

Kirkham Grammar School

Headmaster's Letter to Parents

Spring 2003

SUCCESS BREEDS SUCCESS

The term has exhibited the real all round nature of life here at Kirkham Grammar School alongside the clear harmony between the old and the new. Pride of place must go to our successful Oxbridge applicants who represent a year group of whom we have high hopes. This academic success is the bedrock upon which all other achievements can be

sportsmen and women have had yet another busy term.

Music has brought great pleasure to us all this term under the new leadership of Mr Barratt. The Normandy Band Concert offered our band a wonderful opportunity to perform with

professional musicians while the House Music Competition showed the wealth of talent present in the school. This talent showed full expression in the Music Festival and Spring Concert both of which were supported by sizeable and very appreciative audiences. Our musicians have adapted well to the new regime and it is pleasing to see Mr Barratt and Mr Andrews settling in so well and receiving such support from the musical team.



added and in this my first year at Kirkham Grammar School I am pleased to have this opportunity to offer congratulations.

Fundamental to the ethos of the school, however, is the breadth of opportunity and this term has exemplified this holistic approach. The varied achievements have been too many to highlight all in this brief report but our girls have excelled once again on the hockey front reaching National finals at U14 level and divisional finals at U13 level. The fact that eleven teams have also taken the field representing the school is equally pleasing. The boys, determined not to be outdone, have reached two County finals at U13 and U14 level while the Sevens teams have amassed three trophies and a number of final appearances. With further success for Richard Newton at the English Schools' Cross Country, active netball and hockey teams and the sound of bat on ball beginning to be heard, our

This willingness to adapt to new initiative has shown itself in other areas and pupils are benefiting from the new Science Club and the Maths Challenge. Our entry into the University Maths Competition has seen five of our pupils attain National gold awards and one, Joanne Box, move on to the European Competition. Equally our new website develops apace and we look forward to its official launch in May under the guiding hand of Mr Gardiner who has created this key educational tool.

This term has reinforced any initial impression of a community in burgeoning health and determined to maintain the evolution of recent years based upon the formidable all round talents of its pupils which have so enriched this busy period.



KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWS

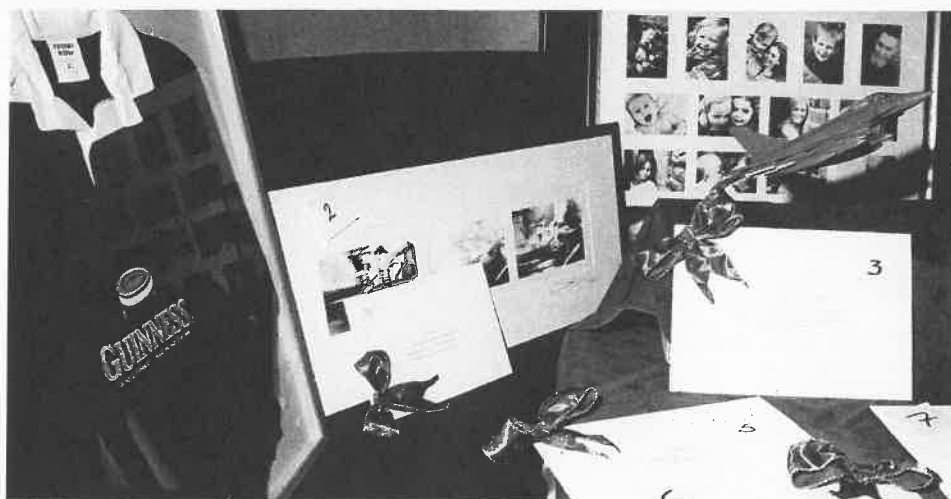


Five of our Upper Sixth students secured conditional offers from Oxford and Cambridge colleges at the end of last term, and all are now working hard to ensure that they clinch their place among the dreaming spires.

The five represent an impressive breadth of subjects, which says much about the all-round academic strength of the current Sixth Form: School Captain Rachael Horton has an offer from St Edmund Hall, Oxford to read Earth Sciences; Carl Hodgkinson has an offer from Jesus College, Oxford, to read Physics; Jane Armer has an offer from New College, Oxford, to read Physiological Sciences; and Felicity Long has an offer from Exeter College, Oxford, to read Modern Languages (French with Czech). Meanwhile, Tegan Roberts has an offer from St Catherine's College, Cambridge, to read Chemical Engineering.

We wish them all every success in their A2 examinations this Summer, along with all their colleagues in the Upper Sixth, who have secured an impressive array of offers in a variety of subjects at a variety of universities.

DEVELOPMENT



"THIS'LL BE THE NIGHT" - APPEAL AUCTION DINNER
15 MARCH 2003 PARADISE ROOMS

A concerted effort and a lot of hard work during the past months from fellow Auction Dinner Committee members, has led to a resoundingly successful Auction Dinner, held in the Paradise Rooms at the Blackpool Pleasure Beach on Saturday 15 March 2003. Paul Crook, our marvellous Master of Ceremonies on the night, has been the main motivating element since the idea was hatched over a year ago, in the Headmaster's study!

Over £20,000 was raised towards the School's Development Appeal and a further £8,000 was raised for Pear Tree School for which specific items were auctioned during the evening, including a signed pair of David Beckham's boots. We are grateful to all the individuals and companies who so generously donated articles allowing us to put together more than 20 auction prizes and over 150 raffle prizes, which helped make the evening so successful. Helpers from Pear Tree School mingled with our own and relentlessly sold over 750 raffle tickets, helped during the bidding for the auction items and distributed prizes throughout the evening

STAFF

MR ANDREW BARRATT

We are delighted to welcome Mr Barratt to Kirkham Grammar School to take over from Mr John Catterall as Director of Music. He joins us from King Edward and Queen Mary School where he taught for twenty seven years; with twenty two of those as Head of Music at Queen Mary School and then a further three years as Director of the combined schools' music provision.

While Mr Catterall is a tough act to follow, Mr Barratt's qualifications as a graduate of The Royal Academy of Music made him an ideal candidate and I know he relishes the challenge. His participation in the locality and the musical world brings to Kirkham Grammar School a wealth of expertise and experience from which our pupils will gain a great deal. This is evident in his work with the Lytham St Annes Choral Society and other local choral and operatic societies.

Already Mr Barratt has made his mark with a successful Spring Concert and an exciting evening with the Normandy Band. He now guides the choir on to television where they will appear on Granada TV. We hope Mr Barratt will be very happy at Kirkham and we are delighted to have Andrew and his wife Pippa as part of the Kirkham Grammar School community.

It has been nice also to welcome Mr Chris Andrews who has had the unenviable task of replacing Mr Richard Evans.

Student Teachers

We welcome three more student teachers from St Martin's College, Lancaster. Miss Oliphant, Miss Patel and Mr Russell are working with the Geography, English and History Departments as part of their PGCE course. The School has benefited from the partnership with St Martin's over the years: students bring new ideas and approaches, and help to keep us up to date with the latest developments in pedagogy. In return, we hope to provide a supportive environment in which the students can develop their teaching skills, under the close supervision of our team of experienced mentors.

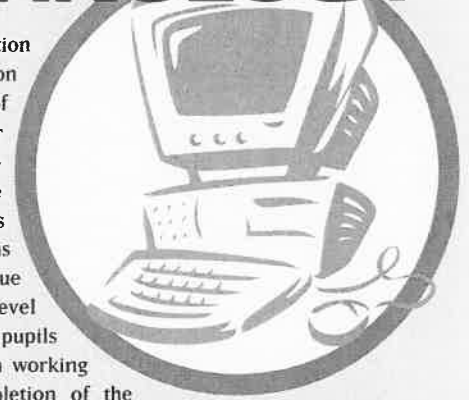
The generous support from our sponsors should not be overlooked, so a big thank you to: BAE SYSTEMS and WORLD UFO CENTRES, along with BOWKER BMW, PROMETHEUS LTD and DENFORD and of course to all the companies who took tables on the night and whose bidding made the evening so successful. The live band: "That'll Be The Day" was fantastic and - almost - everyone finished the evening dancing between the tables, some even on them, to music from the 60's, 70's and 80's. Our guests clearly had a good time and helped make the evening such a memorable one!

Thank you to Phil (Garlington) for agreeing to bring his camera, even though he was one of the guests. Thank you to Rosemary Cartwright, who has so remarkably chaired the Committee from the start and kept us all on track with her enthusiasm and motivation. And finally thank you to Paul Crook, without whom this whole event would never have come about!

Frances Piercy, Development Office

TECHNOLOGY

The main concentration this term has been on the completion of project work for both GCSE and A-level courses. The number of projects to be managed has increased greatly due to the new A-level system, and both pupils and staff have been working hard towards completion of the practical work. The deadlines approach us quickly next term.



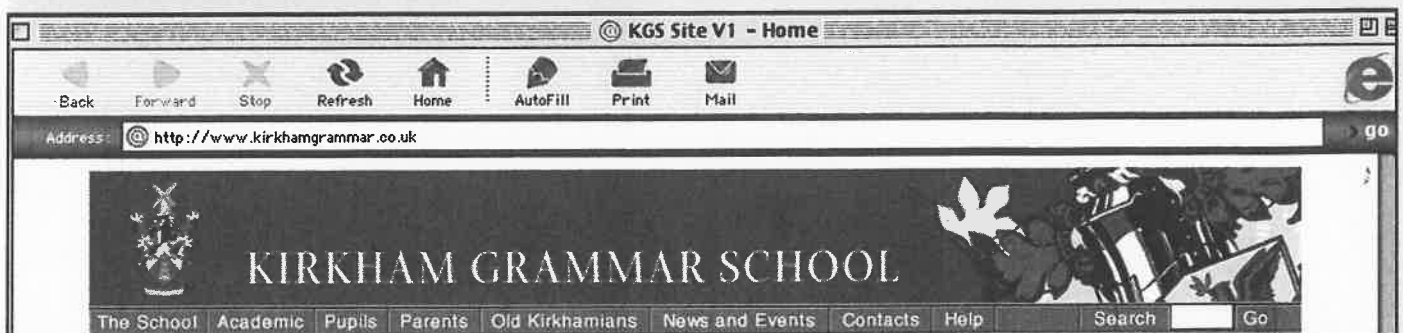
At the start of the term, Steve Crowther, the Director of Technology, once again represented BAE SYSTEMS in their training programmes abroad. This time teacher training was held in the Qatar capital of Doha in the Gulf. The training, in computer aided design and manufacture, was once again well received by the delegates, and enthusiastically endorsed by the Emir of Qatar. The Emir's wife, who is Director of the Qatar Academy where the training was held, visited the delegates and looked at the work produced.

A small dedicated group of 3rd year technologists have been working hard on the 'Technology' content of the school website. They have documented the design and manufacture of the F1 in Schools Competition. They have drawn on their previous experiences as entrants in this competition. The site will be an inspiration to pupils wanting to get involved with the design and manufacture of CO₂ cars. Already an enthusiastic team of 1st years have formed a team and will be entering the competition for 2003. They are just beginning to put together a team identity and starting to put some preliminary designs on paper, before they transfer them to the computer in the form of 3D models. Each member of the team will manufacture a car, the one chosen to enter the competition will come from a race off between team members. We look forward to their design and development work.



'Web Wizards'.....

SchoolWEBSITE



The website moves on at a pace. Mr Gardiner now has a team of "Web Wizards" who have been trained to input information, construct new pages, sections and upload pages to the website. The team of three - Will Bruton, Phillip Hingley and Michael Walker (above photo) have tackled various sections within the site and are in the process of developing the School's Houses pages.

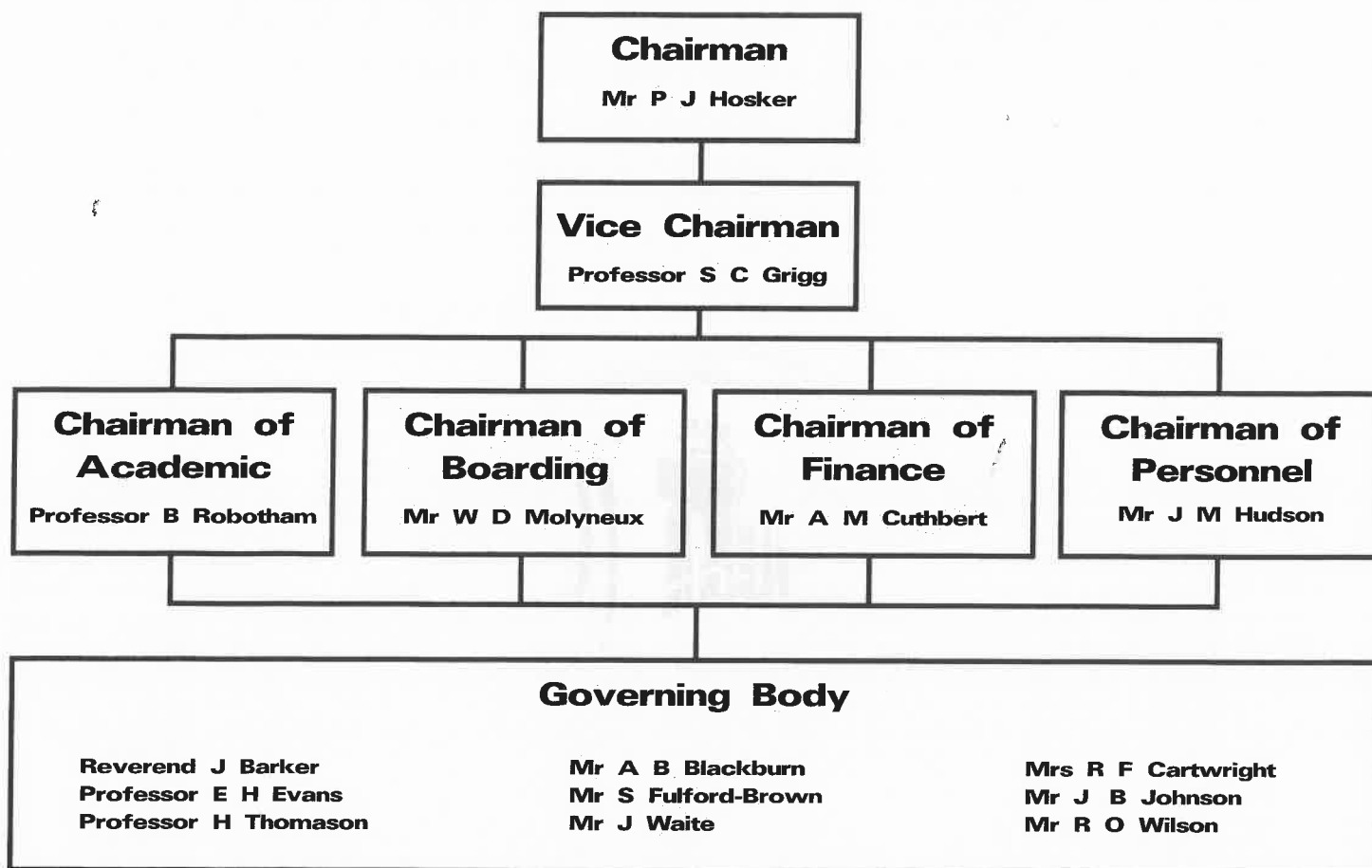
A number of staff have undertaken training on how to use the content management of the site and are actively updating their areas of concern. Mr Scott and Mr Long are two members of staff who have spent many an hour building in information for the Geography and French Departments.

The site now has an up-to-date calendar section, which is updated when the term's dates are set out at the beginning of the term. Links can jump to specific items such as Parents' Evenings, House events etc.

It is our intention to provide a thorough service to all our pupils and parents over the coming months. On May 14th we will be officially launching the site, with the "Web Wizards" taking an active role in the morning's proceedings.

An Introduction to the Governors of Kirkham Grammar School

The work behind the scenes of the Governing Body often goes unnoticed so this is an opportunity to introduce the members of this group who work so hard on behalf of the school in so many different ways.



PETER HOSKER CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNORS

Mr Hosker attended Kirkham Grammar School between 1951-58 and went on to read Law at Manchester University, qualifying in 1964. Married to Julie for over 37 years, Mr Hosker has practised in Preston and brought up his family in the area. President of the Old Kirkhamians' Association in 1975 he became a Governor in 1976 and played a key role in leading the school to Independence in 1979. Mr Hosker served as Chairman between 1984 and 1991 and has been Vice Chairman between 1997-2002. His professional career has culminated in being Senior Partner at Napthens Solicitors in Preston and he has served as Deputy District Chairman of the Lord Chancellor's Appeals Service in 1995. A founder President of his Rotary Club, Mr Hosker has recently taken up a voluntary role as Chairman of the Preston AvenCentral Regeneration Board and Partnership promoting the regeneration of central areas of Preston. This is in addition to his new role as Chairman of Governors at Kirkham Grammar School.

PROFESSOR STEPHEN GRIGG VICE CHAIRMAN

After graduating from Loughborough University, Steve Grigg entered the teaching profession and taught at William Hulme Grammar School in Manchester and Stonyhurst College. Following eleven years of teaching, during which he liaised closely with Industry and Government and held positions of Chief Examiner and Advisor, he was appointed

Principal Designate of one of the City Technology Colleges. During this period the Government decided that his skills would be better used more widely, consequently, he became Director for Education Industry Partnerships. This position brought him into contact with Industry and he joined British Aerospace as Head of Human Resources in February 1992 to further their education aims.

The successful implementation of a Totally Integrated Education Policy led to Steve taking the full responsibility for education on a corporate basis as Director of Education Liaison, British Aerospace plc, from November 1994.

In recognition of his contributions to education and innovations in industry, Loughborough University of Technology awarded him a Chair as Professor of Industrial Education in association with the School of Engineering.

Steve is a member of the DTI Export Group, and Chairman of the Southern Africa Board.

In his current role, he works extensively with overseas Governments in a series of social-economic enhancement partnerships, which currently spread across the Middle East, Far East, Australia, Southern Africa, Central Europe, Brazil and Chile.

PROFESSOR BARBARA ROBOTHAM CHAIRMAN OF THE ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Professor Robotham enjoyed a busy international career as an opera and concert singer making regular broadcasts and recordings.

She joined the staff of Lancaster University as Professor of Voice in 1972, and the Royal Northern College of Music in

1979, where she still lectures. She has been associated with and regularly worked as external examiner at other major institutions such as Sheffield University, Salford University, The Royal Academy of Music, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and Chethams School.

Professor Robotham was made Honorary Fellow of RCM in 1967 for her services to singing, and Honorary Fellow of RNCM in 1993 for her services to teaching. In 1998 she was made Honorary Fellow of the University of Central Lancashire for her services to music.

A former Chairman of Governors, Professor Robotham currently chairs the Academic Committee of the Governing Body.

BILL MOLYNEUX CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARDING COMMITTEE

Mr Molyneux was educated at Kennington Road County Primary School, Fulwood, Preston and Horncliffe House, Blackburn before entering School House as a boarder in 1954. He left in 1961 having gained his First XV rugby colours and captaining the school Second XV in order to enter articles with a local Preston firm of Solicitors. Following qualification as a Solicitor he joined his present firm in 1969. He was President of the Old Boys' Association 1976-77 and has been a Governor of the Kirkham Educational Foundation since and is currently Chairman of the Boarding House and Legal Committees.

MIKE CUTHBERT
CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mike Cuthbert is a parent of former pupils Gerard (1985-90) and Jenny (1987-94). He was co-opted to the Governing Body in 1993 and became Chairman of Finance and Development in 1998.

Educated at De La Salle College, Salford and Durham University. Trained in accountancy at Peat, Marwick and Mitchell (now KPMG) in Leeds. Set up accountancy practice in Bolton in 1974 and Chorley in 1982. Retired from practice in 1999 and moved from Chorley to Bilsborrow in 2001 with his wife Carol.

Carol and Mike were one of three sets of parents who helped fund-raise, organize and eventually travel with the KGS Hockey Squad to Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and the USA in 1992.

MIKE HUDSON
CHAIRMAN OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mr Hudson is a Yorkshireman who achieved his degree at Leeds University in 1961. Working in Engineering and Chemical Industries in the North of England in his earlier years he became Production and Personnel Director at Richard Baxendale and Sons Limited for fifteen years. During this period Mr. Hudson was also Governor of three state schools, each for a period of four years. Achieving Chartered Engineer status (C.Eng.) Mr Hudson became Chairman of Preston and District Training Group Limited from 1988-1996. He joined the Governing Body in 1993 and became Chairman of Personnel in 1996.

REVEREND JULIAN BARKER

Reverend Barker was educated at Summer Fields, Oxford and Sedbergh before gaining a place at Magdalen College, Cambridge to read History. Two years National Service interrupted his university career when he served with the Suffolk Regiment spending one year in Cyprus.

On deciding to be ordained Reverend Barker spent two years at Theological College. Career development progressed from Curate in Stafford to Chaplain at Clare College, Cambridge before marriage and teaching at St Augustine's in Canterbury. After leading a team of parishes in Norfolk Reverend Barker is now Vicar of Repton where he has worked since 1982 combining three village parishes.

He was appointed as Governor of Kirkham Grammar School by the Drapers' Company which is one of the London livery companies. Work in this capacity has involved involvement in the Grants and Welfare Committee additional to visits to almshouses and associated duties.

ALLAN BLACKBURN

Mr Blackburn was born in Clitheroe and educated at Earnseat School, Arncliffe and The Leys School, Cambridge. Married to Gloria since 1971, they have three children, James (KGS 1986-91), Dawn (KGS 1992-8) and Melanie who attends Pear Tree School in Kirkham. Mr Blackburn joined the family textile company in 1965, was appointed Joint Managing Director in 1978 but left to form his own business with wife Gloria in 1990. G.B. Antiques Limited is now the largest antiques centre within the UK. The business now includes James and Dawn in an extensive operation incorporating two further companies within the Lancaster area.

Mr Blackburn hosts a regular Antiques Roadshow on Radio Lancashire and his 'live' roadshows are in demand across Lancashire.

Mr Blackburn joined the Governors in 1992 and served as Chairman of Development between 1993 and 1997 and Chairman of Governors between 1997-2002.

A talented sportsman Mr Blackburn played hockey for Preston from 1963-8 and represented Lancashire on 23

occasions. He managed his County to its last Championship triumph in 1985 and assisted in coaching the Kirkham Grammar School 1st XI from 1991-99. During this period Mr Blackburn was President of the Lancashire Association (1995-6) and recently represented the English Hockey Association on the organising committee of the Commonwealth Games.

MRS ROSEMARY CARTWRIGHT

Born in Nottinghamshire Mrs Cartwright attended St Michael's Burton Park, Petworth. She trained as a Private Secretary at Christie College, Cheltenham and subsequently worked for a series of International Companies including Boots; Larry Smith and Associates - Real Estate; Amoco International and Armitage Brothers.

Mrs Cartwright is now a self-employed Managing Agent of privately owned Commercial Business Parks and has been involved in this role since 1989. Within the Governing Body Mrs Cartwright is a member of the Finance and Development Committee; Personnel Committee and recently Chairman of the Appeal Steering Committee. Her work has not been limited to the Governors, as previously a parent of two children at the school Mrs Cartwright was Chairman of the Friends.

PROFESSOR HILARY EVANS

Professor Hilary Evans is Professor of Biochemistry and Director of the School of Biomolecular Sciences at Liverpool John Moores University. Having achieved a BSc at the University of Bristol she worked at the University of Liverpool and Lancashire Polytechnic. Interest in both research and teaching has led to service on a national research and teaching panel, various research council committees and appointment as a university teaching quality assessor. Professor Evans has had two daughters at Kirkham Grammar School who are both now at university (Oxford and UMIST). She serves on two academic committees in her role as Governor at school.

SIMON FULFORD-BROWN

Simon Fulford-Brown was appointed as a Governor in 2001. Although originally from this area Simon spent twenty five years based in London and America working in the shipping industry. For the last ten years of this time he was Chief Executive of an International Cruise Line. Simon and his family have been back in the Fylde since 1993. His business interests now are primarily involved with Commercial Property Investment. Simon has three children at Kirkham Grammar School at varying stages of their education. Although having attended nine consecutive Nativity Plays/Carol Services as a Junior School parent this will be the last in such a capacity! For a number of years Simon and his wife have been committee members of the Friends of Kirkham Grammar. He maintains an active interest in all aspects of the school and is keen to see KGS continue to move forward.

BARRY JOHNSON

Mr Johnson boarded at the Kirkham Grammar School for seven years and professes to have only one claim to fame, which was to represent the school at every sport.

He graduated from Liverpool University as a vet and became President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1993. He is currently Chairman of the RCVS Education Committee.

Father of six sons, four of whom have attended the school with the youngest one entering the Sixth Form in September 2002.

PROFESSOR HARRY THOMASON

Professor Thomason has held senior management positions in universities for the last 20 years. At Loughborough University he has had 15 years experience in varying roles as a Pro-Vice-Chancellor, introducing and leading strategic planning, resource management appraisal and staff development. He is currently Pro-Vice-Chancellor for External Relations, primarily initiating and developing relationships with industry, commerce and government, both at home and overseas.

As leader of the university's external interface, he has spent the last ten years working with senior staff in large companies, exploring and implementing new approaches to corporate education, training and continuous professional development. He has been intimately involved in collaborative partnerships with major companies including Ford, BAE SYSTEMS, Lotus, Rolls Royce, Accenture, and Thomas Cook.

He has been an advisor to the Singapore Ministry of Education and helped them to implement the setting up of their National Institute of Education. He has worked extensively with the Egyptian Government on the development of a new technological university.

Professor Thomason is a graduate in Human Biology and Physiology. He led a large research group in underwater science and technology supporting the oil industry, and was the founding Professor and Head of Department of Sport Science at Loughborough, which is now internationally regarded as the top university in this field. As an architect for new approaches to corporate learning, his expertise and knowledge at the interface between academia and industry, commerce and government is well recognised and much sought after.

JOHN WAITE

Mr Waite is an old boy of Kirkham Grammar School (1942-47) who entered the aircraft industry as a student apprentice at English Electric, Preston. After achieving an HNC in Mechanical Engineering he progressed to Sheffield University to study Applied Mechanics. Mr Waite spent many years within the aircraft industry progressing to Head Accident Investigator and being awarded the MBE in 1974. Further contributions to the Tornado project and as Director General at British Aerospace Projects for Military Aircraft. Mr Waite became a Governor in 1974 and was Chairman between 1991-96.

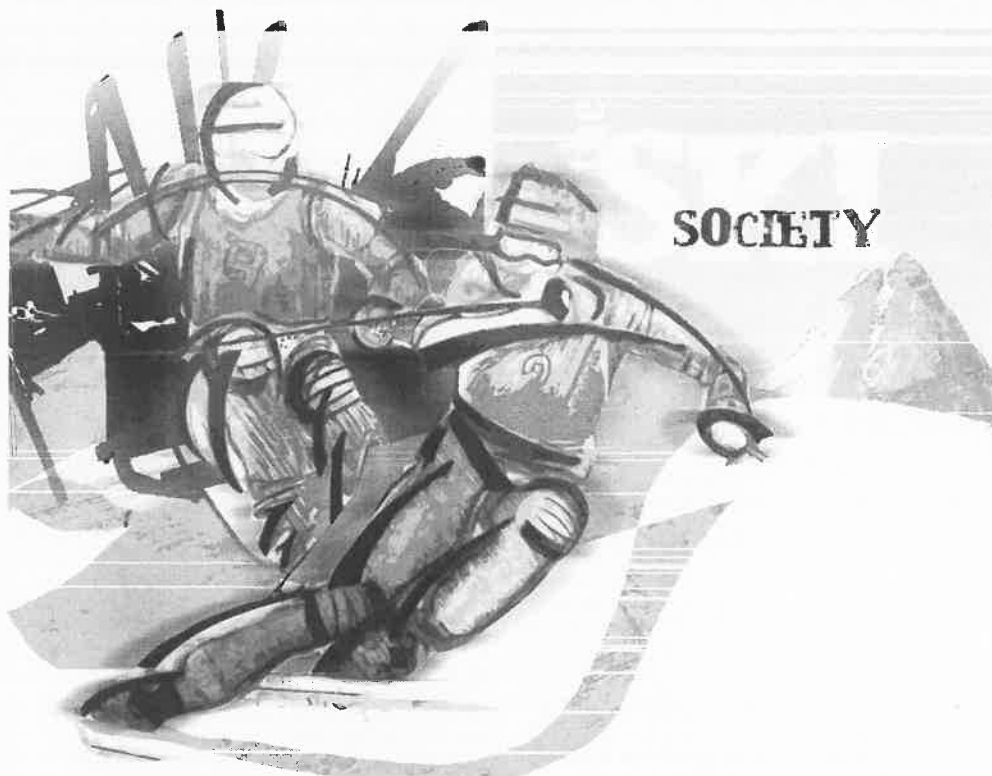
RICHARD WILSON

Mr Wilson was a pupil at Kirkham Grammar School between 1929 and 1935, becoming School Captain in his final year. Subsequently he became President of the Old Kirkhamians Association and has been a Governor since 1970.

Mr Wilson has seventy years unbroken connection with Kirkham Grammar School and his son David attended the school. He is a retired banker, and ex-church warden who served in the Royal Navy during the Second World War. He has since served as President of BLESMA (British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association). He is now the proud grandfather of four grandchildren.



KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWS



Valloire FRANCE



Yes, it was meant to be Chatel, but at very short notice Mr Scott was informed of a change in location due to the lack of snow in the Northern Alps. Valloire, a very attractive French 'Station Village' in the Savoie Alps and the Hotel Touring, was the new venue. KGS Ski Society had visited here at Easter in 1992 and so some of the older staff remembered it.

With apprehension the information was passed on to parents, friends and relatives at 3.30 am when departure was due from school at 4.45 am for an early morning flight to Geneva. It was also a slightly longer transfer time so arrival at the resort was later in the afternoon than expected. The hotel staff were very obliging, as they were all week, and provided a late lunch for us and started ski fitting very efficiently. With it being so early in the season, much of the equipment was brand new and in excellent condition. Terry and Tom, the ski techs, were a great help and even escorted us to the ski school every morning and checked on the gear. Even so, some people still took the wrong boots or skis and some even forgot their ski pass – Mrs Walker!

It was during this first afternoon that the party, (mainly of years 2 to 4, and over 50% were complete novices) discovered the delights of the mountain village. Crepes and pommes frites could be purchased, in Euros of course, and there was a multitude of shops for gifts and sweets. The 'Village Trail' organised by our rep. Savannah, after the evening meal also allowed more discovery of the festive sights and atmosphere of Valloire. How did Mr Scott and Doc Hall manage to get

lost when they were the only ones who had been there before?

The next morning was absolutely idyllic. It had snowed overnight and the village streets were beautiful and untouched until KGS discovered the fun of snowballing before breakfast.

At least 20 cm of fresh snow had fallen on the ski slopes and even the absolute beginners realised how much more forgiving powder is and easy to learn on. The party was assessed on ski ability and there was a small advanced group with Tristan Brooke indicating that he had spent time skiing in France before. About 10 were intermediate skiers but the vast majority were beginners. So good were the conditions that on the first day, in the afternoon lessons all the groups were at the top of the mountain, skiing Le Crey du Quart at over 2500 metres! This was certainly remembered by the likes of Jennie Ireland and Jemma Thackray. The staff's help was much appreciated by the ski school in picking up the debris of bodies on the first run down, however by the end of the week all were flying down the mountain with great speed and control. The steep learning curve of youngsters on skis was a joy to see and all of them progressed to a very competent standard amazingly quickly.

So good were the ski conditions, (it snowed again on the second night) that Rob Sissons, Jamie Best and Jonathan Knowles all graduated to the intermediate group in a couple of days. Later on in the week the beginners were seen hurtling down red runs in the full racing tuck!

After the lessons Mr Scott, (our Alpine Ski Leader), took any volunteers for an extra run or two before lunch or before the lifts closed in the afternoon. Some great falls were observed and certificates were awarded accordingly after the evening meal every night. It was terrific fun skiing and falling in the powder but difficult to put skis back on and impossible to locate your ski sometimes, yes Robert? Thanks must go to little Joe Leeming for finding it.

It was because of the good conditions that accidents, fortunately, were very few. Maddie Eaves did strain a ligament landing after a jump but rest and physiotherapy allowed her to ski again before the end of the week. Unfortunately Mrs Walker's innocuous slip on the third day put her out of action on the slopes for the rest of the week. The only other casualty was Tristan who broke a finger on the bum-boarding night but the excellent French medical services put it in a splint that would not affect his skiing.

The other evenings' entertainment was also good fun. Some of the older staff rediscovered their skills at ten-pin bowling. (Mr Scott won overall!) We had a slumber party in the dining room and watched some great videos. We had a quiz night and some wanted to go bowling again. After the final night's presentation of ski certificates by the Ecole du Ski Français, we went to Le Village, the local disco for our last night out. This enabled some of the girls to dress in clothes more suited to Tokyo Joe's rather than the sub-zero temperatures experienced in the mountains. Frostbite of the navel was a distinct possibility! An early night was really needed before we set off back at 3.30 am the next morning but some of the party had to have just one more crepe before departure!

Despite the concern over the changed location this proved to be one of the best ski holidays in recent years. The location, hotel, staff, ski conditions and even the food (yes, we did have frogs legs!) were all very good. Thanks must go to Ski Partners and all the staff involved at the Hotel Touring for their help and service. However, thanks must go to all KGS staff who gave up the first week of their Christmas break to accompany this first ever, juniors-only ski trip, especially Mr Scott who, as party leader, does all the organisation and paperwork and to Doc Hall who organises Ski Clobber and runs the bank.

La Molina SPAIN

Yes, one usually associates Spain with the Costas and a Summer holiday. But this February half term a group of 31 senior pupils and four staff flew out to Barcelona, heading for Alp 2500 and the ski station of Masella in the Pyrenees.

BMIbaby from East Midlands, (another first), was our departure point, so early in the morning we assembled at KGS for the coach to Nottingham. Alex Dunn had to be reminded that the M55 turn off was number 32 and not the next one! Claire Taylor performed well as the register monitor that morning but eventually, after James Leeming arrived, late again, we departed.

All went well at check-in, no delays or lost luggage, or students (we found Marie and the Hookeys there), but on arrival in Spain the immigration authorities took a dislike to Sharon Tsang's passport and were about to refuse her admission! Mr Scott intervened and assured them that the Spanish embassy in London had said it was OK. They relented and showed us a lengthy form, which they thought we should have completed before departure.

We arrived at the Hotel Alp in Masella and that was what it was – a hotel and a few other time-shares. No shops, cafes, bars or any other entertainment! The hotel was huge (5 other English schools and too many very noisy Spanish children). The food, however, was very good and as much as one could eat, which was a lot by the lower sixth boys. The rooms were fine after the initial overcrowding which was eased by moving some fifth form girls out.

The skiing was the main purpose of the trip. The next two days' weather was not too good. Poor light and visibility, cold and a wind starting later indicated the beginnings of storm conditions. The advanced group did brave it to the very top of the aptly named Mt. Tosa (2500 m), to discover that the girls' hair froze and it played havoc with the complexion. Sure enough the third day brought a blizzard! No skiing at all as none of the lifts were open. Back to bed was the cry; it may blow over! This was the first time that our leaders could remember losing a full day due to inclement weather.

Mrs Cassidy and Mrs Sutcliffe decided to go for a walk in the storm. It was only six kilometres to the nearest village of La Molina. Some gallant sixth form lads decided to accompany them to ensure their safety and allegedly to purchase some supplies. The weather was so bad we could not even get our coach transport up to the hotel to take us to the village that night.

Never mind, the next day brought blue skies, sunshine and mountains of fresh, powder snow. We all set off with great excitement as Mr Scott said it was the

best snow to learn on! Disappointment came when at 9.00 am the jet lift did not open. Unfortunately nobody had told the Spanish that we wanted to ski that day. The main chairlift did not open until after 12 o'clock, the reason was too much snow at the top! The only uplift open was a rather dangerous drag that either pulled your arms out of their sockets, or made you head butt the snow, which was not really suitable for the beginners.

At last the lifts opened, just in time for us to go for lunch! It was noticed that The Doc and our Alpine ski leader skipped lunch in order to recce the pistes for the afternoon. Thursday and Friday were excellent skiing days. However, the Spanish pisteurs had still not opened the top of the Tosa! Still too much snow, there had been an avalanche in the next resort and despite the wide-open pistes having been bashed – we could not ski on them! There were plenty of runs open lower down but all led to the one, rather overcrowded chair lift. The super express 'Jumbo Tosa' lift never opened! Even the smaller 2-man chair did not open for the rest of the week.

The staunch skiers of KGS were not daunted. Onwards and upwards was the battle call. Numerous interesting falls and attempts at trick skiing were observed as Mr Scott and Doc Hall guided the beginners down the 'big ones', helped by the ladies who picked up and dusted down. Fortunately injuries were non-existent. Whether it was good tuition or the piste conditions, we had no serious accidents at all. The only illness was a certain member of staff whose hamburger was issued with a return ticket! Poor Doc Hall missed the last day's skiing as well!

He did, however, enjoy the karaoke evening in Paddy's Bar, (La Bomba), in La Molina on the Friday night. From the very first renditions of Three Lions on My Shirt, to Summer Loving from Grease, one now realises why the inter house music competition is so over-subscribed! Even Mr Scott and Doc Hall showed their abilities with Daydream Believer (again!) Everyone agreed that this was one of the best social evenings on recent ski trips.

This was the first time that Mr Scott had organised a senior ski trip, as the main one was full after only two days. Already there are too many people wanting to go next December and we are waiting from the tour company to see if they can increase numbers to make one large party. Skiing seems to be going from strength to strength at KGS and let's hope these trips can continue.



MUSIC



Spring Concert

Almost 500 pupils were involved in the preliminary rounds of the House Music Festival, which were held in February. This provided a feast of music making over five days, much of which reached a high standard of performance. The four Houses are to be congratulated upon their organisation of the entries but the real credit must go to the individual performers. The final round, held on Friday 7th March, was adjudicated by Miss Dorothy Dickinson and resulted in a win for Leanne Bonney whose beautiful clarinet playing earned her the Rosemary Greaves Music Prize. In second place was Isolyn Donaldson-Ellison who sang a haunting Irish folk song and third place went to Martin Cropper playing the drum kit. Congratulations are due to the three named winners, but also to the other performers in the Final as there were many excellent performances on the day. The Music Festival is a remarkable showpiece of the depth of musical ability across the school and in this respect particular note must be made of the contribution made to the Music

Festival by the House Choirs. The organisers of the Choirs, both staff and House Prefects are to be warmly congratulated. Such group music making across such a wide variety of pupils is most commendable. A close battle took place with Kirkham House Choir being the eventual winners. After six days of performance the overall spoils were shared between Preston and School Houses, with Kirkham House shortly behind.

On Thursday 13th March the school held the annual Spring Concert in which twelve of the finalists from the Music Festival gave performances. The Concert opened with a rousing performance of Sousa's 'Liberty Bell' by the Concert Band under their new director, Mr Chris Andrews after which a large and appreciative audience heard the Girls' Choir, Choir and Orchestra perform a wide variety of differing styles of music.

An exciting invitation was received for the Choir to take part in a broadcast for Granada Television of one of its 'My Favourite Hymns' programmes. Tuesday 25th March

saw the members of the Choir travelling to the magnificent St Walbuge's Church in Preston where they recorded a Harvest Festival Service for broadcast on 12th October 2003. As well as leading the congregation in the harvest hymns the choir sang the anthem 'All things bright and beautiful' by John Rutter. Witnessing a television broadcast put together through a morning of rehearsals and the afternoon recording provided a fascinating insight into the mechanics of outside broadcasts and provided the choir members with a challenging and rewarding day.

This has been a very busy term in the Music Department, a term which started with a very large and talented entry for the Music Scholarships. The degree of talent shown by pupils seeking entry for KGS augurs extremely well for the musical future of the school.

Thanks must go to all the school's musicians who have worked so enthusiastically and hard to produce an excellent term's music making.



GRAND FINALE FOR MUSIC TEACHERS



The sound of music at Kirkham Grammar School hit a low note when two of our maestros played their last tune. John Catterall, Director of Music and Richard Evans a peripatetic music teacher both retired at the same time.

Mr Catterall had held the top post since 1971 and received an MBE for services to choral music last year. His skills as choirmaster attracted outstanding school choirs of up to 100 pupils and the annual inter-house music festival regularly attracted more than 300 entries. Mr Catterall has been choirmaster of Broughton Parish Church since 1966 and encouraged thousands of youngsters to improve their musicianship. Many of his pupils received top honours and his church choir is one of only six in the country to achieve the St Nicholas Guild Choir status for consistently excellent standards in choral music.

Richard Evans is well known throughout the brass band world after leading many local people to success in national and international competitions. His credits include international acclaim with the old Leyland Vehicles Brass Band.



During this year's Red Nose Day (RND03) the school set about raising money for the various charities they support. The whole school including staff were in non-uniform and contributed £1 each. During the lunch break Mr Rushton (alias Anne Robinson) organised an episode of "The Weakest Link" with staff and pupils (below photo) as contestants. In all, the day's charity collection raised in excess of £700.

The Red Nose charity was just one of the many Friday collection days for the Charities the school supports which includes Teenage Cancer Trust, Bryan House and Médecins sans Frontières.



FRENCHCLUB

"Le Club Français" continues to attract loyal support from those who enjoy pitting their wits against each other in French board games, or opposing the computer on the French version of "Who wants to be a millionaire?" – called "Qui veut gagner des millions?"

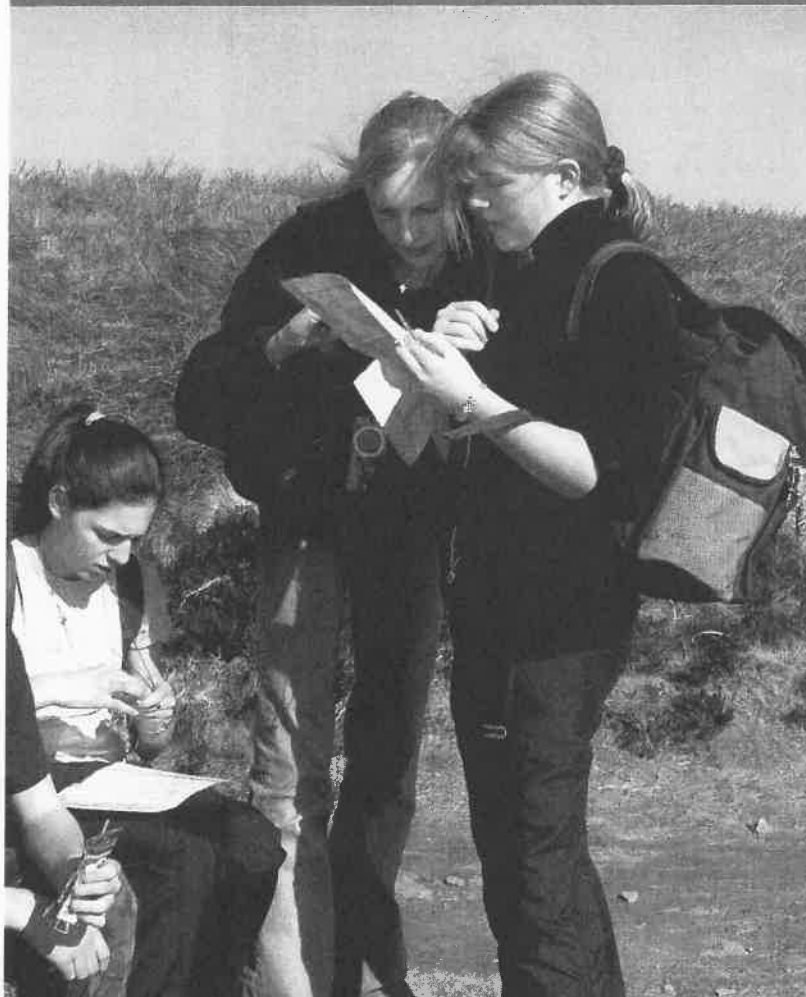
We have enjoyed guest appearances by Mrs Piercy from the Development Office, whose French expertise is much welcomed, and from Mr Brownlie, who finds himself distracted from his Thursday lunchtime duty in our area of school and tempted to join in the games.





RAF Section

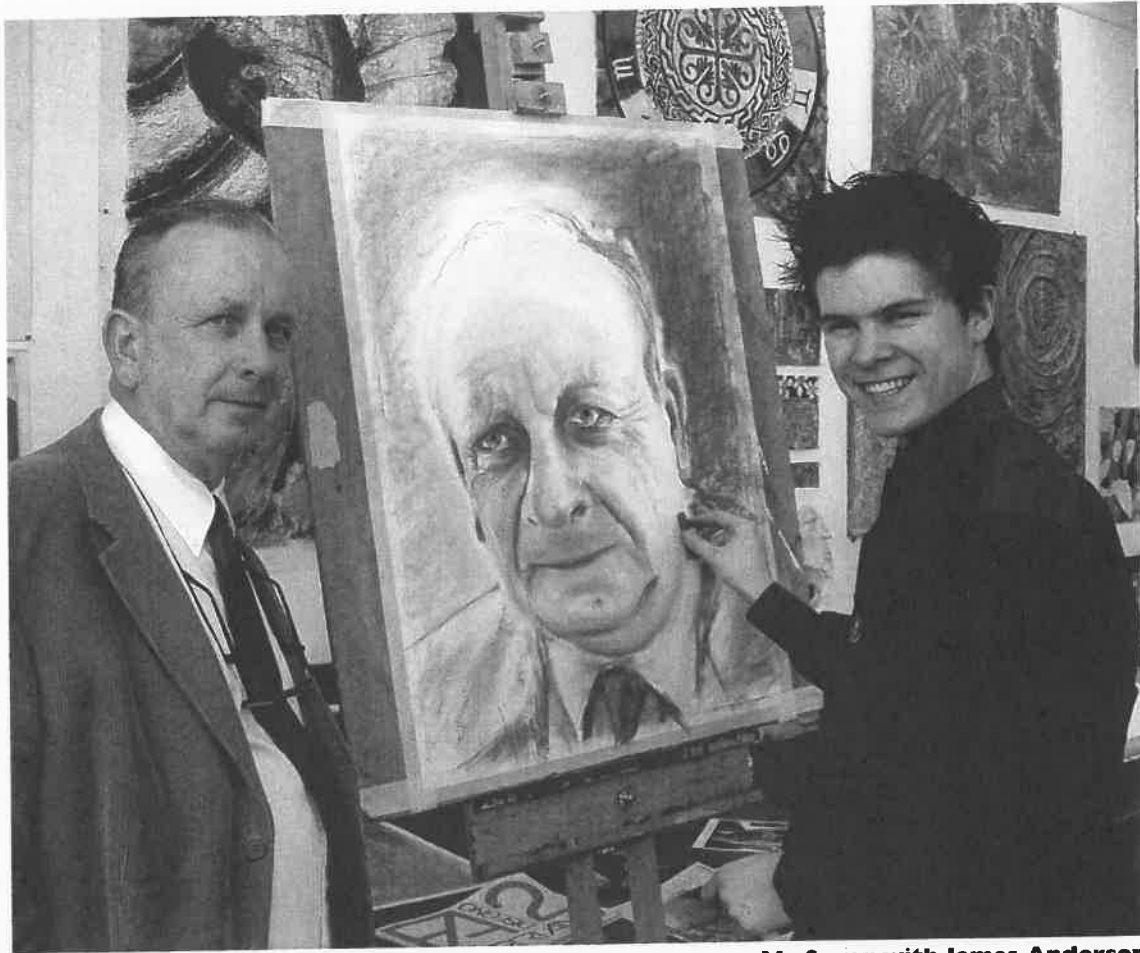
It is pleasing to report that Corporal Lloyd Helmi completed a RAF Gliding Scholarship over the spring half term at BAE Salmesbury. Lloyd joined a select band of RAF cadets from other schools on the intensive course and should soon be awarded the coveted "wings" on completing a solo flight. The majority of year 5 cadets will also have had the thrill of their first flight in an RAF aircraft at RAF Woodvale near Southport, on the spring field day. The year 4 RAFcadets will be joining the Army cadets and completing a field day based at school.



With the end of the DOE "closed" season we are now looking forward to a number of forthcoming expeditions in the lake District and Wales. The first, to the Borrowdale valley, near Keswick will take place over the Easter holidays and involve both Bronze and Gold level groups. We hope it will be drier than the last expedition in October! We are also currently awaiting the confirmation from the DOE that a large number of students have met the requirements for the award of their Bronze and Silver certificates.



'FACE TO FACE'



Mr Sayer with James Anderson

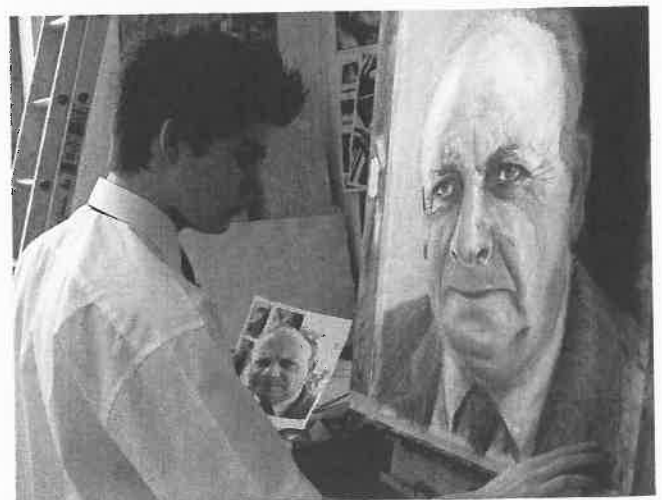


Mr Painter



Mr Gardiner

Staff at Kirkham have featured in the work of the Lower Sixth artist James Anderson. This is a warning to all staff, when James approaches you with camera and pencil, head for the Staff Room or your features will be exposed for all to see. Watch this space as we reveal this young artist's portfolio.



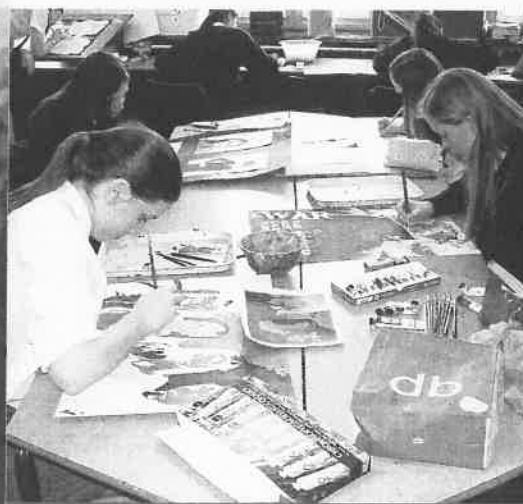
art
DESIGN
department

ARTWORKS 2003



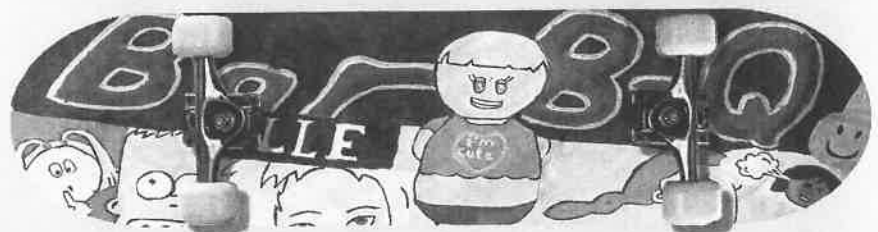
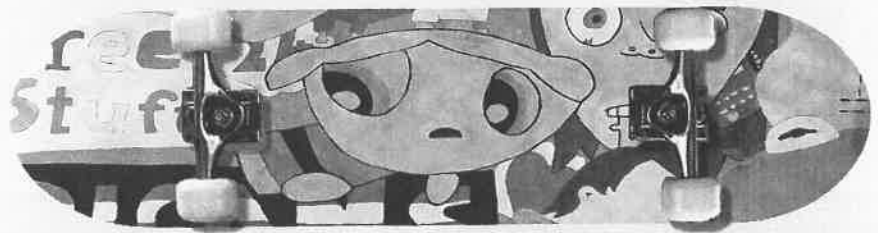
This Spring Term we have seen some fantastic colour work from all age groups. Some of the work can now be found on the Dining Room walls. Examples of the third years 'KGS Skateboard' designs will also soon be on display, a small example can be seen to the far right (top to bottom: Melanie Smith, Kimi Poon, Natalie Kenny, Alicia Russell, Jennifer Porter and Rachel Bird).

The 5th Year GCSE and AS groups have been preparing for their respective external exams which they sat in the last weeks of term. The GCSE included work ranging from 'Australasia' inspired work by Penny Maughan (top left), 'Pattern and Decoration' by Emma Whittle (right strips) to 'The message is in the word' by Lucy Martin (left and below in group shoot). At the time of writing the Lower Sixth were hard at their exam. See the 'Face to Face' article on the previous page to see the work of James Anderson.



kgs

SKATEBOARDS

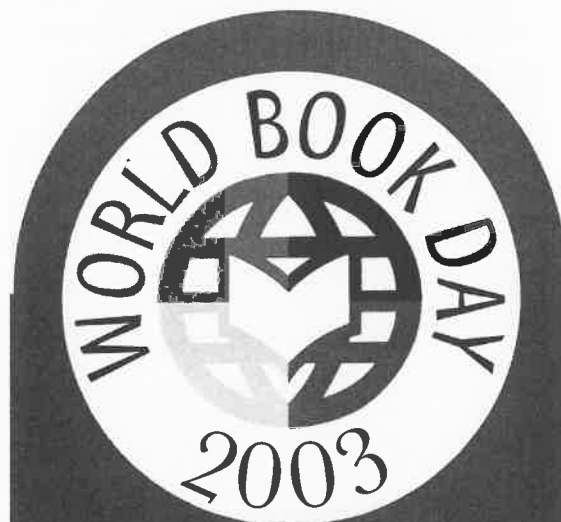


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YOUNGENTERPRISE

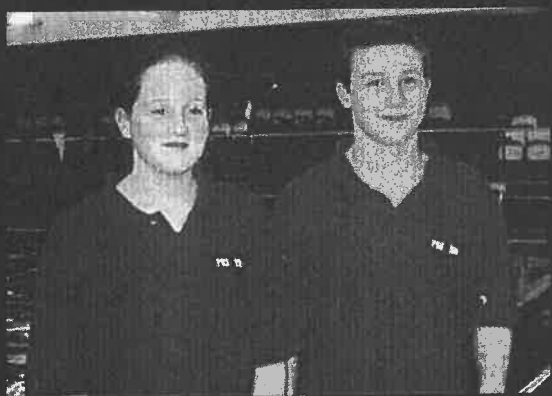
'Realize' have had another busy term of business. With the pressures of AS exams the company decided to delay their start to the New Year. At the first meeting of 2003 the team decided to concentrate their efforts on their long-term projects. Producing a successful sixth form yearbook is no easy task but the book should be available for release next term to coincide with the 5th and U6th leaving. It was also decided to produce a product for the pupils of the school and 'Realize' produced a Valentine's newsletter that proved very popular with pupils in all years of the school. As well as creating much amusement, a healthy profit was made on the enterprise.

The bulk of company time in recent weeks has been taken up with preparation for the Fylde Area Board competition. A ten-page written report, an eight-minute presentation, and a trade stand all have to be prepared by the beginning of next term. The achievers also have two exam modules to complete their course in the coming weeks. Both Miss Howe and Mr Duncan wish them luck in this crucial phase of the company year.



World Book Day at Kirkham Grammar School combines celebration of the written word with the ancient art of storytelling. 2003 proved as varied and entertaining as ever. Each pupil in the lower school (and some in the upper school!) had one lesson in the library. Mr Walker kindly agreed to participate and he chose to read Roald Dahl's 'Dip in the Pool'; he said that he thoroughly enjoyed the event, after resurrecting skills he hadn't used for a few years! Mr Long gave an illustrated version (in French!) of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'; Mrs Long read classical stories from Virgil's 'Aeneid'; Mr Sampey chose 'Cider with Rosie' by Laurie Lee; Mr Painter selected the meeting of Bilbo Baggins and Gollum, from 'The Hobbit' by Tolkien; Mrs Poole read a Roald Dahl tale called 'Pig' and Mrs Copland read from Deric Longden's 'The Cat who came in from the Cold', Rory Maclean's 'Stalin's Nose' (a travel story) and 'The Jungle Book' by Rudyard Kipling. The day passed very quickly and it was an excellent way to celebrate books and reading.

Swimming



Michael Wilson and Rachel Armistead have qualified for the National Age Groups Swimming Championships to be held at Ponds Forge Pool, Sheffield from 28th – 31st July. Michael and Rachel, who train with Preston Swimming Club, achieved their National qualifying times at Salt Ayre Pool, Lancaster whilst competing in the North Lancs. Age Groups Competition in February/March.

Michael gained National times in four events, 100m Breaststroke, 200m Breaststroke, 200m Individual Medley and 400m Individual Medley.

Rachel achieved a National time in the 200m Freestyle.

Michael and Rachel will represent the North Lancashire Swimming Team at the Inter-Association meet held at Wigan in May.

The girls' swimming team continue to make progress performing well against teams who have the advantage of their own swimming pool. We have had five girls swimming fixtures winning one of them overall. The matches have been closely contested losing our last match to Westholme by only 4 points.

The U14 team are a talented team having won 4 out of 5 matches. Congratulations to Kayleigh Kuroski and Alex Bonney who have won most of their individual races.

The U13 and U12 teams continue to make good progress and have participated with enthusiasm in every fixture.

Action from the Sevens Tournament at Fylde RUFC



OLDKIRKHAMIAN'S' ASSOCIATION

Such was the success of a similar event two years previously that another two days of sport, music, food and reminiscing is planned. The Headmaster's XI will take on an OKA XI in a battle of the bails, followed by a finger buffet and drinks from the bar in the Old Hall on Friday 16 May.

Saturday should produce hockey and rugby matches, a shooting competition, as well as cream teas to a musical accompaniment. Former pupils from near and far are all invited to join in the *nostalgiafest* as classrooms are taken over by archive material; there will even be an opportunity to collect school reports that have been gathering dust for decades. Round this off with dinner in the new dining hall and the weekend is complete.

If you or a member of your family qualify as a former pupil of the school, then please join us. The more the merrier!

Additional events:

Saturday 5 April
Southern Reunion Dinner
St Edmund Hall, Oxford

Saturday 20 September
AGM and Northern Reunion Dinner
Old Hall, Kirkham Grammar School

Thursday 30 October
London Reunion
Commonwealth Club, Northumberland Avenue, London
(Close to Trafalgar Square / Embankment)



This term, club members enjoyed another trip to Aqualife at Auldene Garden Centre, where we had ordered two female gerbils. However, the remaining gerbils were all male. We were actually pleased to hear this because our internet research had shown that male gerbils are actually more sociable than females and unlike most rodents, do not fight for their territory. We have set up a large aquarium tank containing a mixture of peat, hay and sawdust so that the gerbils are able to create burrows and have plenty of room for exercise.

We also purchased a young, female Syrian hamster, called Popcorn, and three 'black widow' tropical fish.

We may be able to breed the Syrian hamsters after Easter, but must first make sure that a reputable pet shop is prepared to take the young pups once they are five weeks old. Hamsters need to be separated before they are mature because breeding closely related individuals can lead to inbreeding problems i.e. genetic defects or weaknesses.

Also on the agenda, for the warmer weather, is the monitoring of invertebrates in the school pond. Several pond-dipping activities are planned so that we can assess any increase in biodiversity.

After Easter, Animal Ark Club is teaming up with Science Club in a trip to Jodrell Bank where there is a planetarium and nature trail.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP



A final onslaught on the pond area took place at half term. A group of staff and sixth formers donned wellies to remove stray pieces of debris and to plant reeds and yellow flag around the edges of the pond. A skip was completely filled with stones and branches within three hours – a tremendous effort! Many thanks to all the hardy volunteers.

Watch out for green shoots appearing out of the water – they will be a sign of successful transplanting. Now we await the appearance of the frogs and moorhens, hopefully attracted by an impressively clean pond.

DEBATING

Despite the absence of external competitions this term, the Debating Society has been active, meeting in W6 on Monday lunchtimes to prepare for its monthly debates. Audiences have sometimes been outnumbered by speakers, but the participants' enthusiasm has more than made up for this lack!

Highlights have included two balloon debates, where Churchill, Nelson and Einstein have battled with Death, Jean Luc Picard and Superman to see who will survive in a balloon slowly deflating over shark-infested waters. If you don't know the result, then you clearly were not in the audience! (As a hint, the same character was also named "The Greatest Briton".)

The society has also enjoyed playing The Motion Game, where motions ranging from "This House Believes that Cheese is the Invention of the Devil" to "This House Believes that All Desks should have Five Legs" have been debated without preparation time, often with hilarious results.

If you have been inspired to join the Debating Society, turn up at W6 on Monday lunchtime. No commitment – no homework – and you might even enjoy the experience!

NETBALL



The development of the standard of netball throughout this season has been apparent in all age groups, and I have been delighted by the enthusiasm and determination shown by all teams.

U15 Team

Played	won	drawn	lost
10	2	0	8

Initially, the U15 team did find it hard to compete against teams who had worked together as a unit for the last 3 or 4 years, and initially the results reflected this. However, of late, the team has played as a cohesive unit, and set plays have been well rehearsed and executed. Although the girls are not accustomed to victory, the margin by which they are losing is now narrow, and they must be commended by the improvement that has been seen from the start of the season.

U14 Team

Played	won	drawn	lost
19	9	2	8

The U14 team have worked well throughout the season, and have gelled into what is now a strong squad. Well rehearsed centre passes have proven beneficial, and the girls marking, and down court passing have improved immeasurably. The team has won its last 4 league matches.

In the Blackpool Schools' Netball Tournament, which took place on Thursday 13th March, at Stanley Park, the girls played with real determination and came within just a few points of making the semi finals. K.G.S came 3rd in their section, which consisted of 9 local schools. This is a tremendous achievement.

U13 Team

Played	won	drawn	lost
11	5	0	6

The U13 team have played some excellent netball this term and their game has much improved over the season. They are now looking forward to the U13 Blackpool Schools Tournament, which is due to be played on Wednesday 19th March at Stanley Park.

U12 Team

Played	won	drawn	lost
12	3	1	8

The first year girls have worked hard in all of their practices and matches. It is evident that we have some very promising players, and although the team has lost a number of their matches, the games have been close for the most part.

GIRLS' CROSSCOUNTRY



On Wednesday 15th January 2003 the girls' took part in the Lancashire Cross-Country trials at Stanley Park, run with a view to selecting the Blackpool Schools' cross-country team. The 1st year girls were represented by Fiona Gardner and Jade Mottley, the junior girls were represented by Olivia Hawtin (2nd year), the inter girls were represented by Georgina Fulford Brown and Jess Morris (3rd years) and our senior girls were represented by Jane Greenwood (5th year). All of our runners competed well, and Fiona, Jade, Olivia and Jane were successful in making the Blackpool Schools' cross country team.

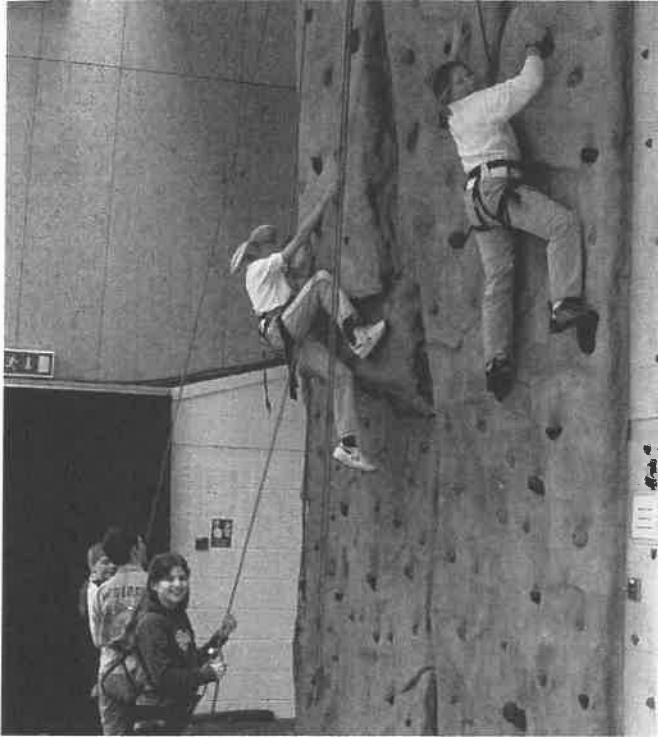
The Lancashire Schools' Cross-Country Championships took place on Saturday 1st February at Witton Park, Blackburn. Again our girls ran well, Fiona was positioned 26th, and Jade 33rd out of a race of 76 girls. Olivia was 65th out of a race of 96 and Jane Greenwood was 33rd out of a race of 77 girls. Out of eleven teams Blackpool came in 6th position.

On Thursday 20th March the girls are due to take part in the Fylde Coast Cross-Country Championships, to be held at Hodgson High School. We wish them every success.

Congratulations go out to all of our runners for taking part in a sport which is notoriously gruelling, and requires sheer grit and determination.

CLIMBING CLUB

The Climbing Club has been active on Thursdays after school and Tuesday lunchtimes again this term. Visits to West View Leisure Centre in Preston, Cliff's Barn in Mawdesley and Clitheroe Sports Centre have enabled most climbers to improve the grade at which they climb, as well as providing an exciting venue to introduce a few newcomers to the sport. Sarah Hatch and Elena Gaddes are the most committed of the first formers who have joined - they both show great promise for the future. There has also been a welcome influx of new sixthformers. As the evenings lengthen and the weather improves we will be able to venture out onto the gritstone quarries which ring Blackburn and so experience climbing on real rock - a much more challenging experience.



VOLLEYBALL CLUB

In the Preston and District Volleyball League

P 8. W 2. L 6. D 0.

This new club, despite restricted opportunities to practise on a regular basis has continued to make steady progress throughout the season. Playing against generally much more experienced players the team has responded well to advice from their ageing team mate and has learnt to play this difficult game to a perfectly reasonable standard. If you think it is an easy game, come and try it! Most important of all, the boys and girls seem to thoroughly enjoy themselves.

If the majority of the squad stay together next year, and we can recruit a few more, we should see standards improve even further and we shall undoubtedly win more matches. For information the league operates every fortnight, contains nine teams and during the season (which runs from September to Easter) each team will play each other twice.

Squad 2002-2003.

Kit Ingham (Capt.), Luke Talbot, Jack Ward, Oliver Twambley, Joshua Wright, Charlotte McNeela, Anna Marsden.

girls' TENNIS

The U15 HSBC National Schools' Tennis Finals took place on Sunday 7th and Monday 8th December 2002. The prestigious event was held at the Redbridge Tennis Centre in Essex, and was a most enjoyable, if somewhat nerve wracking experience. I was delighted with the girls' efforts in the lead up to the finals, and was very proud of the manner in which they conducted themselves.

Four teams took part in two semi finals on Sunday. Kirkham Grammar School (representing the North West) were drawn against Bassaleg Comprehensive School (representing Wales). Millfield School (representing the South West) were drawn against Chesham High School (representing the South). The standard of tennis was extremely high, and matches were exciting and very tiring. All of our girls played well and tried extremely hard. Special mention however must go to Jane Greenwood who won her singles match 6 - 4.

Despite their spirited performance, the girls lost the semi final. Their spirits were not dashed completely however, and we enjoyed a relaxing evening in the hotel, making good use of the leisure facilities open to us.

On Monday, the girls played Chesham High in the 3rd and 4th place play off. Again competition was strong, and Kirkham came 4th overall in the National Finals. What must be remembered is that our 4th place National Finals position equates to the 4th placed school in the Country, which is an enormous feat and one which the girls should be very proud of. It should also be noted that the girls have made the National Finals for this competition for the last two years running. Congratulations! Third time lucky next year!

Tennis Camps

David Shaw will be holding Tennis Camps at Kirkham Grammar School again in 2003.

Dates are as follows: July 7th - 11th
July 21st - 25th

Each camp day will be from 10.00 am - 3.30 pm. Video analysis will be used and test rackets made available.

If you are interested, please contact David on (mobile: 07770 618418).



CHESS CLUB

At its weekly meetings, the Chess Club has been running its annual competition. The overall winner was Thomas Fielding (1st Year); Miranda Hopkins-Coman (1st Year) was the winner of the girls' section; Lee Ryan (5th Year) won the senior section. The winners now progress to the Regional Final of the UK Schools' Chess Challenge, to be held at Rossall School in May.

BOYS' CROSSCOUNTRY



From Christmas through to February half term, the boys at KGS participate in Cross Country on a regular basis. Its importance is seen in terms of personal fitness, opportunities to show determination, individual achievement and participation in a true team sport.

Internally, the boys are set weekly challenges to improve on previous times or placing on set runs around the school grounds. The results are posted weekly on the PE notice boards for all to see. These lists enable the boys to see their progress and whilst some reluctant participants wouldn't admit it, they sometimes can be seen checking their results after a run!

Externally, these runs prepare for the Blackpool Schools Trials, the Fylde Coast Schools Championships, the House Championship and fixtures against other schools. All the boys involved in such events this season have performed admirably. All of the following deserve mention for their hard work in lessons and when representing the school:

U12 Wiggins, Coates, Brooker, Woodgate, Martin, Marsden, Sanders, Draper, Bannister, Gale, Bennett, Phillips, Hamilton, Riley, Kos, Gyi.

U13 Spratt, Watson, Edgar, Bell, Soper, Crankshaw, Coleman, Bamber, Woodgate, Newton, Clarkson, Geny, Parkinson, Davies, Casson, Kos, Entwistle, Martin-Roffey.

U14/15 Hollows, Tung, Giddings, Sissons, Brooke, Sanders, Peronnaud, Nicholls, Crankshaw, Knowles, Su, Walsh, Fulton, Ward, Pickervance, Rowland, Cheng, Tung, Hope, Spink, Ashworth, Rhodes, Mayo.

At the senior end, special mention must be made of Richard Newton who has continued to excel in Cross Country. Having won the Lancashire Schools title, Richard then came 6th in the English Schools Championships in Brighton earlier in March. This great performance then resulted in Richard being selected for the England Schools Team which is preparing for the Home Internationals scheduled to take place in Dublin at the end of March.

We wish Richard every success in this and we also eagerly await his progress in the Summer when he turns his attention to the track. Richard was 3rd in the English Schools Championship 1500m last year and we all hope that he can make the necessary progress to take the title this year.

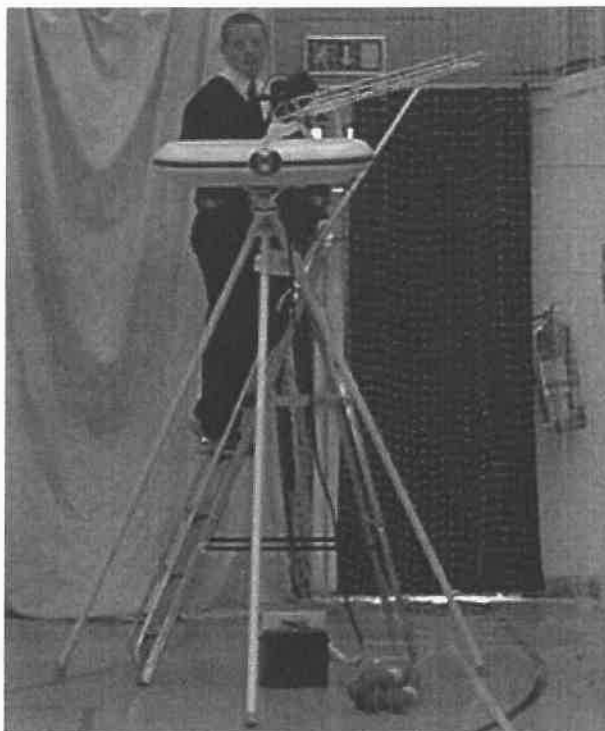
Cricket Bowling Machine

The purchase of a new bowling machine has been welcomed by the cricketers at KGS. Obtained with the generous assistance of the 'Friends of KGS', the new machine adds an exciting new dimension to the coaching facilities offered to the pupils.

This piece of machinery is a fantastic coaching aid as it develops the core batting skills of players in ways that simply can not be consistently achieved by 'human' bowlers. Already, in use by our senior cricketers, noticeable improvements have been seen in technique.

The machine can also be used to practise fielding and develop wicket keeping skills. Perhaps most important of all, the machine can be used by players of all ages. Usefully, the machine can be used indoors or out.

A Valentine's Disco was held to raise funds towards the cost of the machine. This proved to be a huge success. However, all the aspiring cricketers would still like to thank the 'Friends' for their generosity.



interHouse events

The Secret Diary of a House recorder - aged 30

Dear Diary,

WEEK 1: At last Mr Walker gives me back my diary – I really should charge him for publishing my innermost thoughts – decide to ask for £50!

For the record diary, last term ended badly – Kirkham came last in the swimming gala. Yes diary last! It took me ages to get over the result although it was the closest competition for years with only 15 points separating top from bottom. To Mr Smith's amazement it was announced that School had won – School? – Surely not! – Didn't most of their swimmers sink last year? Anyway a re-count was demanded by the ever more competitive Dr Rollins and Preston were awarded the trophy – a thrilling and nail biting end to a great gala.

WEEK 2: Mr. Wood tells us all there are no assemblies for a few weeks so decide to use the time to plan Kirkham's music entries for the big competition for the year.

WEEK 3: More planning! The four Housemasters decide to see if Mr. Barratt has what it takes as our new Director of Music – we are aiming to get over 500 entries that will take a whole week to adjudicate! Last year JC was under so much pressure he decided to retire after last year's 350 entries! Will Mr. Barratt last the pace?

WEEK 4: All quiet... more planning! All four House choirs are busy. Mr. Reeves helps Kirkham House prepare for the House choir and Preston have the talented Mrs. Cassidy in charge. Rumours from my mole in School informs me Mr. Smith's practices go on long into the night. I'm also hearing that Charlotte Church is boarding this term – decide to check if she's on the school roll...

WEEK 5: The four Houses get their entries in, – together we almost make the big 500 and Mr. Barratt is looking stressed! My spies tell me that all four

choirs are sounding good although I am rather annoyed to hear that Preston are using the same old bribing tactics of bacon butties to make their pupils sing – decide to raise this at the next committee meeting...

WEEK 6: At last it's time for the battle to begin – it's audition week and the marathon begins for the music department. Music is heard from every corner of the school as the most popular competition of the year gets underway. All I can do is wait and see how we do. Decide to practice my piano playing for the 'Battle of the Choirs'. I'm going to be busy this year, as I have volunteered to help Preston's choir as well as accompany Kirkham's choir. I'm pleased to report that all four choirs sing really well and Kirkham are superb. 'Old boy' Mr. Reeves is in inspirational form on the electric guitar and the whole House sing 'California Dreamin' with style. Preston also sings well although School are somewhat surprisingly below par.

What a week but there's still work to do. Time to organise this year's House debate and shooting competition.

Better news. Kirkham win through to the inter-house debate final with another assured performance from Andrew Gregson and Norman Ralph. Mr. Smith makes me laugh again when he lets me know that the other semi-final wasn't controversial this year as he won! (Defeating Preston for the record) The final takes place after half term where the debaters are wondering whether or not to assassinate Action-man!

Unfortunately Kirkham backfired in the shooting competition where the red mist of School dominated as they have the whole term if I'm being honest. Fylde had their best result of the term with a second place.

WEEK 7: Back to the cold diary and in the iciest week of the term I have the fun job of 'persuading' the kids to run around the fields in nothing more than an athletics top and shorts (is this in my job description?)

School start the week well and win both Intermediate competitions comfortably with Mel Smith

and Jessica Morris in fine form. The one disappointment of the day was Fylde's 'no show' although I must admit it helped the other houses and Kirkham! Anyway diary, the juniors ran really well on Tuesday and at last a change of luck! The New Year resolution is finally paying off and we have won, not one, but both junior races. The boys ran superbly with four of the team finishing in the top five. After all that excitement it is a shame the weather has beaten us but the cold has forced the cancellation of the senior race – we hope for better weather after half-term.

Friday: Mr. Barratt announces the House music finalists with all four houses well represented. The music department inform me that Mr. Smith is somewhat taken aback that School's choir hasn't made it through to the final and I have a laugh when my spies tell me he 'forgot' to mention their unfortunate omission in assembly. (Unlucky Mr. Smith!)

HALF TERM: Decide to recharge the batteries.

WEEK 8: Time for the music finals and the 'Battle of the Choirs' is down to Kirkham and Preston. I had to laugh when Miss Dickinson, replacing Mr. 'Slater' as adjudicator this year, thought that Mr. Reeves and myself were sixth-formers! (Is that a compliment for a Housemaster aged 30...?) Anyway diary, its close again with a tie for first place between Preston and School after the second re-count of the year. Congratulations to Leanne Bonney, the overall winner of the competition. (A Kirkham competitor of course!) Unfortunately for me Kirkham again compete well but finish third, a long way clear of Fylde in fourth, and only 20 points off the top. Am I getting a feeling it's not going to be our year diary....

WEEK 9: Time for a break before the term ends with the rugby and hockey tournaments.

WEEK 10: Oh well diary, time to hand you in to the boss for his deadline. (£50 bill enclosed) I'll let you know how the rest of the year develops after Easter.





1st XI

This season has seen the development of a brand new hockey team after losing seven of our key members at the end of last year. Although now a relatively young side, a team crammed with enthusiasm, commitment and of course skill was determined to once again prove they were one of the best in the North!

The season started well and after our first game and indeed victory away to Stockport, we knew we were capable of a successful season. After much training and gruelling fitness sessions, the team finally came together in time for the Millfield match. This was to prove one of the toughest games of the season and despite a fantastic performance the goals did not go our way with the match ending 5-1 to Millfield.

The next challenge of the season was the Lancashire round of the BAE SYSTEMS Tournament, taking place early in October. It was a true test of just how well the team had come together. We could not have had a better start to the morning with a 4-0 victory over Ripley. After a short break it was straight back on to face our ever-threatening rivals Arnold. The game was fiercely fought with end-to-end action and with such short games, a goal either way would be the decider. Despite dominating the second half Kirkham lost 2-1, heartbreaking after such a brilliant performance.

Not discouraged by the result the team quickly bounced back. A series of successful results were to follow including defeating Arnold twice 3-0 both home and away. In fact the team continued to do nothing but improve and by Christmas a run of 7-1, 7-0, 6-1, and 7-1 victories was uninterrupted.

The second half of the season saw a force truly to be reckoned with. Defensively, we were solid at the back conceding few goals thanks to the vision, strength and tackling skills of Toni Ascroft, Dani Grundy, Lucy Martin,

Fiona Morgan and Meg Duncan. Knowing we had such a formidable defence behind, the confidence of the team escalated. The midfield worked exceptionally hard and mention must be made of Katie Gough, Abby Hookey and Jane Greenwood who gave nothing less than 100% every game. Upfront, the goals were plentiful thanks to the pace and agility of Laura Martin, Milly Hookey and Leanne Soper who linked together to score some goals worthy of action replay! By the end of the season Lorna Sissons (undisputedly top goal scorer) was scoring 6 goals per match! One of our most talented players, Lorna's distribution and individual skill left other teams baffled.

Our final efforts of the season were concentrated on the Lancashire U19 tournament. After winning three group games convincingly against Ripley, Rossall, and Our Lady's; Kirkham advanced to the final stages of the competition. Following a strong performance, the 2-2 draw in the Arnold game proved quite a shock. Now only a win over Lancaster would ensure the title. Although in front 2-0 before half time a late Lancaster comeback saw us concede 2 goals and the 2-2 draw left Kirkham in second place. While disappointed we knew we had given it our best and a combination of exhaustion and pressure had simply led to our downfall this time.

The ups and downs of the season are what have made it so exciting and memorable. All squad members have improved massively and the team has gone from strength to strength. A special mention must be made of Miss Dykes who kept us going and instilled in us the confidence we needed to become the team we are - it would not have been the same without her. Also thanks to Mr Miller whose controversial refereeing and readiness to brandish any card provided much entertainment throughout the season!

2nd XI

Another excellent season! The girls played to a high standard throughout the year. With just three upper sixth formers available, it was feared that the team would lack experience and they would not bond well; however, these fears were soon dismissed and they became a close unit which reflected in our defeats over arch rivals Arnold, Queen Mary's and Winstanley 1st XI, to name just a few.

The girls' commitment and determination was particularly impressive and that was just to win Mr Gardiner's prized chocolate bar! In both matches and training sessions the girls acquitted themselves extremely well. However, they did have a spell in the middle of the season when three of our players were injured including our goal keeper, so a big thank you to all the girls who stepped in to help the team during this time. Thankfully every one is back to full fitness, hopefully to secure wins in their final matches.

This season's success was due to the support of not one but our four coaches to whom we are extremely grateful - Mr Miller, Mr Gardiner, Mrs Sutcliffe and Mrs Salt. Thank you also to Mrs Tabb who has worked tirelessly to arrange so many fixtures, especially on Wednesdays.

U15 XI

The U15 team has made excellent progress this year. They have worked hard in training and their skill level has continued to improve. They still lack belief in their own ability and sometimes lack the determination to succeed; however, on the whole they have gelled together to make a good team. Individually all of the players have made progress, certain players deserve a special mention. Liz Tomlinson has made the most progress and has become a talented right forward. Louise Lord and Emily Martin have both played well throughout the season. Fran McNeela has been a good captain, and an outstanding defender on the pitch.

Lancashire U15 Tournament

This tournament was played as a round robin playing all of the other teams and the winner being the one with the most points. The team started slowly drawing 0-0 with Lancaster Girls' (this was a disappointing result as we had beaten them 4-1 on the previous Saturday). The team then had the following results:

v Lytham High	Won	2-0
v Ripley St. Thomas	Drew	0-0
v Rossall	Won	2-0
v Arnold	Drew	0-0

The team played some very good hockey but found it very difficult to score. Having not conceded a goal and not lost a game they should be very proud of their performance, particularly in the last game against



The 1st XI Squad

Arnold, who were the eventual winners of the tournament. They played with determination, skill and were very unlucky not to win the game. The girls came third overall.

To conclude this report, I would like to wish the whole squad the very best and I hope they all continue to make good progress in the senior hockey squad next season

U14 XI

The U14 hockey team has enjoyed a memorable season and to date remain unbeaten in any U14 school fixture and Lancashire and North of England championship matches.

They became Lancashire Champions in November defeating Arnold in the final on penalty flicks. Then as Lancashire Champions they went on to compete in the North of England Championships in January, at Carnegie College, Leeds, where, after winning their group, they won an exciting and dramatic final against Bradford Grammar School in a game which again went to penalty flicks where Jemma Thackray saved all three of the penalties taken by Bradford.

Becoming North of England champions enabled us to compete at the highest level attainable in the English Schools National Finals held at Portsmouth on March 1st. It was a wonderful experience for the girls and in only one game was there more than a single goal in the result. Overall we finished fourth – in England! – a tremendous achievement by the team and one they should always be proud of.

We recently allowed another school to get a look at a trophy when we finished runners up in the Lancashire Schools 7-a-side competition on March 15th. Ironically not only did we not lose a match we also did not concede a single goal.

So overall an outstanding team effort with Kate Gledhill, team captain, setting a magnificent example on the pitch throughout the season. Congratulations to all the girls in the squad.

Results	P	W	D	L	Goals	Against
School matches	10	8	2	0	37	3
Cup matches	10	8	2	0		

U13 XI

The U13s team have made exceptional progress this season and have adapted well into eleven a side hockey. Saturday matches have been enjoyable and exciting, and the squad reliably oozes enthusiasm, both at practices and matches. The team has been led superbly by Zoe Kirkham, whose lively character has encouraged success from week to week, and vice captain Livy Hawtin has consistently led by example on the pitch. Set plays have been well rehearsed, and have led to a remarkable 67 goals being scored by the team's skilful attack. The defence has also played extremely well with only 13 goals being conceded in total this season.

Results	P	W	D	L
	21	16	0	5

On Saturday 6th February, the U13s Lancashire 7 aside Tournament was held at K.G.S. The competition was a very exciting event, and both the A and B teams played well against some very strong opposition. The A team successfully made it through to the finals, where they met Arnold School. The final was high spirited and very nerve wracking; with both teams playing with determination and a strong will to win. Unfortunately, K.G.S narrowly missed out on the win, losing 2 – 3, to be crowned Lancashire Runners Up.

As Lancashire Runners up, the girls qualified for the North Final.

U13 North Mini Hockey Finals

On Sunday 16th March, the U13s team played in the North

English Schools U14 National Finalists



round of the U13 Mini Hockey Championships, which is a competition for both School and Club teams. The tournament was held at Belle Vue Stadium, the venue for the Commonwealth Games last summer. It was a fantastic day and the girls played extremely well. In the group matches the girls drew 1 – 1 with Mowden Hall who were representing the Boarders, beat the Mini Panthers who were representing Cheshire 2 – 1, and lost to the City of York who were representing Yorkshire 4 – 1. Our results qualified us for the semi finals where we met Hymers School.

After an exciting 20 minutes the score still remained drawn 0 – 0, and therefore the girls had to take part in a penalty shootout to decide the finalists. Devastatingly, Hymers won 2 – 1 on flicks and went on to win the overall competition.

KGS came 3rd overall

U12 XI

The U12s hockey teams have worked extremely hard this season, and all of the girls should be commended for their continuous dedication and high levels of

enthusiasm. A number of players, before this year, had not experienced competitive hockey, and they have made excellent progress, with their match play now reflecting a good level of understanding, and tactical awareness.

A Team	P	W	D	L
	11	7	0	4
B Team	P	W	D	L
	10	4	4	2
C Team	P	W	D	L
	3	2	1	0
D Team	P	W	D	L
	3	2	0	1

The excitement experienced by the girls whilst attending fixtures is always evident which makes the 1st year teams such a pleasure to coach. I wish them every success in the U12 Arnold Invitation Tournament to be held on the 22nd March, and as they progress into 11 a side hockey next year.

The 2nd XI Squad



RUGBY

England U18 Selection



North 18 Group (September)

J Cooper
D Greenhalgh
M Halsall
A Horabin
A Newton
R Westerman

England North 18 Group (January)

T Albinson
M Darlington
A Horabin
J Unsworth
R Westerman

England Final Trial (18 Group)

(i) September

D Greenhalgh
M Halsall
A Newton

(ii) January

T Albinson
A Horabin
R Westerman

England 18 Group (photo)

D Greenhalgh
M Halsall
A Newton

1st XV

Two matches were played this term. A full strength team comprehensively beat Hutton Grammar School, while the team short of the North of England players striving for international honours beat Arnold School.

An under 17 development squad had a practice game against Sedbergh School which was evenly contested and next season's 1st XV match will be another tumultuous affair. The most pleasing aspect of the game was the performance of the Under 16 players, many of whom show much potential.

Honours Gained

North 16 Group Trial

M Jackson

North 18 Group (September) Trial

T Albinson
J Cooper
D Greenhalgh
M Halsall
A Horabin
A Newton
R Westerman

North 18 Group (January)

T Albinson
J Cooper
M Darlington
D Greenhalgh
A Horabin
R Westerman

1st VII Squad

A promising start was made to the season at the Christ College, Brecon Sevens, where we were defeated in the quarter final by Wellington College. Since then the school reached the semi-final of the Birkenhead School Tournament, but after a major disappointment at the North of England Tournament changes were made to the squad for the prestigious Fylde RUFC National Sevens. A new spirit came from within the squad led by Stuart Blackburn and Richard Westerman.

During the first day of the tournament we progressed easily through the group stage. Wins over Denstone College (last 16) and Arnold School (quarter final), left Kirkham in the semi-final against the extremely talented St Bees School from Cumbria. A last second try by Andrew Crook gave us a 22-21 victory which secured a final place against Colston's Collegiate. Although the final was lost, this was a fantastic effort which showed that the squad were totally committed to reach the top.

2nd VII Squad

The 2nd VII managed to retain the Austin Friars Sevens Plate, which was won last year by the 1st VII. This was an excellent effort, which reflects the strength of Sevens at Kirkham Grammar School.

2nd XV

The second team played two matches this term, winning them both. At Hutton the team probably played their most consistent rugby of the season. If the support play before Christmas had been of the same standard as in this game, then more matches would have been won and statistically the season would have been more successful. Hutton found it difficult to compete and the second team ran out winners more comfortably than the score suggested.

Against Arnold the team played against the elements in the first half, but still looked in control. However, one missed touch allowed Arnold to reach half time in the lead. Arnold defended their lead aggressively in the second half, but KGS did not panic and eventually the Arnold defence cracked. Three late tries secured a satisfying victory.

U16 XV

Only two matches were played this term versus Cowley and Arnold School. Against a powerful and elusive Cowley side we were outgunned particularly in open play and certainly learned a lot about lines of running and defence.

Arnold were well organised and an extremely effective side and Morley ground us down but Kirkham Grammar School were depleted due to Senior Squad call-ups, their replacements, in particular James Clarke and Alistair Ward performed notably.

After half term we were into 7's season, unfortunately the inclement weather meant the cancellation of the Stonyhurst Tournament which left us a little under prepared, although practices had been well attended and had gone well.

At Merchant Taylors, Crosby we lost two and beat a good St Mary's, Crosby side; of the two losses we performed well against Hymers and Cowley the eventual winners.

The following week at Stonyhurst College we had a tough draw, first against Kings Macclesfield (the eventual winners) when we narrowly lost to Oratory School and Ampleforth. The latter match was lost 22-19 in a contest which went to the wire as we lost in injury time. However, we did manage to end the tournament on a high to defeat Oratory 19-7.

Playing in the two tournaments our performance has improved and as I write we are off to the National Sevens at Rosslyn Park with eager anticipation.

U15 XV

Season 2002/3 has proven to be a hard and demanding one! However, there is much to praise. There has been a lot of hard work and toil during the winter training nights, but I feel the team has improved considerably both in attitude and performance.

There have been some notable victories – and rightly deserved. Manchester Grammar School, Woodhouse Grove and St Peter and Paul. However, the away victories to Arnold School and Birkenhead stick in the memory. Particularly the latter. It is always nice to win away at Birkenhead. A first for me! Colston's Collegiate and Sedbergh were two notable defeats. Both teams were very strong, and gave us much to think about. Nevertheless, we responded well and bounced back, however, lessons had been learnt!

The progress and development of some players particularly from the B team has been quite remarkable. Christopher Calvert, Robert Thackray, Thomas Walker, Robert Hutton and Matthew Rossall, have made excellent progress and deserve much praise. Samuel Dunn, Oliver Cawdell and Alexander Dean are also worthy of commendation. They have worked tirelessly throughout the season, and have made real progress. Their efforts have been rewarded!

The team were also very unlucky not to be joining the U13 and U15 in the Lancashire Cup Finals. We played in a very competitive and highly charged game against Hutton Grammar School. This was arguably 'our' cup final, losing in the end narrowly 18-0. The team's all round performance was exemplary. Oliver Moore and Robert Sissons were particularly outstanding. A lot of sheer effort, commitment and dedication were quite evident during this game.

At the end of the season the Sevens Squad competed in the Bradford Grammar School 'Storm 7s'. This proved to be the icing on the cake for the squad. The boys went into the



The 1st VII Squad

plate, beating Stonyhurst College 28-5 in the semi final and winning the plate final against the hosts, Bradford Grammar School. A fitting end to a hard and challenging season. Oliver Moore the Captain went on to represent Lancashire Schools U15s.

U14 XV

A XV. P 17. W 12. L 5. D 0.
Lancashire Cup. P 3. W 3.
B XV. P 8. W 3. L 5. D 0.

Generally, the U14 A XV has had a very good season. The team has developed in most areas, and whilst there is still a lot of work to be done, the future looks promising for the team, and individual players alike.

Whilst winning most of their games, the defeats at the hands of strong opposition or teams who play in a different style has only highlighted the need to work hard on fitness, skills, and tactical awareness. Such defeats do more for learning than any win born out of a contest between unevenly matched teams. An undefeated season can be a very dangerous thing for the long term development of young players!

I have been delighted with the squad's willingness to learn from mistakes and their desire to improve. Most important of all, they enjoy their rugby. Although the A XV has been fairly stable over the first two years, more and more of the B XV squad are making excellent progress and should push for A XV selection next year. Their improvement has been highlighted by their successes recently, especially having suffered some heavy, possibly demoralising defeats before Christmas. I praise their dedication.

On Sunday 23rd March the A XV took part in the Lancashire U14 Cup Final in which they played Stonyhurst. Having defeated strong Ripley, St Edwards College and Lancaster RGS sides en route, the question remained as to whether the side could become County Champions for the second year running. On a hot day at Tyldesley Rugby Club, Stonyhurst proved just too strong for Kirkham. Their all round fitness and strength in depth ensured that they could gain and retain possession at key moments during the game.

Stonyhurst started strongly and controlled the game for the first ten minutes, resulting in a try after sustained pressure. However, Kirkham clawed their way back into the game and scored a well worked forward try just before half time. In the second half, Stonyhurst once more gained control, and as fatigue began to become a key factor, they scored two more tries. At 15-7 Kirkham may have collapsed, but the spirit of the team shone through and they scored a gritty try to take the score to 15-12. Unfortunately, the conversion was missed, time ran out, and Stonyhurst became County Champions.

The team should feel pleased with their efforts. They lost to a better side on the day and they gave their all in trying to win the Cup.

U13 XV

"A" Team P19 W17 Do L2

Lancashire Cup Finalists

Winners of the King Edward & Queen Mary U13 7's
Runners Up in the Birkenhead School U13 7's

Their impressive resumé says much about the 2002/2003 season. Unbeaten since Christmas, the Under 13's have built on a successful Autumn Term and continued to improve. A very strong Liverpool College team was defeated on the way to the Lancashire Cup Final, and local rivals Arnold and Hutton were beaten comprehensively during the remaining Saturday 15-a-side fixtures.

Their first real experience of 7's competitions has also allowed the 2nd year boys to shine; with little preparation they came second in their first tournament (the Birkenhead School 7's) and then proceeded to better this great achievement with victory in the Nora Lipscombe 7's, hosted by King Edward & Queen Mary School, Lytham.

It seems unfair to single out any player for praise; this has been a team effort and in itself is extremely pleasing. The squad of skilful but indisciplined individuals seen at

U13 Lancashire Champions



the start of the school year has evolved into an outstanding side who respect and play for each other. This is the hallmark of many successful Kirkham teams and it is hoped that the boys will continue to play in the same vein.

At the time of writing, it is hoped that even more success will be forthcoming. The 7's squad travel to London to compete in the Rosslyn Park National 7's immediately after their Cup Final at Tyldesley on March 23rd. This will be an exciting, and exhausting, experience for each player involved!

Finally, a big thank you must go to the loyal band of parents who have followed the Under 13's throughout the year (both home and away) as well as Miller Homes, our sponsors for the Lancashire Cup Final and next season. Both the pupils and staff are very grateful for your continuing support during an exciting and successful season.

"B" Team P11 W3 Do L8

The "B" squad have improved greatly during the Spring Term, achieving good wins over Hutton and Arnold, and in particular, an outstanding comeback from a 20-point deficit away at St. Anselms College. On this particular occasion, the team played with great belief and finesse, where previously they would have been on the receiving end of a heavy defeat. All playing that day should remember this fixture as it shows what the team is truly capable of.

Several boys have shone this season and forced

themselves into the reckoning for "A" team places. Jak Blanthorn has impressed at hooker and Richard de Carpentier has, at times, displayed great strength and commitment. Christian Martin-Roffey has shown an impeccable attitude to training and matches, while winger Tom Coleman and full back James Walker have shown great promise. Finally, a special mention to a strong candidate for our "Most Improved Player Of The Year"...Ravi Renga has leapt from "B" team reserve to one of the first names on the team sheet. We all hope he recovers quickly from his injury to return next season!

U12 XV

The U12's have continued to make good progress in the technical aspects of the game. With Mr Trenhaile now taking the training sessions for the A and B squads we are starting to see these technical and also tactical aspects transferred into match situations. Each game sees a significant improvement in areas such as scrummaging and recycling the ball. The boys' commitment and enthusiasm for rugby never wanes and they are ably led by the Captain William Stover and the Vice Captain Roddy Hothersall. They are now looking forward, after tough games against Monmouth School and Loughborough Grammar School, to the end of season tour to North Wales over Easter.



Friends of KGS



The Spring term is a 'behind the scenes' term where no Friends events actually take place, but the sub-committees are busy planning for the forthcoming Summer events. The Summer Ball and Fun Day are both held during the Summer Term and are logistically challenging, with well over three hundred adults attending both.

As can be seen from the photographs of last year's ball (above) and verified by all those who attended, the FKGS Summer Ball is one of the most prestigious balls in the North West of England. It commences with a champagne reception in the Old Hall followed by a superb buffet and dancing in a beautifully decorated marquee. All parents should have received an invitation to the Ball on June 21st and an early RSVP is recommended.

The FKGS Fun Day promises to be action packed with lots of fun and challenging activities for all ages. It provides a wonderful afternoon out for family and friends alike. This year's event is on Sunday 18th May so make a note in your diary.

Both of these events require a lot of help on the day. If you are able to assist, please call me on 01253 712890 and let me know. The rewards are worth the effort. This term the Friends have made a considerable contribution to a new cricket bowling machine costing £2400 including special balls. This will provide a consistent, but adjustable, bowled ball to train our up-and-coming cricketers. The Friends have also purchased a new sound system in the MPH costing £3950 to compliment the new lighting system bought last term. If you wish to know more about our activities, either contact myself, or any of our committee members.

Best wishes,

Robert Dunn.

Diary Dates

Old Kirkhamians' Southern Reunion Dinner

St Edmund Hall, Oxford University

7.00 pm, Saturday, 5 April

3rd Year Parents Evening

5.00 pm, Thursday, 1 May

Senior School 104th Annual Sports Day

1.00 pm – 4.00 pm, Wednesday, 7 May

Website Launch Ceremony

11.00 am, Wednesday, 14 May

Reunion Weekend

Friday 16 and Saturday 17 May

Friends of KGS Family Fun Day

12.30 – 4.00 pm, Sunday 18 May

Second Year Parents Evening

5.00 pm, Monday, 19 May

1st XI MCC at Kirkham Grammar School

Friday, 20 June

Sixth Form Ball

7.00 pm, Friday 20 June

Friends of KGS Summer Ball

7.00 pm, Saturday, 21 June

New Parents' and Pupils' Welcome Evening

7.30 pm, Monday, 30 June

Senior School Annual Prize Giving and Speech Day

7.00 pm, Thursday, 18 September at the Guild Hall, Preston

Stop Press



Mark Darlington has been selected to the England Schools 18 Group Squad. The U13s Rugby Team got to the Semi-Finals of the Rosslyn Park Sevens. The U14s Hockey 8s are Champions of the HMC Liverpool Group.



D.R. Walker

D.R. Walker Headmaster