

the kirghamian 2000

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The Kirkhamian 1999 - 2000

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It is a privilege to be able to report on another outstanding and, indeed, historic year at Kirkham Grammar School. It has been a year of impressive development in terms of numbers and buildings. The school roll has now exceeded 900 pupils as it continues to grow towards its maximum of 950. Having opened a new Languages Centre in 1999, work is well underway on an impressive catering complex to replace our old kitchen and canteen with a new cashless and much larger dining hall and a coffee lounge. Plans have been passed for another extension to the Junior School and the Senior School Library is being doubled in size, re-stocked and equipped with its own network of computers.

It is marvellous that the success and growth of the school has been recognised at the highest level by my election to the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference. Thus Kirkham Grammar School deservedly takes its place in the premier division of English schools; an historic achievement.

Having not experienced a royal visit in the 450 years of its history, the school has hosted two royal guests within the past eight months. We were privileged to have HRH The Duke of Gloucester conduct the official opening of the Languages Centre in November 1999, and delighted to welcome Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, on a private visit at the end of the summer term. Prince Edward took a close interest in the work of our pupils in the Technology and Languages Centres, as a

guest of our industrial partners, BAE SYSTEMS.

The school's partnership with BAE SYSTEMS continues to strengthen and we are immensely grateful to the company for its constant and generous support. We look forward to developing further links by e-mail and video conferencing with other schools throughout this country and abroad. The major collaborative project our Technology Department has been engaged in this year is EuroCollaborator. This project has involved 61 schools from across the country, designing and building models of future passenger aircraft. Our Technology Centre was chosen to assemble and finish the north west schools' exhibit, and we look forward to displaying the final product at RAF Cottesmore during the summer vacation. Whilst on the subject of technology, the faculty has succeeded in producing another two Arkwright Engineering scholars. We congratulate Laura Clarke and Paul Marshall on their awards in this prestigious and demanding scholarship competition. It is good to see the faculty extend its training capabilities by providing a number of courses in ICT and CAD/CAM and the faculty has also hosted well supported 'Technology Days' for three of our leading feeder primary schools.

Over the past year the academic reputation of the school was further enhanced by some excellent GCSE and A-level results and the prospect of a record number of Oxbridge entrants. Six of our pupils, equally divided between Oxford and Cambridge, have every chance of meeting the tar-

gets set for entry. Last year's GCSE results saw a record 71% of all grades awarded reach the high levels of A*/A/B and 97% of all our candidates achieved five or more grades A* - C compared with a national average of just over 50%. The largest upper sixth form in the school's history (88 students) achieved one of the highest pass rates of 90%. This advance in academic standards was an important factor behind the award of HMC status.

Kirkham Grammar School prides itself, however, on much more than academic standards. The success of the school's holistic vision of educating the whole person was never more in evidence. The Combined Cadet Force has again run several highly successful camps and field days and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme has been established to run alongside the CCF, providing a greater breadth of challenge and opportunities. The school's Young Enterprise company, Synthesis, swept the board in the area finals, winning all four categories (best presentation, best trade stand, best written report and overall champions) for the first time in the school's history. Competition for the Whitby Cup for the champion house has been fiercer than ever in some twenty-six inter-house events. Kirkham House pipped School, the defending champions, by two points in a closely contested competition which was only decided in the final week of term. There are more clubs and societies to occupy our pupils than ever before. Such a breadth of opportunities enables our pupils to be challenged and extended beyond the academic curriculum

and underpins the excellence we see in so many of the school's achievements.

The school's reputation for outstanding sporting achievement has been extended over a year which has seen the successes of tennis and cricket begin to rival our national reputation on hockey and rugby fields. For the first time in the school's sporting history, our girls' tennis teams won two county titles and more cricket has been played to a higher standard than ever before. Our first XI's annual match against the MCC was closely contested, with the school losing by only sixteen runs. Success on the athletics track is almost taken for granted and it was no surprise that Kirkham was again the overall winner of both boys' and girls' competitions in the Fylde Coast Championships. Individually, Gareth Rees' fifth place in the final of the English Schools' 400 metres hurdles must rank among the finest achievements ever by a KGS athlete. The girls' hockey teams also had their best season to date, reaching two national finals in the national stadium at Milton Keynes. Hannah Spacey maintained her status as an international goalkeeper and the Sissons sisters, Rachael and Lorna, were outstanding. On the rugby field the first XV emerged again as one of the country's

leading rugby schools at the end of probably the school's finest rugby season. Unbeaten throughout the 'Fifteens' season, our players reached the final of the national 'Tens' competition, losing narrowly to Sedbergh after leading for most of the match,

the second successive season, Old Kirkhamian and former first XV captain, Alex Sanderson was awarded that honour - a truly remarkable achievement.

It is marvellous to see the creative arts flourish alongside such excellence in academic results, sport and technology. The Spring Concert, which had to be postponed until the summer term, was a triumph for the Music Department. The finale, John Rutter's 'Gloria', was magnificent and rightly rewarded with a standing ovation. Readers of the magazine who were in the audience will be interested to hear that, owing to an unexpected and very generous bequest, the school has been able to buy the superb organ which we hired for the occasion. The Girls' Choir, under the leadership of our new music teacher, Mrs. Barbara Cassidy, has developed in leaps and bounds. The choir travelled to the



and won the Birkenhead 'Sevens'. We congratulate Matthew Parr and Jonathan Roddam on achieving their England caps after outstanding seasons. There is no greater honour than that of representing one's country, with the exception of being chosen as captain. For

Royal Northern College of Music to take part in the Sainsbury's National Choir of the Year competition. Although the girls did not win in this, their first national competition, the comments of adjudicators were very pleasing indeed. On the strength of these, our Girls' Choir will perform

HEADMASTER'S FOREWORD

form in the Royal Albert Hall at the end of the autumn term.

Our new Director of Drama, Mrs. Linda Poole, has had a very busy first year at KGS. The annual production was a visually stunning performance of Timberlake Wertenbaker's *Our Country's Good*. A well rehearsed and magnificently costumed cast held audiences in thrall in a play which was an A-level Theatre Studies text and very demanding to stage. Prior to that our drama students took part in an International Schools' Network video conference with schools from Malaysia, New Zealand and Switzerland. The Inter-House and Junior Drama Festivals followed, involving large numbers of our pupils in acting, stage make-up, costume, scenery and directing. We are promised a spoof production of *Macbeth* in October, starring staff and parents, a production of *The Visit* by Durrenmatt in early December, and a zany sixties interpretation of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Patience* in the spring term. In and amongst all this activity, large numbers of our pupils continue to achieve LAMDA awards at the highest level for acting and the speaking of verse and prose.

The GCSE and A-level art exhibitions were stunning this year and a great tribute to the work of our Art Department. We were fortunate enough this year to be able to engage our own life model, much appreciated by our A-level artists. Mr. Simon Gardiner, Head of Art, is also responsible for designing and producing the school's much acclaimed web site and my termly letters to parents. The contribution this department makes to the life and

the work of the school can scarcely be over-stated.

One of the most exciting events of the past year for some of our pupils and staff was the opening of the 1937 time capsule in March, which we had earlier extracted from the wall of the '38 Block. Though the contents were perhaps a little predictable and disappointing - pre-war coins, a copy of *The Times* from 28 July, 1937, a school prospectus (single folded sheet!) - the presence of Granada TV film cameras and crew and the excitement of opening the lead-encased capsule more than compensated. We hope that the much larger time capsule we have buried in the wall of the Languages Centre will provide much interest when it is opened on the School's 500th anniversary.

Throughout this stimulating year we have been as fortunate as ever to be able to draw on the work and support of the Friends of KGS who have raised £10,000 for the Junior School Library and are well on their way to a target of £20,000 for the Senior School Library extension. In gratitude to them for all their efforts, the Senior School Library will be named The Friends' Library when it re-opens in September, 2000.

We are also immensely grateful to the Old Kirkhamians' Association for their generosity in renewing their Sixth Form Bursary Award and for their gift of a splendid new tractor-mower, which has greatly cheered and eased the work of our grounds staff.

Finally, may I affirm what a privilege and joy it is to be Headmaster of such a successful, happy and thriving school; the result of a marvellous team effort by pupils, staff, parents, former students and friends. I would like to end by giving special thanks to our Chairman of Governors, Mr. Allan Blackburn, and his board, for their enterprise, initiative and strong support, which have been the driving force behind the school's dynamic growth over the last decade. Congratulations to all!

Barrie Stacey,
Headmaster.

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It has been another hectic yet successful year for the Friends of Kirkham Grammar School. In providing a brief resumé of events, several occasions spring to mind immediately.

Our first major event of the year was the Autumn Fair, held on 19th November. Although the date had to be changed at the last moment, it certainly did not detract from the staggering amount raised - over £3,400. Our team worked extremely hard to make this event such a success. Everyone enjoyed themselves and entered into the spirit of the occasion, including Father Christmas and his little elves.

Our Winter Ball was attended by 326 enthusiasts determined to have a great time. We certainly celebrated in true KGS style, with the revellers dancing until well after 2am and raising approximately £4,100!

In addition, the Friends provided a small Christmas gift for all Junior School pupils and also donated a £25 book prize for both the Junior and Senior School Speech Days.

In February we held an Extraordinary General Meeting to elect new officers to the committee. It was with sadness that we said goodbye to our Treasurer, Jennifer Collinge, who had been in the post for many years.

We then embarked on an exciting new project. Throughout this year, the Friends' Committee will be running a Millennium Raffle - the first prize for which will be a term's school fees or a cash alternative of £1,000.

The Drugs Awareness Evening held on 13th March proved to be very informative and we plan to make this a biennial event.

Our Family Fun Day in May was enjoyed by all; the weather was exceptionally kind which added to the obvious happy atmosphere. Together we raised £3,500 in three and a half hours. Next year's event promises to be even more innovative, as we add a competitive element to the proceedings.

The Summer Ball has become a prestigious calendar event on the Fylde and one not to be missed. Where else can you combine such an idyllic location, excellent food and wine, dancing into the early hours and such good company? This year's Summer Ball was enjoyed by 315 parents and guests.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents, friends and teachers who have given up their valuable time to help and support our events this year. KGS seems to bring out the best in people and, with such keen and dedicated commitment from you all, brings success.

It is with grateful thanks for your help and support that I say goodbye as chairman, having served for over nine years on the committee, four of which have been as chairman.

I leave you on this high note and thank you all for helping to raise an outstanding amount of money for our school.

Diary Dates

Annual General Meeting
Monday, 25th September
7.30pm in the Old Hall

New Parents' Welcome Evening
Friday, 6th October
8pm in the Old Hall

Staff and Friends production of a Macbeth 'spoof'
18th, 19th and 20th October

Winter Fair
Friday, 17th November
4-6pm in the New Hall

Millennium Winter Ball
Saturday, 18th November
7.30pm at the Imperial Hotel, Blackpool



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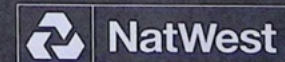
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Colonel Stamm inspects the Guard of Honour at the CCF Annual Inspection



The Duke of Gloucester is welcomed by the School (above) and unveils a plaque to commemorate the opening of the Languages Centre (below)



A scene from 'Our Country's Good'



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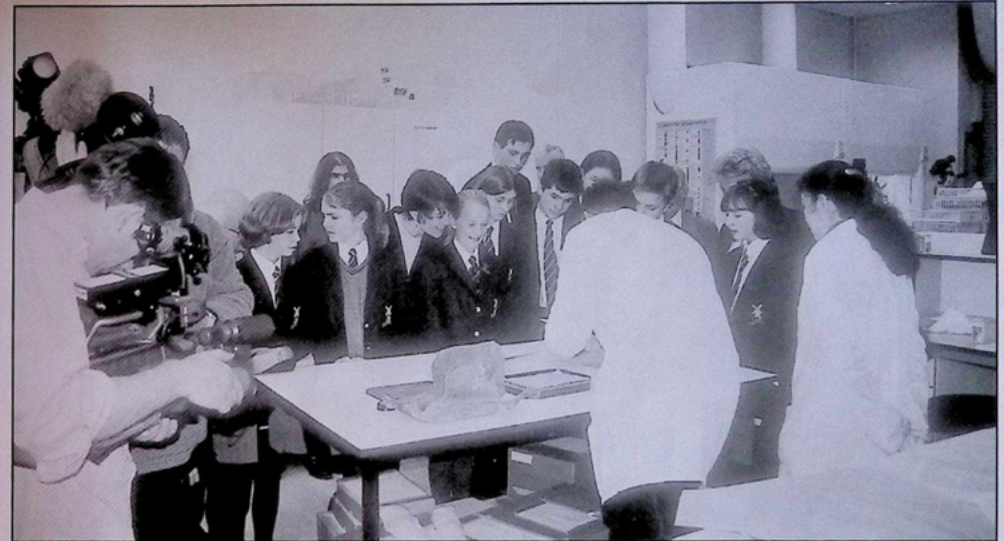
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Pupils watch the opening of the 1937 time capsule



The under 16 hockey team at the National Final

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 1999-2000



The Young Enterprise company prepare their presentation



The School's match against the MCC

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1999-2000

Prince Edward visits the School in summer, 2000





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OLD KIRKHAMIANs

In September, the President of the Old Kirkhamians' Association, Mr. Barrie Stacey, hosted the Northern Reunion Dinner. The event was attended by presidents of many of the local schools' old pupils' associations as well as by many of Kirkham Grammar School's past pupils and staff. The guest speaker was Michael Clarkson who entertained the audience with a trip down memory lane. The highlight of the evening was the cutting of a wonderful 450th Anniversary cake presented by the President and his wife, Mrs. Catherine Stacey.

As many of us know, the Worshipful Company of Drapers has played a vital role in the development of Kirkham Grammar School over many centuries and continues to support the School to this day. Spurred on by the OKA, the School

decided to present the Company of Drapers with a gift to reflect its gratitude. Consequently, a magnificent silver chalice was appropriately engraved and presented to the Master Draper at the Drapers' Hall in London by a representative party of pupils, staff, Friends and Old Kirkhamians. The chalice is now kept in the Company's silver vault and we look forward to many more years of friendship with our partners in the city of London.

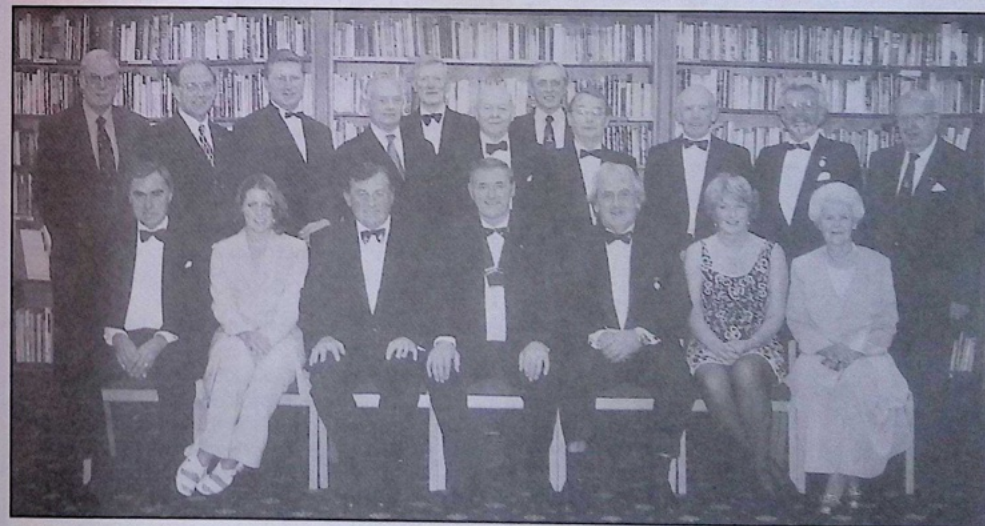
The Annual Southern Reunion Dinner was held at the beginning of April and was enjoyed by all present. The food was excellent and the wine flowed until the early hours of the morning - for some, if not for all. In the Headmaster's absence, the Deputy, Mr. John Wood, did a sterling job delivering the speech, its main attraction being its brevity.

As we now have our own newsletter, published twice a year, a much fuller account of the activities of Old Kirkhamians is available there.

News of Old Kirkhamians

Erica Slater has taken up a twelve month sabbatical in Washington DC, working in the office of US Senator Edward Kennedy in the run up to the elections.

Alex Sanderson was chosen to captain the England under 21 rugby team and has recently been appointed captain of Sale RUFC.



OKA's at the Northern Reunion Dinner

POETS' CORNER

Cats

They laze about all day,
Doing nothing,
Finding comfy spots under radiators
To hide and sleep
Until they are forced to move.
Occasionally washing themselves
With their pink, raspy tongues,
Purring to themselves.
When hungry,
Rubbing their heads against their indulgent owners' leg:
Attention seeking,
Asking in their own way.

By night
They are alert and flighty,
Hunting their prey,
Their eyes wide with exasperation and sharpness,
Watching, waiting,
Ready to pounce any second
On their chosen victims.
Hardened killers,
Honed to perfection,
Unforgiving, unrelenting,
Deadly.

Sarah Hargreaves



The Lioness

The lioness of the shimmering plain, she labours all year.
Blissful in her rest, one ear pricked, emerald eyes half open.
The gothic firethorn tree provides little respite from the relentless sun.
Waking from a sleep of a thousand years, a fearsome yawn greets the day.
Distant sounds alert her.
Suddenly, like a lightening bolt, she is ready.

The lioness of the shimmering plain gleefully sets her sights.
Nonchalant, her target wanders.
Like a thoroughbred she trots, then stealth-like she becomes.
Slithering like a serpent, then motionless in the corn like grass.
Invisible she waits.

The lioness of the shimmering plain, now determined and transfixed.
A mirage is before her, a millpond of dazzling light.
She launches into orbit, focused but almost blind.
An explosion of confusion, followed by dusty eerie silence.
Amid a scene of carnage the enemy is quite still.
Like a triumphant knight she brings her prisoner safely to the keep.
Then gormandised she sleeps.

Laura Martin, 3Z



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POETS' CORNER

I Remember...

I remember a time where I could run forever
Through fields of buttercups.
Where I could beat a sly fox
And win medals and cups.

I remember when I had soft skin
And thick blonde hair.
I once was pretty
And for viruses I didn't care.

Now I need help to walk,
With zimmer frames and walking sticks.
I live in a world where people talk,
Where people laugh at nasty tricks.

But I shall carry on
Through thick and thin,
No matter what,
Like an old steel tin.

And deep in my heart I know
That I can beat the tough.
I'll forget the bad past,
This world will always be rough.

I used to be a sporty girl,
I loved hockey and gym.
I remember lessons
And singing a hymn.

So think, when you are nice and warm,
Of people who are old.
Remember memories all through your life
And listen to what you are told.

And finally, don't kick us down
And give us a funny name.
Old people aren't that different,
Being old is not a game.

Elizabeth Poskett, 1W

Being Old

Being old is not much fun,
There is nothing to do when the work is done.
Watching TV and sitting around,
Looking for teeth that were lost and then found.
Falling over and breaking a leg,
Spending six weeks in a hospital bed.
Grey hairs, wrinkles, eyes that are failing,
Ears that are deaf, but don't hear the wailing.
People treating you like you are simple and sad,
You begin to think you are going quite mad.
How you wish you were young and healthy,
Only memories from the past make you feel wealthy.

Paul Bayliss, 1W



Synthesis

Congratulations must go to our successful entrepreneurs who won the area finals of the Young Enterprise competition.

Synthesis managed to scoop four awards at the finals, with trophies for Best Presentation - based on an imaginative account of their operating year; Best Report - awarded because of the professional context and structure of their written account; Best Presentation Stand - which on the night wholly encapsulated what the company was about, and finally, Best Overall Company - which was a just reward for such a hard working and highly successful company.

The members of the company managed to combine a busy academic year with the production of quality goods, arranging sales and managing themselves

in an organised and positive way. This was achieved with the assistance of link teachers and business advisers from BNFL and HSBC.

Shareholders were rewarded with a most generous return in dividends for their faith in backing the company at the outset by buying share capital.

Thanks must also go to all supporters of Synthesis who bought products, gave advice and provided encouragement.

Well done to all involved.

F Lang



The Young Enterprise team with their trophies

The work of the school's charity committee has continued quietly and unobtrusively throughout the year and has succeeded in raising almost £3,000 for various causes. As always, the weekly collections form the basis of our sharing, with the special non-uniform days topping up our allocations.

Sadly the number of emergency appeals in response to natural disasters does not diminish and we attempt to respond to these as quickly as possible and have consequently made donations to the Red Cross, Oxfam, Médecins sans Frontières and Christian Aid.

Other donations are made annually to particular causes: we are committed to Action Aid in the provision of education for a child in India and a child in South America about whom we receive regular reports and who send us touching messages and drawings. At Christmas we regularly support the work of Crisis as that organisation attempts to make the season bearable for those for whom it holds little cheer. In the summer our attentions turn to the children from Chernobyl who come to stay with families in Kirkham and our efforts are directed towards sponsorship and raising funds to provide them with a day out at Camelot.

But the work of other charities - such as Childwatch, Cancer Research, the Gideons (who visit the school annually), Sight Savers, NSPCC and CAFOD - has been supported through the year. It was pleasing to see that once again we were able to supply volun-

teers to help with the annual British Legion Poppy Appeal (as well as taking a collection within the school) and also the Christian Aid door to door collection, whilst many of our fifth and sixth formers took part in the annual Barnardo's collection. The efforts of those who help are much appreciated. At Christmas, Mrs Cassidy arranged for a group of our choir members to go carol singing in Preston town centre on a cold but busy Saturday morning and one further event deserving special mention took place at the CCF's annual camp at Cultybraggan when Mr Crowther agreed to have his head shaved for charity - an excellent amount was raised and our director of technology now has the summer to perfect his Cockney accent for his role in Eastenders as Phil and Grant Mitchell's long lost younger (!) brother.

The work of the charity committee is not easy, because it involves laying before the school difficult - and very often unpalatable - truths about the society and the world we live in. I am immensely grateful for the help I have received from those who are involved in this work within the school. They have devoted much time and energy and have demonstrated an outlook towards life of which the school should feel proud. And we should remember that what goes on within the school is only the tip of the ice-berg, with many of our pupils giving freely of their own time outside school hours also. This selfless work is, perhaps, the finest achievement of all at the school at a time when honours are coming thick and fast.

DONATIONS

Red Cross	£150
Action Aid	£360
Childwatch	£110
Gideons	£50
Oxfam	£320
Médecins sans	
Frontières	£150
Crisis	£300
Sight Savers	£100
Christian Aid	£300
Children of Chernobyl	£470
British Legion	£100
NSPCC	£80
Barnardos	£80
Cancer Research	£250
CAFOD	£80

Total **£2900**

COMBINED CADET FORCE

RAF EASTER CAMP

This year's Easter Camp took place at RAF Kinloss. Ten cadets and two members of staff set off in a minibus, joined the Motorway pointing north, switched the vehicle to automatic pilot with the instruction that it stop once Greenland was within sniffing distance! We were left wondering what we had done wrong last year at Leuchars to make HQ send us even further towards the North Pole! Having said that, this year's camp was one of the best that we have ever attended. Every minute of every day was filled with activity, from shooting to saluting, ice skating, tenpin bowling and swimming. Not one cadet came home without the experience of flying

something, even if it was only a simulator. Some had the opportunity to go out on a six-hour sortie in a Nimrod - not for the faint-hearted! (Imagine being on a 'waltzer' for several hours.) Despite the number of sick bags brought back by some cadets, we remained undaunted and, on the last day, Rebecca Sie, one of our officers who will remain anonymous and three other daredevils donned flying suits and prepared to try the Nimrod out for themselves, only to have their hopes dashed when the ground crew declared the plane unfit for take-off. Ah well, perhaps we can persuade the Red Arrows to take us for a spin when we attend Air Cadet 2000 in July!

As always, new friendships were made, old acquaintances renewed and everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time, despite being subjected to John Callister's famous 'parrot' shirt, complete with his version of John Travolta's dancing skills from Pulp Fiction at the last night disco! Do we really have to see the shirt and the dancing at the next camp?

Flt. Off. P Hayton



At RAF camp



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Due to being a training and examination centre we do not cater for livery although exceptions are made for specialist tuition of owners mounts up to BHSI level and Side Saddle. The yard uses its own horses and ponies that are all sizes and trained to required levels therefore offering value for money to the rider.

The yard has been adapted from the health and safety point of view to create a system of minimum lifting and carrying. The yard became Health & Safety approved in 1995.

We have six qualified instructors ranging from BHSAI to BHSI (SM) who train the students and public riders to all levels, including recognised junior proficiency tests. All lessons on the yard are carried out by instructors qualified to BHSAI minimum level.

CITY COLLEGE MANCHESTER

The centre was approached by City College Manchester in 1996 to train their students from all over Lancashire and Cumbria towards their BHS and NVQ qualifications. We are able to offer Fast Track Training, together with full and part time courses FREE OF CHARGE to riders who want to learn more about their chosen hobby/profession and achieve a recognised qualification whether they are horse owners or not.

RIDING FOR THE DISABLED ASSOCIATION

The centre became associated with the RDA in 1983. Today over 80 riders per week with all types of disabilities, from 2 years of age upwards come to the centre, some have also competed and won in national competitions.

SIDE SADDLE ASSOCIATION

Side Saddle training for riders and mounts is carried out by a SSA qualified judge, examiner and instructor. Residential courses can be arranged for riders with or without their own mounts. We have up to 15 horses and ponies trained in the art of side saddle. We also hold grade tests and national training days. We teach an ever increasing number of week-ly riders and have had foreign riders coming, to date, from France, Spain, Holland, Germany and USA.

OWN A PONY DAYS/SUMMER CAMPS FOR SCHOOLS

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COMBINED CADET FORCE

Summer Camp 2000 Cultibraggan

This year's camp saw over seventy cadets and officers making the five hour trip to a very picturesque camp in Cultibraggan, Scotland. After settling in, it was good to hear that our next day's activities were signals and engineers, therefore requiring the least preparation of all.

Although the signals and engineers is always the activity that many people regard as the worst (especially the seniors, who are fed up of learning the phonetic alphabet for the fourth time), this year many cadets enjoyed the stands, despite Graham Dawson's attempts to break into the nuclear bunker with a land rover. In the afternoon we set off for our overnight survival exercise, which started with a kit and body search in the bunker, and proceeded to learn about the finer things in life, like how to skin a rabbit and catch a bear. The cadets then spent a couple of hours building some very impressive bivvis, only to see their good work go to waste as we were called off the hill because of some awful weather.

Monday morning was a free morning (because of the cancelled night exercise) and the cadets enjoyed a hastily arranged football tournament, as well as a go on the training officer's 'greasy pole'. In the afternoon it was time to get wet again as we made the short journey to Loch Earn for the watermanship course, where we saw two well constructed rafts make it halfway across the loch and back. All cadets also got a chance to ride in a small powerboat, whilst

some of the officers tried their hand at a local home-brewed chilli vodka.

Tuesday saw an aptly named camp activities day, where cadets participated in all manner of command tasks and fun games. Throughout the day some of the older cadets got the chance to go on a helicopter ride and, all told, we managed to get nearly half the contingent on the little Gazelle, which was a super effort considering the rides were only running for two days. On Tuesday night three teams competed in the March and Shoot competition, which consisted of a 1.5 mile run and a shoot on the 25m range. Despite all three teams showing lots of guts, the A team managed only ninth place and the C team performed wonderfully well to finish higher than the B.

On Wednesday we spent an entire day at the ranges, firing Cadet rifles and LSW's (an automatic version of the standard rifle). Whilst many of the seniors were embarrassed by their poor results, several of our third years shone through with some excellent shooting. Wednesday night's assault course could not have come at a worse time after three hours on a coach and the night after the March and Shoot. All three teams did well, however, and the A team was beaten into third place by just 0.18 of a second. A great effort by everyone, and yes, that six foot wall does look bigger the second time round!

Thursday was a day for the 'Army Barmy' amongst us, as we took part in a number of fieldcraft stands, such as Section Attack,

Ambushes, Harbours, CQBR and even Stalking. Everyone I spoke to enjoyed the day, especially those who were let loose with the LSW's on automatic. We even seemed to impress a visiting General in the process.

Our last day of camp was taken up by the 'Glenogle Trail' - a four-mile walk around Glen Ogle including several different command tasks and challenges. This was a thoroughly enjoyable day, as we all got wet and muddy several times over, ending the walk with a river crossing and 'tunnel swim'.

All the cadets enjoyed their last night on camp and nearly £150 was raised for charity, thanks to Mr. Crowther's hair cut and one un-named dancer.

So, a very enjoyable week which saw all the cadets get stuck in, wet or dry, and only one major injury scare - Ben Hale's dehydration after he fell asleep in the drying room, apparently 'guarding' the kit. Good work.

Just a quick thank you to all the staff involved in helping to make camp such a fun week year in year out, especially Colonel Sayer and Major Scott for their tireless work.

T Russell CSM

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Cadets on the greasy pole



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Dr Bertalot conducting a choir workshop



The convicts from 'Our Country's Good'

Musical life at Kirkham Grammar School has never been so exciting as over the past year.

This year's orchestra made their debut at the annual autumn C.C.F inspection, providing the customary background music and receiving favourable comments from the inspecting officer. One of the highlights of this term was the choral workshop conducted by Dr. John Bertalot. His wit, wisdom and encouragement inspired the choir to new dimensions. The Carol Concert in December provided the opportunity for the special choir to put these newly acquired skills into practice. The concert was well attended and received.

The Spring Term saw the return of the House Music Competition. With the number of entries at over 220 and many to a high standard, Mr. Catterall and Mrs.

Cassidy had a hard job narrowing down the auditions to those that were to be adjudicated by Dr. Frank Salter in the final. There were some excellent performances from the finalists and the competition was eventually won by Alistair Kipling.

The unfortunate absence of Mr. Catterall due to illness resulted in the Spring Concert being postponed until the summer term. Indeed it was worth waiting for and was felt by many to be the best Spring Concert ever produced. The first half featured soloists, the orchestra and the concert band and there were also contributions from the Girls' Choir, who had been inspired by their recent participation in the Sainsbury's Choir of the Year competition. The second half featured the choir performing Rutter's Gloria, ably accompanied by Mrs. Cassidy, on a spe-

cially hired organ, and members of the JJB Brass Band. The concert closed to rapturous applause and a standing ovation. The music department also managed to organise a new style 'Lunchtime Coffee Concert'. This featured music scholars and soloists from virtually every year.

Other contributions this year from the music department included choral and orchestral items at Speech Day and anthems at Founder's Day.

Music at KGS is rich and varied and thanks must go to Mr Catterall and Mrs Cassidy who are both dedicated and provide a source of inspiration for all musicians. It is both a privilege and pleasure to be part of such a thriving and successful department. Long may it continue.

G Jones

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It has been an exciting and busy year for the Drama department. In October, we took part in an International Schools' Network Video Conference. This was an opportunity to have a cultural exchange with our British Aerospace partnered schools in Malaysia, New Zealand and Switzerland. We produced a series of video-postcards, recording all that is most typically British, from fish and chips on Blackpool beach to Elizabethan madrigals in Stratford-upon-Avon. These were written by Mrs. Poole and Mr. Catterall and Mr. Lockett provided the musical accompaniment which gave opportunities for a number of soloists.

In November, the New Hall resounded to the crack of whips, the creaking of timbers and the cries of brutalised prisoners. It was, of course, the annual drama

production, this year *Our Country's Good* by Timberlake Wertenbaker. The cast was made up of fifth and sixth form students who were joined by Mr. Callister in his acting debut to play Major Ross, the baddie of the piece. Mrs. Poole went to Stratford to select the costumes from the RSC wardrobe. All the cast very much enjoyed wearing professional costumes and it was very instructive for many of our students to look carefully at their construction and styling.

In the spring term, the first and second years were busy with preparations for the Junior Drama Festival. Because so many were keen to be involved, we had to extend the categories and to reschedule the date for May, with a highlights show in the evening. The Drama Festival was a great opportunity for the lower sixth to work with junior

forms and to discover the stresses and strains involved in producing plays.

Rehearsals are already under way for a spoof production of *Macbeth* in October which promises to be hilarious. Also coming up is an original interpretation of *Patience*, our first musical at KGS for some years. The senior school play this year will be *The Visit*. We hope many parents and pupils will be able to attend.



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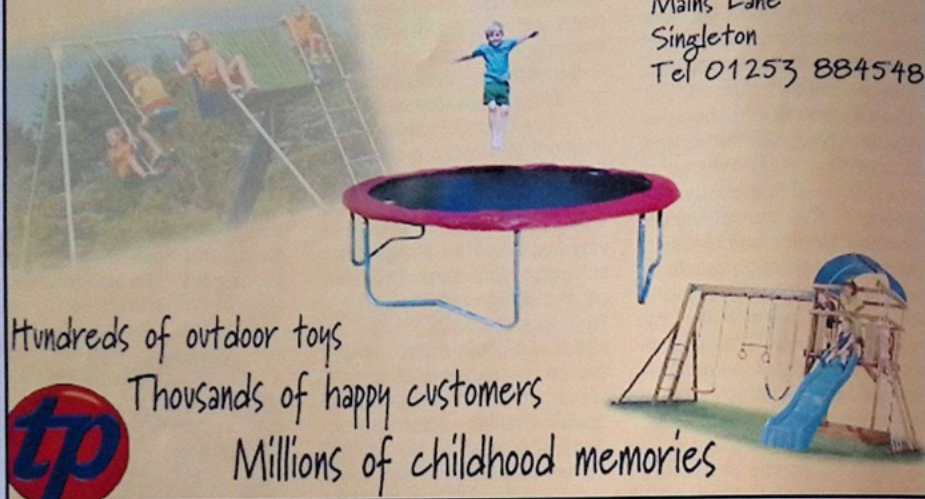


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HOUSE REPORTS

Fylde House

When one used to sit down to produce a Fylde House annual review, one's mind was usually occupied with memories of when Fylde came last. The memory bank was reserved for the times when the Green Vest trailed the field with style, grace or downright humour. One had to burrow deep to excavate a success, however irrelevant it seemed to other houses. We would battle to convince ourselves that second in house tiddlywinks was equally as credible as the European Cup Final, when in truth it was merely second round of the Auto-Windscreens Cup.

However, we shall rejoice in minor triumphs no longer, for this year has seen an upsurge in the commitment, enthusiasm, and consequent performances of Fylde House members. We are not at the winning post yet, but at least the tracks of the victors are still fresh.

We should commend individuals - the likes of Lucy Martin and Steven Hatch on Sports Day; Richard Kellett in swimming; and Desmond Howarth, Laura Clarke and Paul Ashton for debating; and Paul Ashton again for house cricket (highest individual score of the tournament, 77 not out). There are, as always, many more people who have performed above and beyond themselves for the House - those who sweated blood in cross country, while others nursed 'hamstring injuries', have not gone unnoticed. It is to these people, the warriors amongst mere mortals, that we owe most gratitude. Without their effort we would not have performed so admirably.

other teams who were clearly under great pressure - actually enjoyed themselves!

Of course it would be unjust to finish without mentioning our most treasured victory, the event that showed that dedication and application will bring success, House Drama. Congratulations must go to Mrs Poole, Desmond Howarth and his team of sixth form aides, and all the actors and actresses. It is from this that I would like the House to take its lead for next year.

Finally, may I thank our retiring captains, Will and Samantha, for their hard work and enthusiasm. They have provided us with much needed cheer and inspiration.

Paul Ashton



Practising for the relay on Sports Day

The junior boys showed admirable fighting qualities in their cross country event as we saw the green vest dominate the race, whilst the junior girls saw off all-comers in the hockey and netball competitions - victories which put a spring in our step and a twinkle in our eye in the depths of winter. And as the school year drew to a close, it was on a wave of enthusiasm that our girls rode to victory in the rounders competition in a marvellous display of free-hitting as our girls - unlike some



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Kirkham House

It has been another exciting and hugely successful year for all associated with Kirkham House, culminating in the winning of the Whitby Cup for the first time. School House, chasing a hat trick of wins, were finally stopped by the determination and strength in depth of the House.

During the long winter term there were many notable achievements, with wins in the chess and swimming gala and second places in junior hockey, junior netball and senior netball. These excellent results put us top of the pile at the end of the year, clear of School House, who proved to be our main rivals over the whole year.

The dawn of the new millennium gave Kirkham the ideal chance to accelerate into new territory. Music from our talented musicians filled the Old Hall. A record number of musicians represented the house in the finals and both Mr. Catterall and Mrs. Cassidy were impressed with Kirkham's entry, which helped us to finish in second place, second only to the mass entry of School House.

On the sports field, the house continued to give impressive performances - the seniors won both cross country competitions and the hockey tournament, the intermediates won the cross country girls event, and the boys the rugby tournament - all-round talent beginning to shine through. The Easter scoreboard looked healthy and School's grip on the Whitby Cup looked a little shaky. Kirkham still had a narrow lead.

Sports Day took place in the early weeks of the summer term and a great deal of organisation had to take place finalising teams for both the preliminaries and the day itself. A large chunk of the house



took some part in the day and everyone gave his or her best. Everyone performed well, with the seniors in outstanding form. Second place was real justice for a great team effort.

After the bitterly disappointing defeat in the cricket final against Preston (losing on the last ball as captain Adam Watts was unceremoniously hit for six), the juniors won their competition against School to keep us clear at the top, in what proved to be the most important week of inter-house events of the year. The girls also performed well that day and were unlucky to be pushed into second place by Fylde House in the rounders competition.

Later that week the tennis and work cup would decide our fate for the whole year. Would our nerve hold? The win against School in the junior tennis proved decisive, and after winning the work cup, we won the overall competition by only two points from School. An amazing week to end the most exciting inter-house competition for years!

Special thanks must go to our housemaster, Mr Duncan, for his charisma and enthusiasm in only the second year of leading the house, and to all the house staff. However a successful year like this is not possible without the best and most enthusiastic pupils and competitors - they are the ones who deserve this victory for all their efforts. Well done to everyone in Kirkham House.

H Critchley, J Boyle, E Rhodes

Preston House

As the winter term started, Preston House began badly, coming last in the chess, the junior and senior netball, the swimming and the junior hockey competitions. We were left with a lot to do to catch up with the other houses, but with a new year and a new leader, Dr. Rollins, 'new Preston' emerged and, as they say, things can only get better!

In the spring term, there was the house music and again we came last, but we were pleased at the turn out because there were more entries than last year. Mr Catterall was pleased with the improvements in participation and standards. Well done to everyone who took part, especially to the finalists Matthew Hopton, Jonathon Roberts, Samantha Young and Vicky Richardson.

Cross country meant the participation of all years and it paid off well. The intermediate boys did exceptionally well to come first; the junior girls achieved second place. The senior boys came second too, perhaps a win next year lads?! The intermediate girls came third, the junior boys fourth.

In the house debate we came equal third, losing to School due to a dubious speech by the notorious B Hale who spoke for 27 minutes, thereby ensuring that none of our representatives was awake to contest the result!

The results in the rugby sevens were not too good, with the juniors coming fourth and the seniors third - perhaps we will improve next year when we will have full teams. The senior

hockey was excellent, but we narrowly lost on nerve wracking penalty flicks. Good effort, girls.

The junior girls worked especially hard in the play *Elementary Cases* under the guidance of Joe Thompson and Sian Hickson, achieving a respectable third in the drama competition.

The summer term began well, with the senior cricketers gaining a well deserved first position! Wow! We beat School House convincingly in the first round and then beat Kirkham in an exciting final. Throughout the game there was an excellent team spirit and even Daniel Trolley fielded well. As rivalry between the two captains came to a head in the final over, the winning runs came as Tom Russell disdainfully dispatched Adam Watts' bowling for a mighty six, provoking some cameroonesque celebrations.

Sports Day showed a 100% turn out in all of the events. This was excellent. There was a good team spirit and each competitor found that it was the taking part that counts. We ended the day with a high overall score and gained third position. There were some brilliant individual performances by Terry Ogdin, who won the Victor Ludorum for intermediate boys, and Laura Martin, who won the Victrix Ludorum for intermediate girls.

In the senior tennis we came second, narrowly losing in the final to School House. But there was a great end to the school year when our junior tennis players came first. Michael Briggs played exceedingly well together

with Sally Rotheram, Alex Dean and Harry Leeming. In the intermediate tennis, the team achieved a third position.

Many thanks to the staff, especially Dr. Rollins and last year's house captains, Tom Russell, Gemma Swift, Mel Parker and Andrew Davies who all worked hard in the organisation of events and motivation of teams.

G Timms



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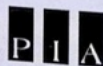
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HOUSE REPORTS

School House

The academic year 1999/2000 has not only been enjoyable and successful, but also very competitive in every sense of the word. Competition is an integral part of everyday life, but over the past twelve months it has become a healthy obsession for two particular housemasters and their respective officials.

The winter term moved slowly for School House, with only one victory gained in the senior girls' netball. We were second in the chess and swimming cup, and third in both the junior netball and hockey. In the swimming gala, Kristina Smith, Stuart Fishwick, Mark Gregg, Bradley Hamilton, Richard Westerman and the intermediate boys medley relay team all gained first places.

The spring term began with our third consecutive victory in the Music Festival, with Sam Smith and the House Choir taking joint first place in the final. The festival was won with a magnificent all round team effort. In the cross country competitions, Richard Newton and Amy Twambley deserve special mention, as do our senior girls for their marvellous victory. The spring term also saw victory in the junior rugby sevens and a second in the intermediate rugby sevens. Marcus Jackson, Antony Wareing, Ephraim Mwenda, James Cooper and Oliver Twambley all played well. Sam Smith and a very extrovert Ben Hale made the final of the house debate, but sadly fell at the final hurdle. Our senior girls hockey team played their hearts out, but ended up third overall.

The summer term began badly with a disaster in the junior drama festival, but quickly picked up with an easy victory in the shooting competition. In the cricket competitions, the seniors played well but narrowly failed to make the final and our juniors lost in the final to a strong Kirkham House team. The highlight of the term, once again, was Sports Day, in which we gained the most emphatic of victories. The number of winners is far too extensive to name, but Amy Twambley and Lester Short must be recognised for their respective wins in the individual championships. In the tennis, the senior team came first, with both the juniors and intermediates a close second. After the rounders tournament, in which we were placed third, both School and Kirkham had gained the same number of

points, and so it was left to the junior work cup to decide the winner of the Whitby Trophy for the best house overall. Unfortunately, School were placed second and so lost the title to Kirkham by just two points.

Mr Smith always says that it is harder to remain at the top than it is to get there, and so we must return in September with a clear determination to regain the Whitby Cup and with the philosophy that, *'In the race for excellence, there is no finishing line'*.

Thank you all for your hard work and support.

K Peake



Amy Twambley receives the Senior Victrix Ludorum

The Fox's Night

Only coming out at night,
The fox ambles through the gloomy wood,
Half barking, half screaming,
Its shouts echo through the neighbourhood.

Many people hear it -
And many people say,
'Why can't foxes be normal
and come out in the day?'

Sara Hopkinson, 1Y



A Quacking Poem

The canopy is filled with chirping and trilling,
He searches for food in rustling leaves,
He waddles as he slowly weaves,
His body is like snow.
He never knows quite where to go.
His reflection on the glistening pond
Gives him the company of which he is fond.
The dappled light strikes his back,
As he makes his daily quack.

M Stanbury, 1Y

Squirrelling

In the shade of the forest
There is a rustle of the leves.
It's the squirrels -
Living in the trees!
They are grey in colour
And have big bushy tails.
They gather nuts for the winter,
For when it snows and hails.

Paul Barber, 1Y



Through the Window

Through the window
Rays of sun pour onto the ground,
Drying the dew on the grass.
Boys playing football
Dig up the field.

Through the window
Lashing sea
Tosses boats around in the harbour,
Lights flicker through the trees
In the darkness of the night.

Through the window,
Trees and bushes flash past,
Cattle ignore us as we go by.
Through the tunnel the daylight fades,
Darkness descends.

Through the circle in the sky,
The ground stretches like a huge map below,
Tiny toy cars on motorways,
Lakes like garden ponds.

Through the window
Shooting stars fill the sky
Like falling raindrops on the tiled roof,
The moon,
A luminous ball in the sky,
Lights up the world.

M Arkwright, 2Z



The Night Sky

As the sun goes down,
The moon comes up
And the stars pop out of the darkness.
Big, fluffy, puffy clouds float by
And the last birds soar across the sky
Away to their homes.
The moon shines down on me
And seems to wink a silvery wink.
The stars shine softly and glisten and sparkle,
Like a brand new car driving down the motorway.

Pippa Mellor, 2Z

Black Forest Trip

'The French Trip is going to Germany this year'. Well, yes, Mr. Long's traditional Easter trip did go to Germany this time, but the aim was to get the best of both worlds, staying near the Franco - German border and spending time in both countries. Our base was the Black Forest village of Kippenheim, near Freiburg which we reached in time for lunch on our first day after a smooth and uneventful journey through the Channel Tunnel and Eastern France. A welcome meal of burger and chips had scarcely had time to go down when our genial host had whisked Miss Bacon away on his 750cc BMW motorbike on a 'familiarisation tour' of the locality. Despite only opening her eyes for a total of 30 seconds during the ten minute trip, she took in enough to be able to lead a walk through the nearby hills for half the party, whilst the rest took over the local football pitch.

Just when we had got used to Germany and Deutschmarks (and Nick English had finally realised which country we were in), the next day it was off to France, to Strasbourg. Having survived a downpour on our arrival, we then took in the delights of the sights and shops and the eternal dilemma of KGS trips to France - McDonald's or Quick (its French equivalent and competitor) for lunch. The various groups also visited the cathedral and 'Petite France', the city's most picturesque area. The afternoon took us back to Germany, up the other side of the Rhine Valley to a waterfall in the hills above Oberkirch, for a not-too-demanding walk which had been recommended to us the

previous day. There was much evidence of the severe storm which had swept across Central Europe in January, with our path blocked by fallen trees.

Day three, and it was back to Germany. After a morning spent round the shops and markets of Freiburg, we went up into the hills again for a ride on the spectacular 'Schauinsland' cable car, which took us up to 4,000 feet and panoramic views of... clouds. Did we care? Well, no, because a blizzard adding to the already deep snowdrifts gave the perfect excuse for a snowball fight, whilst the more sedate members of the party enjoyed a glass of 'Glühwein' in the café. The snowballers returned, dripping, to the coach park, and proceeded to get even wetter and muddier on the adventure playground. Rachel Griffiths showed just how adept she is on the swings and then, after cleaning the mud off, on the slides. Just to confuse matters even further, that evening, we went for a drink in France - well, Colmar was only an hour away!

Day four, and back to France - up into the Vosges Mountains to Gerardmer, a lakeside resort which has provided good entertainment on previous visits. An obliging boatman agreed to take us out on a tour of the lake in the motor launch, complete with French commentary simultaneously translated by our resident experts Tom (my first language is German, really) Russell and Thomas (I'm almost bilingual) Gray. Stunned by the revelation that the lake was formed 1000 years ago in the last Ice Age, that it froze last winter to a depth of 80 metres and that the French Parliament meets in a

lakeside chalet, we took a picnic lunch by the lakeside without ever discovering the girth of the lake at its widest point and wondered why this place is not famous throughout Europe... The day was but young, and Mr Long's deserved reputation for cramming a lot into each day was fully indicated as we moved on first to Kaysersberg, a beautiful Alsatian village, where we basked in a by now warm spring afternoon, then to Colmar, where we fulfilled another KGS trip tradition by invading the hypermarket to spend our last French francs or, in the case of teachers, endanger their credit card limits.

And so to the last day, and - let's face it - the day we had all been looking forward to all week - Europapark. This is Europe's least-known theme park, but lacking nothing in thrills (especially the Mir roller coaster) and spills (especially the official water-fight-area - how did they know that Mr Rushton, Mr Davies, Tom Russell and Lewis Billington, still drying out after falling in the drain outside the hotel, were coming?). The weather improved as the day went on and we ended up in pleasant sunshine having started out in steady rain. A splendid evening meal was taken at a hotel just by the Europapark, then we set off on the long overnight journey home. A tired but happy party reached KGS just after lunchtime the next day.

Many thanks to all who helped organise and lead the trip - Mr Rushton, Miss Bacon, Mr Daniel Davies (former pupil) Mrs Cassidy and leader, Mr Long. And last, but by no means least, two reliable, resourceful and cheerful coach drivers.



Pupils visit Petite France in Strasbourg



At the waterfall in Oberkirch



At Gerardmer

German Exchange

In September, 1999, the School hosted its annual exchange visit from our partner school in Germany, the Anne Frank School in the small town of Linden, some 50 kilometres from Frankfurt. The fourteen pupils from Germany enjoyed the hospitality of their host families and the experience of life in the English school system. As official excursions, they visited the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester and spent a day in the Lake District, enjoying a boat trip on Windermere and a pleasant stroll around the shores of Grasmere. The headmaster presented Frau Hiltrud Lowak, the accompanying German teacher, and now a old friend of the School, with a decanter and a painting to celebrate our 450th anniversary.

The return visit to Germany took place at the end of March this year, with the hope of better weather, but we were unlucky for the most part, the weather remaining dull and unsettled and our shopping expedition to Frankfurt had to be curtailed because of heavy rain - we had, of course, endured the cultural part of the day, having spent the morning in the excellent Museum of National History and later visiting the Paulskirche, where Germany's first National Assembly met in 1848.

The pupils on the whole enjoyed the experience of German school in spite of the early start (first lesson at 7.50am) and the occasional feeling of being the centre of attention. The school was a reminder of our school a short time ago, resembling a building site as it is in the process of

being almost totally rebuilt, with many of the lessons taking place in metal containers - rabbit hutches as they were referred to. We look forward to a new school next year.

The undoubted highlight of the trip was our excursion into what was formerly East Germany. We visited the town of Eisenach (much rebuilding going on here also) where Martin Luther and Johann Sebastian Bach once lived, with one or two of the party actually viewing the houses, and then on to the salt mine in the town of Merkes a short distance away.

There we first had to put on protective clothing, a safety helmet and be issued with a heavy lamp and a safety tag, just like real miners, because the mine is still a working mine. These tags were collected as we entered the double-decker lift (after letting out the miners coming off shift) for our rapid descent of some 500 metres in 90 seconds. There then followed a hair-raising roller coaster ride on open lorries through 20 kilometres of dimly-lit tunnels with the roof inches above our heads - the Big One in Blackpool is nothing compared to this. It was not non-stop of course. We saw mining machinery and there was opportunity for some of the party to try out rather large drills and handle explosives (without detonators!). There was a mining museum and, perhaps most interesting of all, the Treasure Room - the gallery which housed the German Treasury, looted goods and forged bank notes from many European countries in the Second World War. It was displayed (without real money) exactly as the Americans found it

in 1945. The group also had the opportunity to buy a drink at the lowest refreshment stand in Europe at over 1,000 metres underground. It was indeed an 'Erlebnis Bergwerk' - a mining experience never to be forgotten.

Many other outings were arranged by host families and pleasant evenings were spent in the Eisdielen enjoying the many flavours of ice-cream. The trip was a great success, with most of the party taking the opportunity to practise their German and, as usual, there were tears at the station as we left to catch the train to the airport, with many promises to write and visit in the summer.

From Les Arcs to Les Gets

Early morning start on the 2nd January - remember, Mr. Scott? Only the lower sixth boys were late. Where had they been? John Melling's thirst aid helmet may have been a slight clue. Once all the bags had been stowed, it was time to say our goodbyes and set off through the night to Gatwick. No problem at the airport - apart from the southerners not being able to cope with a party of 45 and we had to check in individually! Several young individuals set off the security alarms and a female SS guard reprimanded Mr Scott for not frisking them first. No more duty free, of course. What was the staff going to do?

What a big, wide-body - the aeroplane, of course. Monarch treated us to flight in a DC 10 to Grenoble (or was it Squires Gate?) Did we need those trolleys once we had found our luggage? It certainly was not Geneva - which was only one hour away from Les Gets. Anyway, chance for some lost sleep on the journey. Rip van Ryan had already slept through breakfast on the plane despite attempts to wake him up. Much snow was in evidence even at low altitude and as soon as we started to climb, the upper alpine slopes looked promising.

On arrival at Clé des Champs we met our hosts for the week, Jack and Vera. Not really, it was Terry and Jayne, but they did try hard! Our 'hot meal' after travelling was a hot dog! Well, it could only get better. Indeed, the next day it was steak hâché! Not to be deprived, our intrepid KGS pupils soon found the numerous pizzas à emporter and crêperies in the

very attractive and festively adorned village of Les Gets. No, it's pronounced Lay Jay. This is where their GCSE French came in useful, even if it was just to distinguish between seafood and ham and pineapple.

The outdoor ice rink was also discovered very early on and much fun was had there. Why did the locals leave when we arrived? The snow conditions were almost perfect. Several feet had fallen over the Christmas and New Year holidays and we also enjoyed clear skies virtually all week. The novices were soon flying around the lower nursery slopes, while the more advanced ventured higher into the Portes du Soleil system above Morzine. Doc. Hall and Mr. Scott discovered the quiet side of the mountain, around the back of Mont Chery, where the last of the sun's rays could be enjoyed over a cold beer. It certainly was not the thought of the mile of moguls on the black run that attracted them.

All was going well until Lauren decided to stop herself by skiing into a piste marker. Had nobody told her it was easier to fall on your bottom than to wrap yourself around an aluminium pole? A visit to the hospital, via a helicopter, was required and she was unfortunately confined for the rest of the week with a depressed fracture of the tibia. Not to be outdone by this, Daniel Gallagher decided to get plastered the next day. Same bone - crossed skis! It was nice to see old friends Dave and Sandra Worth drive over from Les Arcs for a couple of days, and even Oliver Melling (a parent) flew in at short notice.

It was not all accidents, though.

Despite the poor food, much fun was enjoyed both on and off the slopes. The bum-boarding evening showed just how artistic the sixth form boys could be with their classical Greek snowman. The ten-pin bowling night indicated severe problems for our senior girls; one nearly followed the ball down the lane, whilst another tried to deliver it overarm! It was because they had been so good that Mr. Scott allowed them to escort Ms Fryer and Ms Johnson to the Igloo disco on Saturday night. What did Richard Kellett look like in John Melling's white ski suit and spiky hair?

The end of the holiday was looming. Time really does go quickly when you are having fun. Medals and presentation and then it was an early night because of a 5.00 am start for a 10.30 return flight. Daniel, however, had preferential treatment and his ambulance took him to the earlier Manchester flight.

Another big, wide-body (and that wasn't the Icelandic stewardess!) delivered us home slightly delayed but, unlike last year, our luggage did arrive with us at the same airport. The only thing Mr Scott lost was the whole of the party as they dived into Macdonald's for life saving sustenance while he was looking for the return coach home.

The journey home was so quiet - nearly everyone caught up on missed sleep. That is, of course, until we stopped at Keele services - this time for a Burger King! Oh, the delights of fast food! '40 Whoppas, please, and go steady on the gherkins!' 'Isn't it great to be back to real English food!'

Ronald McDonald



The ski party outside the hotel



The senior boys preparing to ski



An afternoon paddling on the Biology field course

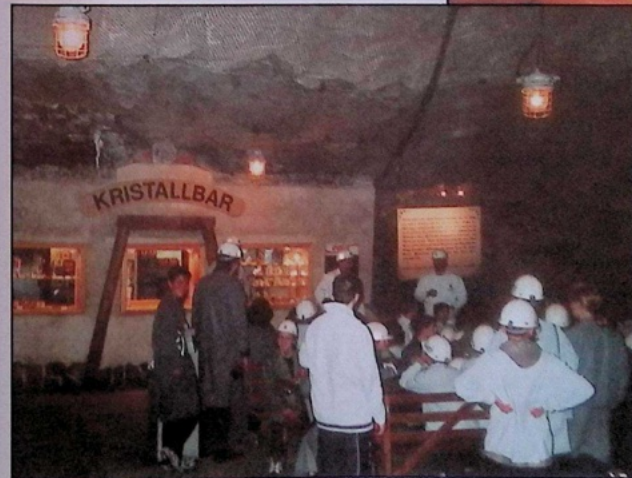
Scenes from the German exchange



Preparing to go down the mine



The Treasure Room



Relaxing afterwards

Junior Hockey Tour To Valkenburg, Holland And Disneyland. Paris

The junior hockey tour to Valkenburg, Holland and Disneyland, Paris, which runs every two years, was once again a great success and a thoroughly enjoyable experience.

From leaving K.G.S on Saturday morning, immaculately kitted out, thanks to several generous sponsorships offers, we were on the go non-stop all week.

After a tiring night of line dancing on the ferry and a long journey to Valkenburg, the girls and the staff had little time to perfect their karaoke performances. The staff Spice Girls rendition was again a big hit and the night was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

The world cup competition which took place each morning while we were in Holland, was a very competitive and high spirited affair, with two teams eventually being proclaimed as the joint winners after drawing on points scored and goal difference.

Bobsleighting on Monday afternoon was great fun for everyone, even for those tentative few who were initially a little wary. By the second run, few of us used our brakes, which led to the inevitable derailing of one or two 'wallies'.

Geography Field Trip

On Tuesday, 2nd May we six geographers, accompanied by Mr Scott and Ms Dora Varnavas, our trainee teacher from St Martin's College, began our 'not a holiday' to Scarborough. It was hard work and an essential element of the Advanced Level Geography course which was examined in a summer module.

We left the blazing sunshine of the west coast behind and we were all looking forward to a week of topping up tan. As we descended the Pennines into Yorkshire, the weather closed in. It did stop rain-

ing while we visited Kirkham Abbey, but on arrival in Scarborough we realised that it feels much closer to the Arctic Circle than we were used to. We started our historic exploration of the town at the castle and were surprised how hilly it was. For some strange reason, the lads all wanted to race up the steep slopes. We watched in amusement.

Even before we had acclimatised and got our bearings, the teaching had begun. We had visited a priory, a castle and the Millennium Museum, and much more was to follow in the week. Each evening

We visited the Marl Caves (50 miles of man made caves, including a nuclear war shelter and numerous carvings and paintings) on Tuesday afternoon and on Wednesday afternoon the under 13 squad went ten pin bowling.

As for the hockey, the girls experienced some very demanding games, playing against club teams of a very high standard, with all teams managing to win at least one of their two matches. The girls gained a lot of valuable experience playing against their Dutch opposition and thoroughly enjoyed their matches.

Following our four hectic days in Holland, the girls were rewarded with two nights in Paris. We visited the Eiffel Tower, celebrated Hallowe'en in true spooky fashion in the hotel and spent two full days in Disneyland Paris, experiencing the thrills of Space Mountain.

The entire tour was a thoroughly marvellous experience and a wonderful opportunity to nurture close relationships between both the girls and staff on tour.

Many thanks must go to Mrs Tabb for organising the tour and to Mrs Glover, Ms Baxter, Miss Fryer, Mr Tabb and Dave (the coach driver) for all of their hard work and endless energy on tour.

We look forward to similar antics in 2001!

meal ended with everyone (except Warren) complaining of having eaten too much. This was then followed with at least two more hours of teaching, follow-up and preparation for the next day's activities.

On leaving the hotel the next morning, we realised that the lads really were human dustbins. Full English (Yorkshire) breakfast was just that. Not just tea and toast for them. Warren actually thought that it was eating too much bacon that had given him mouth ulcers! (Warren resents this.) We surveyed the town that day: Buildings, McDonald's, shops,

Burger King, museums, KFC and any other non-food outlets. We were meant to be studying the CBD and not every eating establishment in town! The excuse was that it was cold and wet and in those conditions the body uses more calories!

Later, on a very wet and blustery afternoon, the group went to the seafront and courageously, if not stupidly, decided to investigate the waves. The North Sea is very violent and unpredictable and several drowned rats returned to the minibus.

York was our historical and heritage destination on Friday. After walking the walls, doing the museums and feeding our sandwiches to frighteningly large geese, we went to the Danelaw Village at Murton Park. This was a mock-up of a Viking village, where small children (and sixth form students)

could relive the Viking way of life and really empathise with the past. This was enjoyed by all and we even had a chance to stroke the tiny lambs, see a pregnant goat and frolic with an obese pig with halitosis.

The weekend brought good weather, at last. This was welcomed by all. On our tour of the Yorkshire Coast we saw some breathtaking scenery, walked miles (according to Naomi) and studied textbook examples of the coastal landforms and processes that we are examined on. This enabled us to comprehend their size and scale and to understand them more realistically. It also gave a seagull a chance to bomb Rachel three times!

The river study on Sunday was again blessed with glorious sunshine. Yet, as some of us discovered, the water remained icy cold.

The boys thought it hilarious to throw boulders into the river to splash us. Everyone was in high spirits but, as normal, exhausted by teatime.

After a week of numerous ice creams, huge breakfasts, hundreds of mile of trekking through town and country and endless fibs from Mr Scott, we all realised that it is possible to learn whilst still enjoying ourselves. Even when we were exposed on the North Yorkshire Moors, discovering the delights of an upland podsol soil in the face of a howling north easterly - it was fun!

Many thanks must go to Mr Scott for his organisation, local knowledge and enthusiasm. To Ms Varnavas for her help, especially in the river, and to Mr Harrison, in absentia, for managing to explain the wonders and intricacies of soils to us.

Biology Field Trip

On a rainy Saturday morning in July, the Lower Sixth biologists set out for the Blencathra Field Centre, near Keswick. As we travelled north on the motorway, the weather became increasingly sunny and an optimistic mood prevailed. We were greeted at the Field Centre by Robin, the Ecology tutor. After quickly unpacking, we donned our Wellington boots and shorts and set off to Tewet Tarn. The afternoon was spent sampling freshwater species by wading into the tarn and dredging through the mud with a large net. Several enthusiastic types misjudged the height of their wellies - with soggy consequences. We returned to the field centre for a well deserved hot drink and cake.

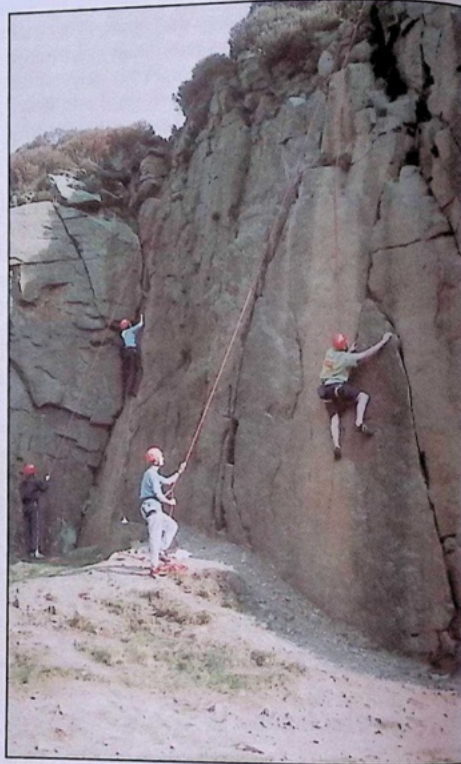
The following day we used our newly developed identification skills to investigate the effects of pollution on the invertebrate populations in a local stream. After working hard all day, we had to discuss our results in the work room and finally finished at 9pm. By day three, everyone was beginning to feel tired,

but a long drive to the sand dunes at Drigg gave a good chance for catching up on sleep. A long walk to the sampling site woke us up and Robin's 'sand board' outdoor lecture was unique. Although we were studying the vegetation of the sand dune system, we were entertained by the variety of animals. Many weird looking beetles and crickets were temporarily caught and shown round. We also spotted several frogs, lizards and toads - but not the famous natterjack toad. Days four and five became very serious as we prepared and carried out our coursework investigations. Most of us used the local woodland to collect our data and returned to the centre covered with red blobs - caused by midge bites. Daniel Howells was the worst affected and looked like he had measles. The last day was rather misty and grey, so we collected data on the heather moorland quickly and then retreated to the field centre to discuss moorland habitat conservation.

Although the field course involved a lot of hard work, the good food and Robin's 'star' quality made it very enjoyable.



The Climbing Club at Wilton Quarry



Members of the Animal Ark Club visiting the Wild Animal Sanctuary

CLIMBING CLUB

The club was very active this year, usually meeting twice each week - on Fridays for a lunchtime session on the school wall and on Wednesday or Thursday after school to visit nearby crags or indoor walls. During the winter, West View Leisure Centre in Preston and Cliff's Barn in Mawdesley were the two favourites, but the Speech Day Holiday allowed us to go further afield and visit the large climbing complex in Warrington. In the summer, Troy Quarry near Haslingden and Wilton Quarry near Belmont provided a wide range of routes sufficient to challenge even the 'hard men' of the club, Sam Blackburn and Adam Devine. These two characters will be sadly missed; not only

were they talented climbers - they were also happy to share their chocolate biscuits. Coincidentally, Emma Johnson developed an interest in climbing this year - proving that romance can flourish even halfway up a rock face.

Of the newcomers, Ricky Cheng was the most impressive, his determination ensuring that he made rapid progress up through the grades. James Fletcher and Matthew Gaddes were the best of the younger members and with John Maskell they produced a good performance when representing the school at the Fylde Schools' Climbing Competition at Arnold School. Other events included the Christmas Fair and

the Fun Day (when over a hundred youngsters tried to reach the top of the school wall) as well as Open Days and Evenings.

We would like to thank Mrs Scott and Mr Gaddes for giving up their time to take us climbing. Next year the club will be looking to recruit new members to replace the sixth formers who have left, so if you want to try this exciting sport, contact either of us or Mrs Scott or Mr Gaddes - dangling by your fingertips high in the air can be fun!

Mary Wilson
Katie Lew

ANIMAL ARK CLUB

Our year started with a trip to the Wild Animal Sanctuary (WASP) in Blackpool. It was very enjoyable and we learned how to look after undernourished hedgehogs.

The club has had many animals donated this year. Oliver Beasley's family gave a gerbil, some zebra finches and a hamster. Unfortunately the finches died, but the hamster, which we named Scruffy, was mated with our female Syrian hamster, Fudge, and gave us a litter of hamsters pups.

Jane Kirby donated her terrapin, Terry, as she could not look after it whilst at university. We held a competition to rename the terrapin to raise funds for a heat mat. The winning name was Fran.

Jo Hedley had nurtured our stick-insect eggs during the summer holiday and managed to keep 450 young alive in numerous jam jars! Many of these were given away to Animal Ark Club members at the beginning of term.

The Environment Action Group began to decide on changes to make the CCF wood and pond eco-friendly. It is mainly Animal Ark Club members who are involved at the moment, but other volunteers are welcome. Already benches have been made from the tree trunks which had been cut down near the Norwood Block.

Finally, we would like to thank all the people who have helped us this year, especially Rebecca Turner who gave us a large box of animal treats as a going away present. We would also like to thank Mrs Scott and Jo Hedley who make Animal Ark possible and Miss Varnavas who helped us during her teaching practice.

Sadly, Jo is leaving this year to go to university, so it is a major thank you to her.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Public Speaking Society meets on a Monday and Wednesday after school. Teams representing KGS entered two competitions in the autumn term. First, on 18th November, we went to Liverpool to participate in the English Speaking Union competition for the first time. A team of fourth years delivered a speech on the power of newspaper moguls. Although we did not win, the team was highly praised by the judges and spectators alike. They gave an impressive presentation, displaying good research, confident chairing and intelligent debating skills. We are grateful to the supporters who came along too.

On 24th November, two girls' teams entered the BPW competition. Again, the fourth year girls' team, Rachel Horton (speaker), Felicity Long (chairperson) and Ashleigh Gregory (vote of thanks), gave a splendid presentation on the subject entitled 'Modern Art or Modern Mess'. The L6 team of Laura Clarke (speaker), Victoria Hartley-Jackson (chairperson) and Rachel Lee (vote of thanks) gave a spirited presentation on man's leaning towards self-destruction in a speech entitled 'The Psychological Implications of Vampires'.

Truly valuable advice was given by the judges and, with this experience, I hope the society will go on to greater success in forthcoming competitions. I would also like to thank Mrs. Yvonne Jones who devotes so much time to the preparation, organisation and management of our public speakers.

CHESS CLUB

The Chess Club has continue meet regularly every Thurs lunchtime throughout the y There has been a particu strong interest from the first and it was Paul Bayliss of who emerged as the strongest player in the School. He competed in the Regional Final of the UK Chess Challenge and has won through to the National Final - we wish him well. We also managed to field a team strong enough to enter *The Times* British Schools' Chess Championships. We lost to Austin Friars, Carlisle, but the team was a very young one and it was good experience. On the whole, the standard of play continues to improve and we look forward to a successful future.

MP Melling



STAMP CLUB

Every Thursday a small but keen group of stamp collectors meet to wheel and deal in order to improve their collections. The club provides an exchange packet for the benefit of members, as well as a free introductory welcome pack for those new to the hobby. We have also visited the stamp shops in Preston and hope to attend one or two of the local fairs in the near future. Interests range from one-country collections to thematic collections as well as the more general worldwide collections. It is good to see a minority hobby catered for at KGS and for it to prosper so.

MP Melling



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RUGBY OVERVIEW

The 1999-2000 season has been one in which there has been mixed fortunes for our rugby sides at Kirkham. Whilst there have been some outstanding individual performances and achievements at school, county, regional and even national level (Jonathan Roddam and Matthew Parr), the teams have had varying degrees of success throughout the season.

There is no need to go into the details of every team here, the team reports do this, but special mention must be made to the first XV, who have been unbeaten in their 15-a-side campaign, won the Birkenhead Schools' sevens competition and lost narrowly in the final of the Sedbergh tens competition. Elsewhere at senior level the second XV, captained by Tom Russell, have had a good

season, with many young players showing great promise. Strong senior sides must be underpinned by developing junior teams. If players can develop their skills and adopt the correct attitude to playing and training in their junior years, they will reap the rewards in their senior rugby days. The under 15 and under 14 XV have had problematic seasons, but have worked tremendously hard. Both squads have grown in number throughout the year and offer some talented players. The under 13 XV have had a good season and offer great promise. They have pace, skill and strength. They will continue to develop next season. The under 12 XV have had a reasonable season, but it is fair to say that it has taken them some time to find their feet in secondary age rugby. This team has skill and they will continue to develop next season.

Finally, well done to all players who have made such valuable contributions to the rugby squads this year. Whether you have achieved representative honours or have been a 'B' squad player, your contribution and dedication is highly regarded. Perhaps most important of all, thank you to all the coaching staff who make all the rugby you play a key factor in your development and enjoyment of the game.

Thanks must go to the staff who give so generously of their time to coach the teams: Mr. Gornall, Mr Trenhaile and Mr Browning who coach the seniors; Mr Taylor and Ben Bancroft the under 15's; Mr Whalley the under 14's; Dr. Rollins the under 13's and Mr Porteous and Mr Holland the under 12's. Their commitment and cooperation are greatly valued.

First XV

P15 W15 D0 L0
F585 A61

As only four members of last year's team were available for selection for this season, it was hard to assess the team's chances during the summer. It was felt that the three-quarters would be adequate, but a question mark hung over the pack. Many players in contention had played in the second XV last season. Pre-season coaching showed much potential in the side with talented three-quarters but a rather lightweight pack in which only half had achieved a satisfactory level of conditioning over the summer. The warm-up against QEGS Wakefield reinforced these views.

Most matches were won easily during the season as the team possessed too many talented players for the opposition. When opposition teams were overawed by the team's reputation and did not pressure them, the team produced some wonderfully attractive rugby. The team was usually focused enough not to let its performance drop during the match.

The pack was vulnerable against the biggest, most determined opposition, but was strengthened during the season by Matthew Parr entering the school and Jordan Saipani and Brent Wilson from Wairarapa College. The three-quarters found scoring against most opposition easy, but when faced with resolute opposition produced many errors. The squad as a whole had a willingness to train well in the organised coaching sessions, but it was only when KGS

started to compete against the likes of Hymer's College, Millfield, Sedbergh, Bristol GS and Monmouth in the end of season sevens and tens tournaments that they began to comprehend how a mature focusing is necessary to realise potential.

Players may dream of being a top player but to achieve it requires self discipline and the ability to train when others are taking the easy options. The captain, Johnnie Roddam, and Matthew Parr have shown the strength of character to do the unglamorous personal training at sometimes unearthly hours and have been rewarded with international caps. Theirs is the example to follow if you are an aspiring rugby player. The three-quarters, Daniel Howells, James Mahon, Philip Hendy, Sam Wright, Warren Spragg, Andrew Perry, Richard Wigglesworth were talented. It was pleasing to see Andrew Perry gain a final England trial and Richard Wigglesworth develop to the extent he was selected for the England under 17 Development Squad. Adam Watts started the season as a first choice, but was then injured. However, I was pleased to see his development in the end of season sevens and tens tournaments.

The front row of John Boyle, Gareth Eves or Daniel Tolley and Johnnie Roddam was solid with Daniel Tolley showing much potential. The back five of Matthew and Joseph Thompson, Andrew Davies, Andrew Kyriacou and Lester Short usually obtained an adequate supply of possession. Andrew Kyriacou is a hooker playing at flanker and performed with great gusto in a

new role. Matthew Parr, Jordan Saipani and Brent Wilson took the forward play to new heights. The latter is the first Wairarapa College student to be awarded colours which speaks volumes.

A highlight of the season was the 450th anniversary match against Rugby School. This truly was a day for KGS to savour.

The season's final quarter was devoted to seven-a-side and tens. Here, at times, KGS were pitted against the best sides in the UK. The Birkenhead Schools sevens competition was won for the first time by KGS, but at the North of England sevens at Birkenhead Park RFC and Fylde RFC, the squad under-achieved by only reaching the quarter and semi-finals, losing to teams they should have beaten. The squad took lessons on board and at the Rosslyn Park sevens, KGS won its group comfortably then progressed to an unfortunate extra match against Durham which, again, was won comfortably. We then met Millfield in the last sixteen and lost a cliff-hanger 12-7. I feel KGS was one of the top three sides in the competition and came close to winning and gained many admirers during the tournament.

At the Sedbergh tens, Monmouth, Bradford GS, Bristol GS, King's, Canterbury and Durham were all beaten before we lost to Sedbergh 14-19 in a thrilling final.

If KGS could play more of these top tournaments then the team could learn to eradicate mistakes made through lack of concentration against weaker teams and could perform even better.

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Next season, it is hoped that the fixture list will be stronger. Sedbergh will be played in the second match. They are a welcome addition to the fixture list and should concentrate the minds of players during summer conditioning.

I wish to thank the inspirational Johnnie Roddam and Andrew Perry for carrying out the many duties as captain and vice-captain so well; Joseph Thompson for being secretary; Healthlife for sponsorship of the shirts and shorts and Mr George Sowerbutts for his outstanding work as a physiotherapist.

B Gornall

HONOURS

England 18 Group
M Parr, J Roddam

England 18 Group final trial
A Perry

North 18 Group final trial
D Howells

Lancashire 18 Group
P Hendy, W Spragg
A Kyriacou

Lancashire 18 Group 'A' XV
J Boyle, M Thompson
R Wigglesworth

North 16 Group
A Loney

Lancashire 16 Group
S Blackburn

England U17 Development
Squad
R Wigglesworth

3 Rugby World 'Team of the Term'
J Roddam

Colours
FULL
A Perry, J Roddam, P Hendy,
M Parr, W Spragg,
R Wigglesworth, B Wilson

HALF
J Boyle, D Howells
A Kyriacou, J Thompson
M Thompson, A Watts
S Wright

Second XV

P 14 W10 D1 L3
F 435 A 211

When the 1999-2000 season was being planned, it was realised that the second fifteen would contain few players who had had experience of play at this level. However, knowing that there were some talented young players around, it was hoped that they could be quickly moulded into a winning side.

Although not as fit as they might have been at the beginning of the season, the second fifteen comfortably won the first five matches, all at home, despite both Manchester and Ermysted's coming back at the team in the second half. The first journey away from home resulted in a lack lustre performance and

defeat at Wirral, possibly due to over confidence after the five easy victories. This was followed by two further substantial defeats at the hands of strong sides from Lancaster and Calday Grange. Having defeated Macclesfield and Stockport at home, the team then proved that they could travel, by winning at Birkenhead before Christmas. By this time the side was playing some good rugby and they continued in the same vein in the new year, winning the first two matches, at Cowley and Hutton, fairly comfortably. The last game of the season was away at Arnold and it was a close and exciting encounter. The final score was a twelve all draw, which was probably a fair result in the blustery conditions.

With twenty six different players scoring tries, the team cannot be

said to have relied on a few players to score the points. Jonathan Swift headed the try scoring list with seven, scored from timely intrusions from full back, and Paul Ashton used his pace on the wing to score six, including a hat-trick at Cowley. Paul McNamee proved to be a reliable goal kicker and contributed a total of ninety five points, including a drop goal against King Edward's. Tom Russell captained the side and must be thanked for his efforts.

With over thirty players being used throughout the season and the majority of them being lower sixth and fifth form, it is to be hoped that next season we will be able to produce a second team as good as, if not better than, this year's team.

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Under 15 XV tour to Barcelona

Saturday, 8th April, 28 members of the under 15 rugby squad descended upon Barcelona after a relatively trouble free flight other than various squad members trying to board BA flight 169 to Moscow.

The hotel was superbly situated, right on the beach. A pity the patio windows and doors would not open. Nevertheless, the hotel staff were pleased to see us and were always very obliging.

Our first fixture against the under 15 Catalanian representative side (which I would imagine was their under 21 side judging by the facial hair of the front row) was a very

demanding game. Played under floodlights on a large pitch, the opposition wasted no time at all in using their excess size and weight to good effect. Lineouts and scrums were a difficult dilemma, with the equivalent of Rodber and Dooley jumping at number two and four. However, despite the defeat, in my opinion, this was our best performance of the tour. It really was a retake of David and Goliath. The tackling was quite awesome and I will remember this game for quite some time. We suffered quite a few injuries thereafter, but the attitude was a credit to all.

The second game, again under floodlight, was a well deserved win against Hospitalet RUFC, 19-7. They were a moderately well

drilled and highly spirited side, whose pack were as good as anything we've met this season.

The final game took us away from Barcelona, up into the hills (bandit country!) where we arrived at St. Cugat - a picturesque and scenic town away from the noise and unbelievable amount of traffic in Barcelona. Here, we were very well received and the team finished the tour with a highly competitive and close match, winning 28-17.

To conclude, it was a tour which had many memorable moments and I hope the boys gained much experience and will continue this rugby form next season.

RD Taylor

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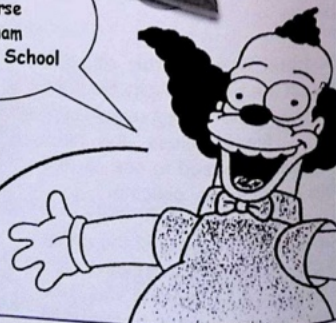


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Under 14 XV

P17 W5 L11 D1

This has been a difficult season for the under 14 XV. Despite positive pre-season training and an early win against Morecambe High School, the team subsequently suffered a series of heavy defeats against King William's College and St. Anselm's, and this was to be the theme until Christmas. Valuable lessons were learned in terms of defence against bigger players and simply keeping possession in games in which the opposition could easily dominate given the chance.

After the Christmas break, the team experienced a change in fortune. They were well beaten in an under-par performance against Cowley, but then defeated a strong Hutton side in a great performance. It was a great shame that they could not capitalise on this performance the following week against Arnold, but this game had to be cancelled due to atrocious weather conditions on the morning of the match.

The squad then concentrated on sevens rugby in preparation for their participation in the Herefordshire sevens competition in March. The boys adapted well in training to this new style of rugby. In the actual competition, the team played tremendously well and were very unlucky not to qualify for the quarter-final stages. All in all, this was a tremendous weekend, which served as a great learning experience.

Whilst the overall results of the season suggest that this is a poor team, this is certainly not the case. This squad is a very talented group of players who have merely suffered from a lack of size and strength. They have good skills which will develop further when they catch up physically with other players. The squad has also been depleted by injuries to key players. Captain Andrew Stevens has missed most of the season, James Cooper missed a significant section before Christmas, and perhaps our most promising player this season, Luke Talbot, became injured just as he was hitting his peak.

Despite this, the squad has played and trained with tremendous enthusiasm and commitment and the backbone of the team will continue to develop as long as they remain keen to listen and learn. Next season will be interesting as the nucleus of the squad has grown with the addition of many new players. These boys will not only enlarge the squad to over 30 players, they will also add competition to existing players who must not rest on their laurels. Roll on the pre-season training!

M Whalley

Under 13 XV

The under 13's started the season playing against Morecambe HS and won by 34 points to 27. The boys were very rusty and this game highlighted the work that had to be done during the coming months, especially on the defence. Nevertheless, the undoubted striking power of the backs was shown by the lethal finishing power of Ephraim Mwenda and Stephen Hatch. The next few weeks saw excellent wins away from home against Ermysted's GS (65-7) and Wirral GS (14-7), mainly due to the improvement made by the forwards, most notably Anthony Waring and Thomas Armer.

With at least thirty boys turning up for training, it was inevitable that one or two boys from the 'B' team would start to win places in the 'A' team. The backs, especially Matthew Arkwright and Michael Briggs, were the finds of the season. In November, a hard fought win away against Lancaster RGS was probably the best performance of the season, Kirkham winning by 35 points to 19. The tackling was, at last, ferocious and the backs were linking with the forwards to score some brilliant tries.

All the hard work done during training was now beginning to pay dividends on the pitch, culminating in another excellent win (36-5) against Calday Grange. The new year, however, proved to be the toughest part of the season, with a disappointing loss against Hutton GS, but then a close win against Ormskirk GS (12-0). A cup competition brought the winning pattern back and this was maintained on the

tour of the Isle of Man, against Castle Rushen and King William's.

Spring saw the start of the sevens competitions, and the under 13's were invited to take part in the prestigious Woodhouse Grove Sevens at Bradford, which proved to be a valuable learning experience against many top rugby schools.

By this time of the season, the players were hitting their peak form and the pick of an excellent team were Michael Le Breton, Marcus Jackson and Daniel Fryer. In the Easter holidays, the under 13's went on a very enjoyable mini-tour of South Wales. The boys won the first game 56-0 against Duffryn HS, but the second game was against much stronger opposition in Cardiff HS, who had only been beaten once all season. Kirkham fought bravely, but lost 24-6 in an exciting game.

It just remains for me to thank the many people involved with the under 13 team this season - both members of staff and senior pupils.

AB Rollins

Under 12 XV

The inevitable problems of creating a team from varying backgrounds was apparent at the beginning of the season, with many talented players lacking the necessary experience to make their full impact. The team was inconsistent prior to Christmas, playing well in one game only to make silly mistakes in the next.

December saw the turning point and more consistency was apparent in the games against Birkenhead and Stockport GS in which the team produced some good rugby.

The penny seemed to drop after Christmas. After a fine win at Cowley, we played magnificently against Hutton (a very large, quick, strong side), to lose narrowly to a penalty try. The fixture against Arnold saw the team finally show their true potential, playing some skilful, controlled rugby involving both backs and forwards. A fine victory over St Mary's Hall saw the end to a magnificent term of rugby.

A weekend tour to the Isle of Man, the Hutton weekend and the Wirral sevens all helped to broaden the boys' rugby education.



The most disappointing part of the season was the lack of fixtures for the 'B' team. There are some very promising players who have not really had a chance during the season, but against Carr Hill they showed that one or two of this year's regulars had better watch out. There were regularly thirty players training on Monday and Thursday evenings and the commitment, especially of the 'B' team players, was to be admired. I hope we will be able to involve more players next year.

I would like to thank the players for their effort, enthusiasm and commitment, Mr Chris Holland for his commitment to training and Saturday morning and the fantastic travelling support of parents who could always be relied upon to encourage the team in a most enthusiastic manner. I think it was the supporters who stopped Calday scoring when they were camped out on the KGS line for ten minutes. Thanks, everyone, and well done.

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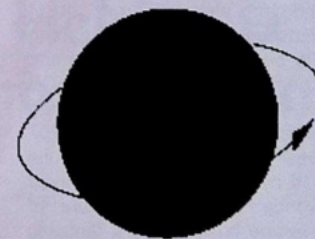
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CRICKET

First XI

P 8 W 3 D 2 L 3

This season has been a good one in terms of the weather, with only one warm up match cancelled because of the rain, and although the under 17 team went out of the cup to a strong Bury side, there is a lot of promise for the future.

Our first match was against Ormskirk, where we won a 30 over game, thanks to tight bowling from Parker and solid batting by the top five, Paul Ashton's 87 supported by Watts (25), Parker (26), Wigglesworth (29) and Davies (22).

It was then straight into the major game of our season, the MCC. The MCC batted first and set a reasonable total of 159; pick of the bowling was Parker (4-32). The team was confident of knocking off the runs but any hopes of a good start were dashed after the first delivery as Ashton had his leg stump removed for a golden duck by pace bowler Wheatman. Despite a late-order fight back from Brambles (who top-scored with a wonderful 51), Ramakrishna (30) and skipper Tom Russell (20), Kirkham fell 17 runs short of their target. Perhaps with a few more matches under the belt the result could have been different.

Next we travelled to our old rivals King Edward's, Lytham. This match saw quite possibly the best fielding display by any side to have played for Kirkham. T Russell, Watts, Brambles and Wigglesworth all held onto slip

and gully catches that Richie Benaud himself would have been proud of. However, KES set a target of 207 to win and, looking at our under-strength line-up, we started to fear the worst. Cometh the hour, cometh the man, and John Paul Boyle stepped forward with a superbly constructed 68, showing all the grace and prowess that had been just waiting for the opportunity all these years. When he was out, plum lbw trying to finish the game with a six, it was left to Sushmith Ramakrishna to stroke the winning runs for the loss of just three wickets. This was possibly the best victory of the season.

Hutton were next on the agenda: Kirkham batted first and reached a total of 164-6 (Watts 49). Hutton's batsmen stuttered along but came within ten runs of Kirkham's total before time ran out. The last week of term saw Kirkham play in three cricket matches that brought out both the best and worst in the team. The first match against QEGS Blackburn was a high scoring affair, and Kirkham's total of 207 was graced with a marvellous display of batting, this time by QEGS, saw Kirkham's 207 passed with several overs to spare.

St. Francis Xavier's School from Liverpool was the last team to visit Kirkham this season. KGS batted first and scored a superb 223-9 off 46 overs (Parker 80, Boyle 60) and then set on the task of bowling SFX's out before time. After some wayward bowling at the start, KGS finally found their rhythm and the wickets

began to flow. SFX's hung on, however, to finish on 130-8 at the end of the game. (T Russell 15, 4-40-5).

The final game of the season was away against Cowley School, St. Helens. This match was possibly the worst performance of the season. After bowling out Cowley for 102, including some really good bowling by Richard Emery (6-2-15-4), and some equally bad fielding, Kirkham faltered as three of the top five batsmen left the field with ducks. O.J. Brambles fought hard for his 31, but KGS were bowled out for a little under 100.

Overall, a very enjoyable season with its highs and lows. Paul Ashton impressed all with his batting, reaching the first century for a few years, and Adam Parker's all round performance caught the eye. Oliver Brambles impressed both with the bat and in the field, and Richard Emery surprised all with his demon bowling. Maybe the best discovery, in my opinion, was fourth year Matthew Hopton, who bowled magnificently and with great discipline all season and is certainly one for the future.

I would just like to finish by thanking Mr. Whalley for all his efforts in organising matches and having people in the right place at the right time.

Tom Russell
Captain

Colours

Full - T Russell

Half - A Davies, J Boyle
P Ashton, O Brambles

Under 15 XI

P 5 W 2 L 3

The highlights of the season were some very good fielding exhibitions against Ripley and Cowley, which brought two well deserved victories. The squad has developed considerably over the term and several players have shown a great deal of potential. Those not playing at a club have been encouraged to join one during the summer.

The bowlers have shown good variety and stuck at their task well, even when up against the Lancashire champions. The batsmen have played with aggression and shown a positive attitude to surviving. This was highlighted when chasing 121

against Bury GS, they made 93 in the twenty overs left in a rain affected game.

With a concentrated and dedicated approach, they will develop into very good players in the future.

Under 14 XI

It was a fitting to see a royal visit on the day of the under 14s' final match of the season. HRH commented that their exploits had come to the attention of the Palace and that he would put in a good word for us with his mum. The implication was that the New Year's Honours' List might well see one or two gongs coming our way. Elevation to the Lords, the

odd knighthood and a handful of OBE's would be appropriate for the contribution to English cricket made by this team. We won four of our five matches: the only defeat was against Lancaster in the Cup, a competition we were happy to avoid so that we could concentrate on the matches that really mattered. As captain and wicketkeeper, Cooper led by example. All-rounders Reeh, Wigglesworth and Ralfs were vital players, assisted by Ward, whose batting almost matched his vocal contributions. The debut season of Ralph was highly promising and Emery excelled as a bag-carrier. There is talent in depth here as well as a competitive and determined spirit. They will go far.

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Under 13 XI

Given the rather indifferent summer, the under 13's managed to play seven matches in a busy and hectic term.

Impressive wins against QEGS, Blackburn and Cowley were the highpoints in a somewhat disappointing set of results for the season. Three of the defeats this season could easily have been turned into victories with a little more concentration and self-belief and the team has the ability to progress next year.

Marcus Jackson and Matthew Arkwright were the pick of the batsmen and performed well consistently over the season opening the batting. However, the lower order succumbed to the 'English disease' and rarely troubled the scorers enough to mount a high enough score.

Max Fulford-Brown, our main strike bowler, proved to be the unluckiest bowler of the season, beating the bat on so many occasions without reward. (I have a feeling he will be the leading wicket taker next season, so the opposition have been warned!) Fortunately he was backed up well by Adam Conway and skipper Michael Le Breton who proved to be the most successful and economic bowlers.

Both Dr Rollins and myself have been impressed with the enthusiasm of the squad, both in practice and in match situations. Let's hope they take the chances to turn good positions into winning ones next season!

SF Duncan

Under 12 XI

After a very encouraging start to the season with a fine away victory by four wickets at Arnold, the team has struggled for consistency. An eventual table of results shows four victories and five defeats, with one no result. Individual performances in the batting department from M. Wilson, C. Calvert, C. Bardsley, M. Eves and M. Hodgkinson have shown brief glimpses of potential for the future. Collectively, though, the boys struggled to build sufficient partnerships. Only in the final few games did this aspect dawn on them after a magnificent all-round display against Cowley.

The main highlights of the season have been in the bowling department, where C. Bardsley, C. Bowden, W. Hawtin, M. Lee, P. Shopland-Reed and R. Thackeray have applied greater accuracy.

Fielding is a major part of the game and, by and large, the boys have all played to their utmost, with good ground fielding and a high proportion of catches taken from chances offered. This was never more the case than in the final game of the season, when

the visitors, Lancaster Royal Grammar School, were bundled out for 79 in 22 overs. Nine of our victims were catches held at the first attempt in the finest display of catching and ground fielding I have ever witnessed by this age group! With 30 overs in which to score the victory target, our boys' frustration could not have been greater as the heavens opened during the interval and play was sadly abandoned, with victory a mere eighty runs away.

As the season progressed, the team became a little more assured and confident about themselves. It was heartening to witness the growing numbers of both A and B squad cricketers regularly attending practices after school as cricket becomes part of their lifestyle. Much will depend in the future on the attitude the boys choose to adopt. Only with regular consistent practice and a willingness to listen, adapt and learn will they develop the potential many of them possess.

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3rd Year	2nd Place
4th Year	2nd Place

For the first time in four years, we did not really have the highest expectations going into this year's Fylde Coast Championship. Therefore, we consider the results to be particularly pleasing.

The third year team have struggled in the last two years of these championships and so to emerge this year as the most improved squad and to come within three points of taking the title was a

marvellous effort.

The fourth year team were beaten by a mere five points, despite scoring zero in one of the nine events. Thus, a single recorded jump in the triple jump would have brought us victory.

The second year team retained their trophy in style, while the first years, who are not a strong group yet, still managed a very creditable fourth place overall, beating many of the schools who have a much better intake of boys.

With a first place, two second places and a fourth, we believe we were the strongest overall school, which is a great achievement.

The results on the day reflect a magnificent all round effort by all of our boys, illustrated by no less than twenty personal best performances and particularly noteworthy were:

2nd Year:
Wareing, Hatch 200m,
Newton 800m, Mwenda 100m

3rd Year:
Houseman 100m & Triple Jump,
Cowland 1500m, Gorman 400m

4th Year:
Westerman 400m, T Cartwright
800m, and a special mention to
Mark Kolodziejczak who by win-
ning the 100m hurdles, complet-
ed a clean sweep in each con-
secutive year from the first to
fourth year.

RD Taylor

TENNIS

Under 15

Another exceptionally successful season, with our success based on the strength in depth of our players. Kirkham provide a balanced team and it is testimony to our players that in our league fixtures our second, third and fourth ranked players have not lost against their opposite numbers. This, linked with a wealth of talent in our reserve players, has brought us success against local schools. Lytham St Annes - with county junior players - King Edward, Carr Hill and Arnold were all swept aside as the under 15's won their group to qualify for the semi-finals against QEGS, Blackburn. Unfortunately events conspired against us and we lost the semi-final on the flip of a coin.

However, as all the players are available again next year for this age group, our hopes are high that we will again challenge for the title.

Under 14 Cup

After receiving a walk-over in the first round, followed by victories over Canon Slade and Rainford High Schools, we found ourselves in the semi-finals, once again having to play Clitheroe GS. After a disappointing start, it seemed as though the KGS team had managed to turn the match round and looked to be on the way to success. However, it was not to be as we lost a decisive third set tie-break 10-8. After last year's heart-break in the final, it was hard to take defeat once again in this way. Even so, the members of the squad, Adam Tuck (captain), Michael Briggs, James Leeming, Jack Ward and

Liam Hanley, can feel justly proud of their achievements over the past two years.

Under 13

This has been a reasonably successful season for the under 13's with three of the four members of the team coming from the first year, the signs are promising for the future. The captain of the team, Michael Briggs, led by example, remaining unbeaten in his matches for the second year running. In league matches, the team defeated Lytham St Annes, drew with King Edward and lost narrowly to Arnold in the decisive match when a key member of the team was unavailable to play because of an athletics fixture. Sadly, we lost out and finished runners-up in our group. Even so, the players should feel encouraged and should look forward to next year.

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The First XV squad



The under 15 hockey squad



The third year boys' athletics squad (above) and the second year girls' athletics squad (below)



HOCKEY OVERVIEW

This year has been our most memorable season by far. Throughout the season, the girls have performed superbly yet again. The standard of play has continued to improve throughout every age group and each year we seem to go from strength to strength.

The under 16's are British Aerospace County, Regional and North of England champions and national runners-up.

Our under 15 Cup team also had a superb season. They competed in the under 15 National Club and School Championships, and after superb wins followed in the footsteps of the under 16's and played in the National Hockey Stadium at Milton Keynes. Another very proud moment indeed!

To make it to two national finals in one season is absolutely unbelievable and it is a true reflection of the quality of hockey here at Kirkham Grammar School.

Our junior and senior teams have produced an excellent set of results against the top hockey schools in the North. The under 13's are Lancashire mini-hockey champions. Our under 12's have been unbeaten all season.

Our first XI have again had an impressive season, finishing as Lancashire runners-up. The second XI have also played extremely well and were unbeaten throughout the season.

SUMMER OVERVIEW

In the summer term, Kirkham Grammar School finally emerged not only as a school with a hockey excellence, but also as a school that excels in tennis and athletics. The girls once again were marvellous - this summer our tennis players were crowned under 14 and under 13 Lancashire champions and our athletes were crowned under 14 and under 15 Fylde Coast cham-

pions. Each year we go from strength to strength and we have proved this year that we can be successful all year round.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Tabb for her superb tennis coaching and organisation and Ms Baxter for her support and assistance with coaching the athletics squad. I would also like to thank Mr Sampey for his expert coaching - our throwers and hurdlers in par-

I would like to thank the hockey coaches - Mrs Tabb, Mr Miller, Miss Baxter, Miss Fryer and Mr Gaddes - for all the time and effort they have put into our teams this season. I would also like to thank the girls for their superb efforts, and the headmaster, chairman of governors, staff and parents for their tremendous support.

The future of hockey at Kirkham Grammar School looks very exciting indeed. We now know that we can compete against the very best in the country and we will be striving for national recognition again next season.

J Glover

Honours

England Hockey Academy - H Spacey

North	Under 21	M Newell
	Under 16	R Sissons, H Spacey
	Under 14	L Sharples, L Sissons, L Martin
County	Under 18	M Newell, R Sissons
	Under 16	K Threlfall, ECairns, V Peters, A Twambley, L Sissons, J Meloy, K Sannegadu
	Under 15	K Gough
	Under 14	L Sharples, L Martin, L Martin
	Under 13	J Greenwood, L Nicholas, R Norman, A Hookey, K Edgar, H Gledhill

ticular certainly benefited greatly from it.

Finally, thank you to all our tennis players and athletes for all their hard work, total commitment and loyalty and to the parents who have supported throughout the term.

HOCKEY**First XI**

P 33 W 27 D 4 L 2

We had our youngest first XI on record this season, with ten of the team's regular players being under 16. The first team was led superbly by Martha Newell, an outstanding midfielder player. She was dynamic in the centre at midfield, supporting both the defence and the attack - she was a key figure both on and off the pitch. Vicky Peters, Lorna Sissons and Emily Rhodes also had terrific seasons in midfield. Vicky's speed on the right wing often took the opposition apart, whilst Lorna and Emily were outstanding in both defence and attack.

In defence we were extremely strong. Katie Threlfall was a solid right back, fast and agile with very good defensive skills. Katie Severns was a very good centre back with excellent pace and agility. Jane Meloy was also excellent as centre back with first class vision and distribution skill. Ellie Cairns developed into an outstanding left back - her work rate and her strength and skill on the left side were second to none. Amy Wareing and Danielle Hanley were fine goalkeepers who did not make mistakes. Their strength certainly instilled confidence in the rest of the team.

For a team to be successful it has to have a good forward line and this season our forwards have been exceptional. Rachel Sissons is one of the most talented individuals the school has ever had. Her skill, vision and

distribution were first class and she scored in virtually every game. Amy Twambley was a dynamic right forward with superb dribbling and crossing skills. Every time Amy had the ball, we looked dangerous. Vicky Wilson very ably supported Rachel and Amy. Vicky's work rate was outstanding, she was the player who could produce that 'touch of magic'. Kim Peake's stamina was incredible and she was always in the right place at the right time.

The squad was a pleasure to work with and I thoroughly enjoyed the season. Unfortunately, four of the team leave us at the end of the school year. I would like to wish Martha Newell, Emily Rhodes, Kim Peake and Amy Wareing every happiness and success in the future. I would also like to extend my thanks to all the girls, they were an absolute credit throughout the season.

J Glover

Second XI

P 22 W 20 D 2 L 0

An excellent season! The squad has played as both second and third elevens over the course of the season, with over eighteen girls to choose from on a rotational system. This disproves the theory that a winning team is a settled team - the Manchester United system also works for KGS!

They have trained hard and played with an enjoyment which makes the life of a coach a pleasure. The team was strong in

all positions and a number of girls would have been regular first XI players in previous years were it not for the strength of that team.

Although it is invidious to single out individuals, I would particularly like to thank the under 16's for their efforts both on the field and as organizers. They have a positive attitude and have fostered excellent team spirit both on and off the field.

Though there were no full time appointments as captain and vice captain, I would like to thank Annabel Fowden, Gemma Swift, Sam Cheadle, Sarah Billington, Vanessa Walker, Claudine Beaver, Alice Green and Amy Wareing for all the help which they have provided over the year. I wish them well and hope that they continue to enjoy their sport in the future.

All the team have seen their skills and positional play improve and have encouraged the lower sixth and fifth year squad members in many aspects of the game.

The future looks bright with many girls improving and developing their skills for the future.

TP Miller

Under 16 Cup

It has been a memorable season for our under 16 girls, competing in the British Aerospace National Schools Championship. The first round of this competition was played at KGS in November. The team played Arnold School, Ripley St. Thomas, and Lytham High, and won all their matches, thus ensuring a place in the next round of the competition, which was a tournament to find the winners from the north-west of England. On a particularly murky and wet Saturday morning, the team battled well on a flooded Astro turf at Stanley Park. They defeated all their opposition, and this included good victories over Altrincham Girls' Grammar and Queen's, Chester. The team had qualified for the Northern Finals, where we had to play against the runners-up from the north-west and the two teams from the north-east. A tough first match with Altrincham resulted in a disappointing no score draw, but the girls raised their game to overpower Dame Allen's, 8-0. This set up a classic final between Kirkham and Bradford, with both teams aware that the winners of this match would qualify for the national finals. The Kirkham team played magnificently and our girls were worthy winners of the match and the title of North of England champions.

Kirkham represented the North in the National Finals at the National Hockey Stadium in Milton Keynes. The opposition was Headington School from the South, The Chase from the Midlands, St. Lawrence from the East, and the West champions, last year's overall winners, Canford School from Dorset. Kirkham played the first match of

the day against the South champions, Headington. It was a nervous and difficult encounter for both teams. Hannah Spacey was superb in goal, and thanks to Jane Meloy's well-taken penalty stroke, Kirkham emerged with a 1-0 victory. Having relaxed into their surroundings, the girls then played two matches against St. Lawrence and the Chase, in which they were convincing winners, beating both teams 3-0. The forward line of Vicky Wilson, Amy Twambley and Rachel Sissons played well to score the goals in these matches, and were well-supported by the mid-field of Lorna Sissons, Kate Sannegadu and Vicky Peters.

The team's final match was against the reigning champions, Canford, who had gained two convincing wins so far. The match was incredibly hard fought, with chances for both teams. Special mention must be made of our goal keeper, Hannah Spacey, and our defence of Katie Threlfall, Katie Severns, Jane Meloy and Ellie Cairns. At the final whistle, the match was tied with no goals scored for either team. There was now nothing more that our team and their supporters could do other than wait, watch and hope. Canford had to play their final match against Headington and nothing but a win would be good enough for them to retain their crown. All eyes were on this final match, which was very evenly fought. Canford went one goal ahead on the stroke of half time and the Kirkham camp was dejected. However, in the second half, Headington fought back and were very unlucky to have two goals disallowed. Canford won the match by the narrowest of margins, but it was enough to

push the Kirkham girls into second place. We were all disappointed to lose out on the title but, in retrospect, the team was superb and could not have given more. It has been an outstanding and enjoyable season and we all look forward to competing in the under 18 championship next year and going one better.

I would like to thank all the squad members for their dedication and hard work and for helping me in the captaincy of this talented team. On behalf of all the members of the squad, I would like to thank all our supporters who have followed and encouraged us throughout the season.

Rachel Sissons

Under 15 XI

The season got off to a great start for the under 15 girls when they beat one of their main rivals, Stockport 5-2. From then on, the girls went from strength to strength. A formidable defence kept the number of goals conceded to a minimum.

The team has seen several changes this season when Hannah Spacey moved from goal keeper to centre forward and Fran Thompson stepping in to take her place and play to a high standard. A great attack proved to be good opposition for any defence and the midfield were solid and hard-working.

Katie Gough

Under 15 XI Cup

This season has been memorable for our under 15 cup team. We started this prestigious competition back in September. The team was totally committed and determined to give this championship their very best. After much hard work in training on and off the pitch in March, we were travelling down the M1 to Sunbury Hockey Club for the quarter finals. In very hot conditions, the game was very fast and end to end with chances at both goals. A goal scored by Kate Sannegadu from a short corner put Kirkham in the lead at half time. The second half was a closely fought contest. Kirkham had to withstand a lot of pressure and did so successfully, to finish winners, gaining a place in the semi-final.

We were extremely fortunate to get a home draw against Repton School. Kirkham totally dominated the first half and a well taken short corner led to a well struck goal from Kate Sannegadu. The second half was a more even game. Kirkham attacked well and stayed extremely composed in defence. We achieved a well earned victory and a place in the National under 15 School and Club Hockey finals.

On Sunday, 7th May, we walked out onto the turf with the Kirkham flag flying high and a large crowd of supporters cheering us on. Harleston Magpies were a National League Hockey Club. The team were big, strong and used to playing ladies' hockey. Kirkham had a nervous start and conceded three early goals. However, in the second half, we battled with true Kirkham spirit

and scored two super goals. Although the game finished a 6-2 defeat, the score was not a true reflection of the game. The Kirkham girls did us proud! Although disappointed, the girls walked off the pitch with their heads held high. We know we were the best school in the country this year, but the strength of a National League Club was just too much this time.

Congratulations must go to all the members of the squad and especially the captain, Kate Sannegadu.

Under 14 XI

The under 14's had an impressive season despite an apprehensive start due to our key centre player, Lorna Sissons, being promoted to first team duties (our congratulations). The girls, however, responded to their training sessions and filled the gap by superb teamwork. An excellent win over Altrincham changed their outlook and gave them the confidence they needed. The squad went from strength to strength throughout the season. The midfield, ably led by the captain, Leanne Sharples, worked with true determination, supplying the passes for the forwards to score some outstanding goals. The defence deserve special mention. They worked superbly as a team and battled continuously to save many a game.

The squad has been tremendous fun to coach. I wish them every success in the 2000/2001 season. I am sure they will do well.

A S Fryer

Under 13 XI

It is a measure of the quality of this year's team, that in an attempt to find worthy opponents fixtures were arranged against a boy's school hockey team. Many of our regular opponents were beaten by more than seven goals and double figures were even achieved on occasions.

The squad coped well with the transition to the full eleven-a-side game. However, there are several players who might change positions in future seasons, and all the squad (bar the excellent goal keepers) ought, at this early stage in their hockey careers, to at least consider the question 'am I playing in the right position?'. Aggressive attacking play characterised most matches, with the captain, Lucy Martin, setting a fine example. She was strongly supported by Milly and Abby Hookey, who together ensured that the ball progressed with a seeming inevitability down the right and into the opponents' penalty area, where Linzi Nicholas and Sally Rotherham were more likely than not to provide the required quality of finish.

In defence, the team was blessed with strong players, Jane Greenwood together with Katie Edgar and Rebecca Norman were dominant in most matches and both the regular goal keepers performed well.

An excellent season, then, both because the team was so successful, but also because the success was so clearly deserved - this was a committed squad who were a pleasure to coach.

M Gaddes

Lancashire Tournament

The whole team battled well from start to finish, winning all our group matches to go through as winners and play Queen Mary's School in the semi-finals. We maintained the same high-standard of play throughout the game, but just could not score. Five minutes extra time was played and the score was still 0-0, so penalty flicks were taken. After ten, very tense, minutes we were through to the final against Westholme, having beaten Queen Mary 3-0. We went on to beat Westholme in the final 1-0 after a late goal scored by Milly Hookey.

North Tournament

We travelled to Silksworth Sports Centre in Sunderland very early on the morning of April 1st. A slow first half resulted in a 0-0 draw against Cheadle Hulme, even though the team played a lot better in the second half, with Linzi Nicholas in the middle battling for every ball, supported on either side by Abby and Milly Hookey, making a strong forward line.

In our second game against Hymer's College, the whole team performed very well and our defence stopped their strong attack from striking. Rebecca Norman kept their very quick right wing out of the game. This resulted in a 1-0 win when Sally Rotherham scored the winning goal.

Next, we played Parkview and again every member of the team played well. Jane Greenwood had a quick and skilful run down the wing, slipped the ball to Lucy Martin who scored the first of her two goals in that match. We won 2-0.

ATHLETICS

Lancashire Schools' Championships

Seven of our girls were selected to represent South Fylde in the Lancashire Schools' Athletics Championships. Jane Greenwood and Linzi Nicholas ran personal bests in the 800m and Jane qualified for the finals. Lucy Martin competed in the hurdles and with a terrific run finished in second place. Alex Wilkinson competed in the high jump

We drew 0-0 with Sunderland Hockey Club, who had the advantage of playing at home. It was a very close game, but even though we had the better chances, we could not score. Kirsty McClymont made a brilliant save and played extremely well in goal all the way through both the tournaments as we did not concede a goal!

Lucy Martin

Under 12 A XI

The under 12 hockey team started well, and continued to win all of their games and draw one. The team battled well all season to achieve this and we are all very proud of our success. As we drew closer to the end of the season, we were faced with the task of competing in the Arnold Invitation Tournament. We won four of our group matches and drew one, which then took us through to the semi finals. Although we all battled well, it just was not enough. The final score was 1-0 to Hymer's College.

Emily Martin

Under 12 B XI

The under 12 B team has improved immensely since the beginning of the season. Our best match was played against Altrincham School, when we won 5-0. We have also beaten many other teams, including Arnold, Cheadle Hulme and St Edward's College.

*Lucinda Highfield
Hannah Delange*

and although she was disappointed with her performance, she benefited greatly from the experience. Jenna Rees and Vicky Peters competed in the long jump and with very little training due to their GCSE examinations, did very well indeed. Jenna finished fourth and Vicky was runner-up. Finally, Claire Taylor was in the discus event and threw a super 26.21m to beat her personal best and become Lancashire Champion - an excellent achievement!

J Glover

Fylde Coast Athletics Championships

Under 13 Third
Under 14 Winners
Under 15 Winners
Under 17 Runners-up

The Fylde Coast Championships is our biggest event of the season, with fifteen schools taking part. Our girls performed superbly on the day and once again we had some exceptional performances.

The majority of our girls qualified for the finals and each and every one of them played an important part in the final result. I am very proud of every single one of our athletes. Our individual champions

were:

First and second year relay team
Leanne Sharples, 1500m
Lucy Martin, Javelin
Abbey Hookey, High jump
Linzi Nicholas, 800m
Laura Martin, Long jump
Alex Wilkinson, High jump
Jane Greenwood, 1500m
Amy Twambley, 1500m

J Glover

TENNIS

This year has been the most enjoyable and successful season of tennis experienced at Kirkham Grammar School to date. The standard of tennis has been exceptional and a delight to watch.

Arguably the greatest achievement this year has been in the under 14 Derek Hill Trophy. The team, consisting of Jane Greenwood, Jane Jackson, Lorna Sissons and Laura Martin, has played with sheer grit and determination in every match, beating Queen Mary, Westholme and Bolton School in the semi finals. The finals, held at K.G.S, were an absolute delight to watch. The standard of tennis was exceptionally high and Kirkham played wonderfully well to win on tie break count back to become county champions.

The under 13 and under 15 Lancashire league competitions have also been very successful. The under 15 team, consisting of

Sarah Briggs, Fran Thompson, Katie Gough and Kate Sannegadu played consistently well throughout the season and were semi finalists in their age group. The under 13 team, consisting of Jane Greenwood, Jane Jackson, Sally Rotheram and Linzi Nicholas played some excellent tennis, beating Westholme A team in the semi finals and going on to beat Westholme B team 5-1 in the finals to become Lancashire league champions.

The Lancashire under 13 singles tournament was again held at K.G.S this year. Sally Rotheram played some excellent tennis against tough opposition, winning one game and losing one game in the group stage. The under 19's tournament, also held at KGS, was a thoroughly enjoyable event and the results were very creditable, with Jane Meloy winning the plate competition and Philippa Leeming finishing as county runner up.

Regarding friendly fixtures, the under 13 squad has played 8

matches, winning 7 and losing 1. The under 14 squad has played 7 matches winning 5, drawing 1 and losing 1. The under 15 squad has played 6 matches winning 3, drawing 1 and losing 2, and the seniors have played 3 matches winning 2 and losing 1. The under 12 squad have made exceptional progress throughout the season winning 3 matches and losing 2.

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

I would like to congratulate all of the girls on their excellent performances throughout the season. They have been a delight to coach and a credit to their school.

J Tabb



Junior Kirkhamian



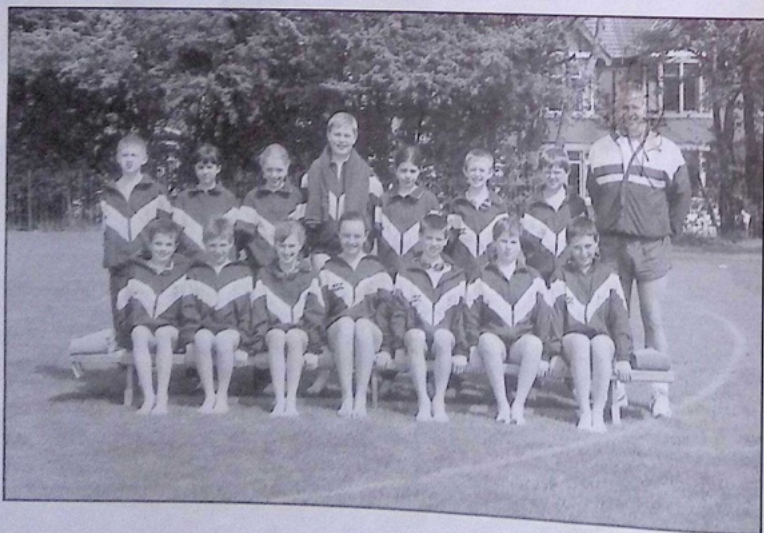
Staff Changes

This year saw the arrival of three new faces to the school. Mr Peter Lockett joined us as Head of Music and teacher of J3Y. Mme Florence Snell (nee Robles) was appointed as the new French teacher and Miss Gemma Meyrick was employed as a classroom assistant for 11X

In September, Miss Clair Evans will be joining the team as a part time teacher.

Rounders

The AJIS rounders tournament was held on Saturday, 17th May, just three hours after half of our team returned from Disneyland, Paris. After a slow start, the girls improved as the day went on. Their results were: won two, lost two. Unfortunately, they did not qualify for the semi-finals, but they all enjoyed themselves and had a long sleep afterwards!



The swimming squad

Tennis

This year three of our J4 boys entered the AJIS tennis tournament in Chester on 10th June. Jonathan Knowles won Group E, James Hall came second in Group C and Michael Walker also came second in the top group, Group A. Well done, boys!

Athletics

On Monday, 19th May, a team of under 9, under 10 and under 11 children visited KGJS from St. Pius X school. There were some very close races and a wonderful display of sportsmanship in all the track events. It was a very close match, with Kirkham just beating St. Pius in the last event to clinch the overall victory. Well done to all who took part.

Swimming

At the AJIS Boys' Swimming Gala in October, eight of our J3 and J4 boys travelled to Stockport to take part. Only Joseph Brockbank qualified for his final, where he was placed fourth. All boys enjoyed the competition and tried their best.

At the girls' event in November at Liverpool, only four girls participated. The girls swam very well indeed, but none of them made it to the finals.

Rugby

This year the under 10 and under 11 teams have performed well indeed. The under 10 team were joint winners at the Rossall Budge Sevens tournament.

The under 11 team won the AJIS Rugby Sevens again, as well as St. Mary's Rugby Tournament,

were the Packwood Haugh Plate winners and runners up in the Rossall Budge sevens under 11 tournament. They also had wins over Merchant Taylor's, Altrincham, Rossall and St. Anselm's during the course of the year. Congratulations to all who took part.

Hockey

The under 10 and under 11 hockey teams have both had a reasonably successful season this year.

The under 11 team won 13 of the games they played in, drew 3 and lost only 2. We were winners of the Lancashire hockey tournament, runners up in the Rossall Budge Sevens and performed well in the AJIS and Northern Finals.

The under 10 team improved throughout the year with an excellent attitude and team spirit. They won 4 games, drew 3 and lost 2. In the Rossall Budge Sevens, they had some pleasing results and in the AJIS tournament, they managed to win their group.

Netball

The A and B team have had mixed success this year. The A team won five matches, drew two and lost two, whilst the B team won three and lost two. The A team gained a very well-deserved fifth place overall in the AJIS tournament. Well done, girls.

Gym Squad

The Junior School gym squad have worked very hard this year and put on a wonderful display at the Fun Day. The children, aged between six and ten, performed superbly to such dance classics as the Time Warp and Another One Bites the Dust. We had to say a fond farewell to Alessandro Lou who left us after three years in the squad to live in Italy.



The gym squad

Music

This year has been a very busy one for all areas of music. Each of the junior years had a Junior Year Group Concert which involved solos, duets and whole group performances. These were enjoyed by a full house audience of parents. On 11th October, a group of our musicians performed in the Global Schools' Network Video Conferencing, which was beamed live to other countries around the world. The choir sang carols at the Volvo Ladies' Night and entertained shoppers at Wyevale Garden Centre.

The Brass Ensemble performed superbly at a JJB Band and Suzume Band (Japan) concert in March.

Congratulations to Suzanne Carter who was awarded the Music Scholarship for 1999/2000.

Infant Ensemble

A group of enthusiastic musicians have met weekly to develop their skills on various instruments including violins, recorders, glockenspiels, keyboard and percussion. We wish the 13 members well when they continue their musical pursuits in the junior department at KGJS.

Trips

This year the children have enjoyed trips to: S.P.A.C.E. (I1), Martin Mere (I2), Leighton Hall (I3), Jodrell Bank (J1), Egyptology Museum, Bolton and the Science and Industry Museum, Manchester (J2), Patterdale Hall Outdoor Pursuits Centre (J3), Heysham Power Station (J4) and Disneyland, Paris (J4).



The Junior Ensemble

Royal Visits

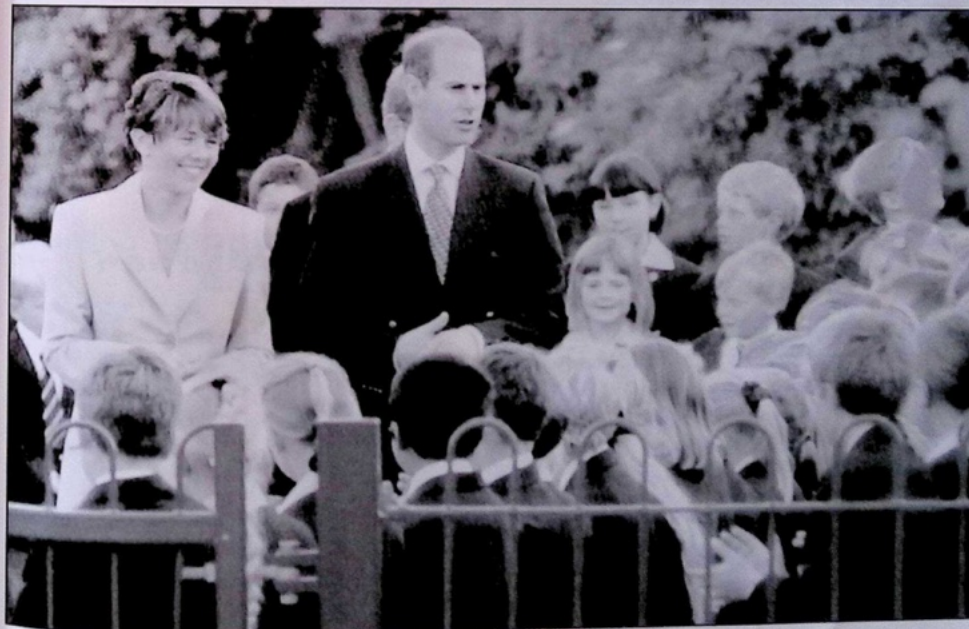
Two royal visits were important occasions on the KGJS calendar. On November 3rd, 1999 HRH The Duke of Gloucester visited the Senior School and the children from the Junior School were there to greet him, waving flags.

On July 6th, 2000 Prince Edward honoured us with a visit to see the partnership between education and industry. He enjoyed a guided tour of the school and a presentation in the IT Laboratory by Miss E Carr. This was a wonderful opportunity for all the children and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

On 26th June, the members of Millennium Mission visited us with a drama production for all the children. It was a superb production called 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. It all started when Lucy, Susan, Peter and Edmund were evacuated from their London home and when they were exploring their new home, they came across an extraordinary-looking wardrobe. Lucy knew there was something strange about the wardrobe and she found there was an enchanted land on the other side called Narnia. The other children did not believe her until Edmund found Narnia too. Edmund, though, ate the Wicked Witch's food. Narnia was a place where it was never Christmas, yet always winter. The children had to fight the Wicked Witch to help make Narnia the place it should be with all its seasons and, with the help of Aslan the Lion, who helped them, their mission was accomplished.

Amy Pye, J4X



The Royal Visit

My weekend...

I got the paddling pool out and my brother woke me up and then we got our cossy and trunks and we went downstairs to get an ice-pop. Then we got in the paddling pool with our ice-pop.

Alix Townsend, 11X

I had a water fight with mummy and I wet mummy's clothes. I went to the beach.

Elizabeth Robinson, 11X

I went to the fair and I got one of the 101 Dalmatians. It rained but I didn't mind.

Sarah Whelan, 11Y

I went swimming with Samuel and Sam and Gemma and Lucy. I had good fun and we had tea. I watched Big Daddy. My friend was sick.

Alexandra Lord, 11Y

I went to Aerial's grotto. I went to Dolphin Research Centre.

Sophie Chadwick, 11X

When I grow up...

When I grow up I want to be an engineer.

I want to be an engineer because I am very good at K'Nex. I made a dump truck with K'Nex and I made a digger. It has made me very tempted, so I think I'd like it.

Lucas Christiano, 13Y

When I grow up I'm going to be a astronaut because I want to see all the planets. My favourite planet is Mercury. I think it would feel funny with no gravity at all.

Alexander Lister, 13Y

If I were an eel,
I'd say,
I want a meal.

If I were a ewe,
I'd say,
Don't put me in a stew.

If I were a fox,
I'd say,
Get me out of this box

If I were a clock,
I'd say,
Tick-tock.

If I were a boat,
I'd say,
Look, I can float.

If I were a melon,
I'd say,
Hello, lemon.

If I were a dog,
I'd say,
Catch that hog.

If I were a dove,
I'd say,
I'm flying up above.

If I were a parrot,
I'd say,
Please give me a carrot.

If I were a puffin,
I'd say,
I can't eat muffin.

If I were a robin,
I'd say,
I like bobbing.

Beccy Bridgwater, J1X



If I were my brother,
I'd say,
Let's wind up mother.

If I were my sister,
I'd say,
Eh! You've got a blister.

If I were a boy,
I'd say,
I've only got one favourite toy.

If I were my Dad,
I'd say,
I'm very, very, very mad.

If I were my Mum,
I'd say,
Are you deaf or dumb?

If I were Helen,
I'd say,
Eat more of your melon.

If I were a teacher,
I'd say,
Let's go to Ibiza.

But as I'm a cleaner,
I say,
You're getting meaner.

Janais Currie, J1Y



Bossy Bethany

Bossy Bethany is very bossy. She likes to hang out with her friends. She wears high heel shoes and jazzy clothes. Her favourite hobby is going out and bossing people around. At school she is good at Art, Maths, PE and IT. In the play-ground, she likes to boss all the girls around. Her weight is 3 stone 1. She likes to go on holiday to Paris and Spain. She has a pet dog called Patch.

Olivia Domics, J1Y

Lighting a Bonfire

The crackling of the newly born fire is lovely to hear. The danger in the air as I get closer and closer to the ever building fire. The dazzling colour of reds, oranges and yellows. Intense heat keeps all of us away. The illuminating colours are wonderful to watch. The sooty smell is lovely to smell.

The explosions that happen when the fire really starts to get going are nice to watch. The smoke starts to fill the air from the fire. You can feel your hands becoming rough and dirty. The sweltering heat as the fire builds is warm against my back. The colours of fire get brighter every minute.

After the people started to go home in their shiny cars, I still watched through my bedroom window as the fire slowly died down. While I was in my bedroom, I could still smell the smoke off my clothes.

Michael Walker, J4X

Rocking Ricky

Rocking Ricky is handsome, he is a pop star and everyone loves him. He wears black clothes with a little bit of yellow in them. On his tee-shirt, there is a picture of a guitar. So far he has done 150 tours and all of them have been successful. He is really famous and he travels all around the world. He has been to Asia, Australia, Barcelona, Bournemouth, Majorca, America, Florida, Italy and Yorkshire. In his spare time he makes movies. They're normally hard to follow. Anytime Ricky goes shopping he always gets stopped because his fans want his autograph.

Rachel Kitchen, J1Y

Remember, Remember

The bonfire is blazing, crackling and whistling.
 On top the flames lick the Guy's feet.
 The fireworks are whooshing into the air,
 Exploding and banging in the night sky.
 Red, green, pink, blue and yellow,
 Bright colours in the sky.
 Hot dogs, toffee apples and burgers.
 The smell fills the air, attracting you to it.
 The crunch when you bite into toffee apples.
 Soft hot dogs with tomato sauce and sweet
 bonfire toffee, hard or soft.

Caitlin McMillan, J2X

Le Présent

Mais enfin, dites-moi, qu'est-ce que c'est le présent?

Où ça commence, où ça finit?

Est-ce la mer qui brille, le moulin qui tourne,
 L'oranger qui pousse, la belle qui dort?

Est-ce le soleil, la vie, le ciel, la mer, les êtres?

Est-ce le loup qui regne, le voilier qui vogue,
 La brise caressante, l'aigle royal qui plane?

Dites-moi, dites-moi.

Le présent, vois-tu, c'est simple et c'est plus compliqué.
 Le présent, c'est le temps qui passé, la règle de la vie,
 La paix qui nous contemple.

Le présent, c'est pour lui que nous vivons.

Gauthier Ajarrista, J4X

Gauthier, who is 10, has written this poem as part of his French assessment. The quality and beauty of it are exceptional for a boy of his age. For those of you who do not understand French, I have translated it. But do remember that you can translate the ideas, but the beauty of poetry can never be fully translated!
 Florence Snell

But, tell me, what is the present?
 Where does it start, where does it end?

Is it the sea that shines, the windmill that turns,
 The orange tree that grows, the beauty that sleeps?

Is it the sun, life, the sky, the sea, the living beings?

Is it the wolf that reigns, the boat that sails,
 The breeze that caresses, the golden eagle that flies?

Tell me, tell me.

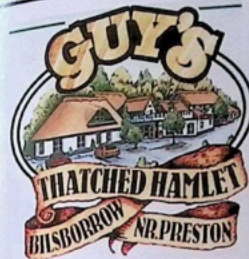
The present, you see, it's simple and it's more complicated.
 The present is time passing by, the rule of life, peace contemplating us.
 The present, it is for it that we live.



Charlotte Chambers J4Y



Helen Kirby J4Y



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