



KIRKHAM
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

20
24



THE
K
I
R
K
H
A
M
I
A
N

Celebrating **100 Years** of KGS Rugby

PORSCHE



Expectations, superseded.

DISCOVER THE ELECTRIFYING
NEW PORSCHE TAYCAN.

The all-electric Taycan is the perfect blend of performance and everyday usability. With a power output up to 1,035 PS, it can reach 62 mph in an astonishing 2.2s, while its 105-kWh battery offers a reassuring range of 421 miles.¹ Plus, its charging capacity of 332 kWh means it can be powered up from 10% to 80% in just 18 minutes.² To experience this luxurious EV with true Porsche driving dynamics, contact Porsche Centre Preston or scan the QR code on the right.



Porsche Centre Preston
Centenary House, Watery Lane
Preston, Lancashire, PR2 1QJ
01772 911 911
info@porsche-preston.co.uk
www.porsche-preston.co.uk

¹Taycan electric model range official WLTP combined energy consumption 16.7 – 22 kWh/100km, WLTP combined CO₂ emissions 0g/km.

²Charging time for direct current (DC) with maximum charging power from 10% SoC to up to 80% SoC under optimal conditions (CCS fast charging station with > 320 kW, > 850 V, battery temperature 23°C and initial SoC 9%).

Contents



4	Introductions	30	Junior Residential Trip	58	Careers - The Interviews
8	School Captains	31	Austria Ski Trip	62	Journey Through Foundation
9	Prizegiving	32	New York City Trip	64	GCSE Results
11	Careers Fair	33	Wildeklawer Trip	65	A Level Results
12	Academic Awards	34	Holland Trip	66	Pupil Voice
15	The Friends of KGS	35	World Book Day	68	Summer Ball
16	The Duke of Edinburgh Award	36	Music Review	70	OKA - William Bamber Cartmell
18	Fifth Year Party	40	Millionaire Reader Award	71	100 Years of KGS Rugby
20	Sixth Form Ball	41	Author Visits	75	OKA v Headmaster's XI
22	Pre-School	42	CCF Field Days	76	OKA - 50 Years of Hockey
23	Infant & Junior Review	44	Junior Sports	79	OKA - Honours
24	Christmas with the Aliens	46	Girls Sport	80	OKA - Christmas
26	Wizard of Oz	49	USA Ski Trip	81	OKA v School Golf
27	Noda Awards	50	Boys Sport	82	OKA Dinner
29	KGJS Has Got Talent	54	Class Photos		

Mr
Paul RIBCHESTER
Vice Chairman of the Governors



As Vice Chairman of the Governors, it is my honour and privilege to extend our welcome to our new Head, Mr Gill, who is joining us in September.

One of Mr Gill's greatest strengths is his ability to connect with students and staff alike. He is a firm believer in the power of collaboration, and communication, encouraging an open, inclusive atmosphere. His vision for our school includes not only academic excellence but also the development of each student, nurturing their intellectual, emotional, sporting, and social growth.

Whilst our educational results continue to improve, we remain totally steadfast in our KGS, traditional aims to provide our departing pupils with self-confidence, manners, a family ethos, fair values, and self-belief, in best readiness for the wide world that beckons.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to our interim head, Mrs Parkinson, whose remarkable work ethic and dedication have been instrumental in supporting our parents and students. Mrs Parkinson's devotion and focused conscientiousness has been a beacon of inspiration for us all. Thank you.

Additionally, we extend our thanks to our incredible teachers and sports coaches, those who have shown their true loyalties and who have stood shoulder to shoulder with Mrs Parkinson for our cherished school. Their unwavering commitment and embodiment of the KGS Blue School spirit have been crucial to our continued success.

We, as governors, remain excited to work strategically with Mr Gill across the educational foundation with a special emphasis, moving forward, to provide an even greater offering to all, especially our girls, in terms of alternative sports through our junior to senior foundation, in addition to utilising more of our already understated hugely talented music and drama sectors.

We recently had the privilege of celebrating 100 years of rugby at KGS - a milestone that underscores the importance of sports in our community. The black-tie ball, attended by over 210 guests, parents, current and former rugby players, teachers, and a host of sporting and coaching legends, was without doubt a resounding success. This event not only

celebrated our rich Kirkham sporting success and heritage but also highlighted how sports foster friendships and connections that last a lifetime. I can vouch for this as I was fortunate enough to have attended the Ball with numerous KGS friends from forty-two years ago. The vibe was nostalgic, with dancing, fun, and warmth typical of KGS past and present!

In these challenging times, we are understanding of the sacrifices you make as parents to ensure your children receive the best education possible. We want you to know we are resolute and remain dedicated to honouring your investment, trust and loyalty.

We are confident that Mr Gill's arrival heralds a new era of growth and success for KGS and we are thrilled to have him at our helm. We look forward to the positive impact he will undoubtedly make!

Welcome from the Head

I am proud and excited to become the next Head at Kirkham Grammar School and have been impressed by the school's evident family ethos. It is clearly a special place to be and I look forward to joining the school community and building on Kirkham's strong history and heritage.

I am now in my 26th year of teaching and, because of my passion for education, I still enjoy every day at work. I strongly believe that a person's time at school is the most valuable in their lives and am committed to fostering an environment where every pupil thrives, not just academically but also outside the classroom.

My family hails from Cornwall and I am proud of both my Cornish and Welsh roots. I attended school in Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales and, after a short career in rugby, I decided to pursue a career in teaching and headed off to university in Manchester, earning a BA (Hons) and PGCE and later an MA in Leadership.

I began my teaching career at Wimbledon College and over a 12-year period held a variety of leadership roles before joining Latymer Upper as Director of Sport and Reading Blue Coat as Housemaster. Whilst I have lived most of my adult life in West London, I returned to the North West in 2021, with my family, to become Deputy Head at The King's School, Chester, where I was responsible for the day-to-day running of the school.

I want every Kirkhamian to feel valued and happy. This sense of belonging and pride should extend beyond their time at school, so they always cherish their association with Kirkham. Providing opportunities both in and out of the classroom is crucial and I want every pupil to find their passion and carry it forward into their future.

Kirkham's aim of a holistic education echoes my own values and we will continue to integrate sport, music, arts, adventure, leadership, and service into our curriculum, embodying our aim of developing the whole child.

My immediate focus will be to review our current practices and understand the unique context of Kirkham Grammar School. I believe in asking critical questions to ensure we are always striving for excellence and relevance in our educational offerings.

We will seek excellence in everything we do, from academic achievements to co-curricular activities. It is our responsibility to create an environment where every pupil is known, feels safe and valued and has the confidence to pursue their dreams, be it medical school, the arts, or any other field.

Financial stability is essential for our future, and I will work to ensure Kirkham Grammar School thrives, not just survives. This may require tough decisions, but they will be necessary for our long-term success.

The culture at Kirkham is already strong, with a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. My role will be to enhance this culture of excellence and aspiration across all areas of the school.

I believe teamwork will be at the heart of our success for the pupils and I am committed to building a cohesive and supportive team of staff, parents, and governors. Together, we will navigate the challenges ahead and ensure we continue to provide an excellent education for each child.

I look forward to leading Kirkham Grammar School into a bright future, creating an engaging and holistic experience for all.

Thank you.



Mr Tallan GILL
Head



Mrs Kirsten O'Donoghue

Headmistress

In January 2024, Kirkham Grammar School was visited by the Independent Schools Inspectorate. During this visit, the inspectors rigorously examined various elements of our setting; it was formally recorded that we met all of the Independent School Standards, under the new Inspection Framework (introduced September 2023). As you would expect I was very pleased with the findings, which were communicated during the process and documented within the content of the report.

The inspectors expressed that we have engendered an environment where each member of our teaching and auxiliary staff is acutely aware of the aspirations and expectations for our pupils, which pervade through every element of School life. They noted that, as a result of this, our values and ethos are ubiquitous and intrinsically embedded in the culture of the Junior, Infant and Pre-School. In addition, they detailed the positive and warm interactions of our pupils with each other and their teachers; as such they noted that our pupils interact positively with others and work together collaboratively and flourish. The unwavering nurture, guidance and care that every member of staff tirelessly provides is indisputably at the heart of every child's development here.

Although I am cognisant of the above-mentioned, alongside the efforts, knowledge and skill set of my team, I was delighted when I was informed by the inspectors of the startling impact our approach has had on our young people. They expressed that it was uncommon to encounter young people in the independent sector that are so articulate, well-mannered and engaging, and that I should be exceptionally proud of this unique achievement.

Our Pre-School and EYFS setting, frequently championed externally as a beacon for other institutions, sets the tone for the rest of School.

We are fervent in our approach to deliver an ambitious curriculum filled with an abundance of experiences right from the very start of our pupils' time with us; research suggests that many neural connections required for important higher-level abilities are formed by the age of five! The DfE Research Report of January 2023 details that children in the most effective Reception classes can expect to earn more than their peers in later life. Although I might prudently argue that there is far more to leading a content life than accruing a healthy bank balance, I can state with confidence that those who chose to educate their child at our outstanding Pre-School and Reception classes – a highly effective setting – are giving them the very best platform for success in later life.

Beyond the exceptional standards we expect and maintain within our school, we undoubtedly foster every child's independence and resilience through an improved understanding of the wider world around them – it is interwoven through every aspect of their journey with us from the age of three. They interact positively within an environment conducive to facilitating their holistic progression, developing an acute sense of belonging, in a safe and harmonious setting. Our activities are carefully selected, planned and supported to allow every child to move from Pre-School to Reception and beyond with confidence, social awareness and a readiness for learning.

Kirkham Grammar School pupils are self-assured and happy young people. Though a child's time with us is fleeting, we do not underestimate the influential position we are in during this fundamental chapter in their lives where we can support them in profiting – in more ways than one – through their valuable time with us.

Ingrederere Ut Proficias

Do you know someone who loves to sing and act?



LittleVoices[®]

Drama & Singing Lessons of Distinction

Our aim is to help every child reach their potential through an inspirational education in singing and drama

Lessons for children aged 7-18 years

FREE TRIAL LESSON

07599 709306

www.littlevoices.org.uk
Fylde@littlevoices.org.uk

LittleVoices[®]
Drama & Singing Lessons of Distinction

We teach
LAMDA
Qualifications



Local **Jellycat** Stockist!



A Gorgeous Independent, Family Run Gift Shop

We are on Kirkham's High Street –
Free Parking behind our shop on Mill Street Car Park
and online at www.serendipityhouse.co.uk

GIFTS • JEWELLERY
HOME ACCESSORIES • CLOTHING
FREE GIFT WRAPPING SERVICE
UK & WORLDWIDE POSTAGE

**QUOTE 'KIRK10' AND
GET 10% DISCOUNT
AT OUR ONLINE SHOP AND IN STORE**

*Great Brands stocked including
Katie Loxton, Joma Jewellery, Jellycat, Powder,
Caroline Gardner,
Toasted Crumpet & much more.*

66 Poulton Street, Kirkham PR4 2AH
01772 683682 07712 672593 serendipitykirkham@gmail.com
www.serendipityhouse.co.uk



School Captains

2024 - 2025

Emma Parker & Oliver Kollard

Prizegiving

Annual Senior Prize Giving - September 2023

All were delighted to be joined by the Master Draper, Tom Harris. Kirkham Grammar School (KGS) has been linked with the Worshipful Company of Drapers, one of the City of London's historic trade guilds, since the seventeenth century. In fact, a grant from the Drapers enabled the building of the school, which was officially opened on September 29th, 1911 by William Benson, Master of the Drapers' Company. At that time, the school had 65 boys enrolled, including seven full boarders and two weekly boarders. While the Drapers is no longer a trade guild, it now operates as a charitable trust that continues to support Kirkham Grammar School in various ways, including funding recent building developments and providing hardship funds, as well as Sixth Form and university scholarships. We are immensely grateful for their ongoing support.



The guest speaker and presenter of prizes for the evening was Sheba Raza. Sheba boarded at KGS from 1986 to 1989 and has been a practising lawyer at various firms in the City for almost 25 years. She specialises in complex corporate and finance transactions for a broad range of corporate, institutional, and high-net-worth clients.

Additionally, we were pleased to welcome Katrina Edwards (Chair of the Friends) and Chris Malings (President of the Old Kirkhamians Association). The Friends work hard every year to arrange various events to raise funds for useful items for the school, which includes our minibuses. Meanwhile, the Old Kirkhamians diligently support the school with various heritage projects, including the current rejuvenation of the Cricket Pavilion, which will be 100 years old in 2030.

Prize giving began with a gentle reminder that the achievements being celebrated were made possible by the hard work and care of all staff members in every area. At a time when government analysis suggests that nearly four in five lessons in some subjects are now taught by non-specialist teachers, KGS is fortunate to have retained valuable expertise in every department. Providing the all-important breadth of activities rewarded at such occasions requires an extremely committed team.





FUN DAYS

RIGHT ON YOUR DOORSTEP!

EAT



PLAY



SHOP



CELEBRATE



STAY



REVIVE



VISIT US TODAY!

ribbyhall.co.uk



Careers Fair

Exploring our future



On Tuesday, 5 March, Kirkham Grammar School hosted its annual careers fair, an event that proved to be an outstanding success. The evening saw an impressive turnout of current pupils eager to explore their future career options, alongside a number of Old Kirkhamians who returned as exhibitors and speakers.

The presence of our alumni, who generously shared their time and expertise, was invaluable in guiding our pupils through their career choices. The School, particularly the Head of Careers, Ms. Theresa Russell, extends heartfelt thanks to all the participants from the Old Kirkhamians Association and KGS community. Special thanks to:

- **Sean Peters** – Haboth Brand Labs
- **Jon Atkinson** – Giant Digital
- **Toby Gilmore & Carol Smith** – BAE Systems
- **Peter Greaves** – Rolls Royce
- **Julie Cameron** – Adecco
- **Isabella Lyons** – Savills
- **Isabella Harkins** – Fieldfisher
- **Emily Rhodes** – Footprints Chiropody, Podiatry and Complementary Health Clinic

It was a pleasure to reconnect with so many alumni and witness the positive impact they had on our current pupils. The School community is immensely grateful for their contributions.

Plans for next year's careers fair are already underway. If you are interested in supporting the school's careers department, please get in touch. Thank you for helping to strengthen the KGS family.



Academic Awards

Aspirational Pupils



Third Poetry Slam

Our 3rd Year classes enjoyed the KGS Poetry Slam Final with seven performances competing for the prize of a break time pass, every day for a week. All of the finalists had written their own poem to perform and contributions varied from poems about being a teenager to the need to end abuse in football matches and knife crime.

The overall winners were Harry Flomer, Hamza Jayousi and Mohsin Khan with their poem entitled 'Our Waters' and Sophie Noblett was awarded the Runner Up certificate for her poem entitled 'Being a Girl (Dear Diary)'.



Chemistry Olympiad

The UK Chemistry Olympiad (UKChO), the premier competition for secondary pupils across the British Isles, challenges and inspires budding chemists to excel in their field.

Designed to develop critical problem-solving skills and foster creative thinking, the UKChO provides students with the opportunity to apply their knowledge in real-world scenarios. Participants may even advance to represent the UK at the prestigious International Chemistry Olympiad.

We are proud to announce that Sophie,

Saif, and Grace have achieved Silver Medals in this esteemed competition. This accolade places them among the top 30% of candidates, highlighting their exceptional performance and dedication to chemistry.

Their success in the UK Chemistry Olympiad not only reflects their individual achievements but also underscores their commitment to academic excellence and passion for chemistry. Congratulations to Sophie, Saif, Grace, and all participants for their outstanding accomplishments!



Designing Antarctica's Flag: A Journey of Creativity and Conservation

Our 1st Year pupils immersed themselves in the Antarctic Treaty, a symbol of peaceful conservation and research established in 1959. They learned why Antarctica Day, celebrated on December 1st, is significant—it marks our commitment to preserving Antarctica as a Global Common, free from national flags.

In a spirited competition organised by the UK Polar Network, our students were challenged to design a flag for Antarctica, reflecting sustainable exploration and international co-operation. Over 400 schools from 30 countries participated, showcasing global engagement and environmental awareness.

After careful deliberation, Florence Kerr's design from 1X was chosen as our school's winning flag. This flag, along with two runners-up by Scarlett Lewis and Emelia Barrow, was selected to represent our school in Antarctica.

Recently, we received exciting news that Florence Kerr's flag has reached Antarctica, accompanied by a photo and details of its journey. This achievement highlights our pupils' creativity and commitment to global issues, inspiring hope for a sustainable future.

Through initiatives like the Antarctic Flag Competition, we empower our pupils to make a meaningful impact on a global scale, fostering collaboration and environmental stewardship.



ARKWRIGHT ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIPS

Arkwright scholarships, awarded by the Smallpiece Trust, represent a prestigious recognition for pupils aspiring towards technical careers. The selection process involves rigorous examinations and interviews, with most applicants facing rejection.

Millie and Ben exemplify dedication and ambition in their pursuit of technical excellence. Their success in securing Arkwright scholarships underscores their outstanding performance and commitment. As scholarship recipients, they are matched with sponsors who provide ongoing guidance, shaping their path towards a successful technical career.

Millie and Ben not only represent exemplary pupils, but also serve as outstanding ambassadors for their peers, embodying the spirit of achievement and determination in technical education. Congratulations to Millie, Ben and all Arkwright scholarship recipients for their commendable accomplishments!





Maths Stem UCLan

For the competition 'If you were an engineer, what would you do?' we are delighted to share that we had two winners in our region (Lancashire). This is an incredible achievement as, across the country, there were tens of thousands of entries. All entries are graded by engineers. Our winners are:

- Raurie Sumner – Year 7
- Emma Parker – Year 12

Both Raurie and Emma's designs, as well as designs by Liam Murphy, Beau Ince and Mohsin Khan were graded as DISTINCTION SHORTLISTED which meant they went through to the next round of judging. Raurie and Emma

were then both judged to have submitted winning entries, with Raurie designing a posture suit to support the elderly and Emma designing a method of capturing wasted energy for use in motor vehicles.

Both students attended a presentation evening at UCLan and were presented with a framed certificate, trophy and badge. We are extremely proud of them, as we are of all those who entered.

We will be running the event again next year – so parents please do ask your children the question "If you were an engineer, what would you do?" and see where it leads them!



Wreath Making



Christmas Lunch



We generated a phenomenal £20,000 plus with the events hosted this year which we are reinvesting into school; buying new AstroTurf team shelters, additional gym equipment, another defibrillator and supporting an immersive space event in the Junior School next month. Thank you to all parents and supporters for all their efforts and time. Come and join us to see what we are about.



Success

Celebrating Gold at
Buckingham Palace



In May 2024, 14 former KGS pupils were honoured at Buckingham Palace for achieving their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. This prestigious event celebrated the dedication and resilience of pupils who completed their awards despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Representing the 2020 cohort were Zoe Armstrong, Zak Gooderham, Max Pendergest, and Matthew Sutcliffe. Their journey was particularly notable, as delays to their Residential sections in 2020 did not deter their determination. The 2021 group included Jacob Halsall, Fen Mclean, William Sutcliffe,

Libby Baxter, and Theo Mihell, while the 2022 cohort was represented by Phoebe Caunce, Zara Prosser, Olivia Jones, and Grace Wong. Saif Amr, from this year's Upper Sixth, also attended, marking his own impressive DofE journey.

All 14 individuals completed their Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards while at KGS, a testament to their perseverance and the supportive environment of the school. The Buckingham Palace Garden Party was a fitting celebration of their achievements.

Congratulations to our KGS alumni on this remarkable accomplishment!





Gold Expedition

Our L6th DofE participants undertook their Gold DofE Assessed Expedition in June. Since the practice expedition at Easter, the groups had worked hard on their route planning and group organisation and, over the four-day expedition, they impressed their assessor and supervising staff with their teamwork and determination.

The weather was perfect for walking and, despite a few mishaps with navigation, all groups completed their routes in fantastic spirits and gained a great deal from the challenge.

For a number of our students, this is the final section of their DofE Gold Award. Others are completing their residential section over the summer, and we are really looking forward to celebrating their achievements in September.

Well done and thank you to all involved.

Fifth Year

BARTLE HALL

The Fifth Year Party, held on Wednesday, 19 June, at Bartle Hall in Preston, was a spectacular event. The beautiful venue allowed pupils to make grand entrances right outside the front, where parents eagerly greeted them with smiles and cameras.

Guests enjoyed complimentary mocktails, a lovely meal and danced the night away. Some of the boys arrived in style on the back of a tractor, while others arrived in tuk-tuks and stylish cars. Everyone looked wonderful, making it a night to remember for all who attended.





Sixth Form Ball



The Sixth Form Ball, held on Friday 21 June, was an unforgettable night. Pupils dazzled in their stunning dresses and sharp suits, making grand entrances. Glen made a memorable entrance by flying himself in on a helicopter, marking a significant achievement after training for his licence.

The night was filled with joy as pupils enjoyed a wonderful buffet and dancing. Heartfelt speeches added a special touch to the evening. A big thank you to all the pupils who participated in making this event unforgettable.





Early Years

Pre-School Review

Kirkham Grammar Pre-School has been recognised by the local council as an exemplar pre-school, a testament to our outstanding facilities and educational environment. This year, we continued to offer our young learners exceptional opportunities and experiences within our purpose-built setting.

Our curriculum caters to children aged three to four, promoting development across all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage. Guided by our dedicated team, children engage in a variety of activities that foster independence, resilience, and kindness. We prioritise speech, language, and communication, with all staff trained in 'Early Talk Boost.'

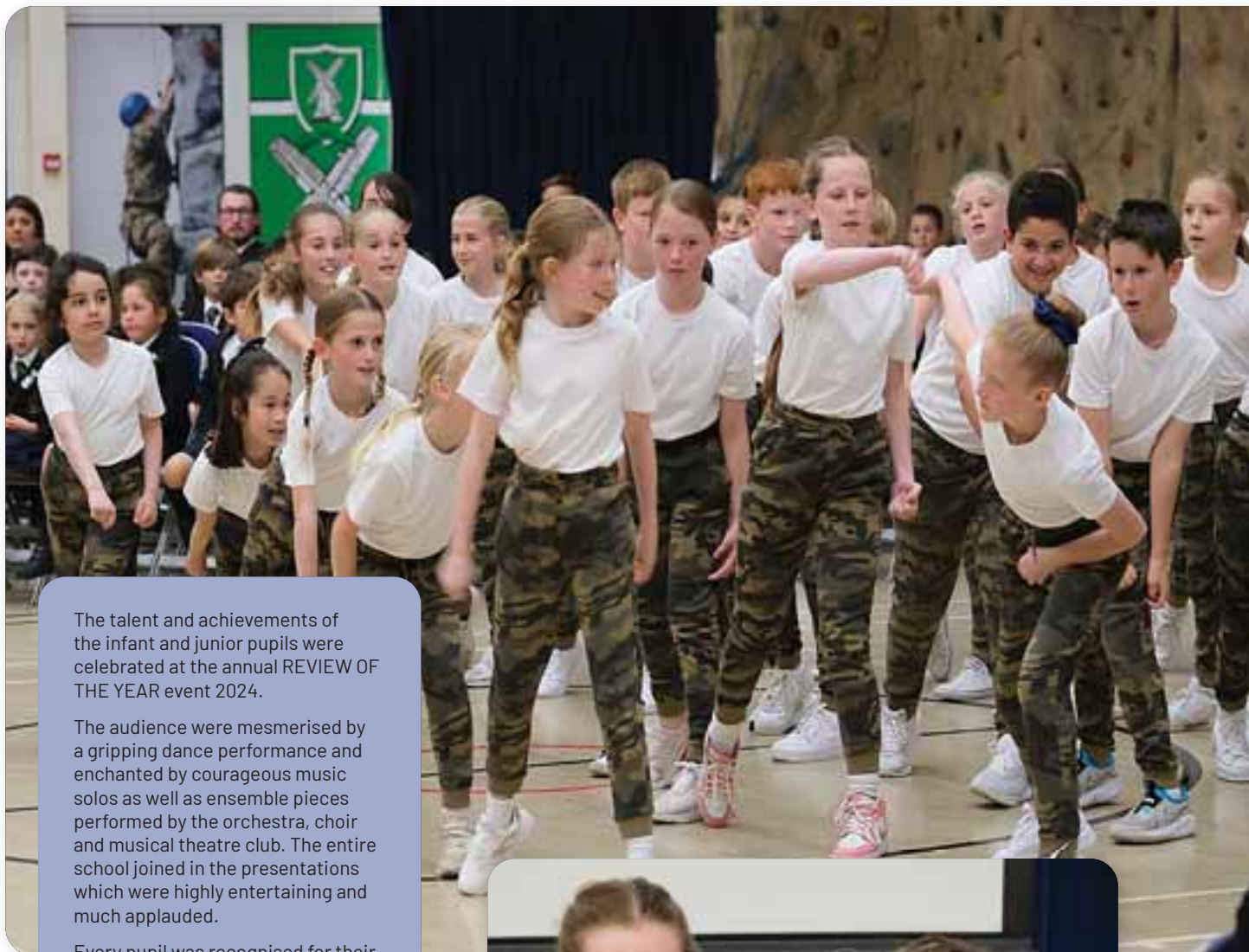
Meaningful play, emotional well-being, and physical education are integral to our program. Specialist teachers provide diverse learning opportunities, including Spanish lessons, enriching our children's cultural awareness. Mathematics is seamlessly integrated into daily routines, preparing children for a smooth transition to Reception.

At Kirkham Grammar Pre-School, we are committed to nurturing motivated, confident children with a love for learning. Our recognition as an exemplar pre-school highlights our dedication to providing a nurturing and inspiring environment for our youngest pupils.



Infant & Junior

School Review



The talent and achievements of the infant and junior pupils were celebrated at the annual REVIEW OF THE YEAR event 2024.

The audience were mesmerised by a gripping dance performance and enchanted by courageous music solos as well as ensemble pieces performed by the orchestra, choir and musical theatre club. The entire school joined in the presentations which were highly entertaining and much applauded.

Every pupil was recognised for their particular efforts and contributions. Junior Head Girl Scarlett and Head Boy William closed the evening off with their own special thanks to their school.



Christmas with the Aliens

Infant & Pre-School Deliver a Stellar Performance

This year's school production, Christmas with the Aliens, saw the talented pupils of Kirkham Grammar School's Infant and Pre-School deliver a performance that captivated the audience. The show, a unique twist on the traditional Christmas tale, highlighted the pupils' diverse talents through beautiful singing, superb acting and captivating dancing.



The young performers dazzled in delightful costumes that added an extra layer of charm to the production. Their enthusiasm and dedication were evident in every scene, showcasing not only their individual talents but also the excellent teamwork that brought the story to life.

The truly spectacular performance was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance, with the audience being transported into the magical world the pupils created. The success of the production is a commendable achievement for everyone involved, from the performers to the teachers and parents who supported them along the way.

A big 'well done' to all of our young stars for their hard work and brilliant performance! Their effort and talent have certainly made this year's Christmas production a memorable one.



Follow the yellow brick road

KGS Production of the Wizard of Oz



In November 2023, the Senior School's production of The Wizard of Oz invited audiences to "Follow the Yellow Brick Road" and join the cast on a nostalgic and exciting journey across Oz. Dorothy, played by Jess Hagon, and her companions' adventure captivated everyone, revealing that not everything is as it first seems.

The evening's production was written by professional actor and Old Kirkhamian, George Critchley. The entire cast and production team were humbled and honoured to have George's support; his professional knowledge was a significant asset and they were grateful for his time, energy, and patience.

The Drama department, with the help of George, once again delivered an inspirational and colourful version of Frank L. Baum's classic text. The production involved pupils from the 1st Year to the Upper Sixth, who worked together as a dedicated team. A particularly memorable moment was the huge choreographed opening to the second act, with over one hundred pupils on stage.

The production was incredibly well received and Miss Leeming, Head of Drama, was delighted to receive NODA nominations, including one for Toto the dog. The success of the performance was down to the entire ensemble, making it a truly memorable event for all involved.



NODA Award Season

KGS shines with 10 Nominations

Our November production of *The Wizard of Oz* garnered an impressive 10 NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association) nominations! This recognition underscores the incredible dedication and talent that went into making the production a phenomenal success. Congratulations to everyone involved!

The Nominations were:

- **Best Male Character Comedy Performance in a Youth Production:** Mollie the Dog (Toto)
- **Best Female Character Comedy Performance in a Youth Production:** Sophie Noblett (Gate Keeper)
- **Best Supporting Male Character in a Youth Drama:** Jay Dawson (Tin Man) and Tilly Musson (The Wizard of Oz)
- **Best Supporting Female Character in a Youth Drama:** Brooke Medhurst (Good Witch of the North)
- **Best Leading Female Character in a Youth Drama:** Jessica Hagon (Dorothy)



- **Best Staging of a Youth Production:** Kirkham Grammar School
- **Best Choreographer of a Youth Production:** Miss B Leeming, Mrs S Stott & The Hurricane Dancers
- **Best Director of a Youth Drama:** Miss B Leeming
- **Best Youth Drama:** Kirkham Grammar School

This achievement reflects the hard work, creativity, and passion of our pupils, teachers, and everyone who supported the production. We are incredibly proud of this recognition and celebrated our success at the awards evening.

THEATRE SCHOOL NW1

www.nw1theatreschool.co.uk

KIRKHAM

Kirkham Grammar School, PR4 2BH

ST ANNES

Alexandria Drive, FY8 1JD

PRESTON UCLan

Media Factory, PR1 1JN

Opening September 2024

BLACKPOOL

The Oracle, FY4 2AP

Opening July 2024

CLASSES FOR STUDENTS AGED 4 TO 18

Musical Theatre · Acting for TV & Film · Drama · Ballet & Tap
Street Dance · Music Tuition · Show Choir · LAMDA Qualifications
Industry Professional Workshops · Audition Preparation
Holiday Clubs · Casting Representation · Performance Opportunities

TRAINING FUTURE PERFORMERS

**ACTOR
MANAGEMENT NW1**

Casting representation for TV, Film, Advertising,
and Theatre available to NW1 Theatre School
Students. *Audition process applicable*

www.nw1theatreschool.co.uk

info@nw1theatreschool.co.uk 01253 781938

Adult Musical Theatre classes also available



KGJS HAS GOT TALENT



This was the first ever KGJS Got Talent show. Our pupils came up with the idea with the help of our school council. The school council helped organise and put together an incredible talent show. All contestants from I1-J4 took part in class auditions to select a finalist from each class.

The show displayed an array of talent across the school, from crazy frog eyebrow dancing and magic tricks, to dancing, gymnastics and jokes. It was a wonderful day full of celebrations of our pupils' talent, surrounded by a supportive audience and judging panel.

Overall Winners: Lydia Binns won from the infants and Leo and Hallie Crossen from Juniors.



PGL Boreatton Park

Junior Residential Trip

On Monday 3 June 2024, thirty-three excited J4 pupils set off for PGL Boreatton Park, Shropshire to embark on their week long residential. Over the next five days, the children experienced seventeen different adventurous activities including: giant swing, canoeing, laser tag, and zip wire. In addition to many activities, the pupils enjoyed three hot meals a day. Pupils enjoyed delicacies from around the world, including: India, Italy and China.

The pupils were challenged to work together on various activities, supporting each other to step out of their comfort zone, whilst having fun. As the week progressed, it was heart-warming to see the pupils develop with the support of the instructors, grow in confidence, and create special memories together. It was lovely to receive feedback from some of the instructors who enjoyed spending the week with our J4 pupils - so much so that they asked us to return next academic year!





Zell Am See Austria

Junior Ski Trip



The Junior School biennial ski trip to Zell am See, Austria, was yet again a roaring success, with fifty-three pupils and seven members of staff taking to the slopes. From those who were new to the activity, to some seasoned pros, every pupil made superb progress, had immense fun, and experienced an exhilarating trip like no other. With panoramic breath-taking scenery at every turn, expert tuition, and the care and guidance of the KGS staff, every child excelled and further developed their resilience and independence.

There was some trepidation when the KGS group descended upon a hotel full of holiday makers ready to relax and unwind. We were, however, confident that their fears would soon be allayed, and within a couple of days we received feedback from a number of residents as to how well-mannered and communicative our pupils were. Upon our return to KGS, we were delighted to receive emails from hotel guests detailing numerous compliments in relation to the pupils and staff! The guests wrote to say how overwhelmingly positive their interactions were with our pupils, that they were polite, engaged in conversation and that they brought a lovely energy and dynamic to their holiday. Our KGS pupils were indeed an absolute credit to the school.

The skiing was, of course, the highpoint of the trip, with a pinnacle being a trip to the Kitzsteinhorn Glacier. Many of the highlights were captured by our committed KGS staff on video and photograph, all of which can be found on our X page @KGS Trips, but we know that every individual will take away something special from the trip that will be etched in their memories for a lifetime.

A Memorable Trip to New York City for the KGS Drama Department

The KGS Drama department had an action-packed trip to New York City.

The group stayed in Times Square and enjoyed four days of drama and sight-seeing. They participated in an acting workshop on physical characterisation led by a professional Broadway actor and met a real Rockette during a backstage tour of the Radio City Music Hall.

Pupils greeted Lady Liberty, visited the High Line, viewed the city from One World Observatory, walked through Grand Central Station, paid respects at the 9/11 memorial, strolled on the Brooklyn Bridge and waltzed through Central Park.

They enjoyed meals with American-sized portions at various diners, the Hard Rock Cafe, Bubba Gump Shrimp and had dinner with a show at Ellen's Stardust Diner.

The highlight of the trip was undoubtedly the phenomenal Broadway shows they saw: *Wicked* and *Hamilton*!

The trip also included great shopping and, ultimately, was filled with bounds of fun for everyone involved.





Wildecklawer Sports Festival

South Africa Trip

The Wildecklawer Sports Festival, held at Diamantveld High School in Kimberley, Northern Cape, South Africa, is the country's premier rugby event. Top South African schools like Grey College and Paarl Boys High gather annually for five days, showcasing elite school rugby. This year marked a historic first, with Kirkham 1st XV Rugby team, invited after winning the National St Joseph's Festival. This opportunity arose through a longstanding connection with Mr. Pierre Jacobs, headmaster of Glenwood High School, who facilitated an exchange with Kirkham.

The journey began with a 23-hour trip from Manchester to Kimberley, including a stopover in Johannesburg. Despite the long travel, the team adapted quickly to the local conditions, training well and acclimatising to the high altitude and heat. Their first match, against Nico Malan, saw Kirkham

dominate, leading 33-17 at halftime and ultimately winning 45-22.

A rest day followed, featuring a tour of the Wildecklawer farm and a memorable South African Braai at the owner's mansion. The team relaxed at a game lodge, enjoying activities and wildlife sightings, setting the stage for their second game against Outeniqua High School. Despite trailing 15-7 at halftime, Kirkham mounted a stunning comeback to win 27-25.

The festival concluded with the team returning home to Manchester, reflecting on their successful tour and the respect earned from their South African counterparts. Special thanks were extended to trip managers Mr. Roddam, Mr. Unsworth, Mr. Robinson, retired teacher Mr. Browning, and chaperone Gerhard Janse van Rensburg for their invaluable support.





Hockey World Cup

Holland Trip

The U13 and U14 squads toured Holland during the Easter holidays playing in a World Cup hockey tournament and three top class matches against Dutch opposition.

In the first matches the girls took the pitch at HC Nova. Both squads faced tough opposition and a very different style of hockey compared to how they play in the UK. Imi Osborne took away player of the match in the A team game whilst Katy Townsend took away the same award in the B team match. Both players were awarded a club playing shirt to recognise their achievements.

Both teams grew in strength as they faced the other Dutch clubs, Siinborn HC and Heerlen HC, picking up further victories along the way.

Of an evening, pupils enjoyed various team building activities and a training session with two Dutch International players.

The girls experienced much more than just hockey including a trip to the Marl Caves, Toboggan Run, Bounce and a cave laser tag. As if this wasn't enough, they finished with a two day trip to Disneyland Paris before heading back to KGS.



Unlocking Imaginations

Celebrating World Book Day with Stories, Adventures and Creativity!



On Thursday, 7 March 2024, Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant, and Pre-School celebrated World Book Day. Pupils came dressed as their favourite book characters and took part in various activities like story sharing, a 'missing' book character hunt and arts and crafts.

At the end of the day, each child received a £1 book token to spend at participating booksellers. The event successfully promoted a love of reading, with many book characters coming to life.

In the Senior School, we also ran an 'Invent a New Word' competition. Our English Language A-Level group judged the entries and the winners were as follows:

1st Place:
Muphoria

The feeling created by listening to music which puts you in a good mood: "A sudden wave of muphoria washed over her as her favourite song came on".
Emilia Simpson

2nd Place:
Fruggets

A chicken nugget and fries meal: "I'll have fruggets for tea tonight!" Isla Varley

3rd Place:
Cake-up

Make up that looks like it has been put on too thickly: "She needs to sort out her cake-up".
Chloe Murro

Highly Commended:

Haum

Where you're feeling more than warm but less than hot: "I am haum right now". Harry Parkinson

Discaret

The act of purposefully misleading someone with negative intention: "I shall discaret the hero so that he'll fall into my trap". Anonymous

Dumbolina

A small, clumsy person: "Stop being a dumbolina".
Evie Bradley.



Musical Talent at KGJS

Music Review

Junior Christmas Celebration

The junior Christmas celebration is an important and much-loved annual event at Kirkham Grammar School, providing our pupils with the opportunity to showcase their musical talents, and what a wonderful evening it was. It was an incredible celebration of talent! The audience were captivated by beautiful singing, instrumental playing and animated readings. We were also delighted to welcome the band DRIVE, who supported the pupils during this fantastic evening.

Infant Christmas Celebration

The infant pupils welcomed their new intergalactic friends to learn about the story of Christmas, ready to share it with the rest of the Universe. The infant celebration was a spectacle of colour and music, with some wonderful moments of comic timing. The on-stage action was interwoven with songs and dancing, carried off with notable confidence.



The Performing Arts Festival 2024

This year's event was a fantastic success. With over ninety pupils taking part, it was our busiest yet, thanks to the ever-increasing number of talented young musicians who performed at the event. Our Performing Arts Festival continues to provide that all-important platform for our young musicians who wish to become performers and for all those who simply wish to show their love for music. We would like to thank our adjudicators, Mrs Laura Stott (Music) and Mrs Susan Mackay (Drama), who had the difficult task of choosing an overall Young Musician of the Year and Young Drama Pupil of the Year. Congratulations to our Young Musician of the Year Eleanor Desoer and Our Young Drama Pupil of the Year Jake Barber.



Exams – ABRSM and LCM

Our pupils achieved excellent music examination results from the Associated Board of The Royal Schools of Music and London College of Music. These results are reflective of the incredible talent and commitment of all our pupils, along with our dedicated peripatetic music teachers. It is wonderful to see such huge achievements from pupils who contribute so much to our Music department and music across the school – not only have they worked so hard to attain these examination results, but many are also involved in our orchestra and choir.



The Kirkham Heritage Lantern Festival - March

On a very cold and snowy Saturday, the Kirkham Grammar Junior choir brought some sunshine to the streets of Kirkham when they performed at the Heritage Lantern Festival.

The pupils' sense of enthusiasm became infectious, capturing the attention of passers-by. Their performance ended with a version of Bring Me Sunshine – a firm favourite among the audience, who were singing along by the end of their performance.

Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester - April

In April, the award-winning Akiko Saxophone Quartet and Alvarium Wind Quartet, from the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester, hosted two fabulous workshops and wowed our Junior pupils here at Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School.

Pupils enjoyed listening to music from the various genres and their rendition of 'Sweet Caroline', was a particular favourite, with pupils joining in.

Many thanks to Mr and Mrs Gledhill, whose generous donation to our Music department funded this wonderful afternoon.



Senior Music

2024 began with the Singers' Concert, showcasing pupils of our outstanding vocal teacher Miss Howard, with performances from Bizet to Bernstein. A week later, 2nd and 3rd Year musicians took the spotlight at a Coffee Concert, featuring talent from Vivaldi to Lennon & McCartney.

The spring term brought the annual House Music Festival, where over 300 pupils competed. Ellis Hollows won the instrumental category, and Millie Homan took the vocal category. The House Choirs, themed around ABBA, saw enthusiastic participation, with "The Banned" winning the Ensemble final with "Stairway to Heaven."

The Gala Concert showcased these winners in a relaxed Recital Hall setting. The choir excelled at the Founders' Day service at St. Michaels Church, singing Schubert, Howells and Forrest.

The term ended with the inaugural Piano Concert, highlighting pupils of Mr. MacKenzie. They performed impressively, from 2nd Year through to Sixth Form.

KGS pupils also achieved high honours outside school, participating in national orchestras and winning numerous awards at Lytham Festival. Many excelled in ABRSM exams, with George Godbold achieving a high distinction in Grade 8 saxophone. KGS continues to be a beacon of musical excellence in the North West.





A Celebration of Reading

Millionaire Reader Award



The Millionaire Reader Award is given to KGS pupils who have read over one million words within their independent reading! Junior School winners are rewarded with an afternoon tea with headmistress, Mrs K L O'Donoghue and Senior School winners have the opportunity to go on an exciting trip!

On Wednesday, 19 June, our 1st and 2nd Year pupils took a trip to 'Level' in Preston. This special outing was a well-deserved treat for our dedicated "Millionaire Readers".

The day was packed with fun and adventure as the students engaged in two thrilling games of Laser Tag, followed by a lively game of ten-pin bowling. The competitive spirit and camaraderie were evident, as everyone gave their best effort in each game.

After the exhilarating activities, the pupils were more than ready for some refreshments. The break provided a perfect opportunity to relax, share stories and celebrate their impressive achievements.

Congratulations to all our "Millionaire Readers" on their remarkable accomplishment! Keep up the fantastic work!





Ali Sparkes

Blue Peter award-winning author

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, Kirkham Grammar School were very excited to announce the hosting of Blue Peter award-winning author Ali Sparkes on Wednesday 6 March 2024 for 1st and 2nd Year pupils.

Our pupils were extremely excited to learn about Ali's writing process and how she became a writer, and they also got to take part in a creative writing workshop to help support their English curriculum journey.



Annabel Steadman

International award-winning author

On Friday 9 February, Kirkham Grammar School were delighted to host international bestselling author, A. F. Steadman. Annabel spoke about her inspirations for her blockbuster hit series SKANDAR, the film by Sony Pictures that is around the corner and supported the pupils in creating their own unicorn and unicorn rider by finding their own elemental magic.

This event celebrated the paperback

launch of the second book 'Skandar and the Phantom Rider' in a fun and interactive way.

This was a hugely successful event enjoyed by pupils from both our Junior and Senior School along with visiting primary schools from across the local area.

Thank you to Book, Bean and Ice Cream in Kirkham and Simon & Schuster publishers for making this happen.



CCF Field Days



NOVEMBER

On Thursday 16 November 2023, our 4th Year, 5th Year and 6th Formers participated in a highly successful CCF Field Day. The event provided valuable practical training and skill enhancement opportunities for our cadets.

The younger cadets engaged in activities such as ration cooking, basha building, camouflage, and patrolling. They impressed everyone with their teamwork, leadership and practical skills in each task. Their ability to work together effectively and demonstrate leadership qualities was particularly noteworthy.

The 5th Year cadets took on more advanced challenges, focusing on Close Quarters Battle (CQB) and stalking exercises. They approached these tasks with enthusiasm and demonstrated commendable tactical awareness and precision.

Overall, the field day was a resounding success. Our cadets showcased remarkable abilities, dedication and enthusiasm, making the day an excellent opportunity for development and achievement.

MARCH

On Wednesday 6 March 2024, forty cadets from the 5th and 6th Form travelled to Altcar Training Camp near Liverpool for the spring CCF Field Day. After safety and fire briefings, the cadets relaxed, some in the Red Rose Club and others playing outside, before lights out at 10.30 PM.

Thursday started early at 6.30 AM with a hearty Army breakfast. The cadets then cleaned their accommodation, impressing staff with their tidiness. The day's training began with a safety briefing and a weapon handling refresher, led by Captain Atkinson and Sgt Burnside.

The main event was a simulated attack on a village, complete with enemy forces and smoke grenades. The cadets demonstrated exceptional leadership, communication and teamwork, successfully completing their mission with enthusiasm.

The RAF Cadets thoroughly enjoyed their time at Inskip training camp where they were able to use flight simulators, low ropes and the ever popular DCCT.



MAY

On Thursday 23 May 2024, our 4th Year cadets experienced their first live fire range, enhancing their marksmanship and advanced skills in a controlled environment.

Despite being new to live ammunition, the cadets demonstrated exceptional skill and bravery, strictly adhering to safety protocols. Their accuracy and control were impressive, achieving excellent grouping scores.

Cadets also engaged in activities like tag archery, combining archery and dodgeball. This fun exercise allowed them to apply their skills dynamically, fostering teamwork and camaraderie through spirited matches.

Overall, the 4th Year Field Day was a great success. The cadets excelled in their live fire range experience and enjoyed the activities, demonstrating enthusiasm, bravery, and skill throughout the day.



Charlie Wiltshire

Appointed Lord Lieutenant's Cadet

We are delighted to share the exciting news that Charlie, a pupil at KGS, has been selected as the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Lancashire. This prestigious appointment is a testament to Charlie's exceptional dedication and leadership within our school community.

Charlie's achievement marks a significant milestone for KGS, as he becomes the fourth cadet from our school to hold this esteemed position in the last five years. This remarkable consistency underscores our school's commitment to excellence and leadership development through the Combined Cadet Force (CCF).

The appointment not only reflects Charlie's personal achievements but also highlights KGS's position as a leading institution in CCF excellence across the UK. This recognition is a source of pride for our entire school community.

Congratulations to Charlie on this outstanding accomplishment! We applaud his dedication and wish him continued success in his role as the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Lancashire.

In Memoriam

Arthur Baines

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Arthur Baines, a former pupil and long-serving teacher at Kirkham Grammar School.

Arthur's association with KGS was unparalleled, reflecting his deep love and devotion to the school and his hometown. Growing up in post-war Kirkham, he attended Kirkham and Wesham County Primary School and sang as a chorister at St Michael's Parish Church.

Arthur attended KGS in the 1950s, becoming School Captain in 1957 before studying Biology at the University of Wales, Bangor. Returning to KGS as a teacher, he dedicated his career to the school, serving as Head of Biology and later as Senior Master until his retirement in 1998.

Known for his high standards and commitment, Arthur was deeply involved in all aspects of school life, particularly as Housemaster of Kirkham House. His passion for music shone through in Gilbert and Sullivan operas and school productions, where he often starred.

After retirement, Arthur remained an active supporter of the Old Kirkhamians Association, attending events and driving its success. His love for KGS and its community was evident in everything he did.

We extend our condolences to Arthur's three sons, including Philip, who attended KGS from 1983-1990. Arthur's legacy at KGS will be remembered fondly by all who knew him.



Junior Sports

Review of the Year 2024



AJIS Cross Country

On 1 May, the cross country team competed at Rossall. Our J3 girls won the event and William Coward finished 2nd in the Year 6 boys' race. All runners demonstrated determination and skill.

Rossall U11 Rugby Festival

On 6 March, J4 boys played at Rossall's invitational rugby festival, competing in the experienced tier. Despite a slow start, they won all their games, displaying powerful running, slick handling and fierce defence. They were named team of the festival, with William earning player of the festival.

AJIS Indoor Athletics

On 25 January, J3 and J4 students competed in the AJIS Indoor Athletics

Competition at Robin Park, Wigan. Against thirty-seven schools, our pupils excelled in balance, speed, endurance, power and coordination. Well done to Clara, William, Fatima, Dominic, Millie, Will, Hollie, Zach, Austin, Henry and Noah who earned medals for their incredible skills.

Our junior pupils competed in four other competitions resulting in our J3 and J4 reaching the County Finals held at Stanley Park.

Dynamos Cricket

Kirkham Grammar Junior School launched the Dynamos Cricket programme for J3/J4 pupils at Kirkham and Wesham Cricket Club. The programme focused on skill development, with participants later representing the school in matches.



Wyre & Fylde School Sports Partnership Dance Festival

Pupils from J1 to J4 performed at the Dance Festival, interpreting "Heroes & Heroines" with enthusiasm and creativity. Their superb choreography and polished performances were a testament to their determination and teamwork.

Kirkham Schools Dynamos Cricket Festival

On 24 June, U10 and U11 pupils played in the Kirkham Schools Dynamos Cricket Festival. Competing against local primary schools, our team remained undefeated and qualified for the Fylde Schools Finals.

KGS continues to excel in sports and the arts, demonstrating our students' talents and dedication throughout the year.

AJIS Swimming

On 9 May, the U11 swimming team competed at the AJIS gala in Macclesfield. With strong performances, the team progressed to the finals in six races, highlighting their swimming prowess:

Boys:

William Coward, Issac Anders, Fairs Amr, Jake Barber, Austin Thompson

Girls:

Clara Moore, Hollie Addison, India Anders, Scarlett Smith



Girls Sport

Round-up



The girls have experienced a very busy Winter season competing in various national competitions across a variety of sports.

The girls' hockey programme has been extremely successful with the 1st XI finishing sixth in the tier 1 North competition and reaching the final twelve in the Country within the U19 Independent Schools Cup. They finished their season as champions of the Cheadle Hulme 7s tournament. Congratulations to Goalkeeper Anya Jackson who was also called up to the U18 England Squad.

The U15 squad reached the semi-final of the Independent Schools National Cup whilst the U14 squad reached the final 12 nationally, within the England Hockey tier 1 competition.

The U13 squad were not to be outdone, reaching the final eight nationally, in the Independent Schools National Cup and narrowly missing out on a national final spot in the England Hockey National Mini's.





In Netball, the U18 squad finished second in the Stonyhurst National Invitation tournament whilst the U14 squad were National semi-finalists in the SIS National Cup.

The U13 squad reached the final sixteen nationally within the plate competition whilst the U12 squad reached the final sixteen of the national cup.

In Cross Country, the U13 squad finished as runners up in the Stonyhurst Invitation run and in the Sedbergh National event.



National Athletics

Track & Field Athletics National Finals

As the school closed for the Summer break, our inter athletics squad headed off to the English Schools Track and Field Athletics National Finals in Stoke on Trent.

The inters took to the field event areas first, demonstrating some outstanding results! Jess Grice impressed in the hammer, Anna Whittle in the discus, Abbie Ely in the shot and Hermione Edwards in the long jump.

In the afternoon the girls turned their attention to the track starting with Aimee Harling in the 1500M. A superb run with a time of 4.42 mins, got the team off to a flying start.

Abbie Ely ran a great race in the 200m whilst Chloe Murro achieved a new PB in the 300m.

An outstanding day to complete what has been an amazing season! Well done to all our athletes.





USA

New Hampshire

Senior Ski Trip

The Senior School Ski Trip this year was to New Hampshire in the USA - an experience the students will not forget. We undertook a 'Ski Safari' taking in two different ski resorts, two days in Waterville Valley and 3 days in Cannon. The ski conditions were some of the best we have seen in the last few years and the students made the most of the weather. Our days consisted of a big American breakfast (mainly pancakes, waffles and maple syrup), a full day of skiing, quick shower and change for an evening meal and then out for the evening entertainment. The evening programme was a packed agenda that included meals out, the largest retro arcade in the world, a snowball fight in the swimming pool (I know! It sounds like so much fun, and it was), tax free outlet shopping, bowling and even a trip to Walmart (apparently that's a thing these days!). On the skiing side of the trip, everyone's ski ability (including the staff) went through the roof, especially as Cannon is considered one of the more tricky resorts in New Hampshire to ski. Thank you to everyone for their exemplary attitudes and the staff team for all their support!

Boys Sport

Round-up

It has been another outstanding year for Boys' Sport at KGS, filled with triumphs across multiple disciplines.

Rugby Highlights

Our rugby programme continues to shine brightly. The U13s started the season with victories at two prestigious sevens tournaments, Tera Nova and Stonyhurst. Meanwhile, the U14s claimed the Lancashire Champions title and triumphed at both the Richard Wilson and Wirral Grammar sevens. Despite facing challenges, the U15s showed remarkable resilience, securing the Plate at the Audenshaw Sevens. The U16s achieved an extraordinary feat, clinching their third consecutive Lancashire Cup and maintaining their dominance since their U14 days.

The 1st XV made headlines by securing the top spot at the St Joseph's National Festival and impressing with wins at the Wildeklawer Festival in South Africa, underscoring their international prowess.





Pre-Season Training

The team headed to Keswick for pre-season training, welcoming new starters. Rugby sessions took place at Penrith Rugby Club, with Mr Robinson leading fell walking. The trip concluded with a friendly match against Bromsgrove School, a tough test showcasing the squad's unity.

Season Highlights

The season began with wins over Wirral, Llandrillo, Methodist College Belfast, and Finborough College. The team progressed in the National Schools Cup by beating QEGS Wakefield and competed in the prestigious St Joseph's College National Festival, becoming 2023 Champions.

Post Half-Term & Cup Campaign

After half-term, the team continued their strong performance in the cup campaign, defeating Kings Macc and Ballymena Academy. Despite poor weather causing cancellations, they triumphed over Woodhouse Grove in the quarter-final. A memorable win against Bromsgrove School in the semi-final led them to Twickenham, where they narrowly lost to Harrow School in the final, inspiring the entire school community.

Twickenham

1st XV rugby team made it to the English Schools Cup Final at Twickenham, where they faced an in form Harrow School. Kirkham's route to the final saw them beat QEGS Wakefield, Kings Macclesfield, Woodhouse Grove and Bromsgrove School.

On Thursday 14 March, the entire school made their way down to London to support the 1st XV in what promised to be a game for the ages. Going into the game, both Harrow and Kirkham were undefeated and were ranked 1st and 2nd in the country. The first time the two top

ranked sides have ever met in the final. It was always going to be a close encounter.

Kirkham Captain Seb Kelly led his team from the front and it was clear to see he had his players all behind him.

The pattern of the game was set early, a Kirkham try after just three minutes from Jack Austin off the back of a brilliant maul was met quickly by a wonderful flowing Harrow score. Ten minutes in and we already had two scores. Ten minutes later we had two more, Kirkham's maul again doing damage as Alex Smith scored from the next phase, before another flowing Harrow try in response to level the game up with at 12-12.

That tightness would stay throughout, Kirkham's 7-0 lead on three minutes was the most any side would lead by. That tightness was in evidence when, after 22 minutes Kirkham opted against their fearsome maul and instead took the points through Rhys Hulse to go back in front.

This epic contest meant that there would quickly be another swing though as Harrow went charging over on a short line after patient build up play, only for Kirkham to strike again, this time through Seb Kelly after close forward play, to head in at half time 22-19 in front.

The second half kicked off and Harrow scored four minutes in after some lovely intricate handling to get the ball to the left wing.

Harrow then had a try chalked off for a forward pass and as the time ticked by it felt like it could be a crucial intervention, particularly when, with ten minutes left, Kirkham's maul again caused huge damage. They didn't quite bulldoze over, but they created the space on the short side from fly half Sam Lewtas to scamper over for a 27-24 lead. As the seconds ticked away it looked like the game was Kirkham's, twice they repelled big Harrow attacks, but Harrow kept on coming. With the clock red Harrow somehow found a way through and snatched the victory.

It was a tough result for the Kirkham side to take, but they can be proud of their achievements and the enthusiasm they created throughout the school.



2nd XV Success

The 2nd XV had a strong season, starting with victories over Wirral and St Ambrose College. They ended the first half term with impressive performances and continued their success post-half term with wins against Cheadle Hulme, Merchant Taylors, and Hartpury College.

Senior 7s & 10s

Despite limited training and challenging weather, the 1st VII performed well, finishing as runners-up in their first tournament and showing strong performances in the Rosslyn Park and Sedbergh Tens competitions.

U16s

The U16s played fourteen games, winning twelve. They demonstrated resilience with significant wins in the Lancashire Cup and notable performances in the sevens tournaments.

U15s

Operating with a small squad, the U15s showed determination, achieving victories in the Lancashire Cup and demonstrating strong performances in the sevens tournaments.

U14s

The U14s had a successful season with notable wins and resilience, progressing through the Lancashire Cup and performing well in the sevens tournaments.

U13s

The U13s had a productive season with significant wins and competitive performances in the sevens tournaments, laying strong foundations for future success.

U12s

The U12s displayed determination and growth throughout the season, achieving notable victories and showcasing improvement and sportsmanship.



Cricket Successes

Despite unpredictable weather affecting our cricket season, our teams displayed commendable performances. The U14s reached the quarter-finals, showcasing their potential with both bat and ball. Meanwhile, the U12s and U13s squads continue to develop promisingly, contributing to KGS's burgeoning reputation in cricket.

A historic moment was marked by the U15s, who became the first team in school history to claim the Lancashire Schools Cricket Cup, setting their sights on progressing through the National stages.

Multi-Sport Excellence

Beyond rugby and cricket, KGS boys excelled in a diverse array of sports. The U13s Hockey team dominated the regular season, finishing as runners-up in the Lancashire Festival. Our U14s Basketball squad impressed by reaching the county quarter-finals, while the U16s Football squad made waves with a strong semi-final showing in the Society of Heads National Cup.

Furthermore, our boys proudly represented the school in athletics, cross country, swimming and tennis, highlighting the depth and breadth of sporting opportunities at KGS.



County Recognition

Special congratulations are due to the following pupils who received county recognition this year:

Cricket:

- Oliver Yates (Lancashire)
- Finn Webster (Cumbria)
- Anna Whittle (Lancashire)

Hockey:

- Sam Asquith (Lancashire)
- Charlie Oliver (Lancashire)

Football:

- Dan Scott (Lancashire)

Their achievements reflect their dedication and talent, further enhancing KGS's reputation in regional sports.

As we conclude another successful year in Boys' Sport, we celebrate the dedication of our athletes, the support of our coaching staff, and the unwavering spirit of KGS sportsmanship. Here's to continued success and growth in the seasons ahead!

Class Photos



Pre-School



11 - 13



J1 - J3



J4



First Year



Second Year



Third Year



Fourth Year



Fifth Year



Lower Sixth



Upper Sixth

Careers

The Interviews



Cam Blamey

Since starting my A-Levels in 2022, I have had a clear goal of pursuing engineering as a career path. Due to this I chose to study Physics, Maths and Engineering. My original plan I was to use these A-Levels to study either mechanical or nuclear engineering at University, but after consulting with experienced engineers, I learnt that when it comes to engineering, the most valuable asset is experience.

Through my school's career program and also my own research I decided to apply to four nuclear engineering degree apprenticeship courses alongside my UCAS application. I choose this route as it was the more hands on approach to learning, I earn a salary and have the benefits of a degree at the end.

After identifying the companies that were likely to offer an apprenticeship in a subject I was interested in, I visited their recruitment websites regularly and completed the initial application forms when they were launched. The application windows were short and not always advertised clearly. The initial application form asked for basic personal information and predicted grades. Companies often wanted a personal statement and CV. Most of the companies responded, inviting me to a series of online tests and, passing these, I was then asked to attend an interview. These tests consisted of personality tests, basic logical reasoning, and some mock scenarios. The interviews were conducted via video using various different methods, AI question BOTS and actual people. The AI interviews were strange, a question would appear onscreen, there would be a few minutes to read and prepare and then I would have to record an answer through the camera on the laptop. After completing the interview I received

further phone calls from each company to discuss the details of their apprenticeships. At this stage, some companies made an offer whilst others wanted me to take part in further interviews and assessment days. One online assessment day took over four hours to complete. Although scary at first, the people were really nice and created a relaxed environment. This assessment took forty-five minutes with general questions about myself and my interest in the company. This was followed by a presentation section where I had to give a pre-prepared technical presentation about a topic of my choice relevant to the company, the interviewer then asked some more technical questions regarding my presentation. Finally, I had a case study section where I had a set amount of time to read a case study (about four pages of information) and then answer a few questions using the information I had read.

After completing this online interview the next morning, I received a phone call offering me a place on their degree apprenticeship scheme. I received a long and complicated contract to read through and sign. As long as I pass the extensive background and security checks and gain the A Level grades required, I will be starting a degree apprenticeship in Nuclear Engineering at Rolls Royce.

Overall, the process was quite thorough but required some extra work, research and time. There were many applications and online tests. I had never had an interview before and found these quite daunting at first, but I prepared well and this helped a lot. Creating an engaging presentation, although time consuming, felt rewarding in the end and I am excited to move on to this next step in starting my career.



Grace Lin

Although work experience may highly benefit one's application, it's the plethora of other valuable core skills that are developed that make this worthwhile. From attentive listening and communication skills to simply just learning more about your potential future career, these opportunities provided me with a deeper appreciation for the role I wished to endeavour. It's a topic that I was able to integrate into the majority of my interview questions due to the sheer amount of knowledge I learnt, and it demonstrates to an interviewer that you thoroughly understand the profession.

No matter how much or little you have accomplished, the impact of any work experience undertaken is always valuable. My tips for gaining work experience are to just ask around - the worst people can say is no!

Remember, having work experience is not a necessity, it just helps you to relate your own experiences and skills to the questions ahead. Step outside your comfort zone, try something new and ensure to enjoy it.



James Shuttleworth

During my time with Carey Olsen LLP (the London office of a law firm headquartered in Jersey), I was given the opportunity to experience the day-to-day role of an offshore lawyer focussing on corporate and finance matters. This involved looking through various legal documents such as facility loan agreements and debt restructuring presentations, discussing the life cycle of a finance transaction and I also was able to briefly study the basics of partnership and company law in the British Virgin Islands. However, despite the wonderful insight I gained into life as a lawyer, I would argue that the most valuable aspect of my time in London was the opportunity to meet new people through the introductions Sheba kindly provided.

Of the people I met, most were experienced corporate lawyers, however I also was given the opportunity to meet one of our school Governors, Mark Wheatley, a member of the Drapers Company, at the historic City of London's Guildhall. Mark is also a councillor in the Corporation of London and I was able to hear about Mark's role as a politician, including how he aims to catalyse our country's involvement within the space industry, which was very interesting.

From the experienced corporate lawyers I met, I gained valuable insights into the work that they did, but also the various pathways that they took to reach their respective positions in the legal sector. Many of these pathways did not resemble what I originally thought to be a "traditional" route into the legal sector, instead I often found that they had gone to university to study a non-law related subject that they particularly enjoyed. From meeting these people, and gaining some valuable advice from Sheba, I am now aware that my route into the legal profession does not have to start with a law degree, which gives me the opportunity to pursue some of my other interests at university such as engineering or physics. Also, my opportunity to meet new people has resulted in me gaining another work placement at an American energy transaction-focused law firm in May 2024.

The opportunity to experience work as an offshore lawyer, and to meet and connect with such a wide array of experienced professionals is an opportunity that is invaluable to a person in my position. Therefore, I am incredibly grateful for all the help Sheba, Carey Olsen LLP and Mrs Russell have given to me. I am very much looking forward to my next placement in May to gain further knowledge and experience of life as a potential future lawyer.



Millie Homan

I joined Kirkham in 2017 as a first year and I am currently in my final year and hold the position of Head Girl. I have always enjoyed music, contributing to the soprano group and choir whilst leading the 2nd XI team after playing school hockey throughout my time at Kirkham. I had always assumed I would go to university following the completion of my A-Levels in Maths, Physics and Design Engineering and because of this had never really explored the alternative options for higher education.

In December, I completed my UCAS application and applied for university to study Mechanical Engineering. I have known since choosing my GCSE's that engineering was my passion and I wanted to complete my degree and then start working with companies like BAE and Jaguar Land Rover. I was very successful with my UCAS application and received 5/5 offers to study next year at Durham, Edinburgh, York, Lancaster and Liverpool and was almost certain this was my plan for next year.

Mrs Russell then recommended a Women in Engineering insight experience at BAE to give me the opportunity to learn more about the company and general industry. After successfully applying I spent a week exploring the submarine sector within BAE and the various career options whilst also learning about their personal company values which I found matched with my own. During my time with BAE, I had the opportunity to learn a lot more about Higher Degree Apprenticeships a relatively foreign concept to me at the time.

Following my week at BAE, I was offered the opportunity to interview for a position on their prestigious Higher Degree Apprenticeships and I decided to try. I found the interview process and assessment very interesting and decided that even if I was not successful, it was a life experience I would be extremely grateful for and it would teach me some very valuable life skills. I walked away from this interview a lot more excited about the possibility of being offered a position at such a successful company. I found out in February that I had been offered a Degree Apprenticeship and now had to decide whether I wanted to take the offer from BAE or go to university.

It has become more and more apparent over time that when transitioning from school to work, any experience you can gain is extremely valuable, especially in a sector such as engineering where so much of the theory is based of practical scenarios and knowledge is developed by experience and experimentation. This helped me to decide that having the opportunity to spend four years working in industry whilst also being able to complete a degree in Mechanical Engineering, whilst earning a wage and at no cost to myself, was something I couldn't turn down. I have spent seven years in classrooms learning and feel as though I am ready to begin working, earn my own money and gain some real independence whilst also getting the required qualifications to a high standard. I am extremely excited to begin my journey at BAE in September 2024.



**Prisha
Sivakumar**

Top Tips for interview success: Preparation

Hi to whoever is reading this, you're probably either going to apply this year for uni or in a couple of years if you're in year seven, either way, the following information may be useful to your future.

After you have applied to university or a job you may believe the hardest part is over but you're wrong, the hardest part of applying for anything is checking your emails. This is my first tip, check your emails daily or even hourly if you want to. On top of checking your inbox the second tip is to check your spam/junk, this is where the important emails always end up. My third tip is once you are invited to attend an interview, read your email, then read again and maybe a third time. From experience you may miss key information like preparing

a question, or if your interview is online or in person etc. You're now attending the interview, my biggest advice, be yourself and don't try to fake it, because the reason they wanted to interview you was to see the person behind the application. My final tip is, before your interview do some research about not only the uni and your course there but the area in which your university is located. Good luck!



Sophie Birchall

Currently, I am in my last year at Kirkham preparing to sit A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Geography, having already sat AS Mathematics. I am excited to share that I have received three offers for Medicine and an offer for Biomedical Sciences.

My motivation for a career in Medicine has not been linear but has manifested after much research into the realities of the profession. Having been a member of the KGS Medical Society since 4th year has been a significant step in my pathway to studying Medicine. As a current leader of the Medical Society, I wish to share my experience and offer advice to those who wish to follow a path into Medicine.

Initially, after emailing 10 of my local hospitals and GP surgeries, it took me many months of perseverance to find some work experience. However, my persistence paid off as I secured a place on the work experience program at Blackpool Hospital. Over three days in the summer, I had the opportunity to observe doctors across five departments. During this time, I realised a doctor's onus is more than treating disease; it is adopting a humanitarian approach to treat holistically, to connect with patients and to consider social factors impacting their health. This confirmed my decision to study Medicine. Outside of school during the lower sixth, I supported various causes through being a volunteer for the North West Air Ambulance and a local Alzheimer's Care Home on weekends, which I found very rewarding and helped boost my application.

Over my summer holiday after the Lower Sixth, I prepared for the medicine entrance exam;

the UCAT. I sat my UCAT two days before the start of Upper Sixth so that I had two months to get my head around the questions, and most crucially, crack the timings. I found that little and often was the best technique and I made sure to take time to properly reflect upon all of my mocks.

At the start of Upper Sixth, I wrote a draft of my personal statement and shared it with several teachers and doctors for their feedback on my application. After multiple drafts and tedious tweaks, I submitted my application in October. Fortunately, I received interviews from Manchester, Exeter, Liverpool, and Hull York Medical School, all of which followed the Multiple Mini Interview format. Each interview consisted of four to eight stations, lasting anywhere from six to twenty minutes. The stations covered a variety of topics, including current NHS challenges, medical ethics scenarios and role-play stations. To prepare for my interviews, I researched current affairs and sought advice from current medical students. I found that mock interviews were particularly useful in honing my ability to deliver coherent, analytical, and well-communicated answers; I did this with a consultant from Blackpool Hospitals Trust, teachers and a fifth-year Oxford Medical student. My most significant piece of advice for interviews is to be confident and try to enjoy it! If you have received an invitation for an interview, the universities have already expressed interest in you. Your task is to confirm their decision.

Armitstead Barnett

The Home of Beautiful Property

Are you looking to sell your home this year?

Contact Hannah Towers or Mark Bolan to discuss your next move



Hannah Towers
Head of Agency, Partner
M: 07912 513478
E: hannah@abarnett.co.uk



Mark Bolan
Senior Property Agent
M: 07738 381944
E: mbolan@abarnett.co.uk

North Lancashire

Market Place, Garstang,
Preston PR3 1ZA

01995 603 180
garstang@abarnett.co.uk

South Lancashire

59 Liverpool Road North,
Burscough L40 0SA

01704 895 995
burscough@abarnett.co.uk

Cumbria

Lane Farm, Crooklands,
Milnthorpe LA7 7NH

01539 751 993
cumbria@abarnett.co.uk

Ribble Valley

5 Church Street,
Clitheroe BB7 2DD

01200 411 155
clitheroe@abarnett.co.uk

www.abarnett.co.uk



Skip the commute...

Simplify your school commute and enjoy the convenience of working from a nearby, local workspace just 2 minutes from Kirkham Grammar School.

Tired of working from home or noisy cafés? Join our local co-working community!

What we offer:

- Flexible daily, weekly and monthly plans
- Fully equipped meeting room
- Networking with like minded professionals
- Inspiring creative environment in central Kirkham

Get 20% off your first Together Workspace subscription with promo code **KGS20** or scan here



**Together
Workspace**

Emily Marsh

Journey Through Foundation



Emily Marsh, an Upper Sixth pupil, is one of many pupils who have journeyed through the Kirkham Grammar School Foundation from Pre-School to Sixth Form. Emily's experiences have shaped her into the accomplished individual she is today, and this September, she will embark on a new chapter at Warwick University, studying Neuroscience. Here, Emily reflects on her memorable school journey:



"My school journey has been a rich tapestry of experiences, each contributing to who I am today. One of my earliest memories is the Martin Mere trip in Year 2, which ignited my love for nature. Later, the Junior School ski trip to Zell am See introduced me to winter sports and lasting friendships.

My love of performance began in Year 6 with a major role in our Aladdin production, sparking a passion for drama that continued throughout my school years.





Music has been a cornerstone of my life. From age seven, I took singing lessons, culminating in achieving Grade 8 in classical singing and performing numerous solos at concerts. Volunteering at Pear Tree School to assist with music lessons was deeply rewarding. Playing saxophone in the Swing Band added another musical dimension to my school life.



Sports have also been integral, particularly hockey and athletics. Starting in Junior School and eventually becoming Vice Captain of the Senior School 1st team in hockey, I cherished touring Holland and Barbados with my team and loved representing the school in the National Athletics Finals.



Leadership roles like being Preston House Captain allowed me to organise house music and sports events, fostering community spirit. My involvement with the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and attending RAF camp helped me develop leadership skills, leading to my rank of Sergeant in the RAF section.

Academically, writing an EPQ on the Tambora Volcano was a fascinating and enriching experience. Throughout these years, my teachers inspired me to strive for excellence. Their support has been invaluable, helping me grow both academically and personally.



Looking back, I am grateful for these opportunities and memories that have shaped my school years, preparing me for the future with confidence and enthusiasm. To new students, I say get involved in as much as you can - you never know what passions you might discover!"

Emily Marsh's journey through Kirkham Grammar School highlights the diverse opportunities and supportive community that our school provides. From her early years to her impressive achievements in music, sports, and leadership, Emily has embraced every challenge and experience with enthusiasm and dedication. As she moves on to study Neuroscience at Warwick University, we are confident that the skills and memories she has gained at Kirkham will continue to guide and inspire her. We wish Emily all the best and hope she continues to develop her talent for singing alongside her studies.

91% Pass Rate

KGS Celebrates Outstanding GCSE Results



Kirkham Grammar School is proud to announce another year of exceptional GCSE results with pupils achieving a remarkable 91% pass rate. This year's results are a testament to the dedication and hard work of both pupils and staff, reflecting the school's commitment to academic excellence.

KGS is also pleased to announce that the majority of these successful pupils will be continuing their educational journey at the school's Sixth Form this September.

Mr Tallan Gill, Head, commented on the results, saying, "Everyone at the school is extremely proud of the pupils' achievements this year and I am delighted to be sharing the Sixth Form journey with this cohort as I take up my new position as Head at this wonderful school"

Today's results not only highlight the academic strengths of Kirkham Grammar School but also underscore the school's nurturing environment that supports pupils in achieving their full potential.



A Level Results Day

Kirkham Grammar School is thrilled to commend the Class of 2024 for their remarkable accomplishments. This year's cohort has demonstrated not only academic dedication but also a broad spectrum of achievements that extend beyond the classroom, demonstrating the resilience, creativity, and ambition of our pupils.

As our graduates embark on the next stage of their journeys, we are proud to highlight the wide range of paths they are pursuing. Many are heading to prestigious universities, studying disciplines as varied as Medicine, Mathematics, Music and more. Others have secured competitive Degree Apprenticeships, blending academic study with practical experience in their chosen careers. Additionally, one of our pupils is preparing to cross international borders, embarking on an exciting educational opportunity in the USA (Good luck at Stanford, Anya!)

While academic achievements are a significant milestone, we are equally proud of the personal growth, leadership and community spirit demonstrated by our pupils throughout their time at Kirkham Grammar School. These young adults have not only excelled in their studies but have also made lasting contributions to the school community, participating in sports, the arts, and various service initiatives.

As we bid farewell to the Class of 2024, we do so with immense pride and confidence in their future endeavours. "We wish them every success and look forward to hearing about their continued achievements in the years to come. They will always be a cherished part of the Kirkham family. We will miss you, and are very proud of you all!"

Mrs D C Parkinson, Interim Head



Pupil Voice

Reflections from the past year



Throughout the year, Pupil Voice has developed into an integral part of life at Kirkham. It continues to provide a platform for every pupil, regardless of age, to have their voices heard and begin to make a difference in almost any area around school through the various factions of Pupil Voice. Our committee leaders have worked hard to develop these ideas and implement them into everyday life in a way that will benefit everyone within our school community. We have enjoyed watching Pupil Voice grow day by day due to the determined and passionate pupils at KGS. We hope next year it can continue to grow from strength to strength whilst expanding and aiding the school as a community.

M.Homan & J.Wigglesworth

School Captains 2023/24

This academic year, Pupil Voice has evolved significantly, working to represent pupils' interests across all year groups. The changes implemented by our leaders have been pivotal in improving the school. The various subcommittees have been proactive in bringing forward their ideas, giving the pupils a strong platform to voice their opinions. We have thoroughly enjoyed working with the leaders this year to help bring pupils' ideas to fruition. Having seen the growing ambition among pupils, we look forward to the new leadership implementing even more great ideas to improve life at KGS.

S.Birchall-Farr & J.Gorton



Community
Committee

Committee Leaders: O. Kollard, L. Seacy & H. Williams

The community committee has been incredibly busy this school year. During the run-up to Christmas, we managed to raise over £1000 for both local and international charities. A big thank you to everyone who has helped out within the community this year, which included visiting care homes and donating supplies to the local food banks. We feel we have made a big impact and are excited to see what we can achieve next year!



Co-Curricular Committee

Committee Leaders: J. Johnson, K. Tomes & C. Coburn

This year, the Co-Curricular Committee has strived to progress and develop a plan to deliver some popular pupils' needs outside of the classroom. Currently, we are working on arranging a timetable for the sports hall for different year groups at lunch time, allowing everyone to have the opportunity to use the equipment available. We have also been given the opportunity to spend money on equipment to be used at lunch times that are in high demand, such as rugby balls and a darts board! Finally, we are also looking to arrange more mixed gender House events and new clubs such as a book club to meet all the needs of the pupils!



Health & Wellbeing Committee

Committee Leaders: G. Livsey, J. Buckley & L. Procter

This year, we focused on the two main aspects of health and wellbeing: physical and mental. Dedicated to delivering important messages and advice to students, we set out a series of in form Powerpoints that each received over 200 responses. Listening and acting on the feedback given, we have increased awareness and accessibility to online and in-person support systems, such as the school's partnership with KOOTH and our own newly-established pastoral hub. We have also provided useful information on issues such as the damages of vaping, peer pressure and social media and where to go for help. Finally, encouraging student physical health, we are working with the sport department to widen the variety of sports available so it is inclusive and equal for all pupils of any age and gender. We hope to continue refining and improving health and wellbeing at KGS, with the continued support and contribution of both the pupils and staff.



Equality & Inclusivity Committee

Committee Leaders: G. Tomlinson, G. Nicholls & A. Sharma

This year, the Equality and Inclusivity Committee set out to establish a cleaner and bigger Muslim prayer room alongside a multi-faith reflection room which was achieved in the autumn term. Moreover, we have raised awareness in our tutorials of the six main world religions and the festivals which they celebrate. We have plans to celebrate these in school time to expand pupils' cultural knowledge. We have also conducted an assembly surrounding respect and kindness which is a key predicate of inclusivity. We have recently celebrated Eid and are excited to see what is to come.



Curriculum Committee

Committee Leaders: G. Amu, C. Wiltshire & J. Shuttleworth

Following on from last year's success, the Curriculum Committee have dedicated their time to introducing lots of new changes. In particular, we have added specific Sale Shark approved gym courses, for all rugby players in Year 10 and above. On top of this, we have begun to refurbish the homework system, to ensure that it fulfils students' needs effectively. We have collected the ideas and consensus of the pupils, which we will combine with staff input to make the improvements. We have also started the process of adding more educational trips into the curriculum, by contacting Heads of Department to see what is possible and asking students what trips they would want. We would like to say a big thank you to all the junior members of the Curriculum Committee for their help and ideas this year.



Eco Committee

Committee Leaders: R. Prosser, B. Firth & E. Parker

This academic year, the Eco committee's main initiatives have been to increase biodiversity within the school grounds and promote wider recycling. Over February half-term, the committee built a bug house to expand the amount of wildlife in the area and we are also in the process of converting an old rowing boat, which was donated to the school, into a planter. In addition, almost every classroom now has a designated paper recycling box and we are working in collaboration with the canteen staff to ensure that the recycling bins, which were introduced into the canteen last year, are being used correctly. Our next steps as a committee are to enhance outdoor areas within the school, making them inviting places which people will want to spend time in. We plan to achieve this goal by planting more trees, which will arrive in November, alongside an array of flowers and plants across the campus.

Summer Ball

100 Years of Rugby



This year's KGS Summer Ball marked the beginning of a year-long celebration of 100 years of rugby at Kirkham Grammar School. The spectacular event was held in the Summerlee Hall on Saturday, June 22, and was a collaborative effort between The Friends of Kirkham Grammar School and The Old Kirkhamian Association.

Guests were treated to a visual journey through the centenary history of rugby at KGS during the drinks reception in the Recital Hall, where historic photos adorned the walls. The atmosphere was filled with nostalgia and pride as glasses were raised to honour the contributions of past and present players who have shaped the legacy of rugby at the school.





The evening paid special tribute to the 1st XV Team, with Captain Seb Kelly and his teammates being honoured for their outstanding efforts this season. The rugby coaching team, led by our esteemed Director of Rugby, Jonny Roddam, and supported by Olympian and England rugby legend Dan Bibby, were also celebrated for their dedication and leadership.

The KGS Summer Ball was a fitting start to a year of festivities, highlighting the rich tradition and continued excellence of rugby at Kirkham Grammar School.

A Legacy of Rugby:

William Bamber Cartmell

Journey from KGS

The 100 years of KGS rugby article in the last Kirkhamian magazine inspired Old Kirkhamian William Bamber Cartmell to reconnect with the school. Mr. Cartmell, a student from 1938 to 1945, played rugby throughout his time at KGS under Headmaster Rev. Creswell Strange and sports master Mr. Brian Stevenson.

During his years at KGS, Mr. Cartmell excelled in rugby, playing for the 1st XV and the Senior House Team (School) in the Sixth Form. His passion for the sport continued at Liverpool University, where he studied Veterinary Science and represented Lancashire. A highlight of his career was playing and winning against Australia during their 1947 UK tour.

Post-university, Mr. Cartmell played for Gloucester RUFC eighty-three times as the outside half, teaming up with Bob Hodge from Wrea Green. He extends his congratulations and best wishes to KGS for the current season and their centenary celebrations.

Photographs from the archives feature the 1943 and 1944 School House Senior Rugby Team, the 1st XV 1945, and the 1st XV 1947.



100 Years of KGS Rugby

1920

The Old Boys' Association of Kirkham Grammar School was formed.

1923

A former old boy of the school, Gordon Wilson, wrote to the Headmaster, Rev. C. Strange (pictured), in 1923 suggesting the idea of "Rugger" at KGS. Headmaster Strange replied in July 1924 within the KGS Chronicle publication announcing rugby as the future main sport played at KGS.



1924 - 1925

is the first official rugby season at Kirkham Grammar School with fixtures against Preston Grasshoppers RFC, The Fylde RFC and Dick Kerr's RFC as well as school fixtures against Lancaster Royal Grammar School and Hutton Grammar School.

Rugby developed throughout the school during the 1920s and 1930s, with fixtures against the teams mentioned above, but also Fleetwood RFC, Blackpool RUFC, Thornton Cleveleys RFC, Giggleswick, Arnold, Rossall, Wigan Grammar School, and later Sedbergh School, Stonyhurst College and Manchester Grammar School.



In 1936

- Sidney Crane was appointed to KGS and was heavily involved with the rugby coaching at KGS until his retirement in 1973.

Despite WWII the school continued to keep spirits high with sports fixtures and a recent conversation with William Bamber Cartmell (KGS 1938-1945) emphasised the importance of this distraction during those difficult years. William represented Lancashire, with his highlight playing and winning against Australia in their 1947 tour of the UK. William continued to play rugby after university, playing for Gloucester RUFC 83 times as the outside half alongside Bob Hodge, who was from Wrea Green.



The 1950s

saw a post-war resurgence of fixtures and King Edward's School, Lytham and Cowley School joined the list of tough opposition.

1952

The Friends of Kirkham Grammar School was formed.

1963

Dave Worth appointed as Head of PE and Rugby; Dave moved to Wellfield School in 1979.



1969

Brian "BG" Gornall starts at KGS as a PE teacher and takes on the Head of PE and 1st XV coaching role in 1979 and continues until 2007.



1973

Richard "Bobby" Browning started his teaching role at KGS and gets involved with coaching rugby straight away, he retired from KGS in 2018, but he is still involved with KGS rugby - 51 seasons later!

1977

The first KGS rugby tour to Narbonne took place in February 1977 (the staff drove the rugby teams down to France in the school minibuses). This tour was followed by another to France in 1978 and the following year the 1st XV travelled to Portugal.



1979

KGS becomes a co-educational independent school, and the Old Boys' Association is renamed as the Old Kirkhamians' Association. Paul Smith joins KGS as a PE and Science teacher.

1980s

A plethora of KGS staff are keen rugby coaches (Paul Smith, Richard Watson, Tony Hall, Ian Scott, Tim Bruce, Alan Hill, Steve Turner) and KGS Rugby goes from strength to strength.



1985

KGS are winners of the All-England Rugby Festival held at Preston Grasshoppers.

1987

KGS are finalists in the International Rugby Festival held at Preston Grasshoppers and the KGS Rugby World Tour takes place.



1990

Kirkham Grammar Junior School opens and the KGS Rugby journey begins earlier for many of our pupils.

1991

Aled Trenhaile appointed as Head of RS and Rugby Coach. Aled retired from KGS in 2023, and is now teaching and coaching rugby at Bloxham School, Oxfordshire with Old Kirkhamian and former KGS member of staff James Walker.

1997

KGS are finalists in the Daily Mail U18 Cup held at Twickenham and the first KGS Rugby Tour to South Africa takes place.



1999

450th Anniversary of KGS. Jonny Roddam was captain of 1st XV Team hosting a special anniversary game against Rugby School at home.

2000s

KGS Rugby continues to be supported by numerous devoted, hardworking teaching staff: Richard Taylor, Andy Rollins, Greg Partington, Henry Porteous, Michael Whalley, James Walker with fixtures for all year groups, and quite often more than one team per year group.



2000

Winners of the Birkenhead School Sevens.

2001

Winners of the Fylde Sevens.

2002

John Lyon joins Kirkham Grammar School as a PE teacher.



2003

Winners of Sedbergh 10s.

2007

Winners of Christ Brecon Sevens.



2008

Winners of Fylde Sevens and The North of England Sevens.

2009

Winners of Birkenhead Sevens, Fylde Sevens and The North of England Sevens. Finalists at Rosslyn Park.

2015

Winners of Birkenhead Sevens, Fylde Sevens and The North of England Sevens.



2017

Winners of Christ Brecon Sevens and The North of England Sevens.

2022

KGS returns to Twickenham for the final of The National U18s Cup. KGS are winners of Sedbergh 10s.

2023

Winners of Sedbergh 10s. Doc. Rollins clocks up 28 years of service to KGS rugby!



2024

A most wonderful season including winning St. Joseph's College National Rugby Festival and another National U18s Cup Final at Twickenham. The KGS rugby teams are in the capable hands of five fantastic former KGS players, Jonny Roddam (KGS 1998-2000), Joel Unsworth (KGS 2001-2003), Chris Briers (KGS 2000-2002), Dan Bibby (2007-2009) and James Robinson (KGS 2013-2015). They continue to receive support from John Lyon, Mark Sutcliffe, Jack Madill, and of course Mr Richard Browning!



2024-2025

The 100th KGS rugby season, the 50th KGS hockey season, the 75th Anniversary of KGS CCF and the 475th Anniversary of the School - Ingredere Ut Proficias!



select carpets



**Carpets & Flooring supplier &
installation specialists.**

www.selectcarpetsblackpool.com

Call: 01253 838 322

Easylawn
Artificial Grass

**ASSOCIATED
WEAVERS**

**ABINGDON
FLOORING**

**lifestyle
FLOORS**


INVICTUS®
GREAT FLOORING - INVINCIBLE PERFORMANCE

 **Karndean**
Designflooring

CORMAR®
CARPET CO


INVICTUS®
GREAT CARPET - INVINCIBLE COMFORT

fells
CARPETS

OKA v Headmaster's XI

OKA 170-8 Headmasters XI 153-9 (Old Boys won 17 runs)

On the 28th June 2024 the annual Headmaster's XI v Old Kirkhamians' XI cricket match was held with the Old Kirkhamians' XI seeking revenge for their defeat in the previous year. The Old Kirkhamians' XI won the toss and elected to bat, scoring 170 all out off 18.3 overs with notable scores from Norris 29, Berry 41, Sissons 24 and Pickervance 29 not out. Reddy took 2-10 and Roddam 2-19 for the Headmaster's XI. Replying after a short break for much needed refreshments, the Headmaster's XI scored 153-9 ensuring pride was earned for the Old Kirkhamians' XI - Sutcliffe 27 not out, Reddy 28 not out and Robinson 31 were the major contributors to the score with Norris and Smith taking 3-19 and 3-25 respectively.



50 Years of Hockey

At KGS

During the Covid lockdown, while researching for the OKA centenary celebrations, we discovered that the 2024-2025 season marks 100 years of KGS rugby. This prompted many to ask, "What about KGS hockey?"

Hockey at KGS actually began with boys in the 1974-75 season, predating co-education in 1979. As we reviewed past issues of the Kirkhamian, we confirmed that this year marks the 50th anniversary of KGS hockey. The boys enjoyed significant success in the 70s and 80s. If anyone has photographs from those times, we would love to see them.

Girls' hockey started in the 1981-82 season under Mrs. N.A. Black, with a junior team of 1st, 2nd and 3rd Years. Their season included 7 games, with 1 win, 2 draws, and 4 losses. By 1983-84, the Senior girls' team had begun playing, and in 1984-85, they had a full fixture list, ending with 10 games, 2 wins, 1 draw, and 7 losses.

By 1991, KGS had an astro turf, and the girls' PE department had organised hockey tours to Wales and Holland, culminating in the 1992 World Hockey Tour. Today, KGS hockey remains strong and thriving.

In summary, KGS has celebrated 49 years of hockey, with girls' fixtures being part of the school for 42 years.



Hockey Society

(Chairman: Mr. T. Capper; Captain: N. Grayson; Treasurer: R. Jones)

Hockey has pushed its way into the K.G.S. games curriculum and produced enough players to form an XI. Considering our inexperience, results (shown below) are not bad!

Played - 4; Won - 1; Drawn - 1; Lost - 2; Goals for: 8; against: 11.

Our debut was against Preston 6th Form College, whom we convincingly defeated 5-1. However, in our next match we were heavily beaten (5-0) by a strong St. Anne's Hockey Club XI. We again played Preston 6th Form College but this time only managed a 1-1 draw. Our last match against King Edward's, Lytham, we lost 4-2.

Only 3 team members had played before - Grayson, Cole, R. Jones. The remainder were new to the game and have done well to reach their present standard. Probably the most promising of the "new" players are the inside forwards, R. T. Durham and S. W. Harris, and goalkeeper, W. Vickers, although all the team deserve praise for their efforts.

I'd like to thank Mr. Capper for all the time, money and effort he has put into the Hockey Society, and I hope this will be repaid next term with a better results sheet. Half-colours have been awarded to: N. Grayson, R. Jones, S. Harris, R. Durham and J. F. Kelly.

S. W. Harris, (Sec.)



Girls' Hockey

The hockey matches were severely affected by adverse weather conditions, which caused a large number of matches to be cancelled. I do however have it on the highest authority, that next year the hockey pitch is being transformed into an outdoor swimming pool, and water polo will replace hockey as the major winter game!

The Junior hockey team have slid through 7 matches, winning 1, drawing 2 and losing 4.

This is a very commendable performance in their first season since our Junior team consists of 1st, 2nd and 3rd years combined, and our matches are played against teams comprising third years only.

N.A.B.

Delivering financial advice

to help secure your and your family's future

Bailey Financial Services is a full service financial planning business committed to securing, protecting and growing the wealth of each and every client. We offer a broad range of advice to a variety of clients, which is based on professionalism, trust, and integrity.

Whatever your requirements, we offer a complementary initial consultation where you get to know us and we get to know you. We will explain our pedigree and our approach, as well as our costs and charges. As an independent firm, we are not tied to any investment companies or product providers, and so we are able to remain completely objective and impartial in determining the most appropriate solution for you.

"We invest time on establishing strong client relationships built on trust, integrity and value."

Michael Bailey
Director

**YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE...
WE HAVE IT COVERED**

Our friendly team are always available with advice and support whenever you need us. We act on an active advisory basis, which means that we do not do anything without our clients' express agreement. When planning for your financial future we are here to help every step of the way.



High Quality Garden Design, Landscaping and Construction

Please contact us to create your perfect outdoor living space:
07595 746561



www.pondpride.co.uk

Anne Jessopp

Former KGS Pupil Receives Prestigious CBE Honour



We are thrilled to celebrate the outstanding achievements of former Kirkham Grammar School pupil, Anne

Jessopp, who has been awarded a CBE for her remarkable contributions to British industry. Anne, who graduated from our Sixth Form, has made significant strides in her career, culminating in her current role as Chief Executive of The Royal Mint.

Anne's journey from KGS to the helm of one of the UK's most historic institutions is truly inspiring. She has been with The Royal Mint since 2008, serving in various leadership roles before becoming the first female Chief Executive in its 1,100-year history. Under her leadership, The Royal Mint has seen substantial growth and innovation, particularly in the diversification into new business areas

like precious metal investments and luxury collectibles.

Her CBE award is a testament to her dedication, hard work, and pioneering spirit. Anne's achievements reflect the values we strive to instil in all our pupils at KGS – excellence, leadership, and a commitment to making a positive impact in their chosen fields.

We are incredibly proud of Anne Jessopp and her accomplishments. Her success story serves as a beacon of inspiration for current and future students, demonstrating that the foundations built at KGS can lead to extraordinary achievements. Congratulations, Anne, on this well-deserved honour!

Sophia Crawshay

Former KGS Pupil Receives Prestigious CBE Honour

We are delighted to announce that Sophia Crawshay (KGS 2011-2013) earned her first international cap for Wales in the summer of 2023, playing against Uruguay and Chile. Congratulations, Sophia, on your international hockey debut!

Sophia's update was even more special as it connected her with current KGS

student Anya Jackson, a member of the England U18 hockey squad. Both Sophia and Anya play for Bowdon Hockey Club's 1st team in the England Hockey Premier League.

Well done to both Sophia and Anya! Keep inspiring the KGS family with your achievements.



Theo Randall

Sidney Crane Travel Fund: Supporting Alumni Adventures

The Old Kirkhamians' Association (OKA) supports KGS students past and present, including managing the Sidney Crane Travel Fund. Established by former deputy head Sidney Crane, the fund assists alumni with travel expenses for charity expeditions abroad. Fundraising for this initiative includes proceeds from the Annual Reunion Dinner raffle.

Last year, Theo Randall (KGS 2011-2018) benefited from the fund. Theo, now a

medical student at Newcastle University, spent three months researching healthcare in Northern Tanzania. Despite facing language barriers, logistical challenges and navigating remote villages during the rainy season, Theo found the experience immensely rewarding.

Theo described the trip as an opportunity of a lifetime, offering him a chance to learn new skills and immerse



himself in a vibrant culture. Although he didn't summit Kilimanjaro, he aims to return as an expedition doctor in the future.

For more information on the Sidney Crane Travel Fund, please email the OKA Committee secretary at oka@kirkhamgrammar.co.uk.

OKA Christmas

Young OKA Christmas Reunion



OKA v School Golf

For the Chris Lees Trophy

Friday 21 June saw the inaugural OKA vs. School golf match played for the Chris Lees Trophy, in memory of our former OKA treasurer and good friend who passed away unexpectedly in 2020.

Ashton-on-Lea Golf Club provided the setting for what turned out to be a very close match, with some excellent golf being played by both sides.

The match provided an opportunity for Old Kirkhamians, with strong connections to the School going back to the 1970's, to meet and chat with current students and staff. This was appreciated by all.

Thank you to Mr Steve Taylor for his support in organising the event and for putting together a team of very talented students, and to all those who took part and supported the event. There certainly appears to be enthusiasm for this to be a regular annual fixture.

The match result - a narrow win for the OKAs.

Chris Malings (OKA President 2023-2024)



OKA Dinner

Reflecting on KGS's enduring values



The Old Kirkhamians' Association AGM and Annual Dinner took place on Saturday, October 14, and was enjoyed by a large number of former pupils of all ages, some attending for the first time, others for many times. The diverse group enjoyed a superb meal prepared by the KGS catering team in the School Dining Hall. Guests then returned to the Old Hall for coffee and speeches, maintaining the traditional feel. Toasts reflected on KGS's enduring values, and Deborah Parkinson, the School's first female Head, spoke about the School's progress and innovations. OKA President Alice Allen (class of 2014) shared her reflections on the common bond among Kirkhamians before passing the chain of office to her successor, Chris Malings (class of 1982). Guests mingled long into the evening, renewing old and making new acquaintances, united by their shared experiences of the School.



PW

PRINT DESIGN WEB

NOT YOUR USUAL
MARKETING AGENCY!

▼ 31 ▲



LEVEL UP WITH US!

01772 672572 | hello@pwweb.co.uk | pwweb.co.uk

schoolblazer

*Proud suppliers of uniform & sportswear to
Kirkham Grammar School*



info@schoolblazer.com
01832 280011 | www.schoolblazer.info


limitless

schoolblazer