

the Kirkhamian

1999

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Congratulations to all at Kirkham Grammar School for your 450th Anniversary



The Kirkhamian

1998 - 1999

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We would like to thank all who have supported us by advertising in this magazine. We are particularly indebted to *Studio D* who are acting as official School photographers this year and have provided many of the photographs used in this magazine.

HEADMASTER'S FOREWORD

As I write, the School is more than half way through its 450th Anniversary Year and I am delighted to be able to report that we have had much to celebrate in a year which has witnessed continued progress at Kirkham Grammar School. It was particularly gratifying to have our academic results praised by both the Independent School Inspectorate and the HMC Inspectors, who have recently visited us. Numbers of pupils on roll continue to grow and the achievements of our pupils have been as impressive as ever. My wife and I count it a privilege to spend our lives in the company of such fine young people. The joy and pride they take in their school is uplifting and their contribution to the corporate life of the school outstanding.

I am grateful to the Board of Governors for further demonstrating their confidence in the future of the School by sanctioning phase two of the Technology development. Thus, having opened a state-of-the-art Technology Centre in September, 1998, we are scheduled to open an impressive new Languages Centre in September, 1999, both built in the traditional style of the original grade II listed building which graces the front of our school. An impressive arched bridge links the two centres, which house over one hundred new computers. I was delighted to receive the news from Lord Shuttleworth, Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire, that a royal visit is in the process of being arranged for the second half of the Autumn term, when the Languages Centre will be officially opened. It is fitting that the School should receive its first Royal visit during its 450th Anniversary Year.

One of the most significant events of the past year was the selection of Kirkham Grammar School by British Aerospace plc as its International Centre for Technology. Thus KGS has become the flagship school within British Aerospace's extensive schools' network and we look forward to the world-wide school links which will follow. The School has also been designated as a training centre by the Confederation of British Industries. The implication of these developments are that our pupils are able to experience leading edge technology facilities and involvement in exciting project work. We are immensely grateful to British Aerospace for their support over recent years, for the confidence they have shown in our school and the honour they have bestowed upon it.

May I take this opportunity to thank our growing number of parents for the confidence and trust they have placed in the School and for their constant support. For the eighth successive year the school roll has increased and the demand for places has never been higher. I am delighted that the School will enter the new millennium in a position of such strength, the result of highly successful teamwork with governors, staff, parents and pupils all pulling hard together in the same upward direction.

I am grateful to the committee of the Friends of Kirkham Grammar School for their unceasing efforts on behalf of the School. The highlight of the year for them must have been the Summer Ball, a marvellous night to remember, attended by more than 320 parents and guests. The committee members of the Friends deserve all our congratulations for organising an event on this scale so successfully. Their fund raising efforts have rewarded

the school with a new minibus and a substantial contribution towards the 450th Anniversary Library Project, which is gathering momentum as I write. A major extension to the Senior School Library is planned for the summer of 2000 and we welcome Mrs Carolyn Copland as the School's first professionally qualified librarian. We also aim to provide improved library facilities for our Junior School and an enhanced resources area for our Sixth Formers.

The past year saw the academic reputation of the School strengthened by some of the best GCSE results we have seen at KGS, with a higher percentage than ever before (almost 40%) of top A*/A grades. Overall the results were excellent: 98% attained five or more GCSE's at grades A*-C and the average number of passes per pupils was well over eight. Individually, Martha Newell's record breaking eleven A*'s was one of the country's top performances, and there were many other outstanding results. It is gratifying to see the number of Oxbridge offers grow and we were delighted to receive a second successive Arkwright Engineering Scholarship, awarded to fifth former, Laura Clarke. Rank Foundation Scholarships have been awarded to John Boyle, Laura Clarke, Kimberley Peake and Antony Rawlins. A record number of scholarship awards bears testimony to the growing strength of the School, and it is equally rewarding to applaud the successes of those less academically able students who have reached and, in many cases, surpassed their goals and progressed to University.

Throughout the year thus far we have enjoyed celebrating the school's 450th Anniversary and there are many more events to look

forward to in the Autumn Term. At the beginning of the year all our pupils and staff gathered in the New Hall, some 950 in all, in our first ever whole school assembly. It was a memorable occasion, captured for posterity on camera. Prior to the assembly all our pupils and staff were presented with commemorative medallions.

In April we were privileged and honoured to have the Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. David Hope lead the School's 450th Anniversary Founders' Day Service in St Michael's Church, Kirkham. A packed congregation of staff, pupils, parents and governors listened in thrall to the warm and wise words of the Archbishop. His spirituality and humanity touched us all, and on this day more than any other, perhaps, we came to understand and appreciate that our School has survived and prospered, not only by the efforts of our Founders, but more importantly, through the grace and love of God.

Both the summer balls, Sixth Form and Friends, were a resounding success and the 450th Anniversary Open Weekend drew many Old Kirkhamians back to their 'alma mater' to relive past memories and wonder at the many changes wrought since their leaving. The reunion on the Friday evening provided a perfect opportunity to reminisce in the Old Hall and view a nostalgic display of memorabilia.

The Open Afternoon of the following day was blessed by good weather. The playing fields echoed to the sound of leather on willow as the Old Kirkhamians succumbed to a strong School 1st XI. There was tennis aplenty, shooting in the range (revenge for the Old



Kirkhamians!), the opportunity to walk and idly talk, before sheer self-indulgence in the form of cream teas on the front lawn, languidly imbibed to the melodic strains of the school orchestra, playing music which both soothed the senses and invoked nostalgic memories of times past. Ah, the sheer joy of it all! In the evening, musicianship

of rare quality enthralled a packed audience, who enjoyed an Evening of Summer Music in the New Hall - a perfect end to a perfect day.

Yet, for many, the most moving and memorable event of the whole weekend was the 450th Anniversary Commemorative Service led by Old Kirkhamian and former Bishop of Birkenhead, the Rt. Rev. Ronald Brown. It was marvellous to see a full congregation give thanks as they joined together in the Old Hall, singing joyously with the choir and rapt in wonder at our Bishop's message, delivered in characteristically ringing tones, full of meaning and wisdom.

There were so many impressive sporting performances over the past year that it is impossible to do justice to them within the confines of this foreword. The most outstanding individual achievement was the silver medal Michelle Harrison won in the World Schools' Swimming Championships in Shanghai. We congratulate Michelle in her final year at school and thank her for setting such a high standard for all our athletes to emulate. Hannah Spacey also deserves our congratulations on becoming the School's first England hockey international and we were delighted to see Richard Wire play so well for Scotland and become the School's first Scottish rugby international. Richard also showed his paces on the athletic

track, winning the Lancashire 100 and 200 metres and earning selection for the National Championships. Former first XV rugby captain, Alex Sanderson, had the honour of captaining a strong England U21 team who beat South Africa. There were also many memorable team performances, a rugby tour to Italy and a hockey tour to Barbados. For the first time in the School's history, our first XI cricket team were accorded the honour of a fixture with the MCC and the excellent show they put up in running their illustrious opponents close has earned the School an annual fixture. Congratulations to all our sportsmen and women, and their coaches.

For all their successes it is the character of our pupils which appeals most and perhaps matters most. There is much evidence that the school is succeeding in helping to develop well rounded, capable and confident young people, who are well equipped to take on leadership and management roles in their lives beyond school. Our sixth formers, who contribute so much to the running of the School, never fail to impress, and I was very proud and pleased to hear that our army cadets had won the leadership trophy on their annual camp at Warcop. Leadership is very important to us at Kirkham Grammar School. There were some forty independent schools with cadet forces at Warcop this year and it is tough to

come out on top against such opposition. Congratulations to Colonel Sayer, his staff and our cadets.

Kirkham Grammar School has enjoyed another marvellous year, full of achievement and progress. The School will enter the millennium with an enviable reputation, a full roll of pupils, an excellent range of facilities and its traditional standards and ethos intact. Underpinned by 450 years of Christian tradition, it is well placed to continue to prosper and encourage generations of new pupils to enter in order to profit.....

Ingrederet ut Proficiat.

B Stacey



The Chairman of the Friends handing over the keys of the minibus

Friends of Kirkham Grammar School

This has been a very busy year for the Friends' Association. I was particularly pleased to welcome six new members, bringing the committee up to forty members.

The Friends' New Parents' Welcome Evening in October was musically supported by Sam Smith and Alistair Kipling's jazz quartet. This was thoroughly enjoyed by 80 new parents.

The Winter Ball was held this year in the Paradise Suite at the Blackpool Pleasure Beach. It was attended by 332 parents, friends, governors and teachers. The usual Kirkham party spirit radiantly shone through, as guests laughed and danced the night away, raising a staggering £4,500.

1999 is a very significant year in the history of Kirkham Grammar School as it marks our 450th anniversary. Our project for this anniversary year is to raise money in support of the library fund that will initiate a Junior School Library and up-grade the Senior School Library.

The Friends' second Family Fun Day was a marked improvement on last year, helping to raise £3,200. The weather was a little kinder and the event captured a really lively, happy atmosphere. Many thanks to all who supported the Family Fun Day. We now hope it will become an annual event.

The Midsummer Ball, held in a grand marquee on the School's front lawn on 26th June, was attended by over 320 guests who enjoyed a champagne reception in the Old Hall whilst being entertained by a jazz band. The evening pro-

gressed into the marquee for a delightful buffet where, in true Kirkham style, the party spirit captured the hearts of would-be dancers, completing the evening's entertainment.

It has been an outstanding year for the Friends in terms of fund raising. Setting aside the regular contributions made to school for flowers, Speech Day prizes, Christmas presents for the Junior School, supporting sporting exchanges and a charity trip (not to mention a £50 share in a snake!), we have been able to provide a new school minibus costing £16,862.50.

None of this would have been possible without the help and support of our parents and I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to you all; our success depends on you.

R Ince
Chairman, Friends of Kirkham Grammar School

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AGM
20th September, 1999
7.30pm in the Old Hall

Followed by an ordinary meeting of the Executive Committee at 8pm. Please come along.

New Parents Welcome Evening
8th October, 1999
8pm in the Old Hall

All new parents and guardians are invited to a complimentary cheese and wine evening. This is an informal evening which provides an opportunity to meet the Governors, Headmaster, Staff and the Committee of the Friends of Kirkham Gram-

mar School in addition to making the acquaintance of other new parents.

Winter Ball
27th November, 1999

This prestigious event will again be held in the Paradise Suite at Blackpool Pleasure Beach and will feature entertainment from a comedian in addition to our disco. For the benefit of our new parents who may not know anyone, we will, wherever possible, endeavour to provide seating arrangements to assist making friends with fellow new parents. Please do not feel obliged to fill an entire table, you will be made just as welcome as a single parent or couple.

Christmas Fair
10th December, 1999
New Hall

We will need lots of help for this event to run the many stalls and games. Please come along and support us and enjoy the atmosphere of the Christmas festivities.

The 100 Club

For the sum of £15 per number per year you will have the chance of winning a first prize of £30 and a second prize of £12 each month, with a grand draw twice a year of £100.

Next year's Summer Ball will be held once again in a marquee on the front lawn of KGS on 24th June, 2000.

The Committee and I hope to see you all soon at our forthcoming events. Thank you, once again, for your continued support.

Old Kirkhamians' Association

I am approaching the end of a rewarding and enjoyable term of office as your President during a historic and memorable 450th anniversary year for the School. Although we are only just over half way through the year, several events will live long in our memories, not least the visit of the Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. David Hope, Archbishop of York, to our annual Founders' Day Service at St Michael's Parish Church.

On Friday, 4th June, some twenty eight Old Kirkhamians had a marvellous day out at The Drapers' Hall, London. Our party was graciously and warmly received and returned mightily impressed by the majesty of this marvellous Hall, with its grand rooms, magnificent paintings and rich collection of silverware. We are grateful to the Drapers for hosting us so generously.

Wednesday, 30th June proved to be a historic day for KGS; the first occasion our School has had the privilege of playing host to the MCC. The cricket match which followed, between KGS first XI and the MCC, was an enthralling tussle between two good sides. Chasing a total of 197, the School opening pair reached 90 without loss, when the MCC decided it was time to call up ex-Lancashire and England spinner, David Hughes. He spun confusion and doubt among our batsmen and the school innings ended with a commendable score of 161. The MCC members were so impressed by their first visit to KGS that they have asked for an annual fixture, much to the credit of the school and the delight of us all.

A good number of Old Kirkhamians attended the 450th Anniversary Open Weekend in early July. The weather was kind, old acquaintances were renewed and the weekend was a resounding success. The reunion began with a gathering of former pupils and staff in the Old Hall on the Friday evening. A bar and a finger buffet were provided and our visitors were treated to a display of memorabilia along the corridors of the old school, painstakingly gathered and displayed by Arthur Baines, former Senior Master and Captain of School, and Carole Defriez.

On the following Saturday the School held an Open Afternoon to allow Old Kirkhamians to revisit their old haunts and admire the many impressive new developments. There were music and delicious cream teas on the front lawn, cricket, tennis, climbing, shooting, drama, a CCF display and much more. The Old Kirkhamians emerged victorious from the rifle range but, not unexpectedly, tasted defeat on the cricket pitch, despite some lusty end of innings hitting by that dynamic father and son duo of Barry Johnson (your President Elect) and his son Andrew. Old Kirkhamians enjoyed the freedom to wander, watch and chat, with an old familiar face round every corner. We were delighted to welcome my predecessor, the former Headmaster Malcolm Summerlee and his wife Joy, who were surprised to meet up with Mr and Mrs Harry Reay, former Deputy Headmaster. A glorious afternoon was followed by an Evening of Summer Music in the New Hall. School choristers and instrumentalists enthralled a full house with musicianship of real quality.

Fittingly, our Open Weekend was brought to a close by a moving Commemorative Service in the Old Hall on Sunday morning. A full congregation united in worship and prayer, splendidly led by Old Kirkhamian and former Bishop of Birkenhead, the Rt. Rev. Ronald Brown. It is right to give thanks to God as we celebrate 450 years of Christian tradition at Kirkham Grammar School. I firmly believe that the School is blessed and none who attended the service could doubt it. We should not let the occasion pass without thanking Bishop Brown for his constant support of our School. He has presented prizes on Speech Day, preached on Founders' Day and led services to commemorate the lives and works of the late Sidney Crane and Bernard Stevenson, all during the relatively short period of my Headship, throughout which I have drawn great strength from his constant prayers.

Finally, may I remind you that the 450th Anniversary Project is to provide enhanced library facilities for the whole school. The Senior School Library will be doubled in size by adding two adjacent rooms, stock will be upgraded and increased and new technology installed. The Governors have shown their faith in the project by allowing me to appoint the School's first ever qualified librarian, Mrs Carolyn Copland, who will also take charge of the school archives. The Sixth Form Centre will benefit from a proper resources area on its upper floor and it is also our intention to provide the Junior School with a library. To achieve all this, we shall need the support of Old Kirkhamians.

B Stacey
President, OKA

Mr and Mrs Stacey with
Bishop Ronald Brown



Three former members of
staff, with former pupils,
wonder when they will
meet again



OKA's at the Drapers' Hall



In the new Technology Centre

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RESULTS DAY



Mark Devine and Chloe Scott, who both achieved five grade A's at A-level, were awarded Drapers' Scholarships. Stephen Clark, Sheree Halliwell and Deri Hughes were successful Oxbridge applicants.

At GCSE 98% of our pupils achieved five or more grades A-C. Martha Newell achieved eleven A* grades.



The opening of the Technology Centre



Captain Simon Salt, Army Youth Recruiting Officer and Old Kirkhamian, inspects the Guard of Honour.

Speech Day, with Guest Speaker, Mr. Peter Attenborough.



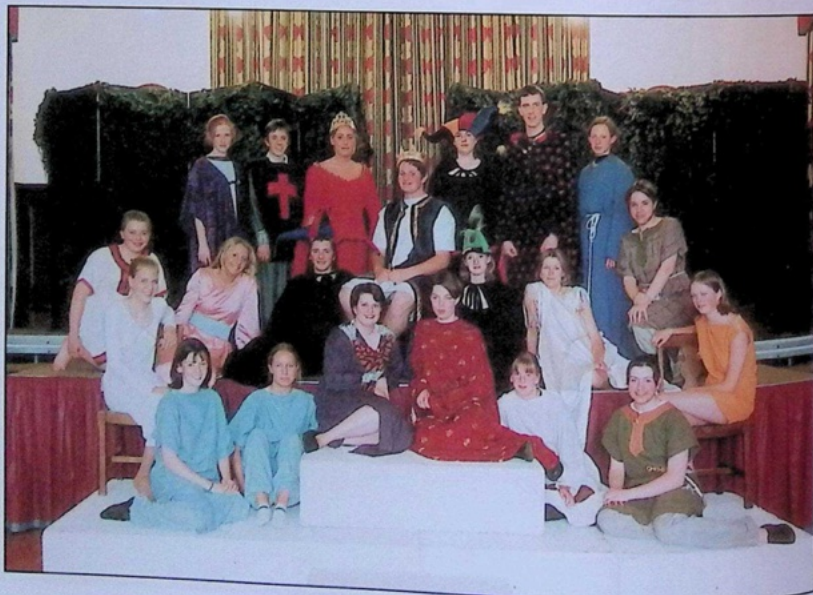
The Junior Public Speaking team who won the Lancashire round of the National Public Speaking Competition.

Guests at the Friends' Winter Ball





Scenes from drama productions 'The Tempest' (above) and 'The Canterbury Tales' (below)



Scenes from the Medieval Pageant



Guest of honour, Mr Peter Hosker, together with international sprinter, Allyn Condon, and prize winners at Sports Day





Richard Wire, who was selected for Scotland under18 rugby team

Cadets at Adventurous Training Camp



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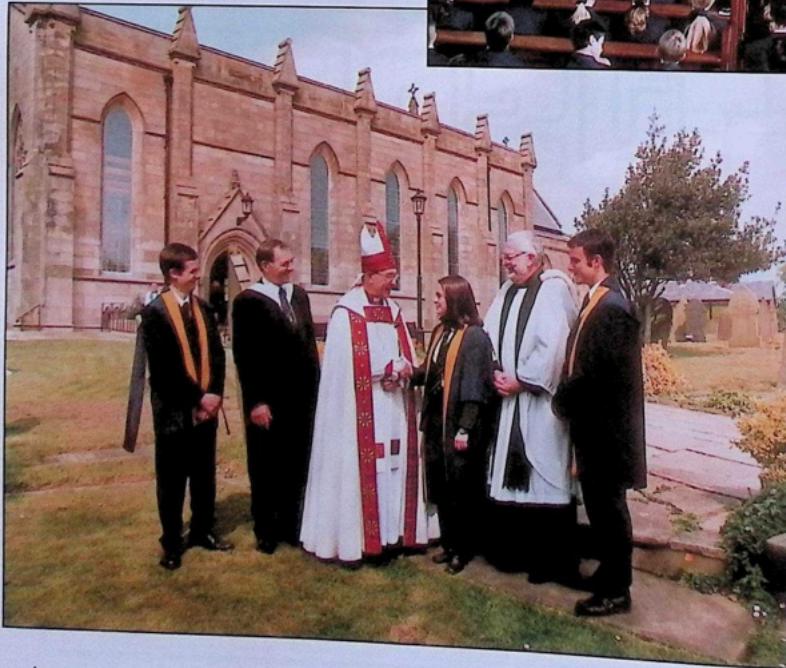
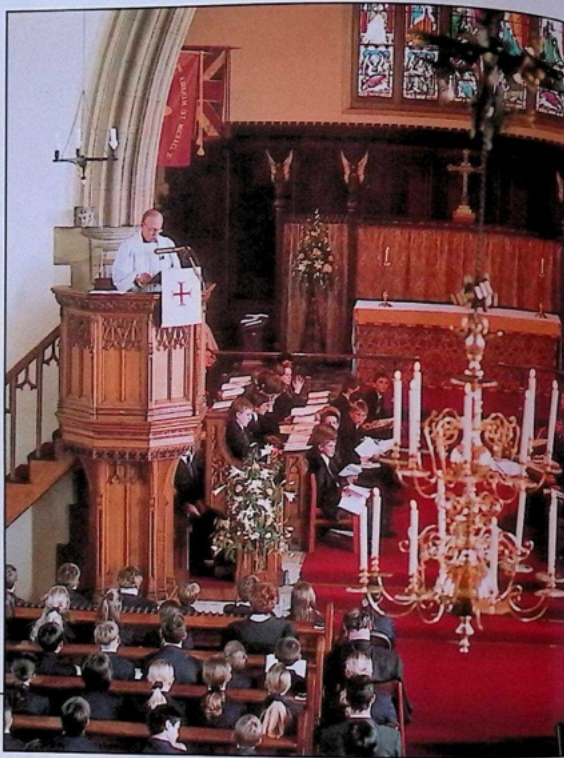
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Founders' Day, with guest preacher, Dr. David Hope, Archbishop of York



SCHOOL HOUSE

Housemaster Mr P B Smith
House Captain R Wire

The academic year 1998/99 has certainly been very enjoyable and successful for School House, with the determination and spirit of our teams and individuals paying ample dividends.

The Winter term began with the chess competition. Under the captaincy of Paul Preston we finished a creditable second. School House also gained second place in the shooting and swimming competitions. In the swimming gala, Kristina Smith, Mark Gregg, Richard Westerman and Michelle Harrison all gained first places. The highlight of the Autumn term was our victory for the very first time in the play reading competition. Congratulations must go to Thomas Gray, Tracy Thornley, Laura Ford, Richard Wire and Sarah Mears.

The Spring term saw a string of successes, with four firsts in the intermediate girls' and boys' cross-country, the senior rugby sevens and the music festival. Special mention must go to Sam Smith, Gareth Jones and Annabel Fowden. School gained second places in the junior girls' and boys' cross-country, and the senior girls' hockey. We also achieved third places in the junior and intermediate rugby sevens, the junior girls' netball and the house debate, in which Lucy Preston proved to be outstanding.

However, it was the Summer term that proved the most successful, with School gaining a total of five first places from eight events. We were first in the senior and junior cricket, intermediate and junior tennis and, for the first time in over ten years, School was victorious on Sports Day. Amy Twambley and Rebecca Kay won the Victrix Ludorum for the intermediate and senior girls respectively, and Yamane A Zahir and Richard Wire won the Victor Ludorum for the intermediate and senior boys respectively. Finally, in the Work Cup, School was placed third.

Overall, School gained two fourth places, six third places, nine second places and ten first places from a total of twenty seven competitions. These results proved good enough to give School the Whitby Cup for the best overall House for the second year running.

We would like to say a very special thank you to all House members who either took part or helped on the management side.

Kimberley Peake
Vanessa Walker

KIRKHAM HOUSE

Housemaster Mr S Duncan
House Captains S. Mathews
K. Oades

With the retirement of Mr Baines, the year started with the arrival of Mr Duncan, our new House Master, who transferred from Fylde House.

We started the term well, with the chess competition in which we narrowly came second. Thanks must go to Norman and David Ralph who won all of their games. Salma Abdelati and Lisa Brambles fought for us in the debating competition, where they got through to the final. The team worked well and argued convincingly, but were unfortunate to come runners up against a strong Preston team.

After half term, Kirkham kept the tradition of over a decade by winning the swimming competition.

The Easter term was a busy one for the House, with the house music competition, in which we came second, after having nine of our members reach the finals.

The cross-country event saw us achieve third place and the talents of our junior girls were shown when they came second in the netball competition.

Our junior boys excelled in the rugby

competition and came out victorious and the intermediate and senior boys were a credit to the House, achieving second place in the cricket competition.

The final events of the year included the centenary Sports Day celebration. Kirkham House members worked extremely hard to finish in second place after trailing in the preliminary rounds. The junior members of the House continued to strive for success and the boys came second in the house cricket, with the girls winning a close rounds competition by half a rounder.

The final events of the term were the junior and intermediate tennis competitions. Our juniors played exceptionally well and won the competition.

This year has, as always, been an extremely busy one. Thanks must go to all of the House staff, to the retiring House Captains, to all event organisers and to our House Master, Mr. Duncan. We hope he has enjoyed his first year with Kirkham House and thank him for his continuous support.

FYLDE HOUSE

Housemaster Mr I Scott
House Captains J Kirby
A Worsley

The Spring term started with the cross-country, with only the intermediate girls showing good participation, coming in second. There was a sad lack of effort from almost every age division in the House, and this only helped to confirm Fylde's poor reputation. Special credit, however, has to go to Steven Hatch, Sarah Kellet and Kervin Van Damme, Steven and Sarah for achieving good positions in their races, Kervin for being the only intermediate boy to show up.

House rugby went by with a little bit more effort than the cross-country, with the junior boys doing well to finish second. Despite the fact that the intermediate and senior boys came fourth, they both displayed a lot of spirit against


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strong opposition. In modern times, when some houses have new, bought in players, Fylde tries hard with a team of long standing members of the school.

The girls came first in both senior and junior hockey and netball. These were some of our best results and we are very grateful to the girls who took part for showing great effort.

The music competition saw us coming third, mainly due to strong individual performances. Thanks go to Alistair Kipling for all his hard work and effort.

The summer term's main event, of course, is Sports Day. After a good set of preliminary events, the cracks started to show on Sports Day itself when Fylde House seemed to be struck down with a plague of minor injuries. It was always a case of 'someone else will do it', but no-one did, and that was why there was a lack of green vests flashing past at high speeds. The people who actually took part did well, putting a lot of effort in and taking part in extra events and we thank those people for having a bit of pride in their house. That is what it all comes down to, pride in the House. A lot of people seem to think that they do not have to try. That is not the case. We all have to try. Fylde will never win anything if the people in it do not adopt a better attitude.

So, looking to the Winter, things are going to change. We will make a fresh start, and I hope everyone will start to participate more.

PRESTON HOUSE

Housemaster Mr S Crowther
House Captains T Johnson
D Parker
A Tomlinson

Which is the odd one out... The Big One (Blackpool), The Traumatiser (Southport) and a Housemaster (Kirkham)? The answer is the Housemaster at Kirkham. The reason behind this observation is that being a

Housemaster has more ups and downs than the most impressive roller coaster and at the end you do tend to feel a little sick.

Preston failed in its endeavour to win back the Whitby trophy. We finished in third place this year, behind the eventual winners, School.

I have the results of all the events in front of me as I write, but I will have to type a bit quicker if I am to complete the report before they all smudge away under my tears of disappointment! Overall, the houses competed in no less than 27 separate events, ranging from chess to rugby. Preston began the season well and won the house chess competition, an event we always do well in, although I do worry about next year now Tush has left the school. We also fared well in the play reading competition, finishing second, and we won the third event, the shooting, with some superb individual shots. Things were looking good around September. Then came the dreaded swimming gala. You could hear the chainsaws buzzing as the trees were felled to make enough paper to write all the absence notes which came in on the morning of the event. It is hard to try to disguise first formers as upper sixth pupils to fill the gaps and we came third overall. Kirkham won the event, probably due to them having every school team swimming member in their house, or that is how it seemed. I think we were all ready for the Christmas holiday at this point.

The Spring term included the cross country events, the rugby, the hockey, the music and the debate final. Preston fared well in the cross county and won the debate final against an extremely peeved Kirkham House team. Once again, the music competition proved to be a bit of a logistical nightmare. It was difficult in some cases to find musicians to play in some categories, even though we knew they were quite capable. I did feel sorry for Mr. Catterall who organises this feast of music. He had to listen to dozens of renditions of 'My heart will go on' from the film, Titanic. I think he even heard it on the jews harp.

House Reports

The Summer term seems to be the worst for Preston House. Perhaps we have all peaked too early and our thoughts are concentrated on the long summer holidays to come. The senior cricket was a bit of a disaster as the team seemed to think it was a five a side competition! We did, however, win the senior and the intermediate tennis competitions. Sports Day was blessed with wonderful weather and excellent sporting competition from all houses. Preston did put up a good fight and, for me, the athlete of the day was Nuzhat Din who ran so hard she made herself sick... dedication if I ever saw it. The rounders competition should have been won by Preston. However, after Kirkham seemed to be wasting time by throwing the ball all over the place, our House captain, Andrew Davies, could hold his frustration no longer and asked the umpire (a Kirkham House member of staff!) if this was really cricket. She took half a rounder off him for his impudence. This lost us the competition.

Finally, all the points are tallied up for the Academic Trophy. The first three years of the school all have their terms marks added up and the overall house winner is found. It is obvious that Preston must be helping other houses with their homework or something, as we finished fourth. However, by this time the whole competition was decided, as School House was too far in front to catch.

I must make a personal thank you to our outgoing house captains, Tom Johnson, Dominique Parker and Anna Tomlinson who managed to keep a smile on their faces throughout the year. They were succeeded at Easter by Andrew Davies, Gemma Swift, Mel Parker and Tom Russell. I look forward to working with them over the next two terms.

So, as I step off the roller coaster feeling slightly queasy, I go to the back of the queue, ready for another ride, knowing what to expect next time as the ride gets closer and closer.

S Crowther

Combined Cadet Force

CCF Report

The Combined Cadet Force has once again had a very successful and interesting year.

Last summer, a party of fifty or so cadets travelled to Wathgill training camp near Catterick for a week long camp. The cadets enjoyed a range of activities from canoeing to mountain biking to platoon exercises. Sixteen senior cadets also enjoyed a well-prepared night exercise, acting as enemy for the rest of the contingent the following day.

September saw the CCF host its annual Inspection Day, which this year was attended by Captain Simon Salt, a former pupil of the school, who returned to see the cadets in training and the customary 'Guard of Honour'.

The Adventurous Training camp took place in the February half term, with thirty cadets staying at St. John's in the Vale, in the Lake District. Major Scott's culinary expertise kept the troops well fed as they embarked on a week of fell walking, mountain biking, and orienteering, culminating in a 'point to point' exercise which saw only one section making it to the end, the other two deciding a cafe near Ullswater looked more inviting than a trek up Helvellyn.

In May eight cadets and two officers travelled to the Altcar ranges near Liverpool for a weekend of shooting at the annual 'Skill at Arms' meet. A good time was had by all, as the cadets took on a number of tasks from march and shoot to falling plates. Unfortunately our 'A' team was knocked out in the first round of the falling plates after a poor performance, and the 'B' team drew Sedbergh School, one of the

top shooting schools in the country. They would probably have won the loudest battle cry competition, however!

Throughout the year the CCF has enjoyed success with its termly field days, travelling to Waddecar Scout Camp, Weeton Barracks, Darwen Moor and Holcombe Moor. These field days provide the cadets with a great chance to put the skills they have learned during the term to good use in a range of exercises and tasks. The CCF plans to travel to Warcop Camp for its annual camp this year, once again taking nearly fifty cadets.

CSM T Russell

ARMY SCHOLARSHIP

I was delighted to hear that CSM Thomas Russell has been awarded a Sixth Form Army Scholarship with a view to entering Sandhurst at a later date. Such scholarships are extremely rare, with only ninety being awarded throughout the country each year. It is a tribute to Thomas that he has managed to secure such a scholarship in the face of such strong competition.

Col F W Sayer

SHOOTING

The Kirkham CCF shooting team once again entered the North of England Cadet Skill at Arms Meeting. As usual, the meeting was well attended with 42 teams and 168 cadets taking part.

The teams had high hopes of bringing back a trophy with increased experience after last year. However, this was not to be, as indifferent shooting at various stages meant that we failed to live up to our expectations.

Good shooting performances in the B-team meant that they beat the A-team in two competitions, with good shooting from John Boyle (45th in the Earl Roberts shoot), Matthew Primmer (20th in the Montgomery shoot) and Alistair Kipling (4th in the Ensign ETR). After the collaborated skill competitions, the B-team were placed 14th and the A-team 20th.

The Light Support Weapon was given a good airing and, after that competition, Matthew Primmer and Alistair Kipling are ranked fourth equal in the North of England.

I would like to thank Mr. Crowther and Mr. Hill for providing transport for the teams.

Alistair Kipling
Captain of Shooting

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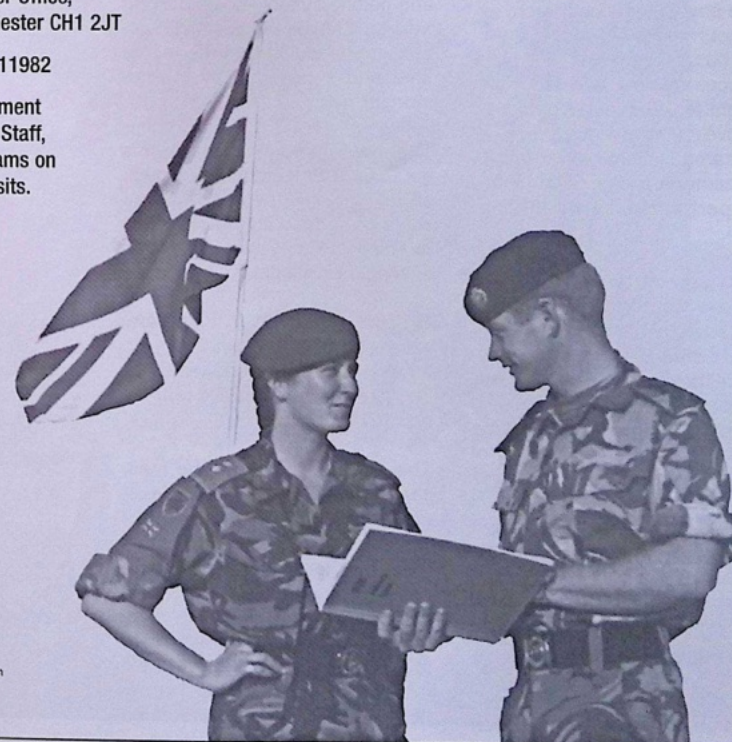
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or make an appointment through you Career Staff, to see Colonel Williams on one of his termly visits.




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CCF CAMP

Warcop, Summer 1999

Over sixty cadets and ten officers travelled to Warcop training camp in Cumbria for a week of early mornings, long days and even longer dinner queues.

We started the week in luxury, five coaches between sixty of us. After settling in, we got the good news that we would be doing the assault course that night. It was really a warm up for the first inter-school competition of the week - the march and shoot.

After a morning of combat first aid - an event in which we came second - some of the cadets made a miraculous recovery and prepared to take part in the 4km march, assault course and 25 metre shoot. Water bottles were filled and singing voices trained, well left, right, left, right for 40 minutes gets a bit repetitive. The twenty strong 'A' team came in third, whilst the 'B' team came in a creditable ninth - good performances by all concerned.

Monday saw the whole contingent spend the morning building observation posts with the Signals Regiment. It was fortunate for everyone that they survived David Rees' 'boulder' test and were able to take part in the afternoon's activities - the juniors enjoying an afternoon of 'potted shrimps', whilst the seniors got the opportunity to drive a 17 ton DROPS vehicle. As it had an automatic gearbox, no-one had trouble accelerating. It was braking that proved the problem, as Ben Hale found out when he came close to demolishing a toilet block.

After enjoying three days of sweltering heat, some cadets had been

hoping for rain, but not the amount we awoke to on the Tuesday. The downpour was perfectly timed as we started four hours of platoon attacks and it was hard to know whether to be happy or sad. Although it was physically challenging, most cadets managed to complete the afternoon's mixture of shooting, running, explosions and screaming and were rewarded by being allowed to crawl through 'Dean's Tunnel of Love'. As we were already soaked to the skin, this thirty yard water tunnel felt like a steady trickle rather than a raging torrent.

On Wednesday, half the contingent went rock climbing and canoeing in the surrounding area, whilst the other half did the watermanship course. After building our own raft and getting suitably soaked trying to keep it afloat, the best eight cadets attempted to beat the record time and succeeded by a large margin.

That evening some of the cadets got to try their hand at clay pigeon shooting. The people involved could be spotted at breakfast next morning, as they were the ones holding their shoulder funny.

On Thursday morning, the seniors were reluctantly torn away from the Signals exercise to go shooting. The juniors remained and learned how to use a radio.

The afternoon brought the main competition of the week - the leadership exercise. This consisted of an orienteering course of twenty-three checkpoints, with eight command task activities to be completed along the way. The 'A' team became the first team in two weeks to complete the course and broke the previous record by twenty points. All eight teams performed

superbly, with other individual records being broken on the command tasks. Kirkham Grammar School finished a well-deserved first in that event.

The final day was one of the most enjoyable of them all, as all cadets took part in a series of patrols, OP's and platoon/section attacks, attempting to defeat the 'Cumbrian Freedom Fighters' (who had a large blue minibus as their base).

Thanks must go to all the staff who helped organise the week, especially to Colonel Sayer and Major Scott for all their hard work.

CSM T Russell



Bleeding corpses



Watermanship



'Stand back, Mrs Scott will show you how to do it'

PARIS

Is it really three years since the last Paris trip? It certainly was, so once again a large party of pupils (or perhaps, looking at Gareth Eves, we should say a party of large pupils) took over the holiday centre at Dammarie-les-Lys, south of Paris for a few days.

Having squeezed through Eurotunnel in our double-decker coach, we started as we meant to go on by hitting the shops of Cité Europe at breakfast time. The coach already looked heavier and we hadn't even arrived yet!

The centre at Dammarie was just as we have come to know it, and having sorted out the eternal school trip conundrum of room allocation, we explored our base for the trip, which for many of the older pupils meant re-discovering a familiar place. The footie fans wasted no time in taking over the pitch, led by Mr. Watson and Mr. Long, but others chose to relax in the warm spring sunshine.

Day two dawned brightly and we headed for the Eiffel Tower, where we began our Seine river cruise - still the best way to see how well Paris manages to live up to its post-card image. We then scaled the Eiffel Tower: first stage, second stage and even the top, depending on your levels of energy. The reward was, as ever, a magnificent view in all directions. We then made our way to the Champs Elysées for a spot of window shopping, then picked up by our ever obliging driver Lee, we drove out to look at 'La Défense', the futuristic business and residential development on the western fringe of Paris, our first visit there on a school trip. Whisked to the top by express lifts, we enjoyed a view which ar-

guably, outdoes the Eiffel Tower, definitely a place to explore in more detail next time.

Our third day took us to the heart of Paris, exploring the Île de la Cité, the Beaubourg area and the Louvre and Tuileries Gardens. Serious shopping was on the days' agenda. 'Native speaker' Tom Russell organised a trip for the 'men' in the sixth form to the Stade de France, where the final of the World Cup had been held the previous year.

That evening, we took the coach up to Montmartre for what is always in many ways the highlight of these trips: an evening spent wallowing in made-for-tourists Parisian culture. Who cares if it is all overpriced and artificial? As you wander among the street artists and pavement cafés to the sound of accordion music it all seems worth it, as long as you don't convert the drinks prices too carefully. How much did Phillip Bennett pay for a beer?

Day four and we were off to the real main attraction. Never mind the museums, galleries, cathedrals and Parisian culture, let's go to Disneyland! It was impossible to distinguish between the level of excitement of teachers, sixth formers, second years or Mr. Long's eight-year-old daughter. An idyllic day was spent beneath baking April sunshine going from one ride to another, queues and all. The favourite turned out to be 'Chérie, J'ai rétréci le public' (no translation needed in such an erudite magazine as this), which was in its very first week of opening. A tired and happy bunch of pupils trooped back to the coach, pausing only to allow Vicky Richardson time to buy that elusive Alice in Wonderland tea set (a must have item for every chic

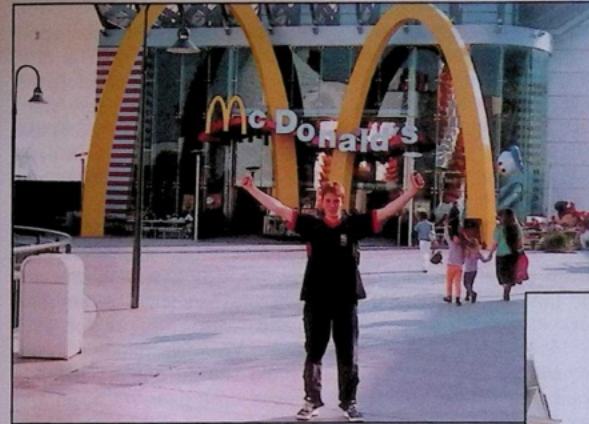
sixth former these days) and Thomas Gray to make an abortive attempt to retrieve Timothy Guest's wallet from the lost property office.

As the days passed, Mr. Long looked increasingly pre-occupied and worried. Why? The reason for his furrowed brow was the looming task of finding over sixty awards for his infamous presentations night. As this last night party drew near, a few hectic consultations with colleagues completed the list, and pupils trooped forward one by one, some more relieved than others, to receive an honour far greater than a KGS distinction sticker, Sports Colours or Music Honours: a melting chocolate coin. With all the thank you's said, we eventually retired for the night with only the challenge of the hypermarket left.

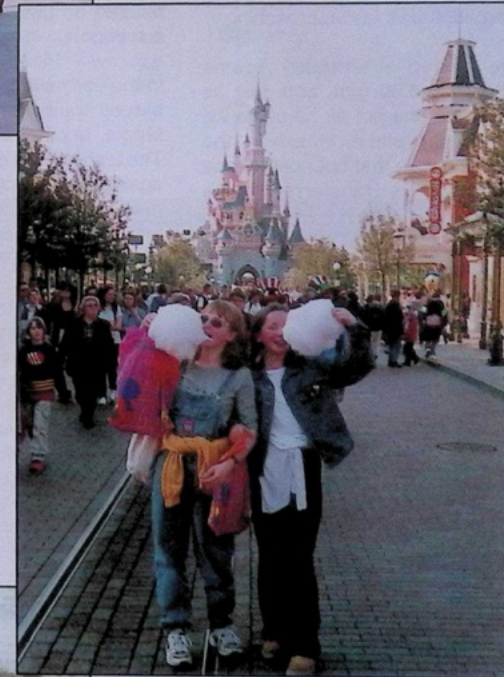
As day five dawned in Dammarie, sixty British pupils all armed with supermarket trolleys waited like Grand Prix drivers on the grid for the security grill to rise and let them in. Had they forgiven us for the previous evening when Tom Russell had landed Mr Rushton with a bag full of small change at the check-out in payment for his shopping just before closing time? They probably did forgive us when they saw the unexpected rise in the takings. Groaning at the seams, our coach set off for home, laden with the best produce a French hypermarket has to offer - and that's quite a lot!

Another enjoyable Paris trip was over with an uneventful homeward journey. Grateful thanks, as ever, to teachers Mrs. Ainsworth, Mrs. Devine, Mr. Duncan, Mrs. Long, Mr. Rushton, Mr. Watson and leader and organiser Mr. Long. There's little doubt that we'll be back in 2002.

Toulouse Letrouersers, 40



Scenes from our visit to Euro Disney



Enjoying the boat ride on the River Seine



BARBADOS, 1999

At 2.30 a.m. on Thursday, 1st July, the tour party left Kirkham and made their way to Gatwick Airport. The coach was buzzing with excitement and very few people managed to sleep. The flight was long and felt even longer because of the breakdown of the entertainment system - but the long awaited hockey tour to 'sunny' Barbados was fast approaching.

We arrived at Grantley Adams Airport at 3.00 p.m. and, just as expected, the hot air hit us as we got off the plane. However, the torrential rain that bounced off the coach as we transferred to the Sunset Crest was totally unexpected.

After a 'good' night's sleep, some of the girls had a swim at 5.30 a.m., and the weather was glorious, 94 degrees and wonderful sunshine - a morning by the pool was most enjoyable. On the Friday afternoon the first XI had their first match against Combermere, a top local club. The girls found it extremely hard going playing in a temperature of 96 degrees and the first half was used to acclimatise to the heat. With numerous changes being made to ensure that no-one dehydrated, it was difficult to establish a good shape. However, in the second half the team really started to play and we won the fixture 3-0. On Friday night the group enjoyed a wonderful meal at the Pizzaz followed by time at the Europa Bar.

Saturday's excursion was one of the highlights of our tour - we spent the day on the 'Excellence' Catamaran, cruising on the Caribbean. The Bucks Fizz reception, continental breakfast, buffet lunch and unlimited drinks

were thoroughly enjoyed by all, but the focus of the cruise was snorkelling over a sunken barge and swimming with the turtles. A fantastic experience and a memory that will be treasured by many.

On Sunday, the girls had a great time on the banana boats and the jet-ski's - this was a first for many. We dined at the Boatyard restaurant in the afternoon and relaxed on the beach in glorious sunshine.

In the early evening the second XI played their first fixture against Maple, another top Bayan team. The team played exceptionally well against very strong opposition. We defended hard and passed the ball well and were very unfortunate to lose the match 1-0.

After recovering from the game the evening was spent barbecuing and karaokeing at the Europa and the late evening was spent back at the Boatyard, where we experienced the local social scene. An extremely informative and enjoyable evening was had by all!

On Monday we relaxed by the pool and prepared ourselves for another fixture. The second XI played against the All Stars, a strong ladies' team. The game was end to end, with both teams having numerous chances. We struggled in the mid-afternoon heat and the intensity of the sun was just too much for our goalkeeper who fainted early in the second half. The team battled superbly and drew the match 0-0. Monday evening was spent at the Coach-house restaurant, where we had a fabulous meal and celebrated Jane Meloy's 15th birthday.

Tuesday was a very big day for us in terms of hockey. The first XI

played against Millfield School, Somerset, one of the biggest sport schools in the country. The girls were extremely nervous before the game and had a very jittery start, with Millfield scoring in the first few minutes. After conceding this early goal the girls settled down and really started to play. We defended hard, closed down well and passed the ball superbly - just before half-time we got a well deserved equaliser. The second half was end to end, with chances for both teams. With five minutes to go, Millfield scored again. The girls stepped up a gear yet again and continued to put on the pressure but unfortunately we just could not put the ball in the back of the net. Although we lost, we were outstanding and we were very proud of the performance. The success of the game has led to Kirkham getting an annual fixture against Millfield, starting after Christmas this year.

Tuesday night was a Barbecue and Bayan night at the Europa - the girls enjoyed an evening of entertainment from the steel drums, belly dancers and limbo dancers - Anna Tomlinson starred in the limbo.

Wednesday morning was spent by the pool in preparation for our final game. In the afternoon the first XI played the Bayan under 18 National Team, Olympio Juniors. In soaring temperatures the girls were once again superb, their effort, commitment and standard of play were outstanding and the game was very much end to end. A superb goal from Vicky Wilson in the last two minutes won us the game - a thoroughly deserved victory.

The hockey played by both teams in the intense heat was superb. The

girls conducted themselves both on and off the pitch in true Kirkham style and were an absolute credit to the School. It was very hard to single out individuals when all the girls played their hearts out, but we felt that the following girls had to be highlighted: Lucy Russell was awarded first XI player of the tour, with Ellie Cairns a very close second, Helen Green was awarded the second XI player of the tour, with Emma Johnson a very close second.

Our final evening was spent at the Ship Inn in St Lawrence Gap. A wonderful meal was followed by a fabulous evening of karaoke. The tour party dominated the evening either singing, dancing or joining in with the locals. All age groups sang and Mr Miller and Mrs Glover even impressed the audience with their rendition of 'Don't Go Breaking My Heart'.

I would like to thank the girls for being an absolute pleasure and a credit to the school - we are extremely proud of them!

I would also like to thank Mick and Kath Threlfall, Paul and Lesley Twambley, Val Leeming, Lynne and Mike Severns and Sylvia Kirby for their total support and tireless work over the last twelve months to raise money for our extremely impressive tour kit. Thank you to Mr Johnson for taking our tour brochure photographs. Finally, thank you to all those people who supported the fund-raising events.

J Glover



The tour party



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Our association with Kirkham Grammar School goes back quite a number of years. Our Managing Director, Tony Mole, is himself a Kirkham 'old boy'. You can imagine the sense of pride he felt on being appointed by the school to design and develop the new prospectus as well as design a more appropriate media image for the school. A significant

component in the school's new image is the 450 year logo which 2am designed for the school's celebration of almost half a millennium of education. We, at 2am, may not be as old as KGS having only just celebrated our first decade of business, but that doesn't mean that we're not on the ball too. We pride ourselves on being at the very cutting edge of



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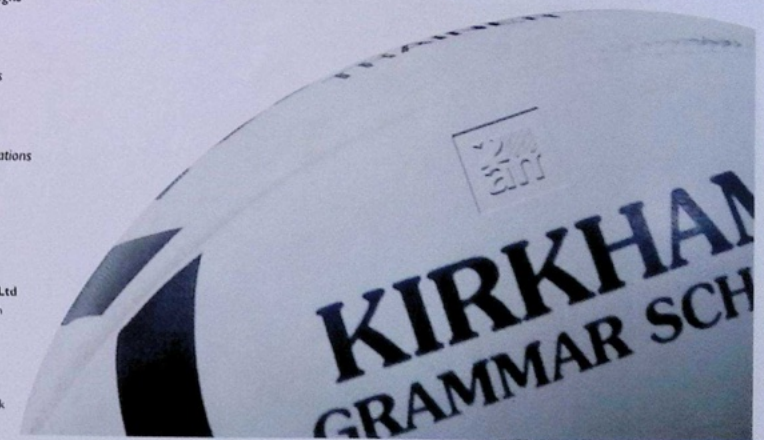


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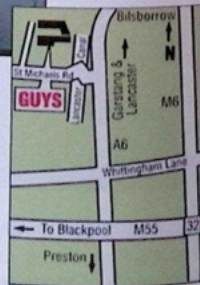


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cost of an evening meal. Don't want to drive home after a meal and a drink? En suite rooms here cost as little as £41.50 per room or choose one with spa bath room by the Wilkinson family for 20 years - this is a pavilion which even has its own thatched cricket bowling with Boddingtons Pavilion for hire. Conference facilities, meeting and private function rooms are also available. Ask for details at reception.

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GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

On the 21st April, the 'A' level geography students set off to undertake their week long field course in Yorkshire. The journey included a visit to Kirkham Priory and Scarborough Castle in cold, wet and windy conditions. A quick tour of Scarborough followed before our arrival at our hotel, where a hearty meal took us through the first of our nightly work sessions.

On the next day, various exercises were undertaken to assess the structure and function of the town. The insatiable shoppers amongst us squeezed in a purchase or two. The next day saw us undertake a rural study, where separate groups were dropped off at their respective villages to undertake, amongst other activities, questionnaires amongst the general public. As we found out, 'there's nowt so queer as folk'.

A day was spent in York undertaking our work for our heritage studies, part of the human geography module. Various sites

were visited, including Clifford's Tower, the York Story Heritage Centre and the Castle Museum. The journey back saw a visit to a living Viking village run by Thor and comrades, who gave us an informative tour around the fully authentic site. As well as demonstrating what can happen to perfectly normal people in middle age (an inclination to be a living, breathing Viking is surely not normal), the visit provided valuable insights into the settlement of the British Isles and the problems of setting up and maintaining such educational sites.

After a thorough briefing from Mr. Harrison, we began our river study in the River Derwent in warm, sunny conditions. Those who got gratuitously wet paid the price as hypothermia set in, but returned home even more grateful for Dot and Kath's supreme cuisine.

Mr. Harrison's textbook knowledge of coastal formations was invaluable the next day on our coastal study from Scarborough to Bridlington. Rocks have never had so much meaning. For some reason, perhaps it was the sea air,

this day seemed longer than the rest and we were glad of the opportunity of our evening break.

The next day saw us up on the North Yorkshire Moors studying soils and then visiting Ryedale Folk Museum, Pickering Castle (minus lavatorium, unfortunately) and a trout farm where Jonny made a friend.

Our final day saw us complete our heritage study in York, where we visited the Minster and walked (and tumbled) around the city walls. Out of sheer youthful loyalty, the local McDonald's also received a visit. Our return journey was tinged with sadness with the knowledge that every other school day would be dull in comparison to the teachings of Mr. Scott and Mr. Harrison who are in their element in their field of study.

The trip was enjoyed by everyone and proved invaluable to our course. Thanks must go to our hosts at the Raffles Hotel, Kath, Dot and Doreen and to Miss Claire and Miss Rona, Mr. Scott and Mr. Harrison whose enthusiasm and knowledge are second to none.



Students and staff on the field trip

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Imagine, this year's Young Enterprise Company, has had a most successful year. The company has been well led by Jonathan Whiteside, Managing Director, who has been well supported by a well motivated and committed team.

Imagine have worked efficiently and professionally throughout the year, meeting regularly with advisers from business and industry. The potential of ICT and modern forms of communication have been met, with e-mail and internet communication contributing to the company's success.

Imagine have produced two distinct lines of products. Utilising the school's new Technology Centre, the company produced a calendar for 1999 to target parents and children from the Junior School.

Pupils from J1 to J4 had great fun drawing pictures of themselves for the calendar. After scanning these pictures onto a PC, the production team produced the calendar 'on-site'. To further promote our links with the Junior School, a tea towel was also produced to involve pupils from the Infants.

The collections of decorative glassware and hand painted silk scarves were very successful and helped the company hit a different niche of the market. Sales went well which helped the company make a final profit of £1,000.


As well as producing goods for sale, the company has held a number of events for its customers. A 'spooky' Halloween Disco, a 'soppy' Valentine's delivery service and a 'nice' musical jazz quartet evening were all successful and helped *Imagine* raise the profile of their company.

Young Enterprise


I am pleased to report that *Imagine's* success was rewarded in the end of year Fylde Area Finals. A team of five achievers represented the company and delivered a hi-tech presentation before being judged on their stand and final written report. This was enough to win them a place in the Lancashire West Finals. Although they were not successful in being the school which went through to the North West Finals, *Imagine* gave another accomplished performance and fully enjoyed the experience of the evening.

As well as tasting success, the achievers have gained a great deal from their new experiences. From a link teacher's point of view, it has been a pleasure to work with one of the most successful companies in recent years.


S Duncan



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The launch of Oxfam's 'Education Now' campaign



Volunteers helping with food and clothing collections for Kosovo



Viktor Kurgozov, from Chernobyl, and his family

CHARITY

In September, both staff and pupils supported children via the Action Aid sponsorship scheme with help being provided for a boy in India, a girl in Peru and a girl in Gambia.

The dreadful events in Bangladesh in late September and October meant that support had to be provided from the emergency allocation and later in the same month a contribution was made to the Harvest in Europe appeal for Romania and Bulgaria.

In October, we were pleased to welcome speakers from Barnardos, and many of our fifth and sixth formers agreed to collect for the charity. In November a group of our senior pupils agreed to collect for the British Legion Poppy Appeal. For the rest of November, the weekly collections were designated for the relief agencies working in Central America following the terrible disaster there. At the end of term, a non-uniform day was held and the proceeds from that divided between Crisis, Bay House, a local charity for the homeless, and Mencap.

After Christmas, donations were made towards the Christian Aid Emergency Appeal for Columbia; to the Liverpool Hospital 'Forget-me-not' Cancer Appeal; to the Sam Young Trust and to Comic Relief. Towards the end of the term a non-uniform day was held to raise money for Comic Relief.

Shortly before the term ended, representatives from the North West Offices of Oxfam came into school to launch their 'Education Now' Campaign, aimed at highlighting the connection between Third World debt and the lack of education in those countries. It was a

privilege to be chosen as the school where this campaign was launched locally. A group of pupils represented the school well and the early morning interviews were broadcast live on Radio Wave.

In the summer term, the School was again able to support several charities: Oxfam, Christian Aid (with volunteers agreeing to take part in the national door-to-door collection), Red Cross, Médecins sans Frontières (both in the emergency appeal for Kosovo), as well as the Kirkham Friends of the Children of Chernobyl.

The distressing sights on our TV screens of the appalling events in the Balkans touched all of us, and the School was glad to support the local Rotary appeal for clothes for Kosovo and the Red Rose Appeal for food parcels. The Old Hall was filled with items for the two appeals. A special thanks should go to all who contributed to this – and to those pupils who gave up their evenings to sort the parcels and to help deliver them to pick-up points.

In assembly we were pleased to welcome Mrs Ann Rowan who talked to us about her recent visit to the area around Chernobyl and told us about life there for the family the School supports. Once again, we have been pleased to sponsor one of the children for the visit to England and were able again to treat the whole party to an enjoyable day out at Camelot. We have been assured by one of the Russian teachers that this is a highlight for the children.

In a junior assembly, we welcomed a visiting speaker from the NSPCC who told us about their very important work and distributed collecting envelopes to the junior forms.

The Sixth Form also heard in a senior assembly from one of our Old Boys, Chris Lindsay, of his efforts to raise money for those suffering from cerebral palsy, and our collection one week acted as sponsorship of Chris in a forthcoming sponsored hike.

So, the vital work of the charity committee continues and I am grateful to all those pupils who serve on that committee and help to raise awareness of such important issues within the school.

Often there seems little we can do in the face of appalling natural disasters or in the light of the suffering inflicted by men and women on their fellow human beings. We hope that we have encouraged each other at KGS at least to begin to try and understand our responsibilities to each other and to the wider human family.

Donations	
Save the Children	£150
European Children's	£180
Action Aid	£360
Christian Aid	£250
British Legion	£150
Crisis	£350
Mencap	£100
Bay House	£100
UNICEF	£400
RNIB	£100
Sam Young Trust	£75
Comic Relief	£500
Cancer Appeal	£100
Oxfam	£150
Médecins sans Frontières	£300
Red Cross	£150
Kirkham Friends of Chernobyl	£500
NSPCC	£120
Scope	£50
Total	£4,085

Howler Monkey

Look at him up there, sleeping
 High up in the trees,
 His long majestic tail
 Swaying in the light, summer air,
 His long, glossy hair
 Reflecting the morning sun.
 Then he hears something, stirring him from his slumber.
 He hears that sound again, so he stands up wide-awake,
 He looks down from the tree
 And sees the sleeping forest.
 He sees a flash of yellow
 Coming towards him, up the tree.
 The monkey looks harder
 And sees two eyes, staring.
 He unleashes a mighty blast
 Of sound, extremely loud.
 The noise travels across the rainforest
 And alerts his monkey friends,
 For that single, lone monkey
 Knows he cannot fight that demon alone.
 When his friends arrive,
 He organizes them in a council of war,
 Then, when the demon gets near,
 The monkeys howl at him
 And the demon gets pelted with fruit and berries.
 He's had enough now, he flees away,
 Then all the monkeys have a feast to celebrate their victory.
 When they've finished, they all doze off
 And dream of all the feasts to come.

Mark Kolodziejczak, 3Z

You are symbolic of slaughter,
 A reminder, lest we forget
 The silence of those Flanders fields
 Is linked with you forever.

You, whose bright colours entice and attract,
 Have a fleeting beauty.
 Your heads nod in the breeze,
 Leaving a careless trail of petals
 After a single day.

The pods which replace the petals
 Will burst with the hope of renewal
 And produce the seeds which scatter,
 Leaving a dry brittle skeleton.

But you have a sinister side
 Which corrupts and lures mankind
 To shy away from reality,
 Should it become too difficult to remember.

Timothy Guest, 3Y

The River

Beneath the shimmering surface of the smooth river,
 The beautiful, reflective prism of distorted and rippling light, is a strange world.
 Water, source and cultivator of all life,
 The sparkling remnants of last year's young, now the home of this year's new born,
 A constructive display of power and majesty.
 Yet under the skin of this calm, still environment
 Is a sinister history of destruction and anger.
 Water, cause of many deaths,
 A liquid graveyard,
 The murky water moulding its shape around the rotting corpses of the dead animals in
 its grasp.
 Last year's dead and decaying, home to this year's survivors.
 The water is immortal.
 Its fast moving rapids are graceful and white, yet plagued with danger,
 Swirling around rocks like a serpent's tongue,
 Always forced to move aside, but never giving up.
 Bit by bit, month by month, year by year,
 Every second, the water pounds, weakens all material which obstructs it,
 As if seeking revenge for the mere inconvenience of interference.
 The river is an ever-changing mass,
 Sometimes stagnant, still, calm,
 And sometimes wild, turbulent and harsh,
 Its shape dependant on its surroundings,
 But its movement and conduct remain ungoverned and ferocious.
 Meanwhile, children skim stones into the river,
 Oblivious to its brutality and heartlessness
 Whilst the banks on which they stand are slowly being reduced, by the ever moving
 currents of the river, to mud.

Poppies

Evan Beswick, 3Y

The Clock

The clock ticks and I watch it,
 Tick, tick, tick, tick.
 The hands whirl and the numbers
 Descend into limbo,
 Tick, tick, tick, tick.

Time passes and still I watch it,
 Tick, tick, tick.
 A salvo of seconds which
 Overflows me without contrition,
 Tick, tick, tick.

A virtuoso of illusions and still I watch it,
 Tick, tick.
 A perennial beat which
 Encroaches without remorse,
 Tick, tick.

Phillip Pearce, 4G

The Rabbit

As I watched the heavy rainfall from the dark skies of the countryside
 A shape moved into perspective.
 It was a fast moving creature
 Which dwelled in a hole not so far from where it was now.

I could begin to see it more clearly
 Until its whole mass was in my line of sight.
 A frail, lop-eared bunny was scavenging for some remains
 Of dying plants in its dangerous land.

Looking for any sign of evil movement
 Which could end its life briefly with one sharp pounce.
 Predators were lurking so that they may feed and therefore live,
 But the rabbit's perceptiveness was saving its endangered life.

As I sit here, watching its skilful moves,
 I realise the vulnerability of this single mammal
 In this vast world of death and destruction
 But also of survival.

As it starts to turn back to its hole
 Another animal waits behind an old oak tree,
 Just waiting for its next meal.
 It spots its prey and moves in.

However, there is nothing I must do
 But watch this death,
 And I know that this is what is supposed to happen,
 This is the rabbit's destiny.

Jak Berry, 3X**The Blue Tit Box**

In the yellow of autumn leaves
 Appeared a lifeless, still, green box,
 Nailed to the trunk.
 A cold, empty, silent hole, it hung all winter,
 Watched, waiting.

The garden awoke from its slumber
 And they came,
 Little flakes of life,
 A busy, happy pair,
 To and fro they built their nest,
 Urgently in and out of the black round hole they swooped.

Felix watched,
 Felix waited,
 In the cold, dark dusk he visited the new life.

Two flakes of life, not to be multiplied now,
 Perplexed upon the branch above.

E. Cairns, 4K**The Wild Horse**

As the mountain wilderness sleeps quietly,
 A faint drumbeat is heard, followed by silence.
 Again and again. The drummer approaches,
 And then, in a sudden crescendo, the music becomes deafening.

A miniature earthquake begins. The drummer,
 In a mad frenzy, pounds his drum
 Harder and harder. The musician,
 With a toss of his finely structured head, is revealed,

Not as a human being, but as a beautiful, elegant creature.
 Everything is quiet. The sun, a fiery furnace,
 Becomes dazzling. The gold and green blend to
 Make a wonderful jewel, priceless and unobtainable.

The gold becomes liquid, as the wind blows his mane behind.
 The horse looks up, standing proud,
 An awesome spectacle here in his own domain.
 Here he is the undisputed monarch. In time, his son will rule this land.

This is his world, unspoiled by the hand of Man.
 As the sun sets, the long shadows appear.
 The jewel of colour vanishes.
 The proud palomino stallion heads back to his herd.

Mandy Hill, 3X**Nightjar**

In the beginning.

The wide, wild beige and copper heathlands stun
 The burning rays of the fiery sun,
 The waves of rolling heather carry golden-speckled gorse,
 And a skylark's laughter echoes out with force.

Toad-like, primitive, silently laid,
 Flattened to a log in the secreting shade.
 Prehistoric fossil, evolving to the world,
 Like a pupated butterfly, with wings not yet unfurled.

But after the sun's slow departure, the twilight
 Wakes you by stillness, but still you don't take flight.
 First a cough, then a growl of a tractor afar
 Announces the genesis of you, nightjar.

Then you swoop with your white-flashed bait,
 Diving and driving in a figure of eight.
 Clip, clap, flap, snap: a winged dance.
 Dynamic in the dusk, at night you're advanced.

Another beginning.

Matthew Hopton, 3X

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CLIMBING CLUB

In the last year the Climbing Club has gone from strength to strength. The society managed to raise enough money to have the school climbing wall extended in the last Winter term. The wall is now of a higher quality and has a greater variety of routes which provide a challenge for even the most experienced of climbers. Many of the climbing sessions during the Winter and Spring terms involved erecting new routes on the extended wall. However, during the present Summer term, because of the excellent weather, the Climbing Club has spent all its sessions on out-

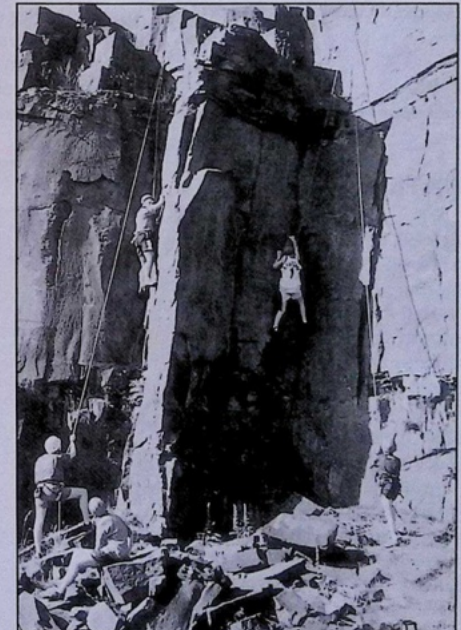
door crags and rock faces. The Wiltern area, especially, has provided a source of interesting, and often difficult, outdoor climbs.

Every Wednesday, after school, Mr Gaddes and Mrs Scott take the club on expeditions in the minibuses. In the winter, to Mr Gaddes' dismay, the Club is confined to indoor synthetic walls, but in the summer months we are able to travel to many of the North West's outdoor climbing rock faces. Thanks to GSC funding, and the support of the CCF, the club now possesses its own harnesses, climbing boots, and ropes, which means that people can enjoy climbing with the

Club even if they do not possess any of their own equipment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Gaddes and Mrs Scott for the time and help that they give to the Club each week. If you would like to come on a Wednesday afternoon, after school, then see Mr. Gaddes, Mrs. Scott, or myself to book your place, or if you would like to have a go on the school wall, details are posted next to the CCF notice board. Climbing is a sport that everyone can enjoy and all newcomers are welcome.

Adam Devine



Members of the Climbing
Club in action

CHESS CLUB

The annual competition was won by T Bhuiya of the Upper Sixth, with P Preston a close second. In the junior section the contest was very keenly fought. In the end it was Lee Ryan of the first year who came out on top. He went on to represent the School in the 1999 UK Chess Challenge, a nationwide competition for young chess players. At the regional final, held at Rossall in May, Lee missed qualifying for the national final by half a point! There are a number of talented chess players at KGS at the moment and I feel we are strong enough to field a team of six. Consequently we have entered a team for the prestigious Times British Schools' Chess Championships. The first round will take place in the Autumn Term, 1999.

M Melling

PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The newest society at KGS began life in March to cater for the growing interest in stamp collecting. At our weekly meetings members wheel and deal to improve their collections. We have also visited the Stamp Centre in Preston, where members bought a wide variety of material. Collecting interests range from the general to the specialised: some members collect by theme, such as planes or cars on stamps; others choose a particular country. We have also received a number of collector packs from the Lytham and District Philatelic Society for which we are most grateful. We hope to expand our activities to include competitive philately.

M Melling

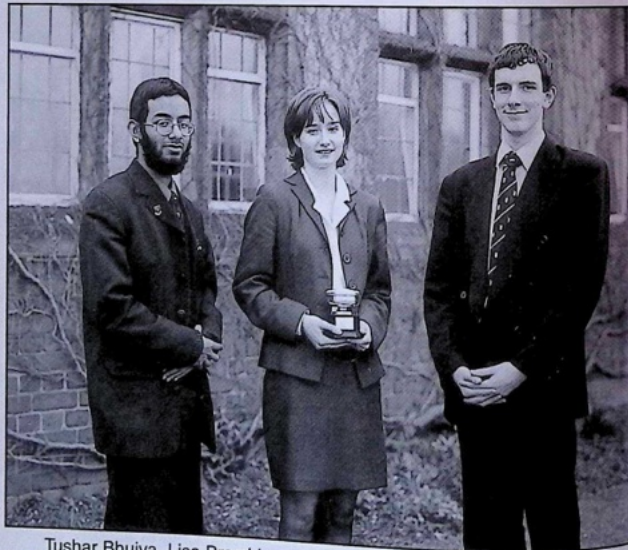
PUBLIC SPEAKING SOCIETY

September, 1998 saw the formation of Kirkham Grammar School's first public speaking society for those in the fourth year and above. Meetings were held on Monday and Wednesday afternoons and Friday lunch times. In November a team was entered for the BPW Public Speaking Competition for Girls which was held in Preston. The team was in competition with seven others and the standard was high. Our girls gave a splendid presentation on the very difficult and controversial topic 'Genetics - the double Helix.' Laura Clarke was voted the best speaker. Jennifer Leigh was team chairman and Victoria Hartley-Jackson had the unenviable task of expressing thanks to a team other than her own. The team won this competition and progressed as far as the divisional semi-final held in

Manchester in early December. Encouraged by this success, fifth year and sixth form teams entered for the Rotary 'Youth Speaks' Competition held in St Annes in February. Both teams performed well, and the sixth form team comprising of Lisa Brambles as chairman, Tushar Bhuiya as speaker (on the subject of football) and Thomas Gray, who gave the vote of thanks, won and went on to represent KGS at the Northern District Finals in Lancaster. Their presentation was extremely well received and they were the official runners up in this prestigious competition.

These teams were well supported by the third year members of the society, friends and family. Special thanks must go to Jennifer Leigh for all her hard work as the society's secretary. Well done to all those who participated in competitions and to those in rehearsal

Y Jones



Tushar Bhuiya, Lisa Brambles and Thomas Gray – Runners up in the Senior Section of the Rotary International 'Youth Speaks' District Final.



The Animal Ark Club, with their collection of animals

The French Club



ORNITHOLOGY SOCIETY

It is with some sadness, of course, that I write the final review of the Ornithology Society's year because we have shared so many magical and memorable moments in the five and a half years of our existence. Most startling of all was the discovery that in that time we had driven 12,000 minibus miles on our various expeditions.

This year has been no exception as we have managed to pick up new species whilst visiting old haunts. We began with a Bridlington Bay cruise, but not before calling in at a new site, RSPB Blacktoft Sands, for some Autumn waders. We were not disappointed with the club's first ever curlew sandpipers and spotted redshanks. Although the weather was too calm on the water, we came very close to the red-throated divers and the arctic and great skuas which make this cruise so special.



It was a delight to welcome our birding friends from Bath at the start of the Christmas break and to share with them the wealth of birdlife for which our area is so internationally famous in winter. Blessed with a cold, clear weekend, we picked up our first hawfinch, snow bunting, long-eared owl and tree sparrows as well as Marton Mere's resident long-tailed duck. Mention must be made here of Val Mead who retires this year having run the ornithology society at King Edward's, Bath for thirteen years. KGO is immensely grateful for her support in the many

joint expeditions we have run. Her enthusiasm, expertise, cooking and humour have been very much appreciated by us all.

On into the new year and we were back at Leighton Moss and Hest Bank, which was unusually quiet given the sea fog which obliterated the high tide wader roost. Much better was the later visit to Caerlaverock. After driving snow on the way up, the sun came out and we had spectacular views of a peregrine trying (and failing) to wreak havoc amongst a massive flock of barnacle geese. Best of all were the barn owls which quartered

the reserve all afternoon, giving us unbelievable close-ups.

Our final summer promised much, with four of the best ornithological sites possible. For the sixth year running our May visit to the Lake District eagles was blessed with glorious sunshine. Despite no eggs this year, the pair gave us their most spectacular display to date, flying right over our heads at one point. Once again the oak woods were filled with redstarts and pied flycatchers and, at Leighton Moss, we found another spoonbill, last seen

in 1996 on the same trip. Just before the end of term we went off for a weekend seabird spectacular. The Farne Islands were crowded with puffins, shags, kittiwakes and guillemots and the Arctic terns were particularly vicious towards those who strayed too close to their eggs. It was fantastic to gain really close views of several roseate terns, now sadly very rare, but most surprising was the vagrant glaucous gull in Seahouses harbour, a new species for all of us. The next day we motored on up to North Berwick to cruise around the Bass Rock, perhaps the most famous gannetry in the world. To witness over 50,000 of these sleek and stunning birds at such close quarters was breathtaking and a fitting climax to so many close encounters with the birdlife of the British Isles.

For me, personally, these will be among the moments I shall cherish most from my time at KGS. They are the best teaching experiences and are

made possible by the enthusiasm of the participants. Here I must pay tribute to Matthew and Nicholas Hopton who have sustained the society since 1994 with numerous trip booklets and In Focus publications. Without them, much that we have achieved would not have happened.

N Clark



Ornithologists experience a scene from Alfred Hitchcock's 'The Birds'

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THE TEMPEST

On the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of December 1998, Kirkham Grammar School's Dramatic Society had the task of performing a highly compelling production of Shakespeare's 'The Tempest'. This production proved to be intense, but highly gratifying.

The casting consisted of upper sixth and fifth formers who were studying this play. Performing it enabled them to understand the play in more depth and the educational value was tremendous. This production was based on the exam question: "How would you present magic and the supernatural to a modern day audience?"

We decided to present these major themes as a computer game, using graphics of the same nature. There were other tasks which the lower years took on. These included dancers, who choreographed their own dances, and live music which was composed by members of the lower sixth. With the willing and able actors and actresses eager to start, the hectic rehearsal schedules were soon underway. It was nice to see the older students working alongside the younger pupils as a team and treating them as fellow actors.

Special thanks must go to Mrs Holdsworth who had enough faith in us to put on this production; to Mr Duncan who helped in the sound

department; to Mr Carter who did the superb graphics and to Mr Gardner who helped achieve the wonderful set. Mention must also be made of Stella Leung (upper sixth) who designed the lighting and special effects.

All that is left for me to say is that I hope there will be many more Dramatic Society performances which prove to be just as demanding and as rewarding as this has been.

Louise MacGregor
Assistant Producer

MUSIC

It has been another very busy and highly successful year for the Music Society.

The first event of the year was, as always, the CCF inspection and the orchestra, now consisting of forty or so players, provided excellent background music.

The annual School Speech Day was, this year, held at the Guild Hall in Preston, a frightening prospect for many new first year performers who coped admirably in both choir, now with seventy members, and orchestra.

The Christmas Carol Concert was the first school concert for the new first year intake, with many participating in choir, orchestra and concert band, which was led admirably by Mr. Taylor.

The Spring term saw the return of the hectic House Music Competition. There were over two hundred auditions which were narrowed down for adjudication by Mr. Frank Salter. As usual, he gave us his high quality critique on music varying from Haydn to 'Therapeutic Hen'. The winning item was JQ (Sam Smith, Chris Carter, Phillip Parkinson and Alistair Kipling) with a 'simple yet effective' arrangement/improvisation of Gershwin's 'Summertime'. Overall winners of the competition, decided on all pieces performed during the final, were Sam Smith and Alistair Kipling.

As usual, many items from the House music were incorporated into the popular Spring Concert, along with the performance by the choir of Vivaldi's 'Gloria', with alto solos by Katherine Sharrocks, Louise MacGregor and Emily Ross.

Founders' Day was the last performance for our valued Upper Sixth formers, David Rees, Richard Wire, Katherine Sharrocks, Emily Ross, Lisa Brambles and also John Holland.

Music for a Summer's Evening, this year held on a Saturday, proved to be as popular as ever and this year was attended by many Old Kirkhamians who saw the rise of a new brass band organised by Mr. Richard Evans.

Many thanks go to Mr. Catterall and to Mr. William Dowding for his solo accompaniment during concerts.

A very big thank you to Mr. Taylor for his valued input to school music life. On behalf of all the musicians in the school, I wish him good luck in his future.

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RUGBY

FIRST XV

P15 W12 L3 F416 A161

Despite a pre-season friendly against the redoubtable QEGS Wakefield which KGS dominated, the official season started poorly, but the improvement shown by a committed group of players was very pleasing.

The performances against Ermysteds GS, King Edward Lytham and St Anselm's were poor, the latter being the worst I have seen by a KGS first XV.

Consequently, we approached the Daily Mail Cup match against Bradford more in hope than in confidence. KGS had been given a bye to round three and was seeded as one of the top thirty entrants in the country because of our record in the Daily Mail Cup. KGS dominated the first half, showing a transformation in form and more of an understanding of the requirements, both physical and mental, of top schools' football. KGS were 16-10 ahead at half-time but in the second half the wind turned against us and strengthened and KGS gave away many penalties under pressure which were, of course, turned into points by a good side. I felt after the game that it had come a month too soon and that later in the season the team could beat many good sides. This was because I had confidence in the players' character.

No side will reach its potential without dependable committed players and this side had plenty. Skill alone is insufficient. My confidence in the players was justified as the improvement continued, with only two matches

being lost after this match, those being against Stoneyhurst (0-12) and Lancaster RGS (3-8). The Stoneyhurst match was another exciting match as they gained victory for the first time in five years after it seemed we had the upper hand at half time. However, Stoneyhurst were unbeaten and wanted to win more, a lesson the team absorbed. The Lancaster match was delicately balanced all game and either side was capable of victory.

I feel the best performances were given against Calday Grange (56-0), an admittedly weakened King's, Macclesfield side (40-12) and Merchant Taylors'. In the latter match we were without four players in a North of England trial and Merchant Taylors' had an unbeaten run of nine matches. However, the team knitted together well to win the last match of the term (24-17).

After Christmas, many players returned to face mock examinations, so the team never produced its best form again. Nevertheless, Cowley, Hutton GS and Arnold were beaten.

The pack was not large but technically sound and committed. After David Rees' conversion to prop the front row became a formidable unit, with Tom Hanney and Jonathan Roddam giving most opponents a difficult seventy minutes. Bruce Helme was a revelation in the second row. He trained hard both on and off the pitch and had an unquenchable spirit. He forced his way into the team with an exemplary attitude. Daniel Toloa from Wairarapa played very well at lock during his stay and Matthew Thompson showed potential. The back row of Ringo Wu, Guy Bebbington and Ben Davis played well, with Ben

Davis showing an inspirational lead to 'his' pack. He turned down a 'Club England' weekend to help develop the forwards in a pre-season friendly. There are not too many people around with such loyalty to a team.

The three-quarters were the most effective for many years. After Tom Johnson developed and a settled fly-half was found in Andrew Blackley, the three-quarters functioned well.

Mark Hill and Andrew Perry were an excellent pair of centres, with Mark's power complementing Andrew's guile. Richard Hopkinson, Chris Stewart and Nick Bunny, on exchange, contested the left wing spot, while the right wing spot was gained by the hugely improved Richard Wire. He went on to gain selection for Scotland Youth and had an outstanding attitude to personal fitness.

Richard Wilson had an outstanding season and his running in broken play was second to none. He did not play again after November and was sorely missed. He and Mark Hill can count themselves most unfortunate not to have gained higher representative honours.

Much emphasis has been placed on sevens recently and time was set aside to prepare properly for the competitions and in the BAe tournament at Fylde the squad reached the semi-final.

At the Sedbergh 10's, involving some of the best sides in the UK, KGS beat Bristol GS and the Scottish champions Stewarts Melville to qualify for the main tournament. In this section some of the key players were inspired and the first game resulted in the narrowest of defeats against QEGS

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Wakefield after a marvellous game. The team was flat in the second game against Millfield and lost, but ended the tournament defeating the powerful Monmouth school side.

The squad enjoyed playing top opposition and acquitted themselves well, illustrating the improvement shown during the season.

Captain Richard Wilson and vice-captain Ben Davis have been outstanding in their commitment and example. I thank them for their efforts in leading the side so well and Phillip Hendy for being secretary.

Finally, I wish to thank Mr Trenhaile and Mr Browning for their help in coaching the side and in undertaking the many tasks which make the team function so well.

Representative Honours

SCOTLAND 18 Group
R Wire

ENGLAND 18 Group
B Davis

ENGLAND 18 Group, final trial
R Hopkinson

ENGLAND NORTH 18 Group
R Hopkinson
J Roddam
B C Davis

LANCASHIRE 18 Group
B C Davis (Captain)
B Godfrey
R Hopkinson
A Perry
J Roddam

LANCASHIRE 18 A-group
M Hill
A Perry
R J Wilson

Colours

FULL
R J Wilson
B C Davis
M A Hill
A Perry
D Rees
J Roddam
R Wire

HALF
A Blackley
T Hanney
C Stewart
R Wu

B Gornall

SECOND XV

P14 W14 D0 L0 F588 A101

After pre-season training, it was evident that there was a surplus of talent, particularly in the backs, so competition for first team places would be high and, theoretically, the second team back division would be as strong as it had been for years. This, subsequently, proved to be the case and, in most games, they had the confidence to run the ball from deep inside their own half. Of the ninety-five tries scored in the season, over three-quarters were scored by backs. To be able to score so prolifically, a plentiful supply of ball was needed and, in the main, the forwards were able to provide it.

With a one hundred percent record, it would be easy to say that the

team played unbeatable rugby. This was certainly true in patches, but never consistently for an entire game, as Lancaster showed when they came back from a nineteen point deficit to level at nineteen all, before KGS started to play again to run out winners. The Lancaster victory was one of the most satisfying of the season, as they had not been beaten since 1988, but the defeats of Stoneyhurst, last beaten over fifteen years ago, and Macclesfield, whose unbeaten record was taken at Macclesfield, were matches to savour. Outside these fixtures, only Cowley and Arnold provided any real threat. Sadly, the remaining schools provided relatively weak opposition, in some cases due to keeping strong under sixteen sides together.

In such a season, it would be difficult and perhaps unfair to single

out players. A number made the headlines due to their try and points scoring exploits, but there was also a number of grafters whose contributions did not go unnoticed. Phillip Hendy led the try and points scoring list, and Chris Stewart, Michael Lau, Ben Godfrey, Richard Hopkinson and Adam Watts contributed substantially.

Hopefully, this year's success will not affect the attitude of those remaining next season and they will not take anything for granted. If they do, they could receive a rude awakening and any unbeaten record will disappear very quickly. It must be assumed that every team will be stronger than this season and every match must be approached with thorough preparation.

R J Browning



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UNDER 15 XV

P20 W13 L7 D0 F624 A238

At the end of the previous season an unbeaten run had been started which was followed by an excellent pre-season. This brought about a high expectation for the forthcoming campaign. Although not big up front, the forwards could compete and gain enough ball for our hugely talented back division to strike.

Early fixtures revealed an urgency and self-belief that was too much for most sides. Well led by back-row forward James Holmes and well supported by fellow back-rower Peter Phillips, the forwards gained enough ball in early matches to dispatch the opposition. The first real test came against King Edward's, Lytham, a team very highly rated who had defeated Kirkham the previous season. To be honest, this was to be one of the best performances of the season. Forwards and backs worked in unison and victory was never in doubt. Fly half Paul McNamee and centres Stuart Blackburn and George Leeming led the way with pace and skill.

During this period the team advanced methodically in the Daily Mail Cup. Going into the last week of October we were still unbeaten when we faced Stoneyhurst College; not many sides from Kirkham have won at Stoneyhurst in the last ten years, but on this day, in horrendous conditions, the forwards were magnificent. Solid scrummaging from John Morley, Paul Marshall and Patrick Lewis paved the way for John Bowden to score his first try as the team duly claimed victory. Unfortunately this match was to start a spate of

injuries, with the loss of influential winger Daniel Houseman who was to miss nearly three months of the season. Just after half term we also lost Stuart Blackburn in the first five minutes against Calday Grange G.S. Even though we lost, the team played with terrific character and pushed Calday all the way. Shortly after this a Daily Mail victory over Arnold offered a new hope for the season, but before the next round a chance for revenge against Calday. We also lost second-row William Conboy and prop Patrick Lewis with injury, so when the match came I do not think we really believed in our own ability to win without those injured players.

The team always kept going despite these problems and it showed the strength of the squad that we could still compete against tough opposition such as Calday. After Christmas the return of the injured players provided the impetus for victories over Hutton G.S. and Arnold once again. The only real disappointment of the season was the lack lustre performance in the Lancashire Cup defeat by Ripley St. Thomas. Once again, the squad recovered to enjoy an extremely hard tour of Italy, the highlight being the victory over Puos D'Alpago.

Looking back over the last two years I feel that the team has improved enormously, and I can honestly say that this is the most skilful Kirkham side I have coached. When they grow and mature they could well make the nucleus of an extremely successful 1st XV. I wish them well for the future.

Representative Honours

Lancashire Schools:

Alex Loney
James Holmes
George Leeming
Alex Loney
Patrick Lewis

I also must give a special thanks to Brian Gornall for his help in coaching the team, as well as the support of first XV players Ringo Wu and Chris Stewart and also second XV players John Boyle and Sam Wright; without their help running such a large squad would be impossible. Thank you to Springfield Financial Services for their kind sponsorship throughout the season.

A E Trenhaile

UNDER 14 XV

This has been a disappointing season for the under 14 squad, especially in comparison to the previous year, when as under 13's they were unbeaten in all but one match. The boys must learn from the harsh experiences of this season and hope to rebuild for success in the 1999/2000 season.

Many factors can be identified when trying to analyse the reasons why the team has had a turnaround in fortunes. The loss of players through injury and unsettling changes in coaching staff are two key features, but a strong squad does not simply become weak overnight and the elements which made the squad strong in the first place are still there. This is the foundation that we must build upon in order to improve not only the skills base, but the confidence, will to win and self-belief.

Since Christmas, the boys have worked hard in training. Early disappointments in defeats against Cowley and Hutton were eased by a more encouraging display against Arnold. Most recently, a quarter final place in the Herefordshire Sevens tournament and a 65-0 pounding of Carr Hill have raised morale and finished the season on a high note.

Throughout the season, John Townsend has worked tirelessly as captain. All the squad should salute his efforts. Terry Ogden, Bradley Hamilton, Marcus Plowright, Simon Cottam and Sean Swarbrick would have graced any under 14 team this season. Paul Hedley, Richard Westerman and Norman Ralph have all developed into good prospects. Mark Gregg, Mark Kirkham, Mark Kolodziejczak, Alastair Griffiths and Sam Bensky have all made sound contributions to the team effort. Other players will develop in time if they push harder next season – Andrew Tomlinson, Andrew Wright, Gavin Philips, Alex McClymont, Tom Lancashire, Bruce Lansom, Daniel Coyle and Gordon Kipling all have great potential.

Hard pre-season training, dedication to training and a will to win will form the backbone of a successful 1999/2000 season.

M Whalley

UNDER 13 XV

P14 W8 D1 L5 F315 A152

A moderately successful season with many individual achievements. The biggest problem the squad encountered this season was the size and weight of the opposition. Whilst most of the squad have changed little in size since the first year, the opposition have generally increased threefold. This was highlighted with matches against Wirral GS, Ripley St. Thomas, Birkenhead and Hutton GS. However, the likes of Rudd, Twambley, Hanley and Cooper were not deterred. Their defensive qualities have been quite superb. The match away at Wirral was without doubt our finest performance this season. As a coach, I always try to instil in the players that it is not the result that is important, but the performance. On this particular day, they were all quite magnificent.

There have been some significant victories: St. Anselm's, Ermysteds, King Edward's and King's, Macclesfield to name but a few. However, three away results remain fixed in the memory bank. Defeating Merchant Taylors' 20-14, drawing 5-5 with Cowley and a very convincing performance away at Arnold, winning 20-7. Winning away from home against quality opposition always gives players and coaches that extra psychological lift.

The forwards, which are the workhorses of any side, have worked tirelessly on the training field, and this season they have been the unsung heroes. Technically their scrummaging and lineout work have been most commendable. Very few teams up

front have been able to compete with us, irrespective of size. Wigglesworth, Taylor and Daniels, the front row, deserve mention in dispatches. Their skill and determination to succeed against some formidable opposition have proved decisive. Gargutt, Newton and Shaw have provided the necessary mobility and backup.

I cannot finish without mentioning both Andrew Stevens, the captain, who has been inspirational throughout the season, and Jack Ward, who in his own inimitable style, has directed and controlled the backs both in attack and defence.

R D Taylor

UNDER 12 XV

P13 W7 L5 D1

The under 12's turned up in droves for their first training session in September and even in March there was still a squad of thirty turning up regularly. This enthusiasm and commitment shown by the boys was indicative of the way they played their rugby. They practised hard during the long winter evenings under the guidance of myself, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Holland and never once did their enthusiasm wane.

The team spirit was strong and with the ability spread evenly through the squad (to such an extent that there were thirteen different try scorers during the season) it all bode well for the future.

They started the season strongly, with good wins against Wirral GS

(15-0) and Calday Grange HS (10-0), but lost away to Lancaster GS after leading at half time. In December, a well deserved draw away to Birkenhead (12-12) and a win against Merchant Taylors' (10-5) set the team up for an enjoyable Christmas.

The New Year did not start too well though, with defeats against Cowley and Hutton, although both games were close and KGS showed glimpses of the exciting type of rugby which they were capable of playing. When the forwards rucked the ball, the speed of the outside backs of Ephraim Mwenda, Stephen Hatch and Max Fulford-Brown was awesome and was exploited by the mercurial talents of the half-backs Michael le Breton and the captain, Marcus Jackson. This was the beginning of a sequence of magnificent victories against Arnold (27-7), Castle Rushen, Isle of Man (38-0), Longridge Towers,

Northumberland (45-0) and an excellent end to the season away at King Edward's, Lytham (23-12). We also saw the emergence of two boys, Antony Waring and Lee Ryan, who have improved tremendously and led the forward battle together with the very strong pack leader Andrew Crook.

The team entered a sevens tournament at Wirral GS, defeating Calday HS, Wirral GS and King's Macclesfield on the way to the final. There they met a strong Cowley side and, although leading at half time, were defeated by two tries to finish runners up in the competition.

It just remains for me to thank Richard Taylor, Chris Holland and Mike Whalley for their help this season and to all the boys for making it so enjoyable.

A B Rollins**CROSS COUNTRY**

Following hard work in PE lessons, the school decided to enter various competitions to further test the abilities of our runners.

A first team (boys and girls) took part in the Blackpool Schools' Cross Country Championships. The girls finished a creditable third (out of eight) whilst the boys, led by Steven Hatch and Richard Newton, won their event.

To capitalise on this achievement, the boys' teams from the first, second and third year competed against Hutton Grammar School. The first years, although spearheaded by Richard Newton, lost to a side that 'packed in' well.

The second years, again led by the talented Stephen Gowland, lost to a side that again worked hard to group runners at the front of the field. The third years ran an exceptional race. Terry Ogden won comfortably, but it was our turn to pack the field. All eight runners came together with only two Hutton boys within the group. A creditable win.

Cross Country has, therefore, been established as an important part of the sports' calendar between Christmas and Easter. We hope to widen the fixtures next year, and therefore offer talented runners the opportunity to represent the school in a different sport.

M Whalley

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CRICKET

SENIOR XI's

Overall, it has been a season of mixed fortunes for the KGS senior cricket teams. In a season interrupted by weather and the inevitable intervention of internal and external exams, there have been some outstanding victories, well balanced contests and frustrating defeats.

In the early part of the season a splendid victory against Lancaster demonstrated the potential of the senior squad. A winning draw in a closely contested first XI match versus Arnold was reward for a good batting performance and resilience against a determined attack on the Kirkham score.

After the examination break, the squad faced the prospect of seven games in two weeks. A sound performance against a strong MCC side (the first time they have visited the school), although a defeat, was encouraging. The side seemed to lose its way after that. The team had struggled in overs matches all season due to the lack of a fifth bowler. This was evident in the game against Batley GS. The poor bowling form returned in matches against QEGS, Blackburn and King Edward VII, and although reasonable fielding kept us in all three games, our batsmen failed to occupy the crease long enough to chase obtainable targets. The exception to this was a good performance against Habergham School who, when asked to chase 119, withdrew the challenge when four wickets had fallen.

The second XI has had fewer matches and has lost all three, but in these matches against Lancaster, King Edward's and Arnold, the team has shown enthusiasm and promise. Further application and practice, especially in pre-season nets, will prove invaluable.

In all games the team has been underpinned by the strong batting and bowling strengths of captain, Ben Davis, and Ben Godfrey. They have been strongly supported by Adam Watts, Paul Ashton, Tom Russell, John Boyle, Andrew Davies and Andrew Hopkinson. They all show potential for the future.

Full Colours were awarded to T Russell, A Davies, A Watts, B Davis and B Godfrey.



UNDER 15 XI

This has been a disastrous season for the under 15 squad due to the fact that four out of six fixtures have had to be cancelled, largely due to poor weather. This is a real shame because little progress has been made in developing a reasonable side. With the considerable talents of Adam Parker (a member of the Lancashire under 15 team), Alex Loney and Paul McNamee, there is considerable talent in batting and bowling.

Luke Newell shows real promise as a wicket keeper. These players, and others who show enthusiasm in this sport, will strengthen the senior squad next year. In two defeats this year, lack of match practice has been clear, but at all times the team has played as hard and enthusiastically as possible.

M Whalley

UNDER 14 XI

The under 14's have had a difficult and challenging season.

Although we have managed to play seven matches, success has been rare as the team has yet to find any consistency. The bowlers have performed well throughout the season, coping without Hopton, the team's first choice opening bowler, injured for most of the season. In most fixtures, KGS bowled first, restricting the opposition to modest totals and taking key wickets at important times. However, batting has been somewhat erratic, with regular collapses ruining any chance of victory. Poor shots and poor running between the wickets have led to the fall of countless wickets.

Although local matches have ended in defeat, we have been fortunate enough to have had a good run in the PH Bailey Cup, with a well deserved victory against Collegiate, Blackpool, setting up the match of the season against All Hallows, Penwortham. Chasing a target of 102, our top order produced an excellent display with a second wicket stand of 70, the highlight of the season. Bradley Hamilton, without doubt the man of the season with both bat and ball, scored a majestic 48 not out, the highest score of the season. (Shame he was unavailable for England's World Cup campaign!) Alas, we fell 9 runs short.

I hope the team has realised the need for discipline, concentration and self-confidence. I am sure further progress can be made with greater consistency and a stronger mental attitude.

S F Duncan
A B Rollins

UNDER 13 XI

The under 13's are possibly the most exciting cricketing phenomenon to hit KGS since 1549, when Isobel Birley caught William Gimbaldston's cover drive in her apron. Captained by a rotating triumvirate of Hanley, Ralfs and Reeh, the team put lesser opponents to the sword with ease. The aggressive bowling of Reeh brought tears to the eyes of the opposition. Hanley and Ralfs joined in the fun. Other bowlers included Emery, Twambley and Wigglesworth. Our batting attack was strong in depth. The omnipresent trio of Reeh, Ralfs and Hanley led the charge with style and panache. Their able deputies, the other eight players, contributed too.

The most improved batsman was Emery who began and ended the season with two 'golden ducks'. Ward was the most cavalier in approach and made runs with every stroke. In Cooper and Ingham there is healthy competition for the spot behind the stumps—byes have dwindled to nought. Overall, this is a most promising team. They love their cricket and they love to win.

M Melling

UNDER 12 XI

The under 12 squad has a wealth of bowling ability with a few allrounders in their midst. The early season jangles took a while to settle as nerves took their toll. Defeats at King Edward's and Lancaster did not help and it took a magnificent bowling performance against Ripley before the first win was registered. Further impressive displays against QEGS, Arnold and St. Bede's meant that the school recorded some fine wins as the players began to grasp vital cricketing principles.

The wickets this season were spread throughout the side. Although our bowling attack had numerous options, the batting proved to be more of a problem, with runs hard to come by. The steadiness of A Wright was complemented by the artistry of M Arkwright and lusty hitting of A Crook, with L Dickinson showing glimpses of riches to come.

The team developed well over the term and learned a great deal during the season. Their enthusiasm and general commitment to the game were excellent.

S Painter

TENNIS

Once again, it seems that our juniors are able to enjoy success at tennis, but by the time they reach senior level, that enthusiasm has been stifled by a failure to promote the game fully within the school.

The seniors continue to play for enjoyment, even though success is often hard to come by. The under 15's, likewise, have persevered in matches and achieved some creditable performances, most notably in their victories against Carr Hill and Lytham St. Annes.

The under 13 team received an unexpected setback when they were defeated by a very strong team from Lancaster GS. Although they won all their other matches in the local league, this defeat meant that they did not qualify for the final stages of that competition.

However, not all was lost, as the same squad provided the players for the under 14 County Knockout Competition. After some close matches, with victories over Bolton GS, King Edward's School, Lytham and Clitheroe GS, the team reached the final, which was held at the Lancashire County LTA headquarters at Wigan. Here, the opponents were Formby High School. After an excellent start, which saw KGS take the lead by two matches, our players met some extremely tough opposition in Formby's top two players, and our initial lead was pegged back.

Each player was then required to play a tie-break in a bid to separate the teams and again, after an excellent start, KGS lost their initial lead as Formby's players proved too strong for us. So, with the score standing at two matches all and two tie-breaks all, games had to be counted and, heartbreakingly, KGS

lost by one game. Even so, it was an excellent performance and the team of Adam Tuck, Liam Hanley, Jack Ward and Michael Briggs should feel proud of their marvellous achievement. This was the first time that KGS boys had reached the final of this competition and we are immensely proud of their performance.

In the individual tournament – the Lancashire Schools' under 13 singles – KGS provided two of the semi-finalists in Adam Tuck and Jack Ward and Liam Hanley played well to win the plate event.

For this age group, then, it has been a most successful season. The boys have represented the school well – both on and off the tennis courts – and have been a pleasure to coach.

I Rushton



The Second XV

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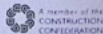
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The Under 13 XV



The School Team for the match against the Old Kirkhamians



Last man in...

...and tension mounts in the pavilion



The boys' under 14 tennis team receiving their trophies in the County Schools' Competition



The girls' under 15 tennis team, runners-up in the County League



The First XI

The Under 15 squad



HOCKEY

The girls have enjoyed an extremely successful season once again, playing with real enthusiasm, commitment and determination.

In total, the hockey teams have played 120 matches, won 96, lost 8 and drawn 16. We have twenty girls representing Lancashire; four girls representing the North and we have our very first England hockey player, Hannah Spacey.

This year has been particularly memorable because of the sheer number of trophies that the girls have won:

Under 12's Arnold Invitation Tournament winners

Under 13's Lancashire County mini-hockey champions

Under 15's Lancashire County Champions (undefeated for the fourth consecutive season)

Under 15 Cup Team - Quarter final of the national cup
Under 19's Lancashire County Champions
Under 19's Cheadle Hulme Invitation 7-a-side winners

Representative Honours

England Under 16 Squad:
Hannah Spacey

England Development Centre:
Rachel Sissons, Lorna Sissons, Hannah Spacey

Regional Under 16:
Rachel Sissons, Amy Twambley, Hannah Spacey, Jane Meloy, Lorna Sissons

North Development Centre:
Kate Sannegadu, Leanne Sharples

County Under 18
Martha Newell, Rachel Sissons

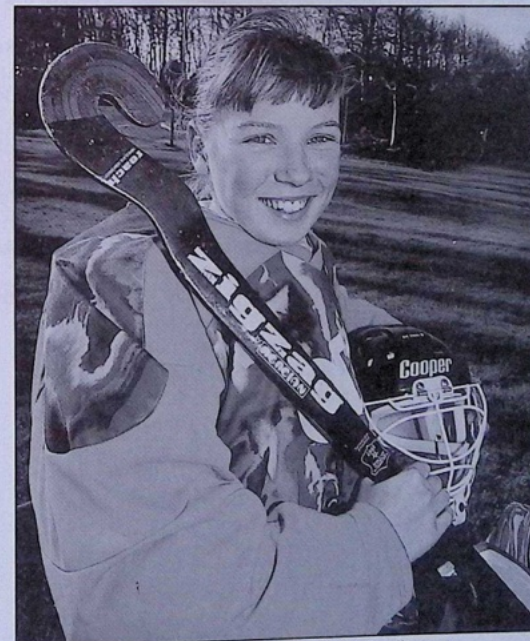
County Under 16
Ruth Burns

County Under 15
Jane Meloy, Katie Threlfall, Katie Severns, Eleanor Cairns, Amy Twambley, Victoria Peters, Victoria Wilson, Helen Green, Lorna Sissons, Kate Sannegadu

County Under 14
Fiona Morgan, Leanne Sharples, Laura Martin, Lucy Martin, Lynzi Nicholas

Full Colours
Jane Kirby, Rebecca Kay, Lucy Russell, Anna Tomlinson, Helen Scott

Half Colours
Kimberley Peake, Martha Newell, Cara Backhouse, Rachel Sissons



Hannah Spacey, England U.16 Goalkeeper

FIRST XI

P31 W24 L2 D5

The first XI have been an absolute pleasure to coach. They have been totally committed, both on and off the pitch, and have played some excellent hockey throughout the season.

As the season progressed, they grew in confidence and their performances were consistently good. Winning the Lancashire under 19 tournament and the Cheadle Hulme 7-a-side Invitation Tournament was a fabulous way to end the season – these were well earned and extremely well deserved victories.

Unfortunately, we lose five of our first XI girls next season. I would like to thank Jane Kirby, who led the team by example, Rebecca Kay and Anna Tomlinson who ably assisted her and Lucy Russell and Helen Scott. These girls have given their total commitment and loyalty to KGS hockey for the last seven years. I really appreciate their tremendous efforts and I wish them every success in the future.

J Glover

The 1998-9 season started with a team containing only four players with previous first XI experience, though this lack of experience did not become apparent.

With only three weeks to prepare for the season's main competition, the first round of the BAe National Tournament, team work and dedication were essential. We entered the competition on form. After a morning of almost faultless and often inspiring hockey, KGS was placed equal first with Arnold. Un-

fortunately, Arnold had scored two more goals in the competition and were declared winners. Though disappointed to lose, we left confident with each other and our ability to take on other strong opposition, such as Stockport, Altrincham, Wakefield and Ripley St. Thomas.

Cara Backhouse has become an excellent sweeper. Her strong tackles have often been crucial in those 'one-on-one' situations and her discretion on hit outs is indescribable. With Ruth Burns in front, Cara's job was made less traumatic. Ruth's speed, stamina and eye for interceptions is often admired by the rest of the defence. Lucy Russell is an outstanding right back, being both a skilful attacker and defender. With her well-trained eye for goal, she has scored as many goals as the team's centre forward. Anna Tomlinson put her first team experience to good use in defence, leading by example with her fitness, strong tackling and exceptional distribution of the ball. If the opposition managed to fight their way through, they were finally faced with the 'Ginger Ninja'. Helen Scott has been a very strong goalkeeper throughout the season and gave the defence the confidence to move up in attack.

Emily Rhodes has made an impressive start to first XI hockey. Her determination and her ability to keep up with the pace of the game in midfield have been decisive. Martha Newell ended last season as an invaluable central midfielder and returned this season to show just what two and half months in New Zealand can do for you – her level of fitness has allowed her natural skills to shine and her unbeatable tackling was often a ball winner in midfield.

Inspiration in the forward line has come from the youngest member of our team, Rachel Sissons. Rachel has taken on one of the most difficult tasks in leaving her year group and joining a team consisting of people up to four years her senior. She has certainly managed to impress. Rachel is an outstanding player, her skill, vision and determination are first class and her ability to score has often brought us victory. Rachel has become a solid member of the first team who, I feel, has much more to give in the coming years. Rachel's skill has been supported by Kimberley Peake's understanding of the game. She always seems to be in the right position at the right time. Kim's first touch and strong finish are great assets. The experience in attack came in the form of Rebecca Kay who is a distinguished right winger. Her speed and skill make her a great goal marker, goal scorer and essential part of the team.

I would like to thank the vice captains, Anna Tomlinson and Rebecca Kay, who have given me invaluable support throughout the season both on and off the field, as have all the girls. The team owes much of its success to the time, effort and knowledge of our coaches, Mrs Glover and Mrs Tabb.

Jane Kirby
Captain

SECOND XI

P21 W12 L1 D8

After losing a number of key players last season and with no Upper Sixth members, the season looked bleak in September. However, the astute appointment of Annabel Fowden and Gemma Swift as joint captains was to prove a significant move.

The season began with a draw against Arnold and victories over Stockport, Altrincham, Wakefield and Bury GS. After the initial difficulty in merging the players into a new team and pattern of play, it was satisfying to see such a successful season develop.

The score sometimes looked close, but this was due to the lack of a natural goalscorer in the squad. However, more often than not, the team was able to dominate play, sometimes against Sixth Form Colleges' first teams!

I would like to thank all squad members, but particularly the captains and other members of the Lower Sixth who have worked hard at developing an excellent team spirit. As the season progressed, so did the standard of play and members of the team have the ability to progress beyond this level.

T P Miller

UNDER 15 XI

P18 W17 L0 D1

The under 15 hockey team has completed another outstanding season and remains undefeated for the fourth consecutive year. The girls in this team all deserve a special mention, for they have each played their part in the team and its success this season.

Our super strike-force, the dynamic duo of Amy Twambley and Vicky Wilson, have troubled defenders with Amy's blistering pace and Vicky's 'lethal' strike. Our hardworking midfield of Nicola Hendy, Ellie Cairns, Katie Threlfall and Vicky Peters have certainly burnt off the calories this season and also scored some crucial goals. The fearsome, rock-solid defence of Becky Sharrocks, Helen Green and Katie Severns have played with great enthusiasm and commitment. Danielle Hanley, our ever dependable and good humoured goal keeper, has had more problems with early mornings than opposition strikers. Sara Mooney and Rosemary Ward, our super-subbs, have lifted the team from the sideline with their endless support and enthusiasm which they have maintained on the pitch.

The final fixture of the season was the Lancashire Schools under 15 Hockey Tournament. It seemed only fitting to finish the tournament as worthy winners.

I would like to say thank you to all the players in the squad this season. The atmosphere and team spirit have made the early mornings worth while. I would also like to thank Miss Baxter for her excellent coaching.

Jane Meloy

UNDER 15 CUP XI

It has been quite an eventful season for the under 15 hockey cup squad, which included two third years, Hannah Spacey and Kate Sannegeadu, as well as a talented second year, Lorna Sissons.

Following a bye in the first round, we played St. Bedes, whom we defeated 8-0, and followed this with victories over Hulme and Wakefield. We knew our next game against Arnold would be a challenge. From the whistle, we fought hard and kept battling. The attackers played well and had many shots on goal, whilst the defenders also played well, keeping goals out. It was a tight game but we eventually triumphed on penalty flicks.

Weeks later, we were playing at home against Bradford. Crowds of KGS fans came to cheer us on. We played hard from the whistle and came out with a commendable score of 5-1. We were now through to the quarter finals which were to be held at Eastbourne. Here, we played our normal enthusiastic game and were unlucky to lose out to a very strong team.

I would like to say a big thank you to our players who have fought to the end. But an even bigger thanks to the staff, Mrs Glover, Mrs Tabb and especially Miss Baxter. They have given their time and effort for this team and we are grateful.

While I am mentioning time and effort, I would also like to say a big thank you on behalf of the team to all the parents who have supported us. This has proved to be a very thrilling and memorable season and I have been proud to have had the opportunity to captain the team.

Katie Threlfall



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UNDER 14 XI

P17 W13 L3 D1

It has been an excellent season for the under 14's. The girls have been keen and enthusiastic from the outset. They have worked extremely hard to develop their skills. Their teamwork and determination are first rate.

Mentions must go to the constant battling of Danielle Grundy and Fiona Morgan who, along with Katie Gough, make a formidable midfield. The strong and determined defence has rarely been beaten and the forwards have battled strongly and put away some awesome goals.

Special mentions to goalkeeper Hannah Spacey for her England under 16 selection and Francesca Thompson for being a true team

member and standing in as goalkeeper when Hannah has been unavailable.

The squad has been a pleasure to coach. With continued development of team-play and fitness, this team will have a very successful future.

A S Fryer

UNDER 13 XI

P17 W15 L1 D1

The under 13's have had a very successful season. They managed the transition from 7-a-side to 11-a-side hockey with ease.

The squad was fortunate to be captained by a player of quite outstanding ability. Lorna Sissons was

not just an inspirational player, she also performed all the other duties required of a captain in an exemplary manner. The team played with spirit and confidence. Leanne Sharples, Lara Schofield and Laura Martin made a formidable attacking threesome – between them managing to provide ball skills, pace and intelligent movement of the ball. In defence, Laura Holmes often dominated with her accomplished play and she was well supported by a determined Claire Taylor and by Katie Mellor who made the right back position her own.

I am sure that the team will continue to be successful and to play attractive hockey as it moves up the school. This was certainly an excellent season, and deservedly so as the squad worked hard and was a pleasure to coach.

M Gaddes

UNDER 13 MINI-HOCKEY

In February three teams were entered for the county round of the Le Coq Sportif National seven-a-side mini-hockey competition here at KGS. All three teams played very well indeed; the B team finished in third place; the C team (a first year team) finished in sixth place, whilst the A team won the tournament and went on to represent Lancashire in the regional finals.

In April, the A team competed in the regional finals of the competition at Wyncote (Liverpool University). The competition was strong, with teams from both clubs and schools eager to do well.

On the day our girls did not play as well as they were capable of doing. We had a nervous start, but battled through each match. During the tournament we won two matches, drew one match and lost two matches. The overall winners were Wirral Panthers, a team of big, strong, skilful players.

I would like to congratulate our girls for their excellent achievement in winning the county tournament and for their efforts in the regional finals. I am very proud of them all.

I am really looking forward to next year's competition. As six of the squad are eligible to play again, the future certainly looks promising.

J Glover

UNDER 12 XI

A-Team	P10	W10
B-Team	P7	W6 L1

The season has been a successful one. The final squad was difficult to select with over thirty girls competing at the start of the season, playing A, B, C and D teams against Cheadle Hulme School.

Both the A and B teams have been successful this season. The A team is undefeated and the B team has lost one game. The whole squad is keen and shows promise for the future. There is depth to the squad which includes a number of talented hockey players.

The season culminated in the Arnold under 12 Invitation Tournament, a prestigious tournament

The Under 13 Mini-Hockey Team



which invites some of the best hockey schools in the country. The team grew in confidence as the day progressed and played some excellent hockey, particularly in the semi-final and final. They were worthy winners, beating Hymers School from Hull 2-0 in the final.

The whole squad has been a pleasure to coach and should do well next season. I would particularly like to thank Lucy Martin who has captained the side and has set an excellent example to the rest of the squad. A big thank you to all of the parents for their support on and off the pitch this season.

L Baxter

NETBALL

UNDER 15

We entered this season full of enthusiasm and with the belief and determination that this would be our year. The team started off well, winning all of our first ten matches.

The team played superbly, only losing three of our eighteen matches. The team's defence of Danielle Hanley and Jane Meloy has played extremely well this season. They are talented netball players and their contribution has been vital.

Ellie Cairns, Vicky Wilson and Katie Sevens have controlled the middle of the court and their interplay meant that defence could quickly be turned into attack.

In the attacking third of the pitch, Nicola Hendy's excellent goal shooting was well supported by Rachel Sissons.

The whole team has played superbly and should be congratulated for all their hard work and dedication throughout the season. Thanks must go to Mrs. Taylor for all her support this season.

**Danielle Hanley
Rachel Sissons**

TENNIS

This has been the most enjoyable and successful season of tennis experienced at Kirkham Grammar School to date. The results have been better than we have ever experienced before and the standard of tennis has been exceptional and a delight to watch.

The Lancashire under 13, under 15 and under 19 girls' tournaments were all held at KGS this year and the results were very creditable. In the under 13 singles tournament, Jane Greenwood (who was a year young for this tournament) played some wonderful tennis to become the tournament runner up, beating Lorna Sissons in the semi-finals. In the under 15 Lancashire doubles tournament Rachel Sissons and Rosemary Ward were runners up in the plate competition, with Jane

Meloy and Ellie Cairns going all the way to become the Lancashire champions. KGS again experienced success in the under 19 singles tournament, with Emma Johnson reaching the final of the plate competition.

The under 13 and under 15 Lancashire league competitions have also been very successful. The under 13 team, consisting of Jane Greenwood, Lorna Sissons, Laura Martin, Rachel Turner and Katie Mellor, played some excellent tennis. The girls were extremely unlucky not to reach the semi-finals, losing out by just two games. The under 15 team, consisting of Jane Meloy, Ellie Cairns, Rosemary Ward and Rachel Sissons, has played consistently well throughout the season, qualifying for the final stages of the competition. The final, which was played against

Clitheroe Grammar School, proved to be a very exciting event. After the first four games we were drawing two rubbers each, and so it was all to play for in the two doubles matches. After two wonderfully entertaining matches, the result was decided on a count back of games as we had won one rubber each. The girls were devastated to find out that we had only lost out by one game. But they must be congratulated on becoming county runners up.

The girls' tennis squads, from first years to seniors, have played nine friendly Saturday matches, winning six convincingly. The girls have again thoroughly enjoyed their breakfast sessions with David Shaw, which have proven to be a valuable and productive experience for all involved.

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ATHLETICS

The girls have had another very good athletics season indeed. Unfortunately, the wet weather in the first two weeks of the Summer term forced a couple of fixtures to be cancelled. However, the girls trained hard in all conditions from the beginning of term and were very eager to compete. This season the under 12, under 13, under 14 and under 15 teams all competed against Queen Mary, Lytham HS, Arnold and Lancaster G.S.

Our first year girls performed very well in their first real experience of athletics competition. Out of four matches, they won three comfortably and narrowly lost to Arnold. Special mention must go to Lynzi Nicholas for her superb efforts in the 800 metres, where she achieved a personal best of 2 mins 44 seconds, and Lucy Martin, who performed superbly not only in the sprints, but also proved to be an extremely talented hurdler.

The second year girls trained exceptionally hard and won three out of four matches. The girls showed real grit and determination throughout the season and they were a real credit both in training and in competition.

The under 14's won three out of four matches also and performed tremendously in training and competition. Over twenty girls made up the third year squad and the battle for places was fierce throughout the season.

Our under 15's are our most talented athletes. They performed superbly in competition and once again they were unbeaten.

No less than thirteen girls achieved personal bests throughout the season. Nine of our girls represented South Fylde in the Lancashire Schools' Championships. Special mention must go to Victoria Peters who won the intermediate Long Jump with a personal best of 4.99metres.

The girls finished the season in style. Their hard work and commitment were rewarded at the biggest event of the season, the Fylde Coast Athletics Championships. All the girls competed exceptionally well throughout the day and there were many individuals who finished in the first three. The team spirit was first class, with everyone supportive of each other. At the end of the event, we knew that the results were close, but we did not really

have any idea about our position in any of the age groups. We were obviously delighted when the results were announced. KGS had done the treble! We won the first, second and third year competitions and finished in second place in the fourth year event.

I would like to thank Miss Baxter for her efforts this season, and the sixth formers who helped officiate the matches and assisted with coaching sessions, in particular Kim Peake, Vanessa Walker, Annabel Fowden, Emily Rhodes and Martha Newell.

Special thanks must go to Mr. Sampey who was always available to offer his expertise to our girls if they needed it.

J Glover

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SCHOOL TRIPS

Each class has had at least one outside visit this year. These were Farmer Parr's Farm and the Lake District (I1), Martin Mere (I2), Brockholes (I3), Chester (J1), Rogerson's Dairy Farm, Bolton Museum of Egyptology and the Science and Industry Museum, Manchester (J2), Tomorrow's World Live Exhibition, Earl's Court, London (J2Y), Patterdale Hall Outdoor Pursuits Centre (J3), and the South of France (J3 and J4). A good time was had by all!

STAFF NEWS

In September we welcomed four new teachers to the KGJS staff: Miss E Carr (J2Y), Miss D Cooper (J1X), Mrs D Chamberlain (I1Y) and Mr C Butterworth (J1Y). Mr D Procter also joined the staff as our ICT Technician.

In July we said farewell to Miss D Heathcote (i/c Music, J3X) who left to start married life in Northern Ireland and Mlle C Augendre (French teacher) who has returned to live in France.

In September we shall welcome Mlle F Roblès (French teacher) and Mr P Lockett (i/c Music, J3X).

On 8th April, 1999, Mrs A Atkinson gave birth to a healthy son, William Christopher

Tobias, who weighed in at 8lb 6oz. In the Summer term Miss E Carr won a very prestigious competition held by Promethean (our electronic whiteboard supplier), BBC's Tomorrow's World and the DPEE, by designing a sample lesson using multimedia whiteboard technology. She won £700 of whiteboard software for the school and an all expenses paid visit for her class, J2Y, to the Tomorrow's World Live Exhibition in London.

KGJS EVENTS

At Christmas the infants worked very hard to produce a super Nativity play and a collection of songs, poetry and drama which they performed to a very enthusiastic audience of proud mums and dads!

The School put on an excellent production of 'Ebenezer', a musical version of Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'. Adam Crolla played the title role magnificently and the rest of

the sixty strong cast made the performances unforgettable. On Sunday, 23rd May, Mrs Taylor opened our second Annual Family Fun Day by arriving by helicopter! The Junior School Ensemble performed 'Chariots of Fire' and 'I dreamed a Dream', the Gym Squad gave an impressive display and twenty four of our children took part in a fashion show.

Red, white and blue adorned the Junior School on 6th July, 1999 as we enjoyed our first ever French Day. All the children dressed up and we spent the day working on French projects and plays which were performed in front of the school. A picnic on the field of French bread, cheese and pâté with pains au chocolat to follow was enjoyed by all.

The Gym Squad



SPORTS

Rugby

The rugby teams have shown improved performances by all players this year. The under 10 team won five games and lost just one. The under 11 team won nine games.

Hockey

The hockey teams have enjoyed a number of games this year and there have been some super performances. The under 10 team have won two games, lost one and drawn two. The under 11 team won eighteen, lost three and drew one.

Netball

The netball teams have worked very hard this year and produced some good performances. The A team have won four games and lost four, while the B team have won one, drawn one and lost one.

Rounders

The girls rounders team took part in the AJIS Rounders tournament. The team won their first three games, but lost their fourth and final group match.



At the Netball Tournament

Cricket

A team of under 11 boys played in the preliminary round of the AJIS Cricket tournament against Birkenhead Preparatory School on the 6th May. Despite a valiant effort, they lost this match by four wickets.

Tennis

Three children entered the AJIS Tennis tournament this year. Michael Walker (J3Y) represented KGJS in the 'County Player' Group, Robert Sisson (J3X) in the 'Good' group and James Hall (J3X) in the 'Average' group. Michael found the level of play slightly too tough in his group, but he enjoyed the challenge. James was the runner-up in his group and Robert was the winner of his group.

Cross Country

An under 10 boys and under 11 boys and girls team travelled to Bolton School for the AJIS Cross Country Tournament. Everyone put in lots of effort and enjoyed the experience.

MUSIC

Junior Ensemble

This year saw the Junior School Ensemble, led by Mrs L Taylor and Miss D Heathcote, supporting the JJB Sports Leyland Band at their concert at the Blackpool Citadel. The children enjoyed this experience and learned a lot, too. They also performed at the Family Fun Day, Prizegiving Evening and the Summer Concert.

Over fifty children were successful in their Associated Board music exams, with children achieving up to grade 5.

The Infant Ensemble

The Infant Ensemble gave an impressive performance in the Infant Christmas Nativity Concert when they accompanied the infant singing. Throughout the year new members have joined the group. They have all been developing their musical talents by learning to read music and play their instruments alongside other musicians. The Infant Ensemble contributed to the Summer Concert by giving an admirable performance of 'When the Saints go marching in' to an appreciative audience.

Choir

The School Choir, led by Miss D Heathcote, took part in the Freckleton Choral Workshop in May and the AJIS Music Festival in June. They also performed beautifully at the Summer Concert.

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The Great Fire of London Poem

Thomas Farynor, a baker of Pudding Lane,
Forgot his burning oven and caused lots of pain.
As the crackling flames licked and jumped from house to house,
The heat grew fiercer, there was no water to souse.

Samuel Pepys wrote of ruin in his diary,
Of sooty black smoke and flames all fiery.
To save his writing, he buried it in the ground,
Years later dug up, these were the words that were found.

"The people seize what they can and rush all about,
And the crowd raise a chorus 'Put it out, Put it out!'
But the firemen try without luck to get there,
Because the people press around to stop and stare.

When all London was smoky and burnt to the ground,
Christopher Wren requested the King to be found.
New buildings and churches and the giant St. Pauls,
'Yes' said the King, 'but what about London's great walls?'

Ted Romery
J3X



Fright Night

Halloween is a ghostly night.
Angels stay at home with fright.
Look to the graveyards,
Look to the moors.
Only evil creatures stay outdoors.
Werewolves, ghouls... and vampires too.
End the night devouring you.
Eventually you will be seen, so
Never go out late on Halloween

Soraya Dunn
J2X

Halloween

Halloween is a creepy night
Anything will scare you tonight
Laughing zombies freak people out
Lock your doors or you will start to shout
Owls hoot at this scary time
Witches are planning a wicked plan
Evil things are happening here
Everything seems so clear
Now you know what happens on Halloween

Jane Duncan
J2X

Prayer to Happiness.



O Happiness,
bringer of smiles on faces,
giver of joy and glee.

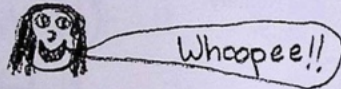


Without you life would be full of sadness,
never thinking of wonderful things,
always crying and being upset.



With no happiness life would be cruel,
so that is why we have you,
to brighten up our day.

O Happiness please stay with us.



Suzanne Carter
J3X

Forgotten Treasure

Not that long ago there was an old pirate called Captain Hook. He was really quite a nice pirate who was always smiling and laughing but one day he stopped smiling and laughing because he suddenly forgot where he buried his treasure which meant he couldn't go on holiday with his dog Speedo. He tried and tried but it was no use he just couldn't remember. Then, one day, his granny came to visit him for tea. He told her all about the treasure and his missed holiday with Speedo. 'OK!' Granny High said, 'I've got an idea. I will put you to sleep and ask you questions to find out where you put the treasure'. With that she took out a magic thimble from her bag and swung it in front of his eyes. Soon Captain Hook was fast asleep. 'Where is the buried treasure?' she said. The pirate replied in a sleepy voice, 'Under the dogs kennel is the treasure.'

Sarah Bell
J1Y



Members of the cast of *Scrooge*

Pupils having fun on the French Day





Preparing for the Nativity Play

Sports Day



I've Only Nine Lives

- 9 Lives I am a cat with only 9 lives.
- 8 Lives One's gone away 'cause my mother's just died.
- 7 Lives I'm feeling low, very upset One of my sisters has gone to the vet.
- 6 Lives I've lost another 'cause my heart's fading, Everyday I need to go, I've run away.
- 5 Lives The moon is at an extreme height I've just lost another, I've just lost the fight.
- 4 Lives Look at me I am a stray, Don't bother looking, just look away.
- 3 Lives I cross the road along the tar Oh no here comes a car!
- 2 Lives Here I am I've found a mate, After a day I was its bait.
- 1 Life I've only one life trying to keep clear, I see a light, I am in fear.
- 9 Lives I am a cat with, only nine lives...

**Matthew Rossall
J4X**



Months of the Year

- In January not often it snows, But when it does it always goes.
- In February it's still quite cool, But the ice is turning into pools.
- In March the flowers start to come out, And little lambs are frolicking about.
- In April there are showers, That may go on for many hours.
- In May month hay is laid down, Eggs laid by hens, freckled and brown.
- In June, roses bloom, It's very hot in the room.
- In July everything is green, Which makes a lovely scene.
- In August everyone goes on holiday, Just somewhere to get away.
- In September it's back to work, Everything starts with a jerk.
- In October it is Halloween, And all the leaves fall off the trees.
- In November things start to slow - The cooler weather really shows
- In December it is Christmas time, Everyone has trees of pine.

**Zara King
J4Y**

Spring Time

Spring time is here,
 Pretty flowers grow,
 Rain stops and the sun comes,
 I go to places more often,
 Now the days get long,
 Gardening is good fun in the spring.

Sam Greensmith
 13X

Bad Habits

Picking your nose,
 Biting your toes
 Licking up snails,
 Chasing worms' tails.
 Playing with frogs,
 In muddy bogs,
 And they are all
 Bad Habits.

One of my bad habits is kicking my brother's legs under the table and he doesn't like it because it hurts him. When people see me doing it they get annoyed, because it's not nice to do that.

Natalie Kumeta
 J1X

The Hole in the Fence

When I squeezed though the hole, I saw a princess in trouble. I had to save her. I had tea with the princess. I went out with the princess. I sleep with the princess. I stayed there forever.

Oliver Evans
 12Y

The Weather

The rain goes drop drop
 But sometimes it goes plop plop
 Puddles get bigger and bigger
 Until there is a flood.

The sun is yellow
 The sun is hot
 Some people like it
 Others do not.

Miles Hopkins-Coman
 13Y

Bad Habits

Clothes on the floor,
 Tidying is a bore.
 Leaving open the door,
 Oh what a chore!
 Picking your nose,
 Biting your toes,
 Fiddling with hair
 Don't stare!
 Biting your nails,
 Telling tales.
 Burping, slurping, and making rude noises.
 Makes Mum and Dad raise their voices!

Elizabeth Whittle
 J1Y

Les Deux Mégères

Tante Éponge est petite et
 Ronde comme un ballon. Elle
 A des petits yeux de cochon,
 Une bouche en trou de serrure
 Et ressemble même a un énorme
 Chou blanc cuit avec sa figure
 Blanche et flasque. Elle porte
 Un petit chapeau ridicule et une
 Robe noire.

Mais Tante Liquette n'est pas
 Mieux. Elle est longue et
 Maigre; Elle a les lèvres
 Mincees et mouillées et elle
 Porte des lunettes. Le tout est
 Deux mégères.

Gauthier Ajarrista
 J3Y

Les Écoliers

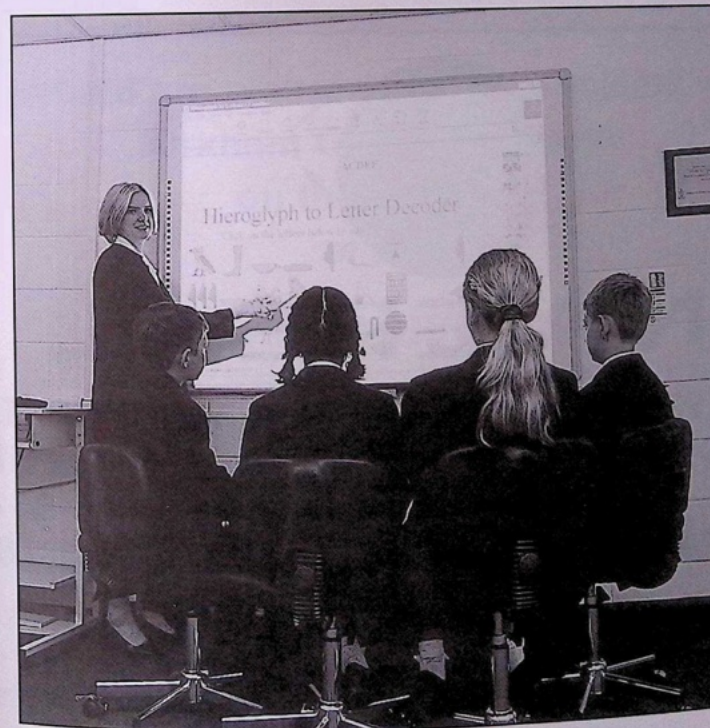
Dans la classe, les galopins
 Cassent les tambourins.
 Les écoliers sondent hommage
 Pendant que le maître se décourage.

Les écoliers sont les premiers
 Quand le déjeuner est a devorer.
 Somme l'église
 Au souffle de la bise.

Les écoliers en vent soulignent
 Les fautes de la ligne.
 Et dosenavant
 Le maître est content.

Florian Sabound
 J4Y

Miss E Carr using the interactive whiteboard

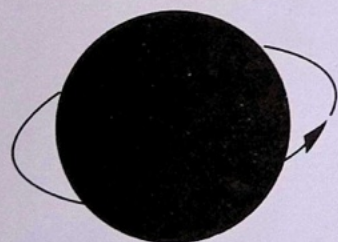




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