

HEADMASTER'S LETTER TO PARENTS



Kirkham Grammar School was founded as a charity school in 1549, having been in existence as a chantry school from the thirteenth century. From 1549 to 1911 the school was sited in the grounds of St Michael's Parish Church, Kirkham and the two retain close and strong links to this day. In 1585 the Thirty Men of Kirkham, a group which administered parish business, took control of the school. They seem not to have performed their duties particularly well, for, by the early part of the seventeenth century, the school had fallen into disrepair and had been without a master for seven years. Isabell Birley, a humble alehouse keeper, came to the rescue in 1621, presenting the Thirty Men of Kirkham with £30 in her apron for the restoration of the school.

In 1655 Henry Colborn, an old boy of the school, left money and land to the school in his will, putting it in the trust of the Company of Drapers in London. Then began a long partnership between the Company and the School which has continued to the present day, though the Drapers surrendered control of the school in 1944.

The school benefited from several grants of land in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and finally settled into its present location in 1911 when there were some 100 boys in attendance. Large extensions were opened by the Drapers' Company in 1938. By this time the school had doubled its numbers to 200, including some forty boarders. Independent status ceased temporarily in 1944 when the school became a voluntary-aided boys grammar school.

In 1965 the Norwood Science Building was opened and subsequently extended. In 1979 the Board of Governors took the bold decision to revert to independent status and Kirkham Grammar School became a co-educational school for the first time in its history. The greatest growth in the school has occurred during the present decade, which has seen pupil numbers rise from 500 to approaching 900, and a spectacular programme of continuous development has seen the addition of a Multi-purpose Hall, floodlit All Weather Pitch, a new large Junior School, a Sixth Form Centre, extensive new playing fields, a Technology Centre and an emerging Languages Centre. The School's partnership with British Aerospace plc, first established in 1994, is now a major driving force behind its success.

After a long and often turbulent history, Kirkham Grammar School will enter the millennium as one of the North's leading schools.

THE SCHOOL CREST



The grant of armorial bearings was bestowed on Kirkham Grammar School in the late 1920's in recognition of the honour due to one of Lancashire's most historic foundations. The design of its coat of arms expresses the true meaning and purpose of a school which, for 450 years, has infused a love of knowledge and of service in those fortunate enough to have been moulded by its unique ethos.

On the shield are the doves of Kirkham township, together with the triple coronets of the Drapers' Company; symbolic, in turn, of the ties which bind school and town together and of the benefactors who, from its early days, have watched over the interests of the school. The crest also contains a windmill resting on a book, an emblem of scholarship deriving its inspiration from the old industrious spirit of the Fylde.

TECHNOLOGY

BRITISH AEROSPACE
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS NETWORK

The Euro-collaborator project is progressing well with concept aircraft designs now being developed. The team is using a sophisticated 3d computer-modelling package to visualise its designs. The Prodesktop program is soon to be used in a Government led initiative to promote computer-aided design and manufacture in education. KGS has been using the program for the last six months, and teaching material has been written by the team. This can be seen by visiting the Manufacturing by Design site at www.cant.ac.uk/mbd. To learn more about the Prodesktop modelling package look at www.ptc.com. Lower School pupils are also designing aircraft using computer software. These are being modelled and flown on Flight Simulator. We should soon be able to have a virtual flypast if all goes to plan. The project is being co-ordinated by the British Aerospace International Centre in Loughborough.

Closer to home, the British Aerospace Schools' Network centre in Warton held SET week from 15th to 19th March. This event, which promotes Science and Engineering to schoolchildren, allowed our pupils to participate in lectures via videoconference. Some pupils from the first year were able to attend 'real' lectures at Hodgson High School as part of the celebrations. Our Euro-Collaborator team displayed their preliminary designs at Archbishop Temple School.

The School website www.kgs.lancs.sch.uk is now being constantly updated, and includes work done by our pupils. The excellent Young Enterprise site is well worth a visit, as are the resource sections, which are curriculum based materials to aid the pupils in their studies. Members of staff can suggest sites to be added to the growing list of available resources.

Two members of the Design and Technology group have been entered for the prestigious Arkwright Scholarship awards for 1999. We wish Laura Clarke and Ricky Cheng the best as they wait to see if they have been taken forward to the next round. Their initial task was to undertake a gruelling 3-hour design paper. One of the tasks was to design a coin sorting system in only one hour.

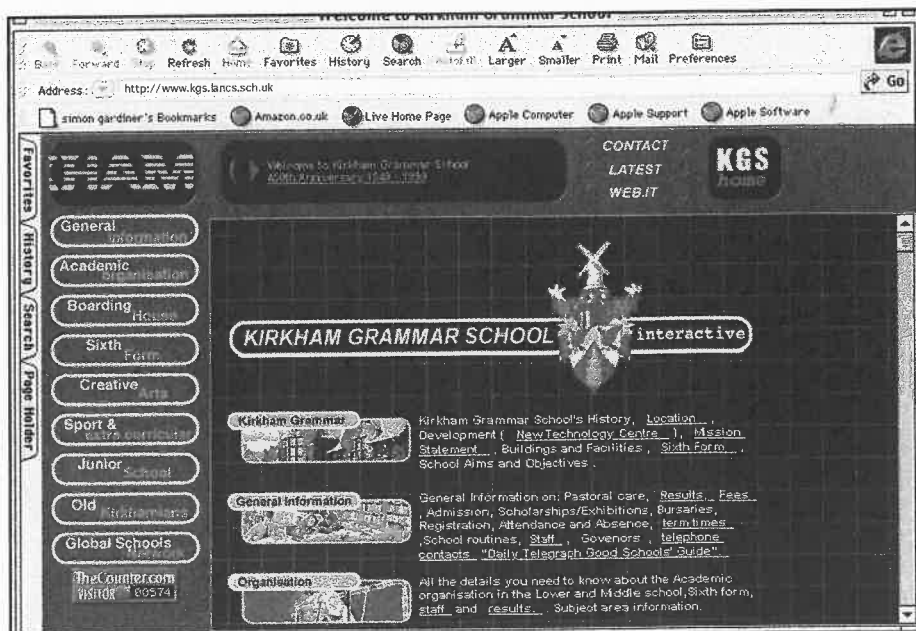
THE SCHOOL WEB SITE

The school website has continued to develop with new links to the 450th Calendar of Events, OKA, 'webit', the school's resource links page, and recent press releases to mention but a few. We have taken over 400 hits in the last four weeks, with further interest from people via e-mail (info@KGS.lancs.sch.uk). OKAs are finding the school site via the major search enquiries and re-establishing links with the school. Under the guidance of Mr S P Gardiner, a small group of staff and pupils has been brought together to further expand the school's web site. They will update and create new areas like the new 'webit' section, a weblink resource area for subject related sites designed by Jonathan Whiteside (Lower Sixth). We also intend to incorporate more sites designed by pupils related to projects in school, as well as general interest topics.

We are delighted to report that the School Young Enterprise Company has won the best Web Page in the 16+ age category among some twelve schools throughout the Wyre and Fylde.

STOP PRESS

Arkwright Scholarships:
We have just heard that Laura Clarke has made it through to the short list and will be interviewed for a scholarship award at Trent College, Nottingham. Congratulations to Laura and commiserations to Ricky, a talented young engineer in the making.



FURTHER SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT - THE LANGUAGES CENTRE

I am grateful to the Board of Governors for their permission to go ahead with the second phase of the Technology Centre project. The plan is to create an up-to-date suite of rooms for the teaching of modern foreign languages, which will contain four full size classrooms adjacent to the Technology Centre, and an office and sixth form teaching room in an arched bridge, which will link the new Languages and Technology Centres together.

The new building will be traditional in style and is scheduled for completion on 1st September 1999. As I write the builders have already moved in, cleared the site, laid the foundations and the internal walls are rising apace.

ENTRANCE AND SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATIONS

I am very pleased to report that over 200 candidates registered for the Eleven plus Entrance Examinations in a very competitive year when the standard was unusually high. Consequently I have been able to recruit the school's third successive four-form entry of just over 100 pupils with little difficulty, save the bitter disappointment of having to turn so many away.

The Headmaster's Scholarship, awarded to the pupil who scored the highest overall mark, goes very deservedly to Joanne Box, from Arnold Junior School, who recorded the highest total ever, despite being a year young. We congratulate Joanne on her outstanding achievement and look forward to her joining Kirkham Grammar School in September.

11+ Scholarships/Exhibitions awarded to:

Joanne Box	Academic	Arnold Junior School
Thomas Clark	Academic	St Thomas' CE
Joanne Forrest	Academic	Highfield Priory
Robert Hutton	Academic	St Andrews CE
Joanne Nowell	Academic	Walton-le-Dale CP
Nicola Rogerson	Academic	KGJS
Morgan Shaw	Music	KGJS
Matthew Stanbury	Academic	Lytham Hall Park
Thomas Wardell	Academic	St Michael's CE Kirkham
Nadia Yousuf	Academic	St Mary, St Andrew

11+ Bursaries awarded to:

Jessica Berry	Stanah CP
Jennifer Bolton-King	KGJS
Christopher Bowden	Manor Beach CP
Nicholas Coulter	St Michael's CE Kirkham
Samuel Hopkinson	Cottam CP
Charles Hoyle	KGJS
Louise Mason	Our Lady & St Edwards

OXBRIDGE OFFERS

We congratulate the following students who have succeeded in attracting offers from Oxford and Cambridge Universities:

Emily Ross	Biochemistry	St Hilda's Oxford
Kathryn Sharrocks	Biochemistry	Merton, Oxford
Kathryn Shaw	Engineering	Downing, Cambridge
Janine Swarbrick	Natural Sciences	Robinson, Cambridge
James Whewell	History	New College, Oxford

STAFF CHANGES

I am sure we would all wish to congratulate our Head of English, Mr Neal Clark, on his promotion to what is probably the most coveted Deputy Headship in the UK. Mr Clark has been appointed as Deputy Headmaster of Stewart-Melville's College, Edinburgh, the largest independent school in the land, with effect from September 1999. Although we shall miss him very much indeed, we can hardly begrudge what is a huge achievement for him and a 'feather in the cap' of Kirkham Grammar School. I will say more about Mr Clark's six years at KGS in my summer letter.

In his place, I have appointed Mr Christopher Hawkes, who is presently Head of English at King Edward's, Lytham. Mr Hawkes is an experienced head of department and examiner, well used to achieving excellent examination results for his students and skilled in the use of ICT. He is also the Awards' Officer for the Lytham Schools' Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, which we have agreed he will introduce at KGS to run alongside the School's Combined Cadet Force.

SIXTH FORM

Many upper sixth students have received morale-boosting offers from the universities of their choice as they prepare for their A-level examinations in the Summer. It is a tribute both to the quality of their applications and to the support that we provide them that so many of our students attract generous offers from top universities.

The staff-student discussion group is proving to be increasingly popular with both upper and lower sixth students. It provides a welcome respite from dull practical concerns for both teachers and students to spend two lunchtimes a week "putting the world to right" over coffee. The crossover of ideas between students from different subject areas is refreshing and entertaining for all involved.

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

PUBLIC SPEAKING SOCIETY

Having already won the Lancashire round, the sixth form public speaking team (Lisa Brambles, Tushar Bhuiya and Thomas Grey) were runners-up in the Senior Section of the Rotary International 'Youth Speaks' District Final 1999, held in Lancaster on Saturday, 13th March. Their subject was 'Is football the scourge of modern society?'

The team arrived with ten minutes to spare, which can only be ascribed to 'The Importance of Being Earnest'! (Tushar was buying a copy and it made him late!). The team gave a superb presentation and were well supported by parents and friends. I was very proud of them: they represented the school well and people were impressed by their turn-out, presentation and demeanour. It is no mean feat to be runners-up in the Northern District Final, Rotary's largest district.

With this success, and the fifth year team's success in the Business and Professional Women's competition, we feel that the Public Speaking Society is firmly established. Although we lose Lisa Brambles and Tushar Bhuiya as they go on to higher education, we have some talented speakers coming up through the school. However, we will miss the expertise and enthusiasm these two have given to the Society. We now look forward to the English Speaking Union competitions in September and we would like to welcome any new members.



Tushar Bhuiya, Lisa Brambles and Thomas Grey - Runners up in the Senior Section of the Rotary International 'Youth Speaks' District Final.

FRENCH CLUB



The French Club continues to meet twice a week, Tuesday and Thursday lunch times, in Room 16 or, increasingly, in the Technology Centre.

A group of between six and sixteen lower school pupils meets to play board games, number games and to do various computer activities, both individually and in groups, including word games on the inter-active whiteboard and selected French Internet sites. The range of informal, enjoyable activities enables pupils to reinforce and expand on work covered in the classroom.

FRENCH TRIP

The ever-popular French Department holiday takes place at the end of the Easter break; with over sixty pupils, aged between second year and upper sixth, off to Paris for a trip which will include all the usual highlights. Seven members of staff will be accompanying them.

ORNITHOLOGY SOCIETY

The Ornithology Society undertook two field-trips during the term, the first to a fog-bound Hest Bank on what would have been a superb high-tide wader roost had we been able to see the birds! However, their eerie calls created a very evocative scene. Leighton Moss was equally quiet but for the superb stag which charged down the hillside and hurdled the perimeter wall before burying itself in the reedbed!

Early March found the club back on the Solway Firth, which was beautiful despite the blizzard conditions on the way up. During a remarkable day we had glorious sightings of four barn owls, two hunting within yards of us and catching prey. We went on the proverbial wild-geese-chase to get close to the huge flock of very nervous barnacle geese. They were right to be jumpy as they were dive-bombed by an enormous peregrine which nearly brought down a victim right in front of us.

Next term we visit the Lakeland eagles and end the term with a seabird spectacular off the North East coast.

SKI SOCIETY

How fortunate KGS Ski Society were to be skiing in the first week of January and not during the terrible disasters of the last few weeks. It was the 2nd January 1999 which saw the departure of our annual ski holiday, consisting of some 59 pupils and four staff (we met Mrs Taylor and her daughter already out there). This year, again, we jetted off to the French Alps. This was the first official school function of our 450th Anniversary Celebrations' year. Because last year's venue was so successful in Plan Peisey, it was decided to return to the same venue in the famous Les Arcs system with 'Alpine Action'.

We arrived at Geneva (Switzerland) - 'What is that sea, sir?' asked a budding geography student! Unfortunately our transfer transport had broken down and another had to be booked. This took a little time and tested Mr Scott's broken French as he enquired of the driver, on a mobile phone, as to his location. Apparently 'just half an hour away' in French, is about three hours in English! Finally we arrived, very hungry, but soon settled in. The region of the Haute Tarantaise was ideal for all types of skier. The gentle forest slopes were ideal runs for beginners to learn their turns as they progressed from the wide open pistes, while the intermediates soon discovered the more challenging runs of all the Les Arcs resorts - especially the 7 km black run of the Aiguille Rouge (3200m). The hotel was magnificently placed and provided true doorstep skiing. From skis-off to boot room was about five paces!

What made it even better was that it started to snow on the first night - and all the next day - so it put down some wonderful, fresh powder, which was much needed. The next five days were superb; some of the best skiing conditions were experienced and enjoyed by the many first-timers. Unfortunately for James Leeming, he decided to enter for the Olympic luge event on the first night, cut his head and had to be stitched up. We did, however, manage to get him skiing by the end of the week. Tom Hookey caught an edge in the slalom stadium and head planted the snow, but damaged a knee ligament. He got well and truly plastered, but kept in high spirits! Later in the week, William Conboy aggravated a previous wrist injury. All in all, accidents were few,



'Alpine Action!'

however, and a great time was had by all. Memorable events were the ability of Mr Scott and Dr Hall to clear the bar by attempting Karaoke to the Righteous Brothers! There were some spectacular wipe-outs in the fresh powder snow and in the trees. There was the terrific skiing in the Arcs 2000 system, especially in the Grand Col where Doc. Hall went off piste and was nearly never seen again - the snow was that deep! Gary Livesey exposed himself on the slopes by ripping his salopettes! By the end of the week all participants had improved and learned much about this exhilarating sport.

Alas, it was soon time to return to Geneva to fly home. Again, there was a bit of a rush at the airport and the usually efficient Swiss could not cope with the size of our party and Tom on crutches! So more delay - in fact the flight had to wait for us! However, even greater problems when we landed at Manchester - our cases had been put on the Gatwick flight by mistake! Fortunately, they did arrive at school on the following Monday - all except Mrs Taylor's which took another week. What an eventful holiday, but such fun! So good was the week that already the holiday for January 2000 is booked up and even has a waiting list. We cannot gain a reservation in Les Arcs, so we have had to opt for a different tour company and head for Les Gets next year. Let's hope the snow is as good as it has been for the past two years.

CHESS CLUB

The annual Chess Competition has been taking place this term. The winner will go forward to represent the School in a regional final to be held in early May. Although the competition is not yet over, the smart money is on either Paul Preston or Tushar Bhuiya, both in the Upper Sixth.

The best U13 also goes forward to the regional final - this particular age category is being very keenly contested.

PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The newest KGS society held an inaugural meeting this term. It caters for stamp collectors of all ages and interests. Enthusiasts have been wheeling and dealing with one another to improve their collections.

The society is also establishing links with similar clubs in schools abroad via the Internet and e-mail, in order to set up a worldwide network of school philatelic societies.

In yet another area KGS is setting the pace!

CLIMBING CLUB

The climbing wall was extended upwards during the Christmas holidays - and what a difference this has made! The quality and variety of the climbing has been much improved, but also the wall now has a more imposing and challenging appearance because its overall proportions have changed. Rockley Climbing Walls, the contractors who built the original wall, have made an excellent job of the extension, but before they could start work, the suspended ceiling in the MPH needed to be raised. The school was very fortunate in that a current parent, Mr Clark (a specialist in this area of construction), volunteered his services and two Old Kirkhamians, Stephen Clark and Christopher White, worked under his direction for a couple of days early on in the Christmas holidays to accomplish this task.

All the bolt-on holds on the wall were removed to allow construction of the extension to take place and so the first few weeks this term saw club members engaged in the exciting and demanding task of replacing the holds to create routes. There are now nearly forty routes on the wall and still not all of the bolt-on holds have been replaced.

As well as climbing on the school wall, the club visited other indoor climbing walls, as usual, and it was good to see a nucleus of keen first and second year climbers forming, to complement the sixth form core. The club eagerly awaits the better weather which will allow real climbing to recommence.

ANIMAL ARK CLUB

This has been a productive term with our Russian hamsters, Bart and Lisa, having a family of five (4 grey and 1 albino) and with the successful hatching of a chick from a hen's egg. We have now borrowed an egg incubator to give more pupils the chance of seeing a chick hatch.

A trip to Pets at Home was organised this term to choose a female Syrian hamster which we intend to try breeding with 'Moley' - our collection of animals may be increasing yet again!

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

'Imagine'. This year's Young Enterprise Company, has almost completed its year of trading. A wide range of products has been marketed, produced and sold, with profits currently standing at over £1000. The demand for a wide range of goods has been met with production of tea towels, calendars, glass painted bottles and silk scarves as main products. Much has been learnt from trips to local businesses where company members have gained skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in the business world.



'Imagine', The KGS Young Enterprise Team, with Junior School pupils who helped them to produce calendars and tea-towels

'Imagine' has worked efficiently and professionally

throughout the year, meeting regularly with advisers from business and industry. The potential of ICT and modern forms of communication have been met, with e-mail and Internet communication contributing to the company's success.

The Company is now working towards the Fylde Area Finals, which take place at the Marine Hall, Fleetwood on 22nd April. This will give 'Imagine' a great opportunity to show the area the success of the company through a written report, business presentation and display stand. We wish them well and hope to celebrate a success in the school's 450th Anniversary.

To mark the end of the company year, 'Imagine' will be holding an evening of musical jazz entertainment in the Old Hall on Friday, April 16th, 7.30 to 11.00 pm, with bar until 10.30 pm. In support of the Company, guest appearances from the School Jazz Quartet and professional bands have been arranged. It is hoped that this special event will be a great success, offering an opportunity to participate in a relaxing and enjoyable evening. Tickets are available in school at a cost of £2.50.



Animal Ark Club members with their growing collection of animals

SCHOOL DRAMA



Theatre Studies' students at work in the School Drama Studio

Following a well-earned rest after the rigours of last term's school play, the fifth and upper sixth years settled down to their mock examinations. Meanwhile, fourth and lower sixth year pupils took part in a fund-raising project on behalf of the girls' hockey tour of Barbados. Together with the Margaret Bagshaw School of Dance, these pupils put on an evening's entertainment entitled "All That Jazz". The event, comprising of a mixture of dance, drama and song, was very successful, proving how well cross-curricular and community links can be forged via drama.

During the half-term holiday, the Theatre Studies pupils went to London, where they took active part in a workshop, organised by professional actors, at the Theatre Museum in Covent Garden, before moving on to a matinee performance of the hit 'social musical' "Rent". It was a very busy day for all concerned, but well worth the effort and proved to be of great educational value to the pupils. Other theatre visits this term have included: "The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole" at the Grand Theatre, Blackpool on March 19th (starring our own Derek Howarth) and on March 3rd the Dramatic Society jetted off to see "Return to the Forbidden Planet", also at the Grand Theatre.

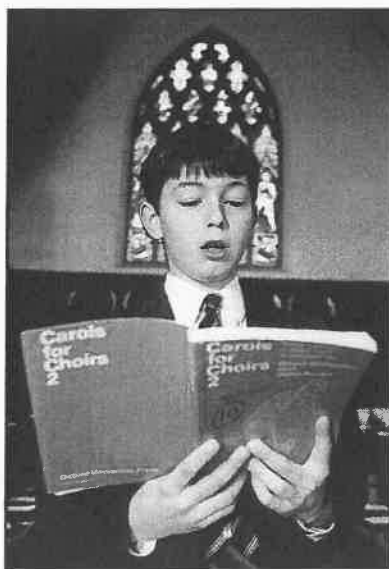
Lower sixth and fourth year drama students are now busy preparing for the forthcoming Medieval Festival taking place on May 8th as part of the school's 450th Anniversary celebrations. "The Canterbury Tales" will be performed as pieces of medieval theatre, along with jugglers, tumblers, stilt walkers, medieval games galore, music and dance and a selection of stalls. The day promises to be quite exciting!

MUSIC

A large number of pupils have been involved in the musical activities of the term. Over 200 items were presented for audition in the House Music festival and some were of a very high standard indeed. Individual winners this year were Alistair Kipling and Samuel Smith who demonstrated a real breadth of musical interest in their performances.

The Spring Concert was attended by an enthusiastic audience who witnessed over 100 pupils on stage during the course of the evening.

Congratulations are in order to Kelda Rogerson who recently gained the Bishops Chorister Award for excellence and to Kingsley Shaw who was successful in the St Nicholas Examination, administered by the Royal School of Church Music, thus gaining the highest award open to boy choristers.



Kingsley Shaw has gained the highest award open to boy choristers

CHARITY

In a short but hectic term, donations have been made towards the Christian Aid Emergency Appeal for Columbia, following the terrible disaster there; to the Liverpool Hospital 'Forget-me-not' Cancer Appeal; to the Sam Young Trust and to Comic Relief.

Towards the end of term a non-uniform day was held to raise money for Comic Relief and it was good to see that many pupils decided individually to undertake different sponsored events in support of that cause.

Shortly before term ended, representatives from the North West offices of Oxfam came into school to launch their "Education Now" Campaign, aimed at highlighting the connection between Third World debt and the lack of education in those countries. It was a privilege to be chosen as the school where this campaign was launched locally and a group of pupils represented the school well.

The weekly collections continue to raise funds to support all these causes and we are most grateful to those who contribute most generously week in, week out.

STUDENT TEACHERS

We say goodbye at the end of term to our student teachers from St Martins College, Lancaster. Ms Johnson, Ms Wilson and Mr McArdle have been assisting in the teaching of History, Geography and Art respectively. We hope that they have learned from their experiences here. The new approaches which student teachers bring are valuable for pupils and staff, and it has been a 'learning process' for us all. For a short period next term we shall be welcoming back Ms Westwell and Ms Brunt to the Geography and History departments where they will complete their training. We thank all the students for the way they have contributed to life at KGS inside and outside the classroom and we wish them every success in their future careers.

FRIENDS OF KGS

I am pleased to report that the Christmas Fair helped to raise a grand sum of £3500. The minibus has been officially handed over and our objective for 1999 is now set on raising money towards the library.

Again, we ask you to join us in this joint effort and support our forthcoming 1999 celebrations, which promise to be both stylish and great fun!

The Family Fun Day on Sunday 23rd May will be an afternoon packed with all kinds of entertainment for the whole family. We need lots of help to organise and co-ordinate this event. If you are able to assist in any way, please contact me on 01253 892052.



Ros Ince, Chairman of 'The Friends', and Jennifer Collinge, Treasurer, hand over the keys of the new school minibus to Mr J Wood, Deputy Headmaster

The Summer Ball on Saturday 26th June will be a grand 450th celebration of Kirkham Grammar School, set again in a marquee on the front lawn of the school. To make this event very special, we ask both you and your friends to join us. Further details will follow later. On behalf of 'The Friends' I would like to wish you a very happy Easter.

**Ros Ince
Chairman**

450TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE WARE

The following items of 450th Anniversary Commemorative Ware are available for purchase from the School Shop or at Anniversary Events:

Teddy Bear	£8.50
Mug	£7.50
Trinket Box	£7.50
450th Anniversary Tie	£6.00 (Junior) £8.00 (Senior)
Cufflinks	£10.00
Stickpin	£5.00

Additional items will be available shortly. All cheques should be made payable to **KGS 1999 Committee** and accompany your purchase or order.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

450th Anniversary Founders' Day Service at St Michael's Parish Church, Kirkham

2.30 pm, Tuesday 20th April

Guest of Honour:

The Rt. Rev. David Hope,
Archbishop of York

Medieval Pageant and Drama Festival

2.00 - 5.00 pm, Saturday 8th May

Senior School Centenary Athletic Sports

*1.00 - 4.00 pm, Wednesday
12th May*

Friends of Kirkham Grammar School Family Fun Day

*1.00 - 4.00 pm Sunday
23rd May*

450th Anniversary Sixth Form Ball

7.30 pm, Friday 25th June

Friends of KGS 450th Anniversary Summer Ball

6.30 pm, Saturday 26th June

450th Anniversary Cricket Match

School 1st XI v MCC

11.30 am, Wednesday 30th June

450th Anniversary Open Weekend

Friday 2nd July to Sunday 4th July

Friday 2nd July Reception for Old Kirkhamians

8.00 pm in the Old Hall

Saturday 3rd July Open Afternoon in School

1.30 - 4.30 pm

450th Anniversary Summer Concert

in the New Hall at 7.30 pm

Sunday 4th July

450th Anniversary Commemorative Service

in the Old Hall, 11.00 am

led by Rt Rev Ronald Brown,
former Bishop of Birkenhead and
Old Kirkhamian

HOUSE EVENTS

The Houses have been involved in both cultural and sporting activities this term. Possibly the major event, at least in terms of organisation needed, was the House Music Festival. This double point event may prove to be crucial as the overall points are totted up at the end of the season. School House came out on top with a very large number of entries. The other Housemasters began to wonder if some of their members had defected to the other side! School House do have the advantage that most of their members are boarders, so practices are easier to arrange. In fact if you listened closely, the huge School House choir could be heard in the centre of Kirkham in the small hours of the morning! Well done to Mr. Smith and his well organised and talented group of musicians. Thank you to Mr. Catterall for organising this event and listening to hundreds of pieces of music. I know for a fact that his favourite tune is now 'My heart will go on', from Titanic the movie!

On the sporting front the events were diverse and involved a large number of pupils from all age groups. The enthusiasm of the younger members of the school was excellent, and led to some memorable sporting competition.

Overall there were nine events across the age ranges and, interestingly enough, School, Preston and Kirkham won three events each. Kirkham cleaned up in all the Junior events (boys and girls cross-country and the rugby 7's) School won the Intermediate boys and girls cross country as well as the Senior 7's (hardly surprising when most of the team either play at County or National level). Fylde excelled in the Senior Girls' Hockey Competition and Preston was victorious in both Senior cross-country events and the Intermediate 7's, the latter putting out a very strong side who should do well again next year.

There are, at the time of writing, two more events to go this term: the Junior Girls Netball and the final of the House Debate between Preston and Kirkham. This is always a feast of keenly fought argument and great wit, all played out in front of the whole of the sixth form. Our thanks go to Ms Gibson for supplying the motion for the debate and for allowing a whole week for the teams to prepare their arguments ... very generous!

Thanks must go to all the members of staff who helped in organising the events, especially the members of the games staff and rugby coaches who have refereed the sporting competitions. Finally, on behalf of all the Housemasters I would like to extend a big thank you to the various House Captains, who stand down shortly in preparation for their examinations. It is their organisation and motivation that helps to sustain the House system as such an important part of School life here at KGS. We wish them well in the coming few months.

COMBINED CADET FORCE

The main event of the term has been the Adventurous Training Camp, held as usual during the half-term holiday. It was granted decent weather for the change, with the new drying room at St Johns-in-the-Vale being little used except to dry the dishcloths. Some twenty-five Cadets spent the week orienteering, mountain biking and walking. Some were lost, on a temporary basis, and were duly found safe and sound in a cafe only two kilometres from the start of their exercise. Self-reliance indeed! Miss Fryer fell off her bike and was the only casualty of the week.

The staff, parents and Old Kirkhamians who run this week are to be thanked for their support, efforts and hard work and the Colonel is glad to be back in harness again.

Field Days will take place at Woodvale, Darwen Moor, Fulwood Barracks and Weeton Camp and it is hoped that all cadets will participate fully and benefit from the opportunities given. Planning for Summer Camp is on-going and places are available for booking now - book early!



Luke Newell, having given his all, in the House Cross-Country Competition



MILLENNIUM ROUND THE WORLD YACHT RACE

Upper sixth former, Kerry Ellis, who took part in the Tall Ships Race last summer, has been selected for a place in the Millennium Round the World Yacht Race in 2000. She hopes to crew on a leg from Fiji, Tonga, Auckland, Sydney or Brazil to England in 'The Spirit of Diana', a boat named after Diana, Princess of Wales.

This is a 'first' for KGS and we congratulate Kerry and wish her well on her arduous maritime venture.

U.15 GIRLS' INDOOR CRICKET

Following the girls' good performances at Thornton in the regional qualifying round, the side progressed into the Round Robin County Finals at the appropriately named Robin Park Arena. Kirkham v Arnold proved to be one of the keenest and closest games of the day; Kirkham scored 66 for 3 wickets, Arnold 58 for 3. Our second game against Our Lady and St John (Blackburn) was less than close, chasing 29 for 3, the school cruised to 30 for 0. The third game against Rhyddings (Oswaldtwistle) was another emphatic victory, as the school scored 58 for 3 against 19 all out.

The school thereby qualified for the County semi-finals against Rainford (Merseyside) whose 52 for 3 was insufficient as our girls amassed 54 for 1 with time to spare. The final, therefore, was eagerly anticipated as the school came up against last year's winners from Hollingworth High School (Oldham). For once our players struggled to dominate the opposition and 35 all out was never going to trouble a talented team. The side fought valiantly as Hollingworth deservedly won with only 1 wicket down and a few deliveries remaining.



Samantha Young, a member of the U.15 indoor cricket team, practising in the school's indoor cricket nets

Throughout the qualifying and final rounds, the team conducted themselves with skill, aptitude, commitment and sportsmanship.

The side consisted of second, third and fourth year girls and are once again **North West Regional County Winners.**

CROSS COUNTRY

I am delighted to report that this term has seen the successful re-introduction of cross country running as an important winter sport. In February the school entered 1st year boys' and girls' teams in the Fylde Coast Schools' Cross Country Championships. Our girls finished a creditable 3rd in this event, with Jane Greenwood showing great individual potential in third place. The boys, spearheaded by the exceptional talents of Stephen Hatch and Richard Newton, 1st and 2nd respectively, comfortably won their event, placing their five counting runners in the first fifteen home.

In a recent fixture with Hutton Grammar School, Stephen and Richard were again placed in the top two positions, with Max Fulford-Brown in 3rd. In the second year, Steven Gowland, another fine athlete who recently won the Blackpool Schools' Road Race, won his event. Alas, Hutton grouped well in the middle of these two races and won a lower total score. However, our third year, headed by Terry Ogden, Sean Swarbrick, Marcus Plowright, John Townsend, Richard Westerman, Paul Hedley, Bradley Hamilton and Luke Primmer won their race easily.

All this running bodes well for a good summer's athletics. Both boys and girls have been doing some preliminary work in PE, whilst our National Coach, Syl Sampey, has been doing some conditioning work with more specialist athletes.

TENNIS CAMPS

David Shaw will again be holding his Tennis Camps at Kirkham Grammar School during 1999. The Camp dates are as follows:

May 31st - June 4th
July 12th - July 16th
July 26th - July 30th

For an application form, please contact David Shaw on 01772 786995 or 0370 618148.

GIRLS' HOCKEY

The girls have had an extremely successful season, once again. From the junior end of the school through to the seniors the girls have played with real enthusiasm, determination and commitment and I congratulate them on their efforts. The 1st XI started the season with eight new players and initially found it difficult to gel. Through their hard work and total commitment they achieved some excellent results. This team only lost two matches throughout the season. In October they were equal first in the British Aerospace U.18 Lancashire Tournament, but unfortunately lost out on goal difference by one goal. They finished the season on a real high, winning the Lancashire Schools' U.19 tournament, a thoroughly deserved victory.

The U.15s remain undefeated for the fourth consecutive season - an outstanding achievement. They now look forward to the Lancashire tournament on the 19th March.

The U.15 cup team got through to the quarterfinals of the National School/Club Hockey Competition - another outstanding achievement.



U.13 Seven-a-side team - Lancashire Champions of the Le Coq Sportif National Mini Hockey Competition



Hannah Spacey, England U.16 Goalkeeper

The U.14s have only lost three games this season and the U.13s have only lost two games. The U.13 seven-a-side team won the Lancashire round of the Le Coq Sportif National Mini-Hockey Competition and will represent Lancashire in the Northern finals in Liverpool on April 17th. The U.12s are a very strong year group indeed. The standard across this age range has been so good that when the opportunity has arisen we have managed to field four teams. The 'A' Team remains unbeaten and looks forward to competing in the Arnold Invitation Tournament on March 20th. The 'B' Team has only lost one match.

The Kirkham Grammar School girls are going from strength to strength on the hockey pitch. We now have nineteen girls representing Lancashire County. In fact, the Lancashire County U.15 hockey team which won the Northern Tournament on 7th March consisted of eight Kirkham players in the starting line up!

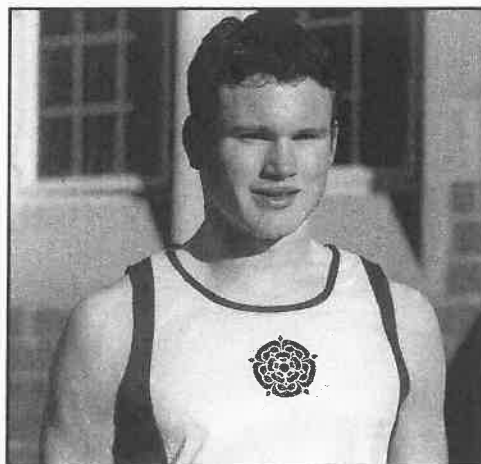
Three girls have regularly attended England Centre of Excellence coaching weekends: Hannah Spacey, Rachel Sissons and Lorna Sissons. At last, we have our first England International hockey player! We are very proud of Hannah Spacey who was selected as one of the top two goalkeepers for the England U.16 squad, at the young age of fourteen. Hannah represented England against Scotland on 10th and 11th March and will travel to Belgium to represent England during the Easter holidays.

The future of hockey within the school continues to look very exciting indeed.

ATHLETICS

Lower sixth former Gareth Rees, ranked in the top six in the country over 400 metres hurdles, proved his talent, high potential and versatility by winning the North of England U.18 indoor 60 metres hurdles title earlier this term.

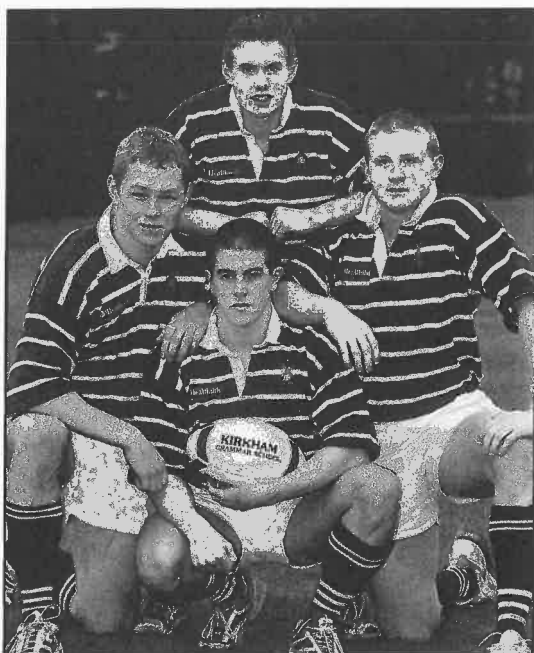
Gareth Rees - North of England U.18 indoor 60m hurdles champion



BOYS' HOCKEY

Congratulations to third year Gavin Phillips on his selection for the North West Schools' Hockey Squad - a short step away from an England assessment and possible England Cap.

RUGBY



Ben Davis (England 'A' 18 Group and England U.18 squad), Jonathan Roddam (England U.18 Squad), Richard Wire (Scotland U.18), Richard Hopkinson (U.18 Group Final Trialist)

The 1st XV completed a successful season with comfortable victories over Cowley HS, Hutton GS and Arnold, resulting in 12 wins in 14 matches played over the season. This restructured team has improved greatly over the season and certainly merited a better 'Daily Mail Cup' run. It was a pity that the Bradford GS match had to be played so early in the season. The Captain, Richard Wilson, has missed much of the season owing to a serious injury. The team greatly missed an excellent captain and we are grateful to him for all his efforts.

There have been a number of outstanding individual achievements by players who have ensured that KGS rugby remains at the forefront of the schoolboy game. Richard Wire has won the school's first ever Scottish Cap, being selected to represent Scotland U.18 on the wing. He richly deserves his success. Ben Davis represented England 'A' 18 group against Australia. Richard Hopkinson gained an England 18 Group final trial and Ben Davis and Jonathan Roddam have been selected for the England U.18 squad. Richard Hopkinson and Jonathan Roddam, both U.17, played for the North of England 18 Group against Australia, and Ben Davis was chosen as blind side flanker in the Rugby World "Team of the Term".

The 2nd XV has had a truly outstanding season, achieving the first ever unbeaten record by a KGS 2nd XV. They won their final two matches against Cowley and Arnold, completing a total of 14 straight wins and scoring 588 points, whilst conceding only 101. It has been a memorable season, as one hundred per cent records are few and far between, and one the players will not forget. Congratulations to all and thanks to our staunch following of parents.

The U.16 XV has suffered from the lack of regular demanding fixtures, but members have acquitted themselves well. The team lost against a more organised Arnold side in January, but finished its season on a positive note with a victory over QEGS, Blackburn. Congratulations to Michael Lau and Adam Watts who both earned selection for Lancashire U.16 group and special congratulations to Adam who has earned the distinction of captaining the North of England 16 Group.

Despite crippling injuries our U.15 team has had an excellent season, finishing with fine wins over Hutton GS and Arnold. Well led by James Holmes (Capt) and Paul MacNamee (V.Capt) the boys now look forward to a tour of Italy, after a season full of promise which witnessed an excellent run in the 'Daily Mail Cup'. We congratulate the following boys on their selection for Lancashire U.15: James Holmes, George Leeming, Patrick Lewis and Alex Loney.

The U.14 XV has had a poor season generally, but there were some notable individual performances. John Townsend has been an outstanding No.8, Terry Ogden a promising prop, Sean Swarbrick and Paul Hedley show great potential in the backs and Simon Cottam shows definite promise as a utility back.

A generally successful season has seen the U.13 XV perform with enormous courage, character and skill against physically much larger teams. This term ended with a splendid away win over Arnold by 20 points to 7. The team has been well led by Andrew Stevens, who has been an inspirational Captain and Jack Ward has directed and controlled the backs, leading by example. The pack, especially Wigglesworth, Daniels and Taylor, has performed particularly well against larger opposition and we are grateful to Ben Bancroft, former Captain of School, for selflessly giving of his time as Assistant Coach.



The U.12s are in the middle of a very busy part of the season, with the tournaments at Hutton and Wirral still to come. They have beaten Arnold convincingly, without many 'A' Team players, but lost to strong sides from Hutton and Cowley. Both these games were very close in the initial stages and much promising rugby was played by Kirkham.

The 2nd XV Rugby team - unbeaten this season