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The School wishes to thank all who have advertised in this magazine

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HEADMASTER'S FOREWORD

This year marks a very special landmark in the history of the school. Thirty years ago the school embarked on one of the riskiest chapters in its long history. Having been a state funded Grammar School for around 380 boys subsequent to the 1944 Education Act, the school had catered for the rural community of the Fylde. The new fashion for comprehensive schooling in the 1970's saw Kirkham come under scrutiny and the decision for the school to amalgamate with Carr Hill was made. The plan was for the site to be used for a few years, the school then closed and for the land to be handed back to the Governors for whatever purpose they chose.

For the Governors this raised an enormous dilemma. To move to Independence was a significant risk. After all the school had been starved of funding and was a very different school to the one we see today. For the Governors to embark on establishing a fee-paying school was a brave decision indeed, but establish it they did. To mark the occasion two of their number woke the Headmaster on the first night of term and marched him down to his study, uncorked a bottle of champagne, proceeded to drink it and then duly threw the empty bottle through the window! Needless to say Mr Summerlee, the then Headmaster, protested violently, at which stage the two Governors drew out the stained glass window which graces my study currently and now stands as a lasting memorial to that infamous start of term.

The new Independent School of 1979 had only a small number of permanent classrooms and only the Old Hall available for assembly. Some 400 squashed into that Hall does make one welcome our current health and safety agenda.

- School started with a first year of two forms. 1X and 1Y. Some 30 boys and 18 girls entered the school as the first Independent Co-educational cohort.
- They entered a very different school than the one our pupils know today.
- The '38 block and a small part of the Norwood building represented the only stone built teaching areas while the rest were described by my colleagues as "black chicken shacks". Even the Wareing buildings were not thought of then. No MPH, Technology Block nor Dining Room and the current Music block was a Science laboratory.
- It was a school where the cane was still readily used.
- A school where six houses not four competed for the Whitby cup (Ashton and Lytham being the extras).
- A school where any one venturing into the staff room would be greeted with a wall of cigarette smoke. No sign of a no smoking school then.
- A school where only one permanent female member of staff bravely taught.

Yet from those very vulnerable beginnings has grown the school we know today with its first five form entry, a host of new buildings but a school that continues to benefit from its traditions, ones which we must never lose sight of as we continue to strive in the evolution of the school. I can only congratulate the Governors on that brave decision thirty years ago which saved the school and also the band of staff who stood by the school in what must have been very worrying times.

In researching a little about KGS thirty years ago I asked what the exam statistics were like but was greeted with the retort – "Oh, no-one took much notice then!" We of course do take notice today and I am pleased to report that our students have enjoyed a successful year in the public examination arena.

Our A2 students achieved a near perfect pass rate with nearly two thirds of the grades at A or B. This represented a significant level of value added from the position two years ago when the same group took GCSE and there were some outstanding individual performances. All four students who received offers from Oxbridge Colleges achieved the necessary grades and we wish Michael Bennett, Elena Gaddes, Caitlin McMillan and Tom Sanders well on the next exciting stage of their careers. These four also acted as pioneers in undertaking the AQA Baccalaureate, a new qualification that dovetails with the A-level structure. A diary of extra curricular activity, General Studies at AS, three good A-levels and an extended essay provide an overarching qualification which rewards the broad enrichment which is so much a part of what we do. All four of our pioneers gained distinction grades and we look forward to more entries this year. No less than 10 students gained a minimum of four A grades while 20 gained at least three. These excellent results reward the hard work of both pupils and staff and I was heartened to witness the significant improvements made by so many over the two years. In celebrating these academic achievements of our oldest students it was pleasing once again to hear only last week that another of our recent leavers, Jamie Hill, has received a 1st class honours degree in Physics from Oxford.

At AS level the Lower Sixth set high standards and while their grades remain uncertificated the potential for next year was displayed with an excellent series of results, which rank as the school's best ever at this level. We will expect much from them next year.



At GCSE there was again much to applaud. Statistically some 99% of students attained the minimum of 5 A-C passes with just under 45% of these at A*/A level. What is particularly pleasing is that these figures remain almost identical when Mathematics and English are included which is very much a Governance drive currently. This indicates the success of the core subjects at school and that we have not gone down the current trend of packing the curriculum with so called softer subjects in the pursuit of grades. Sara Collinge and Lucy Fielding performed wonderfully, as both accumulated ten A* grades while a further five pupils amassed ten A/A* grades. Again in overseeing these results what has been most pleasing has been the improvements made by so many pupils over the last two years and to see the joy shown when the results are collected. The challenge now for the new Lower Sixth will be to sustain that momentum.

Each year brings its challenges but you certainly need stamina to keep up with our pupils. Every year I am asked, "How have you kept up this year?" I just wish I had the ready wit of the retired Head of Eton who responded to just such an enquiry by replying that throughout his career as Head "he slept like a baby – two hours sleep and the rest of the time crying!"

This year has maintained the momentum of a busy school and I feel been particularly notable for the wealth and variety of extra-curricular trips that have taken place. These add so much to the learning process and do so much to enrich school experiences. I must pay tribute to the parents who I know make so many sacrifices to support their children in these areas, particularly at a time of such economic stringency.

Last year saw some new initiatives begun with an exciting trip run by the Art and Drama departments to New York. The workshops on Broadway and the city galleries provided wonderful insights into these creative subjects. In the Geographical world the Iceland experience brought the world of physical geography to life and certainly left me very envious when I saw the photographs. Our Historians were fortunate to experience a fascinating battlefields trip and I was moved to see the presentation of the wreath under the Menin Gate. The picture of Rhys Williams in the uniform worn in World War One also brought an added poignancy. Our budding linguists enjoyed an excellent trip to Paris, sampling both local food and culture while taking in the sights. These new ventures added to the already impressive array of ski trips to France, a hockey tour to Holland, a rugby trip to Venice and other less distant visits which still form an important part of what school is about. I can only thank my staff for giving their time so generously.

The last year has, of course, been filled with highlights in other spheres. The musical life of the school has been enriched by the variety of different ensembles and individual performances. It was wonderful to see the new Swing Band enjoying their performance at the spring concert so much, while we all enjoyed the first and second year concerts where nearly a quarter of each year group performed in front of a packed and appreciative audience. With the Kings Division once again joining the Concert Band last March and the Orchestra and String group growing in numbers and confidence, the musical life of the school is in rude health and I know Mr Barrett and Mr Dalton have further plans for

the year. The senior pupils also have done so much to maintain standards within the music society and Sarah Dickie along with her band of loyal musicians in the Upper Sixth deserve congratulation on their efforts.

Every year we almost run out of superlatives to describe the varied theatrical productions on offer and this year's performance of Hamlet stretched their use again. Memorable performances by Matthew Edgar, Alice Whitehead and Benedict Fulford-Brown ensured a stunning dramatic success but the fact that the cast as a whole were so enthusiastic meant that the production had an exuberance that was transmitted to the audience. Ms Barrie and her team continue to set high standards and the performers in this year's varied productions will have a lot to live up to. I can only but admire also the sheer number and variety of theatre visits our pupils enjoy within the year.

At the end of last year I spent a day at Warcop in Cumbria on Cadet Camp. This proved one of the most enjoyable of days as I was privileged to witness over 50 of our young Cadets enjoying a challenging and varied programme of activity. Fortunately Colonel Scott did not force me to join in but I was able to see the rafting, the emergency first aid, group manoeuvres and the range shooting. Most of all I saw the sheer enjoyment of the youngsters involved in a situation where they were being stretched and yet not flinching. The NCOs who had officially left school by July all turned up in support and James Moncreiff, Charles O'Flaherty and Grace Garlington led from the front. This year has been a very special year for the Cadet Contingent with some significant new initiatives within their itinerary. Field days at Waddecar and Halton have been supplemented with an adventure-training weekend in Snowdonia and leadership training at Nesselcliffe. The programme is meeting with success as Alice Whitehead and Henry Redshaw have gained awards in army leadership training and Henry has earned an army scholarship, the school's third consecutively. Most recently Alice Whitehead and Grace O'Flaherty have been selected as two of only a small number of cadets nationally to go on the CCF 150th anniversary expedition to Lesotho in Africa next summer. In addition we have burgeoning numbers gaining awards in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, an extensive exercise on its own. An extraordinary year just emphasises the variety of opportunity offered by this outstanding national organisation. I can only commend Colonel Scott and Squadron Leader Callister on the efforts of their team in sustaining this high level of involvement and success.

Any report of life at KGS would not be complete without reference to the year's sporting successes and this was another year of extraordinary achievement in a variety of different areas. As with all our activities sport must have its place within school and is increasingly important in the quest to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The competition and teamwork it engenders are also vital in this modern world and I am always staggered to learn of schools where competition is frowned upon. To learn the manner in which to lose, and indeed to win are important lessons and ones to which are youngsters are exposed weekly. We aspire to balanced fixture lists where we are rarely undefeated but are challenged and as a relatively small school learn the importance of working together, and that one must rely on others to help us to succeed.

Our teams have indeed battled through to some notable successes. Perhaps pride of place should go to two teams who reached national finals. The 1st VII, having won the Northern Sevens at Birkenhead and Fylde, defeated a host of

top schools before losing to Millfield in the final of the National Sevens at Rosslyn Park. Such a performance was memorable in every way and capped an outstanding season for both the First and Second Fifteens who both lost only one game. Jonathon Edwards, Wasim Riley and William Stover as the officers of the club have much to be proud of after an outstanding season.

Our girls are not to be outdone, however, and the Junior Girls Athletes travelled down to London in July to perform in the TSB National Finals for the second consecutive year. Having battled through two regional rounds alongside the intermediate team they alone went on to represent the area in the final. Although they were unable to match some of the massive schools there, to finish in the top ten nationally is a wonderful achievement and rounded off a memorable athletics season. The girls managed to win every trophy at the Fylde Athletics Championships for the first time ever. All boys and girls teams emerged as regional winners of the TSB competition while individually the school had 11 athletes on the podium at the Lancashire Schools Championships with Lamara Hill and Adam Whalley emerging as County Champions.

Beyond these two major highlights there was so much else to admire:

- The Under 12 swimmers were the first KGS swimming team to go unbeaten.
- The Under 12 and Under 16 Hockey teams were County Champions.
- The 1st XI hockey gained runners up spot in our own tournament after a brave draw with Millfield.
- The Under 14/15 Netball teams both won their respective leagues.
- The Volleyball team had its best ever season finishing runners up in the adult league.
- Individually Kieran Marmion was selected for Ireland Under 18 XV.
- The Under 15 Rugby XV reached the quarter final of the National Vase and won the County Plate competition. While the performance of all teams merited the award of County School of the year.
- Adam Galley and Marcus Mollinga scored outstanding centuries during the cricket season. While the Under 15 XI lost only one fixture.
- Olivia Bence once again excelled on the tennis circuit becoming runner up in the County Doubles Championship at Under 18, while all the teams performed well.

The list could be longer and ignores so many who have performed admirably for the large number of teams who have enjoyed their sport this year but time is pressing. A big thank you however to you all for your commitment, to the coaches for their skills and dedication and of course to the parents who act as regular taxis and who share with me the frustrations of the spectator!

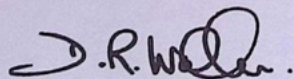
As every year draws to a close we say goodbye to some members of staff and this year was no different. Miss Stewart left us after only one year to pursue a career in drama while we said goodbye to Mrs Glover and Mr Shackleton after six years at KGS. They made significant contributions to the scientific world at school and we wish them well. After 25 years in the Technology department Mr Hill decided to enjoy a well earned retirement. As Head of

Technology he oversaw the move from woodwork and metalwork to the CAD/CAM centre we have today. The assistance of BAE brought a whole new dimension to Technology in school and it was Mr Hill who oversaw its inception. He also found time to coach sport, assist in drama productions and take a commission in the CCF. Most recently our students will know him as Examinations Officer where he has helped so many staff and pupils in this ever increasing world of assessment. As Mr Hill sets out into retirement we wish him well and thank him for his loyal service to the school.

Not only do we say farewell to members of staff but to another Upper Sixth. This year our Upper Sixth Formers have been an excellent example of KGS students at their best. So many have been committed to all the school has to offer – too many to mention tonight. Yet they have contributed so much to the life of the school, be it in the musical aspect of the school, the Cadets, on the sports field, or just as importantly leading one of our clubs or societies. Unsung heroes like Tom Fielding in the Chess Club, himself a County champion and National level player, running the club for other pupils. Others have tested their mettle in Young Enterprise or the L.U.V.U. challenges while others act as mentors. That is what lies at the heart of a good Sixth Form and it is why the Sixth Form represents the pinnacle of a school career. My sincere thanks go to Caitlin and Wasim and all their team of Prefects for their efforts in making the school run so smoothly last year.

I think it is fair to say that our staff and pupils are thriving in their independence. That brave decision 30 years ago has created a vibrant school whose pupils keep us constantly on our toes searching for new challenges to keep them motivated and achieving new heights. The Government does appear to be trying its best to bind us in the mediocrity that too much uniformity can bring, but this school's traditions of striving out and moving forward confidently will ensure we ride above these bureaucratic inhibitions, and that we ensure that the balanced education we hold dear remains at the core of our traditions and that we continue the evolution of our school to ensure its success, both through, and well beyond this celebration of thirty years of Independence.

INGREDERE UT PROFICIAS




LEAVERS

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

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

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

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

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

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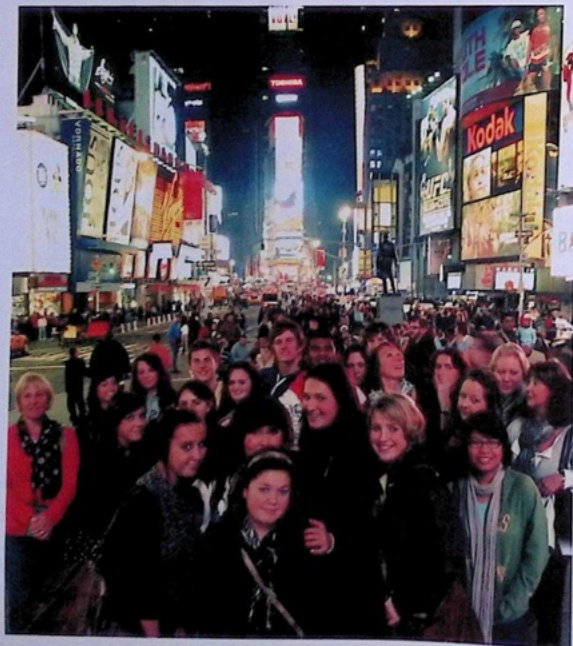
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SCHOOL
YEAR



Pupils on their Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition



Drama/Art Trip to New York



School Production of 'Hamlet'



Finalists in KGS X Factor



Sixth Formers on Biology Field Trip



Sixth Formers on Geography Trip to Iceland



Under 15 Hockey Team Fundraising



Pupils at the Menin Gate



First XI v MCC



Sixth Form Leavers' Ball



Finalists in the National Sevens



CHARITY

Donations

Cystic Fibrosis	£275
Derian House	£800
Joshua Aldred Trust	£450
Action Aid	£420
Lepra	£1500
Present Aid	£640
Brian House	£400
Medecins Sans Frontieres	£400
Crisis	£400
Cancer Research	£500
Gaza Crisis fund	£250
Comic Relief	£800
Marie Curie Cancer	£200
Chernobyl Children	£1000
British Legion Poppy Appeal	£100
Rosemere Cancer	£300
Help For Heroes	£1500

It has been another very busy year with plenty of opportunities for our pupils to be involved in events. The response, as usual, has been very pleasing and many generous donations have been possible.

We have continued our support of the three children in Peru, India and Nigeria, supporting educational and social projects in their villages and areas.

At the end of September, the Lytham Round Table Dragon Boat Festival took place at Fairhaven Lake. We entered a team and raised funds for our chosen charity, the Joshua Aldred Memorial Trust Fund, with donations being used to fund local projects in memory of the youngster.

Once again, Jackie from Lepra visited us and spoke in assembly about the effects of leprosy and the ease with which it can be cured. Our junior forms responded magnificently and turned out for an exhausting aerobics session at lunchtime and raised a fine amount in sponsorship.

As always, the school supported the British Legion Poppy Appeal and as the term progressed we once again chose to support the alternative Christmas presents offered by relief agencies. A wide range of presents were bought by our forms, ranging from donkeys, ducks, buffalos, hairy yaks to cans of worms, mosquito nets and emergency relief packs.

As the end of term approached, we held our KGS X Factor competition and were overwhelmed with entries. The final, held in the last week of term, was a wonderful occasion as the whole school gathered in the MPH to see the array of talent. Our third year band, Alchemy, started off proceedings with a well known festive hit by Slade. We were then treated to one of our two staff groups, The Wotsits, who gave us a hilarious rendition of 'Umbrella'. Our second staff group 'Sh'Abba' was made up of our PE staff plus special guest Mr Harrison. Their fabulous costumes and dancing nearly brought the house down. We had some excellent girl singers. Evie Evans, Caitlin McMillan, Sarah Dickie, Chloe Hudson and Chloe Walker all gave super performances with a range of different styles of music. We were also treated to

lovely singing by Annabelle Mole and Fenella Gabrysch. There were memorable performances from our duos, Lottie Lewis and Helen Kelsall and also Bradley Bushell and Stuart Spencer from the fourth and fifth year, and Nicole Wainwright and Abby Shelton from the second year. Boys were rather thinner on the ground, but Adam Patel and Connor Wilkinson more than made up for that with crowd pleasing songs.

Our groups included The Promise, a fifth form band who played a song they had written themselves. We also had Kids Aloud, a first year group who had been coached by Mr Rushton and Mrs John to give an enthusiastic performance of a Girls Aloud song, and the whole of 3W sang together as a choir. Nick Evans and Benedict Fulford-Brown finished off proceedings in good style with a memorable and moving performance. Tom Anstiss and Matthew Edgar kept everyone entertained in between the acts and did an excellent job of being comperes, whilst Ashley Jones, Ben Frew and Chris Allen worked hard backstage to ensure everything was set up quickly during the very brief change-over time. Votes were duly cast and our task of counting began. It was very close and everyone had to wait until our final assembly of the year for the result. We also had the job of counting all of the money we had raised, over £1000. This has been donated to Brian House Children's Hospice, Crisis at Christmas and Medecins sans Frontieres. Connor Wilkinson was announced in third place, whilst Kids Aloud gained second place. Our very worthy winners, however, were Nick Evans and Benedict Fulford-Brown who then performed their winning song to end our assembly in fine style.

Shortly after Christmas, it was wonderful to see a large number of pupils, parents, staff and Old Kirkhamians taking part in the Cancer Research Fun Run at Ribby Hall. All completed the 5 km course, despite the bitterly cold

conditions and all were smiling at the end, justifiably proud of their achievements, as were those who took part in the Rosemere Cancer Care Fun Run in the summer. Those from KGS certainly did their best to brighten up the day for the other participants. Jonathan Davies, Richard Morrell, Jake Wilson and Philip Brook were full of energy in their shocking pink outfits and raised a considerable amount in the process.

We welcomed representatives from Brian House Children's Hospice in Blackpool to our assembly and were grateful that they found time to stay for the morning to visit various forms and explain in more detail the work of the House. Many of our pupils were moved by the stories they heard and responded accordingly.

Coffee mornings were held once again throughout the year and proved very popular with both staff and sixth formers. Individual forms and year groups have continued to respond, organising cake sales and collections in support of a variety of causes.

As we reached the summer term, we prepared once again for the visit of the Chernobyl children, sponsoring one of the children's stays and also hosted the party for a day when we took them to Gulliver's World.

As the summer holidays began a group of sixth formers, Henry Redshaw, Nick Evans, Ed Gill and Robert Parr, began a walk of Hadrian's Wall in aid of Help for Heroes, whilst Ben Frew began a three week stint in Kenya helping to build classrooms.

All this, however, is only a brief summary of an eventful year in which we have tried once again to respond to the needs of others. We are sincerely grateful to all who have contributed in any way and hope that we can maintain the efforts over the coming year.



THE ARTS

MUSIC

The school year 2008-9 has again been a very busy year in the Music Department, with a wide range of weekly activities leading to a full programme of formal and informal concerts. The monthly Coffee Concerts, held on Fridays in the Old Hall at 12.35, have given a large number of students the opportunity to perform before friends, relatives and members of staff. Songs from the Musicals by Sarah Dickie, Grace Garlington and Caitlin McMillan got the year off to a flying start before the Music Scholars of the second and third years presented a very varied programme at the November concert. The students of the GCSE Music groups each gave concerts, the fifth years performing their mock exam work in December and the fourth years performing in May. Further concerts were given by a very talented group of third year pupils in January, second years in June and sixth form musicians Amy Wilson, Melissa McCarthy, Hannah Smith and Alice Whitehead in April.

There were a large number of very able musicians in the first year in 2008-9 and 23 pupils presented an excellent Celebration of Talent in the Old Hall in November. Not to be outdone, 16 members of the second year performed, also in the Old Hall, in February. We look forward to following the progress of all these talented musicians through their time at KGS.

The formal Christmas and Spring Concerts, presented before large audiences in the MPH, gave the opportunity for our larger ensembles to perform in public. The Orchestra and String Groups have benefited from a core of very capable senior players, some of whom left KGS at the end of the year and their dedication and ability are much appreciated by

younger players who are gaining the experience of ensemble playing. The Choir continues to be the mainstay of formal playing, from the Carol Service to Founders' Day, and the events, from the Carol Service to Founders' Day, and the long service of senior pupils, many of whom complete fourteen such services in their time at KGS, is much appreciated.

In September 2008 we welcomed Mr Dalton on to the full time staff at KGS and under his supervision the Concert Band has grown in size and increased considerably in standard. Mr Dalton has also started a Swing Band, which performed excellently at the Spring Concert and to a very large and appreciative audience at Preston Guild Hall, when the members of the Swing Band played before one of the prestigious Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra concerts. Mr Dalton also directs an enthusiastic Lower School Choir.

The House Music Festival was once again a highlight in the Department's year. There was another very large entry and we were very pleased to note that the overall standard of entry was much higher this year. Particularly pleasing were the entries in the Vocal and Instrumental Ensembles, where groups of students had worked together to produce music which was both most enjoyable and well performed. Special praise, though, must go to the House Choirs. Working under very difficult time constraints, senior musicians within the four Houses galvanised their troops into action and produced four excellent and most enjoyable contributions. The organisers of each House Choir deserve great praise. The eventual winners of the House Music Festival were Kirkham House, with Caitlin McMillan being the worthy winner of the Rosemary Greaves Trophy.

Mr A C Barratt



MUSIC HONOURS 2008/2009

Lancashire Schools' Symphony Orchestra:	Airnee Bilsborrow (oboe)
	Nicola Charter (violin)
	Lucy Fielding (violin)
	Jodi Gaston-Ross (viola)
	Alex Hastie (violin)
	Celia Hindley (violin)
	Sophie Midgley (clarinet)
Lancashire Schools' Concert Band:	Sophie Midgley (clarinet)
Lancashire Youth Symphony Orchestra:	Gemma Broomhead (violin)
Lancashire Youth Brass Band:	Patrick Callery (E flat bass)
	Emily Pears Ryding (cornet)
	Matthew Donaldson (cornet)
	Samuel Donaldson (E flat horn)
National Children's Brass Band:	Patrick Callery (E flat bass)

LONDON ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DRAMATIC ARTS AWARDS

Distinction

Acting:	Catherine Beesley	Elsie Linley
	Chad Bentley	Caitlin McMillan
	Christina Blenkinship	Laura Mason
	Gemma Broomhead	Jennifer Miller
	Lucy Fielding	Hannah Smith
	Amy Garland	Phoebe Stowe
	Jodi Gaston-Ross	Alice Whitehead
	Rachel Howard	Victoria Willocks
	Hannah Lewis	

Acting Medals:

Elena Gaddes	Gold Medal
Caitlin McMillan	Gold Medal
Jennifer Miller	Silver Medal
Hannah Smith	Silver Medal
Alice Whitehead	Silver Medal
Victoria Willocks	Silver Medal
Christina Blenkinship	Bronze Medal
Kerry Emmett	Bronze Medal
Lucy Fielding	Bronze Medal
Jessica Hewitt-Dean	Bronze Medal
Catherine Moss	Bronze Medal
Sarah Quarmby	Bronze Medal
Sarah Robson	Bronze Medal
Phoebe Stowe	Bronze Medal
Grace Toland	Bronze Medal

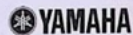


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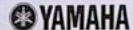
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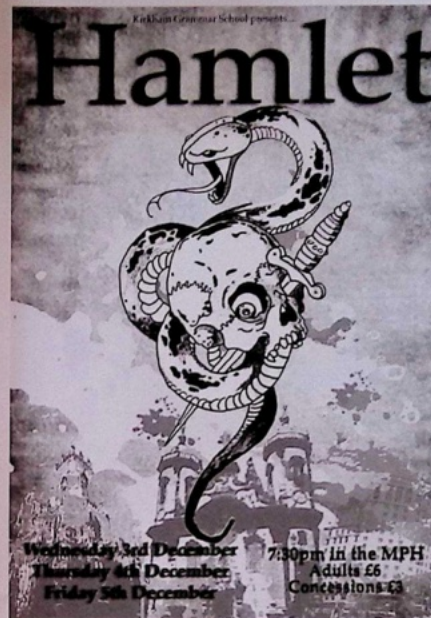
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HAMLET

From the proleptic entrance of Old Hamlet's coffin, Kirkham Grammar School's MPH was transported to the Danish seat of kings, Elsinore Castle, to bear shocked witness to the "carnal, bloody, and unnatural acts" that are the dénouement of Shakespeare's Hamlet.

As ever with Ms Barrie's productions, wide participation characterised the play: as well as the actors, the dancers were visually essential to its success, the harmony of music and dance serving as an ironic counterpoint to the play's descent into chaos. As the bright colours of the troupe of players and dancers formed a stark contrast with the increasingly polarised black and whites of the protagonists, the riotous joy of the dancers (superbly choreographed by Elizabeth Cross) acted as a perfect backdrop to highlight the ever-darkening tragic events on the main stage

The performance of the actor playing Hamlet is, of course, key to the success of the production. Matthew Edgar's interpretation of the role was the mainstay of the play: Hamlet's progress from the moody prince "Too much in the 'son'" to the towering avenger "Hamlet the Dane" was consistent and, more importantly, psychologically true.

The tragic hero must, of course, be supported by his counterpart, and Benedict Fulford-Brown's Claudius provided a sinister, tormented foil to Matthew Edgar. A consummate politician with an ever-present edginess, Benedict's Claudius became a complex character not easily contained by the epithet "tragic villain." Matthew's performance was ably supported by Alice Whitehead as Gertrude: a character demanding a great deal of decision making by the director, Alice's queen echoed Ophelia's fragility in her movement here from the morally suspect "sometime sister, now our Queen" to the shattered figure

on the "enseamed bed" who finally realises the truth of her relationship with her "husband's brother". Alice's performance had an emotional intensity that was both devastating and totally convincing.

In this production, the emotional and moral violence was visually echoed on stage. The visceral raw brutality in the fight between Hamlet and Max Baker's Laertes literally pulled no punches, and underlined the truth behind this interpretation of the play: that violence and revenge, even when seemingly justified and authorised by some spiritual higher authority, are ultimately dehumanising. Shakespeare's contemporary, John Ford, wrote "Revenge proves its own executioner", a fitting subtitle to this production. Ms Barrie's Elsinore is dark and mortally infected by political machination degenerating inevitably to violence; and it is not just Rosencrantz and Guildenstern (Rhiannon Brown and Rob Malings) who are "hoist with his own petard". The addition of Stephanie de Carpentier's Velaqua underlines this: her threatening dominatrix provided an avatar of the violence and plotting that permeates this play. No one is safe from this disease: even the innocent have no escape.

The vulnerability of innocence in a corrupt world is highlighted by Ophelia. All those involved with this production are stars; but no-one could begrudge a special mention of Bryony Wood's interpretation of this challenging emotional role. Her Ophelia was deeply internalised and utterly compelling: without histrionics she compelled the audience with her portrayal - "I, of ladies most deject and wretched" - and more than one cheek felt the brush of tears. Stanislavski would have applauded as loudly as did the audience, and surely here we were privileged to witness the final school performance of an actor ready to tread a wider stage to triumphant acclaim.

Her performance culminated in an affecting coup de theatre - a vividly choreographed stylised representation of the drowning scene where Ophelia, dressed in the colours of water and waterweed, ultimately welcomed the embrace of death by water, a metaphoric consummation (perhaps) denied to her by Hamlet.

All involved in the production deserve congratulation; in particular those who worked so hard behind the scenes under the command of stage manager Georgia Thompson to realise the triumph. And, as ever, we should fête "the onlie begetter", Ms Barrie, and her assistant and Lighting Designer Mrs Walker; once again they have shown the wealth of talent there is at Kirkham Grammar School. We wait impatiently for details of their next tour de force!



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SOCIETIES
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DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

The past 12 months have been another very busy time for the DOE Award Scheme at KGS. Throughout the year the participants have been busily working towards their awards, completing the sections of Physical, Service and Skill as well as their Expedition. The following have been successful at completing their awards and are to be congratulated immensely for their efforts:

Gold:

Elena Gaddes
Alice Whitehead
Charles O'Flaherty
Christopher Box

Silver:

Soraya Dunn
Caitlin McMillan
Fiona Williams
Michael Bennett
Francesca Hughes
Charles O'Flaherty
Robert Parr
Lucy Knowles
Grace Garlington,
Heather Cara,
Sawadah Jakda

Bronze:

Emily Fisher,
Lucy Fielding,
Vicki Rowe,
Richard Draper,
Charlotte Airey,
Jonathan Davies,
Jake Wilson,
Alex Lister,
Jennifer Miller,
Georgia Cheyne,
Jessica Hewitt-Dean,
Lauren Harris,
Sara Collinge,
Hannah Smith,
Elly Heney,
Charlotte Lucas,
Sarah Dickie,
Vincent Grumme

I was delighted to receive an email the other week from our Operating Authority to thank Kirkham Grammar School for the quality of our awards. Our students really do put a great deal of time and effort into their skill, service and physical sections and it is a great honour to read the comments written by the cub pack leaders, sports team coaches, charity shop managers etc. praising our students' dedication to the tasks they have undertaken. Discussions with the students regarding new skills they have tried and goals they have achieved in so many areas demonstrate the true worth of this award.

Our expeditions are always full and last October was no exception. The group of 5 staff and 30 students set off from KGS in glorious sunshine to experience the Snowdonian mountains. The forecast had said to expect wind and rain, but the weather report was a little on the positive side and the KGS contingent had a very unpleasant night as their tents were battered by gale force winds and the expedition



was abandoned due to damaged and lost equipment before it started. Mr Callister and a very disappointed group of staff and pupils returned to Kirkham to assess the damage. This was depressing and despite the efforts of Mr Hancock, Mr Callister and Mr Eccles, not many of the tents could be repaired. Luckily for the DOE scheme, the hardworking and very generous Friends of KGS came to our aid and Mr Callister had the task of replacing the kit in time for the next expedition. Many thanks to the Friends of KGS for their support. It has allowed over 80 students to undertake their DOE expeditions this year and hopefully many more in years to come.

The other two expeditions this year have been very successful, with 26 students enjoying the Keswick and Borrowdale fells last Easter and nearly 60 students undertaking their expeditions in July in the South Lakes.

The July expeditions were practically free from rain. However, the weather was again going to be an issue, as we experienced the hottest and most humid conditions of the year in the five days that the groups were out. These conditions meant that the Gold group in particular had a very tough time and all concerned were overjoyed to hear they had finished and that Neville, the external assessor, had passed them with flying colours. Below is an account of their experience:

The hardest, yet most rewarding experience we have ever undertaken. The first day we were eager to set off, leaving the campsite at 6:30am. Within ten minutes we found ourselves peeling off clothes in the extreme heat. Little did we know at this point that the next few days would be the hottest, most humid Duke of Edinburgh expedition Kirkham



had ever experienced. The first few hours we set a good pace, until the midday sun meant we started to struggle. Knowing we had to reach our wild camp before dark, panic began to set in. However, our team pulled through and together we reached the wild camp with time to spare.

It seems to be a tradition of Duke of Edinburgh expeditions to get lost, but our teams really reached the extremes! We had set off well again, but soon found ourselves stranded on a mountain surrounded by a mist that had descended within five minutes. At this point, we were on the brink of giving up, but once again sheer determination pulled us through and we found our way off the mountain and to the next checkpoint. Things that go up must come down. The path down was littered with loose rocks and soon our feet were in agony! Having tackled treacherous mountains and slippery paths, we eventually reached the campsite and settled down to hot chocolate.

The third day picked up. Our spirits were high and our determination was tangible! Having gotten through the last two days, we realised as a team that we could cope with anything and quickly settled into an easy pace. The beauty of the surroundings and the remarkable weather meant we were really able to enjoy and appreciate our expedition.

The final push! Again, setting off in high spirits, we tackled the first few mountains with relative ease, witnessing brilliant views and magnificent waterfalls. However, shortly after lunch we realised we had the most difficult challenge yet. The sheer size of the mountain was daunting and, once on it, it seemed never ending. Finally, after hours of struggle, we saw the checkpoint at the top and realised just how close

we were; just down the mountain was the end! As a team, we sped down the steep descent. It was the hardest experience we had ever had, yet we wouldn't change it for the world. We worked well as a team and together have accomplished something very few have, in the most extreme of conditions. We will never forget the sheer sense of achievement and it will be remembered by all of us forever. We would recommend it to anyone up for a serious challenge!

Jenny, Grace, Katie, Francesca, Grace, Lucy.

So, despite the set backs of the weather, the DOE Award Scheme at KGS continues to thrive and gives our students the opportunities to develop new skills and demonstrate their teamwork, dedication, perseverance and self reliance. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated KGS staff whose hard work and good humour allow the expeditions to take place. Mr Callister, Mr Hancock, Mrs Batty, Mrs Copeland and Miss Knight have been joined this year by Mrs Parr, Mr Gardner and Mr Eccles and all concerned greatly appreciate their efforts. Thank you.

Mrs A Sutcliffe



BIOLOGY

Malham Tarn

The Upper Sixth biology sets departed for a very busy three days at Malham Tarn at the start of this term. The trip allowed us to use the skills and techniques we are learning in our Unit 4 module, including sampling and data analysis. Malham Tarn and the land that surrounds it are National Trust areas and Sites of Scientific Interest. To have the opportunity to study in this protected habitat was very useful.

Despite the bitterly cold weather and the twelve hour working days, the experiments were often rewarding and interesting, with the chance to use lots of specialist equipment. The first day was spent kick sampling in Gordale Beck, a tributary into Malham Tarn. After a herd of highland cows and calves passed us, we spent several hours by the riverside identifying our catch of invertebrates and creatures, including the largest Bull-Head fish ever seen from the river, much to the delight of Heather and Gemma. Evening lectures followed, where we were able to analyse our raw data collected from that afternoon. We also set Long-Worth traps in the forests in the hope of catching woodland mammals for population analysis.

From water to mud. We spent our next day on the Malham bogs analysing plant succession. After our succession experiment on the Ainsdale sand dunes last June, it was interesting to study this change in different habitats. Henry

Redshaw enjoyed eating the plants we identified, some of which tasted of lemon and mint, but was less impressed when told of the side effects. When we returned to the centre, we revisited our mammal traps and found we were successful in catching two wood mice and two voles which we promptly named Sally, Winston, George and Jerry.

The field trip was very interesting and successful. It was useful to put into practice the techniques in our course and analysing our own data was very valuable. The free cups of tea and cake were also a bonus.



SCARBOROUGH TRIP

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

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

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

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

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

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

SKI TRIP

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

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

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

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

Hannah Davies





PARIS TRIP

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

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

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

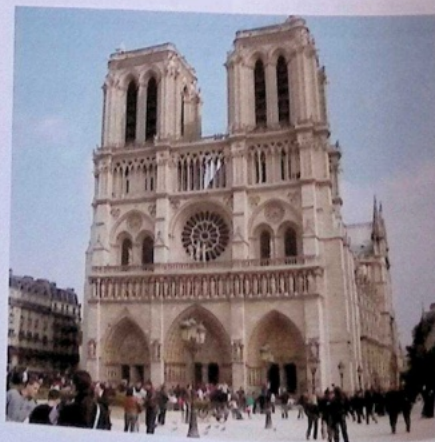
We then made our way to the hotel, where we unloaded luggage and eagerly explored the hotel and our bedrooms. Soon after our arrival, we received an evening meal and went to bed to catch up on any lost sleep.

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

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

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

The next day was our day at Euro Disney which had a particular feel good factor, especially when hearing the screams of the staff on one of the rides. I don't think I'll ever be able to take them seriously again. We headed back to the



hotel after a fantastic day at Euro Disney, knowing our trip was almost over. However, the hotel's Manager had put on a surprise disco which provided a great way to end the trip.

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

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

Lewis Holden 3Z

BATTLEFIELDS TRIP

Crawling out of bed at 4.00 am seemed like a good idea when we were first told our departure date for Belgium, but let me tell you it's harder than it sounds. The adrenaline kicked in when we boarded the coach, as a party of 44 teenagers and teachers set off for Calais. This was the start of the emotional rollercoaster that we would experience for the next four days. We would visit plenty of memorable places and enjoy ourselves more than we imagined. It is impossible to share with you everything we experienced on this visit but hopefully these highlights will provide you with an insight of what a wonderful time we had. Saturday was our first full day in Belgium and we kicked off the trip with a visit to the "In Flanders War Museum" in Ypres. It had a variety of interactive displays which were both fun and informative, as well as a system where each person received a character to follow the story - making it seem a more personal experience. Sanctuary Wood gave us yet another chance to experience part of the First World War for ourselves, with its preserved trenches. It was an eye-opening moment to see and walk through a real trench, rather than just seeing a reconstruction photo in our textbook. Tyne Cot and Notre Dame de Lorette were just mind-blowingly incredible. 11,954 men are buried at Tyne Cot and 45,000 at Notre Dame de Lorette. The actions of these men, who died so gallantly for their country, stirred emotions many of us did not know we had. Reactions were mixed: some silent recollections and others simply just a floodgate of tears. You can never imagine these feelings: they spring from confronting reality of one of the world's worst tragedies and such immense unnecessary loss of human life. Everyday worries that had been floating around our heads minutes before disappeared - they seemed so irrelevant. The same thoughts were echoed on everyone's face. To see so many men buried in one place is indescribable.

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

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

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

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

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

Laura Mason



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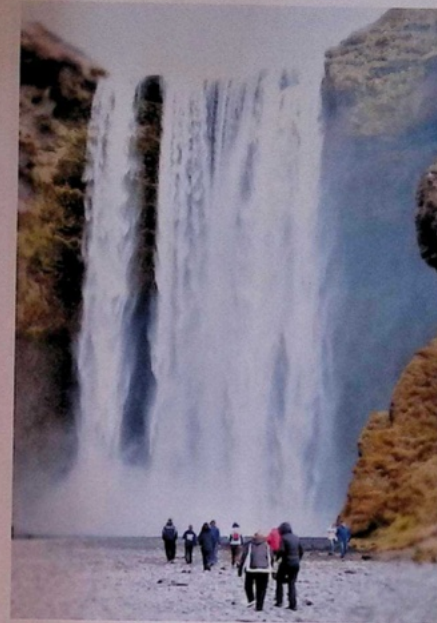


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ICELAND TRIP

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

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

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

The guide was suitably impressed!

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

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

THE AMERICAN DREAM

It isn't very often that you can experience history in the making, but that is exactly what KGS Expressive Arts pupils and staff did as they witnessed the countdown to the election of Barack Obama as President last October.

As we approached John F Kennedy Airport after our seven and a half hour flight from Manchester you could feel the excitement in our party. Long Island could be seen through the aircraft's windows with freeways and beach houses some thousand feet below. This excitement and wonder was to stay with us during our four day whistle stop tour of the city that never sleeps.

In our short stay we were to see two fantastic Broadway shows, "Hairspray" and "Young Frankenstein", that in the words of the monster, were "super duper". These shows were complemented by three Broadway workshops for our





drama students. They included Stage Combat, Step by Step - dance from Hairspray and Theatre Sports.

The Broadway musical 'Hairspray' was fast, fun and full of energy! The dancing and the music were hugely uplifting and there was definitely an infectious enthusiasm which radiated from the whole production. The story followed Tracy Turnblad, a plump 16 year old girl from Baltimore in the 1960's with a passion for dancing, whose lacquered hair was as nearly as big as her heart. The fast moving story was laced with themes of racial segregation and the efforts to integrate everyone through dancing, accepting others for who they are and most importantly, of accepting yourself. The show was hugely comical, with Tracy's mother, Edna Turnblad, played as a drag role and watching the teenage infatuation between Tracy and heartthrob Link Larkin, was very amusing. We came away feeling elated and we all queued outside the stage doors to get autographs from the performers. It was a fabulous show in which all colours, classes and sizes were embraced and accepted as one. We would all love to see it again!

One huge bonus to our stay was that our hotel was a few blocks from Central Park and seven blocks north of Times Square where we had our evening meals, that truly reflected the American's love of carbohydrates. Perhaps the best eatery being the "Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. Restaurant and Market" which is part of a chain of seafood restaurants inspired by the 1994 film Forrest Gump. At Planet Hollywood we had express tickets so we didn't have the American experience of standing in line, we went straight to our tables. At the end of a long day the last thing we wanted to do was stand around, we had places to see.

Art & Design artists and photographers were to experience the art that New York has on offer at the Guggenheim and MOMA. The Guggenheim visit followed a walk through Central Park, strolling from East to West dodging the Sunday joggers as they put in their last minute training for the New York Marathon that was due to take place on the following

Saturday. En route we came across a fashion shoot involving a group of male models. Our girls' were suitably impressed! The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, which opened on October 21, 1959, is one of the best-known museums in the world and one of the 20th century's most important architectural landmarks. Designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, the museum, which is often called simply The Guggenheim, is home to a renowned permanent collection of Impressionist, Post-Impressionist, early Modern, and Contemporary art, and also features special exhibitions throughout the year.

Whilst walking around New York it soon became apparent that wherever you looked there was a view to capture on your camera. The city also has a familiar feeling about it from the hours of film and video footage that we have all witnessed over the years. It was like stepping into a film set. It was on one street corner that Mr Gardiner spotted a small Barack Obama sticker attached to a stop light. It wasn't until he was back in England and with the aid of the web tracked down the artist who produced these viral advertising stickers. Shepherd Fairey was commissioned by Barack Obama's team to produce an iconic image of the then President Elect in the form of posters and stickers. This image was also picked up by numerous US and British magazines and papers when Obama became the 44th President of the United States of America.

In addition to the gallery visits the group were able to see some of the world famous sites of the city that included the Grand Central Station and the Rockefeller Centre.

The trip did not end with cultural activities, there was time to shop on Fifth Avenue that included the Apple Store, Macy's and Abercrombie and Fitch. A cruise round Manhattan and a night time view from the top of the Empire State Building were the icing on the cake.

This experience of New York has really whetted our appetite and Ms Barrie and Mr Gardiner propose a return visit in October 2010.



DEBATING SOCIETY

The end of an era?

The Debating Society has undergone a fundamental change in its make up this year. Three people who have been active and enthusiastic supporters since the Fourth Year have left for University - and as over the past four years they have become synonymous with debating at KGS, their loss to us (and gain to their University Debating Chambers) has been significant.

Grace Garlington and Caitlin MacMillan have gained their position on Desk 1 through committed, skilled and enthusiastic participation. They have been part of winning teams in the Rotary and BPW Public Speaking competitions, Debating Matters, ESU Schools' Mace and the Oxford Union debating competitions. Misty Hammond has been the Secretary of the Society for three years - for "Secretary" read Competition Organiser, weekly meet Convenor and General Factotum! It is no surprise then that these names figure largely in the activity of the Society for the year 2008-2009.

Indeed, Misty set up and organised our first Evening of Speech and Drama, succeeding in securing a large and appreciative audience that included five local councillors. The evening showcased the wealth of talent at KGS: this is, I hope, the beginning of a tradition, one that we might well call the Misty Hammond Celebration of Speech and Drama: a fitting tribute to such a proactive Secretary.

Once again, we found success in Public Speaking. In the Rotary competition, we repeated our performance of last year with a commendable second place for a team on their first outing, Lucy Fielding, Rowan Leach and Alex Connaughton. This team also received huge praise at the BPW Public Speaking Competition, losing only narrowly to our first team, Misty Hammond, Miranda Hopkins-Coman and Caitlin McMillan, who engaged the audience with an erudite discussion of whether it is possible to define literature.

We also enjoyed success in the Institute of Ideas "Debating Matters" competition, winning through to the North West and Wales final for the second time in two years. Nick Evans and Benedict Fulford-Brown, with Alex Connaughton and Rowan Leach, produced a spirited and uncompromising attack on the opposition and were roundly praised by the judges.

Unfortunately, we could not quite match our success last year by also winning through to Finals Day in the Oxford or

Cambridge Union competitions, but with two new pairs, Misty Hammond with Miranda Hopkins-Coman, and Grace Garlington with Rowan Leach, this will have proved valuable experience for the young debaters, so who knows what the future will bring?

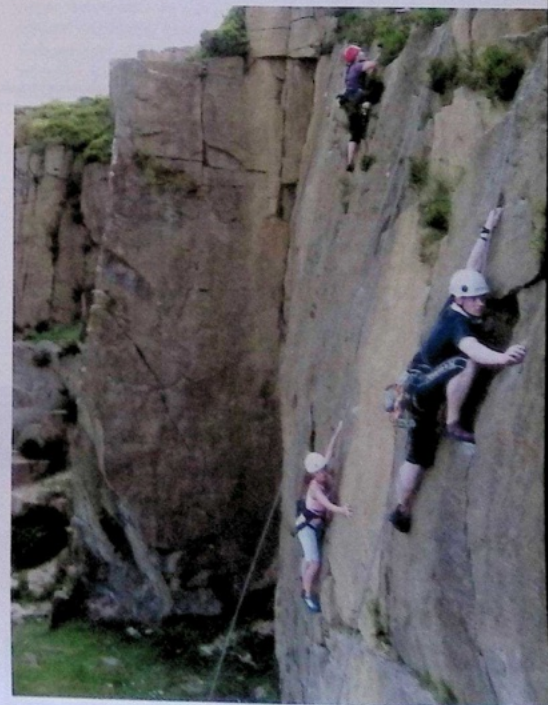
I began this article with the words "End of an Era". That is certainly true, and we are indebted to all the debaters who have now left, and especially Misty, Caitlin and Grace. However, I could equally well have chosen "A New Era" (or "A New Hope" for the Star Wars cognoscenti!). The Debating Society now lies under the auspices of Lucy Fielding and Rowan Leach and we already have enjoyed Monday lunchtime balloon debates, games of "Just a Minute" and Short Notice Debates. I am sure that Misty et al. will be pleased that the future of the Society is in safe hands - and hope that they will note that I expect them to come back to judge for us in the future!

So - come along and share the success of our Society. Monday lunchtime in W8. You can just watch and listen if you don't want to speak - but I think you'll find yourself unable to resist the temptation!

Mr. C Hawkes

CLIMBING CLUB

The club has flourished again this year with the addition of several new members, most notably Helen Bailey, Rowan Leach and Rachel Naughton. All three have thrown themselves into climbing and improved dramatically over the year, threatening to catch up some of the more experienced members of the club.



INDIVIDUAL TUITION

Retired Headmaster
P. H. Molloy MA CANTAB

01253 795148

07542 552356

Pupils Aged 8-18

Subjects: GCSE: Maths & Latin
'A' level: French, German & English

GCSE
to
'A' LEVEL
TUITION

In the dark and wet evenings of the winter, we travelled to the usual indoor climbing walls, most of the time heading out to West View in Preston, but also trying the new wall at Blackpool that opened only last year.

We also held a 'Christmas Party' there one evening in December, which involved a lot of eating of chocolate decorations and not much climbing!

The club also took the opportunity to go somewhere further afield on Speech Day Holiday, when we spent the day at Warrington climbing wall. The steep bouldering walls gave the boys the opportunity to show off their muscles, while the girls were more impressed with the longer, technical routes.

As summer moved in and the evenings got lighter, we timidly ventured to some of the local quarries to climb outdoors. The longer bus rides gave Tim Naughton more time to try and convert the other members to his taste in music, but thankfully he had little success.

As the year ends and the upper sixth depart, we leave the club in the capable hands of Stuart Spencer and Helen Bailey. We wish them the best of luck and are sure they will do an excellent job of continuing to run the Climbing Club. We would also like to thank Mr Gaddes, Mr Hancock and Mrs Scott for giving up their time over the last year to take us climbing.

Ellie Gaddes

DRAMA CLUB

Drama Club got off to a flying start last September, as the dynamic duo of Grace Garlington and Caitlin McMillan enthused and encouraged their younger peers to join in and have fun.

Caitlin and Grace delivered an exciting and diverse range of drama activities for a keen and rapidly growing following. Activities included improvisations, short performances and many games designed to build confidence and encourage participation. Between 15 and 30 pupils regularly attended the Friday lunchtime sessions and this cohort included pupils from across the years in the lower school.

Following the Easter break, an enthusiastic team of fourth year boys took over from Caitlin and Grace. John Massey, Tom Leach and Matthew Bousfield have since injected their own energy and enthusiasm into creating new and alternative drama projects, which have proved very successful and encouraged more boys to join the club. They are looking forward to developing the project work further in September.

Lydia Dickinson (2W), who has been attending Drama Club since the first year, described the personal benefits she has gained from the club: "I have improved my drama skills and my confidence has increased too. What I really like, though, is how everyone leaves feeling happy and smiling. It is such good fun!"

Another loyal member, Hannah Lewis (2W), also commented: "Caitlin and Grace were fab and did lots of great games earlier in the year. I have also enjoyed the input from the fourth year boys, who have done lots of exciting new things with us like stage fighting."

Mrs C Fearn



GARDENING CLUB

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

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

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

CROQUET

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



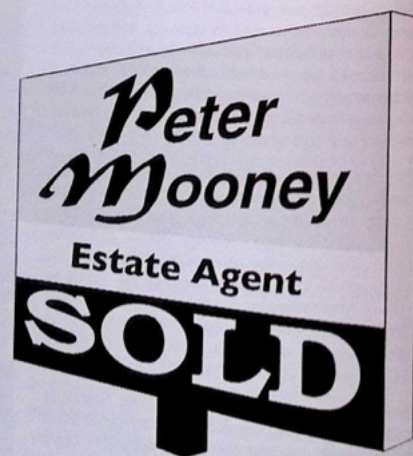
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PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

This year saw the debut of the Kirkham Grammar School Photography Club. We began with over fifty members but this slowly condensed to around 20 dedicated photographers, hugely interested in the medium of photography. A small, enthusiastic gathering we find makes our group easier to work with and unique in that we can work on everyone's ideas with regards to the photography medium. Each week we take our enthusiastic class of budding photographers through stages of learning. For example, the secrets of taking a better, more creative picture and learning crucial Photoshop techniques. Not forgetting the monthly teamed tasks or competitions, with prizes!

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

Vicky Willocks and Seb Luker

CRAFT CLUB

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

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

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

Mrs S P Long

CHESS CLUB

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

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



CCCF

CCF

The long summer holidays are never as long for the many cadets that opt to give up their time for the various summer camps and cadet leadership courses on offer through KGS CCF. This summer was no exception. This year's central camp was held at Warcop in Cumbria and was again a great success. Nearly sixty cadets enjoyed the first day fun of AT in the Lake District – climbing, canoeing and walking for some (but not for those who had recently completed their DoE expedition!). Congratulations must go to Alice Whitehead and Charles O'Flaherty on gaining their DoE Gold Awards this summer. Charles is also being sponsored through the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst by the Parachute Regiment.

The weather on camp was exceptional; for the whole week (unusually!) it only rained after training was completed at 5.00pm. The second day was the Warcop Wanderer infantry training exercise, where the cadets experienced and practised infantry skills on a very hot and strenuous day. Then it was a fun morning on the first aid stand, where several of our cadets showed their acting skills as simulated casualties. This was also the VIP visit day and the new Brigade Commander, Brig Aldridge, and our Headmaster came to see the various activities on offer. On Wednesday, we had leadership training and watermanship, which was made even more interesting by the display of many different types of weapons liberated from various overseas deployments in the Middle East and on active service.

The next day we returned to infantry exercises and enjoyed the Defensive Position and then live firing on the 30 metre range and the Assault Course as the background activity. Several cadets had fun learning rifle drill with Sgt Devaney and even want to introduce it at school! Each evening also saw several preparatory activities so the cadets were kept very busy. All were qualified for 'Heart Start' (basic first aid) and one night enjoyed the DCCT, which is an expensive computerised laser shooting range without bullets.

The last day's training was an overnight exercise organised and run by our own officers. This took the format of several recon patrols to try to locate the enemy (the U6th NCO's), with Capt Miller dressed as a Middle Eastern terrorist leader. Their mission was also to try to infiltrate our patrol base which caused much apprehension among our younger cadets. But revenge was sweet as Capt Reeves and Ft Lt Taylor captured not only the enemy CSM but also their RSM. The grand finale came with a full assault on their position in the early hours of the morning, with the friendly forces winning, of course. Very tired cadets braved the elements and bivvied out under the stars. They also discovered how cold it is at dawn – even in the middle of our summer!

The final evening presentation saw fourth year cadet Jack Ingham winning the Anzac Trophy for most improved junior cadet. LCpl Rob Malings was awarded the Waterloo Trophy for the best fifth form cadet and the Colonel's Trophy was given to Alice Whitehead who will be next year's Cdt RSM. She will be ably assisted by our two CSM's Grace O'Flaherty and Henry Redshaw. The following were promoted to Colour Sgts: Nick Carroll, Oliver Chambers, Daniel Chow, Mathew Gladwell, Heather Cara, Gemma Halkett, Francesca Hughes and Jenny Miller. All these senior cadets worked very hard and showed great leadership potential on a very physical and demanding camp. All other acting NCO promotions were also confirmed.

The departing SNCO's were thanked by Lt Col Scott and also invited into the Officers' Mess for the evening as a 'thank you' for all their contribution to the contingent over the last four years and making yet another very successful annual camp. Many of them attended Warcop as very young cadets for their first camp years ago. This was their last official duty for their first camp years on in life. Some will go on to with KGS before they moved on in life. Some will go on to with KGS before they moved on in life. Some will go on to with University Officer Training Corps and several have already made the decision to join the forces as careers and go to Sandhurst after their degrees. Unfortunately, some of the RAF SNCO's missed out as they had to depart early (along with several other RAF cadets) to prepare for their RAF camp in Cambridgeshire.

Huge thanks must also be given to all the officers, staff and adult instructors who help to make these events such a success. Without their time, efforts and good humour, camp just would not happen. Natalie Roberts, an Old Kirkhamian and former Cdt RSM, helped us out before she sets off to and study medicine at university. Also John Gladwell (former CSM and now UOTC at Birmingham University) also helped for a couple of days. Even Capt Reeves, who left KGS last year, returned to offer his much appreciated services as his school does not have a CCF.

No trophies were won this year (apart from the officers winning the Mess Quiz Night!), but everyone enjoyed the camp immensely and it indicates the attraction of camps and the enjoyment that can be achieved by all who attend. Everyone learns something in a very different and extremely challenging, often very strenuous environment. The value of cadets is fully appreciated by the Headmaster and I am grateful for the support given by him and the governors to our contingent.

RAF CAMP – BRAMPTON

The week following the Army Central Camp at Warcop, Sqn Ldr Callister, yet again, was Camp Commandant at RAF Brampton in Cambridgeshire. Several cadets actually attended both camps, so just had time to wash and change into dean, blue uniform!

RAF camp differs from the army equivalent, as much more of the programme has to be organised by the Commandant. In this area Sqn Ldr Callister excelled – again. As well as visits to air bases, displays, museums, he also organised ten-pin bowling, a night at Laser Quest and even a disco for the three attendant schools. There was great fun and enjoyment when a night exercise was set up on a disused airfield. The weather was kind, so it was decided to extend the exercise



to have an overnight bivvy and build bashas from groundsheets as emergency shelters. Many of the cadets from the other schools had never done this sort of survival training before. The only disappointment came on the last day when the weather prevented the air experience flying at a nearby base. However, once again, it was another very successful RAF camp. Many thanks must go to Sqn Ldr Callister and Lt J.L. Knight (and even our CO, Lt Col Scott, who attended for a few days).

LEADERSHIP COURSES

This summer two more fifth form cadets applied for the annual Cadet Leadership Courses offered by the Cadet Training Centre, Frimley to senior cadets nationally.

LCpls Stephen Clough and Rob Malings were both successfully accepted and attended the very demanding leadership courses, although on different weeks. The post camp reports they received were both very good and I am sure that not only did they enjoy their testing time, but they would have learned much from their various experiences. This will stand them in good stead for their future as junior NCO's next term and give them a preliminary taste of leadership.

At an even higher level, both Alice Whitehead (our RSM this year) and Henry Redshaw (CSM) attended the National Cadet Leadership Course for potential senior NCO's at Nesscliffe Camp. Here they are put through even tougher leadership tests and exercises and both received very commendable post course reports. Henry is hoping for a commission, possibly in the cavalry. Along with many other possibles, both Henry and Alice have shown more than a slight interest in a service career. Our Schools' Careers Liaison Officers from both the Army and the RAF are always very complimentary not only on the number of potential officers but also on the calibre of our candidates.

Our sixth form cadets are continuing to gain success in the GNVQ BTEC Award in Public Services. This nationally recognised diploma is the equivalent of four GCSE's, without any exams and very little extra work. It is open to all sixth form NCO's and can be completed in the 16th, as F/Sgt Toby Townsend has shown this year.

Our usual field days have taken place. All cadets went to Waddecarr in October, with an overnight exercise being the highlight for many of the 'new' cadets. We decided to have a slightly different format in the spring term. The fifth form potential NCO's were taken on a selection weekend at Holcombe Moor Training Camp. This was an excellent 48 hour exercise and, again, thoroughly enjoyable, with a chance to even live fire the Light Support Weapon.

Summer field day for the fourth year was again live firing at Halton on Lune and, yet again, the weather was kind to us all.

As a change to Adventurous Training, Sqn Ldr Callister opted for his beloved Snowdonia in April. Having had experience of atrocious weather here with DoE expeditions, he was most amazed (and possibly disappointed) that the sun shone and it was almost perfect.

High Ropes adventure and a 30 metre inertia-reel fall, skiing, rafting, a strenuous walk up Tryfan (a mountain forming part of the Glyderau group) and even time for volleyball back at Capel Curig Camp. We could not believe that all this was experienced in just over 48 hours! What a busy weekend. It was so successful we hope to repeat similar next year. It did not take long before all the cadets were asleep on the coach journey home.

As I have always said, 'You don't get any trouble from tired cadets!'

Lt Col I. M. Scott

Contingent Commander KGS CCF

Stop Press:

Alice Whitehead and Grace O'Flaherty have both been accepted on a Cadet 150 special expedition to Lesotho in South Africa, next summer. They were selected from nearly 100 cadets from all over the UK and attended a selection course in summer.

They are two of only nine CCF cadets, the others on the expedition are from the ACE, ATC and Sea Cadets. The course will involve some voluntary work in deprived areas as well as some mountain trekking.

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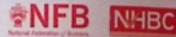
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HOUSE
REPORTS

FYLDE HOUSE

A tremendously busy year began with the senior quiz. Following the departure of Mr. Reeves, it was imperative that I was ably led by the House captains and, to make things clear from the outset, Sarah Hatch, Emily Rayson, Harriet Martin and Will Stover turned out to be the real driving forces behind Fylde House's successes throughout the year. Unfortunately, we came up against a very strong Preston side and were unable to pass through to the final, despite the best efforts of our quartet. Greater success was to be had in the junior quiz and the very competitive team of Liam Marrows, Andrew Collins, Gemma Coleman and Lydia Gascoigne swept away the competition with round after round of impressive answering. It is frustrating that this year these talented individuals are at the bottom of the 'senior ladder' and possibly unable to make as strong an impact as they would like.

The junior basketball team gained maybe unexpected victory in a very tight competition and credit must go to the energy of Tom Hurst and Marcus Heaton. A real team effort allowed the boys to sneak what was a thoroughly deserved win in the MPH. The senior competition turned out to be very different in nature and, despite the best efforts of some of the school's most talented rugby players, the skills of Tommy Banks, Will Stover and Chris Allen could not match up to their effort and commitment. It was during this event that the House Captains really came into their own and Sarah Hatch was chopping at the bit to get on the court and show the boys how it should be done.

In what was perhaps the tightest Chess competition the school has ever seen, the Fylde team did themselves proud with some excellent chess. Andrew Bayliss, Ed Askew, Michael Gyi, Harry Mason, Andrew Collins and Gemma Coleman came equal first with School with 12.5 points each. Mr. Melling remarked on the tenacity of play and the team spirit present that day really shone through.

The junior hockey tournament was always going to be tough as we had a relatively young team. Great credit must therefore go to players such as Lucy Mellor-Bates, Alix Townsend and Beth Kenny as the whole team rose to the occasion and battled valiantly. Edging into the final, it was a shame that all the team's hard work and tireless running did not get them crowned champions, as they lost out to a very experienced Kirkham team. The fact that so many girls turned out after school on an evening in the middle of such a busy term speaks volumes about the willingness of the girls to get involved and do their bit as team players. I have to congratulate them all.

The junior girls then had a very tough draw in the semi-final of the netball competition and despite some valiant play were out-manoeuvred by a very skilled and tall Kirkham side. We did have better luck in the senior competition and breezed past School House into the final against Preston. Luckily, the experience of Sarah Hatch, Emily Rayson, Harriet Martin and Rebecca Keighley combined well with the skills of Sarah Quarmbury, Lucia Chow and Lamara Hill and Fylde ran out competition winners. Once again, the support for the House from the sidelines was excellent and no doubt the girls responded to the encouragement.

The autumn term finished on what was to be one of the highlights of the whole year. The Swimming Gala really pulled together all members of Fylde House and it was a real

joy to watch all participants give their all. After having trailed Kirkham all morning, big performances were needed in the final relays and the swimmers did not disappoint. Harriet Price, Alix Townsend and Annabelle Mole produced some great performances for the junior girls, with Antonia Price, Catherine Moss and Chloe Walker scoring many points in the seniors. The boys' team was particularly strong, with Will Lockhart, Rob Lavelle and Sam Norris dominating the junior events. The senior boys put in a sterling performance to win the relay races and Ed Askew, Toby Townsend, Richard Draper and Henry Tomlinson swam so well under pressure. We eventually pipped Kirkham to the title on the last race.

The House ethos is based on participation and encouragement and if there was a low point to this it would have to be the slightly piecemeal manner in which we approached the cross country events. Despite the fantastic efforts of some, we lost a few too many points across the board and should have done better. On a positive note, the future looks good with the participation of some excellent first year members of the House. Oscar Twittchet and David King ran really well for the boys, as did Amber Vaughan and Heather Crook for the girls. Sam Norris won the junior event and Nicky Charter finished in second place for Fylde.

Despite the best efforts of Tom Charter, Rob Lockhart, Gemma Coleman and Charlotte Lucas, we did not do well in the intermediate races and could only look on as Preston House won everything. The senior races saw similar results and it was a shame that the efforts of Michael Gyi, Will Stover and Matt Edgar were not matched by strength in depth. A big thanks must go to Benno Fulford-Brown for saving the day with a last minute dash to the starting line.

The House debate quickly came round and Fylde's pairing of Miranda Hopkins-Coman and Benedict Fulford-Brown was outstanding. The comments and emotion that followed their brilliant performances in the competition accurately reflected the commitment they had shown. We did not win the competition, but we can be very proud with our efforts.

Probably the biggest headache facing a Housemaster in the year would have to be the House Music competition, primarily due to the enormity of the competition. There are so many talented performers in the House and so many people willing to play that the list of entrants is quite something to behold. Luckily, this year saw the House Choir being more than ably led by Melissa McCarthy and with her incredibly professional approach and a great number of volunteers from all age groups within the House, Fylde ended up winning the competition for the first time in living memory. Mention must also be made of Bradley Johnson's accomplished piece of guitar playing and Fylde's technically gifted pairing of Melissa McCarthy and Sarah Quarmbury. In the overall standings we came second with 570 points, but the whole-hearted nature of our involvement in this competition was what was really pleasing.

The House Shooting competition was something that the senior members of the House had been looking forward to and rightly so, as we have some of the best shots in the CCF. Each team member has ten shots at a fixed target. We were the first House onto the range and the team of Stuart Spencer, Toby Townsend and Ollie Chambers shot a very respectable 271 points. This was to be the winning score and Stuart's score of 94 was the highest of the entire competition.

In the summer term the weather played havoc with some of



the events. Even though some of the prelims were conducted, Sports Day itself was cancelled due to the inclement conditions and so, due to circumstances beyond our control, the Fylde athletes did not get a chance to test themselves in the athletics arena. So the spotlight turned towards the cricket. The cricket games were played, but the dampness of the ground meant that the games were not exactly classics. The first semi-final saw Fylde play Kirkham and, despite the efforts of Ahmed Zaki, Will Stover, Matt Edgar and Chris Allen, the Kirkham batsmen achieved a very respectable score. Ahmed was the pick of our bowlers with 3-20. Fylde then went in to bat, but the conditions underfoot were damper and stickier than ever and any hope of a run chase was soon seen to be a pipe dream. Ben Pickbourn on 23 and Will Stover on 22 not out did provide some resistance. However, the run rate was just not high enough and we had to succumb.

On a brighter note, the Intermediate and Junior Sevens were played. Our intermediate team was outplayed, but mention must go to Liam Williams, Ryan Vaughan, Scott Rudd and Marcus Eaton for their efforts, as well as the rest of the team in what were tough conditions. In the junior competition it was Fylde who dominated, conceding only one try in the whole competition. Some very impressive rugby played with power and speed won the day, with good contributions from Jack Pounds, James Penrose, Harry Mason and the rest of the team.

On a ridiculously windy afternoon it was great to see the Senior Tennis competition played with so much enthusiasm. Our pairings of Matt Edgar and Joe Hargreaves and Sam Wignall and Sarah Hatch played consistently well but could

not manage better than a third place. In the junior tournament, the squad of Rob Lavelle, Oscar Twittchet, Nicky Charter, Will Lockhart, James Penrose, Beth Kenny and Sam Norris did very well, notching up win after win on what was a very wet afternoon's play. Meanwhile, the intermediate squad of Rob Lockhart, Ryan Vaughan, Tom Charter, Chloe Walker, Alix Townsend and Lucy Mellor-Bates came up against stiff opposition but played really well and scored many points.

The final sporting competition of the year saw the junior rounders team play some very respectable games and gave the opportunity for some of the younger members of the House to get involved in the fixtures. Natasha Linton, Kiran Bahra, Nicola Seechurn, Elizabeth Jenkinson, Anna Southworth, Amber Vaughan and Lydia Dickinson all played their part in what was a good natured and competitive competition.

So, as the year came to an end, we failed miserably at the House technology competition and did not quite win the Work Cup, but it is with great pride that we can look back on the ups and downs of a very busy year. We may not have won the Whitby Cup, but we gave a great account of ourselves, and could have nicked it at the last after having led the standings until Easter. However, the most important thing is that the House participated, enjoyed itself and did its bit to ensure that the House system is as strong and as colourful as ever. All 179 members of the House did their bit and ensured that it is with great optimism that we embark on the 2009/2010 campaign.

Mr. S. Whittle

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KIRKHAM HOUSE

After progressing superbly and finishing in second place last year, Kirkham House was ready to make a serious challenge for the Whitby Cup. We returned in September ready for the competitions ahead.

The inter-house competition kicked off with the senior quiz. Our team of Tom Sanders, Caitlin McMillan, Elena Gaddes and Charles O'Flaherty gave the house a great start, finishing in second place to Fylde. The Junior Quiz team was keen to get to the final too. An excellent performance in the semi-final by Jonathan Box, Elaine Chiekrie, Olivia Butler and Jodi Gaston-Ross put Kirkham comfortably into the final but we were beaten by a very strong School House team.

The basketball competition once again proved to be an exciting spectacle. The senior tournament was fiercely contested with all teams highly motivated. Our team, led by Tom Sanders and Daniel Bibby, was a real force and was very unfortunate to finish in second place by a point. Sam Hall and Jack Ingham organised our inter team who put up a very creditable performance and finished in third place.

In the senior netball our girls got off to a slow start and did not really get into their stride. However, in the third/fourth play off match they stepped up a gear and, although they lost to School House, their performance was commendable.

Our junior netball team was spectacular! Kate Meagh captained this very strong Kirkham team and in the semi-final against Fylde our girls recorded a massive 18-0 victory. We faced School House in the final and this terrific team proved to be too good - we won 18-4.

Tom Fielding organised our chess team again this year. The chess was a closely fought battle and though we performed very well indeed we had to settle with third place.

The annual hockey tournament for the junior girls at Preston Sports Arena provided some great entertainment. We all knew that it would be very close this year and the Kirkham girls were ready to truly compete. Jenny Malings captained our team with Rachel Williamson and the girls performed superbly, defeating School House 1-0 in the semi-final and Fylde House 2-0 in the final.

The final event of the first term was the swimming gala. As always, the atmosphere was electric and the Kirkham team gave absolutely everything. Sophie Ward once again demonstrated her class and special mention must be given to Nathan Loftus who got out of his sick bed to compete. This year's gala was unbelievably close throughout with Kirkham and Fylde neck and neck. The winning house was to be decided by the senior boys' freestyle relay. What a nail biting finish! Unfortunately, Fylde just pipped us at the finish and we had to settle for second place.

The Spring Term began with six cross country competitions, our junior girls won convincingly with a very strong pack performance and we gained good positions in the other age groups. Special mention must be given to Jade Mottley who won the senior girls' race for the second year running.

Both our junior and inter rugby teams put up a great fight this term. The inters were led by Sam Hall and finished in second place. Our junior boys were a very young team and though they tried very hard, they had to settle for fourth place.

Once again our efforts in the house music contest were very impressive. After the audition stages, Kirkham were 161 points ahead of Fylde House in second place - a very healthy lead indeed. We also had some super individual and ensemble performances. This year we had more people in the final than ever before. We had ten people in the solo finals and three ensemble groups in the final. Special mention must be given to Caitlin McMillan who won the solo final in her final year. Our choir was terrific this year. Johnny Davis, Georgia Cheyne, Lucy Fielding and Caitlin McMillan whipped us into shape with numerous break time practices. This year our choir got to the final and, though we finished in second place, we were delighted with our performance. We won the overall competition convincingly, 180 points ahead of Fylde in second place.

Our senior hockey girls performed superbly this year, very ably led by Jade Mottley. Through illness we only had ten players and special mention must be given to Vicky Rowe who stepped in to be our goalkeeper at the last minute and she made some great saves. After a closely fought tournament, our girls did us proud finishing in equal first place with School.

We were in second place in the shooting competition this year. Thanks go to Charles O'Flaherty for organising our team.

The debating competition has always been one of our strengths and this year was no different. Caitlin McMillan and Lucy Fielding worked very hard preparing their arguments for the semi-final and Elena Gaddes and Caitlin McMillan were terrific, winning the competition for an impressive fourth year running.

Unfortunately, the horrendous weather at the start of the term meant that Sports Day, for the first time had to be cancelled.

Kieran Brookes organised our junior and senior cricket teams and both teams performed superbly in the semi-finals to reach a place in the final. Though we performed well, we had to settle for second place in both.

Our performances in the tennis competitions this year were terrific. Our seniors finished in second place, Stan Graham, Johnny Taylor, Peter Rigby and Kris Turnbull put up a great display. Our juniors, Anna Shackleton, Alex Ward, Hannah Butler and Katy Ingham, also finished in second place. Our inter team went one better, with superb performances from Anna Rigby and Jodie Hope and Max Baker and Nathan Loftus.

The rounders tournament is always very enjoyable indeed. Jenny Malings and Kate Meagh organised our team and we knew that we really had to finish above Fylde to have a chance of winning the Whitby Cup. Our girls were terrific and after a very close finish we finished a creditable second place.

The final competition was technology and our team, led by Olivia Butler, performed very well indeed and finished in third place.

All that was left now before the Champion House was decided was the Work Cup results. The members of Kirkham House once again were very impressive on the academic front and won the Work Cup by fifty two points.

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What a year! The Kirkham House team certainly stepped up yet again to challenge for the top prize. In final assembly we waited in anticipation of the final results. As the House results were announced not only had we won the Work Cup but at last Kirkham House had done it, Whitby Cup Winners 2008-2009 - a magnificent achievement!

I am extremely proud of Kirkham House. This year the team spirit, eagerness to participate, desire to win and complete house unity has once again been unbelievable. I would like to congratulate and thank all the Kirkham House staff and pupils for their tremendous efforts throughout the year. Finally, I would like to thank our superb house captains, Jade Mottley, Tom Sanders and Kieran Brookes for their tremendous commitment and hard work throughout the year. I wish them well in the future. I would also like to congratulate Katie Gorman and Rebecca Lewis and Sebastian Luker, our House Captains for 2009-2010.

Mrs J M Glover

PRESTON HOUSE

After the long, hot summer we returned in September ready for another year of intrigue, suspense and excitement with the return of the Inter-House competition. It is worth remembering the final positions of the 2007-8 Whitby Cup, as this is often a motivating factor for the following year. The winners Fylde were pushed all the way by Kirkham in second place, Preston narrowly finishing a creditable third and School unusually in fourth place.

The quiz teams were first on the floor, with Fylde winning the junior competition due to a strong team defeating Preston in the semi-final. In the seniors' competition, Preston beat Fylde in the semi-final thanks to Michael Bennett knowing all the answers to the questions about Richard III. His luck also carried on in the final against Kirkham, when coincidentally more questions were asked about Richard III. By now Michael was on a roll and Preston won easily. Thanks to Mrs Copeland for providing an excellent set of questions throughout the competition.

Next on the board was the chess competition. Grand Master Melling organised the tournament and, although winners last year, Preston finished in a disappointing fourth position. Maybe last year's victory had been a fluke from DC?

The basketball competitions are always a great spectacle and this term was no exception. A very close intermediate

competition saw Preston finish in fourth position with a very young team who will be stronger next year. The senior event was dominated by a strong Fylde team, but a resurgent Preston pushed them all the way but finished in third place.

Fylde House dominated the senior girls' netball with a high standard of play throughout, but Preston House finished a creditable second after a great display from Stephanie de Carpentier. In the junior competition, Preston unfortunately finished in a disappointing fourth position again.

On a cold, wet November night we saw the arrival of the junior girls at Preston Sports Arena for the most nerve wracking and intense competition of the year so far, the annual hockey tournament. As usual, goals were bound to be rare and Preston, a very young team, lost both matches, but it was another enthralling tournament under the floodlights with the spectators creating a wonderful atmosphere.

The final event of the term, the swimming gala at Kirkham Baths, is always held on the coldest day of the year (it is in the rules) and sees hordes of competitors trudging along Ribby Road to the baths at 9 o'clock in the morning. Preston had lost two very strong swimmers and struggled all day to gain any momentum in the competition, but the other three houses fought neck and neck until the final relay events and any of them could have won the trophy. Luke Paterson, the House Captain, was an example to everybody and set two new school records in the individual medley and the senior boys' relay but Preston finished in third place.

The cold, wet and windy weather of February heralded the start of the cross country season. The juniors were the first to brave the elements and after a couple of weeks' practice during PE lessons, the junior girls started the events well, with Imogen Pierce of Preston House just beating Lindsay O'Brien of School House to first place. The junior boys gained an impressive victory, with Henry Cameron finishing in second place as a first year running against second years. In the intermediate event, Preston have traditionally been strong thanks to the Christmas training camp at altitude organised by Mr Sampey and again were victorious in both events. In the intermediate boys, four runners finished in the first ten home, including Calum Paley, Nathan White, Tom Leach and Marcus Molinga. Not to be outdone, five of the Preston House girls finished in the top dozen positions and finished in first position overall. Well done to Antonia Evans (second) and Sally Gardner (third). The team spirit of Preston House was shown once again when the senior boys broke all records, scoring 27 points with the next team scoring 82

points. Just look at this finishing line: Richard Morrell (first), Ben Jones (second), Kieran Marmion (third), Callum Bennett (fourth), Adam Whalley (sixth) and Bobby Garlington (ninth), all six runners in the top ten, remarkable. In the senior girls, we also came first with Lucy Knowles and Becky Nutbrown running well. So we completed almost a clean sweep of the cross country events, winning five out of six.

Amidst the organised chaos of the 400 House Music auditions, teams of crack sharpshooters were sent out in search of victory in the shooting competition. This is always a very closely run contest and this was the closest for years. Until the final round, Preston were leading, thanks to Alice Whitehead, but Fylde were victorious over School by three points.

The double pointer of the House Music Festival seemed to go on for over two months, with over 400 auditions heard by Mr Barratt and Miss Dickinson in three days being whittled down to the finalists. The overall standings in the Music Festival were once again very close although Preston finished sadly in fourth place. The four finalists included Emily Ryding, Ellie Schuller-Smith and Rachel Einemann. Many thanks to the music staff and all the competitors for putting together another brilliant event and to Michael Bennett for organising the Preston House Choir.

The debate competition, as would be expected, brings out a fierce rivalry between the senior members of the houses. The semi-final between Preston and Kirkham was very close, with Chris Travis and Ben Frew narrowly losing against Kirkham, who have never lost a debate in the last four years thanks to Caitlin McMillan.

The end of the rugby season sees the start of House Sevens competition. Preston House was successful in the juniors, winning two of their matches and finishing in second position. The intermediate team for Preston only won one of their matches in a very tough competition and finished in third position. The seniors were unfortunate because their competition was cancelled due to the lack of time after a very successful Sevens season from the boys involved in Schools' National Tournaments. Thankfully, the squad will stay together next year.

The senior hockey tournament is the last game for many of the senior girls and is a fitting tribute to their hockey careers at KGS. The matches are always played in a tremendous spirit and it was won jointly on the day by School and Kirkham. Preston had a very inexperienced team but fought valiantly, none more so than the House Captains, Lucy Knowles and Lizzie Whittle.

The senior cricketers were lucky with the weather and beat School in the first semi-final by 65 runs. In the final, Kirkham scored 97 for 8 off 14 overs and Preston responded with 98 for 2 off 11 overs, with Kieran Marmion 61 not out. Another victory to the senior boys!

The tennis tournaments have traditionally been successful for Preston, but this year we only managed to finish in third position. So we are looking for a budding Andy Murray next year!

Going into the last two weeks of the term the overall competition was very close, with two houses on equal points and the leaders only 3 points ahead. This is what makes the House system so competitive, anyone could win, even up to the last event, the Work Cup.

In the junior cricket, Preston easily beat Fylde in the semi-final, thanks to a tremendous batting performance from the Captain Marcus Molinga (83 runs not out), setting a total of 122 from 15 overs. Fylde replied with 87 from 15 overs after fine bowling performances from Mat Beatty and Adam Whalley.

In the final against Kirkham we won the toss and batted first, scoring a record 164 runs from 15 overs, with Marcus Molinga scoring an amazing 94 runs. He was well supported by Mat Beatty with 46 runs. In return, Kirkham scored a creditable 129 from 15 overs, not enough to overcome a spirited Preston side.

The new House Technology Competition was held in the technology room T3 and the competitors from years 1, 2 and 3 were given the task of designing, making and propelling a vehicle, the winners being the team who travelled the greatest distance. Preston started well in the first round, not recording a centimetre. However, after a few minor adjustments from Callum Paley, Mihir Parmar, Scott Reilley and Macaulay Murgatroyd on the final shot of the competition, we got a world record 1110mm and easily won the trophy for the second time in two years.

The junior rounders was on the same day as the cricket final and you could hear the excitement all around the ground. Preston performed exceptionally well, winning two matches. The team spirit was excellent and they were captained well by Georgina Cameron and Hannah Travis. It was the team spirit, however, that won the competition. Well done, girls.

That just leaves the Work Cup to decide the final positions for 2008-9. It has been another exciting and demanding year but thoroughly rewarding. Thanks to all the competitors and especially the Captains Luke, Lucy, Lizzie, Rob and Grace.

Preston House has a great spirit and I wish you all the best for next year.

Dr A. B. Rollins

SCHOOL HOUSE

The year started off with the House quiz competitions and, unfortunately, both the School House senior and junior teams failed to progress past the semi final stages. Both teams echoed complaints of a conspiracy theory, with the opposition questions seeming to be so much easier than the questions aimed at School House. However, the junior team of Megan Kitchen, Matt Donaldson, Lucy Newton and Ricardo North offer some optimism for the future. Although they struggled in the team question round, they shone in the individual round, with Megan Kitchen excelling.

The House basketball followed and this presented much more hope of success, with both the junior and senior sides confident. In their first match, the juniors had a very close and tense affair against Preston, with School House only pulling away in the second half and winning by six points. Game two was against a big Fylde House team. The game was another close match, but Fylde's extra height in attack proved to be the decisive factor. In the last game, School House easily beat Kirkham and so claimed a creditable second place overall in the competition.

The senior side fared even better, winning their first match easily against Fylde, with the opposition scoring no points in



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reply to School's thirteen. The second match was against a very energetic and physical Kirkham side, but the superior basketball skills of the team proved decisive and the team won

6-0. The last match proved to be the closest, with Preston rallying hard in the second half, but the team won 7-5 to claim the overall championship.

Throughout the whole tournament the team defended well and managed to keep their composure despite some very physical play from the opposition.

The girls were equally optimistic of success when it came to the netball competitions. The junior side started well, beating Fylde in the semi finals. In the first half the team played well and scored five goals. However, Fylde came back strongly after the break, but the team defended strongly and held out to win 5-0. In the final, the team came up against a very strong Kirkham side with four Lancashire players. To add to the challenge the side had also lost one of its star performers, Hannah Pike. The opposition proved too strong, but still the team gave a good performance despite losing. This meant that School House came second in the overall competition.

The senior side was even more confident of success, but the draw proved to be cruel and resulted in the team having to play the strong Fylde House in the semi-finals. To win, the team knew they had to play to their full potential, but Fylde played with total determination and commitment and won. A more determined approach in the third/fourth place match against Kirkham resulted in a better team performance. The first ten minutes were difficult because of an injury to a player which meant the side had to play with only six players, but victory was still achieved.

The disappointing failure of the senior netball team was soon forgotten with the achievements of the chess team. In the first round, against Kirkham, the juniors performed very well, winning two games and drawing one. The seniors did not do as well, winning one, drawing one and losing one. Against Fylde, the juniors continued to perform well once again, winning two and drawing one. The seniors could only manage to get one point from their match. In the final round

against Preston, the juniors once again scored two and a half points and the seniors performed better, scoring two points. This meant that overall School House and Fylde scored twelve and a half points and so, for the first time in the competition, there was a tie for first place. An excellent team performance, with some notable individual achievements; James Lau in the senior competition and Alex Kearsley and Charles Redshaw in the junior team were all undefeated.

The junior hockey competition proved to be a very exciting event. The team played very well and achieved third place, being very unlucky in their defeat in the semi finals. Outstanding performances were given by captain Hannah Pike and goalkeeper Lydia Tolan.

The last competition of the Michaelmas term was the House swimming.

The inter house swimming gala invariably combines the varying emotions and anticipation of experienced swimmers and those poor souls that are pulled in to make up the team. The first race, the junior girls' backcrawl, gave the House a tremendous start, with a superb swim by Hannah Pike resulting in a resounding victory. The House's morale quickly rose with some excellent performances in the breaststroke events. A clean sweep was achieved by the boys, with victories gained by Danny Davies, Todd Davies and Lyman Choi. It was in the breaststroke events that the true ethos of inter house competitions was seen, with Gabi Furnival agreeing to step in at the last minute to swim in the senior girls' breaststroke. In the next set of races, the butterfly events, once again pupils put themselves forward to compete in an event in which they had very little expertise or hope of winning. The House's thanks and admiration goes out to Sam Sissons, Aaron Davies and David Redshaw for their efforts. Although we all like to win, and we should play to win, there are also occasions when doing our best is the most we can offer. This is the fundamental basis of inter house competition. So, the House did have the chance to cheer victory in the girls' junior frontcrawl, when Lydia Wood stormed home. The relays brought an exciting finale to the swimming gala. Although the House did not gain any victories, there were some noteworthy performances by the second year boys' frontcrawl team, who, despite making every effort to avoid the day, performed really well. One of



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the best races of the day was the senior girls' freestyle relay, where three teams, including School House, finished very closely together. The House swimming competition is allocated double points and School's fourth place meant that in the Christmas standings we were in third place in the overall House competition.

The Spring term started with the cross-country races. The junior team was unfortunately let down by runners not turning up and so, instead of six runners competing, there were four. The girls who did run performed very well, with Lindsey O'Brien gaining the best position with fourth. Despite losing lots of points because of non-runners, the team came third and would certainly have achieved second place if all their runners had competed. In the junior boys' race, Danny Davies ran exceptionally well, coming fourth and Jonathan Chan, a late entry, can feel very pleased with his sixth place. The junior team gained second place overall.

In both inter races there were some excellent individual performances, with Ashley Bradshaw winning the girls' race and Joe Walsh winning the boys'. Jack Loxham's performance was also of note, because Jack was only drafted into the team the night before the race. The inter boys came second and the girls came third. The senior races were very disappointing affairs, with both teams being unable to field a full complement of runners. This resulted in both teams coming last in their respective competitions.

Then followed the eagerly awaited house music competition. In the first round there were some excellent individual performances and particularly encouraging was the number of juniors who contributed with maximum scores. Despite these outstanding efforts, after the first round of auditions the House lay in third place, with Kirkham way out in front. Unfortunately, only three pupils made the finals - Todd Davies on the piano, Sam Donaldson playing the E Flat horn and Amy Wilson on the flute. There were also competitors in the Ensemble final; Amy Wilson was a member of the Swing band who scored 21 points. Amy also performed with Matt Gladwell and others with the song 'Be thou my vision' and achieved second place, scoring 23 points. The House Choir round was the most competitive section and the House gave a good performance but only came third, scoring 20 points. In the final results School House came third, accumulating 369 points.

In the House Debating competition the team of Ed Gill and Henry Redshaw met Fylde House in the semi final. This was the first time that the members in the team had competed in such a competition and they, unfortunately, were no match for a very experienced Fylde pair. However, there were lots of complimentary comments for their performance.

The hockey tournament was completed with the senior event. The whole tournament was a low scoring event, with all teams struggling to find the back of the goal. School House won their first game 2-0 against Preston and drew their second game 0-0 against Fylde. This left them with only having to win the last game against Kirkham to win the tournament, but this also finished 0-0. This meant that School house tied for first place with Kirkham.

The major event of the year for many of the boys was the house rugby. The intermediate team was the first to play. Their first game was a very one sided affair, with Precious giving the whole squad a 'run out' in a 47-7 victory over Fylde. The second game proved more challenging, but still resulted in a victory 26-7 against Preston. This left the last match against Kirkham as the tournament decider and it turned out to be a very close, tense battle and ended in a 21-21 draw. On the countback of points scored in the tournament, School scored the most and were crowned champions.

The junior side did not fare as well and only finished third in their tournament. They gave Preston a close match, only losing by five tries to three, but they lost easily to a very strong Fylde side. However, the team did beat Kirkham in the last game.

The senior competition was cancelled because of the wear and tear on the senior rugby players from their demanding but highly successful programme.

The last event of the Spring term was the House shooting competition.

There was major controversy in the first round of shooting, with accusations of gun sight tampering against School House. After much consultation, the team was given a re-shoot and scored enough points to gain overall second place.

The highlight of the Summer term has always been the athletics competition. Unfortunately, this year rain affected the competition right from the outset. The first day of the preliminaries was cancelled because of poor weather and the following day's programme was also severely affected. Of the events that took place there were some notable performances. Adam Galley and Hannah Pike ensured a clean sweep in the intermediate hurdles events and with Jack Loxham gaining equal first in the inter high jump, the inter teams looked in a strong position. However, the poor weather persisted and Sports' Day itself had to be cancelled. Every attempt was made to arrange an alternative date but that proved impossible and so the athletics' competition was abandoned.

Despite the poor weather, time was found to complete the cricket competition. The senior cricket team was not a strong outfit this year and things were made worse when they were drawn against the strongest house, Preston, in the semi-finals. School House batted first and surprised us all by scoring a reasonable total of 76. Preston, however, had far too strong a batting line-up and quickly reached the total.

The junior team also struggled from the outset in their semi final match against Kirkham. Kirkham batted first and set off at a tremendous rate, scoring at eight runs an over. School House's fielding was severely tested by the big hitting of the Kirkham batsmen. The final score of 189 for Kirkham was always going to be a big challenge and the loss of early wickets made the task even more difficult. School House finished with a total of 95.

The senior tennis team provided some much needed morale boosting by pulling off a tremendous victory. It was a convincing overall victory, beating Kirkham 10-6, Preston 10-6 and Fylde 12-4. Outstanding in the team was the partnership of Henry Redshaw and James Gardiner. Unfortunately, the intermediate and junior teams did not achieve the same success. Both these competitions took place on a very wet and cold afternoon. Although optimism before the day was high, the performance of both teams seemed to be affected by the conditions. In the intermediate competition, the team came third, but second pairing of Oliver Turnbull and Ashley Bradshaw fared well, winning three and drawing one of their six matches. The juniors really struggled in the conditions and came fourth.

Next event was the rounders competition. The team got off to a very promising start against Fylde. After that, the team seemed to wilt in the hot weather and they lost their next two matches. Overall, the team finished fourth, a disappointing position after such a promising first game.



The House was represented by a very enthusiastic and confident team of second and third years in the technology competition. The task set for them was to make a vehicle that could be powered by a weight using only the materials provided. Due to a lack of time, initial plans had to be abandoned, but the new modified vehicle, an idea of Todd's, ran for a distance of 655mm, far enough for the team to gain a creditable second place.

In the last competition of the year, several groups competed in the Sixty Second Shakespere Drama Festival. The best performing groups were those comprising of Alicia Eland, Olivia Fuller and Megan Bailey who did a scene from Macbeth and the group of Sophie Denney, Ruby Barrie, Georgina Lawson and Charlotte Muir who did a scene from A Midsummer Night's Dream. Overall, their efforts gained a very creditable second place.

This encouraging effort was slightly dampened by the news of the House's fourth place position in the Work Cup.

At the end of year standings, the House came third. Obviously, we would like to finish higher, but the effort and enthusiasm of all those who have competed this year cannot be faulted. I would especially like to thank the two house captains, Sarah Dickie and Emily Whiteside, who worked tirelessly and without whom I would have been totally lost. Let's hope for more success next year.

Mr. M. Marmion



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I knew from very early on that with so many Upper Sixth having first team experience from the previous year the potential was there to have a really good season.

Captain Jonathan Edwards and Vice Captain Will Stover set a fine example to their peer group and to younger players. Pre-season went really well and this was reflected in a 56-3 win over Manchester Grammar School in the first game of the season. The team was based on the power of the pack, especially the front row of Kieran Brookes, James Hesketh and Will Stover who were outstanding all season.

Unfortunately, the game against Colston's was cancelled due to inclement weather, but KGS seemed to grow in confidence. By the time they played Woodhouse Grove in Bradford, the team had developed into a real force. Woodhouse were beaten easily 36-5. Half-backs Daniel Bibby and Kieran Marmion dominated the game, using their forwards and releasing strong running centres Wasim Riley and Tommy Banks at the right time.

Victories followed against Wirral Grammar School, Royal Grammar School Newcastle, Lancaster Royal Grammar School, Caldry Grange and Giggleswick. Next came Llandoverly College, a side containing a number of Welsh internationals. Kirkham played their best rugby of the season and obtained a splendid victory 39-19. Again, the forwards had given the platform for half backs Kieran Marmion and Daniel Bibby to dominate.

Kirkham then met Sedbergh and gave them a huge fright. Losing four players through injury in the first half, including Captain Jonathan Edwards, would have fazed many a side, but the team dug deep and, despite losing, gained many admirers.

Further victories over Merchant Taylor's, King's Macclesfield (under lights at Fylde) and finally Arnold showed what an outstanding group of players had come together over the season.

My thanks must go to Johnny Roddam, former First XV captain in 1999-2000 for all his help, Wareing Buildings, Wrea Green, for their kind sponsorship, and Mr Banks.

1st XV Colours

Kieran Brookes (Re-Award)
Will Stover
Tom Sanders
Jonathan Edwards
David Ellis
Kieran Marmion
Daniel Bibby
Wasim Riley
James Moncrieff
Matthew Spedding
James Hesketh
Stephen Hamilton

FYLDE NATIONAL 7's CHAMPIONS

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

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

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

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

Kieran Marmion continued this form in the final against Robert Clack School from London, as he scored a number of tries after excellent defence and covering from Tommy Banks. KGS completely dominated the final, running out winners by 40-5 and winning their third trophy of the sevens' season (Birkenhead School, North of England and now Fylde National sevens). Kieran Marmion was voted player of the tournament.



NATIONAL 7's FINALISTS

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

On a tense second day, KGS faced Sedbergh and, with James Moncrieff and Daniel Bibby leading the way, KGS controlled Sedbergh for a 26-17 victory. The team was working very hard and the ability to defend in difficult situations often proved decisive. The quarter-final against Henley College was won in comfortable fashion 29-17, with Ireland under 18 scrum half Kieran Marmion prominent. This pushed KGS into a semi-final spot, a position last achieved in 2002.

KGS now faced top Bristol school, Colston's. In a nail-biting game, both teams played excellent rugby and with one minute to go were locked at 19-19, but with strong scrummaging KGS forced Colston's into a mistake and Kieran Marmion pounced to score a crucial try to give KGS a 24-19 victory and a spot in the final, the first time KGS has ever reached this stage of this most prestigious of tournaments.

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

Second XV

P 12 W 10 D 1 L 1 F 354 A 109

In total, 36 boys have represented the Second XV this season. This abundance of players, which has brought some problems related to game time for some squad members, has nevertheless provided strength in depth throughout the season and was a key factor in the success achieved.

The season started with an unconvincing victory over Manchester Grammar School, but was quickly followed by a thrashing of a very young Cowley team (74-0). KGS then only decided to start playing in the second half against Woodhouse Grove to gain a draw (12-12). Good wins against Wirral (34-12) and then Newcastle RGS (36-12) raised confidence, and then heroic defence sealed a closely fought win over Lancaster RGS (15-7). Another close game against a talented young Calday Grange Grammar School team (26-19) raised the blood pressure, but then a convincing 57-7 win over Giggleswick settled the nerves. Another nip and tuck game against Llandovey College (13-6) set up the challenge of Sedbergh. Whilst Sedbergh won 24-0, it is fair to say that KGS failed to take their chances in the first half and some poor defence at key times cost them dear. Nevertheless, KGS bounced back to defeat Merchant Taylors 51-0 and Arnold 24-7 in the new year.

In the Sevens season, the Second XV performed heroics to reach the final of the Austin Friars Tournament played in snow. Here they were defeated by the strong host side. The second XV in the Fylde RUF North of England Sevens Tournament was frankly disappointing as we failed to push on in the second day.

Whilst all 36 players have had some influence over the season, some key contributions should be noted. Ashley



Jones, Christian Luker, Henry Redshaw and Michael Gyi have played in all the games, whilst Oliver Chambers, Ed Gill, Gary Cheung and James Gardiner have each played ten. Ashley Jones finished an excellent season as top points scorer with 97, and he and Matthew Edgar have scored seven tries each.

At this point I would like to thank Mr Trenhaile and Mr Roddam for supporting the second XV in coaching and selection, Mr Wu for his help with squad preparation on Thursday nights, Mr Browning for supplying me with all the statistics and finally Mr Walter and Mr White for their willingness to referee the games at home.

Finally, this has been an excellent season. It could have been an undefeated one if there had been a little more application and discipline in two key games. The second XV will be a very young team next season. I hope that if they can display as much commitment as this season under the guidance of a captain who will display the qualities as this year's leader, Michael Gyi, we will do well.

Mr. M Whalley

Under 16 XV

P 15 W 11 D 0 L 4 F 295 A 150

This was a very successful season for this group, with many excellent results achieved. The season started with a comprehensive victory over Manchester GS, with both props, James Coulthard and Jonathan Davies, scoring in a 17-0 victory. A last play defeat by Crossley Heath was then followed by the team putting together eight straight victories. A well fought match was won against the Woodhouse Grove third XV (10-3), followed by some excellent running rugby against Wirral GS (57-7), Giggleswick (61-0) and Bolton (31-3) in the first round of the Floodlit Cup. Important tries by Adam Whalley and Robert Garlington against RGS Newcastle (5-3) and Lancaster RGS (8-0) respectively saw two well organised opponents beaten in exciting matches.

A hard fought victory over Lytham St Annes in the County Cup was followed by a very physical match against the Bury Grammar School first XV. After Ben Jones put Kirkham in front with an early penalty, Bury scored just before half time to take the lead. However, the fitness level of the team showed through and Ryan Morton crashed over as a result of a blocked kick. Disaster then struck with a serious injury to Stanley Graham and the match was halted with two minutes to go with Kirkham ahead 8-5.

A depleted side started well against Sedbergh and for twenty minutes the pack dominated their opponents. However, this dominance could not be turned into points and subsequently the end result was disappointing. The match against Merchant Taylor's was played with a much more positive attitude, with the set pieces being totally dominated. The score of 40-0 did not reflect the total dominance. Matthew Ellis and Alexander Lo were strong in the lineout and with the back row of Ryan Morton, George Naylor and Robert Malings constantly pressuring the fly half, turn over ball regularly came back which led to Josh Keay, Ben Jones and Bobby Garlington tearing holes in the defence and giving opportunities for Anish Chandreskar, Jonathan Taylor and Stephen Clough to score tries.

The toughest game of the season came in the Cup at St Edward's, Liverpool. After playing some poor rugby for large chunks of the game in horrendous conditions, the team

managed to secure a last play try and set up a semi final Cup game against Lancaster RGS. Unfortunately, having returned to the team for this game, Stanley Graham suffered a serious leg injury and this would see him ruled out for the remainder of the rugby season.

Against Manchester GS (Floodlit Cup) and Lancaster RGS (County Cup) poor early decision making saw the team on the back foot, but in both cases the team fought incredibly well to dominate large periods of the match. However, the team did not progress to the final in either tournament, but it was tremendous to end on a performance like the one the team gave against Lancaster RGS.

The pack was outstanding throughout the year and was led well by Matthew Ellis. In the backs, Bobby Garlington and Ben Jones were instrumental in creating regular try scoring opportunities. Ben was awarded player of the year and Phil Brook, at hooker, was commended for being the most improved player.

My thanks for the constant support from Mr Geoff Wappett and his help on the practice field and to the parents this year for all the positive comments that have been made. I must also commend the attitude of this group of players and finally thank Bobby for captaining the side so well.

Mr. N Passenger

Under 16's VII

The squad travelled to Sedbergh to commence the sevens' season and, after victories against Giggleswick and Merchant Taylors' in the group, met Barnard Castle in the

quarter final. After some early pressure, Kirkham took the lead through Ben Jones, but it was unfortunate that Barnard scored in the third minute of injury time to score a converted try which saw them take the lead 7-5. Unfortunately, even though there was immense Kirkham pressure, there was no further score in the second half.

At the Merchant Taylor's tournament, excellent group wins were scored over Rydal (24-19), Wirral GS (24-19), Merchant Taylor's (14-12) and Giggleswick (17-7). However, once again injury to Philip Brook, Joshua Keay and Jonathan Taylor was influential as disappointingly the team really struggled in the semi finals against Arnold.

The Stonyhurst Sevens is a tournament where teams in the past have done well, but defeats against Audenshaw and Bradford GS left the team going to the National Sevens needing to change their approach to beat the strong opponents in the group.

Against Millfield Ben Jones, Tom Hurst and Anish Chandreskar put constant pressure on the opponents and gaps were regularly found. However, the Millfield team gradually broke into their stride and proved why they were to become National champions. A fine performance by the team was then reflected in the other group games, where the highlight was a fine 27-7 win over the Perse School, who had just lost to Millfield 21-17. A good finale to a positive season.

Once again, thanks must be given to Mr Geoff Wappett and the regular parental support at the tournaments, which was most appreciated.

Mr. N Passenger

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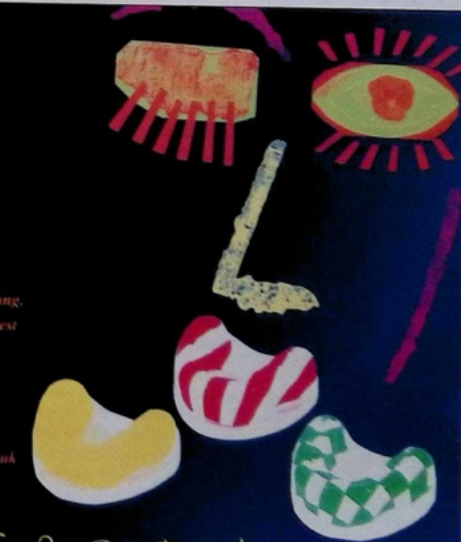
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Under 15 XV

P 22 W 15 D 1 L 6

A great victory in the first match of the season against Manchester Grammar was an excellent reward for the hard work that Kirkham Grammar School's under 15 squad had demonstrated in their pre-season training. The under 15 knew they were facing tough opposition in the team that had knocked them out of the Lancashire Cup in the previous season, but they stepped up to the mark in order to gain a 22-12 win. Some excellent individual tries were scored by Sam Hall and Craig Whalley-Hunter.

Unfortunately, early success was tainted by a defeat to St. Mary's School, Crosby, when the under 15's were knocked out of the Daily Mail Cup.

Slightly easier opponents were Cowley Language College, Woodhouse Grove and Wirral Grammar School, where Kirkham Grammar School managed three convincing wins in a row.

The next two matches meant a long journey to Newcastle Royal Grammar School and Lancaster Royal Grammar School. In both matches, the travelling took its toll and, for the first time in the season, the defence was challenged by the strong opposition. However, the losses became the turning point of the season. They knew their defence had to tighten before the match against Sedbergh School and Llandoverly College. These two games ended up being the two most thrilling matches of the season.

The first match was against Llandoverly College in some very difficult conditions. The forwards, led by Michalis Papanagelis, kept possession courageously, while Captain Tom Hurst and Nathan White did some tremendous defensive work. At the

end of the first half, Adam Galley led an effective catch and drive which allowed Sam Hall to score under the posts and helped the boys win 10-7.

Against Sedbergh School the team was not as lucky, losing 3-29. Despite some courageous defending by Harrison Moulding and pressure in the attack, Kirkham struggled to score enough points and were only able to score one drop goal by Will Roper before half time. In the second half, Kirkham had lots of possession but still could not convert opportunities to points. Adam Galley and Tom Hurst were tremendous in both defence and attack.

The second half of the season was all about the Daily Mail Vase Competition. Beating Wade Deacon, Cowley, Calday Grange Grammar School and De Aston School on the way, Kirkham faced Ermysted Grammar School in the last sixteen of the competition. A well earned win took Kirkham into the quarter final of the competition against The Leys School in Cambridge. Again we had to make the long journey down to Cambridge, where, despite playing some good constructive rugby, we were outplayed by a fitter and a more dynamic side and lost 32-12. The Leys School went on to the final and was the eventual winners of the competition.

The sevens season was more successful for silverware. Kirkham did not perform too well in the Bradford Grammar School tournament as the squad needed some time to adjust to the modern style of sevens. However, once the essential skills were mastered, the squad went to the Arnold School Tournament with some confidence and managed to win the tournament, beating Merchant Taylors' School, Stoneyhurst College and Arnold School on the way. The Warwick School tournament was a much bigger tournament. Kirkham again started the tournament well and went through to the knock-out stages as group winner. Kirkham won the quarter final easily against Kings School, Macclesfield 38-12 and got to

the semi-finals against Barnard Castle School. However a depleted Kirkham side was knocked out of the tournament, losing 22-10.

The under 15's finished the season off with a well earned tour to Italy for a week. This was an excellent reward for all the hard work all season. With the busy schedule of sightseeing and sun bathing, the squad managed to squeeze in games against the local club sides (Paese RUFC, Pordenone RUFC, Fontana RUFC and Piave RUFC). With the right conditions, Precious Nwaokomah and Max Baker played some fast flowing rugby which was too hard for the Italians to cope with. However, the highlight of the tour was the Go-Kart race between the boys and Mr Harrison in which Mr Harrison was too good for the boys to even get close to him.

Special thanks must go to the parents for their generosity and support and the staff: Mr Trenhaile, Dr Rollins, Mr Harrison, James Walker and Alex Spratt for their hard work on and off the field. Without their support the under 15 would not be as successful as they have been this season.

Representative Honours

Lancashire 15 Group

S. Hall

T. Hurst

Under 13 XV

P 18 W 5 L 13 F 190 A 429

The 2008/9 season was a difficult one in terms of results but this was certainly offset by the huge amount of effort from the whole squad. In all, 38 boys represented the 'A' and 'B' squads and the turnout for training on a Wednesday evening was excellent. We began the season with a good win against Manchester Grammar School (24-10) in hot conditions, but unfortunately followed this up a week later with a disappointing display at Cowley, losing narrowly 15-7. The next two fixtures were possibly our toughest and were against Woodhouse Grove (0-50) and Wirral G.S. (5-45). Although the games ended in heavy defeats, the boys never gave up and it was encouraging to see some forceful play led by Thomas Hunter and Lewis Leach. We then lost a close game to RGS Newcastle away from home where it is always difficult. However, the following week, the team played extremely well against Calday Grange, who were huge, to say the least. The back-row of Harry Mason, Leach and Penrose was outstanding, particularly in defence, producing countless tackles between them to thwart the opposition pack. This led to a much more consistent display against Giggleswick School, where the sides seemed to be more evenly matched. However, we were a little unlucky to go down 5-10. The last two games before Christmas saw one win and a defeat against Bury G.S. (20-0) and Merchant Taylors' School (0-45).

At the end of term the boys embarked on a tour to South Wales, playing games against Glantaff School and Monmouth. Although both games ended in defeat, there were encouraging signs, particularly in the second game when Mr. Trenhaile made a few subtle changes to the pack. Between matches the squad was able to take in trips to the Millennium Stadium and the Magner's League game between Dragons and Ospreys before spending the last afternoon shopping in Cardiff City Centre.

When the boys returned in January, there were fixtures against two of our local rivals, Hutton and Arnold School. Both ended in narrow defeats (0-7 and 10-12), but the results could have gone either way. The encouraging point was that the team was starting to compete for the whole game. Our biggest win came against St. Anselm's, Birkenhead and it was here that the whole team produced a relentless display of running rugby from beginning to end, although we took our foot off the pedal towards the end and let the opposition run in three easy scores.

The last two games, in the Lancashire Plate, were against Cowley, whom we dispatched 54-0, scoring nine tries and Liverpool College in the semi-final who proved too fast and powerful for our weakened side. We eventually lost 48-18. There were a number of stand-out performances during the season, particularly Adam Coates, who scored 15 tries, Harry Mason whose defensive game improved immensely and Robert Lavelle, who kicked thoughtfully from hand. However, the whole squad tried very hard and by the end, despite the record, played with much heart and determination.

The Sevens' season saw the squad enter four tournaments, winning the Plate in the KE & QMS and the Packwood Haugh Tournaments. We were also invited to the Woodhouse Grove and the prestigious Rosslyn Park Tournaments, where we lost to eventual finalists Warwick School. The squad played some very good sevens rugby, particularly in the KE & QMS final against St. Edward's, Liverpool, winning 26-24 after being heavily beaten by the same opposition in the group game.

My thanks to Mr. Wappett, who offered valuable support during training sessions, and to Mr. Trenhaile and Mr Wu for accompanying the boys to South Wales.

Mr J. R. Lyon

Under 12 XV

The under 12 side was mainly based on the successful team coming up from the Junior School. The expectations were certainly high and early season training suggested that the team could optimistically look forward to a good year. The first match was away against Woodhouse Grove. Maybe it was the long journey or the prolonged wait in the hot September sunshine before the kick off, but the season could not have got off to a more disappointing start. Players who had excelled in training appeared to be overawed by the occasion. Throughout the whole of the first half the team played without direction or purpose and it was no surprise to find ourselves trailing at half time. The second half was better and, despite some lengthy periods of pressure, the side was not able to penetrate an enthusiastic Woodhouse Grove defence and lost 7-14.

In the next fixture, against Wirral, the pre match talk was about the need for the team to get off to a good start, with everyone making a bigger effort to play 'go forward' rugby rather than running sideways. The side carried out the instructions superbly and found that this enabled them to play most of the game in the opposition half. The back row was particularly instrumental in achieving this and the No 8, Oscar Twitchett, was outstanding, as he was all season, creating good ruck platforms by his hard running from the base of the scrum. The backs also had a much more enjoyable morning and fluently and effectively moved the ball along the line. The team won 45-0, a vast improvement on the previous week.



Next up was Newcastle RGS and, after watching the B team being beaten by a very well organised and competitive Newcastle team, the A side knew that they would have to put in an outstanding performance if they were not to suffer the same fate. The early indications in the match pointed at Newcastle being too well drilled up front and creative in the backs for KGS to have any hope of winning. But KGS responded to the challenge. The forwards, led by Alex Whalley, quickly realised that they needed to drive aggressively in the rucks and this resulted in the side gaining more ball. The backs then began to show that they could be as creative as their opposition. KGS scored an excellent try just before half time to lead 7-5. The second half promised to be a close affair and the KGS side could rightfully claim to have applied most of the pressure, but it was the opposition who claimed the victory with a superb individual try in the last seconds of the match. This was an outstanding match, the best of the season, and all the KGS players could feel proud of their efforts.

Lancaster RGS provided the next opposition and the KGS forwards quickly established dominance over the Lancaster pack. The rucking style that had developed over the previous few weeks produced a stream of ball for the three-quarters. However, it took a solo effort from fly half Josh Powell to finally break the deadlock. Two more tries were scored in the first half, but a first half lead of 19-0 did not reflect the supremacy KGS had over the opposition. The second half was a disappointing affair and it appeared that the team was willing to coast through the half. This allowed Lancaster back in the game but the KGS line was rarely threatened. KGS won 24-0.

In the game against Caldys Grange, the first five minutes proved to be very frustrating, with Kirkham seeming determined to attack the sidelines rather than the opposition try line. This was followed by an excellent team try, with Connor Wilkinson scoring after the team had secured about ten phases of open play. The ease with which the try was scored suggested that the under 12's were going to romp away with the game, but the opposition defended bravely and made the team work hard for the rest of their points and a victory of 24-0.

The following weekend the team had two games in two days and was successful in both. In the first game they produced some excellent rugby, gaining their biggest win of the season, 61-7 against Ripley St.Thomas. In the second game the team travelled to Giggleswick, who tackled bravely to the end but could not prevent the KGS team from gaining an emphatic victory 36-0. Particularly impressive were the

second rows Scott Collins and Ellis Clarke who ran very effectively in the open field.

Next up was Bury GS and a combined team of A and B players went away to Bury and won convincingly 46-0. In this match many of the A team players were asked to play out of their usual position and responded superbly. A stream of ball gave a mainly B team back line an enjoyable morning of running and passing the ball and many were amongst the try scorers.

There was then a two week break before the next game against Merchant Taylor's. Despite not playing together for about two weeks, it did not take the side long to start producing some good rugby. Excellent rucking and good handling meant that Kirkham dominated the first ten minutes, but good defence by Merchant Taylor's kept the team out. In the tenth minute Josh Powell, who probably had his best game of the season, scored an excellent solo try. However, poor tackling allowed the opposition quickly back into the game. The team responded positively and dominated most of the game and probably should have won by more than 29-17. But this was a very good performance considering the cold conditions in which the game was played.

Next on the fixture list was a floodlight game at Fylde RC against King's Macclesfield before the 1st XV match. The team started very nervously and King's applied the initial pressure. Gradually, the Kirkham forwards started to dominate but brave defence kept out the KGS attacks. A superb individual effort by one of the King's backs was the only score in the first half. KGS started the second half well and once again applied a lot of pressure, with the forwards winning the vast majority of the possession. However, excellent defence and some poor support work by KGS meant that only one try was scored. The team lost 5-14.

Poor weather resulted in a couple of games being cancelled before Christmas and it was six weeks before the team's next match. This was the local derby against Arnold. It did not take the team long to produce the rucking game which had provided the basis for much of their success in the first term. The forwards were excellent in winning lots of ball and rucked Arnold off the pitch. It would not be an exaggeration to say that Kirkham had about 90% of the ball. However, some outstanding tackling by the Arnold team stopped the game from turning into a one-sided affair. Kirkham won 24-5.

A big Hutton GS side appeared initially to intimidate the KGS side. It took a while for the forwards to start to produce their trademark rucking game. However, Hutton scored first when their winger broke through some weak tackling to run the

length of the field. Kirkham quickly responded, with Wilf Rhodes scoring a try after a period of Kirkham pressure. This gave Kirkham a 7-5 lead at half time. Once again, Kirkham started the second half slowly and Hutton quickly scored a try to take the lead. The pattern of the game followed the same as the first half, with Kirkham taking control with their forwards playing superbly and Scott Collins was outstanding. Connor Wilkinson scored an equalising try but unfortunately it was not converted. The game ended in a draw 12-12.

The last Saturday game of the season was against St. Anselm's and on a very cold day the team got off to a very slow start and played poorly during the first half. For the first time this season the forwards were outplayed at the ruck, with St. Anselm's turning over a lot of ball. Towards the end of the first half some poor tackling allowed the opposition to take the lead. The second half performance was much better, but St. Anselm's defended stubbornly and Kirkham only managed to score late into the game. David King and Connor Wilkinson were excellent throughout and it was fitting that some excellent interplay between the two resulted in a try for Connor. Scott Collins scored in the last minutes of the game to make sure of victory 14-5.

The season ended with two games against touring schools. These games took place in a period where the boys were involved in sevens training and this had an effect on their performance. In the first of the two games they lost to Monmouth 12-25. Monmouth produced some excellent rugby in the first ten minutes and, despite a spirited comeback by the KGS side, they proved too strong. In the second match, KGS lost to Loughborough GS 10-22 in a closely contested match.

Mr. M.Marmion

CRICKET

First XI

P 11 W 3 D 0 L 4

Captain of Cricket: W.Riley

1st XI Captain: W.Riley / K.Marmion

Squad: W.Riley, K.Marmion, A.Jones, L.Marmion, A.Galley, M.Molinga, T.Anstiss, P.Brook, B.Jones, R.Kos, A.Whalley, N.White, M.Edgar, S.Hesketh, A.Zaki, G.Martin, J.Roper, W.Stover

Also played: B.Garlington, K.Brookes, C.Luker, J.Coulthard, C.Bennett.

Even though the season was disrupted for long periods by the weather, examinations and the unavailability of players, the season was still seen as being a positive stride for this young side. After beating a local Wednesday league side with an excellent batting performance by Stuart Hesketh and Ashley Jones, the side was then faced with three quick fixtures in the space of the first week. The first two games were close and individual performances of note were made by Philip Brook and Kieran Marmion. However, it was unfortunate that the team had to be changed on all three occasions due to various reasons and with this consistency was lost.

Against Stonyhurst and Giggleswick, the team suffered disaster and injury with the bat, but the bowling, fielding and, more importantly, team spirit started to be much more

positive. With wickets seemingly being given away in many of the matches to date, the squad then endured four weeks of nets, with the weather washing out any hope of playing cricket. This proved beneficial to the young side, but it was disappointing that fixtures against the likes of Merchant Taylors, Ormskirk, Cowley and KEQMS were not played as there was good potential here to gain a number of victories.

When finally the team returned to the square, there were unfortunately only a couple of weeks of cricket left and it was decided that a young team would be selected. Subsequently on average there were only two members of the Upper Sixth in each of the remaining teams and the introduction of Marcus Mollinga (third year), Nathan White and Adam Galley (fourth year), Ben Jones, Adam Whalley and Philip Brook (fifth year) saw possibly the youngest first team squad for many years.

Against the MCC, Liam and Kieran Marmion were ferocious in the bowling attack and the team was set a challenging total of 182 to win. An excellent opening stand of 72 by Kieran Marmion and Adam Galley set the team towards a win, but unfortunately wickets tumbled around Adam (66) and the team just fell short. The next fixture against Rossall was a two day and two innings affair and with Rossall having already beaten a number of sides throughout the season, this was certainly going to be a challenge. However, Ashley Jones (78) set the standard in the first innings and was ably supported by Ben Jones and Marcus Mollinga. The team declared on 247 for 9 before some excellent bowling by Adam Galley, Robert Kos, Ahmed Zaki and Adam Whalley left the Rossall side at 173 for 9 at the end of the first day. Rossall decided to declare and subsequently Kirkham decided to bat until lunchtime on the second day before declaring. Incredibly the team declared on 214 for 6, with Adam Galley and Marcus Mollinga scoring half centuries and some excellent supporting batting was given by Matthew Edgar, Jamie Roper and Ben Jones again. Setting Rossall 289 to win, the team straight attacked in the field and some excellent bowling once again by Ashley Jones and Adam Whalley saw Rossall dismissed for 193 and Kirkham secure a well deserved victory.

This form continued into the next day, when Rossall hosted a 20/20 tournament with St Bee's, Rossall and Kirkham competing. After the hosts had beaten St Bee's in the first match, St Bee's decided to bat in the second game. From the outset Kirkham took control and the opening partnership was broken up through some excellent fielding by Marcus Mollinga. Excellent team work restricted St Bee's to 89 off their 20 overs and Kirkham reached the total for the loss of one wicket. Adam Galley scored a fifty, but more impressive was the fact that the total was met in the twelfth over. In the "final" against Rossall, the team was once again put into the field and with Ben Jones outstanding behind the stumps, Wasim Riley, Ashley Jones and Nathan White leading the way in the field, Kirkham restricted the hosts to 128 runs. This looked a challenging score, until Adam Galley scored 42 runs off the first four overs and when he was out in the sixth over, it was left to Kieran and Liam Marmion to bring the team home, again for the loss of one wicket and again in the twelfth over. The improvement had been vast and was subsequently commented upon in the presentation speech by the Master in Charge of Rossall cricket.

Two late matches were organised against QEGS, Blackburn and Bury GS and even though some of the 20/20 side were unavailable, the performances were spirited and certainly the future looks very positive.



The Victorious Kirkham 20/20 Side

Kieran Marmion, Ashley Jones, Adam Galley, Marcus Mollinga and Liam Marmion regularly contributed to the bowling and batting of the side this year and with support from Jamie Roper and Nathan White, the core of the team will look to be solid next year.

Ben Jones worked constantly on his wicket keeping and was regularly in competition with Tom Anstiss for the first team spot. With Ben regularly scoring runs towards the end of the season, his all round abilities started to really shine through. Giles Martin and Robert Kos contributed with bat and ball in the times that they played and the spinning prowess of Adam Whalley and Ahmed Zaki regularly had oppositions in a tangle.

Stuart Hesketh, Will Stover and Matthew Edgar were employed as the players to push the run rate along. Stuart set the standard at the start of the season. His as well as Will and Matthew's "never give up" attitude regularly saw them change the fortunes of the team, particularly in the field.

In the final few matches, Kieran Marmion led the team positively and results reflected this. His personal performances regularly influenced the team's momentum and his high standards regularly rubbed off on the rest of the players. With the support of Ashley Jones and Liam Marmion in the field, the team grew from strength to strength.

Captain Wasim Riley was an excellent example to the rest of the team. Waz's enthusiasm, organisation and, more importantly, positive communication skills led to the Kirkham team's being incredibly competitive on the field of play. He regularly set the example in the field and his attitude was faultless. It is fair to say that his excellent approach and positive attitude made this an incredibly enjoyable season for all.

Finally, my thanks must go to Mr Whalley for his constant support throughout the year; to the groundstaff, the catering staff and the parents who were supportive throughout.

Mr. N Passenger

Under 15 XI

P 8 W 4 D 2 Inc Ties L 2

The first game of the season against Stonyhurst got the team off to a great start, with White (55 n.o) and Galley (122) putting an opening stand of 156 together before declaring at 223 for 2 after 32 overs. Despite keeping up continued pressure, KGS were unable to bowl the visitors out and they finished on 79 for 8 off 33 overs at stumps.

In the game against QEGS Blackburn, the hosts batted first and began steadily after a good opening spell of bowling from Ryan Vaughan. Then KGS gave away far too many runs with short pitched bowling and QEGS accelerated rapidly to reach 137 for 4. KGS batted and struggled to score runs at the rate required and also lost early wickets. Then Marcus Mollinga came to the party with some massive hits, including ten sixes in all. After already hitting two sixes in the final over, Marcus then missed the last ball to leave KGS 4 runs short. It was a magnificent aggressive display of power hitting and nearly brought an unlikely victory.

Merchant Taylor's batted first and were bowled out in 30 overs for 109, thanks to some good bowling by Hurst (3 for 13) and Roper (3 for 18). In reply, KGS made a good start and after thirteen overs were 55 for 1. However, a collapse saw them slump to 76 for 8. A rearguard last wicket stand by Williams and Vaughan brought the scores level, but unfortunately Vaughan was given out lbw in the penultimate over and the game was tied!

The weather was appalling as KGS left for Lancaster RGS for the 20/20 County Cup game. The decision to travel and hope for the best proved correct as the game was played in good light and some sunshine. Lancaster, batting first, raced away to 63 -1 after only seven overs and a large total looked inevitable until a great spell of spin bowling by Tom Hurst got Kirkham back in the game. The final total of 128-7 looked a reasonable target to chase. Lancaster's opening bowlers produced a fine opening spell to restrict the Kirkham batsmen and put them under pressure to hit out. Galley played some fine shots to bring the scoring rate up, but unfortunately he mistimed a drive and was caught in the deep. Whilst several batsmen contributed some runs, no one could establish themselves well enough to challenge the Lancaster total and after the twenty overs Kirkham were restricted to 89-9 due to some good bowling supported by excellent fielding.

The game against Hutton saw KGS hit 122 for 6 in twenty overs. In reply some tight bowling restricted the hosts to 106 for 7 to give Kirkham a comfortable victory.

The game against Lancaster G 5 saw Kirkham win the toss and choose to bat, hoping to put on a better performance than against the same opponents in the Lancashire Cup.

A wayward first over on what proved to be an unpredictable wicket brought Galley 28 runs. After this dramatic start, some good bowling restricted the scoring and after seven overs Kirkham were 38 for 1. A good stand of 56 between Galley and Burnie brought the score to 96 for 1 after sixteen overs. There followed a dramatic collapse as six wickets went down in five overs with the addition of only nine runs, Galley contributing 71 out of 103 for 7. The remainder of the innings was held together by Moulding (15 not out) and when Hurst was run out on the penultimate ball, Kirkham had managed to get to 142 all out. The target of 143 seemed easily achievable as Lancaster cruised to 38 in only six overs. The introduction of Hurst's left arm spin (3 for 20) was to prove a turning point, as in two overs he dismissed both openers. Lancaster then consolidated their innings and after nineteen overs were 91 for 3. Four wickets in as many overs brought KGS back in the game and with six overs and four wickets left, Lancaster required thirty six runs. Kirkham managed to keep their composure, despite LRGS only needing 17 off three overs with three wickets remaining and when Burnie took the final wicket in the final over, Lancaster were six runs short in what had been an excellent game of cricket.

Against Bury G 5, KGS won the toss and chose to bat in a 20/20 game, due to adverse weather. The first four overs brought 28 runs, but the fall of Galley at 34 and two further quick wickets reduced KGS to 43 for 3 off seven overs. A good partnership between Roper and Burnie brought the score to 67 for 4 at the half way point. Wickets fell at regular intervals and KGS were eventually bowled out in the nineteenth over with only 111 on the board. The target of 112 seemed easily achievable. However, some tight bowling by Burnie and Hurst restricted Bury to 12 off five overs. The openers then established themselves and at 57 for no wickets after eleven overs the game seemed lost. However, Roper's third over was to change the game, dismissing one opener and the next two batsmen to record a hat trick, and, with two wickets in his next over, he recorded figures of 5 for 21 and the game swung back in KGS's favour. Bury were then restricted by some good bowling and fielding to need 16 off the last over with three wickets remaining. Two fours off the first two balls saw Bury back in the game, but

Vaughan kept his nerve and took a wicket with his third delivery, thanks to a fine stumping by Williams standing up. Bury required four off the last ball. Bowler and fielders kept their composure and a run out saw Bury two runs short in what had been an excellent game of cricket.

The final game of the season was against Rossall. Winning the toss, Kirkham asked Rossall to bat in a 20/20 game. An early mix up in the second over saw the opposition opener run out, but a good stand brought them to 28 off six overs. The introduction of Hurst and Vaughan changed the game as they reeled off four consecutive overs, Hurst claiming two wickets, to leave Rossall at the same score at the halfway stage. Despite some late resistance, the bowling of Moulding and Loxham restricted Rossall to 68 all out. In reply, KGS made a good start with an opening partnership of 28 and, despite the fall of a couple of wickets, some hard hitting from Hall (51) brought victory for the home team in the seventh over with three wickets down.

A good season in the end, but the number of games lost to the weather hampered the team's progress. There were, however, many fine individual performances and the team was well led by Adam Galley.

Mr. H B Porteous

Under 14 XI

P 7 W 3 L 4

In a season interrupted by poor weather, the under 14's have had a good season. The team was captained by Marcus Mollinga, who led by example throughout the season. As well as developing as a captain, Marcus averaged 158 with the bat and took some vital wickets with his off-spin bowling. His batting average is simply quite a phenomenal statistic for one so young and must be a KGS record for a junior cricket team at KGS.

On a typically unsettled Saturday afternoon in April, the team got off to a fine start, putting local rivals Stonyhurst to the sword with a comfortable 9 wicket victory. Thomas Bayburt was the pick of the bowlers, taking 4 wickets in Stonyhurst's total of 59. A partnership of 58 between captain Mollinga and vice-captain Jack Smith saw the team home in just 7 overs. The following Saturday saw a combined under 14 and under 15 team take on QEGS Blackburn, where captain Mollinga scored an impressive 92 not out.

Thankfully, the team was back together for the next match against Merchant Taylor's, Crosby. Although Crosby only scored 109 in their 30 overs, the team fell short by 38 runs, with only Mollinga getting double figures in KGS' 71 all out. This was probably the most disappointing result of the season and one which could have been turned into a victory with a more mature batting display.

Difficult fixtures followed with a 20/20 against Lancaster RGS and a 30 over cup game against Ripley, Lancaster. The game against Lancaster RGS was always going to be difficult when the opening bowlers allowed them to get away in the first 10 overs. Fortunately, George Brookes, new to the school this year, bowled a tight spell to give the team a chance to get the required 120 to win. Unfortunately, Lancaster's bowling was too good and their tight line and length bowling proved too much for our batsmen to get away. The following week saw the team play Ripley and an opening stand of 150 from openers Mollinga and Smith put

Ripley out of the game. Special mention must go to Mollinga, who scored a magnificent century which contained over 20 boundaries. KGS bowled well and restricted Ripley to 105 runs, leading to a victory by 62 runs.

Our next opponents in the Cup, Rossall, were just too strong and, with three first-teamers in the side, KGS was always chasing the game to score the 175 runs needed for victory. After another good knock by Mollinga of 41, it was pleasing to see the lower order contribute (Ryan Wilkinson 20), but unfortunately we fell 56 runs short of victory.

The Saturday fixture against Lancaster on a sunny and warm afternoon gave the team a chance to play a longer match and there were some good performances from Mollinga, Brookes and Isaac Yuen, returning from injury. Unfortunately, Lancaster were on form and scored 237 runs from their allocated 35 overs and they ended up winning by 81 runs.

The final game of the season saw the team give an excellent performance to defeat Rossall, who had, of course, knocked us out of the Cup. In a game without Mollinga and against an admittedly weakened Rossall side due to first-team commitments, Kirkham played really well and batted with confidence and skill. It was pleasing to see a number of batsmen making good contributions, with four of the team scoring more than 20 runs. Special mention must go to Ben McCarthy and Isaac Yuen who put on 85 for the sixth wicket. A good bowling performance by the team as a whole led to a victory by 47 runs.

Overall, the team has improved over a season frustrated by cancelled games due to the weather. There are no easy games on KGS' circuit and the team has been tested against the best cricketing schools in the county. Both Mr. Carter and I have been impressed with the team's enthusiasm and love of the game and with more practice and netting next year, they have every chance to make further progress.

Mr S Duncan

Under 12 XI

P 10 W 5 L 5

The under 12's cricket season has been a roller coaster. The season started with some very exciting encounters. The first two fixtures against Lancaster RGS and Errymstead Grammar School were certainly a learning experience for the boys. Although there were some excellent batting performances from Josh Powell and Connor Wilkinson, the bowling and fielding did not quite match up to the standard of the batting. Kirkham unfortunately lost both of those games to the better side.

However, the game against QEGS, Blackburn was an enjoyable match to watch. Again, Josh Powell and Alex Whalley created a good partnership, scoring 100 runs. Also spectacular catches from Oscar Twitchett helped seamer Bob Thomas to complete 4 tremendous overs and took 4 wickets for just 13 runs.

The under 12's continued their success with back to back wins against Hutton Grammar School and Arrol School. This was a reflection of their improvement. Kirkham comprehensively outplayed both of their opponents. Scott Collins produced a fine spell of spin bowling against Hutton Grammar School and took 4 wickets in 2 overs and, not to be outdone, captain Alex Whalley and Connor Scott both took 3 wickets in just 3 overs against Arrol School.

Our final game of the summer against Rossall School was another thriller. Rossall decided to bat first and managed to score 116 runs for 3. David King bowled brilliantly and took 2 wickets for 12 runs. Playing on a hot summer day, Josh Powell and Harry Knight created a partnership of 80 runs between them. However, the rest of the team could not quite match their scores. The excitement at the end of the game was unbelievable. Kirkham was on 116 with two balls to play. Hadley Price stepped into bat knowing one run was enough to win the game and managed to edge the ball into a gap and scored the winning run for the team.

Finally, well done to all players. Special mention must go to Mr Whalley and Mr Painter for their hard work and expertise.

VOLLEYBALL

A successful season. The senior team was third in the Preston and District Volleyball League and joint runners up in the Easter Tournament in the same league. The senior team has been quite strong this year and with a couple more wins could have won the league. Sam White has been a very reliable captain and has led the team well. He has been well supported by David Marsden, Edward Askew and Sarah Hatch. Adam Whalley, Ben Jones and Jake Wilson have made valuable contributions here.

The Intermediate team has made good progress but has lacked support at times. Nevertheless, a nucleus of good players has kept the team together. Nathan Loftus, Nathan White, Tom Hurst, Sam Fuentes-Moreno, Ryan Vaughan, Michalis Papangelis have all contributed this year. A recent influx of junior players has given cause for optimism for next year. A mixture of first and second years has formed the basis of the junior team. There are too many to mention here, but they show plenty of promise and enthusiasm and if they continue to develop we may see future league winners!

Mr M. Whalley

SWIMMING

This has been a successful year for the boys' swimming teams at KGS. We have had upwards of 30 boys taking part in the fixtures which have included Stonyhurst, QEGS Blackburn, Ripley, Arnold, Hutton, Bury and Bolton.

Whilst we have not been victorious all the time, there have been some pleasing individual and year group performances. The senior team, captained by Luke Paterson, has had mixed results, but there have been some good swims from Luke, Tom Fielding, Lyman Choi, Richard Morell, Alex Lo, Terry Yip, Toby Townsend and more latterly from Kieron Marmion.

The under 15 team has battled away, but has performed creditably. Ryan Vaughan, Nathan Loftus, Jack Ingham, Tom Hurst and Nathan White have all contributed to this team this season.

The under 14 team has improved throughout the season, culminating in a fine second place performance in the QEGS Quadrangular competition. Todd Davies and Robert Lockhart have been exceptional, whilst Liam Marrows, Andrew Collins, Sam Gale, Ben Swift, Matt Beatty, Alex Kearsley and Sam Fuentes-Moreno also swam well this year.

The under 13 team is talented and has won on two or three occasions. William Lockhart and Robert Lavelle have been

outstanding and have been well supported by Ryan Powell, Sam Norris, Jonah Wynne, James Hayhurst and James Penrose.

The Under 12's have had an exceptional year and have plenty of talent and potential. They are unbeaten in all matches. The quartet of Danny Davies, Josh Powell, Alex Ward and Hadley Price are exceptional. Again, they have been ably supported by Elliot Lythgoe, Scott Collins, Connor Wilkinson and Oscar Haworth.

Mr M. Whalley

BOYS' ATHLETICS

The summer term has been a busy one for our boys' athletics. There have been some pleasing individual and team performances throughout our age groups. Whilst our teams have not perhaps achieved the glory of previous years, there is much to celebrate.

The boys prepared well in PE lessons and practise sessions. In the first round of the English Schools' Track and Field Cup held in Blackpool in May both the junior and intermediate teams were victorious. Whilst the intermediate and junior teams could be proud of their achievements, their points tally was insufficient to gain a place in the 'A' finals. However, both teams competed well in the 'B' final at Salt Ayre despite the absence of some athletes through injury.

In other local competitions the school performed well against rival schools. The junior teams were beaten against very strong Hutton Grammar School teams, but performed well in the Lancaster area competitions. The third year finished second out of six schools and the first year came third out of seven in competitions at Salt Ayre, Lancaster. In the Vose Trophy, exclusively for first year athletics, KGS struggled to a sixth place, but enjoyed the competition.

At the Fylde and Wyre Coast Championships on the penultimate day of term, the boys' team won overall. This was a great achievement, but some confusion over the scoring of individual teams has left us unclear as to our final year group placing.

What is clear is that there were some outstanding performances by individuals in these championships. In the first year, Scott Collins broke the high jump record, as did Precious Nwaokomah in the fourth year triple jump. Robert Lockhart broke the third year triple jump record and there were some notable performances from a number of athletes. Well done to all.

Over a hundred boys have competed for the school in athletics in the summer term. This is a fine achievement in a sport that requires skill and determination.

A final few words of congratulations to those boys who represented the school and district in the Lancashire Schools' Championships in June. Their achievements are recorded elsewhere in this magazine in a section devoted to honours, but well done to all, especially those who finished on the podium:

1st	Adam Whalley	Inter Boys' Javelin
2nd	Tom Hurst	Inter Boys' Discus
3rd	Richard Morrell	Inter Boys' 1500 m
3rd	Ben Rhodes-Powers	Junior Boys' Triple Jump
3rd	Ryan Wilkinson	Junior Boys' Discus

LANCASHIRE SCHOOLS' ATHLETICS

On Saturday, 13th June, 12 KGS pupils represented Fylde in the Lancashire Schools' Athletics Championships at Stanley Park, Blackpool. The seven girls and five boys achieved outstanding success, with every athlete gaining a top five position. Two Lancashire champions emerged, Lamara Hill repeating her success of last year by winning the Inter Girls' Shot with a throw of 8.98m, and Adam Whalley with a superb throw of 48.92m to win the Inter Boys' Javelin.

Four athletes achieved second places, Rachel Williamson in the Junior Girls' Long Jump, 4.78m, Sarah Hatch in the Senior Girls' Discus, 26.49m, Lyndsey O'Brien in the Junior Girls' Javelin, 26m86cm and Tom Hurst in the Inter Boys' Discus, 31.68m.

Another four athletes gained third places, Ryan Wilkinson in the Junior Boys' Discus, 25.4m, Ben Rhodes-Power in the Junior Boys' Triple Jump, 10.79m, Richard Morrell in the 1500m Inter Boys' with a time of 4m.20.8 and Bronte Edgar in the Junior Girls' High Jump, with a personal best performance of 1.43m.

In addition, Georgina Cameron came fourth in the Junior Girls' Long Jump, 4.33m and Katie Penrose gained fifth place in her first Inter Girls' Triple Jump competition with 9.42m.

This was a superb all round effort from KGS athletes and shows strength in depth, particularly in the field events.

Mr S. Sampey

CROSS COUNTRY

In the regional Cross Country Championships last November KGS boasted two individual winners and a team championship. In the under 12 competition Henry Cameron won convincingly, as did Richard Morrell in the under 16 race. Ben Jones was runner up in the under 16 race as they ran out clear winners over rival schools from the Fylde and Wyre district.

Richard Morrell progressed to the Lancashire Schools' Cross Country Championships held at Blackburn in February. Richard ran fantastically well and finished in second place.

The Intermediate team has made good progress but has lacked support at times. Nevertheless, a nucleus of good players has kept the team together. Nathan Loftus, Nathan White, Tom Hurst, Sam Fuentes-Moreno, Ryan Vaughan, Michalis Papangelis have all contributed this year. A recent influx of junior players has given cause for optimism for next year. A mixture of first and second years has formed the basis of the junior team. There are too many to mention here, but they show plenty of promise and enthusiasm and if they continue to develop we may see future league winners!

Mr M. Whalley

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determined to continue to play. And play they did, in the process producing one of the best performances I have seen in a brilliant match against one of the top Dutch club sides, Schoop. It was exciting end to end play throughout and, despite exhausted bodies, we competed for every ball and the game ended in a worthy 1-1 draw. Our other two matches were won comfortably, so we completed the hockey part of our tour still unbeaten. Tired bodies were soon galvanised by our stay in Disneyland, Paris where the girls sought out a feast of challenging rides while Mr Sampey returned to his second childhood among his favourite Disney characters.

Back home we faced a final challenge, the Lancashire Schools' Tournament. But we were to be denied ultimately by a goal difference ruling which, although allowed to stand at the time, was later deemed potentially unfair and will be changed in future tournaments. We beat Stonhurst, Lancaster and Heysham and drew with Arnold, scoring 20 goals and conceding 1. We were, I believe, the best team there, but missed out on the ultimate prize.

This squad had great qualities: an ever-improving goalkeeper in Chloe Walker, a regular hundred per cent effort from Jess Balmer and Antonia Evans, strength and speed from Emily Crowther and Kirsten Martin at the back, a talented and skillful midfield in Alison Glover, Katie Penrose, Ashley Bradshaw and Sarah Quarby and both pace and skill up front from Bronte Edgar, Anna Rigby and Jourdan Kenny. In addition, Natalie Yates, Emily Sharples and Lottie Lewis made valuable contributions when called upon in a variety of positions. Both Katie as Captain and Ashley as Vice Captain led by example through a long, hard season.

Under 14 XI

The under 14 squad has had a very successful season this year. They managed to defeat the majority of teams that they came up against by scoring some excellent individual and team goals.

The team was captained by Jen Malings, who led the team to victory against Queen Mary, Stockport, Wakefield and many more.

As the side developed both their individual skill and game play, it became obvious that they were a talented bunch. Throughout the season many players produced outstanding performances and Alix Townsend, Hannah Travis, Jen Malings, Georgina Cameron, Natasha Linton and Rachel Williamson are all particularly worthy of mention.

As the season came to a close, it was time to up our game further and take on the Dutch opposition in Valkenberg, Holland. The team produced some great performances and managed to defeat two of their three opponents whilst touring the country.

Overall, the under 14's completed a wonderful season, demonstrating great potential for the future of hockey at KGS.

Well done, girls!

Mrs Osborne

Under 13 A and B Mini Hockey Championships,

Lancashire County Round

On the 15th March, 2009, Kirkham Grammar School under 13 A and B teams set out for Chorley for the mini-hockey tournament, 2009. The A Team had a good start against Arnold B team, winning 2-0, with Katy Ingham scoring both goals with her powerful sweeps. The next game we played an end to end match against Gal-Gators, drawing 0-0, with great defending from Savannah Des-Etages and Lindsay O'Brien. Next we played K.E.Q.M. The forwards, Katy Ingham, Courtney Rawcliffe and Harriet Price, battled and our defenders backed them up admirably. At the end we came out with another draw. The A's had a long break to get warmed up and went back onto the pitch to play Holy Cross School. Kirkham came out victorious with a 6-0 win, with Beth Kenny scoring 1, Courtney Rawcliffe 3 and Harriet Price 2 with great set ups from Alex Hastie.

We qualified for the semi finals as group winners.

We played against Liverpool College in the semi final but neither team managed to score a goal. We ended up with penalty flicks and, after some nervy moments, made it through to the final to play Arnold. We had a great start with a beautiful sweep from Katy Ingham in the first 20 seconds, but Arnold would not give up and managed to equalise a few minutes later following a short corner. Kirkham held their heads high and carried on with great attacking and defending by all the team members, but Arnold came out on top, winning 3-1. Both Kirkham Grammar and Arnold qualified for the North Finals at Belle Vue, Manchester with K.G.S as runners up and Arnold as winners.

B - Team

The Kirkham Grammar B Team came fifth in their section with 10 points.

The B Team had a tough draw. In their first match, against Arnold A team, nerves got the better of Kirkham B's and the game was dominated by a very strong Arnold side. However, as the tournament progressed, the B team developed in confidence and began to play some great hockey. They passed the ball well, maintaining possession and made some great breaks towards goal. Megan Kitchen, Lotti Whittle, Harriet Brady and Hannah Butler were tremendously strong in defence and made some fantastic passes down the wing. Nicky Charter worked tirelessly at centre forward and worked well with Hannah Butler (who also played in attack), Nicole Wainwright and Georgia to set up some great attacking moves. Kiran Bahra went from strength to strength as goalkeeper and made some terrific saves against some very strong sides.

Both teams from Kirkham Grammar were fantastic representatives of the school. They gave 100% in every match and are to be congratulated on a tremendous performance.

Under 13 Regional Round of the Mini Hockey Championships

The Kirkham Grammar team put in notable performances against other talented teams who had either won or been runners up of their county round. Our first match was against Yarm School. As the match progressed, we played more as a team and fought back from 1-0 down in the first five minutes. Through strong defending and greater support play in the attacking D, we soon equalised and went on to achieve a 2-1 victory in the second half.

With confidence running high, we met Cheadle Hulme in our next game. The Kirkham Grammar team was unstoppable. Defending and tackling were once again strong and support play was second to none. We dominated possession and set up some great passes to goal, achieving a 4-0 victory. Our third game, against a very tall and athletic Hull Collegiate side, was very close. The game was evenly matched in terms of possession, but we could not find the back of the goal. Despite a really determined effort, we lost 1-0.

Our results meant we went through as runners up of our section to play Wakefield Grammar School in the semi-final. By now, tiredness had set in. Legs were heavy and, despite drawing on all their reserves, the team was unable to maintain the pace shown in previous matches. Wakefield won 4-0.

Kirkham was out of the competition, but could be proud of a tremendous team performance.



Under 12 7 a-side A and B County Hockey Tournament

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

The results were as follows:-

St. Mary's Hall – Won 1 - 0

Broughton – Won 9 – 0

KEQMS – Won 2 - 0

Arnold – Won 4 - 0

KEQMS – Won 7 - 0

All girls are to be congratulated on what was an outstanding team performance.

The B team's tournament had fewer entries, so they played each school twice. Once again, they put in a great team performance and played some great hockey. They beat Baines and KEQMS on both occasions and put in a good performance against a strong Arnold side. They came a very respectable second in their tournament.

Under 12 Jean Torrance Memorial Hockey Tournament

This was a fabulous tournament where the Kirkham team went from strength to strength. We had a shaky start against the City of London team where nerves got the better of us. We did not maintain any structure on the pitch and followed the ball, allowing the opposition too much space to attack. However, this all changed in subsequent matches. Nicola Seechurn, Darcy Bray, Megan Crowther and Amber Vaughan were strong in defence. Their tackling was well timed and they cleared the ball brilliantly under pressure. They were supported by Camilla Evans in goal who made a number of great saves, only conceding two goals over seven matches. Lucy Meagh and Lucy Gardiner made some fantastic breaks on the wing and along with Grace Reddy and Megan Hall set up and scored great goals.

In the semi-final against Chase School, the Kirkham team dominated play. The two goals were beautifully executed and they defended strongly. In the final, against Arnold, Kirkham were quick to score a goal in the first two minutes. Kirkham attacked hard for the first five minutes but Arnold fought back to equalise. The second half was nail biting. Arnold were awarded five short corners which we managed to defend successfully. At full time the score was still 1-1, so we played five minutes of extra time. Despite both teams making every effort to score a goal, it was still 1-1 after 21 minutes. It was therefore decided that Arnold and Kirkham should share the trophy.

Every member of the team played a part in Kirkham's success and all are to be congratulated on a magnificent performance.

NETBALL

Under 16

P 7 W 6 D 0 L 1

The under 16's were a very determined, committed and highly skilled set of girls. Though the season in the fifth year was a short one, their enthusiasm and motivation for the game was always first class.

This team played with real pace and flair and they dominated the majority of their matches. Losing just the one game put them into the runners-up slot in the South Blackpool Netball League, another very good achievement.

I would like to thank Lamara Hill, Louise Walker, Lucia Chow, Kerry Emmett, Charlotte Dalzelle, Vicky Greensmith and Rebecca Keighley for their loyalty, commitment and efforts over the past five years. They have been a terrific set of girls to work with and I wish them well next season.

Mrs J. Glover

Under 15

P 10 W 9 D 0 L 1

The under 15's were an absolute pleasure to coach!

The team was very strong indeed, skilled, fast, agile and very organised, a real force to be reckoned with. The team comprised of Abigail Kos, Sarah Cuedden and Sarah Quarmby in defence; Bronte Edgar controlled the centre and Alison Glover, Katie Penrose, Gabby Furnival played in attack. Both Jessica Balmer and Kirsten Martin played vital roles during the netball season too!

The girls played very well in the Blackpool Schools' Netball Tournament and got through to the semi-finals, where they met an extremely strong St Aidan's team. Though we fought hard, the opposition was just a little too much for us this time.

The highlight of the season was winning the South Blackpool Schools' Netball League. The girls defeated Carr Hill, Arnold, Queen Mary, St Bede's and Lytham St Annes on a home and away basis to seal their victory.

I am very proud of the under 15's achievements. They played with true style and real grit and determination throughout the whole of the season.

Mrs J. Glover

Under 13

I have been delighted with the enthusiasm and commitment of the under 13 netball squad this year. They have met for practice on Monday after school and Wednesday lunchtime. Throughout the season, the girls have been hard at work, training and improving their skills and game play. Team selection was always difficult, with competition for places in both in the A and B teams. The team captains worked hard organising their teams and their help and dedication has been appreciated.

The friendly matches were always played in a pleasing manner with good sportsmanship shown. Both teams recorded many victories, including ones against Carr Hill, KEQM and St Bede's. The girls have been a credit to the school with their good standard of play and their passion for the game.

Well played, girls!

Miss Taylor



GIRLS ATHLETICS

Oh what a season!

The bad weather did not stop the force of Kirkham Grammar School this year!

Once again, we had more than seventy girls training regularly both on the track and in the field three to four times a week. The grit and determination on the track in all conditions to improve times and target personal bests were superb. The patience and positive attitudes in the throws and the jumps were commendable.

Though the weather affected our fixture calendar with four matches rained off, our girls did compete in five friendly matches against Bradford, Queen Mary, Arnold, Ripley St Thomas and Lancaster Girls' Grammar, winning eighteen out of twenty of the matches. Our fourth years led by example and demonstrated what an excellent squad they are, undefeated for the third season. Our third years are developing into a real force, losing only one fixture. The second years have just gone from strength to strength and remained undefeated for the second season. Our first years had a great start, losing only one match.

The girls' commitment to training and to each other was clearly demonstrated with three additional coaching sessions during May half term. We certainly reaped the benefits in the second half of the season.

Mrs J. Glover

ENGLISH SCHOOLS' ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

TRACK AND FIELD CUP

We entered both a junior and an intermediate girls' team in this prestigious competition. Each team enters twelve athletes and each athlete has to compete in both a track and a field event. Points are scored for times, heights and distances rather than position. Therefore the pressure is on the girls to achieve personal bests in their events to ensure a top team score.

The first round was held at Stanley Park, Blackpool on 12th May and the Kirkham girls had a great day, with both teams winning the competition convincingly. This meant that both teams qualified for the North 'A' finals once again held at Stanley Park on Monday 15th June.

In the North finals the opposition was very strong indeed, but our girls were not fazed at all. We had numerous exceptional performances with more than fifteen personal bests throughout the event. Once again, we knew that we had a real chance to qualify for the national finals! Our intermediates were very unfortunate, as we missed out on the finals place by just eight points. Our junior girls proved to be far too strong for the Northern opposition and won the North 'A' finals by more than twenty points. A fantastic result and one that meant we would represent KGS in a National Athletics Final for the second year running!

The Track and Field Cup Final was held at Cophall Stadium, Barnet on Saturday 4th July. It was such a proud moment to see our girls competing in this massive schools event! For little Kirkham to be in the top twelve schools in the country for the second year running is absolutely fantastic. Our girls did us proud on the day, though the standard this year was very high indeed. A few nerves in the centre of this big arena affected the performances of some of our girls. However, if we had scored points in all events, we would have finished a very creditable sixth position rather than eleventh.

The day was a wonderful experience for our girls. To compete against schools who had over 160 girls in a year was a real eye opener. Our girls suddenly realised how well they had really done to reach the National Final.

Congratulations to:-

Junior Girls:

Lindsay O'Brien, Alex Hastie, Beth Kenny, Lucy Meagh, Katie Ingham, Nicole Wainwright, Nicola Charter, Heather Crook, Imogen Pierce, Kate Lawler, Darcy Bray, Alice Allen, Megan Kitchen, Hannah Butler.

Intermediate Girls

Anna Rigby, Hannah Travis, Rachel Williamson, Georgina Cameron, Katie Penrose, Kirsten Martin, Ally Glover, Bronte Edgar, Ashley Bradshaw, Antonia Evans, Natalie Yates, Natasha Linton, Emily Crowther.

FYLDE COAST ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Wednesday, 24th June our girls competed in the Fylde Coast Championships at Stanley Park. The girls were totally prepared at every age group with strength and depth on both the track and in the field. Our girls were really fired up to perform to the best of their abilities and were aiming to win all four age groups for the first time in KGS history.

The event was organised with track heats in the morning and the finals in the afternoon. The field events took place all day and in this competition position mattered! Our aim was to get every athlete in the final and then really go for personal bests! As the day progressed, we were doing very well indeed, with all girls qualifying for the finals and in the field we were finishing regularly in the top three or four. The atmosphere and positivity amongst our girls and staff was unbelievable as we gave each other 100% support throughout the day. We knew that we were doing well, but we just did not have a clue what the final results would be. There were so many good athletes from different schools across the Fylde.

After the relays the athletes congregated on the track and eagerly awaited the results and the presentations. At last KGS had done it, we won every age group under 13, under 14, under 15, and under 17 by more than twenty points. Special mention must be given to our fourth years, who made up the majority of the under 17 team. They are the

only group of girls at Kirkham to be crowned Fylde Coast Champions at every age group!

What a day! A very, very proud moment indeed and one that certainly led to a few tears. Our girls were terrific, they looked the part, they behaved impeccably, they supported each other completely and they performed magnificently. Congratulations to all our athletes and thank you for your complete dedication and commitment to both training and matches.

I would also like to thank Mrs Osborne and our athletics captains Rosie Gornall and Emily Fisher for their help and support throughout the term. Finally, I would like to say a special thank you to Mr Sampey who supports myself and the girls completely. Without his coaching expertise and advice, especially in the field events, these amazing results would not be achievable! What a season! Congratulations to all our athletes.

Mrs J. Glover

TENNIS

Kirkham Grammar School has had a successful tennis season this term with the junior teams all recording impressive wins. They have beaten Westholme, KEQMS and Lancaster Girls' Grammar in friendly matches. In addition, Kirkham's under 13 and under 15 teams are winners of the AEGON local league, beating Arnold and KEQMS to go through to the Regional Knockout stage which commences in September. This next stage will consist of either three or four further rounds with other schools who have won their local league matches.

SPORTING HONOURS 2008/09

INDIVIDUAL

Athletics:

Lancashire Schools Championships

Boys: Ryan Wilkinson, Junior Boys Discus Third
Ben Rhodes-Powers Junior Boys Triple Jump Third
Tom Hurst, Intermediate Boys Discus Runner Up
Richard Morrell, Intermediate Boys 1500m Third
Adam Whalley, Intermediate Boys Javelin Champion

Girls:

Georgina Cameron, Junior Girls Long Jump Fourth
Bronte Edgar, Junior Girls High Jump Third
Lindsay O'Brien, Junior Girls Javelin Runner Up
Rachel Williamson, Junior Girls Long Jump Runner Up
Lamara Hill, Intermediate Girls Shot Put Champion
Katie Penrose, Intermediate Girls Triple Jump Fifth
Sarah Hatch, Senior Girls Discus Runner Up

Cross Country:

Boys: Richard Morrell U16 Fylde and Wyre Schools Champion
Henry Cameron U12 Fylde and Wyre Schools Champion

Girls:

Imogen Pierce U13 Fylde and Wyre Schools Champion

Hockey:

Scotland U18 Nicole Pike
Scotland U16 Hannah Pike

Lancashire Schoolgirls

U18 Emma Fagan
Katie Gorman
Sam Shopland-Reed

U17 Nicole Pike

U16 Emily Crowther
Charlotte Dalzell
Alexandra Fell
Victoria Greensmith
Katie Penrose
Sarah Quarmby
Anna Rigby

U15 Jessica Balmer
Ashley Bradshaw
Bronte Edgar
Alison Glover

Jennifer Malings
Hannah Pike
Alix Townsend

U14 Georgina Cameron
Alex Hastie
Lucy Mellor-Bates
Lindsay O'Brien
Harriet Price
Rachel Williamson

U13 Camilla Evans
Katie Ingham
Beth Kenny
Lucy Meagh
Courtney Rawcliffe
Grace Reddy

U12 Olivia Anderson
Megan Crowther
Millie Foley
Ellie Greenhalgh
Megan Hall
Maddie Kearsley

Rugby:

Ireland AERU (U18 XV)
North of England RFU XV
Independent Schools Barbarians
Lancashire RFU (18 Group) VX

Irish Exiles (U18XV)
Scottish Exiles (U18XV)
North Wales (U18XV)
North Wales (U17XV)

Lancashire RFU (16 Group) XV

Lancashire RFU (15 Group) XV
Lancashire RFU(U14 Development Squad) XV

Kieran Marmion
Daniel Bibby
Thomas Banks, Jonathan Edwards
Daniel Bibby, Stuart Hesketh,
Matthew Spedding
Liam Marmion
Stephen Hamilton
Callum Bennett
Sean Condon, William Morecambe,
Joshua Woods
James Coulthard, Jonathon Davies,
Josh Keay, Alex Lo
Sam Hall
Matthew Beaty, Sam Gale,
Ben Rhodes-Powers, Ben Swift,
Ryan Wilkinson



Sixth Formers on their trip to Wimbledon



Sponsored walk along Hadrian's Wall in aid of Help for Heroes

TEAM ACHIEVEMENTS

Athletics:	Boys: Overall Fylde and Wyre Athletics Champions
	Girls: English Schools Cup Lancashire Champions Juniors and Intermediate English Schools Cup Regional Champions Junior Junior National ESAA Track and Field Cup – Eleventh Place U17 Fylde and Wyre Coast Athletics Champions U15 Fylde and Wyre Coast Athletics Champions U14 Fylde and Wyre Coast Athletics Champions U13 Fylde and Wyre Coast Athletics Champions U16 Boys Fylde and Wyre Coast Champions U16 Girls Fylde and Wyre Coast Champions U14 Girls Fylde and Wyre Coast Champions U13 Girls Fylde and Wyre Coast Champions
Cross Country:	
Hockey:	U19 2nd XI Lancashire Champions U16 Lancashire Champions U16 Regional Champions U15 Lancashire Runners Up U14 Lancashire Runners Up U13 Lancashire Runners Up U13 Regional Mini-Hockey Finalists U12 Arnold Invitation Tournament Winners U12 Lancashire Champions
Netball:	U15 Blackpool and Wyre League Winners U14 Blackpool and Wyre League Winners U12 Blackpool and Wyre Tournament Winners
Rugby:	1st VII Fylde RUFC National Sevens Champions 1st VII North of England Schools Sevens Champions 1st VII Birkenhead School Sevens Champions 1st VII Rosslyn Park National Sevens Runners-Up U15 VII Arnold School Sevens Champions
Cricket:	1st XI Rossall School Invitation 20/20 Tournament Winners
Tennis:	Aegon Team Tennis Division 1, Winners U13 and U15 Aegon Team Tennis Division 1, Regional Finalists U13 and U15
Biathlon:	National Schools Biathlon Championships North Round Fourth Place

POETS'
CORNER
CORNER

Bliss

Blissful days, lying in the grass
As numerous butterflies carelessly pass.
Sun on my face and wind in my hair
Make me feel graceful, happy and fair.
Lightning cleaves the sky on stormy nights
And also fills with luminous light.
Black is the sky and when you're outside,
You sometimes get frightened and want to hide.
I want this, I want that,
From Potpourri to purses and maybe a hat.
Don't make me angry, don't make me sad,
Don't make me upset or I'll tell my Dad.
Wistful I am, longing for what,
Maybe a meal, piping hot.
Homework not done, perhaps I need
To go and watch telly instead of read.
I am special, I am unique,
With emotions changing from week to week.
Many I feel, as you have just read,
From early in the morning until I go to bed.

By Jenna Thornley



Blackpool

Blackpool was once described by the Prime Minister as "Cheap and tacky" - but is it? Today, people travel from all over the world and view it in many different lights. Most would immediately think of "Kiss Me Quick" hats, dirty beaches and raucous rabbles roaming the streets in droves. I think the real Blackpool lies far from that. It attracts more visitors every year than Greece, has more holiday beds than the whole of Portugal and gets through forty acres of potatoes a day!

Since the eighteenth century, there has been something special about Blackpool. It may be the playground of the North nowadays but, believe it or not, Blackpool was originally promoted as a healthy option and the upper classes came to bathe and even drink the seawater.

A ride on a tram from Talbot Square to Starr Gate gives a kaleidoscope view of all that's on offer. As you stroll along the seven Golden Miles, familiar landscapes fill the skyline. The lapping Irish Sea spits at you like a savage beast. As we pass the arcades full of pinball wizards, pennies drop down to the gamblers' delight. There are hats for the jesters and 'L' plates for blushing brides. Risqué postcards are abundant on every corner, for all to send home saying "Wish You Were Here"

changes

I'm now a pupil at Kirkham Grammar,
I'm learning many new rules.
The reason why I've this to do,
Is I've moved to my new school.

From a small primary where I'd many friends,
I've come here where I knew none.
But one week on, I've grown up fast,
And it's definitely fun.

Lots of teachers and names to remember
And many more classrooms too.
Longer days and books to back,
I haven't got a clue!

Jumping out of bed at dawn,
The coach leaves before eight,
At the end of the day it's homework
After that it's really quite late.

Grandma

My grandma is not young. In fact she's the opposite, an octogenarian. Despite looking up to her, now I am looking down at her - in height!

Her face is like a road map, telling the fantastic tale of life she has had. Her green eyes are like an eagle's with wisdom shining through. The lines around her cherry lips look like they have been sewn into place. She still has her own teeth and her hair is still like it used to be, like flat, polished steel.

No walking stick accompanies her by her side. On the contrary, the spring in her step means she often leads the way still. My grandma is very green fingered and keeps excellent care of her garden. Swimming, cycling, badminton and tennis are her regular sports.

What I like about my grandma is whatever we do she will support and help us. I would rate my grandma 100%

D. Davies





Lauren

She was small and tanned. Her short, brown, wavy hair was neatly pulled back into a low pony tail. Her name was Lauren. Lauren had dark brown eyes to match the colour of her lovely hair. She had a black 'Roxy' school bag with a long white strap. Her black, polished school shoes matched mine and were quickly tapping along to a familiar beat and her long, thin fingers were carefully resting on her clean, grey school skirt.

Lauren smelt of rose scented soap with a mixture of flower petal perfume. She had gold stud earrings in each ear. On her slim wrists she delicately wore a pink 'Hello Kitty' watch which had silver diamantes studded around the beautiful clock-face.

I could see just by the way Lauren tapped her rhythmic feet that she was musically gifted and she played an instrument of some sort. I asked her what her hobbies were and she confidently replied, 'I like playing the piano and singing'

Lauren became my best friend.

R. Ward

A belated note of thanks

Like on the night of his birth, he entered the building with a clap of thunder. His arrival had been expected all day but no one had anticipated such an entrance. Staggering, supported by several men, he shouted, wailed and cursed as doctors rushed to him and took charge.

I will always remember that night. I was a young nurse at the time, and a naïve one. I believed this man to be just like any other drunk that was stupid enough to waste his money on wine and women, but I had little knowledge of life outside my village of Neuilly and thought myself above the rest when I heard the wild and frivolous rumours of Paris and its loose women.

My name was then Marie Céline Gustavon, daughter of a wealthy businessman who pushed me to do well in my classes and in further education. My father claimed that he was only devoted, but I felt suffocated by the pressure. Little did I know then that I and the man dragged in on that wild night would have so much in common. If I could thank my father for just one thing it would be for making me work as a nurse at La Folie Saint James and, as a result, meeting Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec.

A.M.Whitehead

My Christmas Hell

People shuffle by,
 Wrapped up warm,
 Talking about presents,
 What they will get,
 But what they will never give to me.
 Everywhere I go I see signs for the "must have"
 Christmas present.
 People stagger by
 Carrying huge bags full of gifts.
 This year I'll be lucky if I get a hot bowl of soup and a
 roll of bread.
 If I only had somewhere warm to call my own,
 Friends to invite over for Christmas,
 A job so I can live like a normal person,
 To be remembered when I'm gone
 Not just to be found in a dark alley by a stranger or left
 to rot.
 Oh how I wish things were different,
 If someone kind could give me a place to live.
 I wish I wasn't here.
 I can remember when I used to wake up somewhere
 warm,
 I remember the life I left behind.

By Chad Bentley

SHAKESPEARE'S LONDON

I followed Harry aimlessly, wandering through the streets of London traumatised by the intense difference between the London I stood in now and the London of 1999. A foul stench of human wastage polluted the air whilst the children happily played and skipped. The dull monotony of car engines no longer roaring made me hear more intensely the humming noises of the bustling, dirty streets.

An old woman clutched at my feet, groaning and it was then I realised she had no legs. I looked at Harry as he was disappearing into the throng of the crowd. I unwrapped my ankles from her thin, grasping fingers and caught up with Harry.

"Phew!" I said to myself, wiping my forehead.
 Cloudy grey sky peered through the small gaps between leaning buildings that were so close if you reached out you would be able to touch both of them.

We headed up to a lush green embankment where wild flowers and thorny brambles thrived in the black soil. I heard the scream of crows and looked up at the noise-makers. Through the foliage three tall stakes stood proud and high with white round objects carelessly pushed through the top of each one. Crows cackled and clawed at them pecking with their sharp beaks. These were no objects but rotting severed heads.

Imogen Pierce

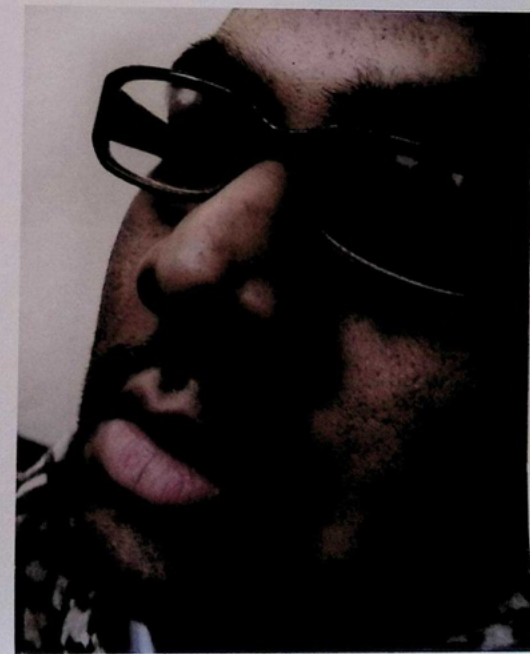
The Stranger

The cloaked figure sat down opposite. Guy looked into a pair of determined, piercing eyes, angel blue. The fellow had night black tousled hair and a face that was rough and well-weathered, although clean and youthful. He wore a black doublet woven of thick, strong wool, but his figure could still be clearly seen outlined in the dark folds. His trousers were cut from the same material. His cloak, however, was most remarkable. It was so thin that one would have suspected it to be diaphanous, yet the rain from outside had failed to penetrate it and nought could be told of what lay beneath.

"You look lonely, only your ale for company," he said, his eyes glittering with intelligence and with a voice softer than silk. "Of course, alcohol only starts talking to you after you've spent a fortune for its ear."

"If that's so, then with my problems I'm more than willing to pay the money for the attention." Guy replied.

The man opposite paused then fixed him with an eager, attentive, wry smile. He halted the barmaid, uttered a few hurried words and let a flash of silver fall into her palm. She hurried off, returning with a filled mug and left again with a conspiratorial wink.



STAFF CHANGES

At the beginning of the academic year we welcomed back Miss Charlotte Fothergill to teach 12X. As this was a temporary post we also had to wish her 'au revoir' at the end of the year. Three other new members of staff took up temporary posts in September; Mrs. Carys Brown in 13Y, Miss Rachel Walker in J4Y and Mr. Jamie Coleman who assisted Mr. Oddie and Miss Baxter in the P.E. department. We wished them all a fond farewell in July and hope they will come back and visit us soon.

After October Half Term Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton left to begin her maternity leave. We were all delighted to hear the wonderful news of the arrival of Charlie, born on 25 October 2008. Just three weeks later, Charlie was joined in this world by George Aldeen, born to Mrs. Kate Aldeen. At the end of the Summer Term both Mrs. Hamilton and Mrs. Aldeen returned to school and resumed their posts as J4 and I3 class

teachers, respectively, in September. The Pre-School also had good news of their own in the spring with the birth of Matilda to Miss Jessica Richardson. Congratulations to all three proud sets of parents.

At the end of the year our Pre-School manager, Mrs. Christine Lawton, left to spend more time at home with her children. Over the past five and a half years she has seen many children go from her care through to the Junior School. We wish her all the best in the future in her role as full time mum to Alex and Eva.

After more than twelve years at K.G.J.S. we were very sad to have to say goodbye to our friend and colleague, Mrs. Maureen Horrocks. She has had strong links with the Junior School since 1990 when her daughter, Sarah, was our first Head Girl. She has maintained her position at 'front of house' with a cheerful nature and a smile for everyone. She will be greatly missed by staff, children and parents alike and we wish her every health and happiness in her retirement.



Charlotte Fothergill



Carys Brown



Rachel Walker



Jamie Coleman



Christine Lawton



Maureen Horrocks

SPORT

Rugby

The 2008/9 rugby season was very enjoyable with over 25 fixtures played against the following clubs and schools; Preston Grasshoppers, Tarleton Rugby Club, Merchant Taylors, Rossall, Kings School Macclesfield, Buchan School (IOM), Isle of Man Schools U11's, Altrincham Prep and St. Mary's Crosby.

The U11 A team played 10 games with the most notable victories against Merchant Taylors, Kings School Macclesfield and the Isle of Man U11s. The B team also played one fixture against Preston Grasshoppers B team, which they won.

The U10s played 6 games, winning 2, drawing 2 and losing 2.

The U9s played 4, winning 3 and only losing one in the last game of the season.

The U8s played 2 games against Preston Grasshoppers and our U11 girls, which they won on both occasions.

All teams played skilful and attractive rugby and are already looking forward to the next season.

In addition to their normal fixtures, the U11s participated in numerous tournaments. In the Packwood Haugh and AJS 7s they reached the quarter finals. In the last tournament of the season, the Budge 7s, they reached the final, only to be beaten by a very talented Rossall team.

Overall it was a very productive season in which all the boys have improved their individual and team skills, through hard work and determination.



Girls' Hockey

Hockey

The girls and boys who have played hockey this year have practised hard and played very well in matches and tournaments. This year the school has been represented by the following teams; two Under 11 girls' teams, one Under 10 girls' team, one Under 9 girls' team, two Under 11 boys' teams and one Under 10 boys' team. All the children who have taken part have played with enthusiasm and a desire to improve. Particular congratulations must go to the girls' Under 11 A team who were North Champions and qualified for the National Finals.

In recent tournaments the girls achieved the following results; St. Mary's Hall Tournament Winners – for the 5th year running

A.J.I.S. Tournament Runners-Up

Lancashire Tournament Winners

North Finals Tournament Winners

Qualified for the National Finals – placed 5th

We also held a Kirkham Invitational Under 10 Hockey tournament for the first time. Eight of the top hockey teams in the North were invited. It was a very successful event and we hope to make it an annual one. We came runners-up overall.

The boys have achieved the following results;

A.J.I.S. Tournament Runners-Up

Lancashire Tournament Winners

Qualified for the North Finals, winning all of their games in their section and qualifying for the semi-finals.

Netball

Netball practices have been extremely well attended with over 40 girls regularly taking part. We have had matches throughout the Autumn and Spring terms for both A and B teams. The A team practised hard for the A.J.I.S. Netball Tournament. They won all of their games in their section which meant they qualified for the semi-finals. Unfortunately, they lost this game. All the girls involved improved as the tournament went on and should be congratulated for their efforts.

Cross-country

In our annual fixture versus St Teresa's School from Penwortham, our U11 boys and girls were victorious with two pleasing performances. This fixture always acts as good preparation for the main competition, the AJS Cross-country Championships, which are held annually at Rossall School in October.

Excellent performances by all our teams were achieved with the following results;

U11 Girls	1st
U11 Boys	3rd
U10 Girls	2nd
U10 Boys	10th

When you consider 28 schools from throughout the North-West took part, these results are outstanding.

Top ten individual performances were achieved by the following pupils;

Bradley Yates	1st
Lucy Keelan	3rd
Ele Greenhalgh	8th

Bradley has now won the AJS Championship three years running, an outstanding achievement.

Swimming

During the year we took part in 3 fixtures versus Westholme School, Bolton School and Cheadle Hulme. On each occasion we took over 50 swimmers in the U9, U10 and U11 age groups. All swimmers performed to the best of their ability, with various degrees of success.

In the annual A.J.I.S. Swimming Championships the following results were achieved:

In the U11 Boys individual medley Bradley Yates came first breaking the championship record.

In the U10 Boys Backstroke Haydn Price also came first.

These were two outstanding performances, competing against some of the best swimmers in the North-West.



Swimming



Indoor Athletics

Indoor Athletics

Indoor athletics continues to be developed and certainly helps to condition pupils for other activities. Running, jumping, throwing and relays are all incorporated into the fixtures. The results for the season are as follows;

versus Preston Harriers	U11 Boys	1st
	U11 Girls	1st
versus K.G.S. U12s	U11 Boys	1st

In the annual Lancashire Championships, the U11 boys came first and the U11 girls came third. Josh Keelan received the 'Athlete of the Match' award.

As a result of their performances, many of our pupils went on to represent Lancashire in the Inter-County Championships.

Cricket

Due to the poor weather conditions throughout the summer term, only 3 matches have been played. The results were as follows:

versus Merchant Taylors	Lost
versus Rossall School	Lost
versus St. Pius School	Lost

Even though all matches were lost, it has been a very enjoyable season, with the emphasis upon all players being given the opportunity to contribute with either bat or ball.

The bowling and fielding has generally been quite good but the batting has been rather inconsistent. The most influential player during the season has been Todd Roper who has bowled and batted very well in every game.

Athletics

Three matches were scheduled for the season, but they all fell victim to the weather. In the last fixture versus Westholme School, we managed to hold it indoors, in the MPH. The match was very keenly contested with the following results;

U11 Boys	81	Westholme	40
U11 Girls	62	Westholme	59
U10 Boys	63	Westholme	58
U10 Girls	63	Westholme	58

Four very good wins in what has been a very frustrating season for staff and athletes.

Rounders

Rounders Club has been extremely popular with over 30 girls regularly attending after school and lunchtime practices. Unfortunately, owing to inclement weather four matches had to be cancelled and the A.J.I.S. tournament was also cancelled. We only managed to play one match. We played Rossall, beating them 15 rounders to 9. The Under 11 A team also played a match against their parents in the last week of term, with the children being victorious by 15 rounders to 10%.



Rounders



13 Cross Country

Tennis

Tennis club has been very popular with both girls and boys. All the children who have attended have learnt how to play and score a competitive game. We have managed to play one competitive match against Highfield Priory School. It was a very successful event with 22 girls and boys playing and we won 14 games to 8.

The overall Inter-house sports trophy results, therefore, were as follows;

1st	Clifton	376 points
2nd	Birley	319 points
3rd	Drapers	306 points
4th	Colborne	261 points

Congratulations to Clifton, House Champions 2008/9.

Inter-House Sport

This year the Inter-house sports programme covered twelve sports. Every single pupil in the Junior School took part in each activity, with the 13 children also taking part in the Cross-country and Indoor Athletics.

The emphasis has always been on the participation and enjoyment of sport and this has certainly been the case with all competitions being played in good spirit.

The results for each activity were as follows;

Athletics -	1st Birley
Basketball -	1st Clifton
Cross-country -	1st Drapers
Cricket -	1st Clifton
Hockey -	1st Clifton
Indoor Athletics -	1st Birley
Netball -	1st Birley/Clifton
Rounders -	1st Clifton
Rugby -	1st Clifton
Swimming -	1st Birley
Tennis -	1st Clifton
Volleyball -	1st Birley/Clifton

PRE-SCHOOL REPORT

Another busy year has flown by in the Pre-School and we have yet again had an exciting and successful time.

We started the year with the topic 'Myself and my Home' where we explored our five special senses and looked at our families and where we live. We all enjoyed watching the outdoor play area being completed with a wonderful artificial grassed area and wooden fence as well as a covered area so we can use the outdoors whatever the weather!

After half term we looked at 'Light and Dark' which provided many enjoyable learning experiences before we ended the year with our Christmas production, 'The Sleepy Shepherd', which was very entertaining.



The New Year began with the topic, 'People who Help us', where we were delighted to receive a visit from Donna and Laura the paramedics who showed us how they look after people in their ambulance. We also enjoyed a visit from some fire fighters and their fire engine. Finally we were visited by a parent, Doctor Hartley-Smith, who spent time with the children in the hospital role play area. They had great fun!

During our next topic of 'Springtime' we observed growth and change and planted herbs, potatoes and tomatoes in our garden. We then had a delivery of some very special eggs that we watched hatching into chicks in the incubator. The five new arrivals kept us very busy!



Our final topics of 'Around the World' and 'In the Jungle' have provided many wonderful activities including the creation of an Around the World café, making and eating pizza and designing and constructing 'The Great Wall of Kirkham' during our China themed week.



Our Sports Day and afternoon tea party were well attended and it was lovely to see the smiles on the children's faces as they took part with such enthusiasm. Well done to all the boys and girls.



The finale was the end of term production, 'Walking in the Jungle'. This was a very enjoyable event for the staff, children and audience.

It is with sadness that I leave my post as Pre-School Manager after five and a half years working in the Pre-School. I will be taking with me many special memories of all the wonderful achievements made by the children and all the staff team of Miss Lace, Miss Richardson, Mrs. Norris, Mrs. Hardman and Mrs. Riley. Their dedication, commitment and effort have resulted in a very successful Pre-School of which I am extremely proud. Thank you.

With very best wishes,

Mrs. Christine Lawton
Pre-School Manager

MUSIC

Once again this year we have celebrated a wide variety of music within school, on many different occasions.

Musicians have featured regularly at our Open Days. Members of the Choir entertained guests and visitors on these special occasions, and visitors were also treated to several solo performances by our talented musicians from the fourth year. Armistice was again remembered, and we enjoyed the music, so appropriate on such occasions.

The Christmas Concert was again a huge success with lots of opportunities for children to perform to the large audience in the M.P.H. Both the Choir (Mrs Shuttleworth) and Ensemble (Mr. Lockett) have learnt new repertoire this year and made big contributions to the evening.

A large part of the Spring Term was devoted to rehearsing for the show, 'Oliver', which was a great success and the musicians enjoyed their involvement and soloists and chorus excelled. We thank several of our visiting teachers for assisting and making such a valuable contribution to our show orchestra.

A number of young musicians have featured as soloists, playing in assemblies during the year and have also supported their own instrumental teachers, taking part in demonstrations of the many instruments we have on offer at school, available for young people to learn.

At the end of April thirteen singers attended A.J.I.S. Sings! This was a day of singing activities held at Heathfield School, near Halifax. Mr. Lockett and Mrs. Knowles also enjoyed taking part.

We have been raising awareness of music throughout the school as part of 'Sing Up', a national strategy for singing. Teachers have used song as a vehicle to teach various subjects through music, which has been fun and proved successful.

In June two of our musicians, Arron O'Neill and Freya Bennett, attended the first ever A.J.I.S. Orchestra at the Grange School in Cheshire and found the whole experience most rewarding.

We congratulate the music scholar, Natasha Almond (violin). She performed admirably in our Prizegiving ceremony at the end of the school year.

We thank all the children who have entertained us so well and pay tribute to the support given to all our young musicians by their visiting music teachers.

Thank you for another very busy and successful year.

Mr. Peter Lockett, Head of Music.

Infant Music

The Infant Ensemble once again worked hard throughout the year. The 13 members included Holly Cook, Luke Dean, Gemma Eastham, Esme Ikram, Jack Kenmare, Hannah Mears, Nancy Morris, Yania Shahid and Charlie Smith. Emily Scott from I2 also joined the group playing the keyboard, followed by violinists, April Russell, Lucy Treadwell and Anna Wilkinson later in the year. They practised conscientiously every week to develop their skills of reading music, playing their own musical score and listening carefully to others in order to play together competently as a group.

The first piece of music the Infant Ensemble learnt to play was 'Old MacDonald Had a Farm'. The musicians had the opportunity to perform this to an audience of appreciative infant children.



During the latter part of the Autumn term the Infant Department started to practise the songs for their Christmas Nativity production called 'It's a Baby', which included many catchy lyrics! Parents, relatives and friends thoroughly enjoyed the entertaining and festive performance given by all the infant children in the M.P.H. at the Senior School.



Later in the year, as more children joined the Infant Ensemble, they learnt a more challenging piece of music called 'Lord of the Dance' by Sidney Carter. This incorporated instruments including keyboard, violins, recorders, xylophones, glockenspiels and a variety of percussion. Their efforts were once again rewarded when they performed admirably at our annual Prize Giving.

Special congratulations should be given to Esme Ikram who was awarded the Infant Music Prize.

We wish all the 13 musicians every success as they pursue their musical activities in the Junior Department.

Mrs. J. Knowles and Mrs. S. Kennington

Oliver

One of the main highlights of this academic year was our Junior School performance of the musical, 'Oliver'. Due to the popularity of our previous shows, it was decided to put on three performances rather than the customary two. The audiences were not disappointed as they were wowed by three fantastic shows in March.

Special mention must be made to some outstanding performances from the lead characters; Arron O'Neill as Oliver, Elyssia Cockshott as Nancy, Robert Thomas as the



infamous Bill Sykes, Helena Dale-Martin as the Artful Dodger and Grady Rawlinson as Fagin. All of the children involved, from the J1 chorus right through to all the J4 children, performed with such talent and maturity making a magical night's entertainment in every performance.

A lot of time and effort is needed to put on these shows, beginning with auditions nine months before the curtain goes up! All the staff at the Junior School are involved and our thanks go to each and every one of them. Our thanks also go to the parents who have offered their assistance, expertise and support. However, none of this could have been possible without the talent, enthusiasm and energy of the children of the Junior School – thank you and well done! We hope you will remember this experience for many years to come.

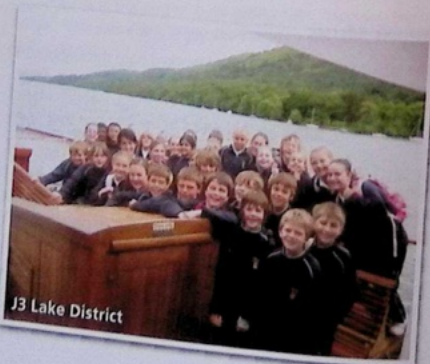
CLASS VISITS

This year has seen many visits and visitors to school to further the children's education.

The J4 children enjoyed their trip to Lou Valagran immensely. To their credit, everyone had a go at all the activities on offer. There was the Jacob's Ladder and mountain-biking, a beach trip and climbing as well as the now infamous two day trip down the Ardeche in two-man kayaks. This was an amazing opportunity for the children and they all made it down the river with no capsizing. The same cannot be said for Mrs. Roberts and Mr. Oddie who ended up in the rapids!



J4 France



J3 Lake District

In the Autumn Term the J3 children travelled the short distance to the Preston Museum to develop their knowledge of World War II. In the Summer Term they enjoyed rides on both a steam boat and a steam train amid the beautiful scenery of the Lake District.

Once again Lucy the Tudor visited the children of J2 to help them with their studies of the Tudor age. She came fully dressed in period costume and brought with her many artefacts and activities for the children to work with. The Lake District was also the destination for the J2 children this summer as the wonders of orienteering and the adventure playground at Brockholes beckoned. A great day of fun was had by all!

With toothbrushes at the ready, the J1 children were visited by the dentist to link in with their Science work on 'Teeth and Healthy Eating'. Mr. Frank Hughes and his assistants, Karen and Rupert the kangaroo, talked to the children about which foods are good for their teeth. Everyone chewed a disclosing tablet to show up any plaque on their teeth and then vigorously brushed it away! The following week Chester was the destination for a day of Roman fun. Walkus Crispus, a Roman Legionary in full regalia, took the children on a march to the city walls to talk to them about what life was like two thousand years ago.



J2 Brockholes



J1 Chester

To help them with their Science work the J3 children took a trip to Leighton Moss very early in the year. They looked at how different animals live in a variety of habitats. In the Summer Term they continued along the Nature theme with a trip to Beacon Fell. Our top infants also enjoyed a visit to a local church to tie in with their R.E. lessons and a Kirkham optician to deliver pairs of glasses they had collected for third world countries. A shiny, red fire engine rolled onto the school car park for the annual 13/14 talk about fire safety.

In the Autumn Term, the J2 classes visited Towneley Hall in Blackburn, to link in with their History topic work about life in the past. At school, the children had a special visit from the air ambulance and paramedic crew, who allowed them to sound the siren on their vehicle and look at the special equipment which they carry for emergencies. Special thanks go to Mrs. Smith and Mr. Sutcliffe for giving up their precious time.



J3 Beacon Fell

Later in the year, Mrs. Broughton kindly brought in two tortoises so the children could learn more about the life and care of these reptiles. Mrs. Aitchison introduced J2 to Chloe, her dog for the blind, so the children could become more aware of the special job these dogs need to perform. During the Summer Term the children reached 'amazing heights' during their annual trip to Blackpool Tower and the Circus, where a great day was had by all.

The Reception children enjoyed an afternoon of culinary delights thanks to a visit from Mrs. Hughes who cooked some delicious Indian food for the children to taste. Keeping it in the family, Mr. Hughes later visited the J1 children to talk about teeth and healthy eating. A wonderful day was experienced by all at Williamson Memorial Park in Lancaster, where the children were fascinated by the butterflies, small animals and reptiles, followed by fun on the adventure playground.

Many thanks to all the parent helpers who have joined us on these excursions.



J2 Paramedics



J1 Williamson Memorial Park

ACTION AID

This very worthwhile cause has again found all of our children raising money with a variety of activities. We have matched last year's total of £1400 raised from the following events;

- I1 (India) – Ice Cream Parlour
- I2 (Vietnam) – Sponsored Hula-hoop
- I3 (Ghana) – Sponsored Skip
- J1 (Nigeria) – Cake Sale
- J2 (Ecuador) – Sponsored Dog Walk
- J3 (Nicaragua) – Cake Sale
- J4 (Peru) – Cake Sale

Everyone at K.G.J.S. would like to thank all the children and parents for helping us to raise this magnificent total.



I1 Ice Cream Parlour



I2 Sponsored Hula-hoop



J2 Sponsored Dog Walk

INFANT & JUNIOR WORK



I love my Mummy because.....

- She helps me do my teeth.
- She helps me tidy up my room.
- She makes my tea.
- She helps me brush my hair.
- She helps me make cakes.
- She helps me read a book.
- She helps me do my homework.
- She makes me laugh.
- She is very kind to me.
- She loves me.

Mia Walsh 12Y

Mia Walsh 12Y



School is...



School is designing lolly pops and ice creams on the computer in the ICT suite.

School is playing in the cafe with Beth and my friends.

School is reading my books to Mrs Edgar and getting a Housepoint for good work.

School is practicing for the Egg and Spoon race for Sport's day.

School is all these things to me.

Katie Kollard

Katie Kollard 11Y

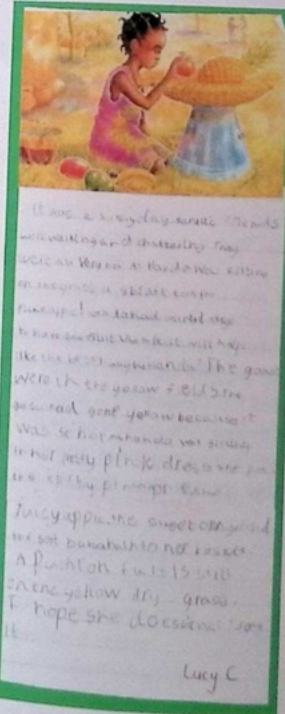
POLABAT

Polabat is a polar bear,
Polabat is a bat,
He lives in a lair,
He likes to look like a cat.

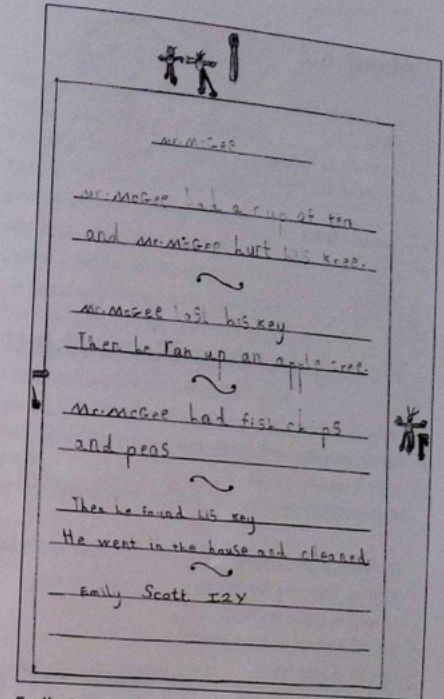
Sometimes he wears a hat,
Sometimes he carries a piece of ice,
Sometimes he acts like a cat,
Sometimes he's very nice.

Polabat is vastly ugly,
Tremendously big,
Excessively charming,
Hopelessly dumb,
Warmly loving,
Firmly cocky,
Fiercely savage,
A fabulous creation,
Completely out of our mind,
And out of his, too.

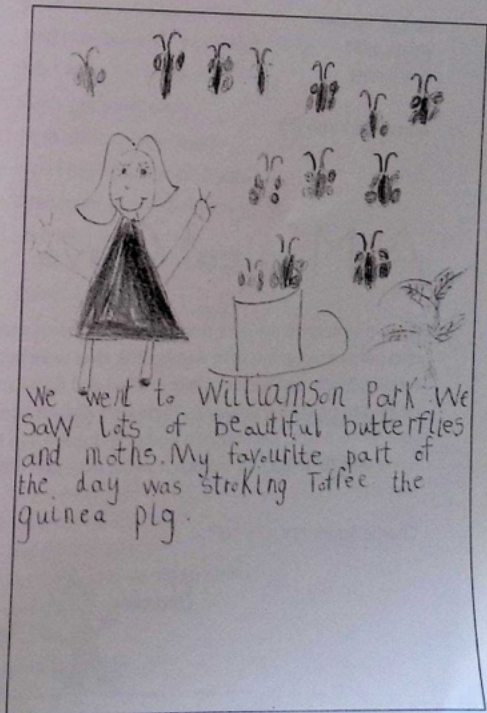
Harry Balmer J3Y



Lucy Case 12X



Emily Scott 12Y



Agatha Barker-Mill 11Y

About me

I like to horse-ride,
I like to slide,
I like to climb a tree,
I'm special, I'm me!

Hannah Mears 13Y



We're Going on a Pirate Hunt!

We're going on a pirate hunt.
We're going to catch a big one.
What a beautiful day!
We're not scared.

Uh-oh! A pirate's hook!
A shiny, silver, curved hook.
Uh-oh! A treasure chest!
An old broken treasure chest.
Uh-oh! A peg leg!
A shiny metal peg leg.

Tip toe! Tip toe!
What's that?
It's a pirate!

Anna Wilkinson 12X

A Magical Cave

When they opened the door they saw shining jewels and sparkling diamonds. Estelle was amazed! Then two elves jumped out and started singing. The elves wore bobble hats, Estelle giggled. The elves names were Stumble and Trip. Estelle and the man were in "Toys and Gifts Land". Stumble and Trip showed them around. There were people buying sparkly gift cards. There were pop-up books. Estelle was thrilled! She bought some things to take back to the beach, she bought a bucket and spade and some new beautiful shiny red shoes. She was very joyful. It was time to go back to the beach so the elves said, "Bye bye," to Estelle and the man. They all lived happily ever after.

Charlie Smith 13Y



The Sun

I am gold,
I am hot,
I am light,
I am bright,
I am strong,
Summer is my song.

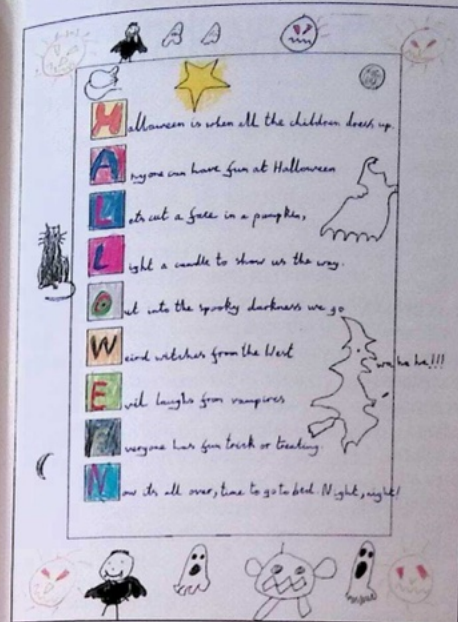
Nancy Morris 13Y



Character Description of Heidi

I think that Heidi is a lovely girl, she is joyful because she likes the fresh mountains. She is a loving and kind girl with vivid, sparkling blue eyes. She is a sweet girl, she loves animals. She is kind to her grandad, she hates Miss Rottenmeir and she is adventurous. I would like Heidi to be my friend.

Puneet Mathauda 13Y



Jack Livsey 11Y

Writing a Character Description

Cutiepie was a cute little fluffball of a creature, with irresistible puppy dog eyes that just gleamed with cuteness and a petite pair of antlers. She also had a habit of staring and giggling in her girly way. When Cutiepie got home she approached her mother.

"May I please have a cookie?" Cutiepie asked her mother shyly.

"You must have lunch first OK?" her mother replied softly. Cutiepie scrunched up her eyes and burst into tears. The tears flooded the house!

"Stop crying, please Cutiepie, you can have half a cookie!" her mother exclaimed. Cutiepie suddenly had a change of mind and screamed, "Yipee!!!" as she devoured the piece of cookie hungrily.

Rebecca Chatwin 13Y

Tongue Twisters

Charlie Chicken loved chocolate
Charlie Chicken lost his chewing gum
Charlie Chicken chose some chips
Charlie Chicken has a chariot
Charlie Chicken choked on a chip.

Will Johnson 13X

Golden

Fiercely, brightly, now the sun,
Climbs the sky in his golden cloak,
This way, and that, he glares and sees.
Golden fruit upon golden trees,
One by one the casements open,
All the children have awoken;
Out in a field a dog he plays,
He could stay there for days and days;
The little baby bluebirds in their tree sing,
Getting ready to fly with their new wings;
A little golden bunny goes hopping by,
Staring into the golden sky;
And beautiful dragonflies fluttering over the water gleam,
By the long golden reeds in the golden stream.

Kennedy-Jane Hill 14X

THE SNOW

I can make you play outside,
And I can make the world look pretty.
I can make the world look white,
And I can cover roofs.
I can make children laugh,
And I can make people happy.
I can make people build snowmen,
And have fun.

Oliver Barnett 13X

A Dragon in the Classroom

The teacher yelled
she went out the door
and out the gate
but the teacher ended up on the
corridor floor.

Esme Ikram 13X

I like...

I like the waves that crash together.
 I like the seagulls that glide in the turquoise sky.
 I like the sunny sunshine that shines brightly.
 I like climbing in the steep sand-dunes.
 I like looking in the sand for beautiful shells.
 I like building different sand castles.
 I like eating vanilla ice-cream.
 I like watching colourful fish swimming in the sandy sea.
 I like sitting in the racing speed-boat.
 I like having a lovely picnic in the golden sand.
 I like jumping over the waves.
 I like the sound of stones crashing together.
 I like playing throw and catch with a beach ball.
 I like racing with my friends.
 I like walking from one side to the other side.
 I like playing tig.
 I like the summer.

Emily Dignan 13Y

My Dearest Tullia

As you know I am one of the few survivors of the Titanic. This devastatingly, horrible shock caused me great trouble and distress. My memories are only vague but there are a few things I can tell you. The noise was horrendous; crying children, screaming parents, splashing of people jumping overboard and the terrible crashing, grinding noise. At first all I could see was flying chunks of ice, dead and distressed people and water, lots and lots of water. Then finally when I knew there was no chance of me getting a lifeboat, I jumped. As soon as I hit the icy water it took my breath away. Now all around me people were drowning and freezing. I looked around me for something to hold on to. Oh Tulls, it was terrible!

Eventually, when I could bear it no longer when I felt as if I was about to pass out, I managed to grab hold of my whistle. At first it was just a faint sound, but using the last of my strength I blew harder. I'm not sure what happened after that, everything went black, and when I woke up I was on a boat and now you can have me back.

Forever yours

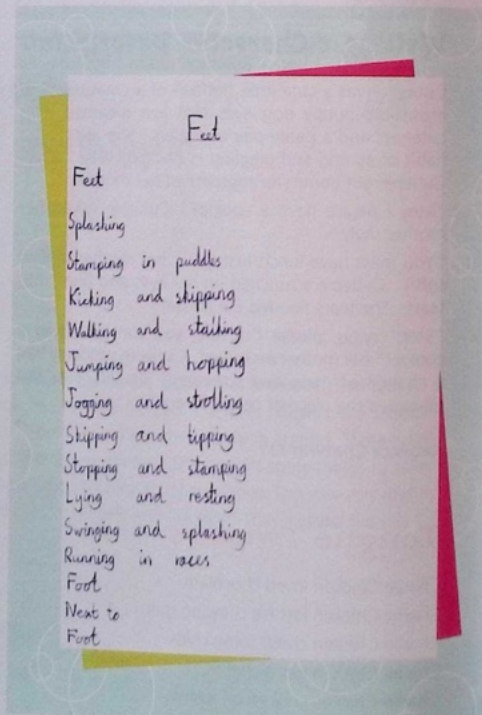
Rafaella

Rafaella Stefani 13Y

The Tornado

I hit hard,
 I carry trees,
 I spread fear
 to the city,
 I carry cars,
 I go round and
 round,
 I leave
 mud behind,
 I will carry
 tankers
 and planes
 at airports,
 when I
 am done
 they are
 pleased, but
 I have just
 begun!

Jack Kenmare 13Y



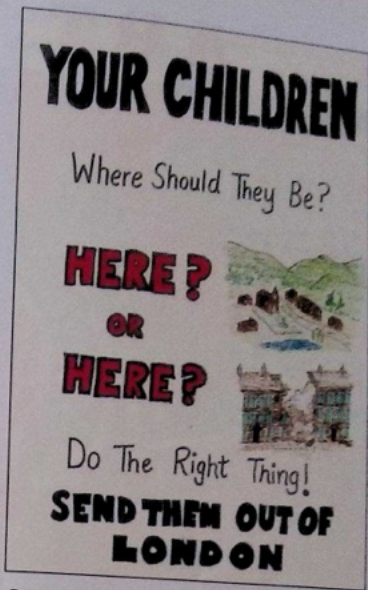
Holly Keelan 11Y

THE LEGEND OF ST. GEORGE AND THE DRAGON, BY SAINT GEORGE

Hello, I am Saint George and this is my story.....

Once I was on my travels when I met an old hermit in a country called Libya. He said that the town was being terrorised by a dragon and that every maiden had been killed by it. The only girl left was Princess Sabra. The person who saved her, well you know the rest. I slept at the hermit's house and in the morning I set out to kill it. I was brave. I walked past the princess and I told her to go home. I got there and I think I lost my confidence on the way in. I'm not a cry baby but his tail was 50 metres long! I didn't show I was scared. I rode up and stabbed him but his scales were too hard and it broke my spear and my armour. I fell under an orange tree but it was poisonous and the dragon could not fight me. I went up and hurt him again under the wing. There were no scales there. He died. I then got married to Princess Sabra.

Francesca Riley 11X

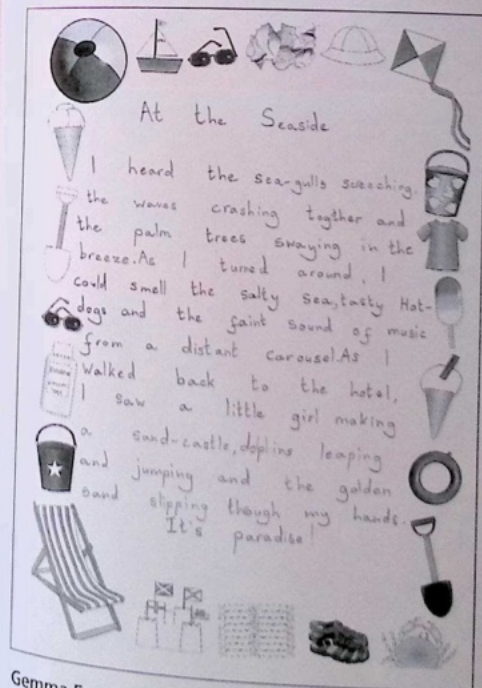


Cara Roberts 13Y

My Holidays

I love to sunbathe in the sun.
 I like to collect beautiful shells.
 I like to eat mint-choc-chip ice-cream.
 I love to eat hot-dogs and watch crabs side-walk on the sands.
 I love eating hot steaming burgers.
 I like watching 'Punch and Judy' shows.
 I like to bounce high on the colourful bouncy castle.
 My holidays are the best!

Ella Kearsley 13Y



Gemma Eastham 13Y



Ice cream cone
 I have an ice cream after my tea. Kaman

Kaman Mathauda 11X

James and the Giant Peach



Charlotte O'Neill J1X



Brooke Turnbull J3Y



Max Grimshaw J1X



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