

KIRKHAMIAN

2013





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HEADMASTER'S FOREWORD

I feel privileged to be the Headmaster of such an outstanding school that has the students at the heart of its thinking, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Douglas Walker for all that he has done for Kirkham Grammar School. The individual and school success that we celebrate are a product of his outstanding leadership and immense commitment to the school and all its pupils and staff both past and present.

It does not seem that long ago since I started teaching and I was thinking of what has changed since the mid-90s. Are schools different? Are students different? Do we teach differently? The fact is that what made a good school back then is still what makes a good school today, the fundamentals are unchanged. All children still need the personal care and attention for them to develop and prosper. The needs of children have not changed but the educational landscape has and not necessarily for the better. Recent changes to examinations both in place and pending have increased the pressure on our children and this, combined with overt political interference in our core business, has not helped. Our pupils today live in a world where social media communications are the norm, where globalisation means that the world of work is no longer regional nor indeed national, but is truly international and we have to provide an education that recognises this and embraces the realities of the modern world of work into which they will enter after their education. The need for all of our pupils to be technology literate at a level way beyond that of five years ago is paramount, as is the need for foreign languages and a good level of mathematical ability. All of these must be melded together with more traditional subjects and skills, and there is a need for them to be able to adapt to change as and when it happens. All of these factors and changes to the economic, political and social landscapes mean that their education and opportunities provided are more important than ever before and it is our responsibility to give them all every possible chance of success. My theme so far this term has been to look at the three pillars of child development; ability, environment and opportunity and it is how they are woven together that dictates how well an individual does throughout their school life.

I am delighted to be able to say quite honestly that Kirkham Grammar School was, is and will remain a school that values the individual and allows every pupil the opportunities to fulfil their ability and their potential in an environment that is open, inclusive and fit for purpose.

The Robotham Music Suite was officially opened in January and we have now an excellent and fully functioning Music Department happily ensconced in their new facilities and the fact that the facilities are being used by so many students, both formally and informally, is proof enough that the vision of the Governors and my colleagues past and present was the right one. KGS music will continue to develop both chorally and instrumentally, and will build on a reputation for excellent music across the whole school, starting for many in the Junior School where all our children are able to experience music as well as drama and a raft of other activities all of which help them prosper when they move across to the senior school.

Our new Fulford-Brown Sports Hall, opened by Brian Ashton MBE, is now a well-used and very popular addition to our facilities and is already paying dividends with what we can achieve and the breadth of opportunity we can offer. To be able to offer a purpose built hall with a specialist floor alongside our original building, the MPH, is a bonus that will benefit our children for years to come. Our sporting facilities were used extensively over the summer; we hosted Tennis Camps, a Multi-Sports Activity Camp, and the Andrew Flintoff Cricket Camp. Alex Tudor the ex-Surrey, Essex and England bowler coached our youngsters, an experience which I am sure they will remember. The vast letting programme throughout the year benefits both the school and the wider Kirkham community.

Our public examination results were published amidst the usual and now all too familiar media frenzy about dumbing down, grade inflation, political interference, toughening up on top grades, IGCSEs are easier, and Mr Gove's indecent haste towards reform. So many blatantly contradictory statements, as highlighted in August by Dr Bernard Trafford a former Chairman of HMC, are the flavour of the press, both red top and broadsheet, for the length of the exam result season. In many ways the headlines and the political in-fighting detract from the fact that students today work extremely hard to achieve their results and deserve a lot of credit and respect for coping with the demands of multi-discipline examinations combined with the pressure to achieve at a level that year on year increases.

This summer our A-level results showed a 99% pass rate and our A* to C pass rate of 86% is our best to date. Over a third of all A-levels sat achieved an A* or an A with two thirds achieving an A* to B. Gemma Coleman excelled with 5A*s, and James Baxter, Lydia Gascoigne, Jodi Gaston-Ross, Celia Hindley, Lewis Holden, Jennifer Malings and Madeline Robinson all achieved results that they should rightly be very proud of.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our 2013 leavers all the very best for their futures. To leave school can be a daunting prospect and for many you will shortly leave home as well. I would like to think that Kirkham Grammar School has prepared you well for what lies ahead and that you have the confidence and the skills to achieve and to become whatever it is you set your mind on becoming. The poet Antonio Machado said 'Traveller, there is no path. Paths are made by walking'. To you all, I hope your journey is a good one.

At GCSE nearly half of all examinations sat were graded A*/A and 94% of all our pupils achieved 5 or more passes. Excellent performances came from Kristen Alexander, Sian Almond, Andrew Anderson, Jessica Bevington, Beth de Klerk, Joseph Lightly, Charlotte Muir, Mihir Parmar and Rebecca Paterson.

Our students have been busy in all manner of extra-curricular activities and it is very heartening for me as a new Headmaster to read about the wealth of activities that are taking place on a regular basis.

There have been trips to Jaguar/Land Rover and HMS Illustrious as part of the Design and Technology Department's activities; in the STEM Skills Technology Tournament our teams finished second and eighth from over 30 schools qualifying for the final. In March, we won the Creative Marketing section in the finals and held a respectable place overall. In the 2013 Rotary Technology Tournament we were victorious in the Foundation Category with the team of Oscar Cornah-Burrows, Caitlin Harrison, Theo Randal and Isobel Sanders. We also secured the runners-up spot with our other team. In the Advanced Category our Sixth Form team of Elizabeth Jenkinson, Benedict Morris, Ryan Powell and Jonah Winn also came out victorious. This sort of success is built on a programme of such initiatives as junior school taster days and even hosting the Russian Minister for Education no less! Special mention should be made of an A* in GCSE Electronic Products, where Charlotte Muir did not drop a single mark.

LAMDA goes from strength to strength; our geographers remain keen as ever to enable our pupils to experience the environment both physical and human; our artists have visited world famous galleries and our scientists are still working on the Higgs Boson particle after their time at CERN.

Our Drama Department was as busy as ever; the Autumn Term production was A Midsummer Night's Dream transposed to the sixties from Ancient Greece. There were over 80 pupils involved as actors, dancers, band members or backstage crew. Notable performances were George Shuttleworth-Brown's energetic and enthusiastic Bottom, Josh Burrows, Matthew Carroll, Rebecca Paterson and Ruby Barrie as the demented and disgruntled Lovers and Lewis Andrews, Tobie Phillips and Nina Langley as Puck, Oberon and Titania. As always, our live band was excellent performing a full range of Beatles songs fitted to the action. Special mention has to go to Ollie Carpenter and Gus Graham who have played in the band for the last four years. Future productions will not be the same without them. The play was seen by over 1,000 people and received many accolades and much praise.

Dramatists and artists were all set to enjoy the delights of New York in October last year. Unfortunately, Hurricane Sandy hit the city that never sleeps on the day they should have arrived, putting paid to the intended trip. Ms Barrie and Mr Gardiner did manage to re-arrange a slightly modified tour in December and students took part in an extremely hectic 6 days of sightseeing, Broadway shows, drama and dance workshops, outstanding photographic opportunities and some frenetic Christmas shopping.

There was a full programme of diverse theatre trips last year as well including two coaches to The Lion King much enjoyed by pupils, parents and teachers alike. Ms Barrie completed her tenth year at KGS last year and estimates that she has run over 70 trips since she began, taking over 3,500 students to see many wonderful performances.

Our Music Department has just completed its first year in our splendid new premises and the Recital Room, Technology Room and suite of practice rooms are well used, vibrant and a real hub for music in the school. The contribution to this development by both the Friends and The Drapers' Company are gratefully acknowledged. Our senior music students have had the opportunity to visit the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra at an open rehearsal as well as experiencing the Halle Orchestra preparing for a concert. We have had coffee concerts and evening recitals for all year groups and the Carol Service in St Michael's Church was a wonderful afternoon led so ably by our Senior Choir. There have been ensembles delighting audiences with jazz, Broadway tunes and contemporary choral offerings. Well over 450 of our pupils performed for their Houses at the House Music Festival with Elliott Gaston-Ross winning through to be crowned champion. Recitals in our local community culminated in June with a recital in Lytham St Annes to a knowledgeable and appreciative audience.

Notable individual success saw Hannah Culver pass her Grade 8 piano with distinction and Elliot Gaston-Ross passed with distinction his grade 8 percussion exam. Lydia Gascoigne passed her Grade 8 singing exam and Aimee Bilsborrow her Grade 8 oboe with distinction. Julian Shield and Elizabeth Brocklehurst passed their grade 6 with merit. Sophie Midgely gained a place in the Lancashire Schools' Concert Band, Elizabeth Brocklehurst gained a place in the National Children's Brass Band and the Yorkshire Youth Brass Band and Elliot Gaston-Ross has a place in the National Children's Orchestra and a reserve place in the National Youth Orchestra. In examinations, noteworthy results saw Hannah Culver achieve maximum marks in her performance unit at AS, and at A2 Gemma Broomhead and Josh Lok attained perfect marks in the performance unit.

Our Combined Cadet Force has been as busy as ever with a variety of exercises, camps and local deployments. A number of cadets have been away on leadership courses and the reports coming back are a credit to them all; Corporal Joe Cooke won the prize as best cadet in his platoon on the arduous cadet leadership course at Nescliffe. Flight Sergeant Todd Davies was selected as best cadet on the RAF Camp at RAF Valley on Anglesey and his prize was a flight back over Blackpool in a Hawk jet which for adrenalin certainly beats the roller coasters down below.

Our senior cadets provided a formal escort and were flag bearers for the Lions International Conference back in March and, as an individual honour, Matt Donaldson was chosen to represent the CCF at the Remembrance event at the Royal Albert Hall in front of Her Majesty The Queen.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme goes from strength to strength and we have over 300 pupils registered for the award. Since last year our pupils have gained 17 Gold Awards, 29 Silver and 67 Bronze awards braving expeditions

in all sorts of weather, most of which involved precipitation. Their teamwork and determination are a credit to each and every one of them.

As ever KGS sport remains hugely successful.

In hockey our girls were North of England finalists at under 14, 16 and 18 levels. Our under 18's were regional champions. Our under 13 mini squad reached the National Finals at Cannock and were placed fifth overall in the country, a tremendous achievement. The under 13s and the under 15s were Lancashire champions alongside our under 18s. On a road trip our first XI defeated Millfield convincingly, something that has sent shockwaves around Somerset! In February 2014 our senior hockey squad will tour Barbados building on the success of European tours experienced by our junior squads. A large number of our players represented Lancashire and Ele Greenhalgh went on to an England trial.

In swimming our girls were unbeaten all season and Samantha Hollings reached the National Finals.

In athletics both the junior and the intermediate teams reached the National Finals at Gateshead, the fourth consecutive year our inters have done so. County representation and English Schools' championship qualifying was achieved by several of our athletes: Kate Lawler in the 300 metres, Nicole Wainwright and Rachel Williamson both in the triple jump and Rachel went on to make the England squad. We were Fylde Coast Champions in the under 13, 14 and 17 age groups and runners-up in the under 15s.

Our boys' teams won the Fylde and Wyre Coast Championships, winning three out of four of the age groups. Will Bruce is the Junior Lancashire County Schools long jump champion, Jake Lonsdale is the junior 1500 metre champion, Bradley Yates won the intermediate 800 metres with Josh Burrows winning the senior hammer. Captain of School, Ben Everson was runner-up in the 1500 metre senior race. Jake and Bradley represented the county at the English Schools. Our cross country teams also took honours, with our first year team winning the Fylde and Wyre Championships, as did our second and third year teams.

In tennis our under 13 girls' team were Aegon National Finalists.

In netball our girls did well in local competitions and there is a core of good young players developing for the future.

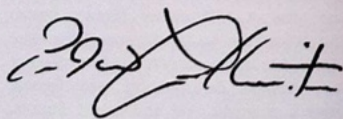
Another notable individual success was in dressage. Ellie Jolleys was selected to represent England in a home international and she was part of the successful team as well as winning her own class.

In rugby we remain a school with a national reputation for excellence. Last season our first XV lost only one game. The game of the season was a draw against the previously unbeaten King's Macclesfield. On a circuit that includes some of the best rugby schools in the country, this was an excellent achievement. Our second team was likewise very successful, with only one loss all season. Lower down the age groups our under 17s won the Manchester Festival, our under 16s reached the final of the Lancashire Cup, the under 15s had a superb run in the Daily Mail competition, reaching

the semi-final of the Vase and they won the AKS Sevens. Our under 14s won our own sevens tournament, our under 13s were Lancashire Cup finalists and they reached the last 16 of the National School Sevens at Rosslyn Park and our under 12 team won the Manchester Grammar School tens tournament. It is this strength and success in depth which meant Kirkham Grammar School was voted Lancashire School of the Year.

Our cricketers had a good season and the first XI played in an epic run chase against the MCC. Eventually the match finished in a draw, with our team just 5 runs short of the 226 total. James Seward continued as captain of the County under 15s and James scored a very mature century against Rossall. Our under 13 team won 7 from 9 matches, with Kieran Wilkinson scoring 156 not out against Giggleswick. Kieran played in the ESCA final against Cheshire having represented Lancashire all season. Our under 12 team won 10 out of 12 matches and we can look forward to a lot of these young players coming through the ranks in years to come.

I must thank all my colleagues who provide such excellent and inspirational coaching and guidance in all of our extra-curricular activities. They give of their time unstintingly and make it possible for all our pupils to experience the wealth of activities on offer and to participate and succeed at whatever level they can. To look back through the year's achievements as a new Headmaster and to be able to read of excellence and achievement in so many fields is both humbling and inspiring in equal measure. In particular, I must acknowledge the huge contribution that Andrew Barratt has made to the school as Director of Music, and also to Francine Lang, Head of Business Studies, and Margaret Scott, Head of Biology. On behalf of everyone at KGS we wish them all a very happy, healthy, and long retirement.



DOUGLAS WALKER HEADMASTER 2002-2013

When Douglas Walker was appointed Headmaster in 2002, he knew the school well, having been a pupil and then a teacher at Lancaster Grammar, as well as working at Arnold and Rossall earlier in his teaching career. He was therefore already known to many in the area as an inspirational history teacher, a caring and committed Housemaster, an efficient and highly respected Deputy Head and an effective and knowledgeable rugby coach, and it proved to be to the enormous benefit of KGS that he brought these and many other qualities to his time as Headmaster.

He had the wisdom and humility to recognise that no individual is bigger than the School: he readily acknowledged the considerable achievements of his immediate predecessors, Malcolm Summerlee and Barrie Stacey in taking the School from its threatened and perilous existence as an under-funded county grammar school to a strong HMC co-educational independent school, and set about building on their legacy to establish the school as the leading independent school in Lancashire, at a time when so many other famous schools were in such obvious decline. In this task, he was beyond doubt successful, leaving the School in a position of strength that would have been unimaginable a generation ago. In so doing, he willingly admitted that the school had well and truly "got under his skin", a feeling with which so many others who have passed through KGS will fully identify. He had indeed become a true Kirkhamian, despite previous loyalty to three of the area's other leading schools.

Doug Walker fully appreciated that the Headmaster of a school of such age and tradition is not only a driver of change but also a custodian of a heritage, who has a responsibility not only to those who currently attend the school, but to the generations who have gone before them. He preserved and cherished the "one family" ethos which is such a central part of the School's character.

He was a tireless supporter of school events, be they cultural, academic, sporting or social, and took the time and trouble to get to know all sections of the school community: within a short time of his arrival, there was not a single pupil in the school whom he did not know personally, and his knowledge of their strengths, weaknesses and circumstances was a great asset in his ability to see what was best for each and every one. Despite a reputation from previous teaching posts as a disciplinarian, Kirkham pupils quickly came to see that he was always on the side of the pupil. He also took the time and trouble to get to know parents and Old Kirkhamians whose time at the school long pre-dated his Headship. His discreet counsel was a feature of meetings of Governors, Senior Management, Staff, Friends of KGS, Old Kirkhamians, which he never missed even in the midst of the incessant demands on his time as Head, and his characteristic caution and discretion ensured that any group of which he was a member always made considered and prudent judgements. He was also an attentive and

supportive spectator at sports events, concerts, plays and many other events of whatever kind which involved pupils in either the Junior or Senior Schools. He was, of course, committed to maximising the potential of each and every pupil, but was genuine in his contempt for one-dimensional measurement of a school's success. Nevertheless, he oversaw a steady rise in exam achievement over his time with us, without ever turning the school into the sort of ruthless exam factory which he so wisely scorned.

Whilst we will remember Mr Walker for these personal qualities that he brought to his work as Headmaster, we must also pay tribute to the way in which he drove forward a programme of developments to the school campus which have left such a permanent legacy for current and future pupils: new laboratories, the Waite Building, the Lawrence House Drama Pavilion, a refurbished Sixth Form Centre and café, the Rowbotham Music Centre and, just before his departure, the Fulford-Brown Sports Centre. These enhancements to the School's facilities stand as a physical testimony to the success of his leadership.

Not content with his achievements as Headmaster, for the last two years of his Headship, he was also Boarding Housemaster, showing, with the support of his wife Sylvia and of his grown-up children James and Claire, the sort of all-round care for the individual which characterised his approach to school teaching.

The protocol of Headship rightly requires a former Head to keep his distance from the school in the years immediately following his departure, but we very much hope that in years to come, we will welcome Douglas Walker back to events at school, just as he warmly welcomed his predecessors. To use a phrase that he himself used every year at the Sixth Form Leavers' Assembly, he will indeed be "always a Kirkhamian", and we wish him and Sylvia a long, happy and restful retirement.

A R Long



STAFF

FRANCINE LANG

Mrs Lang joined KGS in 1997 at very short notice in order to cover for the existing Business Studies teacher. As an NQT this proved an immediate challenge for her but one which she met with her customary dedication and enthusiasm. Numbers in the subject grew under her tutelage and by 2004 further staffing in the department was required.

The Business Studies Department has been notable for its examination success during Mrs Lang's tenure as Head of Department, culminating in recognition in the Good Schools' Guide in 2005 for the standard of A-level results achieved by students. The department has, however, not limited itself solely to examination preparation as new co-curricular initiatives, including visiting speakers and site visits to places such as Universal Products Ltd, Beaverbrooks and other business organisations, have been regular features within the department. Perhaps most memorably a "Go-Ape" visit was organised in the pursuit of 'team building' and initiative. The combination of high quality teaching and sustained levels of interest and enthusiasm has ensured that results have continued to maintain high levels over recent years.

Mrs Lang was also heavily involved in Young Enterprise for a number of years and the group enjoyed considerable success at both local and regional level. As the leader of "Choc for Charity" Mrs Lang was also central to the raising of around £300 a year from equipment freely gained from Cadbury's. Her interests also stretched to a further initiative in co-organising the first "Pop Idol" event at KGS which proved an instant hit and raised a significant sum for charity.

Mrs Lang's contribution to KGS will be missed, not least by the Common Room where she has acted as Treasurer over recent years. She has always been willing to assist in new initiatives while remaining determined that her department always reaches the high standards she aspires to. Many Kirkhamians have much to thank her for.

ANDREW BARRATT

Mr Barratt joined KGS in January, 2003 taking over the Music Department from the highly acclaimed leadership of John Catterall. Mr Barratt had himself already built a fine reputation locally at Queen Mary's School and more latterly at the combined King Edward and Queen Mary School. As Director of Music at both these establishments he had a wealth of experience to bring to KGS and quickly set about building his department around him. Immediately, one sensed the commitment to a breadth of music provision building upon the considerable achievements of his predecessor.

Throughout Mr Barratt's tenure as Director of Music he has ensured a smoothly organised department. Peripatetic teachers and individual music lessons have been arranged without fuss despite the significant administrative burden involved. Numbers opting for the subject have avoided the demise seen in other establishments, while the number of ensembles has increased to include a buoyant swing band



and string group to add to the long standing choir, orchestra and concert band. The level of challenge involved for all the pupils involved in these different groups has increased markedly over recent years and the numbers involved, of all ages, have seen similar movement.

The concerts at KGS have become the highlight of the year with an extraordinary level of performance. Whether it be the newly instigated first and second year concerts, the monthly coffee concerts or the main school events, the pupils always rise to the challenges Mr Barratt sets. They also love what they are doing, which is testimony to the encouragement they receive.

The House Music Competition continues to be a central event in the school year, averaging four hundred entries per annum. The competition is intense but friendly and the recently developed choir "sing off" has been a huge success. Performances by different ensembles at the Guild Hall at different events have provided a showpiece, as did the regular visits of the 'Normandy Band' until its reassignment. Throughout all of these, Mr Barratt has shown a commitment to all musicians and never allowed himself to become too focused on any one aspect.

One of the greatest challenges facing the department was always the poor accommodation provided. Only in his last year has he had a provision worthy of the standard of music performed. His role in the new development was significant and it is hoped that school musicians will now have a home fit for their status in school.

Mr Barratt has always been busy in the local music scene as the leader of the Lytham Choral Society, and their performances with the school choir have rightly been a matter of pride. It must also not be forgotten that Mr Barratt maintained his leadership of the department while undergoing thumb joint replacements, a major step for a pianist. At this time he owed a great debt both to Mr Dalton within the department and to his wife, Pippa, who has played such a central role in supporting him at KGS.

Mr Barratt has come to epitomise music at school and his tutees, and the school as a whole, will miss him as he moves into retirement. He has made a major contribution to pupils' lives at KGS and we all wish him well for the future.



MARGARET SCOTT

Mrs Scott joined KGS in 1997 as Head of Biology from QEGS, Blackburn where she had held various positions of pastoral responsibility and taught Biology to all levels. Upon appointment, Mrs Scott fitted immediately into the KGS ethos and worked tirelessly to make Biology a flagship department. Numbers opting for her subject at both GCSE and A-level have remained strong throughout her tenure as Head of Department. More recently as the subject has been compulsory the results have been outstanding. At A-level, three sets in each year group have been the norm and Mrs Scott has always ensured that the teaching and concern for her pupils is of the highest order. Field trips have been initiated to many different areas and have included different year groups. Visits to Wales, Yorkshire and closer to home have given students an insight into varied aspects of the subject, while her oversight of the environmental pond has allowed work to go on much closer to home on this important topic. The Animal Ark Club was very popular until Health and Safety rules undermined its existence and the younger pupils loved looking after the pets and creepy crawlies. Mrs Scott has always pioneered new developments wherever applicable but never lost sight of the personal touch and her care and concern for her pupils and members of her department have been a hallmark of her leadership.

Outside the classroom, she has enjoyed a full role in the Climbing Club which has grown both in numbers and scope over recent years. With Mr Gaddes, she has ensured a band of student climbers enjoy their experiences both as part of the CCF and as part of the Climbing Club.

Her dedication to KGS and the Biology Department ensures that her presence here will be missed. She has constantly striven for raising attainment but never lost sight of her pupils as individuals. An ideal combination.

CAROLYN COPLAND

Mrs Copland left us in order to take up a new appointment in Merseyside, much closer to home. She has, over the past fourteen years, overseen both the school library and the

archives. Her contribution here has been marked by her eagerness to engage the school community in reading books. Careful choice of stock, boundless enthusiasm for enrichment activities such as visiting authors, Carnegie Award and 'Lambanana' have seen her successful in her quest in a world dominated by electronic devices. Senior librarians learn the basics of managing the library and gain broadly from this increased responsibility. Contributions to the learning opportunities of all pupils have been central to her ethos and Mrs Copland has always been eager to get involved in initiatives such as EPQ or any research/project work undertaken by pupils. Contributions to literacy generally have been ensured by strong links to the English Department. All will miss her determined leadership and helpful advice in all these aspects.

She has also found the time to assist in our Boarding House each week where her help with homework sessions has been invaluable and she has contributed to DoFE awards, being prepared to risk all weathers on expeditions to all parts of the North West. We now wish Mrs Copland well in the next stage of her career.

GRAHAM ECCLES

Also departing this year is Mr Eccles, our DT Technician. Mr Eccles joined us in December 2006 and he very quickly carved a niche for himself in both Senior and Junior Schools. The careful preparation of the work for students and assistance in individual tasks have been the hallmarks of his work. Many GCSE and A-level students have much to thank him for and his contribution in the department will mean a real challenge for his successor. He now retires in order to enjoy his many hobbies and we wish him well in his new life.

This year has also been a busy one for admissions to the KGS family, with Mrs Williams celebrating the arrival of daughter Ginny, Mrs Fyson her son Max and Mrs Everett her daughter Annabelle. All have had spells of maternity leave this year and we congratulate them on their new additions to the family.

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SCHOOL
YEAR
2013



The official opening of the new music centre



Matthew Donaldson representing KGS CCF at the Festival of Remembrance



CCF cadets on field day exercises



KGS pupils receiving their gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards at St. James' Palace

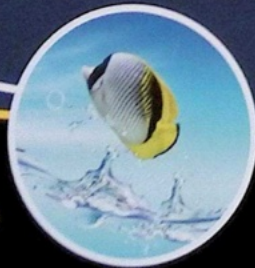


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Scenes from the school play





The junior hockey tour of Holland



Senior rugby tour of South Africa



Junior rugby match



The official opening of the new sports hall



Pupils on the trip to Hadrian's Wall



The fifth form ball



The sixth form ball



The sixth form ball



The sixth form ball

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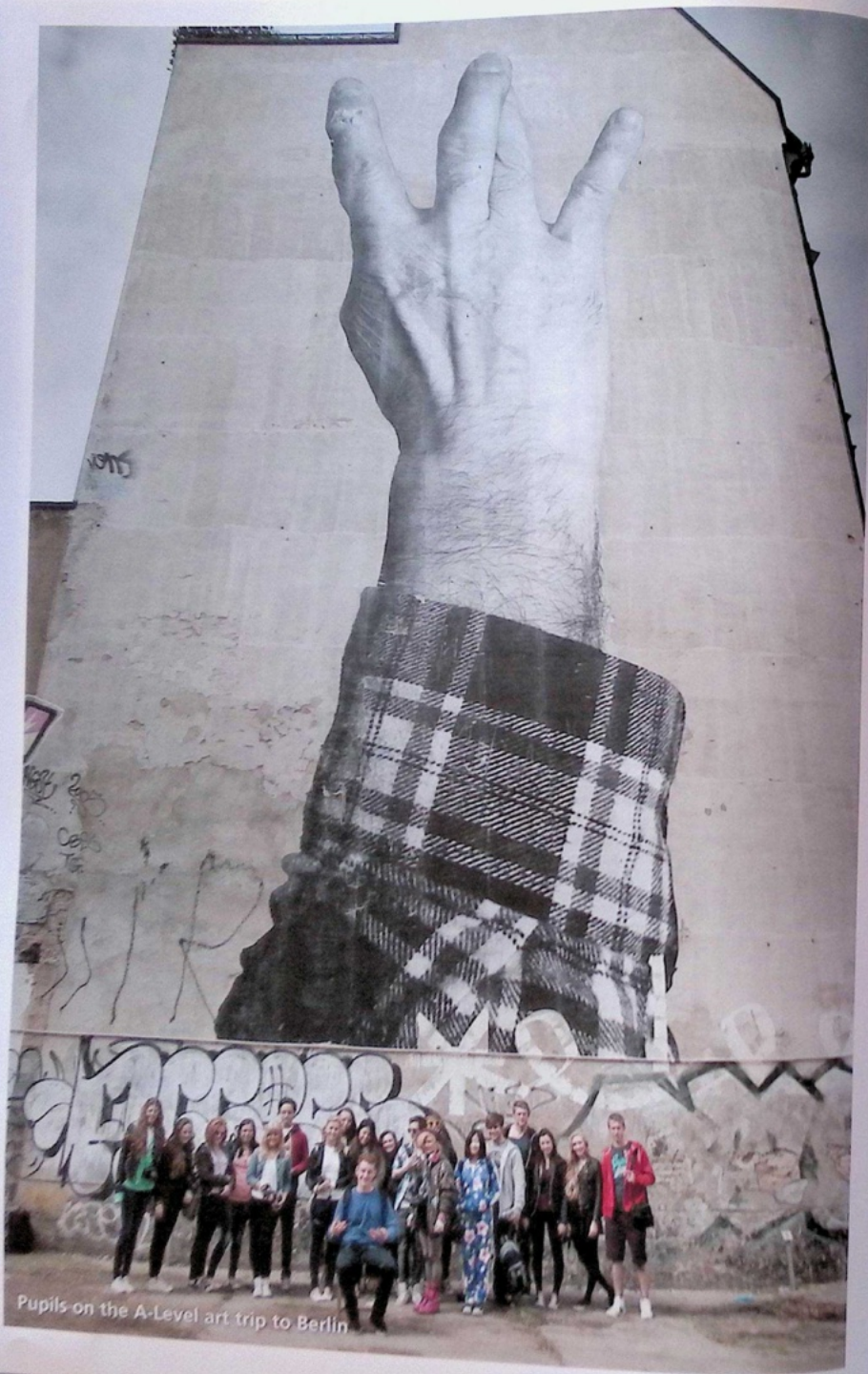
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The members of the boarding house



Pupils on the product design trip to Jaguar



Pupils on the A-Level art trip to Berlin



Finalists at Fylde Rugby Sevens



Pupils taking part in the whole-school sponsored walk



KGS athletes at the Fylde and Wyre Championships



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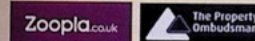
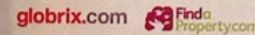
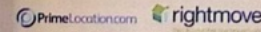
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FRIENDS

Donations from the Friends over 2011/2012 totaled £18,355.98 with donations being made for IT in both Senior and Junior Schools, as well as smaller contributions towards a new PA system, prizes, sports tours and the Sixth Form Ball. Furthermore, we were also able to contribute £15,000 towards the grand piano which was purchased for the new Recital Room in September, 2012. The success of our year was due to the strong leadership of Mrs Lorraine Wareing, the hard work of the committee and volunteers and the wonderful generosity of our parents and friends. Thank you!

We moved into 2012/13 feeling that we had a great deal to live up to. Our target this year was to raise £15,000 for a few smaller yet no less important projects, including defibrillators for both Senior and Junior Schools, music banners and a state of the art interactive white board for Pre-School, to name but a few.

Our Christmas Fair at the end of November certainly seemed to be enjoyed by the children. Special thanks must go to the Junior School children who designed such beautiful chocolate wrappers for donations to the chocolate tombola, and who ran the colour stalls. Fun, games and refreshments were enjoyed in a packed MPH and we were even lucky enough for Father Christmas to call in and see us. Thank you to Vanessa Barrow and her team who organised such a wonderful, festive afternoon.

The Friends of KGS are aptly named as many of our events are based on friendship. Both our Mistletoe Ball and Christmas Ladies' Lunch were examples of friends, old and new, joining together to enjoy delicious food in beautiful surroundings. It is lovely to see new friendships made at these events, as we do try to seat parents of similar-aged children together, so please do not think that you have to be part of a big group to come along.

We enjoyed a wonderful start to the festive season at our Ball at the Villa and Singleton Lodge saw us return for a lunch towards the end of term. Both Christmas celebrations were a big success and I thank Jaine Burnie and her team for the Ball organisation, and Yvonne Malings and Sam Wilson

for their work on the lunches, not only at Christmas but throughout the year.

A relatively new initiative, which is now firmly entrenched in our calendar, is "Bags2School", which raised a significant sum over the last year.

The spring and summer terms are traditionally a busy time for the Friends and this year has proved no exception. We thought that we would ring the changes this year. The Spring Fair was held at the Junior School towards the end of April in place of the Summer Fun Day which was traditionally held at the Senior School in May. We were blessed with a bright, sunny, blustery day which allowed us to stage the event exclusively out of doors. The usual bouncy castle, slides, tombola and toy stalls were joined by craft stalls and such games as "Beat the Goalie", a horse racing game, lucky dips and "Guess the Name of the large cuddly Teddy", to name but a few. As always, the BBQ proved popular with the gorgeous smelling beef-burgers and hot dogs. As well as these, the cakes, the Pimm's, the tea stall and the ice-cream lady kept everybody refreshed for the afternoon. The atmosphere in the playground was happy, smiley and full of fun, which is just what we hoped for. In addition, the event raised just over £2,000, which is fantastic. Many of the games and stalls were arranged and run by the children themselves, their families and teachers, as well as the members and families of the Friends. My thanks go to



The Kirkhamian 2013

everyone who contributed to make the day such a success, and particularly to Mrs Annie Ward and her team of helpers, who did such a terrific job of planning and organising the fair. It is no easy task to pull it all together, and it was such a lovely afternoon that I am sure we will repeat the event in the same way next year.

The Friends' event of the summer term was the Forget-Me-Not Summer Ball. As ever, we are proud that our special night could be held in a marquee on the school lawn and that we could enjoy live music and delicious food in a truly magically decorated setting. Mrs Jaine Burnie and her team did an amazing job this year to ensure that this event was memorable - thank you all. Obviously, this year's ball was an especially poignant one for us, as it was the last that we will be celebrating with Mr Walker as our Headmaster. Mr and Mrs Walker have both been active members of the Friends during their time at KGS, and their support, guidance and contribution have been invaluable to us over that time. We would like to express our sincere thanks to both Mr and Mrs Walker and wish them a long and happy retirement.

In addition to these two events, we managed to squeeze in a Ladies' Lunch at Bartle Hall. It is always nice to catch up with friends for a couple of hours and know that we are raising money at the same time. My thanks to Mrs Yvonne Malings and Mrs Sam Wilson for making sure that these lunches take place every term.

We are always trying to think of new ways to raise funds

within the Friends Team and so I wanted to introduce you to a new initiative.

If you shop online you can now benefit the Friends of Kirkham Grammar School at no extra cost to you by registering at easyfundraising.org.uk. For every purchase you make at a selection of over 2,000 retailers (including Amazon, ASOS, John Lewis, Marks and Spencer, Next, Play.com, Tesco, Waitrose) via easyfundraising.org.uk you will raise a donation for the Friends of Kirkham Grammar School. You simply need to select "Friends of Kirkham Grammar School" as the cause that you would like to support. Please spread the word!

Another way that you can help us is to become involved in our fundraising events, whether by passing new ideas to us or by helping in the preparation, or on the day, of our fundraisers. All help and ideas are gratefully received.

We also support school where we can in any particular initiatives taking place, like the whole school sponsored walk in aid of Alastair Carter. Here we were pleased to be able to offer refreshments to the walkers. We can always benefit from extra help at such events, so please let us know if you would like to be placed on our "helpers' list".

I must thank all the FKG committee for their tireless work over the last school year and for their support to me personally in my first year as chair.

Michelle O'Neill



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LIBRARY NEWS

During the autumn term, the pupils at KGS were fortunate to meet G.R. Taylor, the best-selling author of the Shadowmancer series and other supernatural and Gothic adventure stories. His work has been compared to that of C S Lewis and he combines fantasy, mysticism and reality, together with very scary villains. He now writes screenplays for films and television series and is currently involved with the production of "Maniah Mundi", adapted from his best-selling book.

During his visit to school on Monday, 24 September, he spoke to all the first year pupils and held two writing workshops for older pupils. He combined humorous reminiscences with practical advice on how to create realistic characters, stressing the need to make the characters believable – even villains should have some redeeming features!



The audience spent much of the time laughing as he spoke about his 'exploits' at school and how he struggled because of his problems with reading. His description of how he became a reader, thanks to the intervention of a truly fearsome school librarian, has caused Mrs Copland to consider changing her strategy! He worked in the music industry before becoming a policeman and then being ordained into the Anglican priesthood, where he was much in demand as an exorcist. He told some wonderful ghost stories, which elicited screams from the audience.

Waterstones brought copies of his books in to school and these proved very popular with the pupils, who then had them signed by the author himself.

World Book Day

This annual event is always held on the first Thursday in March. The focus here at KGS is on storytelling, celebrating the rich diversity of literature across continents and time. The difference this year was that it was held in the Recital Room rather than in the Library. Timetable changes meant that there were fewer suitable 'slots' for the classes and one lesson saw four classes coming in for a story. The physical space cannot accommodate these numbers so Mr Barratt and Mr Dalton kindly gave permission for the event to be held in this wonderful new room. It felt strange not moving

library shelves and furniture but it was so nice to have the space just next door! The pupils enjoy the opportunity of relaxing while enjoying a wide variety of storytelling and their positive feedback is proof that the culture of reading is alive and well here at KGS.

This year there were contributions from Mrs Heney, Mr Painter, Mrs Parkinson, Mrs Atkinson, Mr Wheatland, Mr Partington and Mrs Copland. Mrs Parkinson brought in ropes, crampons, ice axes and other climbing equipment, which added to the atmosphere as she read Ranulph Fiennes' description of attempts on the north face of the Eiger. The Hunger Games and The Hobbit were well-received by the audience and the humour of Roald Dahl led to requests to borrow his short stories.

The school has had a subscription to Britannica Online for many years and this wonderful resource can be accessed from school and from home. Every encouragement is given to the pupils to use this in preference to Wikipedia, as it is both current and reliable.

Parents and pupils can access this resource via the Library pages on the school website; open ONLINE RESOURCES, click on and type in your child's name in lower case, using this format: h.potter

Book Club

This group continues to go from strength to strength. Our reading this academic year has included 'The Hobbit' by JRR Tolkien, 'Department 19' by Will Hill, 'The Woman in Black' by Susan Hill, 'The Hardy Boys Book 1' by F W Dixon and 'A Monster Calls' by Patrick Ness. The members met for the summer meeting in early June and decided that they want to keep the group going next year. Their final choices were 'The Spook's Apprentice' by Joseph Delaney, 'Ice Station' by Matthew Reilly and 'The Apothecary' by M Meloy.

A Chance To Meet Sophie Mckenzie At Baines School, 19 March

Not long after World Book Day, our pupils had an opportunity to visit Baines School, Poulton-le-Fylde, to listen to Sophie McKenzie. She is the author of the award-winning Young Adult 'Missing' series (Girl, Missing; Sister, Missing; Missing Me) as well as Blood Ties and Blood Ransom.

Her books are very popular and she is an engaging and inspirational speaker. Our pupils were able to purchase copies of her books, which were then signed by her.

Carnegie Award 2013

For the second successive year there were eight books on the shortlist and our judging took place on 17th June, with the official result announced on Wednesday, 20th June. The judging meeting consisted of pupils from all year groups and it was wonderful to welcome back Kathryn Minn, who has shadowed Carnegie again in spite of not being in school this year. Charlie Bradbury and Theo Randall brought in cakes, which were enjoyed by all those able to take part.

We held our meeting in the Library and a lively discussion took place. We all agreed that the variety and quality of writing was good, although the shortlist was not considered to be up to last year's high standard. The clear winner for our favourite book was "Code Name Verity" by a new author, Elizabeth Wein. This tells the story of two young women who become best friends during World War II. One is a Scottish aristocrat, the other a young girl from Manchester. One is a pilot, the other an agent for the Special Operations

Executive. A vital mission goes wrong and one of the friends has to bail out of a faulty plane over France. She is captured by the Gestapo and becomes a prisoner of war. The story begins in "Verity's" own words, as she writes her account for her captors. Is her account truth or lies, honour or betrayal? This book is a 'must read' for those who love a good 'meaty' novel written from an unusual viewpoint.

Applying the judging criteria of the Award our winner was "Wonder", another debut novel. It tells the story of a ten-year-old boy who has been born with a terrible facial deformity and has been home-schooled. Sent to a real school, Auggie has to cope with the stares and cruelty of the outside world and a sly and insidious bully. Our readers said it reminded them of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time" by Mark Haddon. They felt that the story was powerful and descriptive, with a fascinating central character

And the actual winner? Well – the Carnegie judges have done it again and chosen the wrong book, in the view of our readers! Our panel voted 'Maggot Moon' one of the strangest books they have ever read. It is a dystopian novel with a difference. A ruthless regime is determined to beat its enemies in the race to the moon. When his best friend Hector is suddenly taken away, Standish Treadwell realises that it is up to him, his grandfather and a small band of rebels to confront and defeat the ever-present oppressive forces of the Motherland. The subject matter and terminology suggests that it is placed in Russia but the actual place is kept deliberately vague and this annoyed several of our readers. It was NOT a popular winner here at KGS!

It will be interesting to see what appears on the shortlist next year – but one thing is certain. KGS pupils will 'shadow' with

enthusiasm and will continue to prove that books are not dead! The quality and quantity of children's literature grows each year and it is so rewarding to see our pupils enjoying the richness of modern literature. Year on year, the Carnegie Shadowing Group has grown in numbers and enthusiasm.

And finally...

On a personal note, I would like to thank the many pupils and their parents who have shown me so much support and encouragement during my fourteen years at KGS. I have been privileged to meet some amazing young people whose company has lightened up many a gloomy day and who have enriched my life in so many ways. Parents have supported author visits, the Book Club, trips to book shops and even a visit to London for a book launch at the Royal Institution. The memories are many but very varied: DoF trips in freezing weather, wet weather, hot weather – in fact, every type of weather known in Britain; meeting authors such as Joseph Delaney and Patrick Ness; sharing ideas and suggestions of good authors and good reads; spontaneous political and ethical discussions with sixth form students; even a resident Superlambanana! Much remains to be done in the Library, not least the active use of Web 2.0 technology (which was to have been my project in September) and the digitisation of the school archives. These challenges will now fall to other people and I wish them well.

As I move on to a fresh challenge at a primary school I would like to paraphrase Bruce Forsyth... "Keeeeeep reading!"

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CHARITY

Throughout the year many causes were supported and our school community responded well to the different challenges and appeals.

In September, we support ActionAid, helping towards the education of three children – one in India, one in Guatemala and one in Nigeria - and also towards development projects in their villages.

In October, our regular visitor from Lepra, Mrs Jackie Fairbairn, returned to school and spoke movingly in assembly about the effects of leprosy and appealed to our first years to take part in a sponsored zumba session. And how well they responded! Once again over £1000 was raised and what fun was had by those taking part, and particularly a group of first year boys who threw themselves into the dancing and had a tremendous time.

In November, our thoughts turned to Remembrance Day and our collections were sent to the British Legion to help support their work with service men and women.

As ever, our Christmas 'KGS has Talent' charity concert attracted a large number of entries and Mr Rushton and Mrs John worked hard to whittle these down to the eventual finalists. The concert, held on the final Monday of the Autumn term, was once again an excellent occasion. The whole school packed into the MPH to see the array of talent and a first class time was had by all. All who volunteered to take part should be rightly proud of themselves as the standard was exceptionally high. Special mention should go to Oliver Carpenter and Gus Graham who have featured in all the concerts for six years now and who were worthy winners. The concert, together with the non-uniform day, raised over £1000 which was divided between Brian House, the children's hospice in Blackpool, and Crisis at Christmas which provides food, accommodation and support for the homeless.

Throughout the year, many cake sales were arranged by individuals, forms or year groups to support charities close to their hearts.

It is, however, the regular Friday collection, week in, week out, that is the foundation of our charity work and the continued support and response towards this is much appreciated by all those who benefit from our willingness to share.

Swimathon

A group of nine pupils (Todd Davies, Danny Davies, Ben Everson, Rob Lavelle, Will Lockhart, Hadley Price, Alex Kearsley, Harriet Price and Hannah Butler) completed the Lions Club Swimathon in aid of the Lions Charities on Sunday, 27 January. The swimmers completed 180 laps in the fifty minutes, raising £400 overall. As a consequence of their efforts the Lions Club are to donate a defibrillator to school to add to the one already funded by the Friends.

Both Senior and Junior School will now be fully equipped and the grant includes staff training also. Sincere thanks go to all those involved for an excellent contribution to the community.

Salvation Army

3Y decided that they wanted to raise money for the Salvation Army once again. The pupils decided to sell sweets and each pupil in the form would spend £5 on a gift which they would wrap and label. The form raised over £100 and, on the last day of term, Mrs Glover took three members of the form to hand over the money and the two big sacks of presents.

The staff at the Salvation Army were very appreciative and they showed our pupils the preparation room for Christmas and gave them examples of families struggling to live, never mind enjoy Christmas. This was indeed a very humbling experience for all of the form.

Sixth Form

The generosity of sixth formers in the tutor group 6JS has meant that a number of charities have benefited over recent months. £52.50 was raised for "Save the Children" fund and £55 was collected for "Back Up" (a charity helping young people who have severe spinal injuries). The tutees also helped to collect over 170 cans of dog and cat food from staff and sixth form students which was donated to Easterleigh Animal Sanctuary at the end of the Christmas term.

Gemma Coleman and Celia Hindley held a coffee and cake event for Amnesty International in the Old Hall during the morning break and raised an amazing £150.

Whole School Sponsored Walk, June 28th 2013

A far-from-summery day at the end of summer term saw the school undertake a logistically challenging but ultimately uplifting and inspirational 20 kilometre sponsored walk in support of a former pupil who has suffered a particularly cruel misfortune. We had learned earlier in the year that Alastair Carter (KGS leaver in 2008) had been the victim of a hit and run accident whilst cycling, which has left him substantially paralysed and in need of significant adaptations to his home, a modified wheelchair and other specialist equipment in order to resume an independent life and his job in the IT industry.

Assistant Head of Sixth Form Mr Mark Gaddes, who knew and taught Alastair, felt that this presented an opportunity for the school to undertake a sponsored challenge in order to raise some of the much-needed funds, whilst at the same time providing a chance for the whole school community to pull together as a team in response to such a deserving cause. Mr Gaddes devised a 20 kilometre circular route along the coastal path between Lytham Green and Squires Gate,



and, together with a team of colleagues, set about devising a plan which would allow pupils of all ages to be transported, supervised, fed and watered whilst undertaking the walk, sponsored by friends and family.

As Friday dawned with pouring rain across the Fylde, and with a second weather front poised out at sea ready to attack the coast, we all wondered whether it was going to prove to be a disaster. As things turned out, it proved to be quite the reverse - a day which left pupils, teachers, support staff and parents with that rare but precious feeling of a job well done, with adversity conquered and an overwhelming sense of pride and achievement.

In the morning, the rain stopped for a couple of hours as the older pupils, joined by former students from Alastair's year group and some upper sixth and fifth years currently on exam leave, set off northwards from the Beach Café on St Anne's Promenade. By the time the fleet of coaches, provided by our school transport contractors Coastal and Holmeswood, had returned with the younger pupils to start their shorter walk along the southern part of the route, School Captain Ben Everson, a long-distance runner of proven international class, had completed the 20 kilometre course in a remarkable 1 hour 13 minutes. He obviously knew the rain was coming back with a vengeance. And how right he was!

And yet, in a strange sort of way, the increasingly foul weather somehow enhanced the sense of achievement. First of all in ones and twos, and then soon in wave after wave, boys and girls, 11-year-olds to 18-year-olds, appeared through the driving rain, soaked to the skin despite their waterproof clothing, tired but elated and smiling. As they checked in at the finish line with Head of Sixth Form Mr Long, Alastair himself was on the phone from his desk at work in London to thank some of them personally. A sense of togetherness was on show everywhere: the parents of Alastair's fiancée, Heather Morgenroth (KGS leaver in 2007), who was herself severely injured in a separate cycling accident a year earlier, completed the walk with the pupils and a number of members of the teaching and support staff; a group of mums from the Friends provided free sweets and drinks at the halfway mark and at the finish; parents and grandparents were on hand at various points along the route to lend support and encouragement; a young couple, unconnected with the school, out for a walk to celebrate their own engagement, heard the story of what we were doing for this other engaged couple and handed £10 to a member of staff on Lytham Green; and, perhaps most touchingly, an elderly lady in the Beach Café emptied the



80p worth of loose change from her purse into the hands of another teacher, apologising that she was unable to spare any more. Truly, a modern-day version of the widow's mite!

The coaches returned everyone safe and sound back to school, and everyone concerned felt that a day without lessons in the classroom had, in fact, taught us far more powerful and important lessons: about caring for those in need, supporting and encouraging one another in adversity, and overcoming discomfort in pursuit of a worthwhile goal.

Blackpool Marathon

Laura Pitkethly, a school secretary at KGS, completed the Blackpool Marathon in 3 hours and 52 mins on Sunday 7 April and raised around £1,896 for Brian House. She would like to say a huge thank you to everyone at KGS - staff, students, parents and friends who so kindly donated to the charity and supported her by holding cake sales and raffles. She was also so lucky to have lots of people give up their precious time to come along on the day to cheer her on.





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MUSIC

The Music Department at Kirkham Grammar School continues to enjoy its new rooms and find new ways to benefit from them. The five practice rooms are in constant use as musicians are able to practise to their hearts content without disturbing each other. The visiting music staff continue to work in these rooms which afford an optimum environment for tuition. The Recital Room continues to be the scene of rehearsals for the school's major ensembles and affords a wonderful space in which to make, and listen to music. The recent addition of high specification audio-visual equipment will give the department additional avenues to explore in the future as we seek to integrate an enhanced visual dimension to certain performances.

The first coffee concert of the year saw various members of staff demonstrate their undoubted musical talents, much to the delight of the students who comprised much of the audience. The second Thursday in February gave the second form a chance to display their talents as many of them delighted us with a wide ranging assortment of performances in the Recital Room. The next coffee concert was given by the combined forces of the first and second year students who really showed what a prospect they are in a wonderfully varied programme. Late March gave the senior choir their annual chance to enhance the school's Founders' Day service. Not only did they lead the musical side of worship, usually in four part harmony, but they performed music by John Rutter delivered to their customary high standard. April saw the combined choirs of Kirkham Grammar School join forces with the Lytham St Annes Choral Society in a performance of John Rutter's 'Requiem' and Karl Jenkins' 'Peacemakers', together with an invited orchestra. This again provided our students with a wonderful opportunity to enhance their musical experience and enrich their musical lives. Another highlight of the year has to be the Spring Concert in May. The orchestra, string group, concert band, swing band, senior choir and various



groups and individuals thrilled the audience with some really fine performances. Orchestral standards, Broadway musicals, film themes, contemporary choral and toe-tapping jazz filled the balmy evening air, delighting a clearly appreciative audience. Congratulations to all the performers, your teachers would have been proud of you!

The spring term also saw the annual house music festival return. Mr Barratt and Mr Dalton again had the onerous responsibility of listening to well over four hundred students, either as groups or as individuals, as they sought to secure points for their house and perhaps even win through to the final. It is a real testament to the school's commitment to music that so many of the student body chose to participate. Once the initial auditions were over, it all came down to a



Wednesday in early March and the final. Mr Tim Barratt was the adjudicator for the day and he had the unenviable job of selecting a winner. After an intriguing and exhausting day, Elliott Gaston-Ross was pronounced the winner for the second year in a row, an incredible achievement for someone who was only in the third year! He was pushed all the way by Hannah Culver who was runner-up in a thrilling final. The Gala Concert in late March gave us all a chance to hear the winners and those who were highly commended; it was a truly wonderful evening with some outstanding playing. The house choir competition again took the form of a 'sing off', with the four house choirs doing battle in open forum, one in each corner, ably directed by their sixth form arrangers/conductors. The standard was very good indeed and, in a close fought contest, Fylde House emerged triumphant. Congratulations to all the finalists, all of whom were so accomplished in their own individual ways.

Many of our musicians were examined by the Associated Board of the Royal School of Music in March and June of this year, the culmination of many months of lessons and hours of personal practice. I am pleased to report that they were all successful, many of them passing their exams with merit or distinction, and that at the higher grades too. It comes as no surprise that many of these musicians continue to represent the school in the Lancashire County ensembles, and a few at national level.

Mr Barratt retired from teaching at the end of the academic year. His visionary leadership of the Music Department over the past ten years has overseen the broadening of music making and the expansion of instrumental participation. He has pursued academic excellence, together with very high performance standards, and has imbued a love of music in all who have been fortunate enough to have been taught by him or to have worked with him. He will be sorely missed by his colleagues in the department and the students he has encouraged and motivated over the years. He leaves a legacy of excellence, a love of music, and a sure footing upon which the department can advance.

By way of conclusion, it is with great delight that I congratulate Elliott Gaston-Ross on attaining a permanent position in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. These positions are highly sought after and competition is extremely fierce. Only the very best young players in the country are considered, never mind appointed. This is a fantastic achievement!

2014 awaits, with its many new opportunities to immerse ourselves in music-making, and I trust that pupils and parents alike will continue to lend your much valued support to our young musicians as they continue to enrich our school with their talents.

P R Dalton

MUSIC HONOURS 2012/2013

Lancashire Youth Symphony Orchestra:	Aimee Bilborrow	(Oboe)
	Hannah Culver	(Violin)
National Children's Orchestra:	Alexandra Clarke	(Flute)
Yorkshire Youth Brass Band:	Elizabeth Brocklehurst	(Trombone)
National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain:	Elliott Gaston-Ross	(Percussion)

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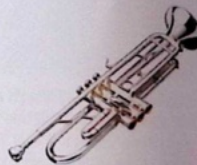
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NEW MUSIC CENTRE

KGS celebrated the official opening of the new Music Centre on 29 February, 2013, marking the completion of another phase of development at the school. The Music Centre has added a new recital room, technology suite, interactive classrooms and first class practice facilities. Music plays such a large role in the life of the school and it is wonderful that all our musicians now have the facilities they deserve. The Chairman of Governors, Mr. Russell Dawson, outlined that the new development represented a key part of a long term vision for the school.

The Centre was opened by Lynne Dawson, international soprano. Mrs Dawson has enjoyed a highly successful singing career, performing as a soloist with the BBC singers at the funeral of Lady Diana, Princess of Wales in September 1997. She is currently head of Vocal and Opera Studies at the Royal Northern College, as well as the University of York and a Professor at Leeds College of Music. To have such a prestigious name to open our new Centre was a privilege and it is also fitting that the Centre has been named in recognition of the work of someone who has devoted so much time and energy to the School and who always held it so close to her heart.

The new Music Centre is now fully operational and used by school ensembles and is also available for use by the community upon request.

Professor Barbara Robotham

The Robotham Music Centre is named in recognition of the work of Professor Barbara Robotham, a governor at KGS for almost thirty years. As a past Chair of Governors, Professor Robotham made an enormous contribution to the success of KGS but she also enjoyed a highly successful career both in teaching singing at the Royal Northern College of Music as well as coaching many of the world's top performers in opera studios as widespread as Amsterdam, Munich and Chicago. An international singer herself, appearing at the Proms and other prestigious venues around the world, she was honoured with a fellowship of the Royal Manchester College of Music, Royal Northern College of Music and UCLAN.

Sadly, Professor Barbara Robotham died during the summer. She was a fierce advocate for the musical life of the school and played a significant part in the creation of the new Music Suite, which was consequently named in her honour. Her legacy was further enhanced in her bequeathing her beloved Yamaha grand piano to the school. This fabulous instrument now resides in the Recital Room which bears her name. It will stand as a reminder of all she has been to generations of musicians at Kirkham and will serve as a prized asset for future recitals.



DRAMA

The stage is a magic circle where only the most realistic things happen. For many of us, drama is life only with the dull bits cut out. But you soon come to learn that, when taking part in the performances, drama is no longer a hobby, you have now got to develop it into an art. You soon learn this when you are handed an acting part. No matter how big or small a part you have, you are crucial to the play. You find it hard to balance school life, a social life and extra-curricular activities on the side, but on the last night, after you have given blood, sweat and tears, you tend to look back and want to go through the hours of rehearsals all over again.

Many people would be confused about this, but it is such a great feeling to be handed a part in the play. Whether you are Egeus or Hermia, you are honoured that you have been selected as one of the few to represent the school with something you adore. You do not have to be a sportsman, you do not have to be a genius, acting is for those who live outside the boundaries of everyday life and who wish to contribute to society through entertainment.

The first rehearsal is always tense, especially when you are new. You do not know who will turn up and you do not know what is going to happen, much like a first day at school, but this insecurity is soon met with a great warmth

as Ms Barrie welcomes you all and you introduce yourselves to one another, soon forming that bond of being a theatre company. Of course you cannot ignore the duller moments, such as learning lines, but looking back on my time in the school performances it is not the sitting there, with my mum, for hours on end learning line after line that sticks in the memory but the standing on stage and receiving a thundering applause for what I have just done.

But people ask me time after time "Are you nervous?" and my answer this year was "No!" I was not lying, but if you had asked me when doing Macbeth, when I was a more inexperienced actor, you would not have needed to ask me the question, only look at me. It is nerve-wracking to perform to hundreds of people in a language which is hard to understand but once that first line has rolled off your tongue, you have broken the ice and you are on a high for the rest of the week.

It is a great honour to be in the play. You can only take away good memories, despite weeks of pure stress and you soon realise after that first night what it was all for. I have tried my best to tell you what it is like for an actor at this school but I can guarantee this is only a small part of our story, and if you come to see the play, or be part of it, you will soon find out a lot more!

Josh Burrows (Lower Sixth)



LONDON ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DRAMATIC ARTS AWARDS 2012/2013

DISTINCTION:

Lewis Andrews	Lewis Holden
Arnit Bahra	Rachel Howard
Geena Barlow	Lillian Ip
Heather Barnes	Nina Langley
Charlotte Bell	Elsie Linley
Andrew Best	Lydia Lythgoe
Elizabeth Brocklehurst	Freyja Powell
Clark Brydon	Andrew Sanderson
Rebecca Chatwin	Thomas Scott
Grace Cook	Ella Townsend
Sophie Coplestone	Sophie Warden
Jamie Curran	

ACTING MEDALS:

Andrew Best	Gold Medal
Joel Brakewell	Gold Medal
Harriet Middleton	Gold Medal
Alice Allen	Silver Medal
Catherine Beesley	Silver Medal
Rachel Howard	Silver Medal
Elizabeth Jenkinson	Silver Medal
Elsie Linley	Silver Medal
Nicole Wainwright	Silver Medal
Charlotte Whittle	Silver Medal
Kristen Alexander	Bronze Medal
Lewis Andrews	Bronze Medal
Ruby Barrie	Bronze Medal
Charlotte Bell	Bronze Medal
Luke Fuentes-Moreno	Bronze Medal
Olivia Fuller	Bronze Medal
Nina Langley	Bronze Medal
Elizabeth Myers	Bronze Medal

PUBLIC SPEAKING:

Lewis Holden	Gold Medal
Thomas Hunter	Bronze Medal
Emily Shea	Bronze Medal

VERSE AND PROSE SPEAKING:

Vivian Cheng	Bronze Medal
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HOUSE REPORTS 2013



FYLDE HOUSE

We started the year on a high following victory in the previous year's Whitby Cup, and there was a great deal of optimism in the House when we all got together for the first time. Gemma Broomhead, Maddie Robinson, Jack Smith and Dom Basley were the house captains and, with their leadership combined with the genuine array of talent in the house, I was quietly optimistic that we would have an enjoyable and competitive year.

However, for the second year running, we had rather a slow start as we lost out to Preston in the semi-finals of the senior quiz. Clearly, the Preston team did very well, but we did feel rather unfortunate with the questions! Liam Marrows, Andrew Collins, Gemma Coleman and Lydia Gascoigne did very well under the circumstances. We did fare better in the junior quiz and the team of Louis Johnson, Michael Caton, Theo Randall and Daniel Turner did well to beat Preston 30-27 in their semi-final, scoring particularly well in the individual question round, before convincingly beating School in the final.

The senior basketball competition set down a marker for the other houses in terms of the quality of our senior boys. We started off by beating Preston easily and then edged School. The final game against Kirkham was a wonderful contest that we dominated but for one of the Kirkham players playing brilliantly. The game ended in a 12-12 draw but, due to superior points difference, we were crowned worthy champions. Nick Riding, Jack Smith, Sam Hargreaves, Andrew Collins, John Windle, Rob Lavelle, Rob Lockhart, Will Lockhart and James Penrose played well and in the right spirit.

The intermediate basketball competition did not see as much success in terms of points scored, but the boys played well and tried really hard. The squad rotated well and played for each other, but did not quite have the skills and physicality to match the other teams.

The chess competition saw us gain a nail-biting victory: Harry Mason on senior board 1 and Theo Randall on junior board 1 both won their games quickly and easily. Charlie Bradbury and Josh Eastham played well but both narrowly lost. So all

the pressure and attention focussed on senior boards 2 and 3. Andrew Collins gained a very good draw, after having been placed under immense pressure. In the pick of the games, Michael Lewthwaite's patient tactics meant that, despite a slow start, he slowly began to dominate his opponent, gaining a very exciting win 3.5 to 2.5 points.

The senior netball competition did not play itself out, but the juniors were dominant. With a 4-3 victory over Preston in the semi-final, the squad of Ellie Moss, Maddy Fox, Beth Preston, Georgia Seed-Ashton, Cammy Spector, Hannah Fingleton, Beth Heatley, Olivia Corcoran and Lucy Keelan went on to score a 10-1 victory over School in the final on a freezing lunchtime, with some excellent shooting from Olivia Corcoran.

In the volleyball competition a surprise loss to Kirkham to set things off frightened the team into action. After that, straightforward wins against Preston and School won the tournament for us, with Fylde's trademark squad rotation giving many players a game.

The junior hockey semi-final against Kirkham was a straightforward 5-0 victory. There was some great play and leadership from the more senior girls and we had three first years playing which bodes well for the future.

The term concluded with the usually competitive swimming gala. This year we were so close to School House, but were placed second overall. All age groups did their bit, and some great character was shown, particularly from some of the junior girls. We were as competitive as ever and, but for a mix up in one of the relays, we might have gained first place. However, we swam well and, as always, the competitors must be thanked for their willingness to compete in what is a hotly contested event at the end of a long term. Maddie Robinson, Harriet Price, Rob and Will Lockhart, Hadley and Haydn Price in particular swam well.

As always, the cross country is a fraught experience and really does show the character of some members of the house. The last runner in an event is often as important as a first place and 'every little helps'. The junior boys did their best and came a creditable third, with Niall Higham, Sam Minton, Boone Maher and Nathan Wood giving their all. The junior girls came first, with a good mix of second years (Rachel Greenwood and Maddy Fox) running with a number of first years (Georgia Blakemore and Lucie Ethell).

The intermediates had mixed fortunes, with the boys being placed fourth and the girls coming in first. Lucy Keelan was placed first in the competition and Cammy Spector, Chloe Taylor, Josie Coffey, Fiona Lockhart and Sian Atkinson were not far behind, pipping School with 53 points to 58. The senior boys were once again dominant and came first. Hadley Price came third, Sam Norris fourth, Rob Lockhart fifth, James Penrose ninth, Rob Lavelle thirteenth and Nick Riding fifteenth. The senior girls' race was a great effort, with some people who 'shouldn't' have run doing so and people genuinely ran for the House. Heather Crook and Gemma Broomhead came first and second and the efforts of Gemma Coleman were so important.

On paper we should not have been competing for the shooting title and so this turned out to be Ben Mason, Nicola Seechurn and James Penrose came in third place, only 2 points behind Preston. The team shot well, but did not

quite have the experience to better the other teams. Gemma Coleman and Lydia Gascoigne debated with wit and thought on the subject of 'Action Man' and were unlucky not to be put through against the Kirkham pair. Both houses were very evenly matched.

We were determined to hang on to our House Music crown after we had fought so hard to wrestle it away from Kirkham the previous year, and we knew that all the other houses would be out to topple us. We once again had excellent participation - and both quantity and quality, and I thank all those who did their bit, however big or small. Special mention should be made of the finalists: Gemma Broomhead - voice, Clark Brydon - piano, Lydia Gascoigne - voice, Tom Newton - trumpet, Jess Riley - piano and Julian Shield - trumpet. Also, in the ensemble final we had Sophia Coplestone, Jess Riley, Gemma Coleman, Gemma Broomhead, Lydia Gascoigne and Richard Bennett. We once again won the House Choir competition as well as the main music competition. Gemma Broomhead in particular should look back on this time with much personal pride.

Following the highs of the House Music, we came back to earth with a bump in the senior hockey competition and, despite playing well and with a genuine 'Corinthian Spirit', we ended up in fourth place. However, we did play with a fantastic spirit and enjoyed the competition. The term ended with a third place in the first year Maths competition and a first place in the second year Maths competition. Special mention must be made of Theo Randall who, for the second year running, excelled in this competition.

The summer term always starts with the Sports Day prelims and many lunchtimes were spent completing the many field and some track events that needed to be done before Sports Day itself. This time of the year shows just how much the P.E. department do in order to make the house events occur and it is also a time when the pressure really is on the house captains. Maddie Robinson, Gemma Broomhead, Dom Basley and Jack Smith showed exactly why they were selected, and their organisational skills and commitment were on show. Rob Lockhart excelled in the field and eventually won the senior boys' Victor Ludorum. Nick Coleman, Charlie Abbot, Josh Keelan and Bailey Harwood were excellent. The intermediate boys won the relay, setting a new school record and Luke Lund, George Parkinson, Josh Keelan and Charlie Abbott ran as a team. The senior boys also won their relay, with Henry Hargreaves, Will Lockhart, Rob Lockhart and Rob Lavelle forming a great quartet. Rob Lavelle also won the 200m. Hannah Lewthwaite and Mia Bucklow ran the 1500m with great attitude. Rachel Greenwood broke the school record for the junior girl discus, and Charlie Abbott won the intermediate boys' Victor Ludorum. A very telling statistic on Sports Day was that of the four houses we had the least number of first places (a long way behind School House) and also the least number of second places. However, we had by far and away the greatest total of third places. It is always important to do your bit!

In the senior cricket we had a comfortable victory over School in the semi-final. Batting first we made 149 in 15 overs with some good batting. James Penrose timed his shots very well and Jack Smith, Rob Lavelle, Sam Hargreaves and Will Lockhart scored a lot of boundaries. A depleted School side batted valiantly and it took a while to find a

breakthrough. However, once Will Lockhart eventually trapped their opener lbw, a straightforward victory ensued and the game finished in a great spirit, with some of the boarders being introduced to the joys of the game. We were beaten in the final. Harry Mason's first shot hit the centre of his bat but went straight to mid-on. James Penrose was in good form until Ryan Powell bowled a devastating over and we were all out for 61. Despite some good bowling from Andrew Collins and James Penrose, we had too small a lead to defend and eventually lost.

We also came second in the junior cricket. We were set 108 as a target thanks to good bowling from a number of players, led by Nathan Wood, Ed Bailey, Jamie Smith, Joe Shield and Callum Hughes. Rather quiet in the field, we should have made a few catches which would have limited Kirkham to around 90. Luckily, some steady batting at the top and middle of the order led by the skill of Gabriel Bland, and a magnificent 53 not out from Nathan Wood, ensured that we won with the last bowl of the penultimate over. However, we were soundly beaten by a strong School side in the final.

We are traditionally strong in the tennis competitions and this year was no exception. A 'green wash' occurred as we won all three competitions. Will Lockhart and Rob Lavelle were the highest scoring pair in the senior competition with 16 games won. Henry Hargreaves and Sam Hargreaves had the second highest total with 13. Overall, we won a total 29 games beating second placed Kirkham who won 17 games. Lucie Ethell, Emma Coffey, Harli Dewhurst and Rachel Greenwood won the junior competition with ease, and Lucy Keelan, Josh Keelan, Nick Coleman, Gabriel Bland and Elliot Turnock won the intermediate competition with skill and an excellent attitude.

We soon found ourselves in a similar position to the previous year, namely that we were looking very strong in Whitby Cup standings. We came third in the house technology competition, joint second in the drama competition and second in the junior rounders. We were also announced as winners of the Work Cup, which really was an added bonus. So, with a large slice of luck as well as undeniable skill and hard work, Fylde House had managed to win the Whitby Cup for a second year running, by a significant margin.

Well done to everybody in the House for such an excellent effort once again. We must now aim to maintain our position as top house for 2013/14. Special thanks to our retiring house captains, Maddie Robinson, Gemma Broomhead, Dom Basley and Jack Smith. We wish them well for the future.

S. Whittle

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KIRKHAM HOUSE

I thoroughly enjoyed my first year as Head of Kirkham House and can only thank the pupils for all their support and effort. It was a true shame we were placed fourth in the Whitby Cup, but that, of course, means the only way is up.

The new academic year opened with new enthusiasm and the determination to improve our place in the Whitby Cup standings. As always, the year kick started with the fantastic senior and junior quizzes. This is always a personal highlight of mine as I am increasingly impressed with the weird and wonderful knowledge our pupils keep in their heads. Once again, our senior team narrowly missed out on the first place as Preston was just that fraction quicker during the buzzer round. The basketball was enthralling to watch, with both the senior and intermediate boys demonstrating their fast pace and excellent skills. Each team worked together to keep the ball in their possession and both teams were justly rewarded with second place for their efforts. A huge congratulations must go to the basketball captain Theo Wattam, who always competes so well in this event.

The winter weather was fully against us on the netball court as rain and freezing conditions put an end to the senior competition as no one would ever consider risking the safety of the girls. I know our senior netballers were thoroughly disappointed but the decision was taken well by all. Thankfully the junior girls had more luck and it was wonderful to be able to cheer them on from the side. The young age of our netball team meant they could not quite dominate the netball court like Fylde and Preston although they played well and fought hard. I know they are looking forward to next year as they will be the senior squad in their age category. The autumn term of course is finished with the finest of all traditions, the Swimming Gala. Never one of our strong events, we all had a great morning at Kirkham Baths as we proudly represented our House with effort and some interesting swimming styles from the intermediate boys. There will certainly be great celebrations in our House the day we are placed above fourth position.

The spring term always begins with everyone's favourite event, the infamous cross-country. Thankfully, the wet weather meant it was perfect muddy conditions – what more could our competitors ask for? We had some great successes this year, with the senior girls, intermediate boys and junior girls all taking second place. Particular congratulations should go to Ella Moulding, Jake Lonsdale and Alyssia Dockherty who all shone in their class and especially to Ella who won the junior girls by quite a considerable distance.

The house music festival offered the opportunity for so many of our pupils to demonstrate their musical talents. As the entry forms came flooding in, I was proud to see so many willing to put themselves forward. It was an exciting competition and the auditions I saw were to the highest of standards. Kirkham finished in a respectable second place. Congratulations must go to Elliot Gaston-Ross who was the overall winner for a second year. I was thrilled to see so many Kirkham musicians making it to the final, especially Charlotte O'Neill who was the youngest finalist.

The spring term did not ease up on the number of events to plan with one of the highlights being the second place

achieved in the senior debate. Jodi Gaston-Ross and Olivia Butler made quite a formidable team and they confidently took on their opposition with composure, intelligence and passion in their speeches. The hockey was our true success of the spring term as our upper sixth were determined, along with the lower sixth and fifth year, not to leave Kirkham Grammar without this personal victory. It was a hard fought competition as they played several matches throughout the afternoon. Goals were frequent and injuries ignored as our girls continued to victory.

The summer weather held up long enough for us to complete all the preliminaries and Sports Day itself. I know our athletes were rather disappointed with their fourth place position, especially as there were so many personal victories. I wish to pass on my sincere thanks to all the Kirkham athletes. Special congratulations go to Rachel Williamson who not only broke the triple jump record, but won the overall Victrix Ludorum.

After our narrow defeat in the house technology last year, team captain Aaron O'Neill was not leaving his final year in this event without the victory. The team remained cool and collected throughout the whole event in complete contrast to myself. I appreciated Aaron occasionally coming over and simply saying "Don't worry, we've got this." Sure enough, they did have it as they stormed to a victory. In traditional fashion the year ended with the spectacular drama competition. It was honestly a shame I missed it due to being out on DofE. The reports I received made it clear to me that Kirkham House first years had thrown everything into their performances and rightly deserved the victory.

With our second place in the Work Cup, we finished in third place overall, but at least we were one up on the previous year. My new house captains are not content with just gaining one place a year and have their eyes set on first place.

I tell the House in almost every assembly how proud I am of them, but there are some wonderful members who support me, my captains. A big thank you must go to Jenny Malings, Olivia Butler, Ben Swift and George Brookes. We could not have done it without you and we wish you every success and enjoyment at university. This report would not be complete without saying congratulations and good luck to our new captains, Hannah Butler, Fenella Gabrysch, Rachel Ellis and Ryan Powell. I look forward to working with them and achieving future success.

H. Atkinson

PRESTON HOUSE

I knew I was going to enjoy being head of Preston House but I must admit I had underestimated the effort both pupils and staff put into events. The house system at KGS is truly something to be proud of. It is never an easy task taking over a role, especially as my predecessor, Dr. Rollins, was so highly regarded by the House. I thank Dr. Rollins for his invaluable advice, and the pupils who warmly welcomed me.

The autumn term events began very promptly with the senior and junior quizzes. Both teams performed extremely well, with the juniors being narrowly beaten in the semi final. The senior quiz team, with thanks to their lightning reflexes in the buzzer round, stormed to our first victory. It was a fascinating event, demonstrating the weird and wonderful knowledge that sixth formers possess. The basketball was also fantastic to watch as I admit I knew little about the game at the start, but the sheer determination of the teams and the intensity of play, especially in the senior game, were a little terrifying! The intermediates fought hard in all their games and won the basketball competition. The chess has always been one of our strengths and we put out all our keenest players, winning the semi-final and being narrowly beaten in the final as Ben Everson succumbed to the wily play of Fylde House's Harry Mason. The hockey pitch



and netball courts provided the stage for Preston's budding female competitors. We knew our teams would be competing against more experienced members of our fellow houses but this did not deter the girls. Teamwork and their determination to give it their all gave way to some excellent and, to their credit, close matches. Unfortunately, the junior hockey final was never played due to an abysmal spell of weather, so we had to be content to share the points with Fylde, though Mr Whittle knows we would have beaten him had we played! After the first six events it was neck and neck at the top of the Whitby Cup standings between Preston and Fylde with the other houses trailing. Until the swimming gala.

The swimming gala was a hectic and exciting event and I had no idea what to expect as I turned up to Kirkham baths after chasing round school frantically looking for members of my team. It turned out they were so keen that they were already at the baths waiting for us. We put on an excellent show but were beaten by School and Fylde as we took third place. This was the beginning of School House's rise and it seemed that they would be unstoppable by the end of the year!

The spring term always opens with the event which is not considered to be one of the fun ones - the dreaded cross country, but Preston House approached it with gusto. I decided it would be a good idea to lead from the front and, after Mr. Whittle promised me he would join me, I ran the race with the senior boys. Mr Whittle reneged on his promise and I realised just how fit our rugby players really are! Thankfully, my finishing second to last did not count and our senior boys' team took second place as Ben Everson and Callum Paley took first and second place respectively. A special mention also goes out to Brad Yates and James Allum who finished first and second in the intermediate and junior boys' races. A huge thank you goes to all the competitors, some of whom competed just to make up numbers (and because I bribed them with chocolate).

The house music event offered the opportunity for a considerable number to demonstrate their musical talents. As the entry forms came flooding in, I was proud to see so many willing to put themselves forward. It was an exciting competition and I felt privileged to have made it to several of the performances. Preston finished a respectable fourth place despite an excellent effort from the house choir, which included a superb performance from Jonah Winn playing the bin. Our shooters certainly did not let us down this year. With their steady hands and good aim, Preston can be very pleased with the second place they achieved. With the inception of Mr. Lloyd's KGS shooting club this is set to become an even more fascinating event in the future.

With the events now mounting up behind us, there was no time to rest as the first and second years entered the maths tournament, resulting in Preston gaining another respectable second place and another fourth. The debating competition once again commanded a large audience and was a great event to watch. Although faced with strong competition, Savannah Des-Etages and Lewis Holden tore apart all comers. With Lewis' thoughtful tactics and Savannah's passionate put-downs, Preston went on to take the overall victory. Volleyball was great fun to watch and, from what I could gather, great fun to participate in too! Teamwork has been the strength of Preston in previous events and this was no different. We aim to improve upon fourth place next year.

The summer term always promises lovely, long, hot days and images of sitting on the fields watching sporting fixtures... and we actually saw some of that this year! Our cricketers played their hearts out on lovely evenings after school and both earned us third place. Rounders was not quite so successful and our junior team finished last, but there's a target for next year! The summer weather was perfect for Sports Day. The preliminaries and many field events had taken place over several weeks leading up to the main day and I thank the members of our house for always being where they were needed. These events highlighted some very talented athletes who should be proud of their achievements. Sports Day itself saw some great performances from the Preston athletes with many records being set, many famous victories being won and many frantic sixth formers pacing the fields looking for the right competitors for the right races! It turned out to be a close competition between the four houses but Preston finished third.

After attending House technology last year, I had some insight into how competitive a competition it can be, with the house masters constantly egging on their own teams and certainly not cheating at all, ever. If they had, then Mrs. Atkinson would have been there with the rule book to quickly put a stop to any advice that a physics teacher might be trying to impart to his team. It was an important event because the points scored in house technology would determine whether Preston or Kirkham house came bottom in the Whitby Cup. Despite my best efforts, Preston's self propelled car just could not get off the starting line and Kirkham House stormed to victory in the competition.

I have already mentioned how proud I am of the team spirit that Preston House so clearly possesses. I look after a house with an incredible team spirit across all ages, who are always there to support each other and who are always willing to wear the blue vests with pride. While we finished just outside of the medals, we certainly had a lot of fun getting there. When I was interviewed for the role of Preston House Master last year I was asked why I wanted to do the job, my reply was that "It looks like it'll be brilliant fun", and I certainly have not been wrong!

My undying thanks go out to my house captains from last year, Sophie Warr, Sophie Crawshaw, Callum Paley and Gus Graham, without whom my job would have been much more difficult and considerably less fun! I am sure that our new captains, Dan Jones, Lottie Whittle, Lewis Leach and Taegan O'Hara, will be just as good to work with and, indeed, they have already made an excellent start to the year. So Preston, onwards and upwards!

C. Wheatland

SCHOOL HOUSE

Having reached the target of not finishing at the bottom of the order for the Whitby Cup the previous year, School House was determined to do even better in 2012-2013. The first event was the senior house quiz. The team, led by Dominic O'Connor, got off to a good start and three points were gained for finishing in second place. The juniors did exactly the same, sailing through the semi-final but losing narrowly in the final. Well done to Jonathan Taylor and his team.

The basketball and chess competitions were next on the schedule. The intermediate team consisted of Todd Roper, George Carter, Oliver Kitchen, Roland Burt and Jack Culver. The team secured a close victory against Fylde but the inaccuracy of shooting cost School House dearly in other matches and we finished in third place.

The senior boys, Michael Jin, Connor Wilkinson, Cohen Yim, Jonny Chan and Kenny Chi, did slightly better, winning the first game comfortably against Preston but Fylde and Kirkham were too strong and again this put us in third place.

It was pretty much the same story in the chess competition, narrowly losing in the semifinal put us in third place in the tournament. However, well done to Jonathan Taylor, Todd Davies, Aaron Bradshaw, Sam Walsh and Andrew Whittingham for their tremendous performances. It had, however, been a very disappointing start.

School House continued to work hard after half term, gaining top places in the junior girls', intermediate boys' and senior girls' cross country. Talented runners such as Samantha Hollins, Connor Wilkinson and Amber Metherell all took top places individually. This success was also followed by the swimming team, who won overall. Todd and Danny Davies and Alex Kearsley were tremendous for the seniors, while Samantha Hollins, Tom Treadell and Maxwell Watson performed exceptionally well for the juniors.

School also did well in the shooting competition. Charlie Hyde and Charlotte Muir were both on target and scored extremely well, hence securing maximum points in the competition.

These results put us back in contention for the top spot in the Whitby Cup.

Summer term brought School House a massive victory in Sports Day. Well done to all those who took part, particularly Tobi Akinkunmi in the senior boys 100m and also Demi Akinpelu in both 100m and 200m. Moreover, a special mention has to go to Kieran Wilkinson for winning the Victor Ludorum in two consecutive years. Not to be outdone, we ended the year extremely proud of Jack Culver and his team who won the junior cricket in some style. However, with our slow start at the beginning of the year, Fylde had amassed too many points for us to catch them at the end. We ended the year being second, one place above the previous year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the house captains Caroline Webster, Dominic O'Connor, Charles Redshaw and Lily Long, who made my job easier during such a busy year. We hope we can use the successes of this year as momentum to move forward and seize the Whitby Cup next year. We should also learn from the less successful moments of the house competitions and use these to secure our position at the top of the house competition leader board.

R.Wu

CREATIVE WRITING

As part of the House competitions, a creative writing competition was introduced in 2013. Below are the winners of the three age group winners. The senior winner, Lyndsey O'Brien was named School Laureate.

Beginnings

How do you describe nothing when there isn't anything to compare it with?

At first, however, nothing was everything and everything was nothing. Then suddenly there was a touch from something else. Indescribable in its majesty, except it was absolute, all powerful, all seeing and all knowing. It had no form, not bound by the laws of the universe it was creating. Like someone looking at a picture. Whatever existed inside the picture would never dream of what life was like elsewhere. The Being understood this and was filled with sorrow so great that even stars could not brighten him. Space, light, energy, time, the basics of our universe, all now existed. As if they were never gone. Like an unannounced old relative showing up at your door, only bearing in weary arms a battered, brown suitcase. Then more: the earth, the skies and the sea, all from the silent abyss of nothing, yet seemingly eternal, like they'd never been missing.

Life bloomed suddenly, richly, and with vibrant colours yet to be witnessed. The silent Being approved it. It did not see what wondrous beauty it had created, nor did it hear it. It merely knew that it was good. That all it had formed, like a mysterious illusionist, was perfect in every way. But just like a magician, the Being kept his cloak over its world, protecting it from unseen dangers that it could never comprehend. The world was beautiful, untainted in its elegance. Waterfalls of galloping white horses, trees with leaves so huge they resembled that of a shepherd with his flock.

The Being understood that his world must be seen by others to let them bask in its incomparable beauty. The Being, with power that stunned the very stars, formed life. Marshmallow-white rabbits, chocolate-brown stallions, fishes with so many colours they shamed the very rainbows. The world was filled with a cacophony of celebration. Every festival, every celebration that would ever happen would never touch upon the joy that was experienced that day. They would be whispers compared to ear-cracking screams. For they were chosen – chosen to breathe, to eat and to live.

The Being, though, saw that this was not enough. It understood that it would be unable to watch over this planet permanently, just like a mother with her new born child, rocking it gently in her arms. The Being set upon its most difficult task, to create life that could foster and protect its planet but also have the free will to adapt by itself. Even for something omnipotent, it took a colossal effort to create this, its "hands" zipping like bolts of lightning. Eventually, in a space of time immeasurable, mankind was created. They would look over the planet, protect it and embrace its wonders. But the barrier of time shrouded the future and as the Being's gaze shifted, mankind's grasp grew and they moved across this magnificent home.

From the skies, a solitary dove floated on forces unseen, its wings scraping the very sky. Its gaze dropped as it fell like a

pebble, watching small snatches of light stumble through the rich forests. The dove, now uninterested, spread its wings like a kite and disappeared into the darkness. Little did it know that this was just the beginning of something far greater....

James Smith
School House
Intermediate Winner

Beginnings

"Hurry up!" I shouted as I jumped over the crumbling brick wall, "Or are you planning to get captured?"

Kagari flew over the wall with Yukio following close behind him and the assassin mob fast approaching us. No time for rest when your life hangs in the balance. All we wanted was to gather information on an ancient curse which affects us, but we apparently disrupted an important ceremony in the village – so now we're wanted for dead. After running through long grass, we were faced with a forest, which had many low swinging branches and roots above ground, making it the perfect place to get caught.

"We can't run through this," Yukio panted, "We'll kill ourselves or get killed in there!"

"Just keep running and we'll think of something," Kagari replied.

Carrying on through the forest and avoiding all the obstacles was the plan. We needed another and fast. We kept running until we could no longer see the edge of the forest. I stopped. I'd been running for minutes at full speed – I was going to drop.

"S-stop," I stammered. "Listen".

"Haya, are you trying to get yourself killed? Keep going!" Kagari urged.

"Listen!" I snapped. "They aren't following us anymore and I doubt they're hiding in here – it's too risky even for them."

They both stopped and listened – nothing. Although there was a strange humming noise coming from behind a weeping willow - and a rather odd glow.

"Trees aren't meant to glow are they?" I questioned.

The boys' eyes widened and looked at each other, then at me. Trees should not glow or hum, obviously, but I thought I should check. Just in case. I started walking towards the tree, but Yukio grabbed me by the shoulder and pulled me back.

"Don't," he murmured. "It could be dangerous – it could be them."

Whilst he was saying this, Kagari casually strolled forward as if he didn't really care about what could happen next and stood in front of the tree and inspected it.

"Nothing abnormal here".

Kagari beckoned for us to join him, and we did.

"Apart from the huge, gaping, glowing hole in the tree!" I blurted out as I ran behind the tree.

Before we could make any rash decisions, Yukio was dragged into the glowing blue hole in the tree by what seemed to be a hand and Kagari jumped in straight after to

try to save him – I was left with no choice but to go in too.

I came back to consciousness lying on a park bench – in a park which was definitely not in Japan, as there were no blossom trees or any Japanese plants whatsoever. Kagari and Yukio were staring into my eyes as I opened them. What was this?

"Where are we?" I whispered to them, "Are we safe?"

They nodded in agreement.

"This will come as a shock," Kagari sighed. "Haya, we're in America. We ran away."

I sat bolt upright and frowned in disbelief. A new beginning.

Laura Brookfield
Preston House
Junior Winner

Beginnings

I wish my face were as lovely as the words I so carefully write
But you need not remind me of my many flaws.

Although they would not fit on ten persons' hands,
I could recite you them all as though they were my favourite passage.

I count them as if they were sheep,
Each one closing the gap between me and eternal slumber.
As they devour me, they tally up and build like the crumbling pressure whilst

I mark this perfect moment with my distasteful scent.
I watch how my bones twist under the strain of the winter's sun,

Shadows carved into my skin, sadness sleeping in my spine
And, as I clumsily trip and fall over my words to break this silence,

To splutter a final farewell,
The world neatly bows down to me, deserting me.
Acknowledging the awkward echo of words that ring through this hollow body of mine.

I foolishly clung to a notion that stuck to me like a leach and now

I fall backwards into my new beginning.

Lindsay O'Brien
School House
Senior Winner



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**COMBINED
CADET FORCE
2013**



CCF

Despite a very wet autumn term, the CCF continued to thrive and undertake a wide range of activities. The term began with excellent feedback from our senior cadets who undertook challenging expeditions over the summer to the Canadian Wilderness and the highlands of Lesotho in South Africa. This was followed by an enthusiastic team who took part in the Cadet Skill at Arms Camp at Altcar under the supervision of Lt D Lloyd. We then had our first Field Day and overnight exercise at nearby Inskip and Weeton Barracks. Some fifty of our new fourth year cadets learned all about "bivvies" and army rations and getting muddy, while the fifth year cadets fired weapons and completed a variety of challenging tasks. The second half of the term saw Matt Donaldson from our RAF Section take part in the prestigious Festival of Remembrance held in the Albert Hall in front of the Queen, and our senior cadet RSM Lily Long organised a World War II style training afternoon for fifty pupils from the Junior School.

The CCF completed a difficult but enjoyable Field Day at nearby Weeton Camp just before the Easter break. In bitterly cold conditions, over 130 of our fourth year CCF cadets ventured to Weeton Training Camp. Over seventy students, who have recently passed their weapon handling test, got to shoot on the live range, with large numbers demonstrating superb accuracy and skill. Other activities during the day included a first aid stand, initiative and teamwork exercises, section battle drills, cooking and archery. All the staff were very impressed with the attitude and perseverance of the cadets throughout the day. Special mention must go to the sixth form NCOs who not only organised many of the activities, but whose enthusiasm, motivation and involvement with the younger students meant that, despite the cold, everyone enjoyed the day.

Wing Commander J W Callister
Contingent Commander

CCF SHOOTING

CCF shooting this term introduced a brand new and exciting competition to the cadets. We entered two teams of five into 'The CCRS Country Life Small-Bore Rifle Competition 2013'. This involved using the old No.8 rifles with sights as issued (Dad's Army style rifles!) and no, we did not need to wear our Barbour jacket, Hunter wellies and tweed, although I think some members of the team quite fancied it!

The competition had four different rounds, all shot in our 25 yard indoor range at school. Round one was the usual grouping of five rounds (ubiquitous to cadet competitions). Round two was a rapid shoot, ten shots in sixty seconds, which is surprisingly difficult as the rifle is bolt action and the cadets are not too familiar with it. Round three was a snap shoot where we had a disco effect of switching the lights on and off, revealing the target.

Round four needs a new paragraph! This was the landscape round, which involved four shooters firing at a landscape picture at four very small and pretty much invisible targets. It was up to the fifth member of the team to locate these targets using a scope, and then verbally describe, using



target recognition, where the shooters should aim! This proved difficult, exciting, frustrating and left some of us in despair! But it certainly was the most enjoyable.

Well I suppose you want to know how we did – very well in fact. There were 121 teams entered nationally. Our first team achieved a very respectable thirty third place, with our second team making fortieth. Both in the top forty nationally! Well done teams! This bodes well for next year, when hopefully we will have more practice, shooters and experience. We also hope there will be more equipment and coaching available to allow pupils the opportunity to broaden their target shooting experience at KGS.

Lt D Lloyd

REGIMENTAL DINNER

In March, the officers and staff of KGS CCF hosted a formal regimental dinner for our departing sixth form non-commissioned officers. The event, which began with a reception in the school's historic Old Hall, also included a number of senior regular officers from the Army and Royal Air Force. The dinner itself was a memorable occasion, set amidst candles, live music and historic mess silver loaned from local regiments and museums and was a fitting way to say goodbye to our departing senior cadets.



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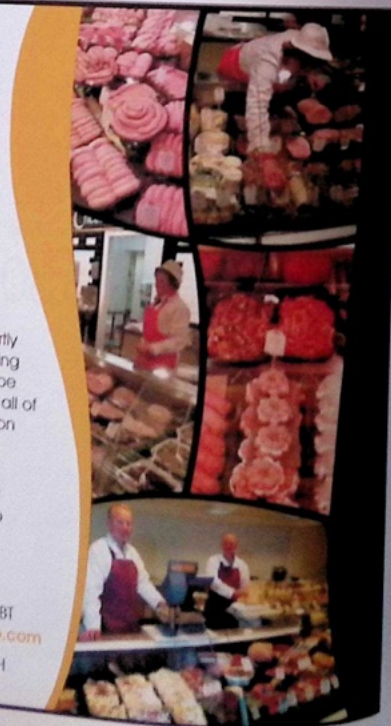
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SOCIETIES & TRIPS 2013



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Our fourth, fifth and sixth form students have been very busy working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. We are delighted to announce the following awards which have been achieved between July 2012 and January 2013:

Bronze:

Julia Glynn, Olivia Butler, Gemma Broomhead, Stephen Esmond, Benedict Swift, Rebecca Old, Tom Hunter, Alex King, Rachel Ellis, Megan Kitchen, Sophie Midgley, Nicky Charter, Fenella Gabrysch, Nicola Seechurn, Benedict Morris, Helen Perry, Jonathan Day, Emily Carpenter, Vivian Cheng, Caroline Paley, Siva Dwarampudi, Olivia Bence, Robert Lavelle, Charlotte Bell, Andrew Anderson, Jessica Bevington, Lydia Bourne, Lindsay O'Brien, Olivia Fuller

Silver:

Jennifer Malings, Gus Graham, Alex Wright, Oliver Carpenter, Gemma Broomhead, Andrew Best, William Dickinson, Elizabeth Jenkinson, Chris Williamson, Lewis Holden, Ryan Powell, Lewis Leach

Gold:

Gemma Coleman, Emily Bourne, Laura Mason, Venkata Dwarampudi, Matthew Donaldson

Completing each award level requires a great deal of hard work and commitment. Some of the activities undertaken by the successful students mentioned above included assisting with local cub/brownie groups, coaching at local sports clubs, working for their local church, fundraising for Derian House, helping at the local charity shop, baking, reading, shooting, playing the drums, badminton, cricket, horse riding, running and exercise classes.

The expeditions last July were very wet, as were the expeditions during October half-term. Our students, however, showed true determination, initiative and team work to keep going despite the difficult conditions and always arrived at their check points with a smile on their face!



Here are some of their comments about their expedition experiences:

"I completely under-estimated the amount of work the Gold expedition involved, both in planning and physical and mental strength! Even though it was incredibly hard, I learned so much about myself and am so very proud of everyone in my team for working together and doing such a fantastic job."

"The expedition was a fantastic experience. Our team worked very well together, especially during the thunderstorms when our singing kept morale high!"

"I have never been so wet and cold in my life, but on reflection the expedition was a superb experience and one that I will never forget."

"I really enjoyed my expedition, even though the weather was very unpleasant. The wet weather actually really improved the relationships within the group as we really had to motivate each other to keep going."

"After bailing out the tent on the first morning, it was a huge relief to hear that Mr Callister had managed to book us into a camping barn for the second night. Never has a stone building and dusty wooden floor with added ventilation been so inviting for a night's sleep – still cold but at least it was dry!"

With nearly a hundred of our present fourth year signed up to do their Bronze Award a large number of expeditions took place during the spring and summer terms and we were hoping for good weather to allow all our students to enjoy and complete their awards.

I would like to thank all the staff who so graciously support the scheme, especially those who help run the expeditions. Your time and efforts are very much appreciated by the participants.

Information sessions take place in T5 every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday lunchtime and Expedition Training takes place in the CCF Hut on a Tuesday lunchtime.

Mrs Sutcliffe

Gold Award

On Wednesday, 14 November, five former Kirkham Grammar School students, accompanied by their very proud parents, travelled down to London to receive their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The ceremony took place in the grand Queen Anne Room at St James's Palace. Vincent Grumme, Johnathan Pickbourn, Joe Wareing, Georgia Cheyne and Jonathan Davies were presented with their Gold Award certificates by the Duke of Edinburgh himself.



From all reports, it was a magnificent experience and an amazing reward for all the time, dedication and effort that our students have put into completing the award scheme. We are very proud of their achievements and wish them every success with their university courses.

NEW YORK TRIP

KGS artists, photographers and Theatre Studies students finally visited New York City in December. After the original trip was cancelled due to the storm "Sandy" in late October, the long awaited trip was back on. A smaller group of students and staff from the original trip flew out to explore the famous streets and avenues as the city prepared itself this time for the festive season. This was the school's third trip to the city that is famous as a place of movie scenes and for the bustle of city street life. And the party took time out - strolling through Central Park; dining out in world famous diners and standing where many thousands have stood in Times Square.

The group saw two of the best shows on Broadway, "Newsies" and "Avenue Q" and attended workshops run by the actresses and actors from the Broadway shows. Some of the group explored the city by foot and subway, stopping at many famous landmarks ranging from The Rockefeller Centre and its world famous Christmas tree to the MOMA. There was some serious shopping done in Manhattan at Abercrombie and Fitch and Bloomingdales, so it was not all hard work! Pupils certainly returned with many wonderful experiences, memories and lots of brand new goods, inspired by the bright lights of the city! We now look forward to part IV as Ms Barrie and Mr Gardiner are planning a re-run of The Empire State of Mind, in October 2014.





PARIS TRIP

In February on a cold winter's morning, a group of fifth and sixth form budding French enthusiasts met at Preston Station and prepared for the trip of a lifetime. After a six-hour journey, we arrived in Paris and, after quickly dropping off bags at the hotel, set off on a river boat cruise on the Seine. We saw most of the sites that Paris has to offer from the water and enjoyed the informative commentary. Despite the sub-zero temperatures, morale was high as we went to dinner at our old favourite, Brasserie Weller.

After a much needed night's sleep, we went to a traditional Marché aux Puces, where we indulged in the local culture. We grabbed lunch from a boulangerie and then in the afternoon we had free time to spend how we wanted. Some visited Notre-Dame and the famous Shakespeare and Company book shop, where we caught a glimpse of the actor Owen Wilson (movie *Midnight in Paris*); the other half of the group visited the Trocadéro. Later that evening, we went up the Eiffel Tower and afterwards we went to a Moroccan restaurant where we all sampled the French favourite, couscous.

The next day we visited the Sacré-Coeur and sat in on a Sunday Mass. Sheltering from the blizzard-like conditions, we sought refuge in a crêperie, where some had their first obligatory French crêpe of the trip. After this, we visited the Paris Chocolate Museum where the lovely Florian showed us how to make their world famous truffles and chocolates. Some of the group went to the Musée d'Orsay, whilst others enjoyed some retail therapy. After dinner, we went to a traditional Parisian Café-Bar where we all played pool. (For the record, Joe would like to point out that he let Wardy win!)

On Monday we visited the Gardens of the Palace of Versailles and then returned to Paris and visited the Champs-Élysées. There we marvelled at the madness of the Rond-Point de l'Étoile. After this we were again given time to explore and one group went to the Place de la Concorde and went on the ferris wheel. We had our final meal in a family owned Franco-Italian restaurant and then took a much needed early night, ready for the train back to England the next day.

Jessica Riley, Lizzie Jenkinson, Anna Shackleton and Joe Ryan

NEW HAMPSHIRE SKI TRIP, FEBRUARY 2013

A fantastic experience!

After a very early start and almost a day's travel, our group of 50 pupils and staff arrived at Logan Airport, Boston. We were still nearly two hours away from The Beacon Resort, Lincoln, New Hampshire, which was to be our base for the next week. The journey went quickly, however, as we observed the changing scenery and deepening snow.

The first thing I noticed about the hotel was the wall of hot air that hit you in comparison to the freezing temperature outside. Most days of our holiday, we experienced temperatures as low as -25 degrees.

The group quickly settled into their accommodation with the boys and girls on different floors. Our rooms were big, with large, comfortable beds. In the evenings, we could swim in the pool, take a dip in the jacuzzi, or meet up and take advantage of the free wi-fi.

Our first taste of a real American dinner was on our first night. We soon realised it would bode well for the rest of our holiday, as the Americans share our dislike for vegetables. Instead, a wide variety of fried chicken, pasta, fries and a carvery would turn out to be sufficient to replenish our depleted energy levels after the hard days' skiing that were to come.

For our first day skiing we were all slightly apprehensive but also ecstatic about what lay ahead. Following a hearty breakfast, we were soon kitted out at the ski rental facility located at the bottom of Loon Mountain, where we would be skiing all day. Loon is a large tourist resort mainly popular with foreign tourists. It consists of a North and South Peak. The South Peak was our favourite. It opened in 2007 and currently boasts seven trails and two lifts, with nearly 70 acres of skiing and riding.

The party was soon split into groups based on ability and experience. Many of us were beginning to feel that those visits to the Chill Factor were paying off now! We met our instructors who provided vast knowledge but also brought good humour to all our lessons. In Loon, we had a different instructor each day. On day four, we moved to Cannon and each group had one instructor for the three days that we skied in this resort. Everyone agreed that we learnt a lot about the surrounding area, as the instructors often pointed out local landmarks in our lessons.

Cannon had a completely different feel to Loon. It was state-owned, so there were fewer tourists, shops and advertising hoardings, but much trickier skiing terrain to negotiate. Unlike Loon, it was snowing there when we arrived, making it much harder to ski on un-groomed powder. Everyone rose to the greater challenge and we felt as if the mountains were our own as we came across very few other skiers on the pistes. We were particularly glad of this on the last day, as our "inside-out" theme had most of us displaying our underwear to the world!

Not only did we enjoy spending six full days skiing, but we had action-packed evenings too. These involved a variety of different activities; tubing, bowling and we even watched an



ice hockey match at Plymouth State University which looked like rugby on ice! Finley Burnie looked as if he had been playing, having to return home in a cast, after meeting an ice wall whilst tubing. One evening, most of us visited a local cinema where you won't be surprised to learn that Mr Walker was the only one who was still awake at the end of the film.

All in all, the trip was phenomenal, full of variety, and was certainly worth the long journey. A special mention must go to Dr Whalley, for whom this was his last ski trip as manager. Before our return, the group expressed their sincere thanks to him and all the other staff for organising such a memorable experience.

I think everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves. There is one problem though - topping it next year!

Arron O'Neill

HADRIAN'S WALL

On 20 June, many of those who study Latin piled into the minibus and headed north, following in the footsteps (though in much greater comfort - yes, even in the minibus!) of the legionary soldiers from all corners of the Roman Empire who were stationed on the northern frontier of Roman Britain during the period of Roman occupation.

We visited the Roman Army museum where we watched an excellent 3D film of life for a soldier posted to Hadrian's Wall, and then we went on a short walk/climb to see - and sit on - the Wall itself.

After our picnic lunch, we travelled on to Vindolanda, where we saw the latest excavations taking place in the vicus area just outside the camp itself. One of the leading archaeologists on site explained some of the work that was being carried out.

When the (inevitable) rain started we headed for the museum where we saw the impressive collection of artefacts, most notably some of the Vindolanda tablets, which are ancient personal letters and records providing a unique insight into life almost 2,000 years ago. More of these letters are still being found at Vindolanda.

Two years ago the tablets topped a poll on the BBC programme *Meet The Ancestors*, run in conjunction with the British Museum, to find the UK's top treasure. Most of the tablets are now kept in The British Museum but a few are on loan to the Vindolanda museum.

We had an interesting and enjoyable day which reminded everyone that the ancient world is far from dead and is continuing to give up its secrets.

S.P. Long





BARCELONA TRIP

Third Year Trip to Barcelona – Easter 2013

During the Easter holidays, I went with school to Barcelona. It was a very early Thursday morning when I woke up and got to school full of excitement but also half asleep! Slowly, one by one, my friends arrived, also half asleep. Then we got on the coach for a long journey to Leeds Bradford Airport. Before we knew it, we were on the plane and on our way to Spain! Surprisingly the flight went really quickly. As we walked down the stairs off the plane, everybody's eyes lit up in the gleaming sunlight, like a cat staring at goldfish. We all suddenly forgot that we had been awake since 3.00 am and got through the airport as quickly as possible.

It did not take long before we were at the hotel, and we were taken to one of Gaudi's greatest creations, Parc Güell. The view down the coastline of Barcelona is one I will never forget. We spent the day at the park, eating ice cream and getting amazing tans! The sun was starting to go in, but we wanted to stay outside, so a few of us decided to go in the pool. Twelve of us squeezed into the smallest of pools, but it was still great fun! At 8.00 pm we walked down to a small restaurant in Gracia. The air was still and warm which made the walk down very relaxing. We sat outside at the restaurant and ate our food in the jardin interior. After that we walked back and got an early night...

The next day was Friday and we were all anxiously waiting to go to the home of Barcelona Football Club, Camp Nou. We were amazed by the size of the stadium and how fantastic it looked in the sunlight! Then we went in the trophy room, which was pretty much as big as the stadium, thanks to Lionel Messi and his four player of the year trophies.

After that we went for lunch just outside the Sagrada Familia, which is also an incredible creation by Gaudi. The sight of it from outside alone was stunning, but that was nothing compared to the inside. The colours streaming through the stained glass windows and coming together on the floor made it truly the most beautiful place I have ever been to.

As the sun was setting, we went to the Ramblas, which was a high street where we were free to shop and relax with our friends, but we were all waiting to eat in The Hard Rock Café. It was an amazing way to have tea listening to loud music! After that we got on the tube and went back to the hotel.

The next morning was rather relaxed, until 10.00 am when we got on the bus and set off for Port Aventura which was a giant rollercoaster park in Barcelona. The mood on the coach was quiet, until we saw the top of the highest rollercoaster. Some filled with excitement, others with fear. Either way it got everyone talking. We got there to see the sun shining once again. I could not wait to get on this rollercoaster but I kept quiet. Then eventually the others came round and we ran towards it. The ride was great and I was filled with adrenaline! Next to this giant rollercoaster was a smaller, rather windy one. But we decided to eat first. Looking back, that was the worst decision I have ever made, as I felt sick throughout the whole ride. But the only cure for that is to go on it five more times! As the day drew to a close, we all had good fun and we were sad to leave.

The final morning - it was time to go and we were very tired and upset. We knew we would miss it, the weather, the activities, everything, but we had to go. The journey back was fun and I was certainly missing the comfort of my own bed. The flight still went quickly but everyone was tired.

Finally, we arrived back in England to the usual English weather. It was a brilliant holiday to remember and we all had a fantastic time. On behalf of everyone, I would like to thank the staff who took us and looked after us. They were Mrs Cheyne, Ms Johnson, Mrs Parr, Mr Wheatland, Mr Watson and trip leader, Mrs Walker.

Chris Walker

A-LEVEL ART TRIP

In April I was lucky enough to accompany sixth form art students to Berlin for the second year running. I have visited Berlin many times, but it was wonderful to see the city afresh from two new perspectives – an arty one and a sixth form one. Mr Gardiner again organised a fantastic range of activities that kept us all on the hop whilst making us think, question and explore. This year the focus was some magnificent street art through two main experiences; an alternative art tour guide by the name of Bart and the work of international street artist JR. First to Bart, a grungy Dutch eco-warrior type with outstanding English and an intimate knowledge of the city's best street art. During a scorching hot morning, we hopped on and off the trams and the S-Bahn as he took us on a three hour tour of the most exceptional work. He explained the social and political expression behind the work, gave us quirky facts about the artists and their techniques, and took us to murals whole buildings high. Berlin is an exceptional place in many ways, but for street artists it is a dream. After the terrible devastation during World War II, many buildings were shored up by concreting any exposed gable ends. This means the city is still full of "blind" concrete walls with no windows, on a massive scale – a street artist's delight. The students were impressed with what they saw and heard, and were inspired to create their own work from this.

At the beginning of the trip Mr Gardiner ushered us into a tiny gallery on a quiet side street near the Hackersch Markt. The gallery comprised of four modest rooms and was featuring the work of international street artist JR and his international project "Wrinkles of the City". In the first three rooms were photographs of his work around the world – giant photographs of ordinary old people pasted across buildings and then embellished with wonderful abstract swirls and curls which, we discovered, represented the person's thoughts and memories. This was all fine, but then the work came alive as we huddled in a darkened room to watch a fascinating film of his work "Wrinkles of Havana, Cuba". The film was extremely moving, interviewing the old

people who were so alive with the lives they had led. His photographs showed the beauty of their lined faces and the energy behind their eyes despite lives often defined by poverty and hardship. At the end of the film they showed these ordinary people, often bemused as to why they had been chosen, coming to see their photographs, many three storeys high and broad papered on walls and structures; their responses and the emotion in the art itself made me cry.

So we emerged from the small gallery, all of us affected by this unusual and inspirational work. Mr Gardiner directed us all to follow him and we did. At the end of an ordinary street, not much traffic, not many people, an empty play park was one of Berlin's own JR "Wrinkles of Berlin" pieces. A magnificent piece of work that truly brought home the power of art to demand that we look at the ordinary, the everyday and the easily overlooked in a new light. A wonderful experience for all.

JR work can be seen on his wonderful website at:

<http://www.jr-art.net/news/the-wrinkles-of-the-city-takes-over-berlin>

Jane Barrie



CLIMBING



Hardcore climbing hands



It's all too much for Gemma!

Described by Mr Gaddes as attracting the slightly 'maverick' types, the school's climbing club has had yet another eventful year. We were pleased to welcome Ben Morris and Charlie Hyde from the senior end of school, as well as Amber Metherell, Daisy Kemp and Emma Winn from the lower years, all of whom have become regular and enthusiastic members of the club.

Of the more vintage members of the group, the energetic Vivian Cheng wins the prize for the most ambitious climber, being the only member who likes to lead regularly, as well as often challenging the climbing club secretary to the trickier routes. Gemma Coleman deserves recognition for her amazing ability to climb with ridiculously long fingernails although once she finally decided to cut them, her climbing improved significantly. And the climbing club secretary achieves the not so glamorous award for the most vocal climbing technique – when finding a route difficult, everyone in the general vicinity will hear about it.

However it's not all hard work at climbing club - affectionately nicknamed "talking, eating and sitting club" by its members. We enjoyed our annual Christmas party, which took place at Lancaster, a new climbing wall which has become increasingly more popular with the club. Much diving on the bouldering mats, many chalk ball fights and numerous minibus antics were also undertaken this year.

The climbing club is sad to say goodbye to Mrs Scott, who has regularly supervised the club's Thursday evening outings for more than fifteen years. Her calming effect and enjoyment of a good giggle will be missed. The club is very lucky to have strong teacher support with Mr Hancock, Mr Wheatland and, most recently, Mr Possemi coming along to help out.

Huge thanks have to go to Mr Gaddes, without whom the club would not be able to function. Gemma Coleman and I have been members of the club since first year and those Thursday evenings spent climbing, chatting and laughing have been the highlight of our week for seven years. Mr Gaddes' incredible sense of humour is an invaluable (and vital) asset to the club and he has had to endure countless practical jokes – such as having the back window hit by the older (hence supposedly more sensible) members of the club whilst reversing the minibus into a parking space. He is responsible for instilling a love of climbing and the great outdoors in both the club's past and present members and as such both Gemma and I hope to continue with climbing at university. But we will be sure to return for next year's Christmas party, along with all the other past members who just can't get enough of climbing club!

Jodi Gaston-Ross – Secretary of the Climbing Club 2012/2013



King of Climbing Club



Chalk ball fight



Traversing



Posing for the camera



Vintage members of the climbing club taking a well deserved rest



ARCHERY CLUB

The last year has been very busy indeed for the Archery Club. We have seen a lot of improvement to our archers' ability - especially their aims! The majority of our archers became official members of Archery GB, allowing them to participate in official archery competitions outside of school, meaning we can now compete against other clubs and take trophies and prizes home with us (hopefully!). As a result, a handful of members signed up and have been practising hard to take part in competitions. Good luck to those entering!

For a while now, archery club has been considering buying official KGS archery t-shirts. Due to the competitions the Archery Club is now entering, it only seemed right to invest in some in order to look the part and to let everyone know that Kirkham Grammar School has arrived on the archery scene. Special thanks to James Penrose for designing and ordering the t-shirts. They look great!

In September, at the Societies' Fair, we received a healthy interest from many new archers to join Archery Club. Mr Wheatland (and his friendly former Olympic coach, Norman) started an after-school beginners' course to train up the future generation of KGS archers. If you are also interested in joining archery and want to start a beginners' course

contact: cj.wheatland@kirkhamgrammar.co.uk - pupils, parents, family and friends are all welcome!

So far, the Archery Club has been very successful and we hope to keep these great efforts up. A big thanks to all involved with Archery Club and to the Clubs and Societies Treasury for the funding!

Olivia Billington

SKI SOCIETY

Once again, pupils interested in brushing up their ski and snowboard skills regularly hit the not so stunning snow laden slopes of Chill Factor, Manchester on Friday evenings after school. This society is open to anyone able to make their own way down the main slope. The society has proved very popular with pupils of all ages throughout the school and places are snapped up quickly.



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SPORTS 2013

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THE FULFORD-BROWN SPORTS HALL OFFICIAL OPENING 21 JUNE 2013

SPORTS CENTRE

KGS celebrated the completion of the next stage of its development programme on Friday, 21 June 2013 when Brian Ashton MBE performed the unveiling ceremony at the opening of the school's new sports centre. Mr Ashton spoke briefly about his connections with many members of the school's community and praised the outstanding achievements of the school's sportsmen and women over many years. Nearly 100 guests enjoyed a video presentation outlining the development of sport at KGS over the last two decades as well as a tour of the new facility.

The Sports Centre represents the completion of a phase of development at the school which has included the recently opened Music Centre. These facilities now constitute an exciting base, enabling pupils to enjoy both their curricular and extra-curricular activities in dedicated new areas. The governors have committed themselves to ensuring that pupils at the school benefit from the continual evolution of the school's buildings in order to ensure the best possible educational environment.

A new sports hall, fitness centre and changing rooms enhance the school's present provision. The all-weather surface and artificial cricket wicket are fully utilised by schools and community groups, while the school's playing fields are constantly used by the large number of school teams.

Chairman of Governors, Russell Dawson, outlined that the school is keen to retain the momentum and that, as governors, they are determined to continue this commitment to development. These future ambitions will turn to the Junior School, where governors are already in the planning phases for new facilities designed to enhance various aspects of this area of the campus.

Headmaster, Douglas Walker, said "The support and vision of the governors has been central in maintaining the position of KGS in the educational world locally. They and the staff remain committed to ensuring the school retains an outstanding reputation over the next phase of its development. This opening represents the completion of one area of development but also the opening of a new era, one which my successor, Mr Richard Laithwaite, will oversee and progress with some relish. I look forward to hearing from afar of his and the school's continued success".



RUGBY

First XV

Kirkham Grammar School first XV completed an excellent season. These are some of the extracts. For more information, please at look at www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/rugby

v Lancaster RGS Won 13-8

Kirkham first XV faced local opposition Lancaster RGS at their Ribby Road ground. Despite difficult conditions, both sides tried to play some attractive rugby throughout the afternoon. KGS full back George Brookes was called into action very early on and kicked a penalty from 40 metres to give KGS a lead. Although Lancaster fought back, KGS seemed to have the upper hand, with both backs and forwards looking stronger. KGS's forwards drove well from a lineout, forcing LRGS to concede another penalty which Brookes again converted. KGS then should have scored after both backs and forwards linked well but were held up just short of the line. Eventually KGS gained the score they were looking for when the backs engineered a good move to see George Brookes slicing through the LRGS line to score under the posts. Unfortunately, KGS then allowed LRGS back into the game, giving away a needless penalty. Just after half time, KGS again gave away points through lapses in concentration which allowed Lancaster in for a try. At 13 points to 8, the game was thrown wide open. KGS had coasted into the lead and now had to dig deep. Replacement prop Theo Harvey made a big impact in the scrum and number 8 Lewis Leach, making his first team debut, carried well. Captain Ben Swift was in fine form in defence and he inspired his players not to give an inch. Although Lancaster

pressed, they could not open a strong KGS defensive line which seemed to control the contact area, whilst hooker Luke Woodward dominated his opposite number and managed to gain 2 against the head in the scrum at critical times as KGS ground out a hard earned victory.

v The Perse School Won 24-10

The first XV ventured to Cambridge during the half term break for a short tour. They faced The Perse School who had been having a very good season so far. Playing on a very firm surface for the first time in weeks, Kirkham adapted well to the pace of the game. The Perse School wanted to move the ball at every opportunity but found the KGS defence strong, with captain Ben Swift leading by example. Kirkham opened the scoring after some strong forward drives opened space, which scrum half Richard Whiteside exploited to put winger Connor Wilkinson in for a fine try. Despite The Perse School fighting back, Kirkham were in control of the game and eventually went further ahead when Connor Wilkinson made a fine break and put hooker Luke Woodward in for a great team try. With full back George Brookes adding the conversion, KGS took a 12-0 lead. The Perse School have a fine home record and came back just before half time with a penalty of their own.

The second half was played with pace and passion and Kirkham again took the initiative when second row Andrew Collins crashed over for another try to give KGS a 17-5 lead. The next 20 minutes were all about the KGS defence as they showed great character to push back the furious attacks of The Perse School. Eventually, they did score, but Kirkham came straight back and replacement scrum half Jack Smith nipped blind to score in the corner and when George Brookes converted from the touchline, the game was on.

v Manchester GS **Won 25-10**

After losing late on to top rugby school Bromsgrove (13-8) in a bruising encounter earlier in the week, KGS first XV bounced back with a pleasing performance in defeating one of Lancashire's top sides this year, Manchester Grammar School. The Manchester school has been progressing well in The Daily Mail Cup and, with home advantage, they were expected to give Kirkham a tough game. Despite missing players through injury, KGS started well with pace and purpose. The front row laid a solid platform, with young prop Theo Harvey leading the way. Full back George Brookes was in sparkling form and it was he who opened the scoring with a well taken try which he also converted. Manchester Grammar School fought back straight away and closed the gap with a penalty. The back row of Lewis Leach, James Penrose and Harry Mason was in excellent form and forced Manchester into making mistakes. George Brookes was able to extend the KGS lead with two well taken penalties, which gave KGS a 13-3 lead. Just before half time, captain Ben Swift scored a try after some good support work. KGS started the second half in the same vein and Will Lockhart made a break, released his brother Robbie to score and again Brookes converted. Now with a 25-3 lead, KGS had complete control and maintained their lead until Manchester scored late on to leave the score KGS 25 Manchester GS 10.

v King's Macclesfield **Drew 26 - 26**

Playing for the first time in seven weeks due to inclement weather and late cancellations, the first XV was faced with the most difficult of tasks as they faced unbeaten The King's School, Macclesfield (Rugby World's December Team of the Month). From the start, King's put KGS under immense pressure as KGS struggled with cohesion and the pace of the game. The unbeaten King's side was confident and soon opened the scoring after an error in the KGS defence. Many teams would have crumbled under such pressure, but KGS, well led by captain Ben Swift, responded with some magnificent defence and some outstanding scrummaging. KGS managed to force King's into making errors which young fly half Connor Wilkinson exploited with a fine break which led to a try for number 8 Lewis Leach which George Brookes converted. KGS continued to build momentum and quickly scored again through prop John Windle after a clever line out option. King's were stunned, but, as unbeaten sides do, responded in a positive way and again forced KGS into errors and eventually led 14-12. This lead did not last long as KGS captain Ben Swift scored an outstanding individual try



and when George Brookes converted, KGS had the lead once again. As half time approached, King's fought back again and scored to bring the teams equal at half time. The pace of the game was very fast and, despite not playing since November, KGS gradually started to gain the upper hand in the match and should have scored, unfortunately dropping the ball near the King's line. With eight minutes to go, KGS put in a loose kick which was exposed by a good counter attack from King's which led to a try and conversion. KGS were now faced with a huge uphill task as the home crowd cheered the unbeaten King's on. KGS showed character and poise as they re-gathered themselves for one final chance. James Penrose rose high in the lineout and the ball was moved quickly to the backs, who somehow released centre Vista Mazuma, who managed to slip a tackle and scramble his way to the line and score despite suffering cramp in both legs. Not suffering from nerves, George Brookes converted cleanly to bring an end to an outstanding game.

Fylde National Sevens Tournament

KGS first VII played in the Fylde National Sevens and, after recent improvements in other tournaments, were hopeful of doing well. KGS opened the tournament with a solid victory 26-10 over Radyr High School, Cardiff, with captain Ben Swift and vice captain George Brookes in good form scoring a number of tries. The second game for KGS was against Dame Allen's School and, despite going behind early, KGS kept their composure and ran out 26-5 winners. Having secured a place in the main competition after this win, a calculated risk was taken by resting some players for the final pool game against Ellesmere College. Although the game was lost, a number of players stepped up and showed they were capable of playing at this level, especially Joe Probert, who scored an excellent individual try. Having progressed into the main competition, KGS were faced with strong opposition from Warwick School, Solihull School and Ashville College. In the first of these games, defence was key and it was KGS who controlled this area which eventually allowed Swift and Brookes to escape for two excellent tries which Warwick could never close as KGS ran out 12-5 winners. The next game against Solihull was again close but KGS worked to nice moves to give Connor Wilkinson a try and Ben Swift another. With a 14-0 lead, KGS thought victory was coming to them, but Solihull fought back and, with a minute left, drew level. However, KGS had the man for the occasion, and it was George Brookes, who scored a final individual try to take KGS to victory 21-14. KGS now had to beat Ashville College to gain a place in the final, and with Harry Mason, George Brookes and Ben Swift scoring tries and Robbie Lockhart immense in defence, it was KGS who moved through to a repeat of the 2012 final against Bristol Academy side Filton College. In a tremendous final, both teams pushed each other to the limit, but it was the Bristol side who hung on to a 12-0 victory. The KGS defence was superb in the final and it was a shame that KGS lost star player George Brookes with a nasty injury towards the end of the game.

Second XV

P 10 W 9 L 1

After a long pre-season, the boys were eager to go and some great early victories against Giggleswick, Wirral Grammar and St Ambrose were recorded. The second XV knew they were facing tough opposition in the teams that had beaten them in previous seasons, but they stepped up to the mark in order to gain three very positive results. Some excellent individual tries were scored by Alex Ward, Daniel Jones and Jamie Brooks.

Unfortunately, early success was tainted by a narrow defeat to Lancaster RGS. The weather on the day was terrible which suited Lancaster. The backs never had enough possession to show their potential and, at the end, KGS suffered a 15-21 defeat. However, the loss was very educational for the boys

Denstone, Audenshaw and Manchester Grammar School were slightly easier opponents for the team and the second XV managed three convincing wins in a row, all by a large margin. Rob Lavelle and Callum Paley were instrumental in those games.

The next two matches meant a long journey to The Grange School and Silcoates School. In the match against The Grange School, the second XV was playing against their first XV. This was a very tough encounter at first, but the boys pulled through at the end, winning 30-5 with some excellent individual performance from Alex Wright, Alex Barlow and Jonny Chan.

The most thrilling match of the season was against King's School, Macclesfield, just after the long Christmas break. In the first game back, it is always hard to get going and unfortunately the KGS boys were still dreaming about Christmas while the opposition was fired up. With the advantage of the wind, it was no shock that King's Macclesfield went ahead with a penalty kick and a converted try in the first twenty minutes. KGS came back with a catch and drive try from Theo Wattam. However, King's went further ahead with two more penalty kicks. Half time score 16-5. A wake up call for the boys at half time came good. Alex Ward and Dominic Basley took full advantage of the wind and pinned the opposition in the corners. William Spencer went over the line under the post immediately after half time. The forwards began to pick up the pace and dominated the contact area. Rob Lavelle took advantage of the momentum and crossed the line in the corner. King's Macclesfield did come back with a try in the last minute of the game and could have snatched the win with the conversion. Final score 22-21.

The second half of the season and the sevens season was very short due to the weather. Many matches were cancelled because of water-logged pitches. The second team played in the Fylde School Sevens tournament against other schools' first sevens. Kirkham did not perform too well at first and they needed some time to adjust to the modern style of sevens. However, once the essential skills were mastered, the squad went into the second day of the

tournament with some confidence and managed to get to the semi-final of the plate competition.

The Rosslyn Park tournament was a much bigger tournament. It was decided that a younger squad should go and gain experience of the bigger tournaments. Once again playing against other schools' first sevens, Kirkham struggled to get through to the group stages, however Nick Riding, Joseph Probert and Ben Everson all gained some valuable experience from such a big stage.

R. Wu

Under 15 XV

The under 15s made a good start to the season, scoring plenty of tries but they were also letting a few too many in. Defence was an area that the team concentrated on in training throughout the season and the results show that improvements were made. In addition to this, there were some tough away fixtures which taught the team some valuable lessons regarding preparation and how they need to be mentally tough to win on the road. However, the team worked hard to develop their game and enjoyed some hard fought victories, notably beating Manchester Grammar School away from home, Woodhouse Grove, Yarm School and Old Swinford Hospital. The highlight of the XV 'A' side season was the impressive cup run in the prestigious Daily Mail Schools' Vase competition, where they lost narrowly to Royal Latin School in the semi final at Broadstreet Rugby Club, Coventry. During the seven a side season the under 15s were winners of the AKS tournament.

Over the last season, the players developed their understanding of the game by continually analysing their performances. Hopefully, they have developed the skills they need in order to progress to the first XV in the next year or two.

The team's record for the season was as follows: played 22, won 13, lost 8 and drew 1. The player of the season went to Matthew Thomas and James Seward was awarded most improved player. In addition to this, captain Charlie Abbott was awarded junior rugby player of the year at the annual school prize giving ceremony.

JP Rodham



Members of Under 15 XV selected to represent Lancashire

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Under 14 A XV

The 2012/13 season was a fantastic one for the under 14 squad. After a difficult 2011/12, the team began to play an adventurous and exciting brand of rugby which was admired by both spectators and opposition.

The season started with a three day pre-season camp which was exceptionally well attended. During this time the team spent a significant amount of time developing all round attacking skills, as well as an attacking structure. Several players also found themselves in new positions with Arron O'Neil moving to prop, Will Smith moving to hooker, Will Bruce moving to full back and Cameron Hartley moving into the back row. These positional changes paid dividends as Kirkham won their first two games 54-24 against Bramhall and 53-19 against Caldly Grange. These two games showed the attacking ability of the Kirkham team. However, they also showed many defensive deficiencies which would have to be eradicated for the boys to become truly successful against the top teams.

The first two games had been a success; however the under 14s now faced their toughest run of fixtures of their school careers to date, with games against Wirral, St Ambrose, RGS Lancaster and Denstone College on successive weeks, all away. The first game of this run came against an exceptionally strong Wirral team. Kirkham struggled in the first half and found themselves 35-0 down at half time. The second half was a huge turn around, with Kirkham limiting Wirral to 15 points. Jack Culver's move to inside centre from the back row was instrumental in this improvement. A depleted Kirkham side then faced St Ambrose College. Kirkham's play had improved significantly from the previous week, but defensive frailties were again evident. This allowed St Ambrose to score a couple of soft tries, resulting in a 28-15 loss in a game the under 14s really should have won.

After two very hard games, the under 14s went up against RGS Lancaster, whose team were thought to be one of their best sides in recent years. Kirkham chose this game to put in a season changing performance. In the first half, Lancaster dominated possession totally with Kirkham unable to get out of their own twenty two. Kirkham defended doggedly with a new found technical understanding of defence. Lancaster were unable to break down the resilient Kirkham side for long periods of the game. Kirkham were also exceptionally dangerous on the counter attack, with fly half Kieran Wilkinson and centres Jack Culver and George Parkinson creating chances at every opportunity. The final score was 35-5, with Henry Pearson scoring a fantastic try on full time after a cross kick from Will Bruce. This performance was not technically perfect but the side showed a defensive ability that had never previously been evident and the Kirkham backs also showed great flair and attacking intent which would have undoubtedly found more success on a firmer surface.

Against Denstone College, Kirkham struggled to get going after a long journey and found themselves 21-0 down after ten minutes, but from that point on Kirkham had total domination of the game, running in 34 points to Denstone's 14. Sadly, this resulted in a 35-34 loss, which was far from an accurate reflection of the game. Kirkham did, however, have themselves to blame after conceding twenty one points in the first ten minutes.

The RGS Lancaster game had been a turning point for the team, Denstone had seen a mostly good performance and

the following two games continued in this way. St Mary's Crosby were dispatched 47-10 in the cup with an A/B team taking the field. Audenshaw followed and they were also beaten 24-12, with another promising performance from Kirkham.

The second half of the autumn term saw the under 14s hit new levels of performance. They would, in fact, lose only one game in this period when an injury hit team went down to an abrasive Woodhouse Grove team 10-31. Manchester G.S. were the first opponents after half term. With several players missing, Kirkham won 38-7 which was impressive given that this particular Kirkham team had never beaten Manchester before. Will Bruce scored what was arguably the try of the season from full back.

Silcoates and Liverpool College were also beaten comfortably in a half term that saw Kirkham play fantastic running rugby in weather conditions that were some of the worst in living memory. The foul weather meant that fixtures against Sedbergh and AKS were lost, although the AKS fixture should really have gone ahead. A trip to Bradford Grammar brought an end to the term's fixtures. Bradford have been a northern rugby powerhouse for many years - which made a 12-12 draw a pleasing result for a Kirkham team that was improving rapidly.

January brought more poor weather and this limited the under 14s to four fixtures between the start of January and end of February. Kirkham faced King's Macclesfield first, with King's going in as heavy favourites after a 35 point win over Kirkham the previous year. Kirkham produced their finest performance of the season to win 17-10. George Parkinson ran in a length of the field try with Chris Walker also scoring impressively. Henry Pearson rounded off the day with a length of the field interception try which sealed the win for Kirkham. Along with several periods of heroic defence from captain Arron O'Neil and the back row of Matthew Newby, Harry Balmer and Luke Lund, Kirkham's defence had become a strength. The following week saw Kirkham dispatch a powerful Altrincham G.S. side with more tries for Henry Pearson.

The cancellation of fixtures because of foul weather meant that Kirkham were just left with a county cup quarter final against St Edward's Liverpool, which was won 60-0 with a dominant performance, meaning that Kirkham would face Stonyhurst in the county cup semi-final. Sadly, after three or four weeks without a game, Kirkham could not hit the levels of the Manchester G.S. and King's Macclesfield games and Stonyhurst left Kirkham with a 29-5 win. Jack Culver's ankle injury made life difficult for Kirkham and the score line certainly flattered Stonyhurst in what had been a fairly even game.

The conclusion of the fifteen man season was followed by the highly anticipated sevens season. Kirkham performed well at Warwick, losing out in the quarter final to Solihull School. This was an impressive run considering Kirkham had only had one sevens training session, were missing Jack Culver and Chris Walker and Warwick is the toughest competition on the under 14 circuit. The Manchester tournament followed, but Kirkham found themselves without several key players and found themselves in the Bowl final where a tired team lost to West Hill School.

The last time the under 14 squad would take the field together was at the Richard Wilson sevens tournament held at Kirkham. Kirkham dominated their group, beating West Hill 46-20 in the closest game of the group. Kirkham then moved through to the semi-final, beating Manchester

Grammar School comfortably. This left Kirkham in a final with Audenshaw who had knocked Kirkham out of the Woodhouse Grove sevens as under 13s with a crushing win. Kirkham started poorly, conceding a converted try to go seven points down but that try was to be Audenshaw's last points of the tournament. Kirkham roared into life, running in 46 unanswered points in a fine display of sevens. Fly half Kieran Wilkinson was quite outstanding, as he had been all season.

The win / loss record of a team sometimes attracts too much attention and this team had far more positives than winning ten and drawing one of their seventeen games:

- Over forty players religiously attended training.
- 32 players represented the 'A' team.
- The whole squad became an inseparable group, with Gabriel Bland and Rodrigo Vasserot leading the squad's banter at every opportunity.
- The team scored four tries or more in ten out of seventeen games.
- The boys' behaviour was first class at every training session, home game and away game.
- The backline became one of the most exciting on the circuit, no mean feat given the strength of Kirkham's fixture list. The forwards also became a very awkward and competitive unit that could match virtually any team, more often than not winning and moving the ball before the opponents had realised.

It is fair to say that the 2012/13 season was one of my most enjoyable seasons in rugby. The boys were never less than a pleasure to work with. I predict that this group can go on to become a very successful team next year and eventually an excellent first XV. This group has a fine team spirit, a positive attitude and an ability to play thrilling, winning rugby. Thank you, gentlemen, it has been a pleasure!

J.D.Walker

Under 14 B XV

P 5 W 0 L 5

Tries: Eduardo Diaz (2), Louis Johnson, Anthony Hudson, Rodrigo Vasserot, Matthew Lewthwaite

Conversions: Jamie Smith

The under 14B side began the rugby season with a very challenging fixture away at Wirral GS. The match was rather one sided from the beginning, with a couple of tries conceded within the first five minutes of the match. The score was 43-0 at half time. However, to their credit, the Kirkham lads never gave up throughout the game, battled valiantly in the second half, but many missed tackles cost the team dearly, leaving the final score 60-0.

After a long journey south to play Denstone, the boys were eager for action at a school not previously visited. The team started well, defending admirably with good tackling, but unforced errors stopped them from progressing too close to the opposition's line. Denstone opened the scoring midway through the first half. Kirkham responded with several phases put together before Louis Johnson broke over the line to score the first try of the season. However, a couple of missed tackles let the opposition in, to leave the score finely balanced at 14 - 5 to Denstone when the whistle for half

time was blown. The second half was a slightly different story, with the opposition forwards taking more control of the game, adding three further tries and winning the match 31-10. The highlight of the day for Kirkham was Eduardo Diaz's excellent individual try after running half the length of the pitch in only his second game of competitive rugby.

In their third match of the season, against Manchester GS, the team was beaten in the end, although there were several opportunities to win the game. An excellent start to the first half saw Eduardo Diaz sprint round the Manchester defence to collect another try. Poor defence allowed the opposition straight back into the game. Good tackling and rucking gave Kirkham plenty of possession, which was rewarded with a superb individual try from centre Anthony Hudson, leaving the score at 12 - 5 to Kirkham. Matthew Lewthwaite then fly hacked the ball through, but with only a few yards to the line, he fumbled the ball to miss a great opportunity to extend the lead. Manchester scored just before half time to make the score 10 - 12. The second half was a different game, with the opponents having most of the possession and punishing missed tackles with several tries. Kirkham kept battling, but line speed in defence was a problem as Manchester were given the time and space to run with the ball. The final score was a flattering 39 - 12 to Manchester.

The side travelled to Bradford depleted in number but enthusiastic none the less. The first half was disappointing, with three tries conceded in the first five minutes. Poor tackling was the issue. The boys rallied and tried their best to hold off the opposition, but at half time the score was 0 - 29. The second half was a better performance, although four more tries were scored by Bradford. The final ten minutes were Kirkham's best, spending much of that time in their opponents' half, and they were rewarded with a try from Rodrigo Vasserot playing on the wing. The final score was 50 - 5.

The team began the game against a very strong King's, Macclesfield team well, competing equally for the first ten minutes of the match. However, a couple of missed tackles let the opposition score the first of four tries before half time, at which point KGS had lost their shape and were very vulnerable to the opponents' attacking play. The score at half time was 0-26. A much improved second half display saw a very even contest, with Matthew Lewthwaite cutting through to score a fine try. James Smith particularly excelled with several crunching tackles during the match. Particular mention should also go to Toby Gilmore and Alex Mayall who played out of position in the second half but contributed greatly to the team's improved performance. However, the result was 33 - 5 to King's.

All in all a tough set of fixtures for the under 14B team, but there is plenty of hope for the future and I look forward to seeing their progress next year.

D.Carter

Under 13 XV

P 18 W 9 L 9 PF 335 PA 389

The under 13 rugby squad enjoyed a mixed season in terms of results but gradually improved as the season progressed, culminating in reaching the Lancashire Cup Final in March.

The first two matches, at home to Bramhall HS and Calday Grange, brought comfortable victories, with Kirkham

warming to the benign conditions to score several tries. Wirral (away) proved to be a tough encounter, but the squad came away feeling a little bemused as to how they conceded 34 points. This was a game of fine margins and only some missed tackles let our hosts win the game. Kirkham were not as bad as the result suggested. In the next game, St Ambrose proved far too strong as their athletic backs found holes at will in the Kirkham defence to romp away to a 64-0 win. However, Kirkham were back on track in the next two games, winning 61-0 at Denstone College with Matthew Carr and Callum Hughes scoring two tries each, and grinding out a 20-17 victory against Audenshaw in the next (Kieran Butler scoring two tries). At home to Manchester Grammar School in the first game after half term, Kirkham were involved in their best game of the season as the score constantly changed hands throughout. Kirkham managed to level the score at 17 all with minutes left, but on the last play of the game lost a scrum against the head only for Manchester to produce a lovely backs move to score in the corner to leave Kirkham shattered. The Grange School were next in a match played at home on the first XV pitch in heavy conditions. Kieran Wilkinson returned and proved to be the difference, scoring four tries in a 25-5 win. The next game was also won, at home to Silcoates, with Ryan Leach scoring two tries. The next game against Woodhouse Grove was possibly the performance of the season and, although the game was lost 15-0, Kirkham deserve great credit for competing and often matching a huge outfit.

The week after, Kirkham began their Lancashire Cup campaign away with a win at St Edward's 29-5, with Wilkinson(2), James Allum and Alfie Topping amongst the scorers. The last game before Christmas at Bradford proved something of a mis-match, with the hosts proving too strong and quick in every department as Kirkham lost 60-0.

During the Christmas break, a squad of 22 boys embarked on a tour of Cardiff which included a look around the Millennium Stadium and taking in the Cardiff Blues versus Llanelli Scarlets Pro 14 game. Two matches were also scheduled at Monmouth and Ysgol Gyfun Plasmawr, the first of which succumbed to the incessant rain during the week leading up to the game. Instead a 'Plan B' meant hiring the Cardiff City FC indoor 3G pitch and allowing the boys to play an 11-a-side game amongst themselves. The other game, against Plasmawr, proved to be a tough contest as Kirkham found it difficult to cope with the direct running of the host backline, losing 24-10. The party then travelled back to Cardiff for some Christmas shopping before the final evening spent in relative luxury at the Holiday Inn, Newport close to Celtic Manor, host to the Ryder Cup in 2012, where the boys swam and then ate their umpteenth McDonald's of the trip.

After Christmas the weather was very unkind as January was a virtual washout, with only the first scheduled game of the term going ahead, a loss to King's Macclesfield. The next game, some three weeks later, saw Kirkham play with the inevitable rustiness against a strong Altrincham HS team, but their endeavour shone through as the whole team never gave up tackling. The next round (quarter final) of the Lancashire Cup against Lytham St Anne's Technology College saw Kirkham run out victors 43-5 but not without a few scares as the opposition possessed two powerful runners and played with only 13 men. Ryan Leach and Jack Dunn were amongst the try scorers. Rossall School were to come between Kirkham and a place in the Lancashire Cup final. The game, played at Rossall, was a very tight affair played on a postage stamp pitch to clearly help the home pack, who at

times posed several problems. However, Kirkham rode the storm and, with some stout defending, repelled some very imposing Rossall drives. Kirkham hit back to score with five minutes to go to pull away and win 24-17. Kieran Wilkinson had a hat-trick of tries.

The last game of the season was the previously mentioned Lancashire Cup final at Fleetwood RUFC which was a tough encounter for Kirkham, who were missing influential players Kieran Wilkinson and Jack Dunn. Kirkham battled bravely but the sheer physical presence of the Hutton side meant Kirkham were always on the back foot and found it hard to gain any momentum, eventually going down 35-0.

After February half-term, the sevens squad began a very intensive period of tournaments with three in five days, at Bromsgrove, Packwood Haugh and AKS. The first two events were played under the Prep School rules, which meant players adhering to the 65kg weight limit which allowed me to use many different players over the three tournaments. Several boys from the first form, namely Chris Linton, Evan Powell, John Gornall and Will Gargett, acquitted themselves well at Bromsgrove but Kirkham narrowly lost all three group games before losing out in the Plate quarter final. The same occurred at Packwood, but we managed to win a group game and progress to the Plate semi-final before losing to Wisbeck. A different squad represented the school at AKS as the three group games and the semi-final against St. Mary's, Crosby were won. In the final against Wirral, Kirkham raced to a 10-0 lead, but the superior pace of the Wirral side proved to be the difference as they won 21-19 at the death. Our fourth tournament, at Woodhouse Grove, again allowed a different squad to play as this event was the day before the County Cup Final. The likes of Rann Parkinson and Nicolas Plickington Lowe and the afore mentioned first year boys were marvellous, beating Ermysteads 37-17 and only narrowly losing to eventual finalists Yarm 10-0. A Plate final place a real reward for all the effort.

The last week of a tough sevens campaign saw the squad travel to the National Schools' Sevens at Rosslyn Park, where Kirkham were in a group with Langley (won 29-5), Y Pant (won 24-12) and Bedford Modern (won 26-7). These victories saw Kirkham progress to the knockout stage for the first time in ten years. King's Worcester were our opponents in the first knockout match, which was a very tense affair, but Kirkham got a real grip of the game in awful conditions, Evan Powell scoring two tries in a 38-5 win. The last game of the day against Monmouth was a gut wrenching affair. Wilkinson was yellow carded with Kirkham 7-0 up. However, Monmouth only scored once in the two minutes he was off and, when he returned, he immediately scored to take Kirkham further ahead. But, right on half-time, Monmouth scored, to trail by two points. Kirkham totally dominated the second half as Monmouth could not get the ball and with Kirkham attacking right on the Monmouth line, they were turned over and Monmouth immediately attacked down the left. Wilkinson put in a thunderous tackle to stop the attack but a superb pass saw Monmouth streak away in injury time to win, leaving Kirkham devastated.

This was a fantastic end to the season for the under 13s who actually went out in the last 16 of a competition involving 124 teams.

Finally, many thanks for the excellent parental support throughout the season and the very kind sponsorship from Mr Topping of Barton Grange and Mr Billington, Seven 11 Group.

JR Lyon



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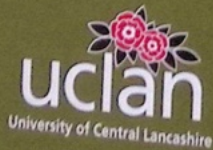
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— PRESTON —



Under 12 A XV

P 15 W 14 L 1 PF 425 PA 8

Under 12 B XV

P 5 W 4 L 1

This was an excellent season for the under 12 squad. There were lots of talented players to select from for both the A and B teams. It is a shame that many of the fixtures were cancelled due to the poor weather and this affected the 'B' team's progress. Nevertheless, many of the squad of over forty boys were able to represent the school this season.

The 'A' team had many notable wins during the season. There was plenty of pace and power throughout the squad. Many of the opposition teams found it difficult to cope with these physical attributes. It was pleasing to see us have the

upper hand in the physical encounters we normally struggle with against the bigger schools such as Wirral Grammar School, Lancaster Grammar School and Manchester Grammar School. It is a shame that some matches that would have proven to be real tests, such as Woodhouse Grove and Birkenhead School, had to be cancelled.

Towards the end of the season a squad won the Manchester Grammar School Tournament against a gathering of strong opposition. The sevens squad had a bad day out at the Wirral Grammar School sevens tournament and only managed to get to the quarter finals, defeated by a worthy King's Macclesfield team. The final outing of the season saw KGS host a mini-tournament against Dartford Grammar School and Loughborough Grammar School. This proved to be a very enjoyable morning where there was some excellent rugby played in atrocious conditions. KGS performed well in this event, winning against Dartford and then drawing against Loughborough.

Overall it was a very pleasing season. Many thanks go to Mr Holland for helping with this squad this season. With hard work this group of players should do very well in the future.

M. Whalley



CRICKET

First XI

P 8 W 2 L 2 D 4

Team: G Brookes (capt), J Seward (v-capt), O Jump, J Smith, A Whalley, B Harwood, R Whiteside, L Leach, D Jones, J Penrose, R Thomas, K Wilkinson, C Wilkinson, R Lavelle, H Mason, R Powell, A Ward, J Powell, H Knight, A Chiekrie and J Ryan

Overall, this was an incredibly frustrating season. Once again, a number of fixtures were abandoned without a ball being bowled due to the weather and we had a number of opponents cancel. This unfortunately led to only a small number of fixtures being completed.

After initially being beaten by Cheadle Hulme and Giggleswick, the young team put in some sterling displays. Captain George Brookes was carrying a shoulder injury for the first three weeks and this hindered our middle order batting firepower. However, throughout the season many players stepped up well to the level and we were unfortunate not to turn three of the four drawn matches into good victories.

There were some excellent highlights to the season. Oliver Jump bowled superbly against AKS (5 for 6) to set a platform for Richard Whiteside (41) and James Seward (36) to see the side home by five wickets. Against the MCC, Oliver again starred with the ball (3 for 43) and, with a daunting target of 227, the side batted sensibly to fall just 7 runs short, but importantly held out for a draw. George Brookes (72) and Lewis Leach (41) were provided with excellent support by many of the other batsmen establishing reasonable double figure scores.

The best game, though, was reserved for the game against Merchant Taylor's. With Jump once again holding up one end (4 for 43), it was disappointing that the other end produced both sloppy bowling and fielding. With Kirkham chasing 218, the new partnership of James Seward and Oliver Jump opened the batting. With the run rate initially at over five an over, these two decided to attack from the outset and raced to 150 with 25 of the remaining 45 overs completed. James was unfortunate to be given out for 48, before Oliver reached his century. Unfortunately, a poorly timed shot led to him being out on 102. A number of other batsmen decided to keep attacking but unfortunately this backfired somewhat and the momentum swung back to the home side. Fortunately, the cool approach of Harry Mason and Alex Ward calmly secured a winning draw for the team.

The final winning draw was against Rossall, where once again the teams played a two day, two innings match. Having won the toss, Kirkham decided to bat and on a low pitch struggled initially. However, James Seward, batting at four, took the game by the scruff of the neck and hit a magnificent 107 not out to help the team muster a fine 182. A fine spell of bowling by George Brookes (4 for 13) and Oliver Jump (4 for 28) saw the home side skittled for 82 and forced to follow on. Unfortunately, though, only a few overs of the second day were possible and the home side finished on 55 for 1.

The match against the XL club was difficult to achieve a result. After batting for 55 overs, the opposition declared on 230 and subsequently Kirkham were left just 30 overs to achieve this target. With a run rate of over eight, the

opening batsmen, led by Alex Whalley (37), attacked initially before having to drop anchor and make their way to a respectable 129. However, sensible batting was the theme for the day and it was pleasing that this young team stuck to the task. A positive late result against Accrington with Kieran Wilkinson (60) was a fine reward.

A hastily organised development game was organised against Lancaster RGS. This was an excellent opportunity to see a number of our younger players who may step up to the first XI cricket side next year. With Duke of Edinburgh and other county cricket commitments, this was always going to be quite a makeshift team, but many of the team departed the match with a lot of credit. Bailey Harwood and Ben Anderson bowled incredibly well, whilst Joe Ryan and Connor Wilkinson's fielding kept the team very much in the game. In the batting, Sachin Naneesthan, Connor Wilkinson (48) and Joe Ryan competed well against a strong opposition.

Disappointingly, the under 17 side went out of the Lancaster Cup at the quarter final stage after losing to a strong Audenshaw side. With ten of our previous front line under 17 selections on D of E, Open Days and county cricket commitments, we put out a very young side against our opponents. However, their commitment and effort cannot be faulted and some really positive experiences were taken away. Ben Everson (in his first game of the season) bowled well in tandem with Bailey Harwood and between them conceded few runs. Oliver Crankshaw was a little more expensive, but his variation was excellent and stemmed the run flow of the Derbyshire under 15 opponent. Subsequently he took the majority of wickets. Connor and Kieran Wilkinson were excellent again in the field and, with 120 to chase, Kirkham can be pleased with their efforts in the field. Sachin and Bailey opened well but, against some excellent bowling, it was difficult to really get on top of the run rate. Ben, Sachin and Alex Ward were the only batsman to cause Audenshaw any problems, but unfortunately it was difficult to reel in the run rate and, to his credit, Oliver Crankshaw made sure at the end that the team was not fully bowled out.

Throughout the year there has been some excellent individual cricket, some excellent team performances and the normal comedy moments. Trying to comprehend why Lewis Leach walked against Cheadle Hulme, to how Rob Lavelle had a variety of interesting coloured footwear, to what language George Brookes and Jack Smith actually spoke to each other were things that mystified the coaches. Listening to the latter speak on the bus, we have yet to decipher what was being discussed!!

The boys have performed well once again. Gone are the days when players go out to bat and there is a fear as a coach about "what is he going to do now?" Now the Kirkham team seemingly enjoy and are confident in their approach to each match and this is rubbing off on the youngsters who have been promoted throughout the season. Only three upper sixth players were in this side, George, Jack and Oliver, and all three must be commended for their approach to cricket this year. Special mention must be given to George who has been a total asset to Kirkham cricket. He has been totally committed, as has Jack, from joining the school and they have been well respected by their peers for their approach. Hopefully now with the improvements in some areas, we can look forward to a positive season next year.

N.S. Passenger

Under 15 XI

The under 15 cricket team played 7 games, won 4, lost 2 and drew 1. Good batting performances came from James Seward, Sachin Naneesthan and Josh Eales. Consistent wicket takers throughout the campaign were Oliver Crankshaw, Bailey Harwood, Ben Anderson and Arron Chiekrie. They just missed out on a place in the Lancashire Cup final, losing narrowly to Lancaster RGS by five runs. In the Fylde and Wyre Championships, the under 15 development squad won the competition, beating AKS in the final by two wickets.

Under 14 XI

P 9 W 4 L 5

The under 14s had a good season and saved their best form for the Lancashire Cup where they got through to the quarter finals. Ripley, Hutton and St Michael's Chorley were defeated before the team ran into Lancaster RGS who eventually made the final of the competition. In a tough fixture list, the team competed well against comparable sized schools and put in some good performances. The boys were all keen to practise and clearly enjoyed representing their school. Matthew Newby and Peter Walton each took 11 wickets to top the bowling averages, and the spin of Edward Bailey was also valuable in securing the four victories over the season. The batsmen struggled for consistency and found Saturday fixtures particularly challenging, although the boys did improve as the season progressed. Kieran Wilkinson, who was on loan from the under 13s for the Lancashire Cup games, averaged a quite outstanding 193 and the squad was indebted to his contribution! Full reports of each match are archived on the school website. Both myself and Mr Carter have enjoyed working with the boys over the last two years and wish them well as they progress through the school.

S. Duncan

Under 13 XI

P 9 W 7 L 2

The under 13 cricket squad enjoyed a successful season, only losing twice to the same opposition, Merchant Taylor's. The season began with an encouraging win at Cheadle Hulme, who were asked to bat first and made steady headway, although losing wickets at regular intervals, as Lawrence Gebbie and Henry Goldbourne took two wickets each. Kirkham were chasing 116 to win in their 25 overs and this looked beyond them as Cheadle removed the top order cheaply. In a matter of minutes the game changed completely as captain Kieran Wilkinson hit his first ball for six, thus giving the innings much needed momentum. He was ably supported by Will Griggs who batted with maturity, knocking the singles with dexterity. The match was won after 12 overs with not another wicket lost as Kirkham won by 7 wickets, with Wilkinson 60 not out and Griggs 31 not out.

At home to Giggleswick in the next game, Wilkinson showed how powerfully he could hit the ball, flaying anything pitched up for a boundary. Kirkham's 25 overs yielded 256-5, with Wilkinson's knock of 156 not out containing 13 boundaries and 11 sixes. Sam Minten, Jonathan Taylor and Gebbie added valuable support, all scoring double figures. Giggleswick, unfortunately, were up against it from the start and only managed 92-8 with Gebbie taking 4-12.

The first loss came at Merchant Taylor's on a windy day, with Kirkham batting first and producing a rather limp batting display. To their credit, Merchants had a side containing five good bowlers and a fine wicketkeeper in Lancashire's George Lavelle, who accounted for four Kirkham batsmen stumped! A target of 48 to win proved no problem for the home team as they reached their target in 8 overs. Kirkham got back on track with a win (in the Lancashire Cup) the following week, amassing 175-8 against Cowley Language College, with Taylor (35) and Sam Minten (42 no) pulling Kirkham out of trouble after they were reeling at 24-4. Cowley then stonewalled their way to 76-2 after their allotted 20 overs, Kirkham winning by 99 runs.

The win at St. Mary's Hall proved the most pleasing. With Wilkinson unavailable, the team chased down 127 to win from 25 overs with Ryan Leach and Henry taking two wickets each. Leach proved the mainstay in the batting as he doggedly set his stall out to bat through as wickets fell around him, although Charles Hargreaves batted very sensibly to support him, scoring a patient 14. James Allum and Sam Minten also reached double figures and the game was won by 4 wickets with 6 overs remaining.

The next round of the County Cup was away at St. Edward's, Liverpool and once again Kirkham struggled early on, losing wickets regularly with only James Allum (19) and Will Griggs (12) reaching double figures as the extras column helped Kirkham out considerably (29). A score of 98 was going to be hard to defend, but an aggressive opening spell from Gebbie (2-6) and Leach (1-7) saw Kirkham put the hosts under huge pressure. As the middle order was exposed, Wilkinson ripped through them with his medium pace, accounting for 5 wickets. The tail crumbled after this and St. Edward's were all out for 63, with Kirkham breathing a sigh of relief at the end.

The fourth round was a little easier, with Kirkham winning by 53 runs at home to Parklands, Chorley. Kirkham amassed 135 all out from their 20 overs, with Jonathan Taylor the stand out batsman smashing a superb 65 to bail Kirkham out. Parklands reeled at 18-3 in reply and, after a brief rally, lost six wickets with the score in the sixties which effectively ended their challenge, the damaged created by Will Grigg's off spin which gave him figures of 4-7 as Parklands were all out for 82.

QEGS Blackburn were easily beaten by 100 runs, with Leach and Wilkinson both having to retire on 26 and 30 respectively, which ultimately meant everyone batted in a total of 137-9. In reply, QEGS folded tamely, with James White-Dunn, promoted from the 'B' team, bowling accurately with figures of 2-4. Henry Goldbourne also took two wickets.

The Lancashire Cup quarter final was as far as Kirkham reached, losing to their nemesis Merchant Taylor's (who eventually won the competition) by four wickets. A total of 133 proved to be not quite enough, although under 12 player Joe Thompson (Lancashire Development Squad) showed some deft touches and Wilkinson, who bludgeoned 30 before being caught on the boundary, were the pick of the Kirkham batsmen. Kirkham tried to keep it tight, but a fast outfield and some good running from the Merchant's batsmen made it difficult. Lavelle was dismissed for 22 and at 65-3 after 12 overs Kirkham had a slim chance. The pressure was really on as two run outs ensued as the score crept over 100, but alas Merchants hit the winning runs in the 23rd over to end Kirkham's run in the competition.

The 'B' team managed to play twice, winning once against

St Aiden's, with Aaron Bradshaw top scoring with 25 and Alfie Topping the next best with 15. Kirkham won by 6 wickets, Bradshaw proving the player of the match with six wickets. In the other game, against Lytham High School, 82 proved to be too little (Topping 16, Bradshaw 10) as the visitors only lost one wicket to win inside 13 overs.

Well done to Kieran Wilkinson who played for Lancashire throughout the summer, playing in every game, including the ESCA Festival at Taunton School and the final, where he scored a valuable 25 runs to help Lancashire to victory.

Congratulations to all those who turned out for practice during the term, all showed great commitment. The weather certainly helped and, for once, meant an uninterrupted season! Lastly, my thanks for all the parental support throughout.

JR Lyon

Under 12 XI

P 10 W 8 L 2 D 0

The under 12s season began with a difficult game against a very organised Cheadle Hulme side. The under 12s were not ready as a team and this resulted in a loss. Joe Thomson and Lewis Fraser opened the batting sensibly and created a nice little partnership, scoring sixty runs before Fraser was caught out. Thomson was eventually run out in the last over. He scored 46 runs, with the help of Callum Doyle and Chris Linton. Kirkham scored 129 runs in 25 overs, a nice challenging target for the opposition to chase. However, Kirkham let themselves down in fielding, giving away too many extras and further mistakes on the boundary caused a lot of pressure for the team. Christian Linton and William Dowbiggin took some nice wickets with their accurate bowling, however Cheadle eventually reached the target in the twenty third over. Overall, a good batting performance but fielding was an area to work on, which is unusual for a Kirkham side.

However, after some intensive fielding and batting practice, the under 12s had more success in their following games, with convincing wins against Merchant Taylors, St Mary's Hall, Hutton, Cowley and AKS. They gave better performances thanks to much sharper fielding and excellent batting from many individuals. Nathan Wood, Charlie Partington and Evan Powell were all high scorers in these games. The most memorable were the half century from Powell and Fraser against St Mary's Hall, and Wood's half century against Cowley. The bowling performances from Harry Thompson and Edward Acton were equally as impressive, both taking three wickets against Cowley and Hutton. Joseph Shield and Maxwell Watson also bowled well, taking three wickets each against Giggleswick School.

The best win was against Lancaster RGS, in which Callum Doyle took three wickets for 17 runs and Joe Thomson took three wickets for just 6 runs. Again, Powell's batting performance was outstanding.

The most exciting game was against AKS. Kirkham batted well as a team, scoring 120 runs in 20 overs. AKS lost some quick wickets at the top end of the batting order and some sensible bowling from Niall Higham and Joseph Shield helped to secure the victory.

Kirkham also progressed well in the Lancashire Cup, beating Ripley and Our Lady's Catholic High School to reach the semi-final. However, they did not perform well on the day and got knocked out by The Bowland School.

This has been a great season. Well done to all who took part,

the under 12s have competed well and showed good signs for the future.

BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY

In the Fylde and Wyre Championships at Stanley Park Blackpool in December the first year boys were first overall with Chris Linton winning the event. The second/third year boys were also placed first overall with Jake Lonsdale winning his event. A number of boys from each squad went on to represent the district at the County Championships at Wigan in February. From the first year team Chris Linton came fifth out of 85 runners. Other runners in this team included Niall Higham, Nathan Wood, Will Kollard and Max Watson. In the junior boys' event, Jake Lonsdale came an impressive first. In the senior boys' race Ben Everson was second. Jake went on to be placed 62nd in the junior boys' race at the English Schools' Championships held in Derbyshire in March.

BOYS' ATHLETICS

In the Sainsbury's Track and Field Cup first round at Blackpool both the junior (339 pts) and inter boys' teams won. In the regional finals in Blackpool, the juniors were placed eleventh and the inters a creditable fourth.

In the annual series of matches at Salt Ayre in Lancaster, boys from the first to the fourth years competed throughout the summer. When first and third years travelled to compete, the first years were winners against eight other schools, whilst the third year team finished third. When the second and fourth years travelled, the second years were placed second against nine schools and the fourth years were fourth. When the first years went to compete for the Vose Cup in Lancaster, they won the trophy with 254.5 pts against six other schools, a great team performance.

In the Fylde and Wyre Coast Championships towards the end of term, all four year groups competed against the more local secondary schools. The school won overall, with three out of the four age groups crowned champions. 56 athletes represented the school. There were some outstanding individual performances on the day, including two new records being set, both in the 1500m event. Jake Lonsdale broke the third year record with a time of 4.33 and Christian Linton broke the first year record with a time of 5.01.

M. Whalley

VOLLEYBALL

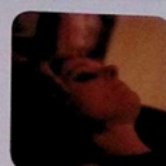
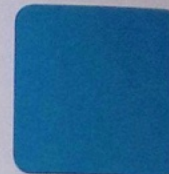
The school was once again represented by two teams in the Preston and District Volleyball League which runs throughout the winter and spring terms. The teams, made up of predominantly sixth formers in the senior team and fourth years in the junior team, performed well and made pleasing progress throughout the season. Both teams should continue to make progress in the 2013-14 season.

The senior team finished a creditable fourth in the league (out of nine) and they should feel satisfied with their position within a competitive adult league. The junior side should feel pleased that they are able to compete in this league and, if they gain experience, they will push for a higher league position, perhaps playing in the senior team in the future.

Most importantly, the league allows young volleyballers to play in a fun and friendly environment. I know the players look forward to their fortnightly journey to Fulwood. Long may this continue!

MA Whalley & JP Rodham

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positivity and complete strength and composure inspired the rest of her team. Harriet Price, Gemma Broomhead and Grace Reddy were completely solid and totally disciplined at the back. Though the team was 1-0 down in the first few minutes, Malings powered them on. The midfield of Lindsay O'Brien, Taegan O'Hara, Beth Everson and Sally Robinson worked tirelessly and completely dominated in the middle of the pitch. Courtney Spector was outstanding driving from midfield, creating wave after wave of attack and completely outclassing the opposing defence. Sophia Crawshay was put under heavy pressure, so had to work hard defensively and feed balls through to the forwards. Ellie Greenhalgh was a real terrier closing down the opposition, forcing the error and running rings around the defence. Ellie scored the equaliser five minutes after their goal and the team just went from strength to strength. Courtney Spector put Kirkham 2-1 up just before half time and the Kirkham girls were on fire. In the second half the girls never stopped defending like Trojans and counter attacking at speed. Ellie Greenhalgh was put through with a 1 on 1 opportunity. She picked it up superbly, took it round the keeper and was completely upended to give Kirkham a penalty stroke. Captain Jenny Malings stepped up to slot the ball away with real calmness! Kirkham won the game 3-1 and progressed to the North of England finals.

The first XI was unlucky not to make it to the final in the North Finals at Leeds. After a slow start, the girls played some super hockey, beating Stockport 1-0 to get into the semi-finals, where unfortunately they lost to Cheadle with a goal against the run of play. Congratulations to these girls, with ten new players in the first XI this season they have started to gel and work together superbly!

J. Glover

Under 19 National Invitation Hockey Tournament

As always, the Kirkham Grammar School tournament was a great success and a fine way to end the season. Five very competitive teams and a large crowd arrived early on Saturday morning looking forward to another enjoyable day of hockey.

Kirkham met the mighty British Colleges in their first game. They hit them hard from the first whistle and went 1-0 up with a dynamic goal from Sophia Crawshay. KGS were solid at the back, with Jenny Malings organising and controlling the defence. Kiran Bahra made a string of first class saves and Lindsay O'Brien, Sally Robinson, Beth Everson and Courtney Spector worked tirelessly in midfield. Sophia Crawshay and Ellie Greenhalgh were outstanding up front. KGS were 1-0 up at half time. In the second half, Kirkham lost their composure for a spell and paid the price, with British Colleges equalising to make it 1-1. Again, the game was end to end as the College team got stronger and stronger. With 20 seconds on the clock it was still 1-1, when a defensive error led to a Colleges' break and a short corner. With the last shot of the match, British Colleges scored to seal a 2-1 victory.

The second game for KGS was against Sedbergh. KGS bounced back and dominated from start to finish with four goals from Sophia Crawshay and one from Taegan O'Hara to make the final score 5-0.

The third game was against Wilmslow. Again, KGS started well and went 1-0 up with another terrific goal from Sophia Crawshay. An ill disciplined couple of minutes let Wilmslow off the hook as they equalised to make the score 1-1. Again, KGS attacked, put pressure on the Wilmslow defence and were awarded a penalty stroke in the last minute but unfortunately missed the opportunity. The final score was 1-1.

The final match was against a strong Millfield team, in which the KGS girls knew that they had to work very hard against a highly skilled set of girls. KGS battled hard but unfortunately lost the game 1-0.

Individual awards were won by two of our girls; Sophia Crawshay was Top Goal Scorer of the tournament and Kiran Bahra was awarded Goalkeeper of the tournament.

J. Glover

Under 18 Cheadle Invitation Hockey Tournament

The first VII finished the season in style at the Cheadle sevens tournament. Even though Liverpool College and Withington pulled out on the morning, our two strongest rivals still had to be beaten.

The girls played four games, but the important games were Stockport and Cheadle Hulme. Stockport, as always, were strong and after an end to end exciting game, the match finished 0-0. The decider was against Cheadle Hulme, the team which put us out of the North Finals. We knew that we had to step up a gear against this National Finals team. Our girls dominated from start to finish, with Sophia Crawshay making their England midfielder look very ordinary. The final score was 5-0 to KGS, a great victory and a well-deserved win! Special mention must go to Sophia Crawshay who scored 18 goals in four games.

J. Glover

Hockey Christmas Fancy Dress 2012

On Monday, 10 December the Kirkham hockey girls enjoyed their traditional fancy dress. What a wonderful sight as the Christmas Presents played against the Elves and the Christmas Crackers played against the Santas and Reindeers while the Snowmen waited patiently for their first match. The atmosphere was superb, with raucous laughter, squealing and cheers of delight all over the pitch. What a



way to finish the term. It is terrific having every hockey girl from the first to the sixth form competing and having fun together. These girls are not just numbers on shirts; they are 'our girls' and we have a bond and a loyalty to each other that continues well beyond their Kirkham days! A great end to what had been a very enjoyable and successful term.

Under 15 XI

The squad completed a highly successful season and showed increasing maturity in their play during this intermediary stage of their development. Some of their play, in particular their performance against Stockport, was outstanding, with fluent, quick passing and intelligent running off the ball setting up a succession of goal scoring opportunities.

It was not surprising as the season progressed that a number of the squad, Beth Everson, Ellie Greenhalgh, Becky Ingham, Nicole Thompson and Millie Foley moved up, first to train with and then to play in the first XI squad. The under 15s, however, were still able to maintain much of their defensive unit, with Fiona Lockhart, Abby King, Olivia Anderson continuing to develop a cohesive, solid shield in front of the dependable Natasha Almond in goal, and Olivia Mulrone gained valuable experience when covering for Nicole. Most responsibility fell on Josie Coffey and later Eliza Parr in midfield and both responded with total commitment, ably assisted by Jess O'Neill who took on a new role as right mid and responded admirably to the demands of the position. Annalise Hughes also helped here after starting most games on the right wing and this ability to switch allowed Jess to switch to her more favoured position on the wing.

Whilst Eliza initially started on the left wing, her withdrawal to midfield allowed Isabella Ritson to find a more permanent position on the left and with more pitch time her confidence grew and her performance accordingly.

This has been an interesting and encouraging year for these girls as next year they will all be playing senior hockey. I wish them every success and thank them for the great enjoyment I have gained from working with them for the last three years.

S Sampsey

Under 14 XI

The under 14 squad has had a great season, achieving great things from start to finish. Captain Amelia Dalzell inspired the team and led them throughout the season.

They were victorious against Altrincham Girls' Grammar, Stockport Grammar, Cheadle Hulme, Lancaster Girls' Grammar, Rossall School and many more.

In the Lancashire tournament, KGS meant business from the start. Lucy Keelan, Jade Yarwood, Olivia Corcoran, Olivia Grindrod and Rachel Greenwood worked tirelessly up front causing real problems with the opposing teams' defence. They went on to beat Ripley St Thomas 3-0, Lancaster 2-0, Baines 6-0, AKS 2-1 and Rossall 2-0. This great set of results meant that KGS were crowned Lancashire champions and qualified for the regional hockey finals at Timperley Hockey Club.

In the regional finals, the squad certainly did not disappoint! With a strong back four of Hannah Fingleton, Becky Chatwin, Amelia Dalzell and Chloe Baybutt, the team was able to move the ball forward quickly to enable Sian Atkinson, Olivia Grindrod, Alice Baron-Eaves and Camryn Spector to run riot in the midfield. Victories against the Isle of Man, Cheadle Hulme, King's Chester and Sheffield High School saw KGS progress through to the north hockey finals.

At Leeds University it was clear that we would meet top opposition. The girls were focussed and ready to compete.



Their first game was against Hymer's College, a tough game to start with but the players were ready! A 0-0 start to the tournament and a fair result set us on the right path for the next game.

I am pleased to report that we were victorious in all other games and made the final where we would meet Stockport Grammar School. Although we had beaten them earlier in the season, we did not know what to expect. In a very tight fought game, Stockport unfortunately took the game with a goal close to the final whistle.

So very close to under 14 national finals with a team full of great players with great attitudes.

Under 13 XI

The under 13 hockey squad had an exceptional season, which culminated in a squad of ten competing in the National Schools' Mini Hockey Finals in Cannock in May.

Early on in the season, the under 13 team made a smooth transition from 7-a-side to the full 11-a-side game. Their ability to play as a team was evident from this early stage and they notched up wins against AKS, Altrincham Grammar, Stockport, Cheadle and Rossall and drew with Wakefield and Queen's, Chester. By the end of the autumn term they had scored a staggering 30 goals and conceded 8.

The squad was large and we were able to run almost two teams. On Saturday, 20 October, whilst the A team was playing against Cheadle, Kirkham B's hosted a touring side from Monkton Combe Prep School near Bath. The girls enjoyed a 7-a-side fixture before combining with an under 14 B team for an exhilarating 11-a-side game. Throughout the morning of sport both schools played with enormous effort and it was a delight to see the girls develop their teamwork skills.



Eighteen members of the under 13 squad enjoyed a memorable trip to Holland and France over the October half-term. Team bonding was evident both on and off the pitch. Tactical play and skills were tested against strong Dutch sides and nerves were tested on the bobsleigh, in the Stars in Their Eyes talent contest and on the rides at Disney Paris. A fun time was had by all.

Under 13 Mini Hockey County Tournament

On Monday, 4 February the KGS under 13 girls sevens competed in the county round of the national mini-hockey competition. On a bitterly cold day, combined with blustery winds and driving rain, the Kirkham girls performed to a high standard. They defeated Westholme 3-0, Ripley St. Thomas 8-0, Lytham 7-0, Rossall 4-0 and then AKS in the final 2-0. The Kirkham girls played well and were worthy winners. They dominated each game and played with discipline and flair. Frankie Furnival did not have a great deal to do in goal, but when she was tested she made good saves and kept a clean sheet throughout. Lauren Williamson and Charlotte Beard defended extremely well at the back, tackling hard and sending some great balls down the wings to the forwards. Charlotte McDonald (captain) and Rachel Greenwood controlled the middle of the pitch, working hard and counter attacking at pace. Rachel Greenwood scored numerous highly skilled goals throughout the afternoon. Olivia Huyton, Maddie Fox and Beth Heatley were skilled going forward, putting real pressure on the opposing defence. It was an excellent team display which secured their place in the regional finals.

Under 13 Mini Hockey Regional Finals

The north west round of the under 13 mini hockey took place at Casterton School on Friday, 8 March, 2013. The team continued to sustain their high standard of play and were crowned North West champions, beating Cheadle Hulme 4-0, Bluecoat School 7-0, Casterton 5-0 and drawing with Wilmslow 1-1. Their success secured a place in the North Finals, held at Leeds University on Tuesday 19th March.

Under 13 Mini Hockey North Finals

The KGS team started very well and set high standards in all aspects of their play. They defeated St. Olave's, York 4-0, Scarborough College 4-0 and Rossall 7-0. In the semi-finals the opposition was Cheadle Hulme, who provided a stern test but one which the KGS girls passed with flying colours. Frankie Furnival was barely tested in goal. Charlotte McDonald was totally composed and disciplined in the defence. Lauren Williamson and Rachel McCrae were solid at the back, tackling strongly and driving down the wings on both sides of the pitch. Rachel Greenwood was outstanding in the centre of midfield and Olivia Huyton and Maddie Fox made piercing runs down both wings. Charlotte Beard and Beth Heatley provided us with great support. The score of 4-0 was an emphatic victory.

In the final, KGS were pitted against a very strong team from QEGS, Penrith. The game was end to end, but KGS had the better of the early exchanges and went 1-0 up with a super goal from Rachel Greenwood. Agonisingly, with two minutes to go, QEGS equalised from a short corner and the game ended 1-1. The result proved irrelevant because both teams qualified for the National Finals in Cannock, held on May 10th.

National Mini Hockey Finals

KGS got off to a steady start with a 1-1 draw against Cranleigh School. In the second and third matches KGS performed under par, slow to react and a little lack lustre in many areas of the pitch. It seemed that nerves at such a huge event had got the better of them and unfortunately KGS lost 2-1 to Trent College and 1-0 to Blundells. However, in the final two games, KGS really stepped up a gear and performed superbly, defeating Queenswood 3-0 and Sevenoaks 5-2.

Rachel Greenwood was outstanding driving at the opposition and causing chaos in both the Queenswood and Sevenoaks defence. Frankie Furnival was solid and aggressive in goal, making some crucial saves. Both Rachel McCrae and Lauren Williamson made some superb defensive tackles, enabling them to release the ball to the midfield. Maddie Fox demonstrated some lovely stick skills and provided the forwards with numerous crosses attacking the oppositions' goal. Olivia Huyton put her speed and athleticism to good use on the left side of the pitch making some superb runs. Charlotte McDonald made some composed tackles under pressure and led her team with pride.

KGS came fifth in the country, which is an outstanding achievement.

Every player did tremendously well. A fantastic end to a very long hockey season. The under 13s certainly did us all proud in true KGS fashion.

Junior Hockey Tour Holland and France

On Wednesday, 24 October a mixture of thirty six under 13 and under 14 hockey girls departed KGS excitedly looking forward to the adventure that lay ahead. The coach was vibrant as they numbered off and then belted out the tour songs, 'Build Me Up Buttercup' and 'Live While We're Young'.

The ferry crossing was a great way to start this tour. After sorting out cabins, we went down to the restaurant and enjoyed a five course meal before changing to explore the ship. The girls entertained fellow passengers with their singing and indeed their dancing at the disco later that night. The comments from the public were very complimentary indeed!

On Thursday morning after what seemed like an unbelievably short sleep and a hearty breakfast, we docked and then headed for Valkenburg on the coach. The lack of DVD player and CD player left the staff acting as Red Coats, entertaining and singing all the way to the hotel. The three years gave the songs volume and a little umph, whilst the second years blended the tunes very nicely indeed.

The Tourtel Princes was an ideal location, the environment was very warm and friendly and the rooms were just right for what we needed. We did not have much time in the hotel before we had to leave for our first set of matches against Hockey Club Vrijenbroek. This set of opposition was extremely strong, a big group of fast, powerful girls. We were a little fazed as we arrived, but once we had warmed up we were certainly ready for action! Our under 13s were outstanding. After a fairly even start, our girls got stronger and stronger and proved too much for the Dutch opposition – they won 4-0 in a fantastic display. Our under 14s were up against a team that was a year older than them and they froze in the first half and played with no real determination. Hence they were 3-0 down at half time. However, after a pep talk at half time and a few adjustments to our tactics, the Kirkham girls were excellent! They closed down quickly, they were totally committed in every challenge and they counter attacked with real drive. What a second half display!! Though we lost 4-0, this team really grew in strength that night. Our 'B' team, which was a mix of under 13 and under 14 girls, was up against it. This team battled really well but were well and truly beaten. The girls were absolutely physically worn out – it was only after the game that we were told we had played 35 minutes each way, 20 minutes longer than a normal game at home.

On return to the hotel the evening's entertainment began – Prize Bingo. A perfect way to end an exhausting but extremely enjoyable day!

Friday morning was another very early start, 8:00 am breakfast and then a one mile walk to the local astro-turf pitch for our World Cup hockey tournament. The weather was shocking, cold, wet and driving winds but the Kirkham girls stuck it out and, after some wonderful hockey, Australia emerged as World Cup winners. A hot lunch was just what we needed before heading off to visit the Marl Caves – a little train excursion through the underground air raid and nuclear shelters – a very interesting and informative experience. Again, it was enjoyed by all. In the evening we travelled to Hockey Club Blerick for our second set of fixtures. Our B team played extremely well in an evenly contested match. They got stuck in to all challenges and attacked with real speed. They were very unfortunate to lose 1-0! Sadly, confusion by the club led to our under 13 and under 14 teams being let down, and although we were furious, it turned out fine because we managed to get in a good training match instead. On returning to the hotel we had a pop quiz, enjoyed a mass of Halloween sweets and then it was time for 'Stars in Your Eyes'. All the girls performed on stage and truly entertained everyone in the hotel. We had dancing and singing and a real array of costumes – in fact they were all so good it was terrific. To finish off the night, the staff taught the girls our tour song and we thoroughly enjoyed singing our song in a four piece harmony. Mr Barratt would have been so proud.

Saturday morning got off to a very early start with breakfast, followed by packing the coach and then a trip to the bobsleighing – a real treat for everyone. After a tentative start by some who crept round the slopes, they soon got the hang of it and started to fly round. Rosy cheeked and on absolute high, we then left the bobsleighing to head to Disneyland Paris. As you can imagine, the atmosphere on the coach was electrifying. What could be better than going to



see Mickey Mouse with all your friends? Though the coach journey was long, we at least got the CD player working and we sang Disney songs for much of the way there. Girls really can keep entertained in any situation. It's great!

We were soon at the Disney Kyriad, a lovely Disney hotel right in the heart of the atmosphere. After a delicious all you can eat buffet, we set off on the little yellow buses for the Disney Village. This was heaven - so many shops!! Hats, gloves, scarves, teddies and all sorts of souvenirs filled everyone's bags as we headed back to the hotel in anticipation of the next day's fun.

On Sunday morning we were up bright and early. Following an all you can eat breakfast, we headed for Magic Kingdom. The girls had a fabulous time meeting the characters, on the rides, in the shops and watching the parade. Again, we whizzed back to the hotel for an evening meal and then headed back to the Magic Kingdom for the 20th Anniversary Tinkerbell Firework display. It was breath-taking - a perfect end to a fantastic day!!

Monday morning again was a hearty breakfast followed by packing the coach and heading to the Studios Park - the Hollywood Tower of Terror, The Rocking Rollercoaster and Armageddon proved real hits with all the girls. After using their Pluto lunch voucher, we headed back to the coach for the journey home. The girls were so disappointed, they did not want it to end!!

We arrived back at Kirkham at 4.00 am on the Tuesday morning - what a fantastic tour!! The girls were terrific and a real credit to Kirkham Grammar School. The staff were equally fantastic and I would like to thank Mr and Mrs Walter, Miss Hatch and Miss Spacey for all their support in the organisation of the tour and their tireless work whilst we were on tour. It certainly is the staff who make the tour so enjoyable and fun-filled for the girls.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr and Mrs Cameron and Mr Preston for organising sponsorship for the jackets and Mr and Mrs Huyton and Mr Wilson for organising sponsorship for the training tops. We really do appreciate it.

J. Glover

Under 12 XI

The under 12 hockey squad trained hard throughout the season and was a pleasure to coach. They gave of their best at all times and made significant progress.

The B team had a slow start to the season, with most of the team coming to the school with very little hockey playing experience. Defensively, Freya Parkinson, Lexie Oddie and Oakley Pendergest were solid and improved massively with their distribution. Geena Barlow became a very influential and creative midfield player and linked the defence and attack well. In attack we struggled to score many goals early season but made tremendous progress and finished the season on a fantastic note, winning the Lancashire B team tournament.

The A team had a fantastic year and was unbeaten throughout the season. Eve Turner really blossomed as a centre midfielder, dominating the centre of the pitch. Defensively, we were not tested very often, with Hannah Lewthwaite, our goalkeeper, having very little to do. Georgia Blakemore and Lucie Ethell were very good on the ball going forwards and often produced good attacking moves. The highlight of the season for me was when they played in the King's Invitational tournament. They played some really tough teams and although we did not score many goals, we still dominated possession and ended the day being victorious overall and coming away with the trophy.

L. Baxter

NETBALL

Under 15

The under 15 team made a great start to the season by achieving fourth place out of nine schools at the HMC tournament held at Stonyhurst College. This was a high calibre tournament where top netball teams from across the north west were competing.

Their opening match was against the eventual tournament winners, King's Macclesfield who played a fast and disciplined game and despite a concerted effort by the KGS team they could not take a hold of the game. However, with small position changes in subsequent matches, the discipline of the KGS team improved and they were able to force their opposition to work hard. Fiona Lockhart at centre worked tirelessly, creating passing opportunities down the court and making crucial interceptions and deflections in defence. Millie Foley made some great passes into the circle and Beth Everson and Chloe Winder, as goal attack and goal shooter respectively, found space to shoot and support one another in the rebound. Despite making some great shots, nerves sometimes got the better of them both and easier shots under the post were missed. In some close matches, such as Stockport Grammar and Stonyhurst College, this cost us the game. In defence, Abbie King and Eliza Parr worked hard at WD, both making interceptions and marking closely. Jess O'Neill, Anna Hughes and Olivia Anderton who played goal defence and goal keeper interchangeably were also highly effective, keeping their attacking opponents out of good shooting positions and making impressive interceptions.

This level of play was sustained for the season. Practices were well attended and KGS played A and B teams in the local league matches. They won all but one match, losing narrowly to AKS, which placed them second overall. It was unfortunate that their District Tournament clashed with a French trip so the team was unable to compete and defend their title. However, the girls are to be congratulated on a great season.

Under 14 A

The under 14 girls made fantastic progress during the season. They played 8 games and only lost one. At the Blackpool and Wyre Schools' Netball tournament, we dominated the group stages and qualified for the semi-finals. After a slow start in the first half, our girls really started to motor. Unfortunately, we left ourselves too much to do and lost by two goals to the eventual winners, Baines. In the league, our girls won the majority of their games comfortably. However, against AKS we performed poorly in the first half and were behind by 8 goals at half time. In the second half, the Kirkham girls were on fire and they played outstanding netball. Unfortunately, we ran out of time and lost by just one goal 16-15. This poor first half cost us winning the league and we had to settle for the runners up place.

This group of girls was a pleasure to work with and developed into a class netball team. I am looking forward to working with them again next season. Well done.

Under 14 B

The under 14 B team worked really hard throughout the season and developed into a very good team indeed. In fact, at the Blackpool and Wyre Schools' Netball Tournament, our girls dominated from start to finish and won the tournament in style to be crowned winners for the third year running.

These girls have been a real pleasure to work with and I look forward to working with them again next season. Well done.

JM Glover

Under 13

The under 13 netball team has had a mixed season but the players all made some great improvements in their individual games. At the start of the season, there was a strong intake of pupils who seemed to promise great things and the first few matches of the season were very encouraging. The inclusion of Rachel Greenwood as centre (and captain), and the combination of Charlotte Beard and Francesca Furnival as goal attack and goal keeper respectively, allowed the team to perform well against some difficult teams and allowed the under 13s to achieve an impressive goal scoring average throughout the season.

Throughout the entire season, Charlotte McDonald and Olivia Huyton contributed invaluable to the defence of the team, whilst Maddie Fox and Rachel McCray were determined players who worked tirelessly during games in the centre third. Despite the potential shown by the team, some unfortunate injuries during the season, and clashes with other sporting fixtures, meant that at times the team did not perform quite as well as the potential had promised at the start. In particular, the team was disappointed by their performances during their netball tournaments and this experience emphasised for some players the need to work more closely with each other as a team. However, overall it was a promising year for the under 13 netball team, with great scope for further improvements in the coming years.

E. Brook

Under 12

The first year netball teams went to Stanley Park to compete against a number of local schools. The girls played extremely well and it was a great way to show how their hard work and commitment in training could be displayed.

The A team faced some tough opposition in their group. They played well as a team and Lucie Ethell captained the team superbly and Oakley Pendergest and Claudia Peacock defended well with some great interceptions, which then allowed the team to drive forward and attack. There was some fantastic shooting by both shooters which saw Kirkham Grammar into the semi finals. Morale stayed high when we came up against the eventual winners of the tournament in the semi finals.

The B team, who came out as overall winners of their round robin tournament, thoroughly deserved to be crowned winners as they showed great determination and worked well as a team. All the girls should be proud of their efforts and we look forward to seeing them in their next tournament.

S. Hatch

TENNIS

Our second year girls' tennis team put KGS on the map on Thursday, 15 November 2012 when they competed in the AEGON Team Tennis Schools Quarter Finals at Leeds Met University. By reaching this stage of the competition, they were one of 16 remaining teams in Great Britain from over 2000 schools who started the competition back in April.

The standard expected at this stage in the competition was exceptionally high but our KGS team rose to the challenge. Our team of five, Rachel Greenwood, Rachel McCrae,

Charlotte McDonald, Lucy Keelan and Poppy Morris (in reserve) had to play one singles set and one doubles set. They swept their first opponents, Queen Elizabeth's School, Penrith, aside, winning 6-0. This meant they were now in the top 8 of the country! Their match in the afternoon would determine whether KGS would represent the North in the National finals in December.

On paper, KGS were the underdogs to George Heriot's School, according to the ranking of players. However, KGS matched their opponents admirably, shot for shot, and the final results were close. Rachel McCrae, Charlotte and Lucy narrowly lost in their singles, but Rachel Greenwood managed to overpower her opponent, 6-4. At this stage, George Heriot's were ahead 3-1 in games. To take the match to a tiebreak situation (3-3), KGS had to win both doubles matches. Lucy and Rachel played an exceptional game of doubles. They covered the court well and found the gaps between their opponents to play their winning shots. They won their match 6-4. Rachel Greenwood and Charlotte were 3-1 down in their doubles, but fought back to 5-4 with tremendously powerful shots. They looked invincible and had their opponents on the back foot. In a nail biting final game, George Heriot's edged ahead, taking the final game and set 6-4.

The result overall was 4-2 to George Heriot's School, but KGS are to be congratulated on an outstanding performance. The organisers of the competition commented on their talent and tactical play and what they thought would be a foregone conclusion was certainly not! The KGS team showed nerves of steel and a determination that was unrivalled. A huge congratulations to our KGS girls who did us proud.

KGS have had another successful tennis season this year in 2013, despite the disruption the wet weather has caused.

The second year team in particular has done exceptionally well, winning the Lancashire Division 1 AEGON Schools Tennis Competition beating Broughton High, AKS, Westholme and Withington Girls' School, and so qualifying for a place in the knockout stages. In the first round they beat QEGS, Penrith and met Cheadle Hulme in their second round. Winning this match has secured their place in the last sixteen in Great Britain for a second year running! They will be competing in the regional finals on November 15th in Sunderland. We wish the team every success.

GIRLS' ATHLETICS

Once again our girls have been fantastic during the athletics season. We have had over 90 girls training regularly on a Monday evening and the majority of these girls have represented the school in athletic matches. The girls have been an absolute pleasure to work with, the atmosphere has been electric and the commitment and dedication have been, as always, unbelievable.

The season has been extremely successful and very rewarding. To have this huge number of girls competing in Kirkham colours has been a real credit to them all. In the major championships we have excelled once again, being crowned Lancashire Champions at both junior and intermediate level in the first round of the National Schools' Track and Field Cup. Both the junior and intermediate teams were crowned regional champions to earn a place in the English Schools' Track and Cup Final for the sixth year running. Special mention must go to our fourth years who have been to the English Schools' Track and Field Cup final for four consecutive years.

In the Fylde Coast Championships we dominated yet again, winning three out of four age groups.

I would like to thank all of our athletes for their hard work and complete commitment and congratulate them on another outstanding season. Special mention should go to our fourth year captains Beth Everson and Beth O'Neil who led by example, both on and off the track, training hard and assisting the staff coaching the younger athletes. I would also like to thank Mr Sampey for the tireless work that he puts into the girls athletics. His complete commitment, passion and, of course, his expertise are certainly appreciated by both the girls and the staff. Finally, thank you to Peter and Caroline Warden who have been a terrific help throughout the season.

J.M.Glover

Fylde Coast Athletics Championships

On Wednesday, 19th June the Kirkham girls competed in the Fylde Coast Athletics Championships at Stanley Park, Blackpool. 12 schools competed. Our girls were prepared and eager to compete.

In the morning, it was track heats and the field events were on going all day.

On the track we performed superbly, with the vast majority of Kirkham girls qualifying for the finals. In the field, we had some great performances, Jess O'Neil won the under 17 long jump with a personal best of 5.15m with Annalise Hughes in second place. Sophie Warden won the under 17 triple jump with a personal best of 10.11m. Lauren Bailey won the under 17 discus with a throw of over 26m. Beth Everson won the high jump with a jump of 1.48m and Fiona Lockhart finished in third place. Molly Kerrane won the under 15 discus. Serena Hagel won the under 14 long jump with a personal best of 4.50m. Charlotte Beard won the under 15 high jump with a jump of 1.38m, Rachel Greenwood won the under 14 discus and Charlotte McDonald won the under 14 javelin, Frankie Furnival was second in the under 14 shot with a personal best of 7.80m. Eva Carroll was joint first in the under 13 high jump, Polly Mellor-Bates won the under 13 shot and Frankie Riley was second in the under 13 discus.

In the afternoon finals, the Kirkham girls performed with real grit and determination. In the under 17 hurdles Emily Carpenter won, with Katy Stafford in second place. In the under 17 100m Sophie Warden won with Annalise Hughes in third place. In the under 17 200m Jess O'Neil and Kate Lawler coasted over the line together in first place. In the under 17 300m Beth Everson finished in second place and in the relay final the under 17 team won by 30metres.

In the under 15 hurdles Alice Barron-Eaves finished in first place. Lucy Keelan was third in the under 15 200m and she finished first in the 800m, with Cammie Spector second in the under 15 800m. Sam Hollings won the under 15 1500m by 80metres. The under 15 relay team finished in second place.

Olivia Huyton won the under 14 100m, Rachel Greenwood won the under 13 200m with Maddie Fox in third place. Serena Hagel won the under 14 hurdles with Rachel McCrae in second place. Lauren Williamson finished second in the under 13 800m with Amber Metherill in third place. The under 14 relay team won comfortably.

Megan Hughes won the under 13 80m with Claudia

Peacock in third place. Evie Turner won the under 13 hurdles with Mia Bucklow in second place. Ella Moulding won the under 13 800m with Alyssia Dockerty in third place. The under 13 relay team won comfortably.

A terrific day for the Kirkham girls. Under 13 winners, under 14 winners, under 15 runners up (by 4 points) and under 17 winners. Overall champion school yet again!

J.M.Glover

First round of the English Schools' Track and Field Cup

On Wednesday, 15th May KGS junior and inter girls competed in the county round of the National Schools' Athletics Championships. The girls were focused, highly motivated and ready for the challenge. This event is different to the norm because each athlete has to compete in a track and a field event and points are awarded for time, distance and height. The girls got off to a great start in the field, scoring well in all events. Charlotte McDonald threw a personal best in the javelin and Rachel Greenwood did the same in discus. Jess O'Neil did a personal best of 5.05 m in the long jump and Beth Everson and Sophie Warden jumped over 9.5 m in the triple jump running into a strong head wind. On the track, the girls were terrific at such an early stage of the season. Jess O'Neil again thundered down the track in the 200m, Alice Barron Eaves, Olivia Huyton and Maddie Fox were terrific in the sprints. Becky Ingham got a personal best in the 300m. Serena Hagel, Rachel McCrae, Issy Ritson and Katie Stafford were dynamic over the hurdles; Lucy Keelan, Sam Hollings, Beth Everson, Ella Moulding, Alyssia Dockerty, Lauren Williamson and Charlotte McDonald achieved some super times in the middle distance events.

The final points were as follows:-

Junior Girls: 1st - KGS 388 points, 2nd - AKS 320 points, 3rd - Lytham 251 points, 4th - Broughton 197 points

Inter Girls: 1st - KGS - 392 points, 2nd - AKS - 300 points, 3rd - Broughton - 192 points, 4th - Lytham - 189 points.



Track and Field Cup Regional finals

On Wednesday, 12th June the junior and intermediate girls' teams competed in the regional final of the English Schools' Track and Field Cup at Stanley Park.

After a half term break and over a week of exams we had not prepared as well as we would normally do, so the pressure was on.

The juniors performed steadily in the field with a consistent flow of points coming in. At the half way stage we were 2 points ahead, so we had it all to do on the track. The girls dug in deep and we had a string of very good results one after the other on the track. Serena Hagel and Rachel McCrae got our track off to a good start with very good performances in the 75m hurdles. Livvy Huyton won the 100m, Maddie Fox and Rachel Greenwood were close to personal bests in the 200m, Charlotte McDonald and Lauren Williamson achieved personal bests in the 800m and Ella Moulding and Alyssia Dockerty scored well in the 1500m. The last event was the relay and we had to get the baton round safely-and that we did! Our girls did not score as highly as in the first round, but they still won comfortably, by 23 points, with a score of 356 points. We have so much more to give again here!

It was the first time the inters had come together since half term because of exams and again the pressure was on! This team, when on form, is exceptional, however, everything that could have gone wrong in the first half of the competition went wrong! In the 80m hurdles Isabella Ritson was impeded by a falling hurdler in the next lane. We dropped points in many of our field events which was frustrating and disappointing, but it was just one of those days. At the half way mark, we were 19 points behind the leaders, so we had it all to do on the track!

Our girls showed real guts as they approached the track totally focused and determined to make amends. Katy Stafford performed well in the hurdles and Issy Ritson still managed to score 16 points even though she was virtually taken out just after the third hurdle. Annalise Hughes put in a good performance in the 100m, Jess O'Neil and Sophie Warden thundered round the 200m to score highly. Beth Everson achieved a personal best in the 300m, Sam Hollings starred in the 1500m and Lucy Keelan put in a great performance in the 800m. Once again, we had to get the

baton round safely and again that is just what we did!
We knew that it was going to be close, but our star performances on the track clawed the points back and we scored 374 points, which put us in first place. Again, this team are capable of so much more!

Both teams did us proud and again KGS had two teams in the English Schools' Track and Field Cup final. A magnificent achievement!

J. M. Glover

English Schools' Track and Field Cup Final

On Saturday, 29th June both the junior and intermediate girls' athletics teams represented the North West in the English Schools' Track and Field Cup Final at Gateshead International Stadium.

The girls were well prepared and excited to compete against the top schools in the country. This competition is different from the rest - all athletes have to take part in two events, a track and a field event, so it takes some working out to select the best combination.

Our junior girls were a little overwhelmed by the size of the venue when we first entered the stadium. However, once the final got underway, they calmed down and focussed on their events. We had a mix of performances - real highs and some affected by nerves on the day. There were many very good performances and the following girls scored over 20 points in their event:

Olivia Huyton - 100m 13.7s; Rachel Greenwood - 200m 28.5s and in the discus 23.64m; Maddie Fox - 200m 29.3; Ella Moulding - 1500m 5m15.9s; Serena Hagel - 75m hurdles 13.0s and in long jump 4.37m; Rachel McCrae - 75m hurdles 13.5s; Jamie Curran - shot 8.15m; Charlotte McDonald javelin 22.33m.

The Junior team finished in a solid eighth place - a terrific effort.

Our intermediate girls have an outstanding track record, with nine of this team reaching the National Final for four consecutive years. This team, with their experience, was totally focussed and highly motivated. The points this year from the big high schools from the south were very high indeed, so the competition was going to be tougher than ever before. The teams aim was to score over 400 points and achieve their full potential on the day. They certainly did do that! The following girls scored over 20 points in their event:

Annalise Hughes - 100m 13.6s and long jump a PB of 4.98m; Jess O'Neill - 200m 26.4s and in the long jump 4.88m; Sophie Warden - 200m 27.7s and in the triple jump 9.95m; Beth Everson - 300m 43.3s and in the triple jump 9.73m; Lauren Bailey discus 24.84m; Lucy Keelan - 800m 2m27.7s; Samantha Hollings - 1500m with a PB of 5m00.4s; Molly Kerrane - discus 23.23m; Molly Kerrane, Alice Barron-Eaves, Fiona Lockhart and Lucy Keelan - relay.

There were many outstanding performances on the day, but special mention should go to Sam Hollings for her brilliant front running in the 1500m, and the terrific and ideal finale to the competition when the intermediate girls relay team won the final race.

Our intermediate team performed to their best throughout the day and scored a terrific 411 points. The girls finished in fifth place, a magnificent performance and only three points behind fourth place.



These are outstanding achievements. To finish eighth and fifth in England is unbelievable for such a small school.

Congratulations to:

Junior Team: Captains Serena Hagel and Olivia Huyton, Rachel McCrae, Rachel Greenwood, Maddie Fox, Charlotte McDonald, Lauren Williamson, Jamie Curran, Frankie Furnival, Ella Moulding, Alyssia Dockerty, Beth Heatley, Charlotte Beard, Freya Powell, Lucie Ethell.

Intermediate Team: Captains Beth Everson and Jess O'Neill, Sophie Warden, Annalise Hughes, Issy Ritson, Katie Stafford, Lauren Bailey, Fiona Lockhart, Nicole Thompson, Alice Barron - Eaves, Lucy Keelan, Molly Kerrane, Sam Hollings, Hannah Fingleton.

J. Glover



SPORTING HONOURS 2012/13

INDIVIDUAL

Athletics:

Lancashire County Championships

Boys:

Benjamin Everson, under 17 800m runner-up
Jake Lonsdale, under 15 800m runner-up/1500m champion
Kieran Wilkinson, junior boys 100m finalist
Bradley Yates, under 15 800m champion

Girls:

Beth Everson, under 17 triple jump runner-up/long jump fifth/300m fifth
Rachel Greenwood, under 15 discus third
Serena Hagel, under 15 hurdles/long jump fifth
Annalise Hughes, under 17 long jump third
Olivia Huyton, under 15 100m seventh/long jump ninth
Lucy Keelan, under 15 800m fourth
Kate Lawler, under 17 300m champion and 200m champion
Ella Moulding, under 13 1500m runner-up
Taegan O'Hara, under 20 triple jump third/long jump sixth/100m hurdles third
Jess O'Neill, under 17 100m champion/200m runner-up/long jump champion
Nicole Wainwright, under 20 triple jump runner-up
Sophie Warden, under 17 triple jump third/100m fifth/long jump sixth
Rachel Williamson, under 20 triple jump champion/long jump runner-up

Lancashire Schools' Championships

Boys:

William Bruce, under 15 long jump champion
Joshua Burrows, senior boys hammer champion
Benjamin Everson, senior boys 1500m runner-up
Jake Lonsdale, under 15 1500m champion
Bradley Yates, under 17 800m champion

Girls:

Laura Bailey, under 17 discus champion
Alice Barron-Eaves, under 15 75m hurdles seventh
Beth Everson, under 17 triple jump runner-up
Rachel Greenwood, under 15 discus runner-up
Serena Hagel, under 15 75m hurdles sixth
Alexandra Hastie, under 20 high jump champion
Annalise Hughes, under 17 long jump champion
Olivia Huyton, under 15 100m fourth
Lucy Keelan, under 15 800m fourth
Kate Lawler, under 17 300m champion
Charlotte McDonald, under 15 javelin third
Taegan O'Hara, under 20 triple jump fourth/100m hurdles fourth
Jess O'Neill, under 17 200m champion
Imogen Trafford, under 20 1500m runner-up
Nicole Wainwright, under 20 triple jump third
Sophie Warden, under 17 100m third
Rachel Williamson, under 20 triple jump champion

Daniella Parziale, under 12 North West team
Elizabeth Reif, under 13 National Championships

Biathlon:

Cricket:

Lancashire under 15:

James Seward, Captain

Lancashire under 13:

Kieran Wilkinson

Lancashire under 12:

Joe Thomson, Development Squad

Cross Country: Boys:

Christopher Linton, under 12 Wyre & Fylde Coast Champion
 Jake Lonsdale, under 15 Wyre & Fylde Coast Champion/Junior
 Lancashire County Champion
 Benjamin Everson, Senior Lancashire County Championships Runner-up

Girls:

Samantha Hollings, under 14 Wyre & Fylde representative
 Ella Moulding, under 12 Wyre & Fylde representative/under 12
 Lancashire Team representative

Golf:

Emily Shea, under 18 Lancashire Girls County Golf 2011-2013/
 England Select Squad 2012-2013

Hockey:**Lancashire Regional Performance Centre**

under 21: Alexandra Hastie
 Lindsay O'Brien

under 16: Eleanor Greenhalgh
 Becky Ingham

under 15: Freya Bennett
 Amelia Dalzell
 Rachel Greenwood
 Lucy Keelan
 Jade Yarwood

North Development

under 18: Alexandra Hastie

under 16: Eleanor Greenhalgh
 Rachel Greenwood
 Becky Ingham

Pennine Pumas

under 16: Eleanor Greenhalgh

Rugby:**Independent Schools' Lambs - England under 13**

Kieran Wilkinson

North of England RFU (18 Group):

Dominic O'Connor

North of England RFU (16 Group)

Connor Wilkinson

Lancashire RFU (18 Group)

George Brookes
 Andrew Collins
 Jordan Hogan
 Benedict Swift
 Richard Whiteside

Lancashire RFU (17 Group)

Theodore Harvey
 Lewis Leach
 William Lockhart
 Joseph Probert
 Nick Riding
 Richard Whiteside

Lancashire RFU (16 Group)

Connor Wilkinson

Lancashire RFU (15 Group)

Charles Abbott
 George Blackwell
 Jack Campbell
 George Carter
 Jack Edwards
 Matthew Thomas

TEAM ACHIEVEMENTS**Athletics:****Boys:**

Junior Boys Sainsbury's Track and Field Cup first round regional finalists
 Inter Boys Sainsbury's Track and Field Cup first round regional finalists
 Under 12 Vose Cup Champions
 Under 12 Wyre & Fylde Coast Champions
 Under 13 Wyre & Fylde Coast Champions
 Under 14 Wyre & Fylde Coast Champions
 Under 15 Wyre & Fylde Coast Champions

Girls:

Junior Girls Sainsbury's English Schools' Cup - Lancashire champions,
 Regional runners-up
 Inter Girls Sainsbury's English School's Cup - Lancashire and Regional
 champions
 Inter Girls Sainsbury's English Schools' Cup - National Finals fourth
 Junior Girls Sainsbury's English Schools' Cup - National Finals eighth
 Under 13 Wyre & Fylde Coast Champions
 Under 14 Wyre & Fylde Coast Champions
 Under 17 Wyre & Fylde Coast Champions

Cricket:

Under 12 semi-final Lancashire Cup

Cross Country:**Boys:**

Under 12 Wyre & Fylde Coast champions
 Under 14 Wyre & Fylde Coast champions

Girls:

Under 12 Lancashire County champions
 Under 14 Lancashire County champions

Hockey:

Under 12 A Lancashire County runners-up
 Under 12 B Lancashire County champions
 Under 13 Mini Hockey Lancashire & Regional champions
 Under 13 Mini Hockey (North) champions
 Under 13 National Finals sixth
 Under 14 Lancashire County champions
 Under 14 Regional champions
 Under 14 North runners-up
 Under 15 Lancashire champions
 Under 16 Lancashire runners-up
 Under 16 Regional champions
 Under 16 North finalists
 Under 18 Lancashire runners-up
 Under 18 Regional champions
 Under 18 North finalists

Rugby:

Under 12 XV Manchester Grammar School Tournament Champions
 Under 13 XV Lancashire Cup runners-up
 Under 13 VII AKS Sevens runners-up
 Under 13 VII Roslyn Park National Sevens final sixteen
 Under 14 VII KGS Sevens champions
 Under 15 XV Daily Mail Cup Vase semi-finalist
 Under 15 VII AKS Sevens champions
 Under 16 XV Lancashire Cup runners-up
 Under 17 XV Manchester Grammar School Festival champions
 First VII Fylde RUFC Sevens runners-up
 2013 Lancashire School of the Year

Swimming:**Mixed:**

QEGS Blackburn Quadrangular runners-up

Tennis:**Girls:**

Aegon Regional Final runners-up

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HEADMISTRESS' FOREWORD

Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School is a fantastically strong and vibrant place to work and learn. It draws its strength in part from being a family school deeply rooted in our local communities.

The warmth of our welcome is another strong characteristic. Our parents expect KGJS to provide a safe and caring environment in which their children can learn and develop and I promise you that I will do all in my power to maintain this commitment to a broad-based education so that we can continue to feel proud of our pupils whatever their abilities.

The musical, cultural and sporting life of the school continues to flourish as our pupils take full advantage of our many extra-curricular opportunities. There is not enough space for me to highlight them all here but you will find a flavour of them in the pages of this report.

I hope that you will agree that this has been another superb year in the life of the school and I hope that you enjoy reading about it.



Mrs Alarcon



Mr Wilkinson



Mr Hamilton

K.G.J.S NEWS

In September we welcomed a familiar face with an unfamiliar name back to KGJS. We would like to congratulate Mrs Rachel Alarcon, formerly Miss Walker, on her wedding over the summer. Mrs Alarcon originally joined the School on maternity cover for Mrs Hamilton's J4 class but will now be taking charge of the children in J2W. We wish her every success.

Another new addition, this time on the sports side, is Ryan Wilkinson. Mr Wilkinson joined the Junior school as a gap student upon completing his A Levels at the Senior School. A keen rugby player, Mr Wilkinson represented the KGS 1st XV and will be looking to impart some of that sporting knowledge upon our pupils.

Mr Stephen Hamilton, another old Kirkhamian, has also joined the school taking over the publicity and marketing. Mr Hamilton has a degree in Journalism and will be producing the KGJS fortnightly newsletters as well as administering the website. Mr Hamilton may even pop up in the classroom to help from time to time.

Finally we would like to warmly welcome Miss Claire Evans back to school. Miss Evans left us at the end of last year's summer term on maternity leave. Her son William was born in July last year and we wish them both the best of health.



SPORT

RUGBY

U11s: The U11 Rugby season started off with a very enjoyable 7s tournament against our local club sides (Fylde & Preston Grasshoppers). Even though we performed quite well it was obvious we were going to have to improve our game in many areas.

During the season we played 6 fixtures and took part in 3 tournaments. When going forward we performed quite well and played attractive rugby. It was when we had to defend where our weaknesses were exposed. It was clear we had too many players who were not keen on the tackling aspect of the game!

However, by the end of the season we had started to come together and perform with great grit and determination especially in the last two tournaments of the Spring Term.



The season's results were as follows:

Won 3, Lost 6.

Harrison Cup – 9th

Budge 7s – Semi Final

AJIS 7s – Semi Final

Charlie Smith was exceptional as Captain and always led from the front. The most improved player of the year was Oliver Barnett.

U10s: The U10s are a very talented and determined group of players. Their season started off in early September with our annual 7s tournament against Tarleton & Preston Grasshoppers. We were fortunate to be able to put in an A and B team which is a reflection of our depth of talent. The A team were undefeated and the B team won 1, lost 2.



Fixtures at U10 level are always difficult to find but thanks to Merchant Taylors we were able to find some opposition. We fielded three U10 teams and all were unbeaten in the season.



The Under 10s have the potential to be very successful but this will only be achieved through a disciplined approach to training and practice sessions. The transition from 9-a-side to 12-a-side will give many boys the opportunity to show what they are made of next season.

U9s: Whilst the U9s are quite a small year group they do possess some very talented individuals. The season started off with our annual 7s tournament and it was very pleasing to see Fyldie, Tarleton and Preston Grasshoppers taking part. After this tournament it was clear we had some very exciting rugby players and we recorded three excellent victories.

During the season we played four further fixtures with the boys winning every game. Overall a very pleasing rugby season for all our teams with every single boy selected from all three years groups.

The U11s had a difficult season but worked hard to improve their weaknesses and the U10s and U9s should do well in the future.

Thank you to Mr Mahon who has made a massive contribution to all our teams.



ISLE OF MAN SPORTS TOUR

On Monday 21 January twenty five pupils and three staff flew to the Isle of Man for our annual sports tour for rugby, football, hockey and netball fixtures. During the tour the excited and enthusiastic pupils took part in two hockey, two rugby, one netball and two football games. There was also time to squeeze in a mixed pool competition, a local history quiz, a World Cup Tournament and a swimming and McDonalds evening!

Overall we won 3 matches and lost 4.

The mixed pool winners were Ms Baxter and Mason Maher. The quiz winners were Olivia Gebbie, Sophie Bowen, Hannah Mears, Gemma Eastham, Ewan Macaulay, Luc Slater, Max Pendergest, Jacob Andrews and Oliver Barnett. The world cup hockey tournament went to 'Brazil', consisting of Jeorge Coulthard, Max Pendergest, Sophie Bowen, Luke Dean, Mason Maher, Daniella Parziale and Mr Oddie.

All of the children were a credit to the school, on and off the field, with many compliments from members of the public everywhere we went. We were well supported by ten parents who travelled over, which was much appreciated, you really did make a difference. The final thank you must go to our very generous parents who funded the purchase of hoodies, tour bags, beanies, T-shirts and shorts which enabled our pupils to look extremely smart and helped generate a real team ethic. The whole tour squad would like to thank the following families - Baileys, Davies, Easthams, Maddens, Kearsleys, Mears and Smiths.



HOCKEY

A large number of girls and boys from all Junior years have played hockey this year. The school has been represented by the following teams; four Under 11 girls' teams, an Under 10 girls' team, an Under 9 girls' team, two Under 11 boys' teams and two Under 9 mixed teams. The results were:

U11 Girls - Won 8, Lost 3, Drew 3.

Foremarke Hall Tournament - Semi-Final.

St. Mary's Hall Tournament Plate Winners.

Lancashire Tournament Winners - this is the 6th consecutive winning year.

Budge Tournament Winners.

North West Champions.

North Final Runners-up.



Overall I have been pleased with how the Under 11s have developed as a team, although they have not always achieved their potential in tournaments. They struggled to raise their game at crucial moments however they have worked superbly as a team with no one individual dominating. They have the potential to carry on improving next year.

Under 10 Girls

The Under 10s have made excellent progress this season with new girls fitting well into the team. They work well as a team and I'm sure they will continue to progress next season. They won all three of their games this year.

At the end of the season, we held the Kirkham Invitational Under 10 Hockey tournament for the 5th time where 8 of the top hockey teams in the North were invited. It was a very successful event with the A team winning the cup competition.

U9 Girls

Won 1 Lost 1

U11 Boys

Won 2, Lost 1, Drew 1

The boys have also had the opportunity this year to play in a number of tournaments against hockey clubs including Lytham, Southport, Preston, Liverpool, Lancaster, Formby and Blackburn. Playing so many more matches this year has helped enormously with the boys' hockey development.

Lancashire Champions

North West Championships - 3rd

North Finals - 5th

NETBALL

This year the school has been represented by the following teams; four Under 11 teams, an Under 10 team and an Under 9 team.

The results were as follows;

U11s won 5, lost 4, drew 1

U10s lost 1

U9s won 1

Again all 14 girls have had the opportunity to play against other schools and all 14 and 13 girls have had the opportunity to attend Netball Club to improve their skills and game understanding.



CROSS-COUNTRY

On Wednesday 16 January the annual AJIS Cross Country Championships took place at Rossall School. Over 20 schools took part from the North West of England. The running conditions were very good, although the temperature was bitterly cold. All our teams had trained hard and were as prepared as they could be after a three week Christmas break!

The results were as follows: U11 Girls - 1st, U10 Girls - 1st, U10 Boys - 2nd and U11 Boys - 5th. The results were fantastic, especially for the U10 girls who, due to illness, were forced to make a number of changes with pupils filling in at the last moment. There were some excellent individual performances on the day from Olivia Gebbie, Emily Dignan, Daniella Parziale, Beth Dowbiggin, Hannah Wilson, Louis Hurst and Nye Carrel. Well done to everyone who participated. Thank you to the parents who came to support, it really was superb.

INDOOR ATHLETICS

The Indoor Athletics season always provides a good foundation for many sports throughout the Autumn/Spring term as well as highlighting talent for the Summer season.

On Tuesday 5 February 28 pupils took part in the AJIS Championships held at the Wigan Indoor Arena. 23 schools from throughout the North West took part in the various events including; sprints, throws, jumps and relays. After four hours of competition we had won the following medals:

Gold

U11 Boys Speed Bounce - Oliver Barnett
 U10 Boys Balance - Jake Merrick
 U10 Boys Obstacle Relay - Tom Coulston, Cian McDermott, Ethan Crompton and Ewan Macaulay

Silver

U11 Boys 1 Lap Race - Will Johnson
 U11 Girls Vertical Jump - Gemma Eastham
 U10 Girls Vertical Jump - Elizabeth Coulston
 U11 Boys Obstacle Relay - Luke Dean, George Coulthard, Kai Fraser and Oliver Barnett

Bronze

U11 Boys Vertical Jump - Kai Fraser
 U10 Boys Chest Push - Luc Slater
 U10 Boys Speed Bounce - Ewan Macaulay
 U10 Boys 3 Lap Race - Louis Hurst
 U10 Girls Speed Bounce - Lucy Treaddell

Many pupils finished just outside the medals and recorded personal bests for their events. Congratulations to everyone who took part. The school also had an additional match against Lytham AC which was held at the excellent YMCA Sports Hall. Both the U11 Girls and U11 Boys won overall.

SWIMMING

All boys & girls worked hard in lessons throughout the Autumn Term to improve their times and stroke technique.

It is always difficult to compete against schools who have their own pools but we performed very well at U9, U10 and U11 level with the following results:

U9 won 2, lost 1

U10 won 3, lost 1

U11 won 1, lost 3

The main event of the year is always the AJIS Championship where the competition is of the highest standard as over 25 schools from throughout the North West take part. This year it was held in Darwen and organised by Westholme School.

After 4 hours of heats and finals we achieved the following results:

Luke Dean 1st - U11 Boys Backstroke

Luc Slater 1st - U10 Boys Fly

U10 Boys Medley Relay - 2nd

U10 Boys Freestyle Relay - 3rd

Joel Yarwood 4th - U10 Boys Breaststroke

Luca Sempers 4th - Individual Medley

These were excellent performances in this very tough competition.

In the final event of the Spring Term we were invited to take part in the St Pius Invitational Gala against Highfield Priory, St Pius and Windermere School.

This was the first time we had been invited to the gala which was for U9, U10 and U11 Boys and Girls. At the end of the gala we were very happy to be announced the winners, even though it was by only one point!

Daniella Parziale was presented with the St Pius Shield which was our first swimming trophy for nearly 7 years.

A.J.I.S. BIATHLON

On Friday 23 November fourteen children travelled to Halifax in Yorkshire to take part in the first ever AJIS Biathlon. Each pupil had to run 500 metres and swim 50 metres. Points were awarded depending on their timings in each event. All the children performed very well and medals were awarded to competitors who finished in the top five.

The results were:

U10 Boys - Luc Slater 4th, Joel Yarwood 5th

U11 Girls - Daniella Parziale 4th

U11 Boys - Luke Dean 3rd

In the team competition where all the competitors' scores were added together, the boys were crowned AJIS Champions!



Well done to everyone who took part.

ATHLETICS

The surprisingly warm and dry weather of the summer term enabled several practices and matches to take place this year. In preparation for the AJIS Championship we competed in 3 fixtures, winning at all levels. This included our retaining the Blackburn Centenary Shield. These results indicated we had prepared well and confidence was high going into the AJIS Championship at the Robin Park Stadium in Wigan which attracted over 30 schools from throughout the North West.

To get to a final is an achievement in itself and to gain a medal is exceptional. By the end of the championships we were very pleased to have won the following medals:

Gold

Emily Scott U10 Girls High Jump (Emily also equalled the AJIS record)



Silver

Emily Dignan U11 Girls 150 metres
Cian McDermott U10 Boys Hurdles
Tom Coulston U10 Boys 150 metres
John Ellis U10 Boys Cricket-ball throw

Bronze

Olivia Gebbie U11 Girls 600 metres
Elizabeth Coulston U10 Girls 150 metres
Luke Dean U11 Boys Hurdles
U11 Girls 4x100 metre relay
U10 Boys 4x100 metre relay

Many other children reached finals and gained 4th/5th/6th places which were also noteworthy performances when you consider the very high standard of competition.

TENNIS

Tennis Club has been very popular with both girls and boys. All that have attended have learnt how to play and score a competitive game.

This year, for the 3rd time, we ran a Tennis Cup involving 32 girls and 32 boys from across J3 and J4. Overall it was a huge success, giving the children more opportunities to play tennis, and also enabled the children to have an element of competition throughout the Summer season.



Congratulations to the following children who contested the Tennis Cup and Plate Finals, in the Summer Term.

Boys Cup

Winner - Max Bailey
 Runner Up - Tom Coulston

Girls Cup

Winner - Puneet Mathauda
 Runner up - Olivia Gebbie

Boys Plate

Winner - Jerome Anthony
 Runner Up - Max Pendergest

Girls Plate

Winner - Lauren Gibbons
 Runner Up - Hannah Standley

ROUNDERS

Throughout the Summer Term, Rounders Club was very popular, with over 30 girls regularly attending after school and lunchtime practices. All the girls worked hard on improving their individual skills, whether it was their batting, bowling or fielding.

The weather unfortunately curtailed our fixtures. We only managed one Under 11 A and B team fixture and this was against Westholme with victories from both our teams. The A team took part in the AJIS Tournament winning three matches and only losing to Queens.

The season finished superbly with a commanding performance at the St. Pius Tournament winning our first ever Rounders Trophy.



HOUSE SPORT 2012/13

House Sport continues to thrive with all competitions keenly contested. Every pupil from J1 to J4 is involved in events covering 10 different sports.

Most competitions are held in PE/Games lessons with the exception of the Swimming Gala, Cross-Country and Athletics Championship which are held over a longer period of time due to the large numbers involved.

Winners of each competition were as follows:

Netball – Colborne & Drapers

Rugby – Colborne & Birley

Hockey – Drapers

Basketball – Clifton

Cross-Country – Drapers

Swimming – Birley

Athletics – Colborne

Tennis – Birley & Colborne

Cricket – Clifton

Rounders – Drapers

After months of enthusiastic competition the final results were as follows:

1st Drapers 293 pts

2nd Birley 285 pts

3rd Colborne 271 pts

4th Clifton 231 pts

Congratulations to Drapers but credit must go to Birley, Colborne and Clifton for a fantastic effort throughout the year.



PRE-SCHOOL

We began the Autumn Term with enthusiasm and many exciting activities planned. Our first topic was "All About Me" and so that we could get to know each other, we requested parents to send some photographs of their children from birth till their third and fourth birthday and we learnt about how much they have grown and changed since they were born.

We took part in so many adventures we often amazed ourselves. Just before October Half Term, we went for a walk around our school and to the Book Fair and on our way back we found an enormous box. We climbed into it and pretended to travel around the world in a hot air balloon. We were all so excited that we decided to make the box into our own Pre-School hot air balloon so we could continue our discovery of the world.

Wednesday 24 September was a very important day for KGS Pre-school, as we held our own wedding. Invites were sent, the cake was made and the big day arrived for the children. The idea started when the children were learning about their environment. They began to explore the surroundings of Kirkham, with a trip to St Michael's Church, which is where the idea of a wedding stemmed from. One of the prime areas in the Foundation Stage Curriculum is Communication and Language and it was our intention to bring this child initiated learning topic to life through discussions. When talk of the wedding started, the children were so keen to hear about what was meant by a 'wedding' and they began learning different words and meanings that they came across in the preparation process. It was a beautiful ceremony, conducted by Reverend Bunday, with a song from Katie Macadam in J3 to add to the special occasion. Parents came to watch as the children sat in the church to learn about what it means to get



married and the process of becoming 'man and wife'. The aim of this exercise was for the children to learn through role play, and to develop their language and communication skills.

The areas of Mathematics and Literacy were linked throughout the year using cooking activities to enhance very specific learning intentions. One of our first cooking experiences was baking bread and as we made a few loaves, we worked on how to listen carefully and follow instructions.

We began by discussing how many ingredients we needed, measured the quantities we were going to use for the amount of pupils at Pre-School. We then mixed the ingredients and made dough, we all had a go at kneading our own dough. When the dough was ready, we let it rise for quite some time.



We put the dough in a tin and then in the oven, after about 20 minutes, our loaf of bread was ready to eat. Finally, we spread our own butter and strawberry jam and ate it.... It was delicious!

During our discussions about food, the children really wanted to know about milk as we have milk every day and we had talked about how good milk is for us. Poppy told us she had lots of cows at home so we asked her daddy if he could bring some to Pre-School. Mr Pickervance brought 3 calves to Pre-School and told us so many things about them. We learnt that all calves have a passport from the day they are born and that we get meat or milk from them depending on the type of cows they had as a mummy!

As we were preparing for our Christmas Production, we enjoyed learning about the real tradition of Christmas and performed wonderfully on the day. When everyone thought the show was over, we brought a bit of Spanish spirit to wish everyone Feliz Navidad.

We began the Spring Term with the topic "The World Around Us" and the first country we visited was the United Kingdom. We learnt about different buildings in our country and built some of our own, too. We made models of Blackpool Tower, Westminster Abbey, the London Eye and London Bridge and baked some lovely scones for our English tea party. It was a wonderful start to the term! On our journey around the UK, we stopped in Lancashire and got to know the area where we live. We got talking about our favourite British food and decided to have our very own Fish and Chips restaurant in Pre-School. We made fish, sausages, peas and pies out of clay and homemade chips out of straws as well as our menus and list of orders. After we had practised placing our orders and



wrapping up pretend fish and chips in newspaper, we were ready to visit Whelan's Fish and Chips restaurant in Lytham. We wrote our list of orders, made sure we had enough coins for everyone to pay for their food and off we went on a bus to have our traditional Fish and Chips lunch. We had a fantastic time and enjoyed looking at the menu, ordering and paying for our food.

Before we could continue travelling we learnt about passports and why we needed them to go to different parts of the world. We then decided to make our own to continue our trip around the world.

We were on our way to Italy when suddenly our pilot decided to carry on flying until we arrived in China. We built our very own Great Wall of China, practised writing our names and some numbers in Chinese, learnt that the Chinese flag is red and has 5 yellow stars on it and even made our own. Our Chinese friends from Senior school came to visit us and told us how important dragons are for them and how being a dragon in China means being powerful and strong. We made our own Dragon and went under it to celebrate Chinese New



Year, wore our Chinese hats and the most exciting thing... we had Chinese food and used chop sticks to eat it.

During our stay in Italy, we found out many things about this country. We talked about the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Colosseum and the Sistine Chapel and even made our own. The children created their own Mona Lisa and made models of Michelangelo's David. The Pre-School turned into an Italian kitchen for a day and Mr Vavoso, Anna's daddy and also an Italian Chef, spent a whole morning with us and showed us how to make pasta from scratch. We made pasta dough and used his pasta machine, cooked an Italian tomato sauce with basil, tasted Mozzarella and Parmesan cheese, black Italian olives and a little bit of Tiramisu. We soon realised that pasta does not come out of a packet and that it is not that hard to make your own with flour and eggs and give it whichever shape you like.

As we were getting to the end of term, we spent a bit of time getting ready for Easter. We made Chocolate Easter Nests ready for our Easter Party and wonderful Hot Cross Buns for all the Pre-School mummies and daddies. On Wednesday 27 March the Easter Bunny sent us each a letter explaining where he had left our Easter Goodies. Our mummies and daddies came to help us read the clues so we would find all the letters that made our names and... Guess what? After we made our names, we found Easter chocolates!

As we began our discussions about all the changes in our area during the spring, the Pre-School children showed curiosity about what goes on at a Garden Centre. We made some enquiries and planned a trip to Plant Emporium Garden Centre, just a few miles away from school. We put together a list of questions about growing and looking after plants as well as a list of some of the things we would be needing to set up a Garden Centre at Pre-School and off we went on our visit. At Plant Emporium we met Gary who showed us round and talked to us about what his job was about. Gary answered all our questions and gave us the job of looking after our very own plant at home.



One of our last destinations was the Middle East, a truly incredible place. We learnt that it is probably the biggest sand pit in the world and that camels are allowed to cross the road at their own pace there! We went online and visited the school Mrs Blanco-Bayo used to work at in Sharjah and saw some of the children she used to teach. We all thought she spoke in a very funny way!

We learnt how to make collages with different types of sand, described the texture of strange materials found in this amazing part of the world and had some visitors from Jordan. Dr Atwan brought falafel, rice, hummus, Lebanon cheese, Zatar and Arabic bread so we could have a taste of the Arab world. She showed us how Arabic is written from right to left and even danced with us to one of the songs for our Summer Production.

Our final destination in our journey around the world was Spain and we certainly had "the real thing". Mrs Blanco-Bayo taught us how to dance Flamenco, we found Spain on the map and even walked down the road in the village where she comes from in Valencia. The things we were able to do with our Interactive Board! We had our very own Tapas afternoon and tasted "tortilla de patatas", "Jamón y chorizo", "boquerones" and warm bread and tomato.

We had our "Around the World" Production and performed in front of parents, governors and some of the Juniors. What a wonderful job the Pre-School Stars did!

The 2012/2013 academic year at Pre-School culminated with our Sports Day, End of Year Parents Meeting and BBQ. Everyone took part and it was a memorable event which will be treasured in the Pre-School Chest of Memories forever.

One of the countries we visited during the Summer Term was Africa and once again we were fortunate enough to have some very special visitors from Nigeria who told us many things about their country. We had some African rice, made African skirts and bandanas whilst we were learning about patterns and even learnt to dance "the Azonta". Thank you to our Nigerian friends from the Senior School for preparing so many materials and coming to spend time with us!

As we were approaching the end of term, we were invited to visit the new Music Room in the Senior School and had our music lesson with Mr and Mrs Barratt. We discovered so many things about wind and string instruments and were even able to work out which one we were listening to with our eyes closed. Thank you to Elsie Linley, Jessica Riley, Hannah Culver who played the violin, Elizabeth Brocklehurst who played the trombone, Julian Shield who played the trumpet, Aimee Bilsborrow who played the oboe and the flute and Mr and Mrs Barratt for organising everything for us!



INFANT MUSIC

At the beginning of the year the I3 musicians enjoyed learning "We Wish you a Merry Christmas", followed by "Little John". They were able to develop their skills of reading music and learning to play various instruments as a group. The children were given the opportunity to display their talents by performing in front of the rest of the infants during Infant Hymn Practice.

During the Autumn Term, the Infant Department started to practise for their Christmas production of "It's a Baby". The children sang a selection of 'catchy' songs and acted with enthusiasm to entertain an appreciative audience in the M.P.H. at the Senior School.

In the Spring Term, the Infant Ensemble enjoyed learning a popular Easter hymn called 'Lord of the Dance'. We welcomed new members from I2 and were able to introduce more instruments to practise a song with a summer theme called 'Skye Boat Song.'

During Friday lunch times, Mrs Kenchington held a recorder club to teach those children who chose to play this instrument in Infant Ensemble. The I3 children worked incredibly hard to develop their recorder skills and were confident to perform "Skye Boat Song" in a round. This was a wonderful achievement!

Special congratulations should be given to Owain Heathcote-Jones who was awarded the Infant Music Prize at our end of year Prize Giving.

We would like to thank all the I3 members for their hard work and commitment to Infant Ensemble and wish them every success in their musical pursuits.

Mrs. J. Knowles and Mrs. S. Kenchington



JUNIOR MUSIC

2012-2013 has been another busy year with respect to Music and the Arts. We have again celebrated many significant successes where children have demonstrated tremendous ability and talent, achieving such high standards both in their performances and when entering Associated Board Exams. Our musicians have featured at several events during the year, especially Open Days. Members of both the Choir and Ensemble have entertained guests and audiences alike throughout the year.

Armistice was remembered as always. We thank Reverend Richard Bunday for leading our special service of Worship and Remembrance.

The Christmas Concert was again a wonderful celebration of the true meaning of Christmas, combined with all other aspects which we enjoy too. The concert featured the Bells Group, Ensemble and Choir alongside Christmas Readings, presented by our fourth year pupils.

In the lead up to the festive period, both the Choir and Ensemble entertained several residents at many of the Day Care Centres and Care Homes in the local community.

A large part of the Spring Term was spent preparing for the performances of the musical 'Joseph', which was a great success. Everyone involved took something from the opportunity and experience gained by performing in such a special show.

Marshall Butcher featured in an assembly, performing a guitar piece which he wrote himself playing alongside his teacher, Mr Andrew Keeling. The Choir once again attended AJS Sings held at Rishworth School. We, as a school, continue to hold and treasure our Platinum 'Sing Up' status.

Once again the heats for the Inter-House Music Festival were held in the Spring Term, followed by the finals in the Summer Term. Mr Lockett and Mrs Shuttleworth adjudicated the preliminary rounds and we were pleased to welcome Mr Barratt and Mr Dalton from the Senior School, to oversee the Finals, held in the new Music Recital Room at the Senior School.



Several third and fourth year children visited Pear Tree School on a weekly basis to work with the children there on a special musical project. Music also featured in several class assemblies.

We congratulate our Music Scholar, Holly Cook, who gave us such a special performance playing the piano at our Prize Giving Ceremony held in June.

Thank you to everyone for such a great year and for making it so successful.

We thank all the children who have entertained us this year, and pay special tribute to the support staff who work so hard to encourage all our young musicians to aspire to such heights.

Peter Lockett, Head of Music



TRIPS AND VISITORS

Excited 11 children set off by coach to Farmer Parr's Animal World to learn more about animals and their feeding habits. On arrival they were welcomed by Farmer Parr who took everyone into a big 'barn classroom' where they were given the opportunity to learn more about, and stroke, a variety of animals. After lunch they 'stepped back into the past' by visiting a farming museum. Towards the end of the afternoon the 11 children enjoyed looking round the barns and pens. Everyone had a fantastic day and the visit helped to bring Science topics to life through first hand experiences.



As part of the Reception classes' topic about 'Celebrations' the children have been learning all about customs and celebrations around the world. They looked at the Chinese New Year, including the Dragon dance, their costumes and traditions and were even taught how to say a few Chinese words. This culminated in a visit to Mr Chow's Chinese restaurant in St Annes. The children were treated to a fantastic experience. They looked at lanterns, fire crackers and Chinese writing and then finished with a sumptuous Chinese banquet where everyone tasted a variety of Chinese food.

The 11 children also took a trip to Lowther Gardens in Lytham to explore autumn in its element! They talked to the park keeper about maintenance of the park at this time of the year. The trip ended with a visit to the new playground in the park. The children had a fantastic day out and learnt a lot of new things about autumn!





I2 travelled to the Lake District on an adventure to Beatrix Potter World. When they got there, Beatrix Potter greeted them and sat everybody down to listen to one of her stories. After that the children visited the museum that had all the animals in from the books. After that they jumped on a boat which took them across the lake, where they had lunch and played on the adventure playground. A great day was had by all.

I2 also welcomed Solveig the Viking into their class to bring to life what it would have been like in Viking times. The children made necklaces using Viking techniques. As one child said, "This is awesome!" as he was busy roasting his "fox" on the fire by the tent. The children were fascinated by the anecdotes and learnt a great deal.



I2 set off on a trip to Towneley Hall in Burnley. The weather was so nice, they started off the morning with a walk through the gardens. After lunch they went into the old house where the children learnt how people would do housework in Victorian times. Everyone got involved in the demonstrations on how to wash clothes and clean the house. Next they went on to the kitchen and learnt how to make a cake in Victorian times. Everyone had a great day and learnt a lot.

In May I2 and I3 travelled to Beacon Fell. The morning started with everyone being split into groups and then heading off to explore their surroundings. The children hugged some trees and found different wooden animals on their travels including a huge snake which everyone had a go at walking across. After lunch the children had to hunt for different letters hidden in the trees to see which group came back with the most. The day was enjoyed by all and everyone was thoroughly exhausted by the end of it!



The I3 children took a trip to Leighton Moss and had a fantastic day learning new things and experiencing outdoor activities. They listened to the Ranger's talks and discovered how they could enjoy wildlife.

Chae Strathie came in to school to talk to I2, I3 and J1 about his books. He came equipped with his guitar and the children learnt and sang along to some songs about his books! Chae read two of his books to the children and discussed how he became an author. All the children had an exciting afternoon.



J1 travelled to Ribchester for a Roman adventure. In the morning they looked round the museum which had lots of items that had been found close by. After lunch in the village hall, the children looked around the granary and the Roman Bath ruins. Everyone had a great time.

In June, the J2 classes experienced a scientific day out at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester. They started the day with a learning session about forces and Sir Isaac Newton. The day was highly interactive and enjoyed by all.

J3 marched over to the Senior School to take part in their 'Soldier Experience Day' in November. Mr Callister, Lily Long and a group of the 6th form CCF cadets had arranged a fantastic afternoon for the children. There were lots of activities including first aid, camouflage and concealment, sampling ration packs, hide and seek and setting up Bivvies!



The J3 children also enjoyed a very rainy day at Waddow Hall with a full day of activities including orienteering, tunnelling and team building. The team building consisted of several games where the children had to do their best to work together and complete the task in the quickest time. At lunch everyone had the chance to go to the gift shop and have a go at grass sledging which they all had a lot of fun doing. Finally the children went orienteering. They were given a map and had to find 12 jigsaw pieces around the grounds. All of J3 worked extremely hard at all their tasks and had a lovely day!

J3 and J4 welcomed Miss Emma Lord into their classrooms. Miss Lord came in to visit from the UK Space Agency to share lots of interesting information about astronauts and space. The children were fascinated and had an abundance of questions to ask. They discovered what it would take, and the rigorous training involved, in becoming an astronaut. Thank you to Miss Lord for coming in for the day.



44 pupils and 5 staff enjoyed their annual outdoor activity holiday in Wales at Abernart Lake. All the pupils took part in climbing, abseiling, raft building, archery, fencing, mountain biking, canoeing, kayaking, stand up paddles, lake challenge, crate stack, orienteering, shooting and a disco, and everyone enjoyed overnight camp! A fantastic time was had by all, and the weather was glorious.

A number of J4 pupils were awake bright and early to get the coach to London for their post Entrance-Exam trip. First stop was the Museum of Science and Industry. The children had the opportunity to go to the 'Launchpad' where they could get involved in different experiments and activities. The group then made their way to Planet Hollywood to enjoy a wonderful meal before heading off to watch 'The Lion King'. Next they had a luxurious coach tour around many of the famous sights, including Buckingham Palace, The Tower of London, Downing Street and The Houses of Parliament. After a quick stop at Buckingham Palace they headed for the London Eye. First there was a '4D' experience which was a lot of fun, and then it was time for the 'flight'. After a delicious lunch at Pizza Express, looking over the Thames. The tired group set off back to Kirkham. All the children were a credit to the school whilst in London.



KGJS Theme Day saw the Infant classes focused on the topic 'Pirates' and the Juniors centred their work around 'Under the Sea'. The morning began for the Juniors with an assembly from the R.N.L.I. where the children learnt all about lifeboats and what they do. J1 and J2 could smell their topic from



down the corridor! Mr Merrick came in to talk about all sorts of shell fish and how they are caught. In the afternoon, J4 welcomed Mr Pearce and Mr Marr who talked about the life of fishermen.

In March twelve, children arrived at Manchester Airport in the early hours of the morning, a little bleary eyed but eagerly anticipating the Ski trip to Les Menuires.

A few hours later we arrived in the resort. The sun shone down on us as we squinted in the snow packed mountains. This was going to be great – the snow conditions looked fantastic! The hotel location was superb.

Our first impressions did not disappoint and on the first morning we woke up to yet again some wonderful skiing conditions! The children were organised into groups of beginners, intermediates and advanced, introduced to the instructors and released into the mountains with skis and poles in hand.

The next few days went quickly and conditions remained

brilliant. The food in the hotel was excellent and the après ski great fun. The children went bum boarding in the moonlight, swimming at the local Leisure Centre, a Town Trail was organised and there were lots of visits to the local shops (especially the fantastic sweet shop which became part of the daily routine!) And these were only some of the activities organised.

All the children made fantastic progress with their skiing. The advanced group even went ski jumping and a great forward somersault was performed by Max Pendergest – although this did almost give the Headmistress a heart attack!!!

The last day came all too fast and the last skiing session was great but far, far too short. Everyone sped down the mountain with ease, boasting amazing skiing skills.

In short the ski trip was awesome!

Thank you to everyone who went on the trip for making it such a memorable one.

CHARITY

We started off the year by taking part in the Macmillan Coffee Morning. Parents, grandparents, friends and pupils had the chance to indulge in cupcakes and coffee and browse the jewellery and card stands.

On Jeans for Genes Day, instead of wearing jeans, the children and teachers dressed up as their favourite book character. There were some excellent outfits and clearly a lot of effort made. Thank you to everyone for participating, we raised £250 for Jeans for Genes.

In October we were very pleased to welcome Reverend Bunday to our Harvest Festival Assembly. The assembly highlighted the importance of being charitable which Reverend Bunday demonstrated by bringing in a bucket full of items of his which he gave away to the children. Everyone was very supportive and brought in groceries and toiletries to donate.

We supported Children in Need by coming into school in our own clothes. The children all brought in money to donate to this worthy charity. Every penny from the money raised went towards helping disadvantaged children and young people here in the UK. The children all brought in a pound to donate to Children in Need. A special thank you goes to Lucy Thompson who came in to our assembly from the Senior School to share the news that she would be donating the money she began to raise at the Junior School to our collection. Lucy kindly added £72.44 to the Junior School's Children in Need collection.

We all raised money for Comic Relief by coming in to school in red clothes. Each of the children brought in a pound to donate to the charity. There were some lovely outfits and some interesting red noses and ears! Thank you to everyone who supported this cause.

In April, pupils and six staff took part in a Charity Triathlon organised by Kirkham Grammar Junior School, with all the money raised going to Cash for Kids, a charity organisation which provides valuable help for disabled and disadvantaged

children across Lancashire. The day started off with all competitors meeting at Kirkham Baths at 7.45am! Everyone swam 10 lengths of the pool before making their way to Preston Sports Arena where they completed a 1 mile run on the athletics track and a 2 mile cycle on the cycle track. This was an excellent achievement when you consider the children were only 10 and 11 years old! It was a thoroughly enjoyable morning blessed with glorious sunshine. Everyone wore a fluorescent green t-shirt for the event and all the children were presented with a certificate for their efforts. The atmosphere and support from all the competitors was tremendous. We have raised £880 for Cash for Kids! Kirkham Grammar Junior School would like to thank Kirkham Rural Splash and UCLAN Sports Arena for the use of their excellent facilities. It is hoped this will become an annual event where we can once again support a local charity.

Mrs Roberts and Mr Smith swapped jobs in May to raise money for charity. As Headmaster for the day, Mr Smith began the morning with an assembly on Blackpool Football Club - a controversial topic! All the children thoroughly enjoyed it. Mrs Roberts however, had a different start to the morning with plenty of jobs around the school... she had a long day ahead! This was all in aid of the 'Make a Wish Foundation' which grants magical wishes to children and young people aged 3-17 fighting life-threatening conditions. A big thank you to everyone who sponsored this event, your donations were greatly appreciated.

Action Aid - in the run up to Christmas the J3 children continued their charity work by raising money for Action Aid. They made Reindeer Dust out of glitter and oats and sold them for £1. The children were very excited to spread the dust in their gardens! Well done to J3 for raising around £200 for Action Aid. J1 held a Valentines biscuit and cake sale for Action Aid. The money raised was for seven year old Dina from Nigeria. There were lots of yummy cakes on sale and a huge thank you must go to the parents and J1 children for all their effort in making the cakes. Without your support this wouldn't have been possible. Thank you also to the Juniors and infants for coming along and buying the cakes. A total of just over £300 was raised; what a great achievement.



JOSEPH

AND THE
AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

The children ended the Spring Term on a high note with their wonderful production of 'Joseph'. Each member of the cast, along with a strong supporting chorus, combined to create a truly memorable performance, in which every child shone. The show would rival anything seen in the West End and it was hard to believe that several of the children involved were only 7 or 8 years of age. Well done to the children for yet another outstanding production. A huge thank you must be said to Mrs Shuttleworth who put in an amazing amount of work to make this production such a success, along with many other members of staff.

"Everyone's hard work has paid off. A huge thank you to everyone involved behind the scenes - there are too many to name! Thank you so much to the children, no matter how small their part, for two magnificent performances." Mrs Shuttleworth.

The feedback was excellent:

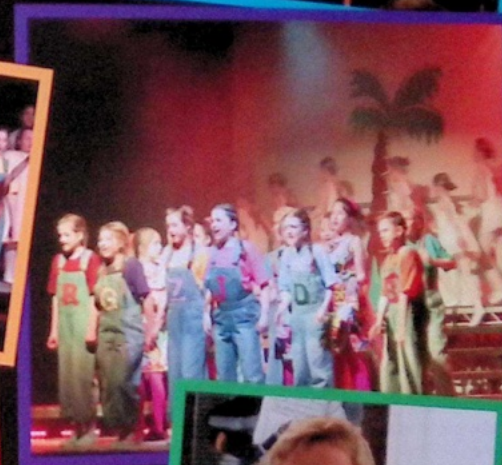
"What a fantastic show - thank you for a West End experience."

"How amazing! What a great show! Such talent, and the set - fantastic!"

"Tonight's production of Joseph was first class. The singing, acting, costumes, props and the sheer number of folk involved, were impressive!"

Eddie Regan from NODA, said:

"I have seen Joseph many times and never tire of this popular show. Kirkham Juniors, however, have brought a new, fresh dimension to this piece. Everyone involved exuded enthusiasm and confidence."



Infant & Junior Work

LAUNCHED INTO SPACE

On 19 December, 2040, NASA commissioned a mission. It was called Lynx 2. The plan was to go to Venus, a feat never attempted before! Jamie the astronaut and his computer Deo, had always wanted to go, ever since Lynx 1 landed on the moon and it was successful. NASA wanted to send Jamie to Venus so they could see if aliens existed. Mission Control would be helping him along the way.

It took Jamie 10 years to become an astronaut. He had to train for 8 hours a day doing drills. He was ready to go! He got his suit on, wandered outside and got in the ship. They sealed it up; he had 30 seconds before take-off. Paul, in Mission Control was the boss and he was checking everything was okay. The engine started, it was roaring with flames and off Jamie set!

"I've just got out of Earth's atmosphere and I'm doing fine," said Jamie, "I'm not alone Paul, I'm with Deo the talking computer."

The computer kept on talking and talking. Jamie did not notice a cricket chewing through his boot. It had been trapped in his suit but it had escaped and Jamie caught it in the corner of his eye. The Lynx 2 had been invaded! The cricket ran all over the place until finally it ran over the self-destruct button. Jamie tried to kill it but he accidentally hit the self-destruct button. He had 12 hours to escape!

He started planning, he remembered that he had the safety craft that he could take to Venus, but it could not take him back to Earth as it did not have a heat shield. He took the Lynx 2 to Venus and it was very hot. He got his tools out, took the heat shield slowly off the Lynx 2 and attached it to the safety craft. That took 2 hours out of his time, now he only had 10 hours left to escape Venus. He did not know if it would work. There was only one way to find out, he'd have to risk it!

Jamie contacted Mission Control and said, "I'm okay, I am dodging meteorites. I am in the safety craft. The Lynx 2 blew up."

Jamie was getting stressed!

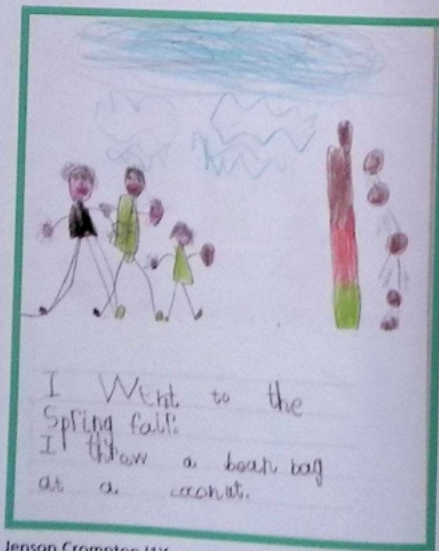
Paul said, "Prepare for Jamie coming down, he is only half an hour away."

Jamie made it through the Earth's atmosphere safely. There were cheers in Mission Control. Everyone was relieved, but the danger was not over yet! Jamie only had 12 minutes fuel left to land the ship. Thankfully, Jamie made it. There were cheers all over the world. After a close shave, Jamie was the first man to make it to Venus and back!

Alex Eastham J2Y



Oliver Kollard I2



Jenson Crompton I1X



Phoebe Varley J2X

HOW TO MAKE A WHITE BARN OWL

Take,
the softness of clouds as they float away,
the half of a full moon
for her fur.

Take,
the shimmer of a precious crystal as it glows,
the wetness of shining snow gliding on the rocky ground
for her eyes.

Take,
the thickness of fluffy cream when it's being whisked,
the strength of teeth to make you tough
for her wings.

Take,
the sharpness of pointy ice when it has just hailed,
the smoothness of a white rose's petal
for her claws.

Take,
the egg which has sizzled on a pan for a long time,
the creaminess of milk when it has been frozen
for her nose.

Lucy Case J3X



Anya Kiely I2

ALL STARS!

One beautiful mid-afternoon in Brazil, on a lovely beach – or should I say, over a lovely beach – was a small bird – now this bird's name was Rio. He was quite a magnificent sight, really; long wings coming from a fantastic body.

And yet he seemed – miserable! Even with his best friend Rafie sitting on a glider next to him. Suddenly, Rafie jumped right off the glider he was sitting on and surprised a man who was hanging on to the glider. The bird surprised him so much that the man immediately let go of the glider! Luckily, the birds were flying above a nice sandy beach (as I told you before).

"Wow, we gotta help them," said Rafie.

"Help who?" said Rio – quite startled that Rafie had jumped off a glider 70 feet in the air.

"Those guys," said Rafie; he pointed to a van. On the front it read: Exotic Bird Company. The two birds frantically flew over to the van and looked inside. The contents were: 10 parrots, 15 blue birds and, unusually, 3 peacocks. But also, there was a brown and white bulldog in there! This dog belonged to Dave Blawzowski. Funny, how did they know that? you ask. Well, they had had some close together in the main city. But Lewis (the dog) was looking both smug and dreamy at the same time.

Suddenly, Rio realised that the van had gone silent and that everyone was looking at them. "Errmm," said Rio, and nudged Rafie; Rafie was just silent. Suddenly, there was a loud scream; this particular scream was coming from Rafie. But when the bird company man, Dave, went out to grab the guys, they quickly zoomed into the van, shut the window and locked the door. Then Lewis leaped on them and said, "I will unlock the door if you don't make me a star! They are looking for a dog actor!"

Next night at Carnival, Lewis was at the top podium! "I don't know how I got up here, but I'm never coming down!" he shouted.

Rio and Rafie smiled at each other.

THE END

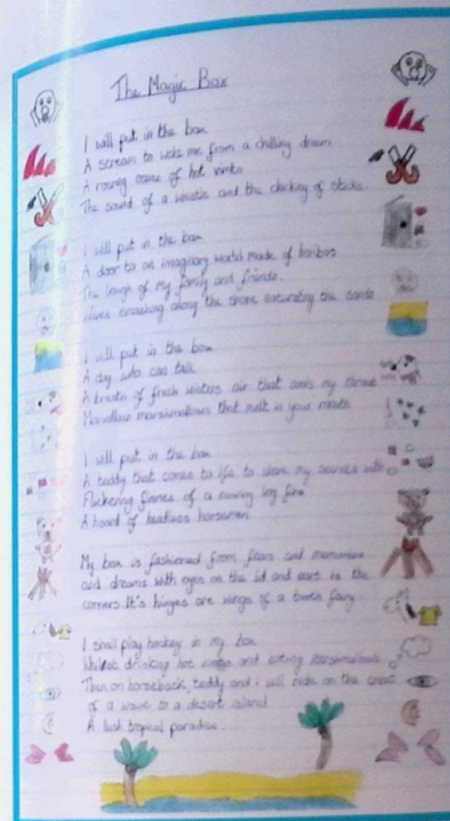
A story by Felicity Flood-Whittle (J1X)
(with a nod to the movie 'Rio!')



Tabitha Berry J1Y



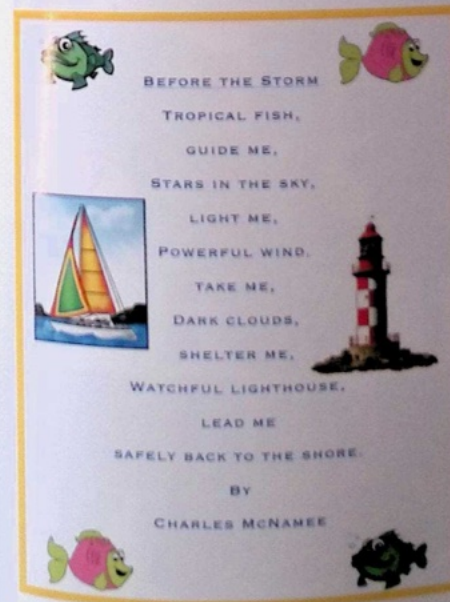
Morgan Cuthbert I1X



Gemma Eastham J4Y



Toby Paterson J2X



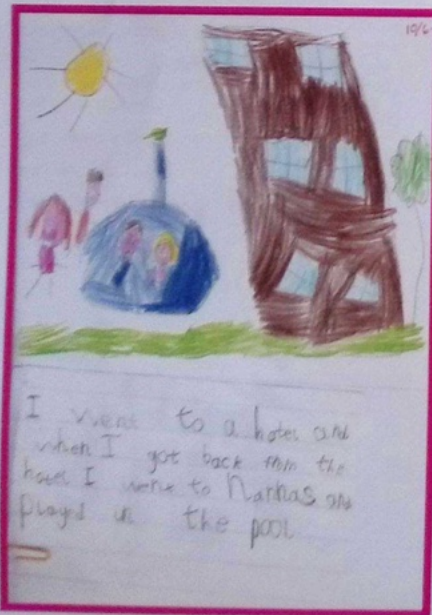
Charles McNamee J2Y



Holly Robinson Pre-School



J2Y Kandinsky Circles



Olivia Langley 11X



Alicia Harrison 14X

Who Am I?

To my mum I am a kind, loving, caring and funny little chatterbox.
I am someone to kiss and cuddle.

To my dad I am a little musician to be very proud of.
I am someone to have a laugh and joke with.

To my brother I am a noisy, silly and annoying little sister.
I am someone to beat when playing Mario Kart on the Wii.

To my grandad I am a little princess.
I am someone to tell stories to about when he was a little boy.

To my grandma I am a cheeky little girl who is always singing.
I am someone to draw pictures with on a rainy day.

To my friends I am a kind and funny girl.
I am someone to play with and always be there for them.

To my teachers I am a kind, helpful and confident little girl.
I am someone who always works hard and tries their best at everything.

Emily Scott J3Y

TIGERS

Tigers are large mammals. They are members of the Cat Family.

Appearance:
Tigers' fur is usually orange with black markings. The Siberian Tiger has a pale coat. It is known as the White Tiger. They have big, sharp teeth and strong jaws. Tigers can leap up to 15m by using their powerful legs. Did you know that tigers have a big white spot on the back of their ears?

Food Diet:
Tigers are Carnivores. They like eating deer and buffalo. They hunt alone at night. Humans need to be very careful as tigers have killed more humans than any other cat in the world.

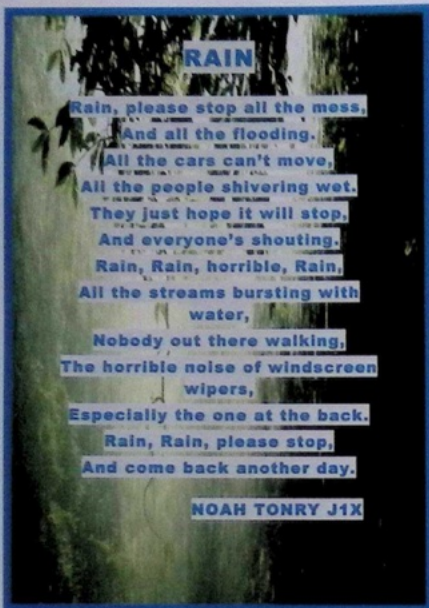
Habitat:
Tigers are found in India, China, Indonesia and Siberia. There are all hot countries except Siberia. Here tigers live in forests or jungles. Did you know that tigers are excellent swimmers and are often found relaxing in ponds, streams and rivers?



Darcy Clough J1Y



Victoria Allan J4X



Noah Tonry J1X



Anna Wilkinson J3X



Arabella Bowker J1Y



Zara Grimshaw J1Y



CONTACT OUR SALES TEAM TO DISCUSS HOW WE CAN MAKE YOUR TEAM STAND OUT.
 GYMNASTICS WEAR - CHEERLEADING APPAREL - TRACKSUITS & LEISUREWEAR





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