

H e a d m a s t e r ' s N e w s l e t t e r t o P a r e n t s
..... S p r i n g 2 0 0 0

Congratulations!

The academic reputation of the School has been strengthened this year by a growing number of Oxbridge offers. Five of our Upper Sixth students were successful in attracting offers from Oxford and Cambridge colleges.

Phillip Bennett has an offer to read Natural Sciences at St. John's College, Cambridge

Joanne Gornall has an offer to read Natural Sciences at Pembroke College, Cambridge

Martha Newell has a rare matriculation offer (2 grade E's) to read Archeology and Anthropology at Christ's College, Cambridge

Adam Devine has an offer to read Chemistry at Jesus College, Oxford

Felicity Guest has an offer to read Medicine at Exeter College, Oxford.

In addition, **Lewis Watson**, who left last summer and took a gap year, has secured a place at St. Hugh's College, Oxford reading French.

This gives us a total of six Oxbridge places this year, a remarkable tribute to the hard work and ability of our students supported by their staff. We wish them all well.



Congratulations and best wishes to our Oxbridge Candidates:
Back row, left to right Adam Devine, Phillip Bennett; front row, left to right, Felicity Guest, Joanne Gornall, Martha Newell

In this term's edition

Entrance examinations report - page 2



Music and drama - pages 6 & 7

Art and Web - pages 7 & 8

Caring for our environment - page 11

Sports news - pages 13-15

Entrance and Scholarship Examinations

Some 200 candidates have taken the Eleven-plus Entrance Examinations in another very competitive year. Many who would have secured places in previous years have had to be turned away. The Headmaster's Scholarship, awarded to the pupil who scores the highest overall mark, goes very deservedly to Melanie Smith from St. Maria Goretti Primary School, whose performance was absolutely outstanding.

11+ Academic Scholarships/Exhibitions have been awarded to:

Mark Ashworth	Anchorsholme
Alexandra Bonney	Freckleton
Jennifer Dewhurst	Highfield Priory
Phillip Hingley	Ribby with Wrea
Louise Nuttall	Highfield Priory
Heather Reid	St. Michaels, Kirkham
Luke Sanders	Strike Lane
Robert Sissons	KGJS
Melanie Smith	St. Maria Goretti
Joshua Spink	St. Michaels, Kirkham
Michael Walker	KGJS

11+ Music Scholarships/Exhibitions have been awarded to:

Darren Bell	KGJS
Thomas Bennett	KGJS
Suzanne Carter	KGJS
Amy Shirtliff	Newton Bluecoat

11+ Bursaries have been awarded to:

Jemima Clarke	KGJS
Joella Clegg	Heyhouses
Sarah Cooper	KGJS
Cathryn Critchley	Ribby with Wrea
Vivienne Johnrose	Roebuck
Jordann Leeson	Stanley

Staff appointments

I am pleased to be able to inform parents that I have appointed Mrs. Diane Airey to set up a Learning Support Department for the benefit of the full age range of pupils at Kirkham Grammar School. We are keen to ensure that those pupils with special needs receive the support they require to enable them to fulfil their potential. Mrs. Airey holds a B.Ed. from Homerton College,

Cambridge, has a Dyslexia Institute BDA Diploma and is an Associate Member of the British Dyslexia Association. She has taught Biology, Chemistry and Physics at Key Stage 3 and also has a TEFL Diploma, enabling her to assume responsibility at KGS for the teaching of English as a foreign language with those of our boarding students who require it. Above all,

perhaps, Mrs. Airey has the invaluable experience of having set up and run a Learning Support Department at an independent school in Yorkshire, where she has dealt with the entire age range from 4-18 years over the past nine years. We are delighted to be welcoming such a well-qualified and experienced professional to KGS.

Calling all Businesses

As part of an ongoing programme of development, Kirkham Grammar School's Marketing and Development office is in the process of compiling a Business Directory.

If you feel your business could benefit from publicity within such a directory, which will be distributed free to 900 parents in the area through the School, and you are willing to make an agreed donation for each transaction you gain as a result, we would like to hear from you.

The brochure will also contain general advertisements and each listed business will be entitled to reduced advertising rates.

KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL

I would like the opportunity to have my business included in the Kirkham Grammar School Business Directory.

Name..... Tel. No

Address.....

.....

.....

.....

Type of Business

Please return this slip to: Mrs. M. Ashman, Marketing & Development Office, Kirkham Grammar School.

Reopening of the 1937 Time capsule



Top picture: KGS pupils watching the opening of the 1937 time capsule

Bottom picture: Old Kirkhamian Mr. Fred Bettess with staff at the Conservation Centre in Liverpool

On Tuesday 21st March a group of pupils and staff visited the Conservation Centre in Liverpool for the reopening of the time capsule, which had been placed behind the Foundation Stone of the 1938 Block in July 1937. They were accompanied by Mr Fred Bettess who, as School Captain, had placed the time capsule on Speech Day which was then held at the end of the Summer Term, on 28th July 1937. Mr Bettess had travelled down specially, from his home in Northumberland, for the reopening.

The Senior Metals Conservator at the museum, Mr Steve Newman, took almost an hour to cut through the lead case of the capsule, the process having to be undertaken in a fume cupboard for safety reasons. On removing the lead it was discovered that there was an inner container, a biscuit tin, with a picture of Mount Everest on it, which in turn had been soldered to seal the contents.

Pupils watched the removal of the lead via a video link to the lecture theatre, but they were then able to be present in the lab for the opening of the tin, and the unveiling of its contents. These were perhaps a little disappointing; consisting of a selection of pre-war coins, a copy of the Times from 28th July, 1937, a programme for the day, a school prospectus (a single folded sheet!) and a copy of the OKA magazine.

Granada TV filmed the event, as did the Liverpool Cable Channel. One of our first years girls, Louise Mason, was interviewed and appeared on Granada Reports, where she outlined some of the contents for the new time capsule. This was placed in the new Languages Centre in December and includes letters from pupils about school life now, and in the future, CD-Rom of photographs of the School, recordings of school concerts, items of uniform and commemorative ware from the 450th Anniversary Celebrations.

The contents of the 1937 capsule were in good condition, but the Conservation Centre is doing some work on them for us so that they can be put on display here at school later this year.

Student teachers

We welcome three new student teachers from St. Martin's College, Lancaster. Miss Canning is working in the History Department, Miss Varnavas is working in the Geography Department and Mr. Perk is working in the Art Department.

They will be in School until the end of June, teaching a number of classes across all age-ranges. We wish them well and hope that their experience here at KGS stands them in good stead as they embark upon their careers.

Kirkham Grammar School has pledged its support to Lancashire County Council's road safety campaign "Together we can make the difference."

The campaign aims to reduce road casualties in the county and raise awareness of issues surrounding road safety. Partnerships are being developed between the county authorities, the private sector, schools and individuals, encouraging all to adopt an improved attitude to road usage. To date 16 companies and 55 organisations ranging from BAE SYSTEMS and the Lancashire Evening Post to the Girl Guide Association have pledged their support and set objectives.

One of the first initiatives being taken by the school is to ensure that all staff who drive the school minibuses take an Advanced Driving Course. A group of eight staff took this course in the Autumn Term and a further sixteen will do so at the start of next term.

Individuals also have a key role in the promotion of the strategy. To date, nearly 11,000 members of the public (over the age of 18) in Lancashire have pledged their support to "Together we can make the difference" and have committed themselves to becoming safer road users. Further information and a free action pack, can be obtained by ringing the freephone action line on 0800 328 1635.



KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWS

FRENCH CLUB

The French Club has continued to attract enthusiasts to our Tuesday and Thursday lunchtime sessions; on Tuesdays we play a variety of French board and card games, whilst on Thursdays film showings have included Hercules, Space Jam and "Le Cop".

French German

At the start of the Easter Break, 40 pupils from First Years through to Upper Sixth will be travelling to the French/German border to spend five days exploring the Alsace and Black Forest areas, practising their French and German and enjoying the best that both countries have to offer.

TISCA

Kirkham Grammar School has recently become a member of the Independent Schools' Christian Alliance, whose three key aims are:

1. To promote and defend the Christian faith and apply it to educational issues.
2. To support, equip and encourage Christians within the independent sector of education.
3. To foster a spirit of partnership in the gospel between Christian governors, staff, parents and pupils in independent education.

In the words of Ann Holt, Director, Care for Education: "Never has it been more timely for independent schools with Christian foundations to rediscover the validity and potential importance of these roots. TISCA has a vital role to play in helping such schools."

Careers Department

This has been a busy term for the Careers Department, with both the Third Years and Fifth Years facing important option choice decisions.

Increasingly, careers information resources are to be found on computers, both in software packages and on the Internet. At both the Third Year and Fifth year option evenings, large numbers of parents were intrigued to see how our computer facilities now support career information and advice. The traditional Careers Room with its paper-based resources is fast becoming a thing of the past.

Katherine sets a shining example out of school

Kirkham Grammar School has countless successes. In every assembly we learn of pupils' achievements; victories on the sports fields at hockey and rugby, success in the swimming pool and the presentation of certificates and grades for music and LAMDA, but Sixth Former Katherine Palmer has qualities to offer the school that we don't hear about every day. Since the age of five Katherine has been a dancer with the Carol May School of Dancing. She is RAD and ISTD trained and has passed many exams with high results. She has one and a half hours of private lessons a week, with extra training for shows and exams. Katherine has appeared in many shows since she began dancing, starting at the Charter Theatre, Preston and more recently appearing in variety performances at Her Majesty's Theatre, London and the Globe Theatre, Blackpool.

Katherine is able to provide first aid cover owing to her extensive experience with St. John Ambulance. She joined St. John Badgers in Penwortham shortly after her sixth birthday and has been a member ever since. In her Badger Set, she was only the fifth person to achieve the "Super Badger" award, which consists of nine badges including first aid, safety, caring, and the history of St. John. This is supposed to take four years but by nine years old Katherine was already visiting Cadet meetings for 10-18 year olds and could not wait until she was old enough to be enrolled!

Whilst in Cadets, Katherine has worked for some remarkable achievements. At the age of 12 she attended a two-day NCO course and was promoted to Cadet Sergeant of her division. Shortly after this, she completed her instructor course, which allowed her to instruct other members of her division. Earlier last year, Katherine was promoted to the highest rank within a Cadet division, Cadet Leader, following another weekend course. She has achieved over 1500 hours of public duty at events such as plays, conferences and fetes, where she is present to treat any injuries that occur.

In 1999 Katherine had another two great successes as she was appointed Deputy Cadet of the Year for Lancashire and she completed her Grand Prior's Award. The Grand Prior's Award consists of 12 proficiency badges, including Animal Care, Casualty Simulation and the Knowledge of the Order of St. John. She was the first Cadet in her division to achieve this award. The Cadet of the Year competition involved uniform inspection, teaching skills and an interview with the panel of judges, as well as a review of the Cadet. career. Because of these excellent achievements, Katherine was invited to a reception to Princess Anne at Buckingham Palace on March 22nd. It was a great honour for Katherine to meet and talk to Princess Anne and a wonderful experience.

Through St. John, Katherine also became involved in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and has completed her bronze and silver awards. She is currently undertaking her gold.



**Sixth former Katherine Palmer
- a girl of many talents**

CLIMBING CLUB

The club continues to be very popular, to the extent that a system giving priority to Sixth Form new members has had to be introduced, to cope with the demand for places on the Wednesday after-school session. The Friday lunchtime session was also unusually popular with a pleasing number of first formers climbing regularly and many others taking the opportunity to give climbing a try.

John Maskell, James Fletcher and Matthew Gaddes acquitted themselves well at an indoor climbing competition for local schools held on the wall at Arnold School just after half-term. Unfortunately the competition fell on the Sunday before the March 'A' level module exams, but it was very impressive that all the Sixth Form club members opted to resist the temptation to show off their climbing talents and instead took the longer term view of where their best interests lie. The younger members of the club, who did climb, enjoyed the day enormously and will have benefited greatly from the chance to experience competition climbing for the first time.

There was an early morning start on 2nd January 2000. Recovering from the Millennium Bug only the L6 boys were late. Once all the bags had been stowed it was time to say our goodbyes to all the parents and set off through the night to Gatwick Airport.

Les Gets, ski trip January 2000



No problem at the airport except several young individuals set off the security alarms by taking an array of metal objects through and a female SS Guard reprimanded Mr. Scott as he had not frisked them first. Monarch Airlines treated the group to a flight in a DC 10 to Grenoble. Some of the group had never been in such a wide-bodied plane. The coach journey to the Portes du Soleil gave us all a chance to catch up on some lost sleep on the way. Much snow was in evidence even at low altitude and as soon as we started to climb, the upper Alpine slopes looked promising.

On arrival at Cle des Champs we met our hosts for the week - Terry and Jayne. The food was indifferent to say the least but, not to be deprived, our intrepid KGS pupils soon found the numerous pizzas a emporter and creperies in the very attractive and festively-adorned village of Les Gets (pronounced Lay Jay). This is where their GCSE French came in useful, even if it was just to distinguish between seafood and ham and pineapple pizza. The outdoor ice rink was also discovered very early on and much fun was had there.

The snow conditions were almost perfect. Several metres had fallen over the Christmas and New Year holidays and the pupils also enjoyed clear blue skies virtually all week. The novices were soon flying around the lower nursery slopes, while the more advanced skiers ventured higher into the Portes du Soleil system above Morzine. Despite the poor food, much fun was enjoyed both on and off the slopes. The bum-boarding evening showed just how artistic the 6th form boys could be with their classical Greek snowman. The ten-pin bowling night indicated that several of the older girls had

'The bum-boarding evening showed just how artistic the 6th form boys could be...'

difficulties in controlling their bowling balls, one nearly delivered it overarm, another nearly followed the ball down the lane! On the last day several of the more adventurous better skiers hired "Snow Blades" - a sort of mini ski which is much more versatile and manoeuvrable than conventional skis. These were a great success and proved terrific fun on the jumps on the snowboard park.

The end of the holiday, however, was looming. Time really does go quickly when you're having fun. Awards, medals and presentations were given out and then it was an early night because of the 5am start for a 10.30am return flight. Unlike last year, our luggage did arrive with us at the same airport. The only thing Mr. Scott lost was the whole of the party as they dived into McDonalds for life-saving sustenance whilst he was looking for the return coach home. The journey home was so quiet - nearly everyone caught up on missed sleep. That is, of course, until we stopped at Keele Services - this time for a Burger King!

On the whole, another highly enjoyable and successful KGS Ski Society trip. Many thanks must go to all concerned. Mr. Scott for his organisation, Doc Hall, Ms Fryer and especially Katey Johnson (Old Kirkhamian) who stepped in at the last moment to replace Mrs. Taylor. (Is it true that others from the OKA want IMS to organise a trip for them?)

We are now looking forward to February half-term 2001 because we have booked a return to Plan Peisey with Alpine Action where we went in '98 and '99 and consequently all the places have already been taken.

As a post script, congratulations must go to Mr. Scott who has recently succeeded in achieving a British Alpine Ski Leader Award through the English Ski Council, which now gives him a licence to lead groups on pistes in Alpine environments.

SchoolSwimmingClub

The School swimming squad, numbering almost 50 swimmers, has had competitive matches this season against:

1. Bolton
2. Hutton Grammar School (2)
3. Stonyhurst College (2)
4. Arnold School (2)
5. Bury Girls' Grammar School
6. Ripley St. Thomas, Lancaster

Years 1 and 2 have done particularly well. The first years have remained unbeaten throughout the season, whilst the 2nd years have only lost

once. Michael Wilson, Stuart Fishwick, Harry Leeming, Grace Hobin and Grace Skinner have proved to be quite formidable opposition in their own particular events.

The senior boys have shown great spirit and tenacity but have struggled to win matches this season. Nevertheless, Gareth Rees, Philip Hendy and Jonathan Wilson have been outstanding ambassadors of swimming at Kirkham, and between them have given 21 years' loyal service. Kate Threlfall, Jemma Rees, Nicola Hendy and Emma Walker have given similar staunch service over the past five years.

As for the future... next season the Under-12s (who will then be Under 13) will be entered for the National Swimming Championships at Crystal Palace. They have created quite an impact at Junior level and therefore deserve the opportunity to compete with the very best.

As a footnote, we congratulate the 28 members of the Under-15 Rugby squad, who successfully completed a 'Cross Channel' swim of 1,584 lengths (22 miles) of Kirkham Baths, overnight, to raise funds for their forthcoming rugby tour to Spain.

MUSIC

The School's musicians have had a very busy Spring term with the Annual House Music Competition, Associated Board of the Royal School of Music Examinations, as well as preparations for forthcoming concerts and national competitions.

Over 200 pupils took part in the House Music Competition and both the instrumental and vocal music was of an impressive standard and a joy to listen to. All four houses produced fine performances in the House Choirs, with School House taking first position just ahead of Kirkham House. The individual winner of the Rosemary Greaves Music Award was Sam Smith with an excellent performance of Milhaud's Duo Concertante. The range of instruments played was impressively varied with the didgeridoo making its first appearance in the competition!

More than 40 pupils have practised hard at break and lunchtime in preparation for Associated Board Examinations. All of their hard work brought its rewards and particular mention must be made of Jak Berry (Grade VII trumpet) and Alistair Kipling (Grade VII piano).

Our musicians continue to play at County level with Gareth Jones (double bass) in the Lancashire Students' Symphony Orchestra, and Jak Berry (trumpet) and Jonathan Roberts (percussion) in the Lancashire Students' Concert Band - both performing recently in the Guild Hall, Preston.

The Girls' Choir is working hard on a competition programme in preparation for a Northern Region round of the National Sainsbury's Choir of the Year competition held at the Royal Northern College of Music later in the term.

Performers from both the Fifth and Sixth years are rehearsing for the "Africa Amplified" Concert at the end of March. This concert is being held to raise funds for an expedition with the British Schools' Expeditionary Society to Malawi, Central Africa this summer. The programme features modern music and dance and is an exciting venture.



Musicians in action - Jak Berry (trumpet), Jonathan Roberts (percussion) and Gareth Jones (double bass).

The performance of Rutter's "Gloria" in the May concert promises to be thrilling with the addition of a brass group, a three manual organ and the choir in peak form - also featuring will be the finalists from the House Music Competition, the Orchestra and the Girls' Choir.

Both Mr Catterall and Mrs Cassidy would like to take this opportunity to thank the school's instrumentalists and choristers for their excellent contribution to school life and their continued enthusiasm and hard work.

Congratulations to Travis Peters in 4K who has passed his Piano Diploma with Honours, which means that Travis is now qualified to teach the piano!

SCHOOL LIBRARY

The reclassification of the stock and its cataloguing onto computer has been started. Progress is slow but steady and the task is highlighting gaps in the collection which will be filled as part of the on-going development.

Many thanks to the members of the Sixth Form who gave up their time to help with World Book Day recently. A special mention must go to Head of

English, Mr. Hawkes, who was a tower of strength and encouragement.

A grand total of £112 was earned in commission and this has been spent on library books (a mixture of fiction and non-fiction). Thanks to all who supported this event.

DRAMA

The first and second years have been very busy with the preparations for the Junior Drama Festival and there are drama rehearsals in almost every corner of the school. Because there have been so many who have been keen to be involved, we have had to extend the categories and to reschedule the date for Tuesday 16th May - a date for your diaries, with a Festival Highlights show in the evening. Pupils are rehearsing their entries in the categories of: short plays, duologues and dance drama pieces. And it doesn't end there ... Mr. Hill has been working with pupils who want to design and make props for the plays and in the Technology Centre there are 18th Century swords, spaceships and magic rings under construction. The drama festival has been a great opportunity for the Lower Sixth to work with the junior forms as directors. They have been discovering the stresses and strains that running rehearsals, taking responsibility and decision-making brings. It has been really good to see our Sixth Formers in this supportive and creative role with our juniors and together they are enjoying the fun that the rehearsal process always brings.

Elsewhere the Fifth and Upper Sixth are preparing for the performance element of their GCSE and A-Level examinations.

We wish them well and feel sure that they will live up to the recent comment from an examiner: "We always look forward to coming to you ...KGS has a reputation for excellent drama."

We have been out to theatre again this term. Our first outing of the new Millennium was to see "The Barretts of Wimpole Street" performed by the Trestle Theatre Company at the Grand Theatre, Blackpool. We always enjoy supporting events at the Grand Theatre and this production was excellent. The text, which is rather lengthy, had been pared down and the very voluble Mr. Barrett who dominates and bullies Elizabeth had been silenced by a huge and grotesque mask which he wore throughout the play. Many of our Sixth Form students attended a two-hour workshop given by the company before the



Second year drama students, from left: Rebecca Norman, Katie Edgar, Lucy Martin, Chloe Spencer, Hannah Gledhill and Elizabeth Walker

performance. They participated in the warm up, looked at rehearsal techniques and devised improvisations, all under the watchful eye of the theatre company.

Spring is in the air: drama is everywhere!

Our next date was at the Contact Theatre in Wythenshawe to see the Restoration comedy "She Stoops To Conquer", performed by the

Compass Theatre Company. The performance was interesting rather than spell-binding and, perhaps most memorably, we left the theatre to discover that thick snow had fallen in Wythenshawe ... it was a great snowball fight!!

Perhaps the theatre-going highlight for our 'A' Level students was "American Buffalo" at the Dukes Theatre in Lancaster. The play just crackles with Mamet's powerful language and the set, in the round, really made us think that we were in a junk shop in downtown Chicago. After the show, we met the cast and director, and this was a great opportunity to ask masses of questions; KGS students kept them talking for a good hour! By the time this newsletter goes to press, we will have been to see "Talking Heads" at the Dukes Theatre and "Neville's Island" at the Octagon in Bolton.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Despite some problems due to the failure of Head Office to deliver Record Books, Sixth Form entry to the Award has been pleasing, with 18 sixth-form students currently embarked upon their Gold Award. Achieving Gold whilst at School is a difficult endeavour - it takes a minimum of 18 months to complete, and we wish

these participants well in their journey through the Award.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award recognises present achievement and offers the chance to experience adventure through a balanced

programme of activities. Once the Record Book situation is resolved, students from the 4th and 5th years will be offered the opportunity to participate in the Award at Bronze level. I hope that many young people will take the challenge that this rewarding scheme provides.

KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWS

WebWise

This term has seen the formation of a web design group which meets in T5 in the Technology block during Thursday lunchtime. Under the expert guidance of Mr. Gardiner they are about to undertake a number of 'real' assignments which include designing web sites for subject departments, the School Houses and clubs and societies on the School's Intranet. As they develop, they will then be included on the School's web site so they can be accessed from the outside world.

Recently the team cut its teeth on a real project by entering

NewsDay2000

The web design team set about gathering news items from various sources to enter this year's Times Educational Supplement Newsday 2000 competition. The team had to design and populate its own web site with news items and features that occurred on 16th March. As it happened, it was the day that BMW pulled out of Rover, so they had a good lead story to start with. With news about the school and a special feature on drugs by Laura Clarke, prepared in advance, the team had its work cut out as news items were e-mailed to School by the competition organisers throughout the morning. In addition they were actively searching the web to find news stories to complement the reading of the day's papers. By the end of the day, the site was uploaded to be viewed by the judges. This was our first attempt at very short notice (one week) to produce a news web site. With more time we would expect to see a wider involvement from budding journalists, feature writers, business analysts, film reviewers etc. from all age groups. In the end we produced over 100 pages, together with supporting images.

As we write we await the results... The team consisted of:

Jonathan Whiteside -editor/team leader
Dominic Rhodes
Matthew Hopton
Jonathan Giddings
Christopher Carter
Christopher Calvert

The site can be viewed at www.kgs.lancs.sch.uk/newsday

WorldBookDay

March 10th was celebrated in the United Kingdom and Ireland as World Book Day. Book tokens worth £1 each were given to every pupil and a Book Fair took place in the Old Hall from 17th-21st March. Staff, pupils and their families were able to browse and purchase books and posters. The English Department worked hard to organise competitions. Years 1 and 2 designed book jackets, whilst years 3,4 and 5 produced creative writing. The entries were judged by Mrs. Stacey, who found that the high standard set by our talented pupils made the task extremely difficult. Book tokens (of course) were awarded for 1st and 2nd prizes with bags of sweets for the runners-up.

Prizewinners were:

Year 1

Priya Kanda (1st), Peter Greaves and Rachel Morgan

Year 2

Helen Thrower (1st), Sophie Barton, Rachel Maher and Leanne Bonney

Year 3

Stuart Harrison (1st), Greg Skinner, Katie Mellor and Joseph Darwen

Years 4 and 5 - Marcus Plowright (1st), Rebecca Sie, James Melling and Katy Parker



From left to right: In CCF Uniform: Dominic Rhodes, Bruce Lansom, Matthew Hopton, and Jonathan Giddings. Pictured front: Christopher Calvert and Jonathan Whiteside.

Kirkham Grammar

NEWS 2000

TES NEWSDAY 2000

16th March 2000

BAE SYSTEMS

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS NETWORK

Front National International Local School Features Business Entertainment Sport ICT

MAIN STORY

Prime Minister Tony Blair has appealed to BMW not to sell its loss-making Rover arm and save 60,000 British jobs as unions warned Germany's car giant was ready to pull out. White BMW kept silent on whether it will cut its losses and sell. Blair told parliament: "We will do everything we can."

LEADING STORIES

- STORY 1 BMW to pull out of Rover. [Full story>>](#)
- STORY 2 Livingstone criticised [Full story>>](#)
- STORY 3 Mozambique: Debt relief cancelled [Full story>>](#)
- STORY 4 China will never allow Taiwan to declare independence [Full story>>](#)
- STORY 5 A Royal visit to the school by HRH the Duke of Gloucester. [Full story>>](#)

FEATURES

Feature 1
Drugs: the full story [Full story>>](#)

Feature 2
How an internet browser works [Full story>>](#)

Feature 3
Sir Stashley Matthews interview [Full story>>](#)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- Mozambique: Debt relief cancelled. [Full story>>](#)
- Pakistan: Political rally banned. [Full story>>](#)
- China will never allow Taiwan to declare independence. [Full story>>](#)
- Cambodia's children plug into the information superhighway. [Full story>>](#)

NATIONAL NEWS

- BMW to pull out of Rover. [Full story>>](#)
- Livingstone criticised. [Full story>>](#)
- Sponsors to take over bad schools. [Full story>>](#)
- The Papers on the 16th [Full story>>](#)

SPORTS NEWS

- Sir Alex Ferguson hailed Manchester United's 3-1 Champions League victory over Fiorentina as "the best performance of the season." [Full story>>](#)
- Allan Donald has been given medical clearance to re-sign for Walsleyshire as their overseas player this summer. [Full story>>](#)
- One of the great footballers of all time, known both for his footballing skill and his impeccable conduct on the field. [Full story>>](#)
- England captain Matt Dawson has warned his red-hot Six Nations Championship title favourites: "We cannot take anything for granted against any team." [Full story>>](#)

LOCAL NEWS

- 40 injured in crash. [Full story>>](#)
- Romance leads to incest. [Full story>>](#)
- Daughter is not missing mother. [Full story>>](#)
- Rt. Ames £150,000 for 100. [Full story>>](#)

SCHOOL NEWS



ARTWORKS 2000

the **art**
DESIGN
department

Artists from the school have had the opportunity to show off their talents to the general public at the QM & KE7 School Open Art Exhibition.

Right: Imogen Rycroft
the U17 Winner
Below: Rachel
Horton, Gemma
Wallace and Steven
Moor



Pupils selected for the QM & KE7 School Open Art Exhibition were:

Imogen Rycroft	U6
Jennifer Birchall	L6
Gemma Wallace	4Z
Rachel Horton	4X
Steven Moor	4G
Maareen Mohamed Latheef	3W



At half term we said goodbye to our popular student teacher Samantha Pullen and welcomed Terence Perk who will be teaching art for the next term.

The 16th and 17th of March saw a frenzy of activity in the two art rooms, for, after a month's preparation, the GCSE ten hour exam was underway. Students tackled this year's theme "Looking at Life" in a variety of media and genre, ranging from still life to portrait work. This year's work was of an exceptionally high standard, with pupils thoroughly preparing before the exam. They have one more piece of coursework to complete prior to their exhibition where all the work they have completed over the two years will be on display. Their work can be viewed on 25th May from 6pm-8pm. In addition to the GCSE exhibition there will be an 'A' level exhibition where all 'A' level students' work will be on display on 22nd June from 6pm-8pm. Details of the venues will be available nearer the time.

The Art Department is seeking objects to draw. Your junk can be our inspiration! What are we after? Old gardening implements, kitchen items, etc. Also, don't throw away your colour Sunday supplement and other magazines - bring them to the Art Department!



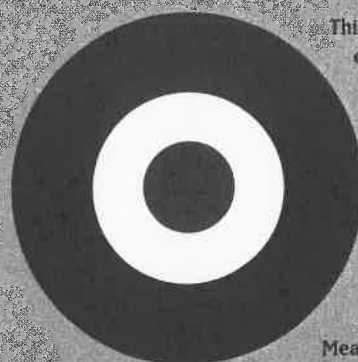
KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWS

COMBINED CADET FORCE

The Adventurous Training Camp in the Lake District was a huge success - more than 30 cadets attended and enjoyed the usual range of lively activities. We were pleased, as ever, to welcome our growing band of OKA helpers who bring much to this and many other CCF activities. The only real problem was a broken leg, sustained by Mr. Miller, who is now being pushed around in a wheelchair as he valiantly attempts to keep his examination classes "on the boil".

The weather was good, the food, cooked again by Mr. Scott, was excellent and we left the Centre spotless in good KGS tradition.

We look forward to the forthcoming Spring and Summer Term Field Days and to our annual summer camp at Cultybraggan near Crieff in Perthshire.



This term saw four of our junior cadets completing an intensive Gliding Induction Course at nearby Samlesbury Airfield. The weather was perfect and cadets Watkins, Rhodes, Giddings and Ralph completed the course and had a most enjoyable day.

Meanwhile the senior cadets have been improving their field craft skills in CCF woods. We think some of them are still in there!

Planning is also well underway for the next Field Day, which will take place at RAF Woodvale and Halton army base. The annual RAF Easter Camp will be held over the Easter Holiday at sunny Kinloss near Inverness. Kinloss is the home of the RAF's "Kipper" fleet of Nimrod search aircraft and we anticipate lots of free flights!



KGS groundsmen take delivery of the new tractor-mower, a gift from the Old Kirkhamians

OLDKIRKHAMIANS' ASSOCIATION

The Association is grateful to School Secretary, Pamela Hayton for agreeing to provide Old Kirkhamians with school-based secretarial support, which is so essential if the Association is to continue to grow and flourish. Pamela has already produced her first OKA Newsletter, which was much appreciated by all our members.

The Worshipful Company of Drapers has played a vital role in sustaining Kirkham Grammar School over past centuries and continues to support the School to this

day, being represented on the Board of Governors and having recently contributed £5005 to the School's Library Appeal. Spurred on by the Old Kirkhamians' Association, the School felt it appropriate to proffer the Company of Drapers a gift which would fittingly reflect its gratitude. Chairman of Governors Mr. Allan Blackburn, located a magnificent silver chalice, which was appropriately engraved as a 450th Anniversary gift, and presented to the Master Draper at the Drapers' Hall in London by a representative party of

pupils, staff, friends and Old Kirkhamians. The chalice is now lodged in the Company's impressive silver vault and we look forward to many more years of friendship with our partners in the City of London.

The Old Kirkhamians' Association has generously donated a magnificent new tractor mower to our grounds staff, the "sleek red racer" pictured here which the School has long-needed to keep its grounds in trim (and the grounds staff happy!)

Destination Africa

Below: From left, John Boyle, Philip Hendy and Anthony Rawlins follow in the steps of Dr. Livingstone.

Sixth formers John Boyle, Philip Hendy and Anthony Rawlins will be soon following in Dr. Livingstone's footsteps around Africa to help scientific research.

They will be spending five weeks in the valleys around Mount Mulanje and in the Rift Valley in the small African country of Malawi this summer. They will be working with Chris Wright, who is an official photographer for the Royal Geographical Society.

They will combine field work and habitat surveys with the chance to carry out adventure activities such as trekking and mountaineering. The boys had the choice of seven Arctic destinations including Russia and eight tropical countries. Not surprisingly, they chose the warmer climate of Africa, famous for its stunning scenery and diversity of wildlife.

Anthony is studying Chemistry, Biology and Physics and hopes to do a science-based degree. John, will sit 'A' levels in physics, Chemistry and Mathematics this summer. Philip Hendy's 'A' level course, including Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, is leading to a degree in medicine. The teenagers will have to raise £2,800 for the trip and they are in the process of seeking sponsorship as well as organising a concert and a disco.



Environmental Action Group

Plans to improve the CCF wood and pond (pictured below) have been drawn up by Landmark Environmental Services. Five damaged trees, which had needed to be cut down, have already been used to provide log seats and brushwood piles. An outdoor teaching area is beginning to take shape and the woodpiles will provide more habitats for insects and small mammals, increasing biodiversity.

The next stage will be to drain the pond and remove the debris and leaf litter. A mechanical excavator will be used and the excess mud will be built into a mound for a wildflower area behind the pond. Once refilled with water, it is hoped to establish oxygenating plants in the pond and herbaceous plants around its edges. Excessive trampling has caused erosion of the pond edges and destroyed the ground cover plants. Positioning a gate at the opening to the wood should prevent the unsupervised use of the grounds, which has been the primary cause of the erosion. The Environmental Action Group has been successful in attracting a grant of £500 from the Lancashire Environmental Action Fund to help finance the redevelopment.

If further grant applications and fund raising are successful, we hope to arrange working parties for clearing debris, planting, pruning, etc in the summer term. A plan of the redevelopment and display of site photographs is in the entrance lobby of the Norwood Block.

If you are interested in helping with the project in any way, please contact Mrs. Scott.



Regular Wednesday lunchtime meetings have continued successfully. Unfortunately, one of our female Syrian hamsters, called Mole, died following a "wet tail" infection. We have learnt from this that the best course of action is to ask a vet to give the animal an antibiotic injection before it becomes dehydrated.

A more encouraging event this term was the birth of 11 Syrian hamsters. Fudge, the mother, is nine months old and a relatively large size, hence her bumper brood all flourished well. The young pups provided much interest and we were amazed at their rapid development. As Syrian hamsters are solitary animals, they were separated from Fudge at three weeks old and went to new homes at four before the sibling scraps became too serious.

Another activity, early in the term, was to clean out the 10 bird boxes in the school grounds. Mr. Clark and the Ornithology club installed these last year. Old nesting materials need to be removed in February in order to allow different species of bird to use them.

Young ENTERPRISE

It has been another successful and busy term for the KGS Young Enterprise company, Synthesis, who have turned over in excess of £1000 with a good range of products such as personalised champagne flutes, beaded bracelets, personalised cards and "Photosynthesis" (photographs on CDs). They have been actively present with a sales stand at in-house events in both the Senior and Junior Schools and also at external locations such as Safeways and BNFL.



The last few weeks have been dominated by preparations for the area board finals, to be held at The Marine Hall, Fleetwood, on Thursday, 6th April. Synthesis will be judged on the content of a business report, quality of a presentation stand and a presentation speech to an audience numbering in excess of 200 people made up from local business people and Fylde Area Young Enterprise schools participating. In preparation Synthesis has delivered a speech in front of the KGS senior school to "fine tune" its performance.

Once again, we thank all who have supported the efforts of this year's company and wish Synthesis success in the forthcoming finals.

The EuroCollaborator project is now racing to its completion. Kirkham Grammar School is teamed up with a number of schools from the Fylde, who are producing the next generation of passenger aircraft (a model). KGS is in the process of producing the engines for the design.

These have been designed on computer using Pro/DESKTOP software, and have been taken into a manufacturing package called MiniCAM, which produces the computerised manufacture data for our machines.

Collaboration has taken place with our other school partners in the project to ensure all the parts fit together correctly! We have a presentation on 24th March where we will see if all the schools involved have been working on the same design...

Mr. Steve Crowther has become an accredited trainer for ArtCAM software. This is the second package in the DATE DfEE scheme, which allows all schools in the country to gain access to design

software through an accredited trainer. Courses have been operated for schools in Lancashire, and more are planned for next

term. Mr. Alan Hill, Head of Design and Technology, has been awarded accredited teacher status within the scheme.

to go on to the interview stage of the Arkwright Scholarship Award for 2000. Paul has already beaten off stiff competition from pupils from over 400 schools to gain a place in the next round. We wish him well for his interview at Trent College on 16th and 17th April.

The highly successful twilight courses for parents are due to begin again next

TECHNOLOGY

term. Mr. Alan Hill, Head of Design and Technology, has been awarded accredited teacher status within the scheme.

Computer-aided design and manufacture continues to develop here at Kirkham. Some exciting work is going on at all age ranges and in all disciplines across the technology spectrum. Mr. Hill's Fourth Year graphics group have just completed a successful mini project on the very topical theme of mobile 'phones. Some very impressive computer models were generated as part of the project. The plan is now to take some of these designs to the manufacturing phase using the latest software.

We are delighted to announce that one of our Technology pupils, Paul Marshall, has been selected

term. We will be looking at further use of the Internet, spreadsheets and Microsoft Powerpoint for producing presentation. Information on the courses and their availability will be sent to all parents/guardians in the near future.

The school is in the process of implementing a School Management Database system. This will give accurate and up-to-date information for all staff and smooth some of the more mundane administrative tasks that take place in all organisations. We will be sending out a data capture form soon to all parents/guardians which will aid in the initial input of the information and ensure that all records on our pupils are completely accurate.

CROSSCOUNTRY

In February the school entered both boys' and girls' teams in the Fylde Coast Schools' Cross Country Championship. This followed some hard work in the Cross Country element of our PE curriculum, and the success achieved in last year's championship.

All the competitors worked extremely hard in atrocious weather conditions. Our 1st Year girls finished a creditable third out of six teams (J. Jackson 5th, R. Threlfall 6th); the 2nd Year finished fourth, despite an excellent run by Jane Greenwood to win the race; the 3rd Year finished first, an excellent achievement with three girls figuring in the top 10 (L. Sharples 2nd,

L. Martin 9th, L. Soper 10th) and our 4th Year team finished 3rd (A. Gregory 6th).

In the boys' competition, our 1st Year boys finished fourth, although Max Eaves was third and Will Hawtin finished 7th; the 2nd Year boys won their event, with Richard Newton winning the race. Stephen Hatch was third and Ephraim Mwenda was 10th. The 3rd Year team finished 5th (J. Ward 19th); and the 4th Year won their event with Terry Ogden winning the race, Marcus Plowright 12th and Shaun Swarbrick 14th. All in all, this was a fine afternoon's work. The girls and boys, some of whom do not represent the School in other sports, were a credit to themselves and the School.

Special mention must be made of Richard Newton in the 2nd Year who is enjoying a most impressive cross country season. In addition to his success in the Fylde Coast Championships, Richard has represented Blackpool Schools, Lancashire Schools and Lancashire Clubs. He was 112th in the English Schools' Cross Country Championships, although he is a year "young" in the event (Under-14) and most recently he finished 8th in the prestigious Northern Schools' Championships in Manchester.

House events

Following Mr. Crowther's retirement from Preston House this term, the Headmaster gave me the honour of becoming House Recorder. In the ever-increasing rivalry of House competition (friendly, of course!), my new job is being scrutinised by my fellow Housemasters, and the report you are about to read is, as you would expect from an historian, as fair and objective as possible.

The new millennium yielded a new look to Preston House. With the end of Mr. Crowther's reign the 'Doc' (Dr. Rollins) hoped to apply some quick-acting medicine to alleviate Preston's slow start to the school year. I am pleased to report that Preston House is now off the critical list thanks largely to some encouraging progress over the term. We wish Dr. Rollins well.

The first major event of the term for Preston, and indeed all the houses, was the House Music Festival. Between the Houses an amazing 217 entries kept Mr. Catterall and Mrs. Cassidy busy for three days of the term and made the task of reducing the field to 25 entries particularly difficult. The standard was, as usual, outstanding. School House led the way in both entries and performances in the finals. It was particularly pleasing to see two House choirs (Kirkham and School) reach the finals and perform so well in such numbers. Congratulations to all who took part, especially School House, who won the competition comfortably.

The pupils' favourite event of the year, the cross-country competition, tested the endurance and stamina of the Houses' athletes. After one of the most stressful weeks of my time at KGS organising Kirkham's entry, it was a relief for all

the Housemasters that every House won at least one race. The excitement and intensity of the competition was evident on the faces of both runners and organisers and we were glad of the half-term to catch our breath.

After the break and a chance to reflect on our Houses' performances, we were soon busy organising the rugby and senior hockey Tournaments. Not all results are in as my deadline came and went, but School and Kirkham scored victories in the Junior and Intermediate rugby competitions respectively. The senior hockey tournament was very close with half of the games being decided on penalty flicks. Kirkham held their nerve and, with Hannah Spacey in fine form in goal, Kirkham won all their matches to win the event.

The debating skills of the Houses came under scrutiny during the term. Mr. Ben Hale of School House led the way with a memorable 26-minute speech that must have set a new KGS record! Fylde will meet School in the final just before Easter after they successfully argued that religion had a part to play in today's society.

The term ends with the Senior rugby sevens and the House Debate Final, which will be reported in next term's newsletter. I am pleased to say that the spirit and enthusiasm of inter-house competition continues to be strong, and although Kirkham and School are hard to split at the top of the table, Fylde are not too far behind. Preston still has a mountain to climb but it is beginning to compete, and I'm sure will build on a promising term.

Mr. S.F. Duncan
House Recorder

Girls' Under 15s cricket

After reaching the County Finals, the girls looked forward to a series of games. In the first fixture, and after an extremely nervous start, the School lost by 29 runs. Our first opponents, Fisher Moore from Colne, adapted well to the nature of this competition and proceeded to take quick singles and bowl a tidy line and length.

In the second game, runs came more freely and our total of 68-5 proved too strong for Leigh St. Mary's whose 33-1 fell 35 runs short of victory. A win over Rainford from St. Helen's would have taken us into the semi-final but in spite of valiant attempts to hit and run, our girls' total of 48-1 was never quite enough. Rainford cruised past our score with a well-paced 61-1 in reply.

Overall, the team has gained valuable experience from this tournament. With the exception of Hannah Spacey and Rebecca Sie, the squad is made up from 1st-3rd year School members who will be able to aim for a fourth consecutive attempt to appear in the county finals.

Well done to all who took part in practice and in the games themselves.

Friends of KGS

The Friends of KGS held an Extraordinary General Meeting in February to elect new officers to the committee. It was with sadness that we said goodbye to our Treasurer, Jennifer Collinge, who has been in the post for many years. Jenny will now become a "back seat driver" on the committee! Louise Symms has now taken over the role and we wish them both well.

You will shortly be hearing about an exciting new project. Throughout this year the Friends' Committee will be running a Millennium Raffle - the first prize for which will be a term's school fees or a cash alternative of £1,000.

The Friends' Drugs Awareness Evening held on 13th March proved to be very informative and we plan to make this a biennial event.

We are still raising money for our Library project. Please do try to support our events throughout the year and help wherever you can. Many of our events require raffle prizes and, if you feel that you can contribute, please contact me or one of our committee members.

Ros Ince
Chairman,
Friends of KGS

Stop Press



Two more outstanding prospects have added to the KGS proud tradition of schoolboy internationals.

Kirkham captain Jonathan Roddam and Matthew Parr are in England's 18 group party for the series of three matches, kicking off against Wales at Chester on April 1.

They are amongst the 22 boys selected from a training squad for home games against Wales and Ireland (Banbury) and the away clash with France.

It's the third successive year Kirkham has figured in England's plans at this level. Last year it was flanker Ben Davies and before that, flanker Alex Sanderson and hooker David Giles.

Sanderson has continued to climb the captaincy ranks since leading both his school and country in 1997-8.

At 19 and fresh out of school, he got the England under-21 position, which he still holds, besides skipping Sale for much of the time in the Allied Dunbar Premiership. He has also trained with the full England squad and been selected for England's forthcoming tour of South Africa.

Elder brother and fellow flanker Pat who transferred to Harlequins from Sale last summer, has made England's squad for the Hong Kong Sevens.

Senior School 101st Sports Day

1.00pm-4.00pm, Wednesday 10th May

Junior Drama Festival

7.00pm, Tuesday 16th May

Summer Concert

7.30pm, Thursday 18th May

Friends of KGS Family Fun Day

1.00pm-4.00pm, Sunday 21st May

Friends of KGS Millennium Summer Ball

7.00pm, Saturday 24th June This will again be held in a marquee on the front lawn of KGS. We have engaged first class caterers, "Farmhouse Fayre", for this year's event which promises to be an excellent night out in true Kirkham style.

New Parents' and Pupils' Welcome Evening

7.30pm, Monday 3rd July

Senior School Annual Prizegiving and Speech Day

7.00pm, Thursday 21st September
at the Guild Hall, Preston

Xmas Fair

17th November

Winter Ball

18th November - this year at the Imperial Hotel, Blackpool.

