

THE KIRKHAMIAN

KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



KIRKHAM
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2021





KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Welcome to the latest edition of the Kirkhamian. In a year that has presented so many challenges it seems to be the perfect opportunity to remind us all of how proud we are to be associated with KGS.

The school was founded in 1549. However, this may not be exactly the correct date as like so many Grammar Schools in small country towns all over England, KGS looks back to an almost medieval beginning. Two documents have recently been discovered to potentially identify new dates for when the school was founded: Nicolas Orme's Medieval Schools (Yale UP, 2006) has a date going back to 1465. Records from the Parish Church also have records with a foundation date of 1452. So, being older than we think we are may be something for us to prove going forward. However, the school has only ever faced a threat on a scale of what we have witnessed this

year once before in its history. In the 16th Century Isobel Birley with the support of "The Thirty Men of Kirkham", donated a large sum of money to the school thus saving the school from bankruptcy and financial ruin. The school continued to have many educational 'twists and turns' during the next three hundred and seventy years including wars and mergers, yet we stood strong and proud and continued to provide an excellent education for all who travelled through the school.

Back to 2021 and what have we got to look forward to for the next three hundred or more years? A great deal has changed and we have had to review many working practices and embrace new technologies. However, the school retains its heritage and traditions and can look forward to a very exciting future. We have continued to witness increasing pupil numbers and will start a period of investment in facilities throughout the Foundation. Just

like all of us, the pupils in the school have worked incredibly hard under very difficult circumstances. Indeed we all have, to varying degrees, but we have come through it together with resilience and perhaps a greater appreciation of life. It is certainly the time to look forward and as we read this edition of the Kirkhamian, remind ourselves what a wonderful school we have and how proud we are of all it has and will continue to achieve.

Mr D H Berry
Headmaster



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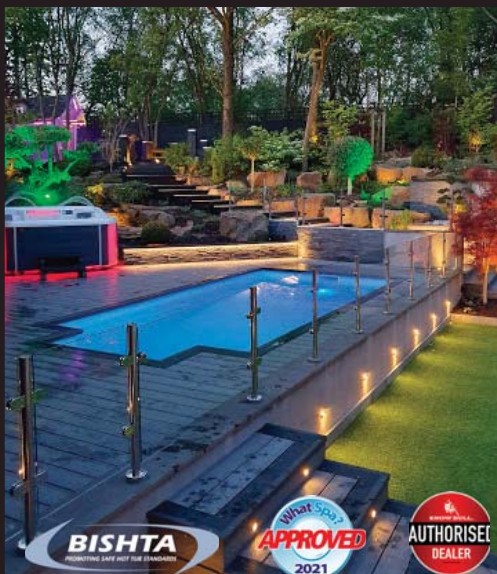
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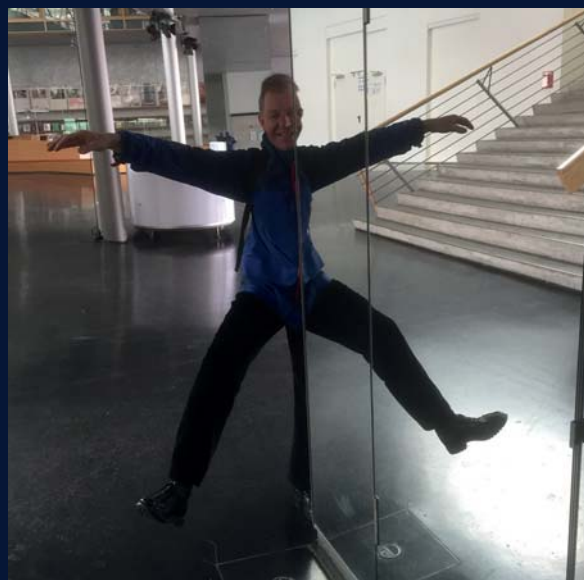
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A FOND FAREWELL



Mr Simon Painter

Mr Painter, who was appointed on the 13 March 1996, the day of the Dunblane massacre, left at the end of the Summer Term after twenty-five years of teaching at Kirkham Grammar School.

His passion and enthusiasm for art and sport have enriched the life of the school during this time. He is proud of the pupil record of GCSE attainment under his tutelage between 1996-2016 (over 70% of pupils received a B grade or above) and, at various times, he has been thrilled to hear from past pupils who have continued with their artistic endeavours. That being said, if there is one thing that Mr Painter hopes that first year pupils will recall from their art lessons with him, it is the colour created by mixing red and blue paint! For many years, Mr Painter was a Second and Third Year form tutor prior to becoming a Sixth Form tutor.

Mr Painter will be remembered for his organised and methodical approach to work and for the many displays he arranged which have expressed the artistic talent of the pupils, principally in E6, but also, in E7 and the canteen. After all the hard work and preparation, Mr Painter held the fort in E6 during Open Afternoons and Evenings; the treats on offer became a magnet for pupils taking parents and siblings on school tours. Heading for the Art Room became a must!

What set out as a way to use surplus Christmas chocolate became a weekly treat for the staff otherwise known as the 'biscuit policy'. For over twenty years, Mr Painter has provided the sweets and treats in the staffroom for one day each week, bringing the staff together and renewing their energy before the bell tolls and teaching begins!

Art trips to memorable foreign and UK destinations still provide cherished memories of staff and pupils.

In 1996, Mr Painter was appointed by Mr Barry Stacey who noted, at the time, that the Governors were looking to improve the cricket opportunities at KGS. In the dim and distant past, Mr Painter captained Darwen Cricket Club first team and played against some of the finest names in the game. Over the years, Mr Painter has contributed significantly to school cricket and he has spent many hours coaching. Whether at lunch time or an after school practice; the sound of leather on willow and the booming tones of an East Lancashire accent calling "anticipation" or other such encouragement could be heard. After the first year in which Mr Painter took the first eleven, subsequent years saw him concentrate on the First Year pupils. The U12s have benefitted the most from the expertise Mr Painter has brought to the school; twice they have reached the County Final only to stumble at the last hurdle against Manchester Grammar School. Not just content with taking the boys in the summer, Mr Painter took a girls' Under 15s team for six years, and again, they also reached the County Final on two occasions.

In 2010, the school embarked on a senior cricket tour to Grenada. It was a wonderful experience for all concerned in which another country and culture was observed.

Whilst he will undoubtedly miss many aspects of school life, Mr Painter is looking forward to embracing new opportunities. Artistically, as an accomplished portrait painter who has exhibited at the Royal Society of Portrait Painters on two occasions, he is hoping to produce more portraits over the coming years. The natural beauty around his home town of Darwen will allow and inspire him to portray the landscape in all its myriad of forms. His wife however, is hoping that he also becomes a dab hand with a more practical form of paint brush!

It will not come as any surprise to note that he is still an active member of Darwen Cricket Club where he coaches both boys and girls as the game continues to thrive.

Talking about his time at Kirkham Grammar School, Mr Painter said "I am leaving KGS with many happy memories and recollections. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time teaching the many pupils over the years, and equally enjoyed the support, camaraderie and encouragement plus banter from fellow members of staff. I wish the Kirkham Grammar School family continued success in the future".



Mrs Lorraine Hargreaves

Mrs Hargreaves joined us as a Newly Qualified Teacher in September 2003 as a part-time teacher of Business Studies to GCSE and A Level. As an NQT, she soon acquired a Staff Room nickname, QT – these were pre-woke days, of course. In the subsequent years, Mrs Hargreaves' career at KGS flourished. She took up the post of Head of Department in 2013 and oversaw a considerable expansion in her department. This was due in no small measure to her zeal in promoting her subject and in inspiring her pupils and students. She has a real passion for her subject and a genuine command of all its aspects, something which has commanded the respect of everyone she has taught. The department now teaches Economics to A Level and was a pioneer in the introduction of BTECs here. She also took over the Careers Department in 2013 and has run it with her customary enthusiasm and commitment. She organised major events, such as the Careers Fairs and the Careers Weeks, and these have been significant successes. After each one she has promised 'never again', but somehow forgets this the next year.

On a personal note, all three of Mrs Hargreaves' boys – Joseph, Henry and Charles – have been pupils here. Coincidentally, all did A Level Business Studies and then, like many others, went on to study Business-related degrees at university. Her husband, Philip, has been a constant support for her and has been a regular and welcome visitor to school events. Throughout her time here, Mrs Hargreaves has looked after all her pupils and students with genuine care and affection. Her ability to strike fear into the hearts of the toughest rugby players is well-known, but they know she will do anything for them. In the last couple of years, Mrs Hargreaves has mastered the 'exciting developments' (she describes them rather more colourfully) presented by Google Classroom and remote learning. She has valued the support of her students in navigating her way through this new era, and their helpful advice to 'turn your camera off/on' and 'unmute yourself' as the circumstances require.

As she embarks upon new challenges, we wish her a fond farewell and thank her for her many years of dedicated service.



Mrs Angela Parr

Mrs Parr left KGS at the end of the Summer Term after 15 years of dedicated service in Modern Languages. Prior to joining Kirkham, Angie enjoyed a successful career in marketing and worked in language-related roles for a range of firms including Massey-Ferguson and Coats Viyella. After having a family, Mrs Parr moved into teaching modern languages and following three years at Lytham St Annes High School she joined Kirkham in October 2006, bringing with her a boundless enthusiasm for teaching, vast linguistic and cultural expertise in French and German and an unwavering commitment to helping all her pupils achieve their very best. Throughout her time with us, these qualities, along with great kindness and genuine care for her pupils and colleagues, have remained the cornerstone of Mrs Parr's huge contribution to Modern Languages at Kirkham.

Mrs Parr is a passionate advocate of the value of activities and trips abroad to enrich the pupils' experience of language learning and her deft planning and confident leadership of a diverse range of European school exchanges and trips to Berlin, Cologne, Paris, and Ypres, to name but a few, has added much to our pupils' cultural understanding. Mrs Parr's keenness for the pupils to enjoy every possible opportunity on these trips means that those fortunate enough to take part, pupils and colleagues alike, enjoy a fantastic, immersive experience and return home both exhilarated and exhausted in equal measure! Such are the packed programmes of Mrs Parr's trips abroad, colleagues regularly coming along soon learn to undergo a fitness programme in advance of departure so as to be able to keep up the frenetic pace on the trip!

Beyond Modern Languages, Mrs Parr never misses an opportunity to contribute to wider school life, and over the years has accompanied many theatre visits and taken part in Duke of Edinburgh trips and ski trips to the French Alps and most recently to Canada.

We would like to thank Mrs Parr for all she has contributed and achieved here at Kirkham. We wish her much happiness and enjoyment in the many adventures that no doubt lie ahead.



Mrs Sue Martin

Mrs Martin has worked within the Science Department at KGS for the last 19 years. She is a true member of the KGS family, with both of her children having come up through the Senior School. She has worked mainly within the Biology Department, as her previous background was microbiology. In the past couple of years she moved to physics as part of a job-share role and her unflappable nature has always been valued. She has decided to take early retirement to spend more time with her husband and granddaughter, Florence.

Mrs Martin has been a wonderful colleague and friend to everyone in the Science Department, and she will be greatly missed. We wish her all the very best in her retirement.



Mrs Julie Dugdale

Mrs Dugdale has worked within our Boarding House for the last five years. In her role as Boarding House Pastoral Parent, she has made sure all our boarders have thoroughly enjoyed their KGS home from home experience.

Mrs Dugdale has been there at all times, both day and night, to look after the needs of our boarders. It would be fair to say that she has looked after every boarder as if they were her own child, from making sure our international students are picked up and dropped off for their correct flights, to organising bingo nights and trips to the local ice cream parlour. Mrs Dugdale has made sure our boarders enjoyed their time in the Boarding House.

We are incredibly grateful for her care, dedication and energy to the Boarding House at KGS, and she will be sorely missed within the boarding house team.



Mrs Alison Taylor

Mrs Taylor joined Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School in January 2015 as our part-time School Secretary and a year later she took on the post full time. Since then her cheery smile and friendly voice has greeted parents, visitors, staff and children alike.

Mrs Taylor was our front of house and box office for School productions of Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin and Mary Poppins, and could be relied upon to calm first night nerves.

Her organisational skills were put to the test each term with our co-curricular clubs; she always tried to ensure that each child was able to attend their choice of clubs in order to enrich their school experience.

We wish Mrs Taylor every happiness for the future.



Miss Jennifer Bentley

Miss Bentley joined the Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant and Pre-School family in September 2018, after returning to live in the North West of England. During her time here, Miss Bentley has nurtured the learning of pupils across both the Infant and Junior sections of School, most recently as a J2 class teacher.

Miss Bentley loves to bring learning alive with an energetic, hands-on approach. This is particularly evident during the weekly arts afternoon when she, and the rest of her class, can be regularly found engrossed in building, playing, performing and making! Lighthouses, Garage Band musical compositions and Egyptian crafts are just a few of many highlights.

Throughout her time, Miss Bentley has thrown herself into the co-curricular life of the school; she has ably supported the pupils in the orchestra as well as playing the flute herself, or accompanied residential trips, where she was always a willing participant in all the activities.

Outside of school, Miss Bentley enjoys sailing and loves to make the most of the great outdoors. She also plays an active role in the local Girl Guiding Association. She will be missed by staff, parents and pupils alike throughout School. We wish her all the very best for the future and the many adventures that lie before her.



Mr George Brookes

Mr Brookes has been a part of the Junior, Infant and Pre-School team since September 2019, having taught in J2, I2 and most recently in I3. He quickly established himself as a popular and hardworking member of the team, fostering strong and professional relationships with staff and pupils alike.

Mr Brookes has supported all aspects of School life, leading Stay and Play Club and Infant Team Games, which have been extremely popular co-curricular clubs. He has certainly demonstrated some excellent 'Waka Waka' dance moves to the delight of our pupils in preparation for our Sports Day! Mr Brookes has been a wonderful role model with his cheerful and upbeat approach to school life. We wish him every success for the future.



Mrs Ellen Brimley

We are very sad to be saying farewell to Mrs Brimley who has been teaching in I1 (Reception) throughout this last academic year. Mrs Brimley decided to have a career change from accountancy and transferred many of her skills in this area to becoming a highly successful teacher.

Mrs Brimley has demonstrated wonderful capabilities at KGS as an EYFS practitioner, who always has the best interests of the pupils at heart. She takes time out of her day to ensure that anyone in her care is happy and thriving. Mrs Brimley is extremely creative and always seeks to change the set-up of her classroom according to pupil interests and needs.

Our pupils have also had the pleasure of being a part of Mrs Brimley's Art and Craft Club, where they made many beautiful creations. Recently, Mrs Brimley has helped to run the I1 Active Fun Club, which has proven to be an extremely engaging time after school where friends can play together.

She really is an amazing team player and is always happy to assist those she is working with. We shall greatly miss her zest for life and the kindness shown to each and every one of us. We wish her the absolute best of luck in her future teaching career and hope she finds lots more 'geocaching' treasure on her travels! Mrs Brimley, please keep in touch with us sharing your news and adventures.

Upper Sixth Form



Upper Sixth Form



Infant & Junior School to Sixth Form



First Year to Sixth Form

Pre-S

Last Day of School



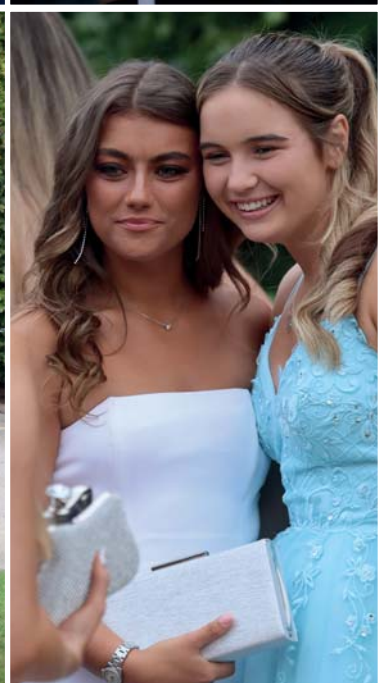
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School to Sixth Form



Sixth Form Ball August 2021







Opening times:

Mon-Fri: 10am-5pm

Sat: 9am-4pm

Showroom:

Unit 9 Bankfield House

250 Bristol Avenue

Bispham

FY2 OJF

Our clients were looking to completely redesign their existing kitchen - after viewing our Inframe Shaker display in the showroom and after a consultation with our designers they had a clear vision in mind.

Utilising calming hues, the Shaker style can offer an effortless and minimalist aesthetic to any home, and our clients chose a muted green palette to create a serene ambience to their kitchen.

They knew they would need plenty of refrigeration storage so we suggested the Miele Mastercool fridge and freezer as the perfect option; with a tall wine conditioning unit, the set of 3 is housed in a traditional surround and makes for a striking feature in the kitchen, whilst the stainless steel doors contrast perfectly against the painted green cabinetry.

At our interior designer's suggestion, the clients chose warm textured wallpaper, woven green and gold in their bespoke sofas and striking patterned cushions to tie each seating area together.

Our clients were delighted with the finished concept as it offers them the perfect blend of effortless comfort and a refined entertaining space.



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BUILDING A PATHWAY TO THE FUTURE



Patrick Castelli

Congratulations to Kirkham Grammar School Upper Sixth Form student, Patrick Castelli, who has been offered a placement to study Air Engineering at BAE systems.

Patrick, who has been at Kirkham Grammar School since starting at the Junior and Infant School 14 years ago, studied A Levels in physics and design engineering whilst also studying BTEC business studies.

Max Pendergest

Congratulations to Kirkham Grammar School Upper Sixth Form student, Max Pendergest, who, following a successful interview, has been offered a degree apprenticeship with Ernst & Young, a global leader in assurance, consulting, strategy and transactions, and tax services.

Max, who has been at Kirkham Grammar School since starting in the Pre-School over 15 years ago and studied A Levels in maths, computer science and design engineering, will work for the global organisation five days a week whilst also independently studying towards a degree in Finance at Leeds University.

BAE SYSTEMS



SUMMER LECTURES

This year, our lecture series took the form of the 'Sixth Form Summer Lectures'. Overseen by Head of Geography, Mr Whittle, who had asked any Sixth Former pupils to let him know if they wanted to deliver a public talk about a topic of their choice, our Lower Sixth Form pupils took centre stage.

The courage, strength of character and intellectual curiosity of the ten speakers should not be underestimated, and the fascinating and varied nature of the lecture topics speak volumes for the genuinely broad nature of the intellectual curiosity in the Sixth Form. Speaking in public is never a straightforward experience, and all ten pupils had to research a topic of their choice and deliver a talk of no more than five minutes in length that would be academic in nature, yet accessible to the audience; in reality not necessarily a simple brief.

Without a doubt, all ten speakers rose to the challenge and it was fantastic to see the outcome: ten superb talks, varied in nature, yet each one clearly teaching the audience something new, with impressive academic robustness and a sense of humour. The Old Hall provided the perfect backdrop to the event, and the lectures were enjoyed by an audience of fellow Sixth Form students and staff.

The lecture topics were as follows:

- Anushka Loggenberg - 'Apartheid, Long Term Effects Of Forced Resettlement'
- Agatha Barker-Mill - 'Fashion's Dirty Secret'
- Libby Baxter - 'Can Evolution Explain Why Social Distancing During Covid-19 Is So Difficult?'
- Scarlett Turnock - 'What Impact Does Eating Meat Have On The Environment?'
- Isabella Harkins - 'The Inner Chimp'
- Ria Sharma - 'What Is Freedom?'
- Maddie Chaya - 'Lebanon, A Fractured Country'
- Sophie Minten - 'The Effects Of Palm Oil On Our Environment'
- Molly Maguire - 'How You Are Manipulated When You Go Shopping'
- Lydia Sanderson - 'The Importance Of Accountants'

For the KGS pupils, personal pride and a genuine sense of achievement, in addition to personal statements are now very much fulfilled! But beyond this, these KGS Sixth Form pupils have continued to support and strengthen the sense of learning and intellectual rigour within the school, and they have taken their interests and conveyed them to a wider audience.

'Enter in order to profit' - very well done to you all!





FINAL DAY OF
SENIOR SCHOOL





Fifth Year Party August 2021







SCHOOL CAPTAINS 2021-2022

Aaron Thomas

Aaron has been at Kirkham Grammar School since joining in the first year. He is studying maths, further maths, physics and computer science at A Level and hopes to study computer science-software engineering at university. Aaron is a member of the school choir, swing band, and Sixth Form choir. Aaron is also in the process of completing his gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Libby Baxter

Libby has also been at Kirkham Grammar School since joining in the first year. She is studying biology, chemistry, maths and geography at A Level and is hoping to study biological/human sciences at university. Libby is a member of the school 1st XI Hockey squad and will be captaining the team for the upcoming season. She is also a member of the school choir, concert band and flute group and is in the process of completing her gold Duke of Edinburgh award.



Agatha Barker-Mill

Agatha, who has been part of the KGS family for over 14 years since starting at the Pre-School, is studying A Levels in biology, chemistry and fine art. Agatha is hoping to study medicine or dentistry at one of the Russell Group Universities, possibly Bristol or King's College London.

Jacob Hession

Jacob joined us for Sixth Form in September 2020 and has chosen to study A Levels in biology, German and English Literature. Jacob is hoping to study German with Economics/International Business Management at St. Andrews, Oxford or the London School of Economics.

All four KGS students, who feature on the front cover of this publication, Agatha, Aaron, Libby and Jacob, were all awarded an academic scholar at the start of Sixth Form.

I have really fond memories of my time as a pupil at Kirkham Grammar School. The seven years seemed to fly by and I think that is testament to how much I enjoyed being at school. My strengths were mostly academic, although I did give music and sport a good try. In the First Year, I made a very brief appearance in the netball B team. When everyone else entered their growth spurt, I sadly did not and from what I understand, goal shooters tend to be a little bit taller than 5'3". That said, it didn't stop me from taking part in other aspects of school life such as House Cross Country or House Music. I also really enjoyed taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, even though the tears and blisters I experienced on my Gold Expedition would suggest otherwise. However, the skills and resilience I gained have been invaluable in my life and it is probably one of the things I am most proud of.

Biology was always one of my favourite subjects. Mrs Scott (now retired) was my teacher throughout my GCSEs and A Levels. You could tell from the way she taught that she was passionate about biology and

really enjoyed the subject herself. She is the reason I decided to pursue a biology related course at university and it was actually her that suggested that I take a look around the University of Leicester, which is where I ended up going. I achieved A Levels in mathematics, biology and chemistry as well as an AS Level in history. I went to the University of Leicester in 2013 and studied Medical Physiology. The first year of the course included modules on Genetics, Biochemistry and Physiology to name just a few. This broad range of topics provided an insight into the different aspects of the human body and allowed students to find their own interests. My favourite module was Pathophysiology of Disease where we learned about the biological cause of lots of diseases and then how the prescribed medicines worked on a cellular level to cure the condition or relieve symptoms. This led me to take final year modules on pharmacology, neuroscience and the cardiovascular system. During my final year research project, I was able to work in a real research laboratory and grow cell cultures on which I could test the effects of different chemicals and hormones. It was a pretty fascinating experience.

I decided I wanted to go into teaching because I really enjoyed science and wanted other people to have the chance to learn about it too. As part of my Duke of Edinburgh award I did some volunteer teaching and really enjoyed that. So, after I graduated, I went to the University of Oxford to complete my PGCE (teacher training). It was quite a surreal experience but really amazing! I never imagined I would return as a teacher to KGS but when an advert appeared for a biology teacher I did not hesitate to apply. There is so much that can be gained from KGS that you only realise when you are older. KGS gave me confidence without being over-confident and it provided me with really important life skills such as independence and responsibility. I am also really lucky that KGS allowed me to meet my best friends of over 10 years. And despite us now all being located throughout the UK, we do try to make the effort to meet up for a catch up once a year when everyone is back home for Christmas.

Miss E Chiekrie
KGS 2006-2013



Headmistress's Review



INGREDERE UT PROFICIAS

Our physical return to School in March 2021, after the imposed lockdown and subsequent remote learning via KGS@ Home, began with a palpable enthusiasm to ensure that we made up for the time spent physically apart. I felt exceptionally proud of all that the Kirkham Grammar School community had accomplished during remote learning, offering a learning package that took into account the varying needs of our pupils and families at such bewildering times. The gargantuan amount of work submitted by our pupils on Google Classroom was testament to the efforts that everyone had gone to, enabling our pupils to continue to achieve, progress and fulfil their potential.

I will forever have etched in my memory various delightful snapshots of videos submitted on Google Classroom, by our pupils, of them working with parents accomplishing set tasks from lessons together. Perhaps this was the silver lining during these times for many of our parents, as they were able to spend an unrivalled amount of quality time with their children, immersed in the world of learning at KGS. Another memory that I will cherish was the J4 'bring your pet to School day'; I am rather pleased that this took place via the wonders of technology, as I am not sure that our School hallways and classrooms could have facilitated the needs of various large and exotic pets, including a horse!

In February, The Gazette Young Seaside's Schools' Arts and Crafts Exhibition ran remotely, enabling our artistic pupils to showcase their creative talents; many of our pupils chose to take part, submitting their masterpieces via a digital photograph. Our return to School was subsequently particularly special on 8 March when we were able to view the first day of the live postings from the exhibition. The gallery was awash with talent, and we were very proud indeed to have ten finalists and two winners showcased from our Infant and Junior School.

The end of this first week back also saw us host our postponed World Book Day with the theme 'Bedtime Stories', which was a delightful way to ensure that our pupils were once again immersed in their learning, albeit in their pyjamas! To include a fire pit in our risk assessments for our sing-along at the end of the day was somewhat unusual, but to see our pupils mesmerised by this addition to the event was priceless. Our co-curricular clubs were also immediately reinstated, ensuring that our pupils, from I1 through to J4, had a minimum of four after-school clubs to take part in. We were, yet again, impressed with how well our pupils adjusted to the new routine and how keen they were to take part in every opportunity that presented itself to them.

Kirkham Grammar Pre-School continued to operate on-site from January, and our pupils thrived during and post lockdown with an array of learning taking place with notably happy children in a stimulating environment. A particular highlight was the vibrant displays that the pupils and

teachers created in February in celebration of Chinese New Year. As March commenced, our Pre-School pupils and parents were delighted with their newly-designed Kirkham Grammar Pre-School rucksacks. These now allowing sufficient room for all of their important belongings, as well as enabling them to use and wear these with increased independence; something that we continue to support and encourage from the day they join us.

In line with our School Development Plan, we have had a particular focus on mathematics in the last couple of academic years from ages 3 - 11. Within Pre-School, they have been working towards a 'Lancashire Quality Award' that supports early excellence in this curriculum area and builds upon our already strong provision. As a consequence of this, our Pre-School Manager is to become a Leading Mathematics Practitioner for LCC, showcasing best practice to other schools near and far, in light of the inspirational learning environment that has been created within Pre-School.

We are also pleased that we have still maintained essential partnerships with our parents during such remote times, with our Pre-School parents recently joining our KGS Pre-School Google Classroom. This has enabled us, amongst other things, to inform our parents of how mathematics is taught within the Early Years, meaning that we can share our practice, enhancing the work done in School, as well as demonstrating how to maximise learning opportunities within the home environment, supporting richer mathematical experiences.

On 31 March, the 'Spring into Spring' Pupil Fun Day was another highpoint for all of our pupils from Pre-School to J4. Our pupils and staff participated in an array of spring-related activities. Alongside this they wore one yellow item or accessory and discussed the work of the Marie Curie charity during an assembly. The amount donated by our KGS families via JustGiving.com was a staggering £2714, which is truly phenomenal! As always, our pupils continue to be aware of and support those that suffer from debilitating illness, fall on hard times or are simply less fortunate. There have been frequent acts of generosity this academic year from many of our pupils, which has led to us introducing a new prize at our Virtual Prizegiving in recognition of their kindness: The Kirkham Grammar School Good Citizen Award.

As we moved into the Summer Term, competitive sporting matches commenced in the outdoors, with KGS taking part in a variety of events including cricket, rounders and track and field events. Our pupils continued to showcase their ability to compete at a high level with gusto, flair and tenacity.

Our oldest pupils in J4 pupils took part in a much-needed end-of-year residential trip to Rookin House in the Lake District. This year, the J4 staff organised a fun-filled, action-packed trip but with some alternative activities at various locations,

due to restrictions and the impact of COVID-19 on many businesses. An assault course, human bowling (!), rifle shooting, horse riding and a day at Honister Slate Mines all being included as part of the package. This was certainly a welcome and memorable trip for all concerned after what has been yet another year to remember.

During the penultimate week of the Summer Term, we were elated that we were able to host a Transition Day on 24 June for our pupils from Pre-School to J3, enabling them to spend time with their new Class Teacher, learning more about the highlights and happenings of the academic year ahead. The day culminated with our Virtual Prizegiving in the evening for our Infant and Junior pupils. These two events enabling our pupils to reminisce and celebrate the past twelve months, whilst preparing for the next chapter of School life.

As part of this event, and at every turning point, we encourage and remind our pupils to be proud of themselves and to acknowledge and celebrate the success of themselves when they are in the limelight, but also remember to do the same for others when they are not. As a consequence, recognising that this is an integral part of being a successful and tightknit community.

On Friday 25 June, to celebrate the many successes this year, our pupils were treated to a Beach Party... 'sand and all!' It was a joy to see the pupils' faces as they enjoyed a fun-filled day which included: a BBQ, disco, donkey rides, helter-skelter, and a visit from an ice-cream van to name just a few. A fantastic day was had by both pupils and staff - a wonderful way to end a busy and unusual academic year.

I was delighted to be able to be part of my first Junior, Infant and Pre-School Sports Days, despite having to live-stream these events without spectators. I know that our pupils and staff practised tirelessly so that the pupils were well rehearsed with the format and delivery of Sports Day. They all participated with great panache like true professionals.

I am acutely aware of the special setting that we have here at Kirkham Grammar School. It is clear that our ability to work in close partnership with all stakeholders has enabled each and every one of our pupils to excel, whether that be during remote or on-site learning. I continue to consider myself very privileged indeed to be able to witness your children learn and develop every day. I sincerely hope that your child recognises the role that they played in the School's many triumphs this academic year. They are all truly amazing, and I am so proud of their accomplishments! Despite everything thrown at them, they have continued to thrive, and they will most certainly profit in more ways than one from their time with us at Kirkham Grammar School: Ingredere Ut Proficias.

**Mrs O'Donoghue - Headmistress
Kirkham Grammar Junior, Infant
& Pre-School**

KGJS PRIZEGIVING



At the end of June, one of the highlights of the academic year, our annual Junior and Infant School Prizegiving, was once again a virtual event due to the ongoing situation. The evening began with a few words from our Senior Prefects; Rosa Gill, Francesca Durston, Lucie Wilson and Jasmine Stirrup. Part way through Mrs O'Donoghue's opening speech and the announcement of this year's award winners, Music Scholar, Philippa Hancock, delivered a talented performance on the piano. Our I1, I2 and I3 pupils beautifully performed, 'Together', which celebrates the importance of collaboration and teamwork. The awards concluded with a J4 class performance of 'Change and Grow', a fitting choice as they look forward to moving on to new adventures at the Senior School in September. Head Boy, Samuel Smith, and Head Girl, Philippa Hancock, gave a vote of thanks before viewers enjoyed a montage of photographs of the 2020-21 academic year and a whole school performance of 'Make a Difference' to bring the event to a close.

Mrs O'Donoghue presented the prizes and trophies to all of the winners during an outdoor assembly on the penultimate day of the academic year.





A FOND FAREWELL TO OUR PRIMARY SCHOOL DAYS



I2



I1

J2



J2



I3



J1



J3

J4



SUMMER Beach PARTY



On Friday 25 June, to celebrate our Junior, Infant and Pre-School pupils many successes this year, they were treated to a Beach Party! Yes...the beach came to Kirkham Grammar School, 'sand and all'! Unfortunately the weather wasn't too kind to us and we experienced a true British Beach Day! As the finer details of the day had remained a surprise for the pupils, they didn't let the weather dampen their spirits and it was absolutely wonderful to see their faces enjoying a fun-filled day which included: a BBQ, disco, donkey rides, helter-skelter, and a visit from an ice-cream van to name just a few! They even enjoyed a game of beach volleyball. A fantastic day was had by both pupils and staff and it really was a lovely way of concluding, what has been, a very different academic year for all.



KIRKHAMIGOS



Our wonderful Pre-School pupils are now affectionately known as a Kirkhamigo: Spanish for 'Kirkham friend'. It is hoped that, as the children move forward on their learning journey with us, they will remember Pre-School as the starting point where the Kirkham values begin: Be Kind, Be Curious, Be Determined.

We have also chosen a penguin as a gift for the children, and for use as their School mascot, as this is an animal that represents friendship, good manners and conduct and today each child was presented with their penguin to take home. Penguins demonstrate determination, patience, and endurance in the face of the extreme conditions in which they live. They do everything together: eating, hunting, nesting and huddling together to keep warm. They are also highly adaptable creatures and true team players.

As part of the Personal and Social Education curriculum, our Kirkhamigos have also been learning about the characteristics of penguins and even learnt how to say 'penguin' in Spanish.

We hope that our Pre-School pupils will love their little penguin and take good care of them, acting as a reminder of the Kirkham values of friendship, kindness, curiosity and determination as they move onwards through school – all key to their future success.

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN MATHEMATICS WITHIN PRE-SCHOOL

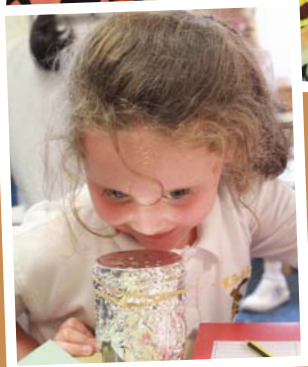


In line with our School Development Plan, we currently have a particular focus on mathematics within Pre-School and beyond. After a recent visit from Penny Watson, the Early Years Foundation Stage Consultant for Lancashire, we are excited to announce that our Pre-School manager, Mrs Anyon, has been asked to be a Leading Mathematics Practitioner for EYFS in light of the outstanding and inspirational learning environment that has been created. We are presently working towards a 'Lancashire Quality Award' that will support early excellence in this curriculum area and build upon our already strong provision, which then continues into I1 through to J4.

Our aspirational curriculum and the high standards of learning observed were of particular note, as was the engaging and energetic way in which our pupils approached their learning. Mrs Anyon and Mrs Aldeen will also be attending a forum at the end of term to disseminate and share the good practice at KGS within Lancashire, South Cumbria and Greater Manchester. We are sure that this is something that the whole KGS community will feel incredibly proud to be a part of.



11



12

13





J1



J2





J3



J4



J4 Trip to Rookin House



This year, the J4s went on a residential trip to the Lake District, staying at Rookin House. We drove there in minibuses which was different because we normally go on larger coaches, but it was still amazing. We arrived at 12:30pm and quickly got sorted into our groups.

After lunch in the grounds of Rookin House, we settled into our rooms, which we all loved, and then we started with our first activities. One half of J4 enjoyed a horse riding experience first. This was divided into a trek around the grounds and finding out how to groom and look after the horses, as well as learning the different parts of a

horse - which we really enjoyed! The other half of J4 went raft-building which required lots of teamwork. After making the rafts everyone jumped into the water! All of our meals were self-catered by one of our KGS catering staff, Mrs Lawson. Everyone ate at the girls' accommodation which was across a field from the boys' accommodation. The meals were delicious!

On our second day, we split into two groups again; one half went to Honister Slate Mine to see what life would have been like for children younger than us down the mines. We all wore harnesses to climb up and along the walls of the slate

mines. We also had to walk along rope bridges and slide down a zip wire! We all enjoyed these activities so much! The second group went ghyll scrambling. We had to wear a 'onesie', waterproof trousers and a waterproof coat over the top, a life jacket and a helmet! Before we went in the water, we had to walk up a hill for about ten minutes which meant we were boiling when we got to the top! In the water there were lots of plunge pools and slides formed by the rocks. Lots of people loved this! We swapped activities in the afternoon so that we all did all of the activities. After ghyll scrambling in the afternoon, we had a long wait before Mr Lewis came back for us



with the second minibus! Whilst we waited, luckily next to the car park was a small field so we all played games and chatted. When Mr Lewis arrived, we all jumped for joy because we could eventually go back and have a shower!

On our third and fourth days we did a range of activities, all at Rookin House. We had a scary ride on an argocat, we all tried archery and air rifle shooting, we competed on an assault course and we made survival bracelets. Everyone also did the activity they hadn't done on the first day. These were very packed days and we all absolutely loved it! It was also Josie

and Daisy's birthday on Wednesday so the girls' accommodation was decorated with 'Happy Birthday' banners and balloons. Dinner included cake and we all sang 'Happy Birthday'.

After our dinner each night, we would go and do one more activity with the whole group. One night we went to the beach at Glenridding and skimmed some stones, climbed trees and played hide and seek. Another night we went to the shops in Pooley Bridge and bought gifts and ice cream and then we faced some stepping stones out into the lake which we all found funny because half of us got wet! The other

night we played cricket on the field next to the boys' accommodation. These were some nice calm activities that we loved to finish a long hard day.

After packing everything up on the final morning, we headed off and arrived at School around 3:00pm. We all missed it so much as we had the time of our lives!

We would like to thank our J4 teachers and other KGS Staff for organising the trip in such a short period of time. It must have taken a great deal of planning and it has made our J4 year so much more memorable.

By Rosa Gill and Freddie Wiltshire

Charity at KGS

Ralph Rowley

In March, J1 pupil, Ralph, was involved in a personal challenge for 10 days raising money for 'The Sparkle Foundation Malawi'. His godmother, Sarah, founded, built and successfully runs the orphanage in Malawi. She started this amazing work when she was just 21 years old. The charity set a challenge this March: 'Spring in your Step', to walk, run or swim a mile a day for 10 days. Ralph chose to walk a mile every single day committing whole-heartedly to the cause; sometimes before school, often in the dark at night and in all kinds of weather! He didn't complain once... in fact he often reminded his parents that he still needed to do it before the day was out! Ralph set a fundraising target of £200 on his JustGiving page and was delighted to smash this raising £1919 in total! The support from family, friends and Kirkham Grammar School parents has been wonderful.

Talking to us about Ralph's achievement, Mrs Rowley said, "We are so very proud of Ralph. It is without doubt the Schools' values to 'be kind, work hard' and 'never give up' that have truly been embedded in Ralph throughout the duration of his personal challenge. He is very proud of all the money raised to help the boys and girls less fortunate over in Malawi. Ralph received a personal video from the charity after mile 7, when he had already raised £700, thanking him and encouraging him to keep going!"

As a result of this, Ralph gained the highest award in Beavers, the prestigious 'Chief Scout's Bronze Award', signed by Chief Scout, Bear Grylls.

Ralph now begins his journey into Cubs, and already has his sights on his next charity fundraiser!

Congratulations, Ralph!



Henry Chapman

J1 pupil, Henry, is currently working towards his Chief Scout Bronze Award. As part of this award he was asked to do a personal challenge. Henry decided to collect ten bags of litter over a three week period, to raise money for Brian House Children's Hospice. He completed his challenge and smashed his fundraising target of £50, raising over £300.

William Coward

At just eight years of age, J1 pupil, William Coward, conquered his first half marathon during April.

In the process, he raised £950 for Rosemere Cancer Foundation, and earned himself a Bronze Beaver Personal Challenge badge. William achieved an impressive time of two hours and 10 minutes for the over 13.1 mile distance. William split his half marathon into two stages. He ran from home around Kirkham with godfather, Paul Eccles, having already raced along Lytham's seafront accompanied by dad Andrew, who cycled alongside him.

William's mum said of his achievement, "It was William's idea to run a half marathon and raise money for Rosemere Cancer Foundation, a charity close to our family's heart, as a sign off from Beavers as he has just moved up to the 2nd Kirkham cub pack. We are extremely proud of him and very grateful to everyone, who supported him so generously."

Well done, William!

Iris James

We are incredibly proud of our I2 pupil Iris' award of the coveted Blue Peter Badge. This was in recognition of a magnificent piece of art of the Aurora Borealis that she submitted for the Blackpool's Young Seaside Arts and Crafts Exhibition.

Iris also completed her 'Power, Plastic and Plants' pledges in order to apply for and be awarded with the Blue Peter Green Badge and become a Blue Peter Climate Hero! To achieve this award, Iris completed the following: she didn't have her bedside lamp turned on, particularly now the days are longer and it is lighter (power); switched from single-use plastic snack bags to reusable bags (plastic); and saved water when brushing her teeth and washing her face. The clean water was then used to water the plants and she even went a step further to use it for the birds (plants).



As a result of their hard work towards their fundraising, Ralph, Henry, William and Iris, were deservedly presented with the Good Citizen Award at our annual Junior and Infant School Virtual Prazegiving at the end of June.

Spring into Spring

Over the last two weeks of the Spring Term, Kirkham Grammar School raised money for 'Marie Curie' who believe everyone living with a terminal illness should be able to get the most from the time they have left, however hard that may sometimes feel. Their frontline nurses, hospices and free support line help terminal patients through their final years, months, days and hours of life – whether they have coronavirus, or any illness which they're likely to die from. Their bereavement service will be there for the people they leave behind.

We know that during the last twelve months, charities have struggled as they haven't been able to fundraise as normal. However, this hasn't stopped them doing the amazing work that they do.

The staff and pupils sold special biscuits and cakes in the dining hall (a special thank you to Mrs Worth and Mrs Halloran for their cake donations); sold daffodil badges to pupils; organised individual year group activities; held a 'Wear Something Yellow Day' and sold hand-made masks and scrunchies.

For all donations made, either online or in a form collection, pupils were automatically entered into a draw for a bumper basket of Easter goodies donated by Beech's Fine Chocolates, Fox's Biscuits, Tesco, Morrisons and Kirkham Grammar School staff as a way of saying 'thank you'. Congratulations to Fifth Year pupils, Johnny and Dani, who both won a chocolate hamper.

A fantastic £2713.70 plus gift aid was raised for this very worthwhile charity. Thank you to all who contributed to this amazing total.

Sixth Form Girls Half Marathon

Lower Sixth students, Anushka, Isabella, Libby, Lydia and Agatha, completed a half marathon challenge to raise money for Streetlife, a youth work charity who assist vulnerable young people in the Blackpool area. Every donation helps and is sincerely appreciated by Streetlife, a charity whose aim is to provide support and shelter for the young homeless. The girls training started in January and they embarked on the 13.1 mile Fylde Coast route on Sunday 11 April. They smashed their target raising over £1700. They would like to thank everyone who donated to this very worthwhile cause.

Well done, girls!

Olivia Coupe

Throughout the month of April, Third Year pupil, Olivia, successfully completed 30k in 30 days in aid of Crohn's & Colitis UK. Olivia, who was diagnosed with Crohn's disease in 2017, spent a week at Alder Hey Children's Hospital and was fitted with a tube for six weeks which meant she couldn't have any food or drink except water. Olivia now has weekly injections and regular blood tests and is doing really well.

Olivia's challenge raised a fantastic £540 for the charity who have contacted her to say she was one of the highest achievers in April!

Well done, Olivia!

Montaine Trail Run

In June, Sixth Form students, Fen, Harry, Jasper and Amy completed the Epic Events Montane Trail. Fen and Harry took on the challenge of the 20 mile Ullswater Way route around the whole lake, with Harry completing it in less than 4½ hours! Jasper and Amy ran the 10 mile route together taking in Aira Force and Gowbarrow Fell; certainly no mean feat. The hot weather meant the students ran in testing conditions, so they very much enjoyed their post-run dip in the lake to cool off.

As a team they have raised £470 for their chosen charities, Cancer Research and Stonewall.

This was the first event the students have competed in and all agreed it was a great experience, particularly the fantastic atmosphere at the finish. The KGS tribe even stayed to offer their support and clap home the very last runners. Well done to you all, you should be extremely proud of your achievements.

Epic Events host various run/swim events throughout the year and are always on the lookout for volunteer marshalls which would be great for anyone working towards the volunteering section of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. Fen has volunteered several times now and really enjoys it. She is now in training to swim the length of Ullswater (7½ miles).





THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD



CHALLENGES ARE WHAT MAKES LIFE INTERESTING, OVERCOMING THEM IS WHAT MAKES LIFE MEANINGFUL.

DofE is designed to be a challenge for young people, but one that allows them, with perseverance and hard work, to achieve success. DofE and Covid-19 has added extra levels to the challenge and we are delighted that our students have given everything to overcome these additional hurdles.

The Gold DofE expedition for our Upper Sixth and Silver expedition for our Fifth Year have been delayed time and time again, therefore it was such a delight to see the efforts and hard work of our participants rewarded with the completion of this section of their award.

Across all levels of the award, our students have impressed us with their activities for their skill and physical sections and we are always delighted with the involvement of our students with so many wonderful projects for their volunteering section. We received notification that our students, despite the pandemic, have contributed 2392 hours of volunteering between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021 – well done to all!



We send our warmest congratulations to our award achievers, both full awards and Certificate of Achievements. We promise the Certificates of Achievements will end up being full awards when we can get the expeditions completed.

Finally, a huge thank you to all the staff involved with the delivery of the DofE Award Scheme at KGS: Mrs Sutcliffe, Mr Possamai, Mr Gardner, Mrs Russell, Mrs Latham, Miss Reddy, Mr Robinson, Mr Hancock and Mr Percy. Without their time and commitment, the challenges faced this year would not have been overcome.



GOLD

Reuben	Bond
Patrick	Castelli
Charlotte	Cross
Brioni	Crowe
Keir	Gordon
Thomas	Hewitt
Emily	Holdsworth
Ruby	Jackson
Jonny	Latham
Aleisha	Mansfield

Gold Certificates of Achievement

Kara	Austin
Libby	Baxter
Keir	Gordon
Emily	Holdsworth
Aleisha	Mansfield
Max	Pendergest
Matthew	Sutcliffe

SILVER

Penny	Blackmore
Eliza	Booth
Sam	Broadbent
Phoebe	Caunce
Alex	Eastham
Hiba	Elkhatim
Charlotte	Fuller
Caitlan	Greenwood
Isabella	Harkins
Hollie	John
Jennifer	Jones
Olivia	Jones
Amy	Merrick
Jake	Merrick
Sammy	Myres
Thomas	Shuttleworth
Evie	Smith
Laura	Stacey
Sam	Taylor
Grace	Wong
Peiwen	Xia
Jessica	Zhou

Silver Certificates of Achievement

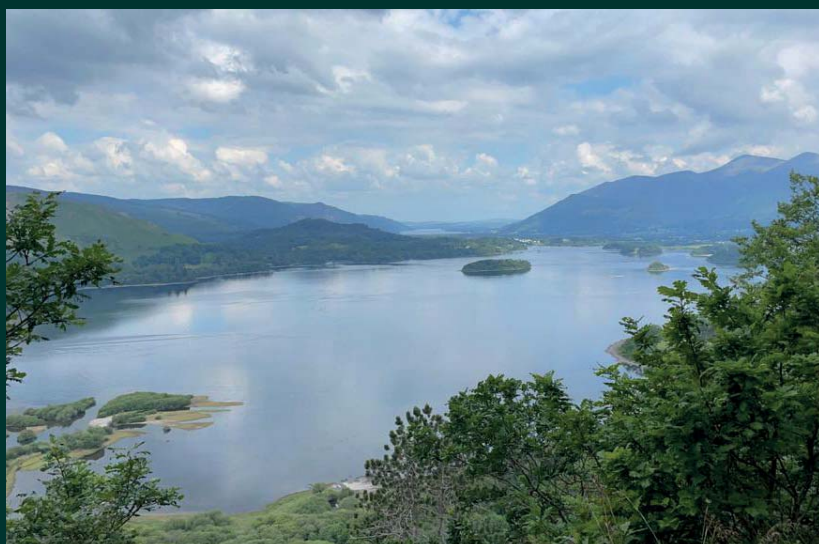
Penny	Blackmore
Eliza	Booth
Hiba	Elkhatim
Caitlan	Greenwood
Amy	Merrick
Peiwen	Xia

BRONZE

Lucy	Blackmore
Ben	Cockram
Finntan	Doyle
George	Edwards
Harry	Jones
Amelia	Lyon
Ben	Nicholls
Matthew	Oddie
Charlotte	Powell
James	Relf
James	Thompson
William	Trow
Ethan	Woodcock
Jorge	Zacharias

Bronze Certificate of Achievement

Haarith	Bapu
Jack	Chapman
Sebastian	Mati
Jonathon	Palmer
Harry	Reay
Erin	Worth
Nanda	Brijesh
Miles	Freshney
Gabby	Holland
Rebecca	Procter
Harvey	Barber
Charlotte	Coburn
Olivia	Coupe
Emma	Parker
Rosie	Prosser
Harry	Ribchester
James	Shuttleworth
Keira	Tomes
Charles	Wiltshire





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CCF

Kirkham Grammar School Lower Sixth student, Abigail Johnson, has been awarded the Lord-Lieutenants' Cadet for this year and will accompany the Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire to all of his formal events. This is the second consecutive year and the third KGS student to be awarded this prestigious award in the last five years.

A fantastic achievement, Abigail.

ABIGAIL JOHNSON

Cpl Johnson joined Kirkham Grammar School Combined Cadet Force in 2018. She completed the Army Proficiency Certificate Basic and Advanced and attended the Skill at Arms Meeting and Summer Camps and is a committed member of the contingent. Cpl Johnson attended the Senior Cadet Instructor Course and received a highly competent pass, showing innovative ways to demonstrate her teaching ability.

She is a member of the school engineering society and represented school in the Rotary Engineers' competition. Cpl Johnson is a member of school choir and concert band, plays hockey and is captain of the school swimming team. She gained a national Arkwright Engineering Scholarship and is being sponsored by the Royal Navy.

Cpl Johnson is a natural leader, her turn-out and bearing are of the highest standards and she actively assists others in achieving this. She displays qualities of a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) that any regular soldier would be proud of. She shows courage, discipline, stamina and excellent communication in order to achieve her goals. At the end of the year she was awarded the Most Promising NCO and was promoted to Corporal, she is an excellent role model for the junior cadets and is a shining example of a Cadet NCO.

After selection for Lord-Lieutenants' Cadet, Abigail was promoted to Sergeant and for this academic year has been appointed Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM).



CCF SUMMER CAMP



This year's CCF Summer Camp has been very different with all the guidelines put in place by various agencies. These guidelines saw the camp go from a week long, to three days and then sadly reduced further to just one day! Whilst many of our cadets were left disappointed, the staff assured them that the Cadet Training Team (CTT) had put together a great package for them. So, on Monday 28 June, it was an early start (6.40am at school) for the 25 cadets and 4 staff to get on the coaches departing for Altcar Training Camp.

Our day consisted of four different stands to give all the cadets a variety of skills they could take away with them. Stand one was TIBUA (Training in Built-Up Areas), basically how to take a house 'military style'. Good communication and teamwork are vital for this to be successful and the cadets showed bucket loads.



Stand two was the Sniper Stalk; being stealthy and non-verbal communication were top of the agenda on this stand. There was an added bonus that the CCF staff were the enemy and the cadets got to shoot paintballs at them! Needless to say the cadets' aim improved dramatically on hearing this and several staff still have the bruises to prove it!



Stand three was Close Quarter Battle (CQB): the art of engaging an enemy and defeating them. Accuracy, skill and controlled aggression were the order of the day here and the cadets never let us down. When you speak to the cadets just shout to them 'Operators' and watch their response!

Our final stand of the day was the Assault Course and Gun Run. The emphasis here is on technique and teamwork. The cadets threw themselves into this stand with as much energy as stand one which was great to see.

Finally, it was the coach ride home where this year the Upper Sixth hosted 'cup awards' rather than the 'plate awards' (Margaret, we know it was your fault!). All in all, a fantastic day was had by staff and cadets and a few new skills and drills have been honed or learnt.

The last two things I would like to do is wish the Upper Sixth all the very best of luck in their futures. I am very privileged to have met some absolutely outstanding individuals and watched them grow from shy, quiet Fourth Year cadets into confident, disciplined, respected leaders. I think the bar has been raised to an exceptionally high standard for next year's NCOs (Lower Sixth, take note!). Secondly, I would like to express my thanks to all the staff that help with CCF - without them it would not happen.

WO1 S Moffatt
School Staff Instructor

Dragon's Den



On Thursday 13 May, two groups of aspiring computer scientists from the Third Year and Lower Sixth enjoyed a morning being hosted remotely by Cisco Systems UK.

The morning involved being introduced to the huge global role Cisco play in facilitating and securing the internet for large multinationals such as BT and Sky. The pupils were given the opportunity to find out about Graduate Training Schemes, Degree Apprenticeships and other career paths within such a huge and varied environment and they were able to ask questions to the panel of volunteers.

The latter part of the morning involved a Dragon's Den style challenge where the pupils were tasked with designing an app that would use Artificial Intelligence (AI) and/or Virtual Reality (VR) within the domains of tourism, education, health or retail. The pupils rose to the challenge and in only 20 minutes produced presentations that detailed the name, function, customer base, cost and intended marketing for their apps. Each team presented to three Cisco 'Dragons' via a live link using the Cisco Webex platform. They were then asked detailed questions about their designs and ideas.

The pupils amazing app ideas included:

E-GP

An app to connect everyone with live medical advice from home.

Reviz

An app to connect teachers and students to improve teaching and learning.

VSE

An app that uses VR to simulate educational experiences for visual and didactic learners.

Off You Go

An app making a game out of visiting tourist attractions with suggestions and rewards.

Experience Visualiser

An app allowing shoppers to try each product in store using VR.

Each team was complimented on their excellent presentations.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR OVERALL WINNERS

VSE

Abi Pilkington, Kitty Parkinson, Emma Parkinson, Sarah Chatwin, Alexa Anderson.



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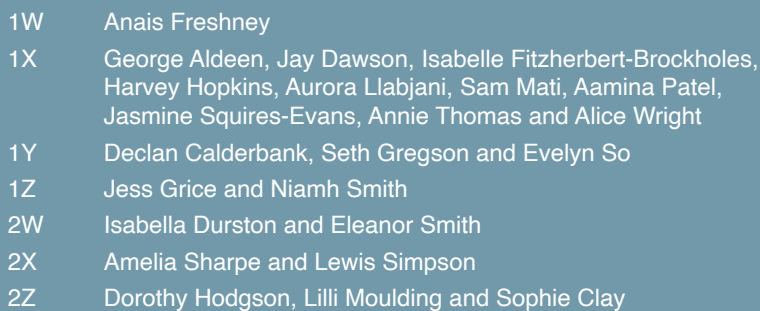
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A group of 18 students, both boys and girls, are posed for a group photograph on a green lawn. They are all wearing dark blue school uniforms, which include long-sleeved jumpers or sweaters with a crest on the left chest and dark trousers or skirts. The students are arranged in three rows: the front row is kneeling or sitting, the middle row is standing, and the back row is also standing. Behind them is a large, multi-story building with a facade covered in dense green ivy. Several windows are visible through the foliage. The overall atmosphere is formal yet relaxed, typical of a school group photo.



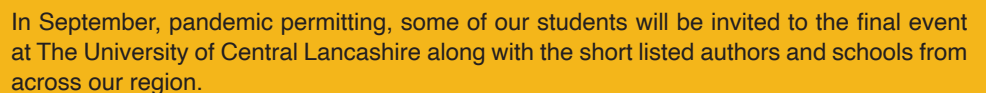
A stylized illustration of a tall stack of books in various colors (blue, red, yellow, purple, green). A magnifying glass is positioned at the bottom right, and a pair of glasses is perched on top of the stack. The background is a solid light blue.



Some of our Third Year students have been participating in 'Lancashire Book of the Year 2021', the longest running young people's regional book award in the country. The award remains one of the few book awards in which young people themselves are solely responsible for choosing both the shortlist and the overall winning book.

The award is voted for by Third Year students in high schools around the county. Each school is given a collection of books, submitted by publishers as being the best books they had produced for the 12-14 age group. The students then read and shortlist the books before choosing the overall winner.

KGS Third Year students were asked to read 28 books before completing a book review. From these reviews, they compiled a list of their 'KGS Top 6' and voted along with other schools. The final short list of 10 books were announced at the end of May and the students were asked to read these over the summer.





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TREASURE ISLAND



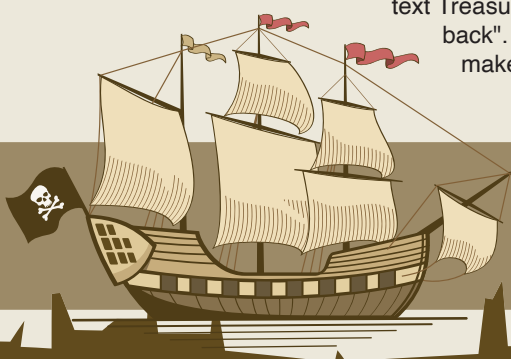
Mask wearing and theatres are not strangers; from the early Ancient Greek tragedies and comedies, to Commedia dell'arte and the more recent Phantom of the Opera; however putting together a school production during a global pandemic, with masked pupils and staff, was not something that anyone would have expected.

Kirkhamians are always eager and ready to accept a challenge and at the end of January, when the call for interest in putting on a production was sent out via Google Classroom, the number of students who signed up was impressive. The size of the cast meant that a play had to be chosen that could be divided into sections and allocated to 'bubbles'. Early rehearsals were undertaken remotely, with lyrics and lines being posted on Google Classroom for the cast to learn.

It was a relief to be able to get back into school, but even rehearsals that took place in person had to be carefully managed. There were three separate groups of pirates: First Year, Second Year and Third Year. The First and Second Year rehearsed at separate lunch times with Miss Leeming and the Third Year with Mrs Latham. In addition the Sixth Form students stayed after school with Mrs Latham. There was no blocking or interaction; the full cast never met together once.

The challenges of a green screen production were also a new venture. The cast had to remember where they were standing and believe that they were on a boat, on the island, or at the Admiral Benbow Inn, amongst other locations. There was no set on which to rehearse before filming took place; it was an exercise in the power of the imagination!

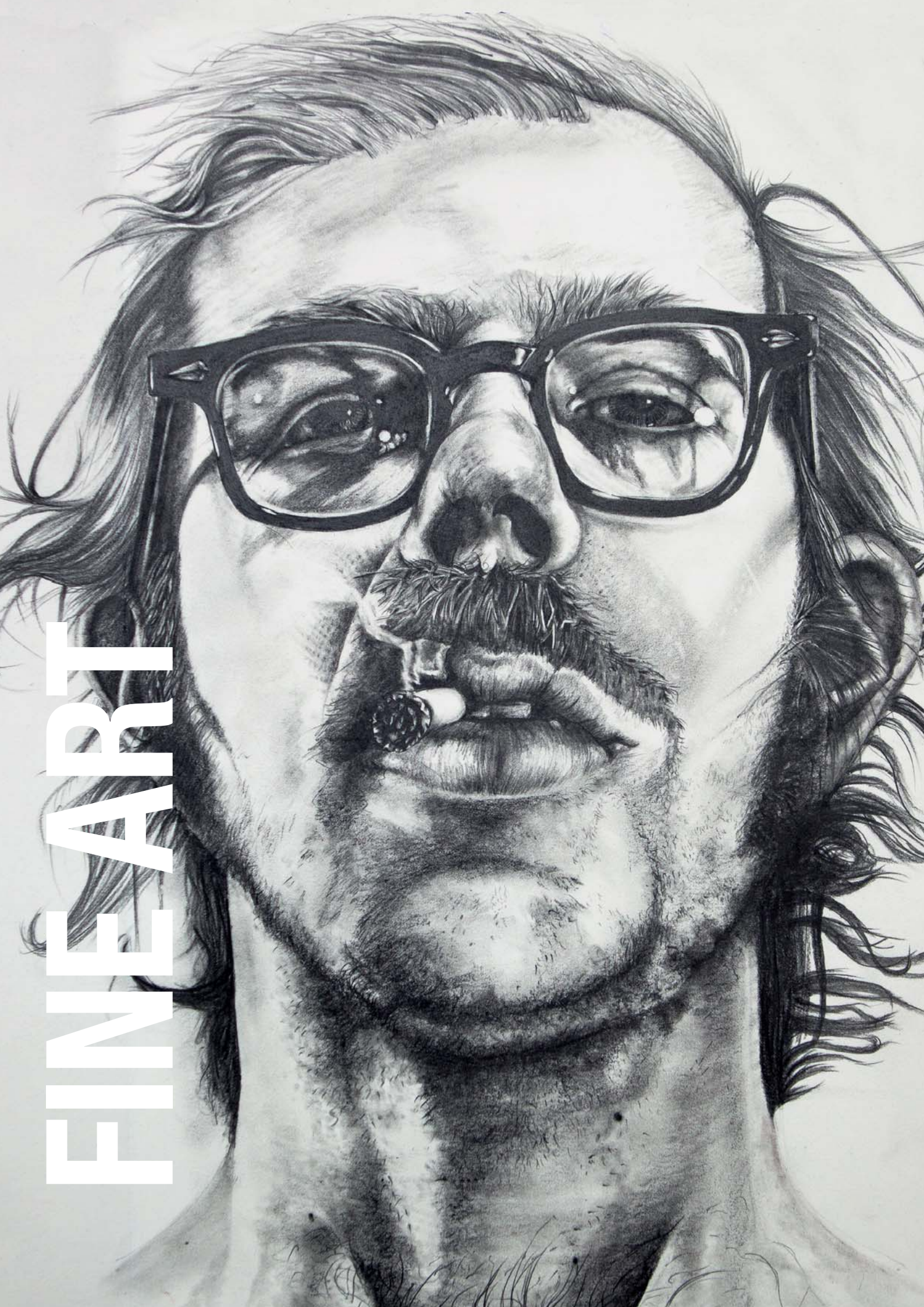
Despite the difficulties that were encountered, the pupils embraced the challenge. In little over two days, and during House Challenge Week, tests and music examinations, the performance was filmed. The drive and determination from all involved showed that even in the most pressing of times there are ways to create something memorable. Robert Louis Stevenson's classic text Treasure Island gives hope for the future, as he writes: "We must go on, because we can't turn back". This sentiment sums up the attitude of the cast: determined to put on a production and make it their own oasis and a memory to treasure.



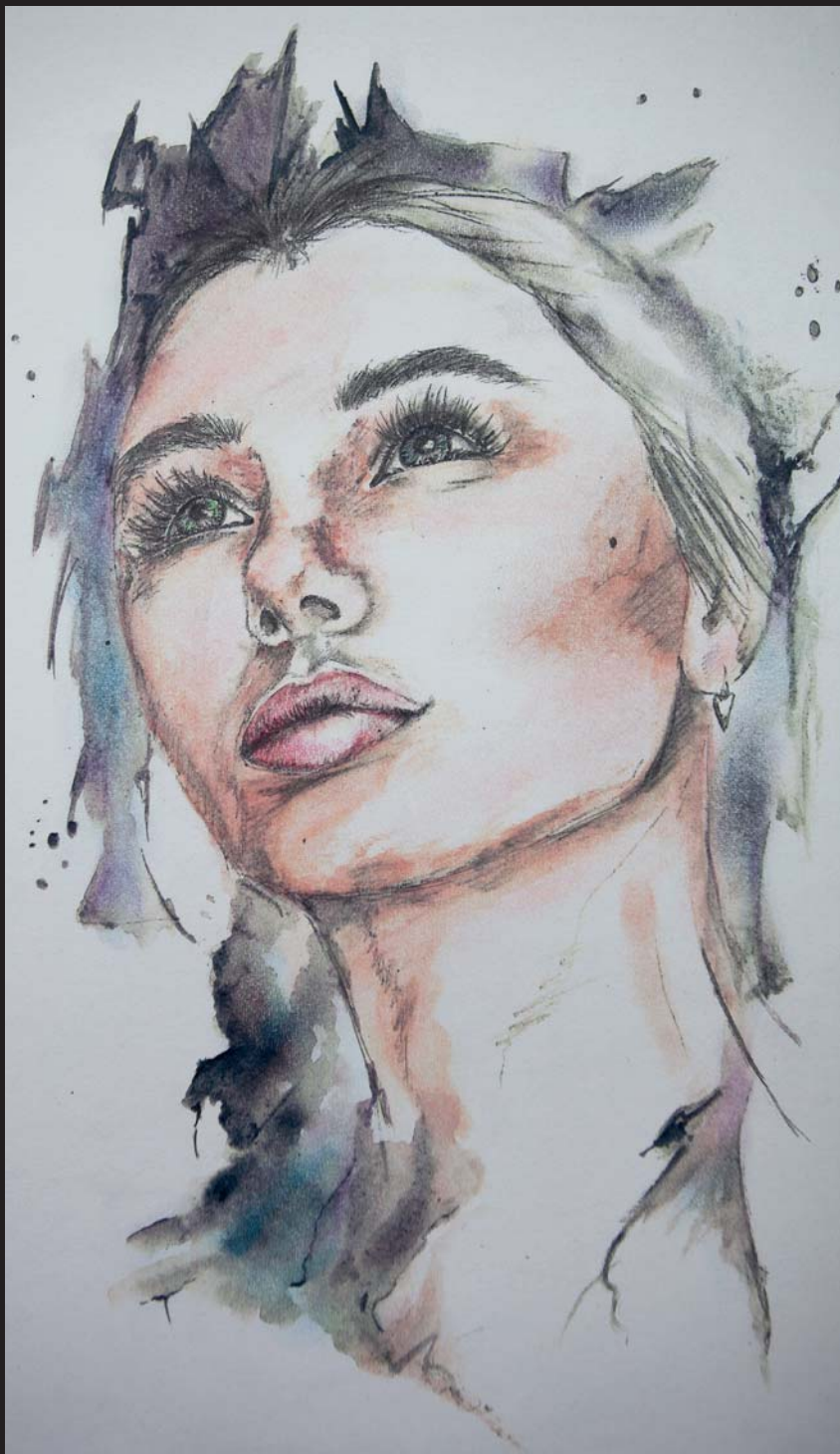
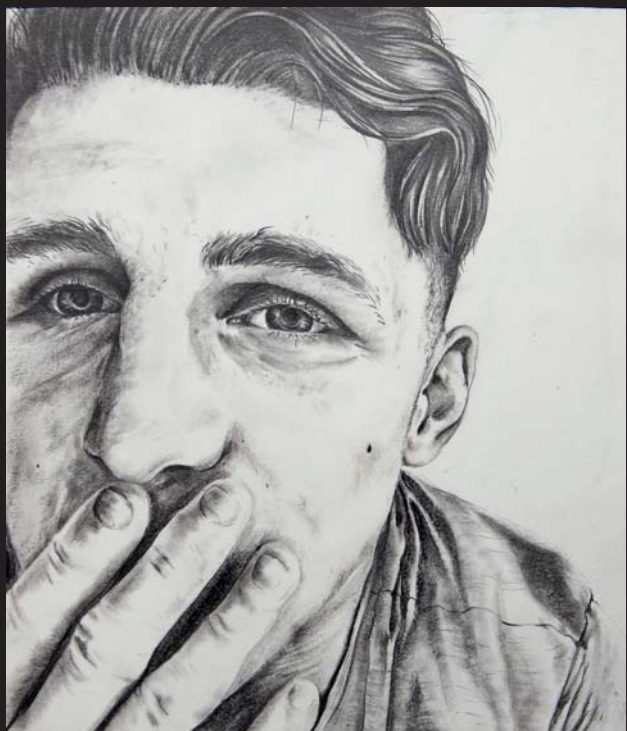
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<https://www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/news/2021-06-28-kgs-drama-department-presents-treasure-island>





FINE ART



As we went into the first lockdown last year, our GCSE and A Level students had just finished their coursework and we featured the work of our artists and photographers via Twitter. We were unable to hold our annual exhibition which was also the case again this year. One of our featured artists is Agatha Barker-Mill who has continued her art studies with us in the Lower Sixth. We looked at various portrait artists including; Rembrandt, Lucian Freud and the American 'head master' Chuck Close - Self Portrait 1967 - drawn by Agatha (left page). As well as art & design, Agatha studies biology and chemistry and intends to pursue a degree in Dentistry.

"The drill and the pencil are completely interlinked and the ability to be able to draw and drill - I believe that they are two skills that completely complement one another."

Rachel Jackson, a dentistry student at University of Aberdeen.

"ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE"

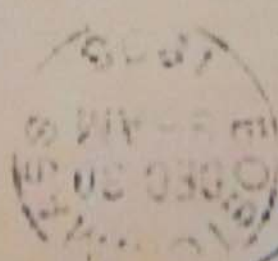
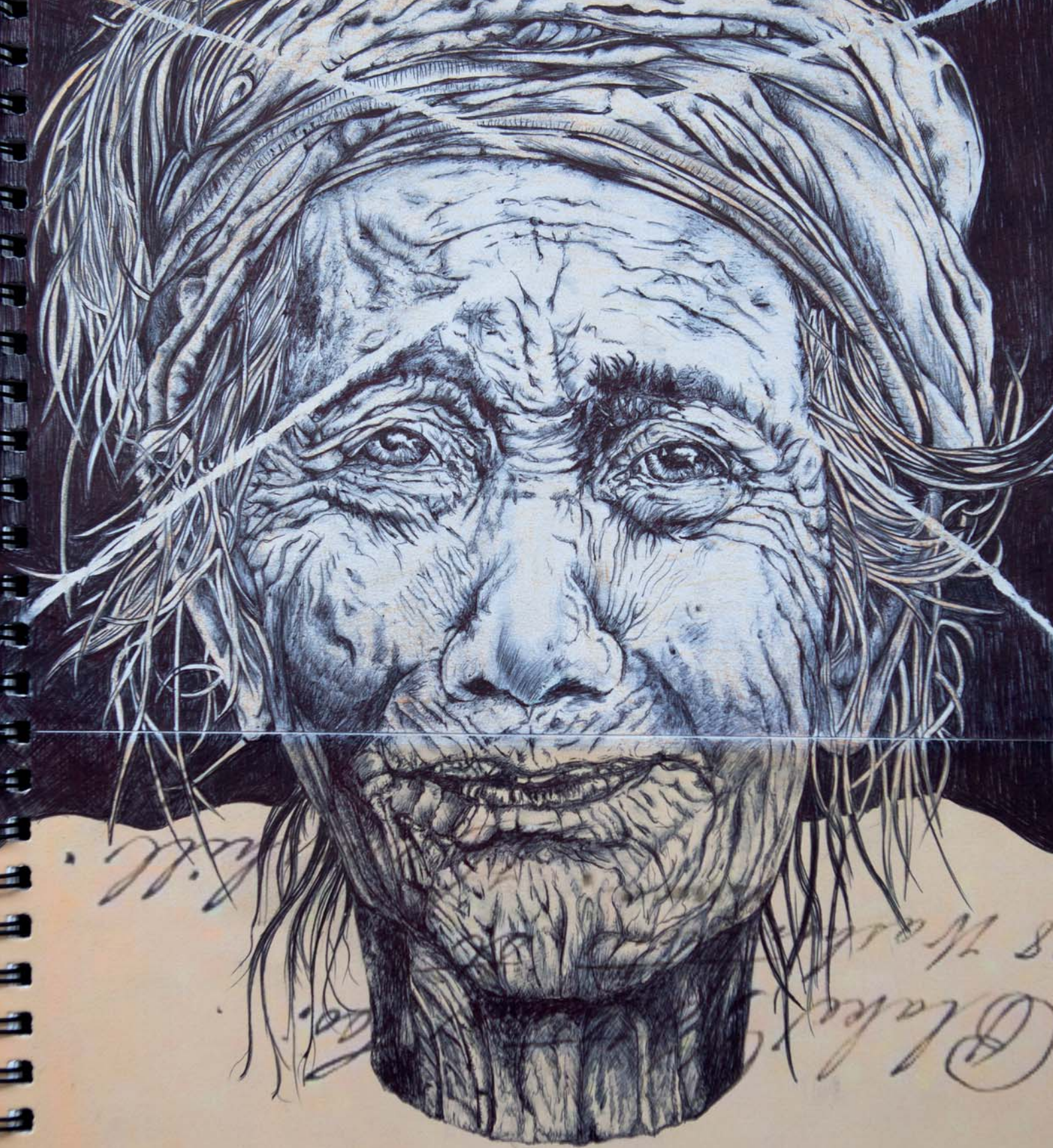


"ROLL UP ROLL UP FOR THE MYSTERY TOUR"



The lyrics, 'The Magical Mystery Tour is hoping to take you away' by the Beatles, sums up what teaching art is all about.

This year has been no exception as our pupils in all year groups went on a variety of visual journeys ranging from looking at tessellations inspired by the Dutch artist M C Escher to the biro work on envelopes by the English artist Mark Powell. The work on this double page features two pupils from the Fifth Year and Lower Sixth, Peiwen Xia and Agatha Barker-Mill who responded with amazing attention to detail as they replicated Mark Powell's work then went on to create their own interpretations. By chance, they both featured their grandfathers in their own work, reflecting their lives and interests. Peiwen used the 'People's Daily Edition' newspaper as a background with a three-quarter length biro drawing, whilst Agatha drew a portrait over a map of the area around Ribblesdale that held a special place for her grandfather. Once again we turn to the 'The Magical Mystery Tour' and the final track on side two and 'All you need is love', as this sums up these two pieces and how art can touch people on an individual and collective level.



Spencer & Sons
ENGRAVERS
MASS.
TELEPHONE CONNECTION
A SPECIALTY

Agatha Barker-Mill

BOYS SPORT



Rugby

After a very frustrating year due to the pandemic, the 1st XV and 2nd XV eventually managed to play some games. The 1st XV were well lead by Captain, Cammy Thompson, and he was on the score sheet in a fine win over Denstone College. Another win followed against Kirkby Lonsdale Rugby Club with young players Archie Dowds, Wills Austin and Tobias Parkinson making their debuts and scoring some excellent tries. The highlight of the season was a high quality game against London Irish Academy where two fine tries by Huw Davies and Tom Campbell sealed a 17-0 victory against a very talented opposition. The last game of the season was a local derby against Myerscough College (Sale Academy), but KGS proved too strong and won easily with Louis Fletcher, Jack Goodridge and Marcus Blake dominating the opposition.

The 2nd XV had two good wins against Vale of Lune Rugby Club and Myerscough College. Jake Merrick and Ben Campbell both did well up front, as did scrum half, Dan Harris, and young fly half, Charlie Read, in the backs.



1st XV Rugby Appointments for 2021-22 Season

We are delighted to announce the appointments of our 1st XV Captain, Aaron Pope, and Vice Captains, Huw Davies and Yande Nkonge, for the 2021-22 Season. Congratulations to you all!



After a period of online teaching, it has been great to get back to 'in person' physical education lessons. Building on the vast different sports delivered in the Autumn Term, the boys have had an opportunity to further develop skills such as leadership, resilience and creativity in a number of activities. Our traditional summer activities of cricket, tennis and athletics have enabled us to make a welcomed return to inter-school fixtures, whilst we have been able to evolve activities such as table tennis and basketball to give our boys a greater exposure to different sports.

Tennis

The U15s played two fixtures in the LTA Lancashire Division 2 competition. A young side travelled to AKS Lytham consisting of Taran Mathauda, Charlie Medcalf, Oliver Bamford and Saif Amr. The boys struggled in the singles but managed a couple of good victories in the doubles. In their second fixture against Stonyhurst College the team looked slightly different consisting of Monty and Hugo Loggenberg, Saif Amr and Jack Austin. The boys recorded a fine win playing some excellent tennis.

The U13s progressed into the semi-finals of the LTA Lancashire Division 2 Cup after getting a bye in the first match which was supposed to be against Baines School and then beating Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall. The team consisted of Stan Collinson, Tom Carey, Brodie Black and Jack Dawson-Gerrard.



Cricket

1st XI

The 1st XI began the season with several games in close proximity including the annual MCC fixture played at Kirkham and Wesham Cricket Club. This was followed by a narrow 2 run defeat against AKS, chasing 113 to win, with all-rounder Louis Johnson top scoring with 30. Rossall followed but their score of 158-4 proved too much to overhaul, however opener Will Smith top scored with 31. The first Saturday fixture saw Birkenhead visit Kirkham, the visitors being bowled out for 205 after being 132-3, Theo Mihell (3-23) and Charles Hodgson (3-49) were the pick of the Kirkham bowlers. Kirkham struggled at the start but rallied late on with Dan Harris (29) and Mihell (18) getting the hosts out of trouble.

The 2nd XV won a tight affair at home to RGS Lancaster posting a score of 118 with Fourth Year, Callum Hill, scoring his maiden 50 and James Sutcliffe (23) hitting some lusty boundaries at the end of the innings. Tight

bowling at the start won the game for Kirkham but not before RGS rallied. Charles Hodgson (3-22) bowled tightly to peg the visitors back at the end of the Innings.

The squad was ably led by Fred Hackett with Matthew Sutcliffe proving a very capable Vice Captain.



U15s

Mr Young informs us that the Ribby Road fans are delighted with Callum Hill, currently as they say in American sport, the MVP.

Skipper, Luca Mihell, has been bagging good runs and Monty Loggenberg is gaining confidence as a batsman. He has a good eye and his shot selection is improving. Equally, the hard overs in nets are showing that his bowling is more consistent and good progress is being made. Jack Chapman has been working well on discipline in defence and choosing the right ball to attack when the opportunity arises. Fin Shawcross' batting is progressing well. He is looking to work on his offside shots to ensure he scores in all areas of the ground. Tommo and Wills Gut are better batsmen now and deserve high praise for their application in the last two weeks. Well done.

Xander Kane looks like he could get a wicket with any ball. The squad are still working both in bowling pairs and a whole bowling unit as this is crucial to success. James Stacey has confirmed his status as a key all-rounder and is part of the heartbeat of this team.



U14s

Although suffering two defeats this season, the Under 14s played well in patches against both Birkenhead and Bolton School. Indeed in the cup match against Bolton, one of the North of England cricket powerhouses, the boys pushed the opposition and only lost by three wickets on a rainy afternoon. Captain, Hugo Loggenberg, and Ben Firth have led the way with the bat, with Harry Case and Alex Smith bowling well.



U13s

The U13s squad has lots of potential and has been well led by all the different captains, which has seen them progress to the latter stages of the Lancashire Cup.

The team's batting has been particularly pleasing and there has been a massive improvement on the running between the wickets. Theo Smith has batted with composure well beyond his years and he has been complimented well with Stan Collinson and Will Kelso not being afraid to put bat to ball in order to up the rate.

The U13s have got plenty of strength in depth in the bowling department with Rowan Edwards, Christian Taylor-Tomlinson and cup specialist, Jake Hill, making stand out performances with regularity, which saw us bowl out Bury (30ao) and St Peter's (52ao) cheaply.

Cieran Milligan, Lewis Simpson and Will de Klerk have been outstanding in the field, saving countless runs and taking some great catches.

It will be fascinating to see how this group of players develop in the future.



U12s

Despite not playing many games, the U12s have enjoyed representing KGS for the first time. They are showing some promising signs with the ball and leg spinner, Jake Hill, who has been the stand out performer with Jack Dawson-Gerrard and Alex Fuller proving themselves more than able seam bowlers. Ethan Stafford has been the stand out batsman.



BMX Team GB

Fifth Year student, Finntan Doyle, is a young and aspiring BMX and mountain bike rider. He has an extremely varied trick list and the skills to race fast. Finntan has represented Team GB on numerous occasions, two of which took place in Colombia and America. He aims to compete at a higher level each year and is currently training hard to recover from injury whilst preparing for the world championships taking place in the Netherlands. Finntan has set himself aspirational goals and is looking forward to the future and all the events to come.



Modern Pentathlon

Despite missing all of 2020 due to lockdown, Second Year pupil, Gordon Ballantyne, has been selected for the UK Olympic Pathway Programme for Modern Pentathlon. Modern Pentathlon is one of the original Modern Olympic Sports and consists of running, swimming, shooting, fencing and horse riding.

This pathway programme gives Gordon access to the Olympic coaches based in Bath and he is required to attend a training camp once a month as well as other residential camps throughout the year. During lockdown Gordon has spent every week learning and practising his shooting and fencing skills.

2021 witnessed a jump in age group to U15 for Gordon. Following some fantastic shooting, only missing two shots, he secured fourth place in the UK Championships held in Lewiston Academy, Dorset. Following this performance, Gordon has been selected to participate in the World Championships in Germany and the European Championships in Barcelona later this year.

Gordon recently participated in one of the UK qualifying events in laser running. The event, held at Ashton-under-Lyne track, consisted of a 1600m run and involved stopping at the end of each lap to shoot 5 targets. Gordon completed the race in 6 minutes 4 seconds to rank second in the UK. Following this, Gordon was selected to represent England at the UK School Games being held in Loughborough from

Friday 3 - Sunday 5 September 2021. This event features athletes from all over the UK in a variety of sports including; athletics, cricket, hockey, cycling, netball, triathlon and pentathlon. This event is seen as an essential development for future Olympians as it includes a three day residential with parents only allowed in as paying spectators.



Kart Racing

Fourth Year student, Sam Gornall, has enjoyed a very successful, if somewhat shortened 2020 kart season, in his first year in the 14-16 years Junior Class. Sam finished a very creditable fourth place against a grid of older drivers in the British Championships. This resulted in Sam being selected to represent Team GB in February at the Rotax MAX Challenge Grand Finals in Portimao. However, due to the pandemic, this event was cancelled.

Now that the pandemic restrictions are relaxing, the 2021 kart season has restarted and the race calendar has now been released for the British Championships. This year, Sam is the UK's top seeded Junior driver.

Well done, Sam and good luck for the 2021 season!



Athletics

The boys enjoyed an internal track meet in May where First to Fourth Years competed against each other on the school track. Gordon Ballantyne and Charlie Wiltshire looked impressive in the 1500, Cieran Milligan was strong over 800m and Tom Graham, Will Kelso and Anton Gildea ran well in the 100m. Both Gordon and Cieran competed in the Lancashire Schools Championships.

Two weeks later, we held an internal field event fixture with the girls. Oliver Bamford, Stan Collinson and Ben Firth threw well in the javelin. Connor Norman was strong with the shot, Jack Chapman did well on discus and in the words of Mrs Glover, "Harry Case was like a gazelle over the high jump!".

Unfortunately this year's Track and Field Cup did not take place due to Covid 19 restrictions.

Golf

Kirkham Grammar School are delighted to announce that we will be entering Independent Schools Golf Association events, the first of which will take place during the next academic year. Kirkham Grammar School's Junior and Senior teams will be ably supervised at the ISGA Match Day Tournament by Deputy Head and keen golfer, Mr Stephen Taylor.



GIRLS SPORT

It has been a difficult year for competitive sport but we are pleased to report that we have managed it in some areas and have certainly experienced success along the way.

Hockey

The 2020/21 hockey season was unfortunately cancelled, although all teams trained well throughout and are more ready than ever for the up and coming season.

The 1st XI development squad did manage some competitive hockey as they were invited into a North 'Lockdown' League. This involved the girls taking on Garstang HC, Halifax HC and also Liverpool Sefton HC all of whom fielded their first team squads.

1st XI Captain and Vice Jemima Towers and Anna Wilkinson finally got to lead their team out onto the KGS pitch and enjoy a very short but highly competitive season.

The girls battled well and demonstrated an excellent level of skill throughout. It was great to see some younger players in action making their debut for the 1st XI – the future certainly looks bright!

Next season we look forward to a full and extremely competitive fixture list taking us up and down the country in both friendly and Tier 1 England Hockey national competitions.

1st XI Hockey Appointments for 2021-22 Season

We are delighted to announce the appointments of our 1st XI Hockey Captain, Libby Baxter, and Vice-Captain, Agatha Barker-Mill, for the 2021-22 Season. Congratulations to you both!





Tennis

In the LTA National Schools Tennis Competition both the U13 and U15 squads played some top class tennis. The U13 squad met AKS and St Mary's Hall whilst the U15 squad met Stonyhurst College.

The U13 squad had tough matches against AKS resulting in mixed results between the singles and doubles rubbers. At St Mary's Hall, KGS enjoyed some very competitive tennis resulting in a tie break doubles final. Megan Smedley and Ellie Williams both worked well together to secure the overall victory.

We also enjoyed success in the U15 Division 1 match of the LTA Schools Cup. The singles matches were up first with U13 player, Freya Peet, taking on the Stonyhurst College number one seed. It was a hard fought battle with Freya pushing her opponent to the limit but unfortunately losing out 4-6 in the end. KGS' second seed, Tilly Loggenberg, certainly didn't disappoint with a 6-0 victory. Hannah Culshaw followed suit with another 6-0, whilst Lucy Wildish saw off her opponent with a 6-4 victory. The singles scores put KGS in a very positive position as they approached their doubles matches. Freya and Tilly were up first with an outstanding performance resulting in a 6-3 victory followed by Hannah and Lucy who were also victorious at 6-2. Some outstanding tennis on display! The U15 squad were crowned champions within division one of the competition.

A special mention should go to Freya Peet and Yandy Shek.

Second Year pupil, Freya, is in her first U14 season training 15 hours per week at Bolton Arena. She is on the Regional Player Pathway and National group program looking towards the U14 Nationals and Tennis Europe moving forward. She is part of 'Team Head' who provide her with all of her tennis equipment throughout the season.

Fourth Year pupil, Yandy, has tennis lessons with her coach five days a week and also takes part in tournaments during weekends and the school holidays. During May half term, Yandy was crowned champion at both the Dollamore Junior Open U18 girls singles and doubles competition at Chesterfield Lawn Tennis Club and the FAST4 Open Regional Tour at Robin Park Sports and Tennis Centre. Yandy has her sights firmly set on becoming a professional tennis player.





Netball

Three of our KGS sportswomen have been selected into the Lancashire Netball Squads: Megan Rollinson, Tilly Loggenberg and Rebecca Fisher secured their places in the squad and we look forward to hearing how they get on throughout the season with both their training and competitive play.

Athletics

Unfortunately the ESAA Track and Field Cup Competition that was due to be held at Stanley Park, Blackpool was cancelled this year. Although the competition did not take place, the girls worked hard throughout the season within both track and field training sessions. Their determined approach paid off as a number of them went on to compete in the Lancashire School Championships.

Entries and results include;

Keira Tomes	200M - Lancashire Champion
Charlotte Fisher	High Jump - 2nd place
Gabby Bell	100M - 6th in heat
Kate Cookson	800M - 5th place
Rebecca Fisher	Discus - 4th place
Millie Homan	Hammer - 3rd place

Equestrian

The school will be entering National Schools Equestrian Association events as both individual and team riders. The competitions are set to take place over a series of dates and will include both dressage and jump competitions. This is an exciting opportunity for all of Kirkham Grammar School's young riders of any level to compete and even take part in the National Schools' two day event held at Princethorpe College, Rugby. Whilst we have lots of pupils who compete in Equestrian events, it is not something that we have ever entered as a school. Lucy Hardcastle and Macey Kenny McNally both represented the school in dressage in May. Both girls did extremely well within the event with Lucy finishing in 8th place out of 50 mixed-age competitors.

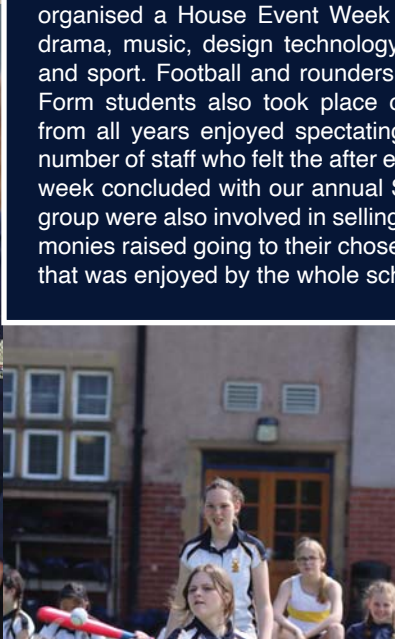




HOUSE EVENT WEEK

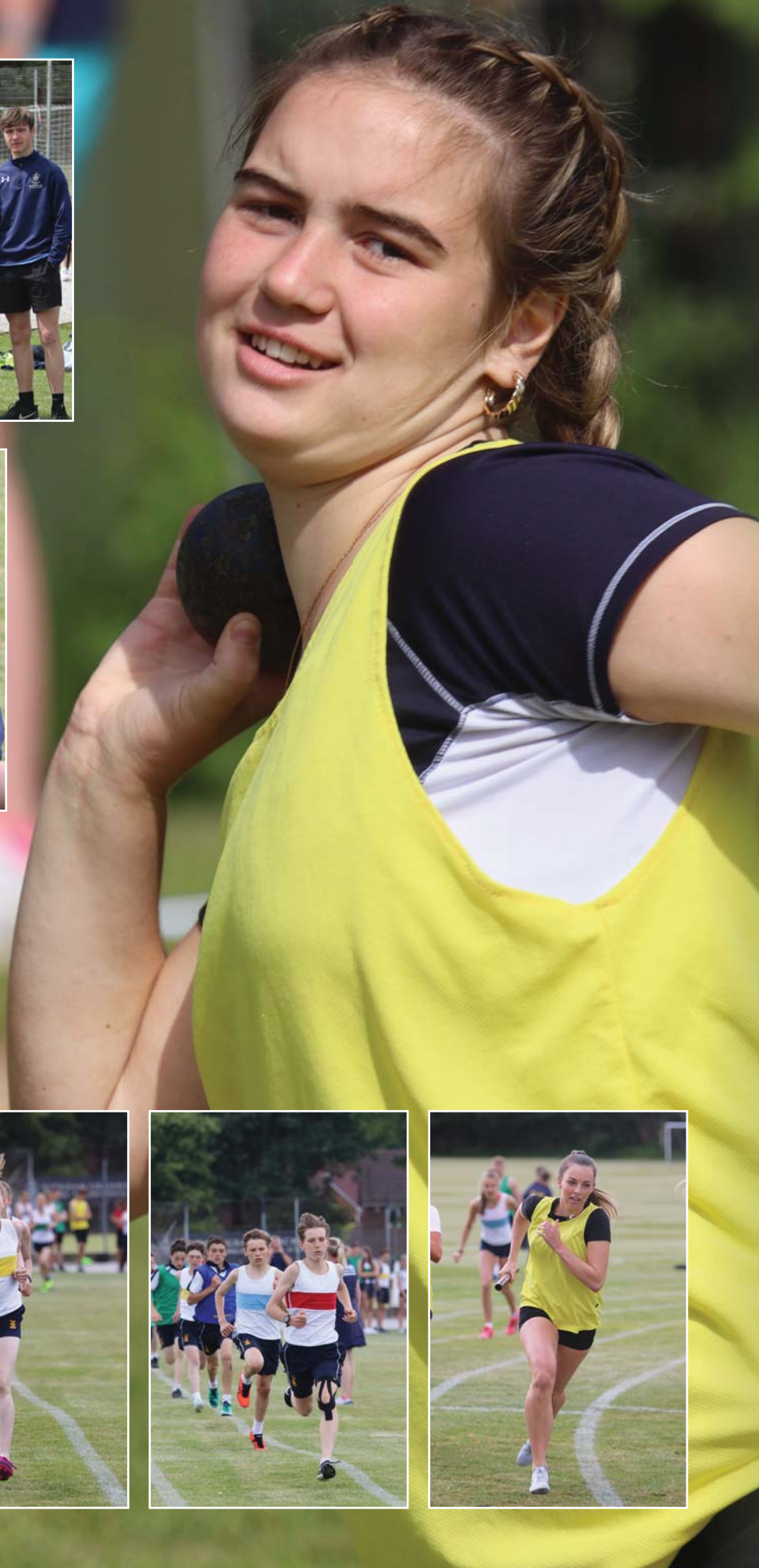


In a normal Academic Year, Kirkham Grammar School pupils and staff would enjoy a variety of house events throughout the year. This year, due to restrictions on maintaining year group bubbles, we organised a House Event Week which included challenges within drama, music, design technology, art, English, mathematics, CCF and sport. Football and rounders matches between staff and Sixth Form students also took place over two lunchtimes which pupils from all years enjoyed spectating. It has to be said there were a number of staff who felt the after effects of this the following day! The week concluded with our annual Sports Day. Pupils from each year group were also involved in selling 'Sports Day' refreshments with all monies raised going to their chosen charities. A great week all round that was enjoyed by the whole school community!





SPORTS DAY





KGJS JUNIOR & INFANT SPORTS





Junior, Infant & Pre-School **SPORTS DAY**





At the end of the Summer Term, our Junior, Infant and Pre-School Sports Day took place and these were truly lovely occasions particularly with last year's events unable to go ahead due to the pandemic. The events were live-streamed to parents and family due to the ongoing situation. The smiles on the pupils' faces said it all and despite the heat, if anything a little too warm for proceedings, the pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves, showed real enthusiasm and competed with true sportsmanship.

Congratulations to our overall winners at Junior Sports Day, Clifton House!

Rugby 7s Summer Camp



In July, Kirkham Grammar School hosted a Rugby Sevens Summer Camp for our J4, First, Second and Third Year pupils. The fully residential camp was professionally delivered by the following experienced coaches and rugby players:

Chris Briers: Currently Head Coach at Fylde RFC and previously played for England U18s, England Counties Men, Lancashire Men, Fylde, Sale Sharks, Doncaster, Sedgley Park, Orrell and Rotherham.

Tommy Banks: Currently playing for Caldy First XV & coaching Liverpool University Men's First XV and previously played for Fylde, England University 7s, Northumberland and Cheshire First XV, Blaydon, Wailers 7s, North Wales Exiles 7s & Rambling Jesters 7s.

Connor Wilkinson: Currently playing for Fylde First XV and previously played for England Counties 20s, Lancashire First XV, Sale Jets, Red Panda 7s & England University 7s.

In addition to the technical sessions, Strength and Conditioning sessions were led by Old Kirkhamian, Nathan Pope, a 1st XV player at Loughborough University and former Sale Sharks player.

Thank you to Old Kirkhamian and England U18s, Sale Sharks and Fylde RFC 1st XV player, Sam Dugdale, for taking the time to come along to the camp and talk to the attendees about his rugby journey and achievements to date, before then holding a Q&A session.

The camp concluded with a tournament and presentation in The Old Hall and it was wonderful to see parents, friends and family at KGS supporting the pupils.

Despite the extremely hot weather, which required frequent water breaks and reapplication of sun cream, a fantastic action-packed week was had by all. Well done to all of our camp attendees for a fantastic week of rugby and congratulations to our prizewinners.

A huge thank you to our coaches who delivered outstanding sessions throughout the camp; our catering staff for their delicious meals and regular supply of fluids; and Mr Lyon and Mrs Morton for looking after the pupils all week in the Boarding House.

All the photographs from the camp can be viewed on the link below.



Scan the QR code to view our page or visit:

<https://www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/news/2021-07-22-rugby-sevens-summer-camp-july-2021>



SUMMER
HOCKEY CAMP
AUGUST 21



Fresh from the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, we were delighted to welcome back to KGS, Team GB bronze medallist, Susannah Townsend, to host our annual Summer Hockey Camp for a second time. Team GB Women's Assistant Coach, Katie Glynn, also joined this year's coaching team, along with Strength and Conditioning coach, Charlotte Benson.

Susannah competed for England in the women's hockey tournament at the 2014 Commonwealth Games where she won a silver medal, for GB at the Rio 2016 Olympics winning gold and her most recent achievement, winning a bronze medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics. At the age of 32, after achieving an outstanding 188 international caps for GB and England, Susannah has decided to retire. However, her hockey journey is not over as she will join Wimbledon Hockey Club for the forthcoming season.

Katie Glynn, a deadly forward who scored 77 goals in 134 international caps for New Zealand (a national record) in a career that saw her win a silver medal at the 2010 Commonwealth Games and appear at the London 2012 Olympics, brought a wealth of experience to the camp. After injury cut her career short, Katie transitioned into coaching and worked with the New Zealand U18 and U21 teams before moving to the senior squad in 2019. Katie then joined the GB programme in July 2020 with her main role involving working with GB's exciting forwards to help them develop into world class players over the next few years.

Charlotte Benson has worked with athletes from a wide range of high-performance sports teams including GB Hockey, GB Rowing, Harlequins Rugby and Surrey Storm Netball. Coming from an Elite sporting background in football herself she is aware of athletes' needs and expectations through the pathway into Elite sport. She looks to implement this into her physical preparation strategy when coaching everyday female athletes.

During the week, in addition to the hockey technical sessions, Susannah, Katie and Charlotte shared their hockey/sport journeys and inspired the girls with video footage of their sporting achievements including Susannah and Team GB's Rio 2016 Olympic Gold achievement. They learnt about the importance of nutrition and thoroughly enjoyed Charlotte's strength and conditioning sessions, very important in preventing injury.

On Thursday, the girls were given a one hour break from hockey to enjoy a 'Sport's Day with a difference'. The coaches had arranged a variety of fun races for the girls, the highlights being any that involved the inflatables!

The final day saw a tournament take place in front of the girls' parents and family members which gave them the opportunity to put into practice everything they had learnt over the four days.

After the tournament, a prizegiving presentation took place with Susannah, Katie and Charlotte presenting a selection of awards:

J4 Most Improved Player: Hollie Bailey

First Year Most Improved Player: Niamh Smith

Second Year Most Improved Player: Natalie Smith

Third Year Most Improved Player: Lilly Jones

Fourth Year Most Improved Player: Jasmine Schofield

Coaches' Player of the Camp: Millie Homan

Coaches' Choice Awards: Keira Tomes (Susannah), Alice Bunday (Katie) and Frankie Margerison (Charlotte)

A huge thank you to our coaches, Susannah, Katie and Charlotte who delivered outstanding sessions throughout the camp; our catering staff for their delicious meals; and Mrs Osborne, Mrs Glover and Miss Reddy for looking after the girls in the Boarding House throughout the duration of the camp.

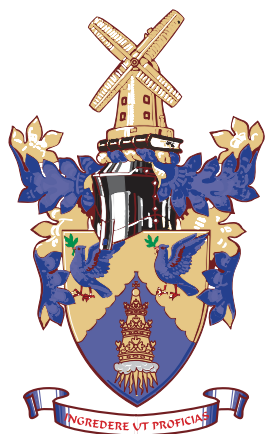
Finally, we would like to wish Susannah all the very best for her retirement.

The hockey camp will take place again next year for girls from J4 through to Lower Sixth Form. Watch this space for more details coming soon...



Scan the QR code to view our page or visit:

<https://www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/news/2021-08-26-summer-hockey-camp-a-huge-success>



The Old Kirkhamians' Association

A new series of interviews to enable Old Kirkhamians to catch up with some Staff Room legends after they left KGS.

We start with John Catterall, who retired in 2002 after 31 years as Head of Music, during which time he greatly enhanced the reputation of KGS as a centre of excellence for music, notably in choral singing. He is remembered with great affection by generations of former students for his uncompromisingly high standards combined with a warm, humorous approach to teaching, and above all for ensuring that nobody left the school unable to spell rhythm. Any pupil who was at KGS between 1971 and 2002 will spell it out without hesitation in response to a click of the fingers.

John still lives in Kirkham, and is a familiar figure around the local area, as well as a regular attendee at KGS concerts and church services, and was delighted to be the first subject of our series.

Whatever happened to....?

What were your years (as a teacher) at KGS?

I joined the Staff at KGS in September 1971 after seven years at William Temple School, Preston.

What have you done since retiring?

I have continued my work as Choirmaster at Broughton Parish Church. This is very much a full-time job, dealing with a Choir of some 30 boys and 20 men (pre-Covid that is; fingers crossed also post-Covid!).

Broughton Choir is a way of life for all involved: events such as the annual Training Week for the boys in the Isle of Man, Concert Tours to France, singing in various cathedrals and churches such as Liverpool, St Paul's, Westminster Abbey, Lambeth Palace, have kept me pretty busy! We have even sung at King's College Cambridge, with the late Stephen Cleobury agreeing to conduct a masterclass for our boys at the Choir School the day before the Service.

I have subsequently been awarded ARSCM and Hon FGCM, and just last year a B.Ed. (Honoris Causa)!

What do you do with your spare time in retirement?

I have an apartment in Ramsey on the Isle of Man; a very pleasant bolt-hole overlooking the sea. Cruises (on smaller quieter ships!) particularly those bound for the historical sites in the Mediterranean have (until this year) been very important features in my summer holiday programme. I also enjoy stays with family members who have homes in West Wales.

This year, because the Isle of Man and Wales have been 'out of bounds', my garden has never looked better. I have no particular skill, but it kept me busy particularly during the lockdown when singing was illegal!

What does KGS mean to you?

A feeling of pride in being part of such a fine school which embraces all aspects of real education.

What are your favourite memories of KGS?

My favourite memories centre around working with so many talented young musicians, who produced some outstanding performances at the Easter Concert, either as instrumentalists or as Choristers. There was so much talent and enthusiasm on hand, that this particular Concert often even exceeded the length of Ken Dodd shows at Blackpool!

And who could forget the wonderful camaraderie we all enjoyed in the Staff Room. The endless banter of RMC and FWS! I note that the latter, complementing the message 'It won't be the same without you', on my leaving card, added, 'maybe it will be better'!!!!

What achievement are you most proud of from your time at KGS?

Proudest moments included performances of Viennese Masses (Haydn's Nelson Mass being my particular favourite) by the Choir; those Gilbert and Sullivan evenings masterminded by ARB, and the tremendous 'Oliver' production in 1990...and of course being responsible for ensuring that every KGS pupil could spell 'RHYTHM'!



Whom did you particularly admire on the staff from your time?

The two Headmasters, Malcolm Summerlee and Barrie Stacey. Both so different in character, but two leaders who worked tirelessly for the School, who expected the same from their Departmental Heads, and who developed and maintained a well organised, forward looking school, in which it was a pleasure to teach.

And I will never forget in my earlier years, the Master who filled that most difficult of tasks in any School, that of Deputy Headmaster. Harry Reay was a gentleman, whose calm and pleasant manner earned the respect of staff and pupils alike. A wonderful role model for a new, young teacher.

What do you not miss about teaching?

I always found staff meetings tedious...and the ones I hated most were those that were held during the few days prior to the start of the Autumn Term! I just wanted to get back to the classroom, meet our new musicians...and conduct that first Choir Rehearsal!

Any regrets/disappointments?

Just one. Not one pupil ever believed that I performed a hand-stand against the blackboard in Room 15 prior to their arrival in the morning. Very hurtful!

Apart from that - thirty-odd wonderful years. I would recommend anyone to enter the teaching profession...as long as the School was KGS!

Interviewed by Adrian Long via email.

KGS PROVIDES A WEALTH OF OPPORTUNITY

When I joined Kirkham Grammar School I made a promise to both myself and my parents that I would take every opportunity that was offered, ensuring that I had a full school experience.

KGS has a wealth of opportunity, one of which being the Combined Cadet Force. I remember my first CCF lesson as though it was just yesterday, marching up and down the quad, learning drill techniques and discipline. This came very naturally to me and I instantly knew there was a possibility of making a career in the armed forces. Having the opportunity to talk to Mr Moffatt and listen to his inspiring stories of his time in the forces also acted as a catalyst for me joining.

Being a valued and active member of the CCF meant I was able to experience all sides of the military from, Army camps, to flying training aircraft at RAF Woodvale. Having the ability to take on these challenges and experience segments of military life, sparked an interest and ambition of turning the skills and practical knowledge I had gained during my time in the CCF into applying for the Royal Air Force.

For most people 2020 was a year of uncertainty

and confusion. For myself it was an extremely positive year. I had taken the decision not to apply for a university place as this did not appeal to me. I had chosen, instead the apprenticeship route, which looked far more suitable to my way of learning and made for a more attractive proposition as you earn while you learn. I realised very quickly how competitive apprenticeships are and secured a part-time position at Morrisons Supermarket whilst I submitted my application for the Royal Air Force. In March 2020 I received notification that I had successfully gained an interview. After passing the interview the next stage was the Airman Selection Test. This is a 2 hour exam which took place in Liverpool. The test was formed of higher level maths, English and physics questions. The result of the exam determines which trade apprenticeship you can apply for, therefore the higher the result the more opportunity you have to choose a trade. I was informed that I had passed the AST and qualified to study my chosen trade of Cyberspace Communications Specialist.

The Medical exam was the next stage, this took place in Southport. A doctor assesses your fitness, eyesight and hearing ability and at the end deems if you are suitable for the RAF.

Finally the last suitability check is the Fitness test, which took place at a Nuffield Health Gym

and consisted of 2.4km run which must be completed above the minimum speed and time, military style press ups and sit ups.

I was given a date to work towards before my 10 week basic training course. This was a tough, difficult and very testing 10 weeks, however it was the best experience of my life so far. I made friends for life, avoided being pushed back and graduated into the Royal Air Force with my family present. The Graduation is an extremely prestigious event. It was the first time I had seen my parents in 10 weeks and they were filled with pride as I marched on to the parade square with the rest of the graduating intake.

I was honoured to receive two awards during the course, one for 'the most positive recruit' voted for by my fellow recruits and the other was a recognition award for my efforts in sports and fitness, awarded to me by the Physical Training Instructors.

As a graduate, I move onto Stage 2, which takes me to RAF Cosford for apprenticeship training as a Cyberspace Security Engineer and an exciting, rewarding and fulfilling career in the Royal Air Force.

Daniella Parziale
KGS 2011 - 2020



"Fifteen Minutes of Fame": Old Kirkhamians in the media spotlight

The last edition of the Kirkhamian rightly focused on the high profile exploits of our "star" alumna Ranvir Singh, and attention has also been given to other Old Kirkhamians who have made a career in the media, theatre and TV.

However, equally interesting and fascinating are the many Old Kirkhamians who have enjoyed their own "fifteen minutes of fame" on TV, radio or in the press thanks to fleeting appearances, interviews or game show wins.

A recent post about this topic on the OKA Facebook group by our President Mike Ward revealed a remarkable number even from among those who replied. Mike's post was inspired by the remarkable success of **Roger Cartwright**, who caused a stir locally and even nationally by being the first contestant in 2021 on Ken Bruce's popular Radio 2 Popmaster Quiz to achieve the elusive full 39 points. Roger already had a longstanding reputation for musical talent, but few were aware of the incredible breadth of his knowledge.



Mike reminded us of his own less successful recent appearance on the same quiz, and of recent TV fame for **Nathan Hawe** with a star exhibit on the Antiques Roadshow when it visited Lytham Hall and for **Adrian Long**, author of this article, who won Pointless in 2019 with his daughter-in-law Claire, helped by a lucky break involving the relative anonymity of Fylde MP Mark Menzies. Mike asked the Facebook group for other stories of fleeting fame, and the responses didn't disappoint.

There were stories weird, wonderful and impressive. In the spirit of this article, I have excluded those which refer to people whose job is actually to appear in the media. In no particular order:

Geoff Pearson was once interviewed on local TV about a heavy snowfall, causing him to miss the last bus home.

Andrew Reid appeared on the Fifteen to One.

Simon Bradley appeared on Blockbusters.

Toby Townsend has multiple credits as an extra, including Coronation Street and Hollyoaks.

Chantelle Bamford also has multiple credits as an extra including EastEnders, Casualty, Preston Front, Dalziel & Pascoe and Hollyoaks.

Tom Russell has been interviewed on Steph's Packed Lunch.

Nick Webb was on University Challenge, back in the days of Bamber Gascoigne.

Tim Sands and his short-lived hut were on George Clarke's Amazing Spaces.

Danny Chow was interviewed on ITV News about mental health issues for the Ambulance Service.

Graham Hull was on Antiques Road Trip as an audience member.

Ian Gibson played piano on an item for Jim'll Fix It (but didn't meet the notorious presenter!)

Matt Edgar and **Steph De Carpentier** had starring roles in My School Prom, a BBC3 documentary featuring the 2010 Sixth Form Ball.

Andy Traviss featured on ITV's TT Blues about policing the Isle of Man TT.

Mel Smith met Phil Schofield on The Cube.

Nigel Pearson was on Eggheads.

Melissa McCarthy was an extra on Shameless and Waterloo Road.

Mark McQueen (who works in TV production) has doubled for Matt Le Blanc's finger and appeared as Man United's Fred the Red.

Before finding fame in professional rugby, **Kieran Brooks** was pushed through a hedge as an extra at David Platt's party on Coronation Street.

Ray Allger was interviewed by the Evening Gazette queuing overnight for Oasis tickets at the Winter Gardens.

Amy Randall was an extra in Nativity 4.

Graham Nash won Countdown.

Chris Grime was interviewed on Adrian Chiles' Working Lunch.

Richard Turner hosted Chris Evans as Station Commander of RAF Scampton for a Dambusters 70th Anniversary Special.

Keith Aitchison appeared on Rugby Special playing for Coventry in around 1976.

Gary McIlraith presented Ding Junhui with the Masters Snooker Championship trophy live on BBC as CEO of sponsors Ladbrokes.

Ian Scott appeared on BBCs Tonight way back in 1962 as a 10 year old, protesting to the Chancellor about a tax on sweets.

Robert Wood, Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, has appeared on many radio and TV interviews.

KGS Choir conducted by **Andrew Barratt** featured on ITV's My Favourite Hymns from St Walburge's Church Preston in 2003.

Most recently, **Sir Kevan Collins** found fame and admiration following his resignation as the government's education recovery commissioner.

And the author of this article has become a bit of a media junkie in retirement: as well as winning Pointless, he has popped up on Sky News and various local radio interviews as a campaigner for access to diabetes technology in recent years, appeared on local radio during Ranvir Singh's run on Strictly and most recently was on Jeremy Vine to talk about Kirkham's twin towns.

We are sure that there are many, many more such stories. Do feel free to share them with the Association!

Adrian Long



Rugby Achievements for our Old Kirkhamians

After such a difficult year with Covid 19, it is good to see so many Old Kirkhamians progressing well in the rugby world. Sale Sharks new Director of Rugby is former KGS 1st XV Captain, Alex Sanderson (1997-98), who has already made a major impact on The Sharks recent improvement in the Premiership. Under his care, recent 1st XV players; Aaron Reed (1st XV 2015-17), Connor Doherty (1st XV 2016-18), Sam Dugdale (1st XV 2015-18) and Kieran Wilkinson (1st XV 2015-18) have made appearances in the Sale First Team over the last few months.

Whilst at Leicester Tigers, Richard Wigglesworth (1st XV 1999-2001) continues to set records with an astonishing number of appearances in the Premier League of English rugby. Also at Tigers, Daniel Kelly (1st XV Captain 2018-19) has made rapid progress with numerous starts for Tigers in both Europe and the Premiership. His progress has been so dramatic that he has been called up to the full England Squad for test matches this summer. Former England International, Kieran Brookes (1st XV 2006-2009) has also continued his career with Wasps often starting as first choice prop. He now moves to Toulon for the next few

seasons to enjoy the weather in the South of France.

Kieran Marmion (1st XV 2008-10) is still at Pro 14 Club Connacht in Ireland, although for the first time in a while he did not appear in Ireland's Six Nations Squad. For the second Olympic Games running, Daniel Bibby was selected to represent Team GB in Tokyo, after gaining a silver medal in Rio. Hopes were high after reaching the semi-final that he could add a further medal to his collection, but unfortunately the Team GB 7s finished in fourth place. It will be interesting to see whether Daniel continues to be part of the World 7s circuit or retires after a number of outstanding years.

It is also good to see local teams to KGS appointing former KGS old boys as Captains, as is the case at Fylde RUFC who have chosen Ben Gregory (1st XV 2014-16) to lead them this season. Finally, the selection of three of last year's 1st XV, Corey Bowker (1st XV 2018-20), Elliot Gourlay (1st XV 2018-20) and Oliver Leatherbarrow (1st XV 2018-20) into Scotland's Under 20 Six Nations Squad for this summer's tournament is another excellent achievement for the school.



Letter from the President, Michael J Ward (1983-1990)

"Then my whole world went Zoom"

Not my words, but those of the great US songwriter, Len Barry who penned these words giving drummer Fat Larry and his band a huge hit in 1982. Soon after, I started at KGS, unaware of the meanings of words such as 'pandemic' and 'lockdown' but was aware that there was a great plague in 1665 that was wiped out by the Great Fire of London. This was general history, things of the past that we would never believe we would experience.

Here I am, nearly 40 years later and our world has gone 'Zoom', not quickly as the true definition of this word describes but as the current way that we do business. Our world has become that of a computer-based screen experience, trying to recreate the old world of normality online. Family quizzes, Skype calls, Facetimes and many work meetings have become the norm, making us think how we ever managed in the land before Zoom. However, things are changing, and it all feels like the old normal is returning: congested motorways, non-lockdown weather and more importantly for us, the return of real face-to-face social events within the OKA.

Many social events have been planned and rescheduled, such as the annual cricket match which hopefully will take place in early September at Kirkham and Wesham Cricket Club. After the summer

holidays, the school will be in a much better position to know what we can do and things such as the Northern Dinner, which is normally held in mid-October can be planned in a way that the maximum number of guests can safely enjoy and would cause the least disruption to the school. Like all schools, KGS is clearly under an enormous amount of pressure to ensure that the curriculum, exam timetable and the annual calendar of key events is adhered to and maintained. The dinner may move to the New Year as that would be better for the Catering Department but that will be confirmed in due course.

We can therefore look forward to meeting again but to quote another great song "don't know where, don't know when". The OKA Committee will update you all with any news by newsletter or social media whether it be on the Facebook page or on Twitter and hope that we can meet again face-to-face in the Autumn Term.



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Old School Tie: Alice Allen

Some Basic Facts

1. **Your Name** - Alice Allen
2. **Your Job** - Store Manager
3. **The Company Name** - Marks and Spencer
4. **What do you do** - Food, Clothing and Home Retail! I'm sure you've all heard of them!
5. **Where do you live** - Islington, London

60 Seconds

1. **What car do you drive?** - I take the Tube! Usually the Victoria line!
2. **Married or single?** - I'm definitely too young to be married!!!
3. **Favourite sport?** Is shopping a sport?
4. **Favourite team?** I feel like my allegiances have to side with PNE - you can take the girl out of the North...
5. **Last Holiday?** COVID has obviously ruined all of my holiday plans. Just a trip to the Costa Brava in Spain with my family, however, it was far too long ago for my liking!

The Old Days

1. **What years were you at KGS?** 2007-2014
2. **What is your best memory of those days?** Probably summer term, spending our breaks on the fields in the sun. I also loved CCF summer camps!
3. **Who was the most influential person at school that helped you succeed?** Mr Long! He gave me so much help and advice to help me decide what to study at university and opened my eyes to different career paths - I definitely wouldn't have the job I do without his sound advice.
4. **What was your first job?** Whilst in Sixth Form, I had a part time job working at a Moto service station - I worked at both Burger King and Costa Coffee. I learned so many valuable retail skills that have definitely impacted the kind of manager I am today.
5. **What is your degree in if you have one?** I studied Sociology with Criminology at the University of York.
6. **What do you wish you had been told that would have helped you the most?** It's okay to not know what you want out of your life, or what career you want to have! There are so many different options and possibilities out there that you won't have had exposure to yet, so don't narrow yourself down too soon!

Don't just make a decision based on what you see others doing, what you think others will think of you or what you think is going to look impressive on your CV. Everybody's ideals of success are different so stay true to yourself and don't just follow what seems cool or acceptable in the moment! Do things you are genuinely interested in.

And now to Business

1. **Tell us about your job, what do you do?** I am responsible for my very own M&S shop! It's up to me to make sure the shop makes money and hits its sales plan, whilst also saving costs on things like staffing, energy and stock loss. I would say 80% of my job is managing people - I spend a lot of time up-skilling and empowering my colleagues to carry out tasks alongside performance managing colleagues who aren't meeting the mark.
 2. **How did you come to have a career in this particular industry?** After university, I applied for the graduate scheme at M&S and my career has developed from there. I always knew I wanted a job that involved meeting and interacting with an array of people from different social and cultural backgrounds and I dreaded the thought of a job that would see me sitting in the same environment doing the same mundane tasks for the rest of my working life!
 3. **What has been the biggest challenge in the last 12 months?** Adapting and reacting to situations with pace, especially when having to make decisions without any clear finish line. Working in retail during COVID has brought about so many unique challenges, from managing colleagues who are scared to be in work and potentially catch a deadly virus or even lose their jobs, to running a shop that has had to close 75% of its trading space due to restricting on selling non essential items or even having to deal with customers who are fighting over the last packet of toilet roll!
 4. **What is your best tip on how to succeed in business?** Get to genuinely know the people you work with, in particular, those that work for you - people work for people so it is invaluable to have your team on your side.
- Other than that my biggest tip is to never go to somebody (like your manager) with a problem, only ever go with a solution! If you can, offer up two solutions and put the ball in their court to decide the best course of action. Even if neither of your solutions is chosen, at least you've engaged with the problem rather than leaving your manager to think you've not



even attempted to fix the issue.

5. **Do you take risks in business?** I find that often, the only way to really find out if something is going to work, is to try it. That's not to say you should go into something blind, but take a bit of an educated guess!
 6. **What business tool couldn't you live without?** It's very basic, but, Microsoft To-Do. Never underestimate the importance of writing down the daily and weekly actions you need to achieve. I find that sitting down at the beginning of the week and really planning what I need to achieve helps me to set really clear goals and hit my targets.
 7. **Do you use Social Media in business and what works best for you?** I have a Facebook page and a Tik Tok that I use to promote my shop and the products we sell - getting involved with current trends always helps me increase my reach and grow my audience. However, for me personally, social media has been invaluable in helping me connect with peers in similar roles to share best practices and improve my retail skills.
 8. **What are some trends in your industry that you're excited about or think that our readers should be paying attention to?** A digital first approach is transforming the retail industry. Think Amazon Fresh, walking into a shop and walking right out without having to wait in a queue to pay or scan your own shopping! Or digital services that make it easier to shop from the comfort of your own home, such as online bra fitting services and Virtual Reality furniture shopping where you can visualise the sofa in your own home.
- And finally, if someone wanted to get in touch how could they do that?**
Email me at alicerachelallen@virginmedia.com or message me on LinkedIn.



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