Liverpool College in the first round of the A.J.I.S Cricket Cup was the first one. In this match, Luke Dickinson took five wickets (including a hat-trick) and was the pinnacle of a good team performance.

In the next round of the cup, the team played Bolton School, the current holders. After a promising fielding display, the consistency of the Bolton bowling proved to be too strong and KGJS lost by 32 runs. The final fixture is against Merchant Taylor's in July.

Athletics



On June 8th, 21 athletes represented KGJS at Stanley Park in the inaugural AJIS Athletics Championships. In an event that recognises individual performances rather than team scores, the boys and girls did themselves credit against pupils from 26 other schools. There were 2nd places for Rebecca Moden (100m) and Linzi Nicholas (800m). We also collected nine 'gold' medals. They were for Lucy Martin (hurdles) and the 4x100m year 5 girls team (Lauren Emery, Nicola Rogerson, Kirsty Hamilton and Emily Martin) and the 4x100m year 6 girls team (Lucy Martin, Rebecca Moden, Abby Hookey and Linzi Nicholas).

Tennis



For the first time the summer term has seen a tennis club run for KGJS pupils in J2, J3 and J4. It has been very enthusiastically supported by pupils. Hopefully, in the future, opportunities can be extended for more pupils to take part.

One club member, Louise Lord, represented the school at the AJIS Girls Tennis Championships in June and did so with credit.

Rugby



Under 11

This season has seen mixed fortunes for both the Under 11 and Under 10 teams. The season began for the U11's with a 28-7 win at Liverpool College. Victories against Merchant Taylor's (twice) and draws against St. Anselm's (twice) and Altrincham followed.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the team went to only one tournament the AJIS Sevens Rugby Competition in March. KGJS had won this for the previous two years. The side did well in defeating St. Edwards 42-0, Liverpool College 28-7, Rossall 21-0 and Grange 28-7 on their way to the final. Despite a monumental effort, the boys were beaten by St. Mary's 21-7. Considering the events of that week, every boy can be proud of the fact he gave one hundred per cent effort.

Mr. M. Thomas

Under 10

The U10's have played 4 games, winning two against St. Anselm's and earning a draw and a defeat against Merchant Taylor's. The team performed creditably at the Rossall Budge Tournament in March. A draw against Rossall, victory against Beech Hall and a defeat by Preston Grasshopper meant the boys finished fifth out of ten sides.

Mr. D. Healy

Under 9

The U9's won the Budge Memorial Tournament at Rossall in March. A first for any KGJS sports team. Group wins were against Fleetwood, Bronte House and St. Mary's Crosby. A semi-final victory over Preston Grasshoppers resulted in a reunion with Fleetwood in the final. A 10-5 win ensured the trophy came home to Kirkham.

Mr. S. Milner

Hockey



This season we played three matches. The first was against Rossall School and was tough match resulting in a 0-0 draw. Our next match was at home against Arnold Junior School and we played superbly winning 11-0, Linzi Nicholas scoring a hat-trick. A few weeks later K.G.J.S. played Arnold U12 B winning 2-1 in a fast and furious game.

Unfortunately, due to the meningitis outbreak at KGJS and sensitivity to this issue on Merseyside the AJIS Tournament was postponed until 25th April. This unfortunately coincided with the Lancashire U11 mini hockey Championship so Kirkham fielded the 'A' team in the Lancashire Tournament and the 'B' team in the AJIS Tournament hosted at KGJS.

I travelled with the 'A' team to Liverpool for the Lancashire Tournament. This we won, winning all matches apart from one which we drew. The 'B' team played superbly in the AJIS Tournament only missing out on going through to the semi-final on penalty points - a wonderful achievement considering they had not played a match before.

The 'A' team having become Lancashire Champions traveled to Southport at the beginning of May to play in the North of England Hockey Championships. They played three matches beating Doncaster Hockey Club (2-0), Mowden Hall School (1-0) and unfortunately, against the run of play lost 1-0 to Wirral Panthers.

All the girls have played superbly through a difficult season but a particular mention must be made of Abby Hookey, who has improved tremendously this season. Thanks must go to Tony Irving for helping to coach our goalkeeper Kirsty McClymont and thanks to Lucy Martin our super captain.

Mrs. A. M. Atkinson

Gymnastics



This year has seen three displays from the KGJS Gym Squad. The first display was a demonstration of different training techniques which took place on Open Evening. The second introduced a new routine, put together by the squad's coach Miss Ashton, to such foot-tapping tunes as *Grease Lightning* and *Another One Bites the Dust!* This performance ended the Summer Concert. The final display of the year, and the last for ten of its members who leave the squad, was held in front of a very large and enthusiastic crowd at the Family Fun Day.

Mrs. L. A. Ashton



Preparing for a hockey match



The computer room at KGJS

The One Eyed Monster

Monster, monster, where are you?
Show me your face, your body too!

Monster, monster, now I see
An arm, a leg - Is that a knee?

Monster, monster, squelch and creep,
You scare little girls when they're asleep.

Monster, monster, do you eat bread?
Or would you rather eat my head?

Monster, monster, do you like peas?
Or would you rather chew my knees?

Monster, monster, where is your house?
Is it a cave you share with a mouse?

Monster, monster, what is your name?
Tell me, please, what is your game?
"I'm the one eyed monster," he said to me,
"and now I'll have you for my tea!"

Alex Dotterer
J2x



What a Week

Saturday's dead,
Everyone's in bed.

Sunday's a bore,
No fun anymore.

Monday, I find, is always a pain,
Forecast says cloudy and windy with rain.

Tuesday to me is always a drag,
Birds do not sing, tails do not wag.

Wednesday to me is a waste of time,
Mid-week cleaning, battling with grime.

Thursday is always as cold as a fish,
If it's ever sunny, God's granted a wish!

Friday's there if you care to peek,
Marking the end of a terrible week.

Simon Gregson
J4y

Colour Poem

Black is a witch's cat, running smoothly along the floor,
A panda's back, wagging when it moves,
In a dismal dark coal mine, deep underground
Or your long, curly eyelashes, blinking in the light.

Red is your bright red lips shining,
The glowing apple in the fruit bowl,
The tempting wrapper of the KitKat bar,
Or as the whipping Liverpool shirts go for goal.

Green is the panda's bamboo,
The ivy-clad walls of an old cottage,
The sparkly summer's grass
Or the crisp leaves on the trees.

Blue is the colour of the clear sky,
The rapid waves, lapping over one another in the sea,
A room full of Kirkham blazers
Or a berry pie, with the crust bubbling.

Yellow is the bright, shining sun,
The summertime buttercup in the fields.
A fragrant, juicy and sour lemon,
Or a bowl of steaming custard.

Kirsty Hamilton
J3x



Wet Breaks

It's raining, I can't go out, none of the children can play,
Teachers say it's indoor break, it's ruining the day.
The puddles collect in the playground, running races in their streams,
And a dozen sad faces pressed to the windows are submerged in their own day dreams.

It's cloudy and threatening, and darkening the sky,
We're hoping that the thunder won't make the infants cry.
The teacher tells us to line up, she doesn't want to be caught,
In the drenching rain, which will take hours to drain,
And the lightning it will have brought.

J. Hill
J4x

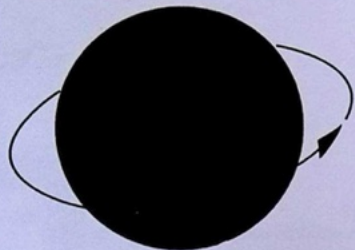




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