

# THE KIRKHAMIAN

KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER



KIRKHAM  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2017







**HEADMASTER**  
Daniel Berry

We hope you enjoyed our last newsletter. The academic, artistic and sporting achievements are quite plain to see. They are also some of the many reasons as to why Kirkham Grammar School stands out against any competitors. Academic success is, of course, vital and we have been pleased to record another year of impressive exam results at GCSE and A-level. This is even more impressive during significantly turbulent times of academic reform. However, it is not our purpose simply to produce a culture of an 'exam factory.' It is the great strength of KGS that it emphasises the qualities of educating the whole child across a range of disciplines. On reading through contributions to this newsletter, I was immediately struck by the great variety of activities pursued by pupils at the school, and in particular, the number of these that have taken place both outside of school time and in some cases, out of the country! Quite obviously, it has been a very busy and successful term at KGS.

All those who feature deserve congratulations for their achievements both to school life and their ability to 'ingredere ut proficias!'



# KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL

EDUCATING THE WHOLE PERSON



% OF GCSE GRADES at A\*/A or 9/8/7  
TWICE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

GRADE 9's AWARDED  
FOUR TIMES THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

95% OF PUPILS GAIN A UNIVERSITY  
PLACE OF CHOICE

A\*/A A-LEVEL GRADES INCREASE  
ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGE  
AVERAGE CLASS SIZE 12.5

GCSE

A-level

FOUNDED 1549

468  
Years

850

GROWING PUPIL  
NUMBERS



MOST NODAs AWARDED TO A NW INDEPENDENT SCHOOL



NATIONAL RUGBY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR



U18 NATIONAL HONOURS



LANCASHIRE HOCKEY CHAMPIONS AT VARIOUS AGE GROUPS



**EXCELLENCE IN ALL AREAS**

INSPECTION REPORT 2017



# Highlights from the Headmaster's Annual Review

## KGS Prizegiving 2016 - 2017 14 September 2017

"Once again, it is the achievements of our pupils that takes the limelight and in that sense it has been a truly remarkable year.

I am especially pleased that Miss Siân Hickson has agreed to join us to present the prizes on this special occasion. Siân is a freelance science communicator and creative producer with the Institute of Physics. She is the director of Hexagon Productions, a graduate of the universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh and an Old Kirkhamian.



The longer I spend at Kirkham Grammar School, the more I understand what clearly makes it such a unique school. We are about so much more and continue to thrive in a challenging market. The life of a school over a full academic year is a busy one. My first full Academic Year as Headmaster of Kirkham Grammar School has been both demanding and filled with wonderful experiences. Although we are ultimately judged by our results at A level and GCSE, which both improved on the previous year and remain well above any national comparisons.

I would like to focus on the work of the school and its pupils over this last year. Which included the delightful experience of an ISI Inspection in February. On a personal level my third inspection in three years, OFSTED, SIAMS and now ISI.

The inspection found that the quality of the pupils' academic and other achievements is excellent, saying: "Pupils are articulate and display excellent verbal and communication skills." The report adds: "Pupils are ambitious learners, eager to respond to challenging opportunities in lessons." The quality of the pupils' personal development was also deemed excellent: "Pupils reflect the strong family ethos of the school and demonstrate excellent collaboration in and out of lessons." The recent inspection confirmed what was already known; Kirkham Grammar School is the best kept educational secret in Lancashire. However, it was pleasing for everyone that it has been officially acknowledged against national criteria.

I have become convinced that central to our success going forward is maintaining the principle of independence. We are a school that is well equipped to move forward and to ensure that pupils, who only travel through this school once, receive the very best. We can reflect proudly on our achievements from last year to prepare us well for the future. However, the core of KGS remains. We will ensure the traditional values are recognised alongside modern ambition. The longer I spend at Kirkham Grammar School, the more I understand what clearly makes it such a unique school.

The major highlight of every summer is the publication of the examination results.

## Results 2016:

### A-level

We are extremely proud of our pupils who have been rewarded with an excellent set of A Level results to end a successful Academic Year for KGS. We have seen an overall improvement on the previous year, with more pupils gaining the top grades at A/A\* than in 2016. As the continued impact of reformed A Level and AS Level courses is felt, we have demonstrated a significant improvement across a larger proportion of headline measure. This is even more impressive with one of the largest cohorts in fourteen years and during a period of national turbulence.

This year's candidates sat the first of Michael Gove's reformed A levels in 14 subjects: However, this did not stop the large majority of KGS pupils, who 'bucked' the national trend. The pupils should be extremely proud of their efforts as the overall pass rate has remained at 100%, the number of A\*/A grades have risen and well over 90% of pupils have been awarded a place at a University of choice.

### GCSE

At GCSE a large number of subjects at KGS witnessed a significant increase in grades awarded at A\*/A when compared with 2016. The new grading system for Mathematics also proved a challenge, however, the number of highly coveted grade 9 awards was much higher than any previous predictions, at 14% compared with a national figure of 3.2%. When we look at our A Level results and GCSE results together we can demonstrate real success for our talented pupils.

I wish the cohort of 2017 well as they set out on the next adventure in their lives. They served the school very well both academically and in the broader life of the school and I hope to hear of their successes over coming years. Stepping out from school is exciting but I hope none have any sense of complacency for it is a challenging world out there and we hope we have equipped them with a wide array of skills to be the best they can possibly be.

As I have firmly believed in my years as a Headmaster it is the breadth and balance of the provision that helps pupils become the best they can possibly be. That must incorporate both the aspiration to succeed to the very highest levels, but also an opportunity to find an activity within the school which gives all pupils the chance to shine. I have been overwhelmed so early in my KGS career at how much Co-curricular goes on in our school. The diversity and range of clubs or societies that take place weekly is outstanding and a true testament to KGS and the staff and pupils.

## Academic Excellence

### Mathematics

In A - level Maths almost ¾ of pupils achieved A\*-C and at Further Maths 75% achieved A or above. The National Senior UK Mathematics Challenge involved over fifty 6th Form students with 20 Bronze Awards, 8 Silver Awards and 2 prestigious Gold Awards achieved by Upper 6th students. Several upper school pupils attended Mathematics Masterclasses at Lancaster University on Saturday mornings in the Spring Term. 4th Year set 1 pupils took part in an exciting morning of STEM Mathematical activities run by staff and students from UCLAN's Mathematics department. All pupils commented on the enjoyment and usefulness of the activities, and consequently this may become a regular fixture in the Mathematics calendar.



## English

More than 60% of grades at GCSE graded A\*/A.

Gifted A-level pupils were invited to a seminar day at Lancaster University with Paul Muldoon; 6th form trips to Howarth and the Wordsworth Trust to underpin A-level texts; We have liaised with the Royal Shakespeare Company to allow live screenings of Shakespeare plays; Workshops with Streetlife to explore contexts of texts with 3rd years; Gothic writing workshops arranged with John Rylands Library to extend literary cultural awareness;

Various theatre trips offered to all year groups; Range of revision lectures delivered by examiners and senior university lecturers.

## Latin/Classics

A Fourth Year pupil, was a runner-up in the Classics Competition organised by the Lytham St Anne's Classical Association for his interesting presentation on Julius Caesar.

Two pupils, one from Lower Sixth and one from Fourth Year, attended the Latin Summer School held in July - August at Wells Cathedral School. Two Lower Sixth pupils were accompanied to Oxford to the Oxbridge Classics Open Day which proved to be interesting and inspiring in helping them to decide on their university applications. One pupil hopes to further the School's connection with St Anne's College, Oxford where other KGS pupils have had great success in recent years. One former KGS pupil, just starting her final year at Oxford, was recently awarded the Sunderland prize for being the best in her year at Oxford in Ancient Greek, and was placed third overall in Classics at the university.

## Science

One 5th Year pupil in the Astronomy Club has been awarded an A\* in GCSE Astronomy. Of particular note was his excellent achievement in the coursework section - he independently conducted observations, some using a robotic telescope situated in La Palma, and obtained almost full marks.



## CCF:

The CCF cadets have enjoyed notable success over the past academic year.

At the Cadet Skill at Arms shooting weekend at Altcar, September 2016, Kirkham got two out of their three teams into the overall final which is quite an achievement within itself, taking into account there are over 1500 ACF and CCF cadets taking part in the competition.

At Her Majesty's Lord lieutenants awards ceremony in June this year, Kirkham had two cadets receive top awards, Sgt Charlie Bradbury (above photo) and Ran Parkinson (photo right). Receiving the Deputy Lord Lieutenant's (LEF) cadet, and a special commendation for outstanding services to the Cadet & Reserve Forces.

At the annual Summer Camp 2017 at Nescliffe, Shrewsbury, we gained victories in shooting, tug of war, military skills, and observation, but the icing on the cake has to be winning the award for the Best CCF Contingent on Camp for the 2nd successive year.

## Sport

### Boys Rugby

Two pupils, Arron Reed and Kieran Wilkinson (photo below) playing for England U18 Rugby. Summer tour to South Africa playing against Wales, France and hosts South Africa.

One pupil - Team England Youth Commonwealth Games in the Bahamas. England U18's European championship in Germany

Many County representative and success across all age groups  
First XV unbeaten



### Girls Hockey

U12, U13, U15 Lancashire Champions

U13, U14 and U18 Regional Finalists

U13, U14 and U18 North Finalists

Several pupils selected to represent Lancashire.

### Swimming

The schools swimming teams enjoyed success against local opposition as well as competing in the Stanley Cook Trophy hosted by QEGS Blackburn. One swimmer qualified for the Scottish National Championships and another has represented the county and North and since been selected to represent England later in the year.

### Cross Country

U13 and U15 teams were crowned champions at the Fylde Coast Cross Country Championships





## Athletics

Both Junior and Inter Teams were victorious in the Lancashire round of the National Schools Track and Field Cup which led to them qualifying for Regional 'A' Finals at Robin Park, Wigan

Several pupils represented Lancashire in both track and field events.

## Girls Tennis

Lots of pupils had the opportunity to play competitive Tennis against local opposition whilst other players competed in the Aegon National Schools Tennis Competition.

At U13 Level the girls were crowned Champions of Division 2 which leads them to a Regional Final next month.

The U15 girls were runners up of division one missing out narrowly on a regional final place.



## Duke of Edinburgh:

During the academic year 2016-2017 over 120 DofE Awards have been completed by our students: 65 at Bronze, 32 at Silver and 24 at Gold. The varied activities our students undertake to complete the physical and skill sections of their Awards is always impressive and the hours of volunteering given whole-heartedly by our students is humbling and demonstrates the true worth of the DofE Award.

## Music and Performing Arts:

The spring term saw the return of the annual Music House Festival. The enjoyable experience of listening to over four hundred students. As individuals and in groups they sought to secure points for their house, or maybe even progress to the final. Every year so many of the student body choose to give of their time and participate in this annual music making festival. Once the initial auditions were over, it all came down to a Thursday in early March and what was to be a thrilling final. The Gala Concert in late March gave an invited audience the opportunity to hear the winners and items from the final. It was a truly wonderful evening with outstanding contributions from all performers in the rather more relaxed environment of a concert. With talent like this, KGS music is clearly producing some of the highest standard music making in the northwest and it continues to be a beacon of excellence in traditional instrumental performance.



All year groups have taken part in coffee concerts and evening recitals during the course of the year. The annual Carol Service at St. Michaels Church was a chance for the Senior Choir to impress, and this they did in some style. The autumn term was rounded off by the Christmas Concert that produced a dazzling array of individual solos, combined with contributions from the Orchestra, String Group, Concert Band, Swing Band and Choir. Late March delivered the annual Founders Day service, again at St. Michaels Kirkham, where the Senior Choir again led events. Another highlight of the year has to be the Spring Concert which took place in late April. The orchestra, string group, concert band, swing band, choir and individuals thrilled the audience with some very accomplished performances. West End musicals, contemporary and classical choir music and sultry jazz transported the appreciative audience to other worlds, and the tremendous applause was most gratefully received by all performers. It was wonderful to see how mature and well-prepared all our musicians were.

A small group of soloists gave a lunchtime recital for the Lytham-St.Annes Music Society in June, where they delighted the perceptive audience.

One pupil (there are many others) played his way into the final of the BBC Radio2 Young Brass Player of the Year at the Royal Northern College of Music and had a hectic summer playing with the National Youth Orchestra which culminated in a Proms Concert at the Royal Albert Hall in London which was broadcast on TV.



Successes in the Rotary Competition and Lytham Festival were the icing on the cake at Kirkham Grammar. It is clear to see that music at Kirkham Grammar continues to go from strength to strength.

A busy year indeed!

I must take this opportunity to pay tribute to all the staff who make all of these activities in all of these areas of school life possible. At a time when the teaching profession continues to be under pressure to relentlessly raise levels of improvement and react to ever changing government policy. We must also say a fond farewell to the staff who left KGS during the summer term. They gave so much of their time and energy to the school and its pupils. We wish them well.

The life of any school is complex and owes so much to its stakeholders. We all rely on those around us to create the environment in which our pupils can thrive. This includes the selfless support of their parents which is a hall mark of our parent body, and one which I have recently joined. The early Saturday morning drop off, military like planning on a Sunday evening for the week ahead. Success is not guaranteed without the dedication of all of our staff and a team of dedicated Governors.

The virtue of a school does not depend entirely on its classrooms, the equipment in its laboratories, the number of its pupils, nor even the success of its exam results. There is an unseen influence that is exerted by buildings and surroundings that are beautiful and dignified and in keeping with fine honourable traditions and high ideals embedded at KGS. We are proud of our school. There is something at KGS that is intangible but very real, the atmosphere in which we dwell, that pervasive spirit which surrounds us and influences all of which we strive to achieve. It is a great heritage at KGS and one which will stay with you for life.

Now, once again we can confidently state 'Ingredier ut Proficias.









SENIOR  
SPEECHNight  
SEPTEMBER 2017





# KGJS PRIZEGIVING

At the end of the Summer Term, our annual Prizegiving was held in the Summerlee Hall. The whole school family gathered together for one of the highlights of the academic year. The afternoon began with a few words from Mr Berry, the KGS Headmaster, followed by 'A Musical Medley' from the KGJS Orchestra. After Mrs Cartwright's address, the Vocal Ensemble performed 'Where Do We Go From Here?' which led nicely into Mrs Roberts' speech. Part way through her speech, the I3 children beautifully sang 'Sunshine in my Heart' and Music Scholar, Oscar Harkins, entertained guests with his talented instrumental performance on the trumpet. Richard Rhodes then presented this year's prizes and trophies before entertaining the audience with his witty account of his days as a headmaster. Head Boy, James Stacey and Head Girl, Pippa McGregor, gave a vote of thanks and the penultimate performance was from the School Choir, performing 'Ever Wonder'. The whole school then finished the afternoon by performing 'A Whole New World' and 'Golden Days'. Afterwards, a delicious buffet was served for all the J4 children, their parents and invited guests in the Senior School dining room. This occasion was a fitting conclusion to the J4 children's time at KGJS who moved on to new adventures in September! Thank you to everyone who joined us.







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# HEADMISTRESS' ANNUAL REVIEW 2016-2017

I hope that you will delight in looking through the highlights of another busy and highly successful year here at the Junior School, while marvelling at the wide range of activities in which our pupils and staff become involved.



Each day our children grow, not just physically and academically, but emotionally in resilience, self-belief and confidence. It is only at this time in the school year, as we all look back and reflect, that we can appreciate the extent of these daily changes which, layered together, give such strength. Of course all our yesterdays are memories but when they are positive, happy and stimulating memories they are the very springboard for the tomorrows to come. With firm, solid foundations, children realise and learn that, with hard work and focus, the seemingly impossible can happen. Talking to the children, it is obvious that they appreciate the wealth and breadth of opportunity and experience. My hope for every child is that the words 'Kirkham Grammar Junior School' will become synonymous with the whole adventure of childhood and conjure up pictures of people, places, lessons and events which resonate our values and act as a compass point to live each day to the full.

A remarkable woman called Roz Savage rowed single-handed across the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Indian Ocean, spending over 500 days at sea, alone, undertaking a seemingly impossible challenge in order to raise awareness of environmental issues. An ordinary woman, she writes:

"If you don't keep pushing the boundaries, keep expanding your comfort zone, your comfort zone actually gets smaller and smaller until you are shrink-wrapped in such a tiny comfort zone that you can't move, you can't achieve anything."

It is very easy to wrap our children in cotton wool, to try and protect them from the ills of the world



and to aim for the 'perfect childhood' for it is human nature to protect our young and a parent's duty to create happy memories. All of this is admirable, however there is one huge danger, as Roz Savage so poignantly recognises; when that protective bubble bursts, or as our children move into an adolescent or adult world, they have not developed the confidence, skills or resilience to cope and thrive.

J B Priestley would have smiled! At the beginning of this year, we received a phone call: The inspector had called to inform us that an Independent Schools' Inspection team would be arriving the following day. Seven inspectors spent three days scrutinizing every aspect of our provision. In the end, the ISI inspection report was fulsome in its praise of the school. Pupil and parent surveys reinforced the inspectors' own impressions of excellent strengths in all areas of our provision. To quote the inspectors;

"Pupils are ambitious learners, eager to respond to challenging opportunities and clear target setting. Pupils show high levels of confidence and demonstrate high levels of empathy and tolerance towards others."

I reflect on this year's myriad of successes, both inside and outside the classroom, and I am truly humbled by our children - they are living examples of aspiration and inspiration.



Academic successes throughout the year are well documented - work in the classrooms is rich, creative and inspirational - there is no doubt KGJS children quickly become very good and competent learners. All children can feel immensely proud of what they have achieved in the last academic year. Some may have had public recognition of success in music and drama, some may have been awarded a merit certificate or have represented the school in a sports fixture or house competition or they may have performed in an assembly. Many pupils came down to my office to show me a piece of work that they were particularly proud of. They may just have been a loyal and kind friend. All these successes make up the tapestry of junior school life.

Our Pre-School children have had so many exciting times. They had fun exploring a topic on homes and built an igloo with over a thousand milk cartons. They went to the zoo and enjoyed a Production linked to Sports Day.

Our Infants, too, have had a very exciting and action packed year. I1s hunted for dinosaur footprints, made pumpkin masks and watched the chicks hatch as part of their growth topic. We saw our I2s taking part in some wonderful STEM projects, incorporating Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. They completed some amazing Space projects and enjoyed a trip



to Eureka. The I3s wrote some amazing stories and made DT cars and wonderful Tudor homes.

Moving on to our Juniors, there was some outstanding cross curricular work in J1 which involved English and ICT coming together in some delightful poetry, as well as the creation of family crest rune stones and cave paintings. Visits to Blackpool Zoo, Chester and Tatton Park have all enhanced learning in the classroom. Our J2s produced some excellent independent research on the Ancient Egyptians, wrote some outstanding pieces of writing on the Spiderwick Chronicles, held a German market and enjoyed a visit to Brockholes and Samlesbury Hall to learn more about the Tudors. WWII Day was, I am sure, a memorable day for our J3s, alongside their being Forensic Scientists for an afternoon. They made mountain and air raid shelter models and had a trip to Waddow Hall. The J4s enjoyed a Victorian day, a visit to Wyre Council to learn about democracy and debating, made cars and clocks in DT and took part in an Enterprise week.



Not content with the richness of our curriculum onsite, our boys and girls ventured further afield, particularly in our outdoor education provision. They learned orienteering skills, traversed high ropes, learned how to paddle board and camped under the stars, Bushcraft style. The school ski trip at Easter was a huge success, with all pupils achieving personal successes, not only on the slopes, but in coping with being away from home for a week. It is on trips like these that we see the children learning to cope with adversity and develop skills that will give them the strength to be successful in the future, uncertain world we are facing.

Beyond the classroom, there were numerous opportunities. Performing Arts successes included the Infant Christmas show, 'Nobody Ever Listens to a Donkey'; what a superb array





of talent we have in our younger children and what a spirited Headmaster we have for his willingness to attire himself in robes and sandals! However, it was our production of Aladdin that probably stole the overall billing of a packed and impressive year. I would challenge anyone who did not say that they were left moved by the performances from such young children. Composer Edward Elgar said, "My idea is that there is music in the air, music all around us, the world is full of it and you simply take as much as you require." We certainly noticed music in the air at KGJS! Music is at the heart of our school. Over sixty pupils made up our school choir and they performed in the local community and at various musical events. We came together as a whole school to record a song written to raise money for Trinity Hospice. The Christmas concert was, as ever, a lovely evening with many opportunities for children to participate, either as a reader, singer or instrumentalist. Many pupils took their Associated Board exams with superb results. The Inter House Music singing celebration was a highlight, involving everyone, staff and children, from J1 - J4. The children have also shown a great passion for drama and once again our LAMDA results were outstanding.



Sport remained thankfully ever popular. In all weathers our children were out playing sport and the children's enthusiasm and passion knows no bounds. Our Sports Days are always the great finale of the sporting calendar where the standard of performance takes lesson by lesson care, planning and aspiration for each and every child. There is no doubt, competitive spirit is alive and kicking in a wonderfully supportive environment. One of the most special moments is when a child helps, supports, encourages or cheers another naturally and appropriately. Over the year we continued to have fixtures in no less than ten different sports. All our J3 and J4 children had an opportunity to represent their school, as well as their House. We had success in a wide array of matches, and fixtures were played at U8, U9, U10 and U11 age groups.

Our U11 Boys Rugby team won the St Mary's Crosby Rugby 7s and were the St Mary's Hall Rugby 7s Shield Winners. The Boys Hockey team should be commended for an excellent season, becoming AJIS Champions, Lancashire Champions and North of England Finalists. Not to be outdone by the boys, the Girls Hockey team also had a successful season. The U11s were Lancashire runners-up and narrowly missed out on the North of England Championships on goal difference. The U10 girls were crowned champions at the Hockey tournament hosted by ourselves, involving eight schools from across the North West. Switching sports, Indoor Athletics has continued to be a real strength, with our boys and girls winning five gold, five silver and four bronze medals at the North West Independent Schools Championships, with three records being broken.

As usual, the school was proactive in supporting a range of charities over the year. A sum in excess of £5000 was raised through the efforts of our pupils, parents and staff. Our thanks went to our School Council who were proactive in choosing which charities to support and organising a variety of events. Charities supported over the year included; Macmillan Cancer, Red Nose Day, Trinity Hospice and our international charity, 'Classrooms in the Clouds' which, once again, was brought to life for our boys and girls with a visit from Dawa Geljen, a Sherpa from Nepal back in May.



The generous support of the FKGS, saw an array of school events which included a Christmas Fair, Junior School Disco, Spring Sizzle, Casino Night and, of course, the ever popular Summer Ball.

Two much loved members of staff left KGJS at the end of the academic year. Mrs Rachael McGregor, joined us initially in 2011 as our Pre-School manager and quickly involved herself in all areas of school life. She then left us to move out to Germany with her family and returned to us as a part-time form teacher. It has been a huge pleasure having Mrs McGregor at KGJS and her ready smile and dedicated, professional approach has been appreciated by all. Our best wishes go with her and her family as they start their new life in the UAE. Jill Knowles retired after an incredible twenty two years at KGJS. Dearly loved by generations of Kirkhamians, their parents and colleagues, Jill is one of those 'once in a lifetime' teachers who have a genuine vocation and dedication to her chosen profession; which is a way of life not just a job. For years, Jill taught in Infants but found her real home down in Reception. One of Jill's many passions was the teaching of music; needless to say the Infant Music department has been in very safe hands over the years. Our love, gratitude and best wishes went with her as she embarked on the new adventure of retirement. We welcomed three new members of staff to school in September; Miss Gemma Hannis, Miss Lucy Knowles and Mrs Keirina Heatley. We hope that they will all be very happy in becoming part of our KGJS family.

I feel incredibly lucky, indeed blessed, to have such a wonderful staff, both teaching and non-teaching, at KGJS. Not only are they excellent practitioners, but they are truly compassionate, thoughtful and caring. They have the wellbeing of every child at the centre of all that they do. Without such a team, KGJS would not be the school it is today, nor would your children be the special and unique people that they are.

And so back to where I started; preparing our children with the resilience to cope with their future lives. In a world which seems to promote or reward self-aggrandisement and egocentric attitudes, pockets of kindness and compassion become ever important. However, in amongst this, children are naturally inclined to make mistakes; life does not allow everyone to get along all of the time. It is the response to these bumps in the road and the learning from the life lessons that become important. Desmond Tutu had the right idea when he said: "Forgiveness says you are given another chance to make a new beginning." Each new day holds an opportunity to do something great; each playtime or lesson, a new opportunity to contribute to the happiness of others. It makes me immensely proud to witness this in our boys and girls on a daily basis.

I am confident that KGS will continue to go from strength to strength and that exciting times lay ahead.







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KIRKHAM  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



## Senior Prefects

2017-2018

# SCHOOL CAPTAINS 2017 - 2018

## Charles Bradbury

Charles is a former pupil of Kirkham Grammar Junior School. He is studying Economics, Politics and History. Charles participates in a wide variety of activities around the school, including being the Regimental Sergeant Major of the CCF and helping to run the Duke of Edinburgh Award. He has a place to study Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Lancaster University.

## Lauren Fraser

Lauren is a former pupil of Kirkland and Catteral, St Helens Primary School. In the Sixth Form she is studying Politics, English Literature and Business studying, and intends to study Sociology at the University of Leeds. She's an all-round student who is actively involved in LAMDA, currently studying the highest level and is passionate about immersing herself in charitable activities.







During September, the Junior School children enjoyed a range of activities for Book Week! As part of the J4 English Curriculum, the oldest children have been studying 'Eye of the Wolf' by Daniel Pennac and extended this during their Arts Afternoon, creating wolf masks relating to the text! The I1 children read the story, 'Dear Zoo' and were very excited to find that they had been sent a mystery parcel from the zoo. However, the zoo told the children that they were not allowed to open the parcel! The children drew pictures of different animals they thought could be in the mystery parcel. Some thought there might be a snake inside, or a frog or even a caterpillar! Paired reading took place across the

whole school foundation throughout the week, giving the older children the chance to work with the younger pupils. The Book Fair was once again in school with each class having the opportunity to peruse the huge variety of books on sale. Thank you to Mrs Hughes for her support with the Book Fair. The week came to a conclusion when the staff and children came to school dressed as book characters. There was a wonderful array of outfits including Harry Potter, Where's Wally, a jellyfish, St Trinians, Dennis the Menace, Mary Poppins and the Fantastic Mr Fox to name just a few! Thank you to all of our parents for their support.



# BOOK WEEK





# THE GREAT WAR 100

## BATTLEFIELDS TOUR 2017

When we boarded the coach at 5am, I don't think that any of us knew how powerful the trip we were going on would be. With our blankets, and packed lunches, the coach ride felt as if it took forever, but eventually we arrived at our first stop.

Before we went to the place we'd be staying, we were driven to Lijssenthoek Military Cemetery, the first of several graveyards we'd be visiting over the four day trip. Before we got to the cemetery itself, however, we walked past one of the most emotive things I'd ever seen. It was a series of posts, each representing a day of the war. Etched onto each post were notches, they almost looked like tally marks, and each one was a representation of a casualty. It was my first insight into the amount of people who'd died, but it was only the start.

The cemetery itself was beautiful. It feels wrong to describe a place of such tragedy as that, but there isn't really another word for it. There were dozens of rows of white headstones, and each one showed a person who had sacrificed themselves. It didn't really sink in at the time. I wanted to spend my time looking at each stone, but we were called over to one in particular, by our guide, Mike. It was the headstone of the only woman in the cemetery, Nellie Spindler. She was a nurse during the war, and was working at a CCS (Casualty Clearing Station) when it came under fire from German artillery. She's the only woman buried with full military honours.

We get back on the coach, the mood already different from the journey, but it's a good kind of different; thoughtful. We're not on the road for long before we pull up outside Langemark German Cemetery. We walk through an arch of oak trees, our surroundings still stunning. The graveyard is completely different to the one we've just visited. It seems much darker than the first, and unlike Lijssenthoek, we're the only ones here. Mike tells us about the place, and about the mass grave we're stood in front of. It holds 25,000 men, but I don't think it could even hold our school party without someone getting claustrophobic. This is one of only four German cemeteries for WW1. Mike tells us that Hitler visited here, and it shocks me. I don't understand how you can see

anything like this, and let it happen again.

The next day, after we have our breakfast and make our sandwiches, we travel to Essex Farm Cemetery. Mike tells us about the well known poem *In Flanders Fields*, and its poet, John McCrae, which was inspired here. Before we go into the cemetery, we visit the dressing stations. They're essentially caverns in the rock, that I have to duck to get into. They're cramped, dirty, cold. This is where doctors and nurses saved lives, and I can barely be in there for five minutes without wanting to leave.

Eventually, we enter the cemetery, and the story that I remember most clearly is told. It's of a man, a T. Barratt, who had earned the Victoria Cross for his bravery. He was chosen, along with nine other soldiers, to go and capture a German soldier for questioning. They had completed their mission, and were heading back to the British trench when a shell exploded next to them, lighting them up and making them clearly visible for the Germans to see. They immediately began firing at them, and while the other nine dropped to the ground, Barratt kept standing, sacrificing himself for his comrades. Despite being riddled with bullets, he

survived, and was sent on leave as a reward for his bravery. While he was on leave, he was sat outside a tent with three friends, and a shell exploded near them, and killed him instantly. This story strikes a chord with me, and I don't know why. I feel indebted to this man.

While we're in the cemetery, there are two other sights that shake me. The first is the gravestone of a boy who was only 15 when he died. He's my age, the age of many of my friends. I know that I wouldn't be as brave as him as to go war. The second is eight gravestones close together, meaning they all died on the same day. Mrs O'Flaherty remarks on it, and then I notice that all eight men died on my birthday. I don't know how to feel, which is something I felt a lot on this trip.

We visit real trenches next, Hill 62, and after changing into wellies, we trudge through them as the soldiers must have done 100 years ago. They're muddy, narrow, and there are more sharp turns than I can count. All I'm carrying is my phone, I don't know how the soldiers fit.

Over the course of the trip, we visited many memorials, but the highlight was Tyne Cot. It's the biggest Commonwealth cemetery in the Western Front, and it's absolutely gorgeous. The gravestones are perfectly set out in troops, echoes of the soldiers they belong to. The worst part of this place, however, is that seventy percent of the people here have no identity. I end up talking to a random grave for almost twenty minutes. He's from the Royal Fusiliers regiment, but he has no name. I imagine that no-one's ever spoken to him before. After all, who would talk to an unmarked grave? I find a fallen rose (photo right) and put it on top of his stone, and there's a sort of peace.

We visit many museums, but the one *In Flanders Fields* Exhibition is my favourite. There's a reenactment of the Christmas Truce, where German and British soldiers united to play a game of football on Christmas Day. I can hear the singing of *Silent Night*, the English version overlapped with the German.

Visiting the town itself is wonderful, it's a really lovely place, and the weather's not bad at all. The highlight, however, is not the busy chocolate shop we went to, but the visit to Menin







Gate, later that evening. The Last Post ceremony takes place every night, at 8pm, as a tribute to the fallen. It's absolutely silent, and some of our own Kirkhamians are lucky enough to get to lay a wreath. One of the old Kirkhamians is inscribed on the wall above where they lay the wreath: R. Haworth. He was 24 when he died.



Another breathtaking place we visit is the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing. It's inscribed with 72,000 men whose bodies were never found. An overwhelming ninety percent of these died in the 1916 Battle of the Somme. Something I don't notice until it's pointed out to me is that when a body of a soldier is found and identified, their name is removed. It's a comforting thought that these men are still coming home. They have been found.

There are so many other things that I could mention. Wellington Quarry, where men camped underground during their occupation of Arras. I could tell you about the Canadian memorial, a monument with no victory, no hurrah, just an overwhelming sense of grief. I could mention the trenches we saw in Thiepval Woods, or Newfoundland park where we could see where the Battle of the Somme occurred.

But I feel that our final destination on the trip was the most important. Talbot House. It is found in Poperinge, eight miles to the west of Ypres, and largely where the soldiers went on their time off. While Poperinge, or "Pop" had its fair share of casinos, pubs, and places to forget, Talbot House is the antithesis of that. It was created for all soldiers to have somewhere to be, to belong, while

they were away from the front. There's a library, sitting rooms, and a chapel at the very top. There's a garden, too. It's complete with roses, and looks exactly like an English garden would. It's a comfort that even at war, thousands of miles away from their own country, the soldiers still had a sense of home.

The trip is something that I'm not going to forget in a long time. It's not due to the fact that I'm now in possession of a real bullet used in the war, or because I have hundreds of photos on my camera roll. It's because once you see something like this, you can't forget. It's war, only in snippets, and it's one of the most breathtaking, and horrifying, things I've ever seen.

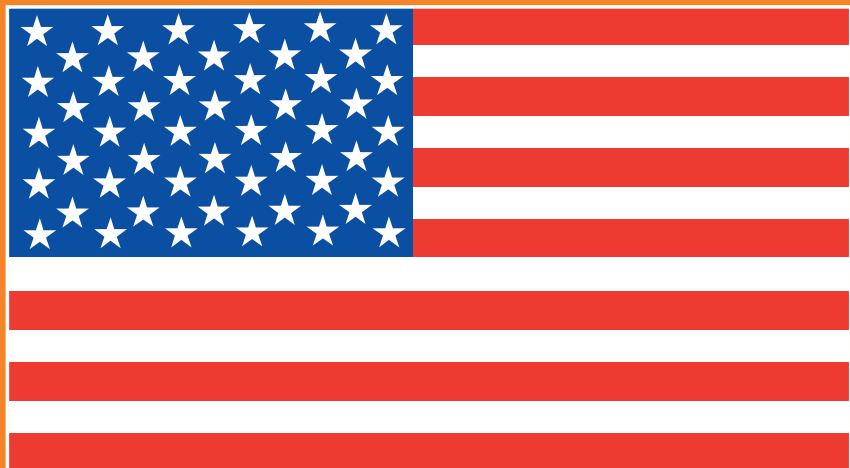
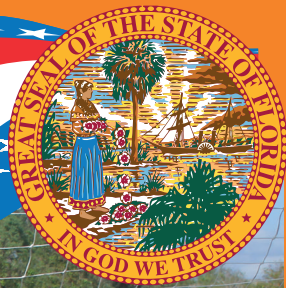
Molly Pickup (Report)  
Zara Buchanan & Sam Davies (Photographs)





# Florida USA

## FOOTBALL TOUR 2017







Day one was the long haul down to Gatwick for a ten-hour flight to Orlando. The squad of twenty eight looked extremely professional in their tour kits and bags. We arrived at 5pm USA time and settled into our rooms and Hotel.

It may seem strange that as a school which mainly celebrates Rugby, we are writing a review for the 'rival game' of Association Football. However, Kirkham Grammar School remains proud of the opportunities we offer all pupils across a range of experiences. This relatively small school's body of alumni includes numerous doctors, dentists, vets, teachers, lawyers, engineers, accountants, and business people as well as army officers, university academics, professional sportsmen, actors, models, clergy, a nationally-known TV journalist, one of London's leading radio DJ's, and ITV's main football commentator, all of whom have passed through the ancient school in recent times and brought to reality its Latin motto, *Ingrederere Ut Proficias*, meaning "enter in order to profit", or in a looser and more modern interpretation, "make the most of the opportunities you are given here". If the ultimate test of a school's quality is its alumni, then by any measure, Kirkham Grammar's are testament to the School's enduring qualities and values. The purpose of this tour was the opportunity and sharing the remarkable and diverse talent we have.

Day two took us to Busch Gardens and gave us the opportunity to explore both a Safari and thrill seeking rides. The park was incredibly quiet and we wasted no time having fun.

Day three was our first official Orlando City Soccer training session followed by lunch and a game in the evening. We also had the chance to meet with Brazilian footballing legend Kaka, who was happy to receive a Kirkham Crest. The fixture proved challenging against Golden Soccer Academy but both teams won both games. The hosting team treated us to an American High School evening meal.



Day four began with a trip to Aquatica Water Park, Disney Springs and an evening meal at Planet Hollywood.



Day five took the group shopping at Orlando Mall and another set of fixtures against the Foundation Academy. This proved a much stronger test but KGS came out on top once again in both fixtures.

Day six allowed us to experience the wonders of Universal Studios, including the amazing Harry Potter experience. We headed back to the hotel for our final night and journey home the next day after a short game of golf.



Overall the trip of a lifetime and one we hope to repeat soon.





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# NEWSTARTERS



It was lovely to welcome our new I1 children to KGJS at the start of the new academic year. They all had a super first day and were delighted to receive their 'Schultüte' cones at the end of the day. The cones are a symbol of the time that children are ready to start school. There is an old German story which says teachers put cone-shaped bags on the ends of their trees in the garden. When the bags are full of goodness and ready to drop, then it is time for school! The children have all settled into school life really well and arrive at school with smiles on their faces!







## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Since the last newsletter went to print over 100 of our students have taken part in a DofE expedition: 38 at Gold, 35 at Silver and 34 at Bronze level. On all the expeditions our students have demonstrated great teamwork and friendship and shown nothing but positive attitude throughout.

Away from the expeditions the other sections of the Award are also being completed by our students in great style. From volunteering in local charity chops to helping with coaching at their local sports clubs, the range of activities undertaken for the volunteering section is always humbling to see.

Our active and skilled students also display their talents and commitment with the Physical and Skill sections of the Award and it is always a delight to work with our students to help them complete their Award.

Our 3rd yr students will be starting their Bronze Awards before Christmas and their practice expedition is planned for June 2018. This earlier start, (introduced by DofE HQ), should mean that our students have time to complete both Bronze and Silver before the pressures of GCSE exams in the 5th year.

A completed DofE Award, at any level, shows commitment and determination to see a project through. Over the next few months the KGS staff will be working with our students to encourage them to complete all their activities and sign their Award off.





## GOLD

Elliot	Bannister
Freya	Bennett
Clark	Brydon
Carla	Burfitt
Grace	Hall
Louis	Johnson
Poppy	Morris

## SILVER

Joshua	Baxter
Mia	Bucklow
Emily	Clifford
Natalia	Cross
James	Devereux
William	Dowbiggin
Maddy	Fox
Liam	Gerrity
Jack	Higham
William	Kollard
Hannah	Lewthwaite
Sam	Minten
Freya	Parkinson

## BRONZE

Charlotte	Allan
Ewan	Armer
Ben	Armstead
Zoe	Armstrong
Oliver	Barnett
Abigail	Bellamy
Toby	Berry
Elliott	Callow
James	Caton
Tess	Clowes
Charlotte	Cross
Luke	Dean
Chloe	Denney
John	Ellis
Lucie	Ethell
Kai	Fraser
William	Gargett
Alice	Gascoigne
Serena	Hagel
Alex	Harwood
Cameron	Hayward
Thomas	Hewitt
Isaac	Hill
Alex	Hill
Lucy	Hollings
Callum	Hughes
Caitlin	Ireland
Matthew	Jones
Ben	Lee
Jessica	Maggs
Aleisha	Mansfield
Oliver	Marsden
Libby	Metherell
Kate	Parkinson
Evan	Powell
Sam	Read
Elizabeth	Relf
Joseph	Robinson
Lucas	Rowley
Styliana	Stavrou
Nathan	Wood







# AUTHOR VISITS

Students from secondary schools across the county had the chance to quiz best-selling American author, Michael Grant, when he visited Kirkham Grammar School in mid-October as part of a promotional tour for his new novel, *Monster*. The author - creator of the multi-million selling 'Gone' series - told the audience of Year 8 and 9 students about how a series of superhero books and TV series had encouraged him to take up writing, following experiences in early life in which he dropped out of high school and found himself in trouble with the law. English Teacher at KGS, Mandy Mills, said: "We are extremely lucky that he included KGS on his promotional tour. His relaxed, tell-it-like-it-is presentational style struck a chord with our pupils, and it is events like this that encourage young people to read and try their hand at writing. It was great to include pupils from other secondary schools so that they can benefit too."

Earlier in the month, International bestselling author, and former Irish Children's Laureate, Eoin Colfer, along with joint author Andrew Donkin and illustrator Giovanni Rigano, visited KGS to celebrate the publication of their new graphic novel '*Illegal*'. This is the story of Ebo and Kwame and their torturous journey from North Africa to seek a new life in Europe. Pupils from both the Senior and Junior Schools, as well as a number of local primary schools, enjoyed listening to the authors talk about how they created this extraordinary story of the very real plight of migrants and asylum seekers. Pupils bombarded the visitors with questions to gain tips on how to get started as a writer or an illustrator. The children left the event buzzing with excitement and eager to start reading the novel.

Over at the Junior School, children's author, Debi Gliori came into school and the infant children had a lovely morning drawing their own penguins, while Debi read extracts from her new book, '*All The Way Home*'. The children were given the opportunity to purchase one of Debi's books and have it personally signed by her. KGJS certainly have some budding illustrators in the making!!

Thank you to all of our authors who have visited us over the last term.











Following on from the KGJS Charity Triathlon, which took place earlier this year to raise money for Brian House Children's Hospice, Glenn Packer, Matthew Weare, Claudia Allison, Lilly Jones, Thomas and James Shuttleworth went with Mr Oddie, Mrs Shuttleworth and Mrs Tickle to visit the hospice over the summer. Upon arrival they were greeted by Emma who showed them around the wonderful hospice and they were able to meet some of the amazing staff who work there as well as some of the children who are staying there. Brian House is celebrating its 21st birthday this year and, to mark this, the children were presented with a framed certificate to thank the whole school for their support over the years. Brian House Children's Hospice is a fantastic place which helps terminally ill children make the most of their lives in a positive and enjoyable way.

Our Macmillan Coffee Morning was a huge success at the end of September. The cupcakes were both stunning and delicious! Everyone enjoyed the morning, having a catch up with friends over a cup of tea or coffee! The children all enjoyed a cake and a drink during the morning, too. A fantastic £563.26 was raised. Thank you to all who supported this very worthwhile cause.

J2's Hannah Crawley organised a 'Guess the Name of the Pandas' competition to raise money for our school charity, Classrooms in the Clouds. Infant and Junior children were able to have a go for a £2 donation and in total Hannah raised £130. J4's Alexa Anderson and Grace Livesey also organised a Halloween game to raise money for the same cause. A grand total of £100 was raised.

Thank you to all who supported this very worthwhile cause and well done to Hannah, Alexa and Grace!







## HARVEST FOODBANK

It was lovely to welcome our School Chaplain, Reverend Bunday into school again this year for our Harvest Assembly. Reverend Bunday spoke to the children about where their donations would be going, which this year, was the local Foodbank in Kirkham. Harry Ribchester, Oliver Kollard, Olivia Noblett and April Wright, along with Mrs Roberts and Mrs Tickle, visited Fylde Foodbank to take our Harvest donations. The volunteers explained the process and the children were able to see what happens to the food we had donated. Thank you again to all who kindly donated food and toiletries and a special well done to Jack and Henry Dawson-Gerrard who persuaded their local Morrisons and Spar to donate to our appeal!



## CHILDREN IN NEED

KGJS welcomed a very special visitor into school for a surprise visit... BBC Children in Need's Pudsey Bear and the children were delighted to see him! Head Boy and Head Girl, Oliver Kollard and Alexa Anderson, were also interviewed by Radio Lancashire. As part of Radio Lancashire's 'Pedal for Pudsey' Challenge, the children have raised over £600. Thank you to everyone who has supported this very worthwhile cause!





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## SCHOOL COUNCIL

The newly elected school council have worked incredibly hard throughout the Autumn Term. They organised a very popular Halloween themed tuck shop as well as initiating ideas for raising money for 'Classrooms in the Clouds' and reinstating Fruity Friday. They are doing a superb job at being class representatives and ensuring that ideas from pupils are being discussed. It has been impressive to see how quickly they have structured their meetings with agendas, minutes and actions! Well done to the School Council, an excellent example of team work and leadership skills.



## Let your child fly

Thank you to all of the parents who attended our 'Parenting Forum' in November. We hope you found the event helpful and have taken something away from it. Mrs Roberts and Mrs Blanco-Bayo are very much looking forward to future events where we can discuss other parental concerns and help to support you along the way. For those who were unable to make it, we hope to see you next time...here is a little 'thought' from the event.

"My child isn't my easel to paint on  
Nor my diamond to polish.  
My child isn't my trophy to share with the world  
Nor my badge of honor...  
My child is here to fumble, stumble, try, and cry.  
Learn and mess up  
Fail and try again.  
Listen to the beat of a drum  
faint to our adult ears  
And dance to a song that revels in freedom.  
My task is to step aside...  
Heal my own wounds  
Fill my own bucket  
And let my child fly."

SHEFALI TSABARY

LIFE ON PURPOSE  
MOVEMENT

The Society of Heads National

# PHOTOGRAPHY

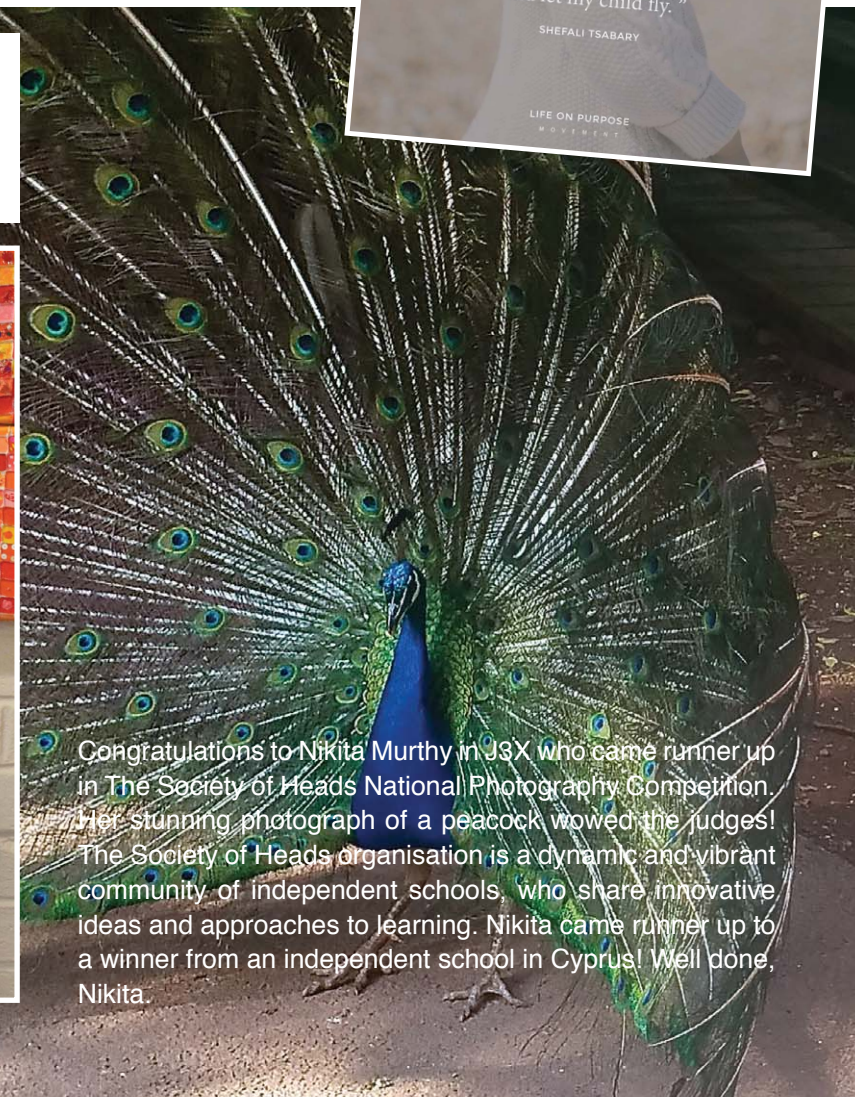
COMPETITION

RUNNER-UP - Nikita Murthy



The Society of Heads

Congratulations to Nikita Murthy in JSX who came runner up in The Society of Heads National Photography Competition. Her stunning photograph of a peacock wowed the judges! The Society of Heads organisation is a dynamic and vibrant community of independent schools, who share innovative ideas and approaches to learning. Nikita came runner up to a winner from an independent school in Cyprus! Well done, Nikita.





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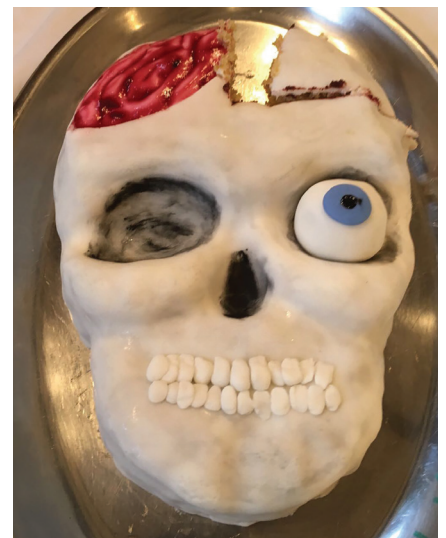




The Biology Department held its now annual Biology Bake Off competition for our exceptionally talented first year pupils to compete in this November. The bake off once again invited pupils to bake a cake with a biological theme and what an incredibly creative group of pupils they turned out to be. We had a microscope, a severed hand, a skull and a range of creatures inspired by Blue Plant II, all being submitted for the scrutiny of our eminent judges.

But what is a bake off I hear you say, without the critical eyes of Pru and Paul? Well at Kirkham Grammar School we have our very own celebrity chef, Nigel Smith who is not only a gourmet chef but also an expert pâtissier. Nigel and his talented team of creative pâtissiers sampled and analysed every entry methodically whilst our anxious pupils waited in anticipation for the experts' final results. After much deliberation, the successful submission was announced as 'The Tree Stump' creation, complete with edible grass, flowers and meringue toadstools. Following the adjudication, the submitted cakes, together with a huge assortment of exquisite pâtisserie donated most generously by Nigel Smith, were sold to support a coffee morning in support of Macmillan Cancer Support.

The event was made a huge success not only by the contributions of the pupils, together with Nigel Smith and his team but also by the most generous support of Lakeland and Booths supermarket. Lakeland donated all of the incredible prizes which not only inspired our pupils to venture into the kitchen but also helped to support those individuals together with their families affected by cancer. A huge thank you to our generous sponsors, Lakeland, Nigel Smith and his team and Booths





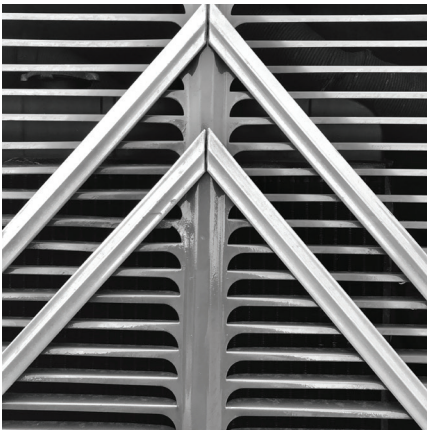








# 4TH YEAR PHOTO DAY LIVERPOOL





# THE CONCERT BAND









# ..... JUNIOR WORK .....



J1 Cave Paintings



Oliver Donohue I2X



Noah Taziker I1Y



J4 Under the Sea



Eleanor Bullough I2Y



Erin Littlechild I1X



John Watson I3Y



Jake Barber I1Y



Ava Gallagher I2X





J2 Art



Nikita Murthy J3X



Billy Margerison I3Y



Matilda Thompson I2Y



Tilly Howard I2X



Amelie Singleton J3X



Zachary Barker J3X



Lillijae Moulding J3Y

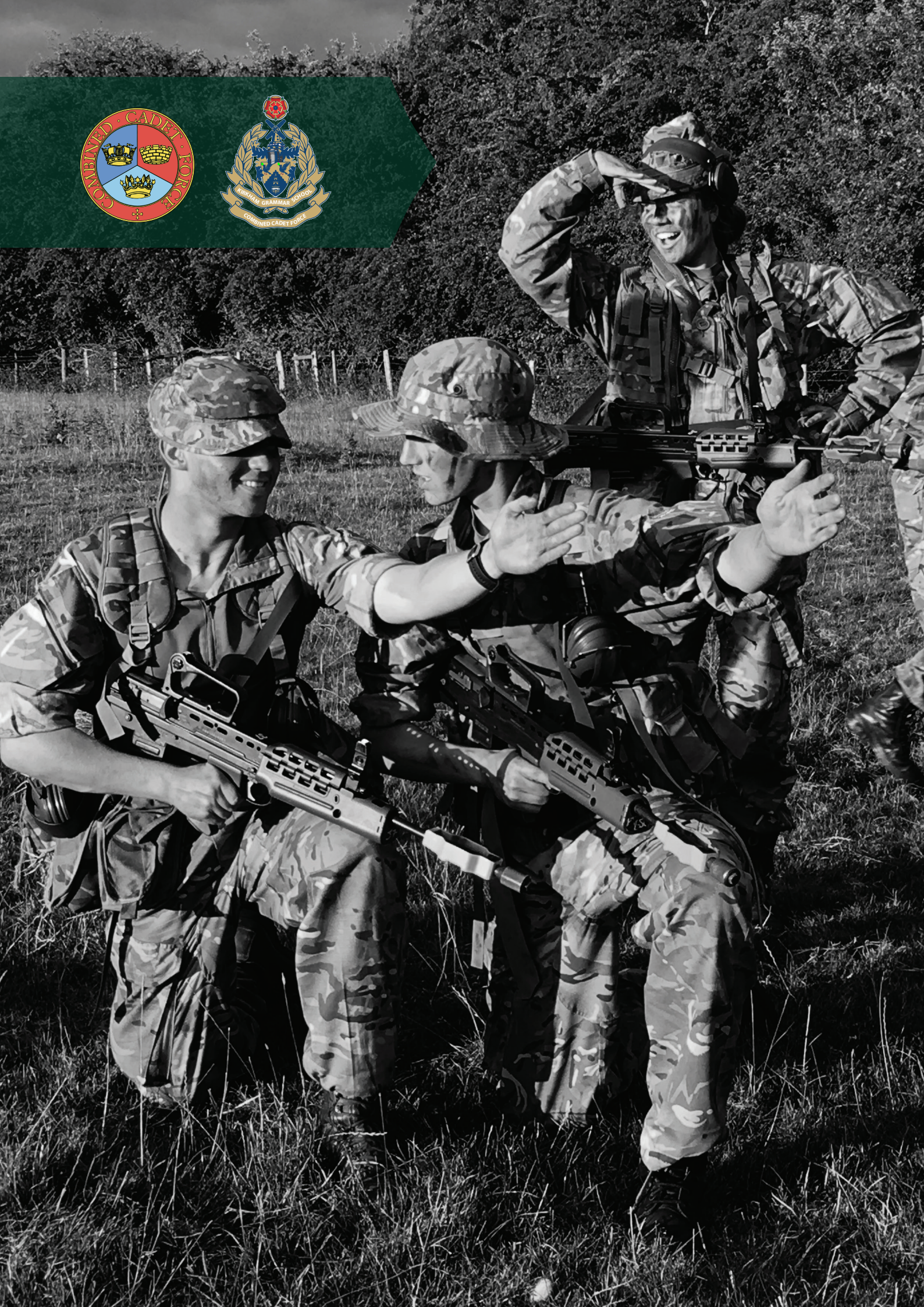
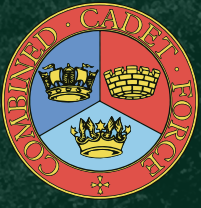


Brooke Medhurst J3X



Sam Goodman J3X









## CADET REPORT



ARMY

The Combined Cadet Force is a thriving co-curricular organisation for boys and girls at Kirkham Grammar School. The CCF provides a framework through which our cadets can develop qualities of endurance, resourcefulness, self-reliance, responsibility and leadership. It also aims to engender a sense of public service. The contingent at Kirkham Grammar School has a 'section' from the Army and RAF.

Membership of the CCF is voluntary with boys and girls joining from the fourth year. Pupils choose the section that most appeals to them and then take part in activities appropriate to that service. We have a weekly parade, when we cover the training syllabus, for all.

In addition to the weekly training at the school, we take the cadets away on camps. During term time we organise one Field Day away while longer camps are organised during the holidays. As well as the UK based camps and visits, there are many opportunities for cadets to

travel abroad. In the past we have visited Germany, Canada and Cyprus. Senior cadets are also offered the chance to go on specialist courses during which they can experience the very best CCF military and adventurous training.

The contingent is directed and managed by a dedicated team consisting of teaching staff who have been commissioned into the forces with officer status and trained specifically to serve the cadet force. We also have our own full-time School Staff Instructor, WO1 Steve Moffatt a former Warrant Officer from the Army Air Corps. In addition to our own CCF officers we are routinely visited by regular forces personnel.

Several of our senior cadets have been awarded Sixth Form Scholarships, University Scholarships and Bursaries from the Services. As members of the CCF boys and girls will be presented with opportunities, training and experiences that go beyond the norm.

This year has seen the schools first Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Cadre, the cadre was composed of 5th year from Kirkham and the Carr Hill cadets. The Cadre teaches leadership skills, fieldcraft and tactics to potential NCOs, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all the participants. The calibre of all the cadets who attended was impressive and all displayed a drive to succeed. At the end of the course we had 9 newly-qualified NCOs and this has sparked an interest level for the next one amongst the junior cadets.

Also, this year we have had two Lord Lieutenant's awards bestowed on the contingent. Corporal Ran Parkinson was awarded a Commendation for Outstanding Services to the Cadet Forces and Sergeant Charlie Bradbury was selected to become the Lord Lieutenant's Deputy Cadet for Lancashire. These awards are a huge honour in cadet circles and Charlie is very excited to carry out his role in the coming year.





## ANNUAL CAMP

### Nescliffe Army Training Camp

On Saturday the 8th of July 2017, 43 cadets from the school piled on to a coach to travel down to Nescliffe Training Camp near Shrewsbury for our annual camp. Once settled into the accommodation our first day for the senior cadets was on the ranges shooting at 200 and 300 meters with several cadets achieving their marksman qualifications. The junior cadets spent the day rotating round several stands which included Dismounted Close Combat Trainer (an indoor video range), British Army weapons and equipment, a WW1 lecture, and outdoor 25 metre range and weapons handling refresher.

The next day the whole contingent went on personal development and Adventurous training. The day consisted of command and leadership tasks, a water sports activity, archery, climbing and caving. The

cadets returned to camp having had a great day. Day 3 consisted of a military skills day where the cadets rotated around a variety of stands including harbour areas, observation, camouflage and concealment, cooking in the field, section attack, survival and anti-ambush drills. Day 4 was the Combat day where the cadets could put some of the skills they are taught over the year into practice as well as learn some new ones. The day consisted of; paintball house clearance, close target reconnaissance, vehicle checkpoint points, ambush lecture, and patrolling skills with pop up targets. The cadets really enjoyed this day, it was physically demanding and it was great to see them all putting in the effort.

Then came the contingent 24-hour exercise, where the upper 6th play the

'enemy'. The remaining senior cadets were given command appointments with scripted scenarios to challenge them in ways we cannot normally include in regular CCF sessions. We deployed at 6am into our patrol base, with 4 sections rostering between sentry duty, rest, quick reaction force and patrols. The exercise involved clearing minefields, ambushes and casualty evacuations, and culminated in a platoon attack using smoke grenades and fire support, against several of the 'enemy' positions using skills learnt throughout the year. The cadets went through 3,000 rounds, in about 3 minutes!

After the 24-hour exercise we came back in to camp to a very welcome hot breakfast and competition day. The contingent won both the Tug of War and Gun Run competition, both physically demanding events with outstanding effort by all. At the end of the day at the prize giving ceremony we were presented with 2 individual shooting medals, 4 team shooting medals, the Observation prize, the Gun Run and Tug of War prizes, and the icing on the cake was Best Contingent on camp 2017 for the second year running.

As is traditional with the CCF there are always the promotions, both Army and RAF, awarded at the end of camp. This year saw 2 promotions to Lance Corporal, 7 to Corporal, 2 to Sergeant, 3 to Colour Sergeant, 3 to Company Sergeant Major and the top spot of Regimental Sergeant Major went to Charlie Bradbury. The camp was thoroughly enjoyed by all, the cadets displayed enthusiasm, a sense of humour, grit and determination over the whole week, and for that they are to be commended, the camp also provided a learning experience and fond memories for years to come.

RSM Charlie Bradbury. Major. R.D. Taylor







# Field Day October 2017

October Field day was a first for Kirkham Grammar CCF, conducted at both Fulwood Barracks and on site at school, and we believe the best way to showcase the event is through the eyes of pupils at both locations in their own words:-

The Kirkham Grammar School CCF field day took place on Thursday 12th of October. Many activities were held throughout the day these included; archery, climbing, shooting range, B.B. guns, leadership tasks and my personal favourite; paintballing. It was the best in my opinion as it involved cadets being lead through the woods in pairs, shooting at hidden targets until they were announced 'dead'. In both shooting and the B.B. gun activity everyone's grouping (the proximity of all the shots to each other) was measured, because the tightness of your grouping shows your shooting skill. I also enjoyed the leadership tasks, which were run by Mrs Sutcliffe, not only were wet sponges thrown at us whilst we tried to navigate an obstacle course blindfolded, tasks such as the wine glass and the fly game provided a challenge to the group, team members had to find a way to remove a 'fly' (a cone) from a 'wine glass' (an arrangement of hockey sticks) in only two movements. This activity was used to improve our teamwork skills and learn how to problem solve. All in all, it was a fantastic day, more than eighty cadets took part and it's safe to say that every single one of them enjoyed it.

Kate Parkinson (5th year)  
Fulwood Barracks

I really enjoyed my field day trip to Fulwood Barracks, as it was a mesmerising day full of realistic but enjoyable activities. Throughout the day the cadets immersed ourselves in assault courses, camouflage and concealment classes and first aid. All of these were relevant to how the army operates today. Although the activities were excellent, the actual soldiers teaching us were a credit to their regiment. They were open to any questions or advice, giving help and also providing personal stories as it seemed every soldier had a diligent responsibility. This immersive day made me realise what a great opportunity the army is as well as the hundreds of different roles, vital to the well being of our everyday lives.

Harvey Berry (4th Year)







Remembrance Day services were held around the UK to commemorate those who served the country in two world wars and in more recent conflicts. KGS NCO CCF cadets had the honour of representing the school in Kirkham's Remembrance Day service (photo far right). The NCOs were supported by staff, parents and Old Kirkhamians. On the 10 November the Senior school held their own Remembrance Day Service which was led by our Senior NCOs.





# KGJS REMEMBRANCE ASSEMBLY



KGJS held their own special Remembrance Assembly, in which Reverend Bunday spoke to the children about remembrance. He then led prayers before the whole school fell quiet for a minute's silence, followed by 'The Last Post' played by sixth former, James Nash. Head Boy, Oliver Kollard, Head Girl, Alexa Anderson and the Senior Prefects, Grace Livesey and Harry Ribchester, also read beautifully during the assembly.

Thank you to Reverend Bunday for taking the time to come into school to conduct our Remembrance Assembly.





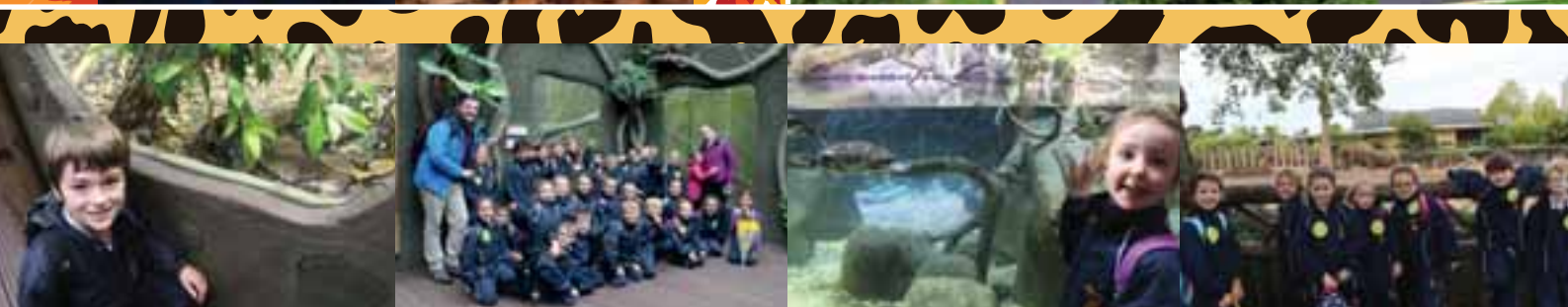
# I1 Trip to Park View

I1 had a super trip to Park View at the beginning of November, where they took part in activities involving using their senses. Julie, the activity leader, told the children that a rainbow had cracked into tiny pieces and she had been lucky enough to find all the pieces for the children to look at. They were given the challenge to find something in nature that was the same colour as their piece of rainbow. They then used their sense of touch by one child being blindfolded and guided to a tree. The children had to touch the tree and describe it to the rest of the group. Once their blindfold was taken off, they had to identify the tree they had been feeling. The children had so much fun at Park View that they did not want their nature adventure to end, so in the afternoon I1 took another little trip over to the Senior School grounds. Everyone collected Autumn objects and made an 'Autumn Soup' for the hedgehogs for when they go into hibernation. What a fantastic day they all had!



# I2 Trip to Towneley Hall

At the end of September, the I2s visited Towneley Hall, linked to their 'Houses and Homes' topic. They looked around the extensive gardens and woods, where they met some very friendly squirrels. The children learned about autumn and the changing seasons and then finished with some worm charming! In the afternoon, they split into groups and had a look around the house, even going down into the cellar and up into the attic. It was very interesting to find out what life would have been like living in the house as a servant. They had fun dressing up and learning about some of the utensils used in the kitchen and also went into the barn to have a look at some of the implements that were used in homes of the past and the children quickly established that household jobs would be very tedious! Their day ended with the bus breaking down, but this quickly turned into a positive with some extra time to play in an enclosed part of the garden with two footballs given to them by their guide, Mike. A great day was had by all and certainly provoked more understanding and thought about homes from the past.



# J1 Trip to Chester Zoo

In October, the J1s travelled to Chester Zoo for a Rainforest Adventure. They took a boat tour around the exotic islands, immersed themselves in the tropical rainforest realm, got up close and personal with some bats whilst exploring the bat cave and took part in a rainforest workshop where the children impressed the zoo rangers with their extensive knowledge of the rainforests and deforestation. They all had a wonderful time and the children couldn't wait to share all they had learned with their parents!







# GHYLL SCRAMBLING CANOEING

Last years 3rd Years went on an overnight end of year camping trip to Keswick in the Lake District in the last week of June 2017.

They undertook numerous activities including: Duke of Edinburgh camp craft practice, Geography field study and Chase Adventures organised the Ghyll Scrambling and Canoeing.

The trip was a reward for their hard work throughout the year.

A big thank you to all the pupils and staff made it a memorable trip, special thanks going to Denise Lawson in the canteen and Steve at Chase Adventures.







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# JUNIOR HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY & INFANT FUN RUNS

Kirkham Grammar Junior School held their annual House Cross Country races for all the pupils in J1 through to J4 and Fun Runs for the Pre-School and Infant children. Thankfully, we were blessed with fine weather and the previous day's wet weather made the conditions underfoot perfect for cross country! Medals were awarded to all of the fun runners and house points for the junior runners. This year was the best turnout we have ever had with virtually every child taking part and it was a pleasure to witness their outstanding effort, no matter which position they finished. After all eight races, the final positions were:

1st Fylde - 44

2nd Kirkham - 43

3rd School - 37

4th Preston - 36







# AJIS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP

Kirkham Grammar Junior School entered all four teams in this year's AJIS Cross Country Championship. The conditions were good underfoot but very windy. As always, Rossall organised a successful event and, as a school, we appreciate the time and effort put in by all their staff. Preparation for this year's event had not been ideal as much of our training had to take place on the astro as our field had been very wet due to the poor weather conditions for most of September. However, all athletes worked really hard in training which took place at lunchtimes on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Over twenty schools took part with more than 120 competitors in each race. Every pupil selected ran well and gave it their all. The U11 Girls and U11 Boys both finished 2nd overall and were awarded the runners up medals; the girls only just missed out on first place by one point! To finish 2nd out of twenty schools is a fantastic achievement. A number of pupils finished in the top 25, which is exceptional!

Well done to all of our runners...we are very proud of your performances.





## J2 TRIP TO CASTLEHEAD



The J2 children were very excited to be going to Castle Head on their first overnight school trip in November. Their first challenge was to make their own beds, which some of them found more difficult than others! They all enjoyed the orienteering activity around the building to find where everything was located. Next, they used their map skills to find controls around the grounds; this was so much fun! Evelyn, Meesha, Tom, Bertie, Jack and Henry all proved to be experts at finding the correct places on the map and so won the event. After lunch, everyone went back outside to try out the low ropes and obstacle courses, working as part of a team. Unfortunately, it was a little bit wet and some of the children were quite muddy by the end! This was a definite highlight though! They all enjoyed their evening meal before making lanterns from tissue paper and twigs and leaves that they had collected during the afternoon. They looked amazing all lit up. Most of the children were surprised, but very pleased, to see that their lanterns did not go up in flames as they had expected!

After a story and hot chocolate, the children (and staff!) were ready for bed. On Friday they were up bright and early, ready to pack up their belongings. They enjoyed a lovely breakfast, with some children having second and third helpings! Next, they made their own packed lunches before spending the morning looking for mini beasts, learning to identify them and setting mammal traps, in which they managed to catch two bank voles! They were really cute and did not seem bothered about being caught for everyone to look at. With their torches at the ready, the children also went into a cave to look for more creatures. Some of the children were a little shocked to find that they were looking for cave spiders, the largest species in Britain! They were certainly glad to get out of there, as visions of 'I'm a Celebrity' were swimming through their heads! After eating their lunch they headed back to Kirkham, tired, but having thoroughly enjoyed their visit!





## J3 BUSHCRAFT TRIP

Just three weeks into the new academic year, the J3 pupils, along with Mr Lewis, Mrs Case, Mrs Tickle, Mr Stewart and Mr Brookes, travelled to Cholmondeley Castle in Cheshire for the annual Bushcraft trip!! As soon as they arrived they had a drink and a snack and then went straight into the first activity, Predator. They all got covered in mud; it was like they had had a mud shower! The children learned all about traps, some basic first aid skills, how to build and start a campfire and even made their own survival bracelets! Congratulations to Sam, Henry, Amelie and Leoma who were very brave and ate the salmon's eyeballs! Lola, Morgan, Amelie and George were chosen as tribe winners for their contributions during the trip. All the children loved every minute of this trip and were very sad when they had to leave after lunch on Friday. Everyone had an amazing three days at Bushcraft!





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Pupils are offered opportunities to be involved in school performances at the Charter Theatre & Guild Hall in Preston. They have also performed in professional productions including the Pantomime, which we've been taking part in for over 30 years. Examinations are conducted in Classical Ballet, Pointes, Tap, Modern, Musical Theatre and Street Dance with the British Theatre Dance Association as one of the recognised examining boards. Guest Teachers of national and international reputation are invited to coach students within the school.

The highest level of self discipline is expected from all pupils, whilst encouraging individual expression and enjoyment from the youngest age to the senior dancer with professional aspirations.

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The Friends of Kirkham Grammar School have enjoyed another busy Autumn term, raising funds and having fun!

It was my great pleasure to reveal our new logo at the New Parent's welcome evening in October. The logo was designed for us by Mr Gardiner and is Matisse inspired. It represents our 'arm in arm' position as a member of the school community.

I quoted from our Articles of Association on that evening that our role is to assist 'in the provision of facilities for the educational, scientific, cultural and recreational benefit of the pupils, not normally provided through official financial channels'. Although written many years ago, our objective is still the same today, although with a modern twist.

Whilst holding our traditions dear, e.g. Christmas would not be Christmas without Santa stopping off to visit our Christmas fair, we are trying to raise money in ways which are appealing to our families of today.

September saw our first ever Gentleman's Canal Cruise, organised as a direct response to the ever-popular Ladies' Lunches. I believe the event was a very successful evening, although detail is proving hard to establish from the Gentlemen who were on the long boat!

We are currently planning a tour of a local gin distillery, which will include food and live music for February 2018, details of which will be emailed to all parents in due course.

I would also ask you to please visit and 'like' our Friends of Kirkham Grammar School Facebook page, and follow us on Twitter @friendsofkgs.

We have registered with Easy Fundraising through which retailers can donate a percentage of their sales to ourselves when you shop online with them. Furthermore, this is at no cost to yourself. Please register using the following link <https://www.easypfundraising.org.uk/causes/fokgs/> and then whenever you shop online at a participating retailer they will make a donation back to us.

Looking forward, we are planning a KGJS disco in February, pre-loved uniform sale in March, a further Bags2school collection and gentleman's micro-brewery tour in April, a Spring family event and Ladies' lunch in May and, of course, our wonderful Summer Ball in June, which will be the highlight of our year.

Our current fundraising project is to assist in updating facilities in the Summerlee Hall, which is used by all members of the school family from ages 3 to 18.

Thank you for your support, whether it's been in wrapping Christmas presents to help Santa, running a stall at the fair, buying raffle tickets, joining the 100 club, shopping through Easy Fundraising, or sending pre-loved uniform to sell, we truly appreciate everything you have offered.

Special thanks must go to the amazing committee of parents, staff members, and friends who organise each of the events. We would not raise the significant sums we do, £16,398 last year, were it not for the hard work of everyone involved.

The Friends of Kirkham Grammar School wish you all a happy Christmas and look forward to working with Friends, old and new, in 2018.

Michelle O'Neill  
Chair, FKGS



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# Diary Dates



Monday 18 December 2017  
Young Kirkhamians' Christmas Gathering,  
The Grapes, Wrea Green, 19.30 pm

Monday 15 to Tuesday 23 January 2018  
5th Year Mock Exams

Monday 22 January 2018  
11+ Sports Scholarship Assessment

Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 January 2018  
11+ Music Scholarship Assessment

Monday 22 to Monday 29 January 2018  
Upper Sixth Mock Examinations

Wednesday 24 January 2018  
Sixth Form taster day for current 5th Year

Saturday 27 January 2018  
11+ Entrance Examination

Thursday 1 February 2018  
2nd Year concert, Recital Hall

Thursday 8 February 2018  
Third Year Parents Evening

Saturday 24 February 2018  
KGJS Disney Activity Morning

Thursday 8 March 2018  
House Music Festival

Thursday 15 March 2018  
U14 Richard Wilson Sevens Tournament

Thursday 15 March 2018  
Gala Concert, Recital Hall, current pupils,  
parents and wider community welcome

Saturday 17 March  
U18 National Invitational Hockey Tournament

Wednesday 21 March 2018  
Founders' Day Service, SLH

Thursday 22 March 2018  
CCF Field Day, 4th Year and Sixth Form

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