

Headmaster's Letter to Parents

Winter 2001

# GIRLS ON TOP FORM



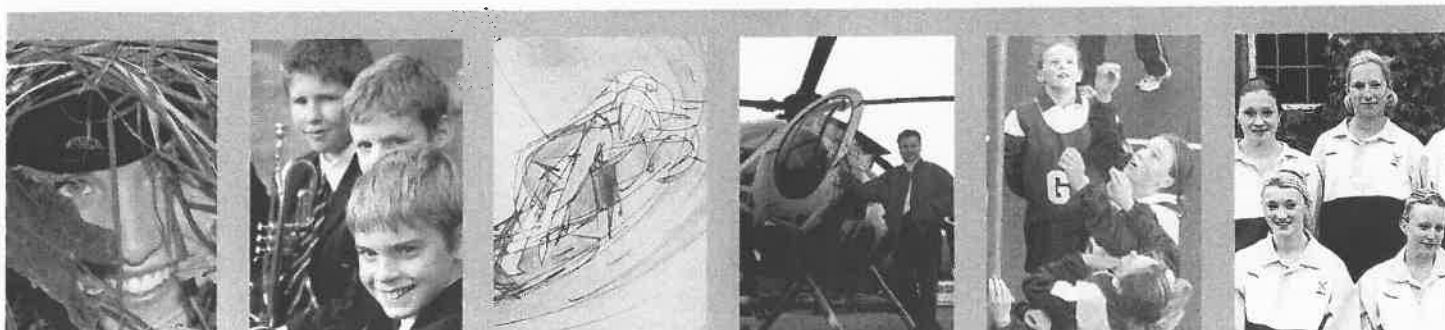
**KGS U18 team press forward in their resounding defeat of Millfield 5 - 0**

KGS U15 girls' tennis stars, champions of Lancashire and the north of England, reached the National Schools' Tennis Finals by defeating Welsh Schools' and West Midlands champions. Jennifer Dewhurst, Jane Greenwood, Jane Jackson and Lorna Sissons will contest the national Finals in front of a star-studded crowd, with Tim Henman as prize presenter. We wish them every success.

Having conquered the mighty Millfield School, 5-0, our girls' 1st hockey XI went on to win the County and North West titles and shortly contest the North of England Championships for a place in the National Finals. A young KGS U16 team have done wonderfully well to emulate the feat of their seniors and we wish both teams well as they reach for the top again in a sport at which the School excels.



**The U15 HSBC National Tennis finalists with an HSBC representative.**



## SPEECH DAY 2001



Sir Ian and Lady Byatt listening to the School Concert Band during Speech Day

## OPEN EVENTS

The School Open Afternoon in October attracted between 500 and 600 visitors, blessed by good weather and enjoying a hands-on activities day. Some 400 visitors attended the Annual Open Evening in November, when they were able to hear from the Headmaster and pupils about the progress of the school and its daily work and life. All were impressed by the school's facilities and results, thanks in no small part to the hundreds of pupils and staff who willingly hosted our many guests. Once again the numbers who attended reflected well the continuing popularity of Kirkham Grammar School, as does the record number of pupils on roll.



## FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE

After the Christmas holidays some members of staff will never be the same again! Miss Karen Gibson who teaches English at the Senior School is set to marry Mr Christopher O'Flaherty - a local building surveyor and "aspiring novelist". The wedding will take place in a beautiful lakeland setting in late December. I am sure you will join staff and pupils in wishing them both much happiness.

## STAFF

In September we welcomed a number of new staff to the Senior School Common Room and we wish them every success and happiness in their new posts.

Mrs Susan Harley joined us to teach geography and history on a part-time basis, with a good honours Geography degree from Hertford College, Oxford.

Mr Alan Jones, formerly Head of PE and Games at King Edward VII, Lytham, accepted a full-time coaching post, working across the Junior and Senior Schools. Former Captain of Fylde RUFC, Mr Jones has coached Lancashire and North of England Schools U18 XV's and is an experienced cricket and athletics coach.

Former KGS pupil, Mrs Jennifer Salt, has taken up a part-time post coaching hockey and netball and we are delighted to have her back.

Mrs Alison Walker, with a good honours degree in French and Drama from the University of London, has joined the French Department part-time and taken responsibility for the teaching of English as a foreign language to our overseas students.

At last we have recruited a full time ICT Technician in Miss Janet Knight, a boon to our Technology Faculty, allowing Mr David Proctor to concentrate his attentions on the Junior School.

We have also created a new Reception Area and been fortunate enough to staff it with Mrs Janice Desborough, one of our parents, who has impressed all the many with whom she has come into contact.

On a sad note we have lost our Matron, Miss Elizabeth McCade, who returns to take up a nursing post in her home town of Keswick. Miss McCade has given twelve years of her life to Kirkham Grammar School and I am delighted that those years have coincided with my Headship. Her support and the quality of care she has brought to both boarders and day pupils has been invaluable. We shall miss her enormously and we wish her every happiness and fulfilment in her new post.

For most of the past term we have greatly missed the services of Mrs Pamela Hayton, School Secretary, who is recovering in typically robust manner from an operation. We look forward to welcoming her back at the beginning of the Spring Term. She has been sorely missed, but we are most grateful for the temporary services of Mrs Christine O'Brien, who, though only part-time, has proved to be a great strength to us.



Mrs Alison Walker  
French



Mr. Alan Jones  
PE / Games



Mrs Jennifer Salt  
PE / Games

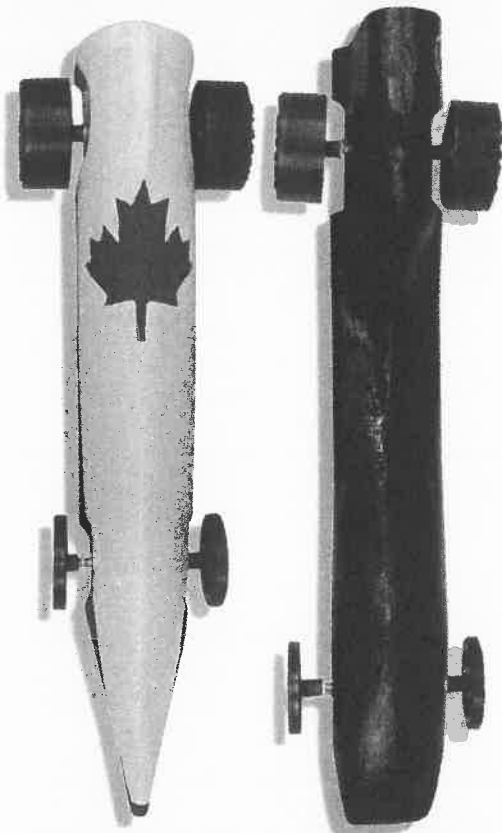


Miss Janet Knight  
ICT



Mrs Janice Desborough  
Reception





## TECHNOLOGY



This term saw the culmination of all the hard work done as part of the 'National Fr in Schools' competition.

The rules state that CO<sub>2</sub> powered racing cars are designed using 3D design software, in our case Pro/Desktop, and that these designs are then manufactured by computer aided methods. We had two teams entered this year in

two age groups: a second year team called 'Oblivion'

(William Bruton, Cathryn Critchley, Phillip Hingley and Paul Taylor) and a fourth year team, called 'The knights who say NI', (Oliver Boardman, Oscar Clarke, Michael Le Breton, James Leckey, Richard Newton and Paul Peters).

As well as designing and manufacturing their cars, the teams also had to produce a portfolio of design work, a PowerPoint presentation delivered to a distinguished panel of judges and they needed the car to be fast and have a nominated starter with lightning reactions. A tall order!

During the day both cars were unbeaten in all their races. Both teams clocked up nearly identical times, and an average speed over 25m of 71mph.

Oblivion won the key stage 3 class outright and are the NW Champions. The knights who say 'NI', finished 3rd overall and now qualify for the National Finals at the BETT Exhibition in Olympia, London. We look forward to seeing how they get on against the cream of CO<sub>2</sub> car designers from across the UK and Ireland. Watch this space!

Rachel Horton, an Arkwright Scholar for 2001 received her award at the Royal Aeronautical Society in London. The prestigious award ceremony, attended by educationalists and industrialists, is the highlight of the Arkwright scholar's initial year. She now has £500 to spend over 2 years on technology based equipment or software to enhance her studies.

Mr Hill has been extremely busy this term designing and building the set for the school play 'The Shadow of a Gunman'. The 1920's style set tested Mr Hill to the limit, but both his nerves and the walls of the set stayed in place throughout the performances! The quality of the set added to the overall ambience of the play. He also assisted in the audio special effects. This aspect of design and technology allows everyone to see another side of the department. The school play produces almost as much frenzied activity as the run up to the examinations and the completion of project work.

## RECORD BREAKING EXAMINATION RESULTS

Congratulations to last years Fifth and Upper Sixth students on achieving some of the school's best ever examination results.

At GCSE a pass rate of 90% (compared with the national average of 57%) was a sound return, though not quite our best. The percentage of top grades. A\*/A, was, however, a record at 41% (compared with the national average of 16%), showing again how well the school's academic high flyers achieve. Significantly, the core subjects of English and Mathematics achieved pass rates of 94% and 98% respectively.

Meanwhile, our Upper Sixth Formers produced a record pass rate of 92.4% and a record equalling 42% of passes at grades A/B. It was good to see the great majority of our Sixth Formers entering the universities of their first choice and special congratulations go the School Vice Captain, Emma Johnson, who won a place at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge reading Medicine. The A-Level Science results were outstanding and amongst the best in the country. All 52 candidates in Biology, Chemistry and Physics passed and 72% of all the Science grades awarded were A/B: a stunning achievement for our Science Faculty.

Overall, this year's examination results, when accurately reported, reflect well the growing academic status of the school.

## SIXTH FORM

The Upper Sixth have been busy, as usual in the Autumn, completing their UCAS forms for university application.

All KGS forms are now submitted by the EAS electronic system; applicants have noted the incredibly rapid speed of response from universities in many cases. Several students have attracted offers for the most competitive courses before most of the country has even applied.

We have noted a tendency towards increasingly innovative selection procedures by some universities; candidates are in some cases having to submit E-mail answers to an on-line 'interview', and others are being required to produce spoken presentations to selectors. It all keeps us on our toes!

# COMBINED CADET FORCE

Field Day was an interesting one for KGS in an experimental format. On account of the continuing constraints of the Foot & Mouth Regulations, all Cadets of both Sections held a joint field day at a single venue for the first time.

Some hardy souls did their over night expedition training before the field day proper and survived in good order and spirits after a dreadfully wet night under canvas. Congratulations to both staff and students for their fortitude. The major event of the "mega - new looking, all singing, all dancing" field day was the fact that the CO slipped on a grassy slope and proceeded to spend the next six weeks limping about school, playing for the sympathy vote! Most Cadets seemed to enjoy getting wet and muddy at Waddecarr and, with refinement and more care on grassy slopes, the CO thinks that there is a possibility that the joint field day could become a fixture in the CCF training programme.

The Inspection of the CCF by Group Captain Michael Cross, Chief of Staff at HQ Air Cadets went well. Training was well led by the Cadet NCO's and the Group Captain spoke to a great many of our Cadets on an individual basis. They seemingly gave a good account of themselves, because he wrote a very complimentary letter to School about his day. We await his formal report with interest.

We have been fortunate to receive a large number of gliding places over the term, including two full gliding scholarships, which will be attended by Cpl Steven Watkins and Cpl Jonathan Giddings early in the New Year. Planning is also underway for the next field day which will see all the junior cadets take to the skies at RAF Woodvale near Southport.

D of E training is firmly established and underway and the next major phase of it will take place as part of the Adventure Training Camp at Easter in the Lake District.



Alex Yates after a fresh coat of make-up



CSM Sam Walker leads by example the CCF Guard of Honour (middle left)

The RAF run around like headless chickens (bottom left)

Col Sayer and Group Capt Cross inspect the School Orchestra whilst flanked by The Headmaster, Maj Scott, Capt Miller and Flt Lt Callister (below)

D of E walkers see the point in their exercise (middle below)

The D of E girls rest up after a hard day (bottom below)

Inspection Day photos courtesy of Mr. Allan Thrower at [www.photos2u.net](http://www.photos2u.net)



# MUSIC



**The Girls Choir on Speech Night**



**The boys in the Junior Brass section at rest**

There has been much tremendous music making this term, and it has been fun. Led by our impressive sixth form choristers and strengthened by a superb first form intake, the Special Choir is making some lovely sounds. The singers greatly benefited from the workshop directed by Dr. John Bertalot, and he certainly enjoyed his visit to Kirkham Grammar School.

The Concert Band conducted by Mr. Richard Evans continues to grow, and played most impressively at the CCF Annual Inspection.

There has also been some superb music making at the Coffee Concerts - a real treat for the small but appreciative audiences.

This term has seen more rapid development in the Music Technology Studio formerly known as M4, with the purchase of a digital 4 track mini disk recorder, a Yamaha CSiX synthesizer and five new microphones. Pupils of all ages now have the chance to learn many of the skills of audio production, including condenser mic response, ping-ponging tracks, and buss editing - all of which has left JC in a rather dazed and confused state!! Projects this term have included producing a short soundtrack to accompany the launch of the new School appeal. The department is now looking forward to the acquisition of a state-of-the-art computer to allow more powerful audio editing skills. Watch this space for further developments!



**Mrs Cassidy turns her hand to horn playing with the orchestra**

## Congratulations to Junior Musicians

Richard de Carpentier who recently gained the Bishop's Chorister Award for Excellence. Another of our first form choristers, Joseph Brockbank already holds this award. In addition, Thomas Bennett has been offered a place in the national Children's Wind Sinfonia.



**The Special Choir on Speech night**



**Dr John Bertalot working with the choir**



# DRAMA

It has been a fantastic term for the Drama department with activities ranging from the Junior Drama club through to theatre trips to Stratford and Newcastle to see the RSC, a lunchtime performance of Fourth and Fifth year pieces and of course, the school play.

The term began really well with the greatest ever number of Juniors keen to spend Friday lunchtime learning more drama skills and having fun. The Juniors, up to 50 in number, under the careful eye of Mrs Poole and Mrs Walker, have been practising the arts of mime and stage fighting and have started putting together some ideas for a Junior Drama show which we hope to stage towards Easter. Rebecca Ridley, the Secretary of the Drama Society hopes that she won't have to do anymore fighting, following one particularly vigorous lunchtime session, when she was 'body slammed' by some very enthusiastic First Years.

The Sixth Form Theatre Studies groups have been to see magical performances by the incomparable RSC at both Stratford and Newcastle. Both of these events demanded an overnight stay which gave us the opportunity to see four plays in the RSC's current repertoire. For many students this was a first visit to Stratford and Shakespeare's birthplace was looking at its finest, in the early Autumn mists. Here we saw 'A Prisoner's Dilemma', a new play by David Hare, at 'The Other Place', where very memorably, the actors began their performance by sitting incognito in the audience....until KGS students spotted them and began quizzing them. We found the play to be gripping, and since we were to later see many of the same actors taking lead roles in the other productions in the repertoire, we were able to see very clearly the professionalism of first class actors. Andrew Gregson took the opportunity to speak to several of the actors after the performance and try out his Dublin accent on them for the up and coming school play. 'Hamlet', with Sam West in the title role, and yes Mrs Poole did keep telling us that Mr West had taken her niece out to dinner only this summer, was a marathon four and a half hour, uncut version! In characteristic off-beat fashion, James Cartwright expleted that it was..fantastic and that he had enjoyed every second of it, whilst the rest of us did wonder whether the Director had misplaced his blue pencil. It was a very sleepy 2am when we returned to KGS.

Almost a month later the Sixth Form found themselves in pursuit of the RSC again, this time at the Theatre Royal and The Playhouse in Newcastle. Timings were quite tight and after registering at our guesthouse we had to make a quick exit to the theatre on the Metro. It is always exciting to be in a big city at night and Newcastle was no exception.

'Twelfth Night' was superb and we laughed all the way through. The next morning provided an opportunity for some free time in the city and there were a variety of options; a look around the



**Janyll Rawlins and Dayna Perfetti**

University, a visit to the Laing Art Gallery, or some retail therapy! The matinee of 'Love In A Wood' was very engaging as we were lucky enough to have front row seats and were able to see the fabulous costumes at close hand. After the show, several unsuspecting (and handsome) actors were way laid by our enthusiastic Sixth Form girls, lead by Janyll Rawlins.

The cast of 'The Shadow of a Gunman' nearly drove their families mad in trying to perfect their Irish accents, but it was well worth it! This was yet another terrific school production, set in the Old Hall and using a box set designed by Mr Hill, which had the audience believing that they were the fourth wall of a tenement room in 1920's Dublin. Mr Chris Spacey gave us his invaluable assistance in getting materials and even made two beds for us. The lighting, designed by Mrs Walker and Cheryl Bridges provided us with some sinister shadow effects and convinced us of the grubbiness and seediness of tenement life, as did the very authentic costumes, which included toe grinding wooden clogs. Andrew Gregson and Sam Bensky were superb as the comic duo at the heart of the play; Gregson postured as a would-be poet and gunman with effortless ease, while the audience warmed to Bensky's slapstick and stuttering comedy.

Rebecca Ridley was lovely as the charming Minnie Powell, the heroine of the piece. Members of the audience on the opening night were treated to Minnie's untimely death a little too prematurely and Mrs Poole, armed with Mr Sayer's ferocious .38 starting pistol shot Minnie posthumously to great amusement all round.

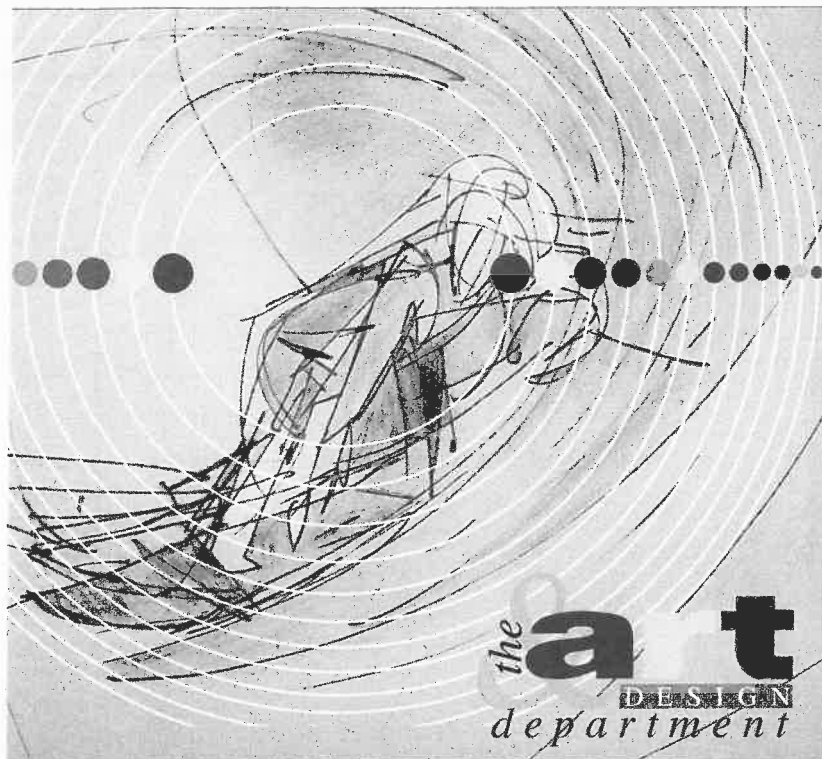
Another great comedy duo was provided by the pairing of Travis Peters as the anxious Mr Gallogher, with Dayna Perfetti as the non stop Mrs Henderson. Few of us will ever forget seeing Dayna leaping around in the Drama Studio in her 'fat suit' or Travis' vigorous 'yes' and 'no' as Mrs Henderson constantly interrupted him. Janyll Rawlins was a very imperious and nasty Landlady in her Victorian mourning costume and provided some of the serious threat in the play, as did Marcus Plowright with a very physical performance of a Black and Tans soldier. Few of

us will forget Plowright's stripping of the set in his search for bombs and then a bewildered Bensky trying to assemble the chest of drawers again for the last scene....(the little drawer went at the top, Sam.) Mr Maguire was played with great style by Evan Beswick in a very fine green suit. Mr and Mrs Grigson were played by Nichole Lee and Daniel Coyle, with Davinia Livock playing Mrs Grigson on the opening night. Both Mrs Grigson's managed to capture the whining voice of a woman who has been bullied all her life and Daniel Coyle's drunken staggerings as the Orangeman, Adolphus Grigson, initially amused the audience until he was revealed to be a coward and a liar. Hannah Spacey was excellent as the reworked Tommy (Siobhan) Owens and her gutsy rendition of 'God Save Ireland' was well received each night as was Daniel's version of 'He Who Would Valiant Be', complete with ramblings about leprechauns.

It was a popular show full of the charm of the Irish brogue and humour and the cast are looking forward, so they tell the Director, to the next show.



**Freddie Buxton and Madeleine Eaves being presented by the Headmaster with The Roy Russell Prize for Junior Drama**



the **art**  
DESIGN  
department

# ARTWORKS 2001

We have a lot of colour work in the Art Department at the moment. Work on display for the Open Evening/Afternoon included masks by the second year along with aboriginal art inspired dot paintings. Visitors to the school were impressed by the variety of work on offer, and the enthusiasm our pupils displayed for their work. Sixth Formers Sam Walker, Amy Twambley and John Morley put on a good show, as they tackled some large scale artwork. Junior pupils volunteered to continue with their class projects, which included the third year who were finishing off their pieces inspired by movement.

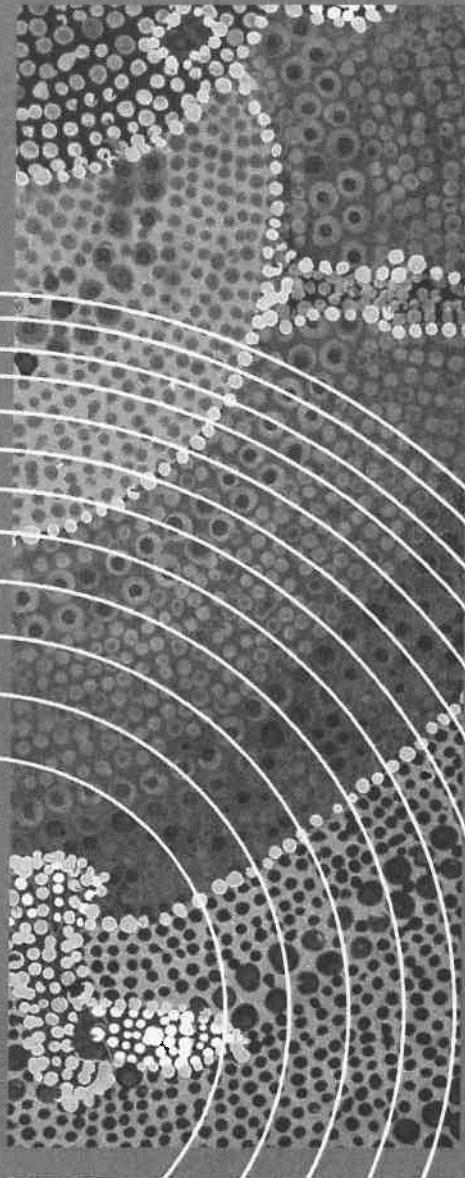
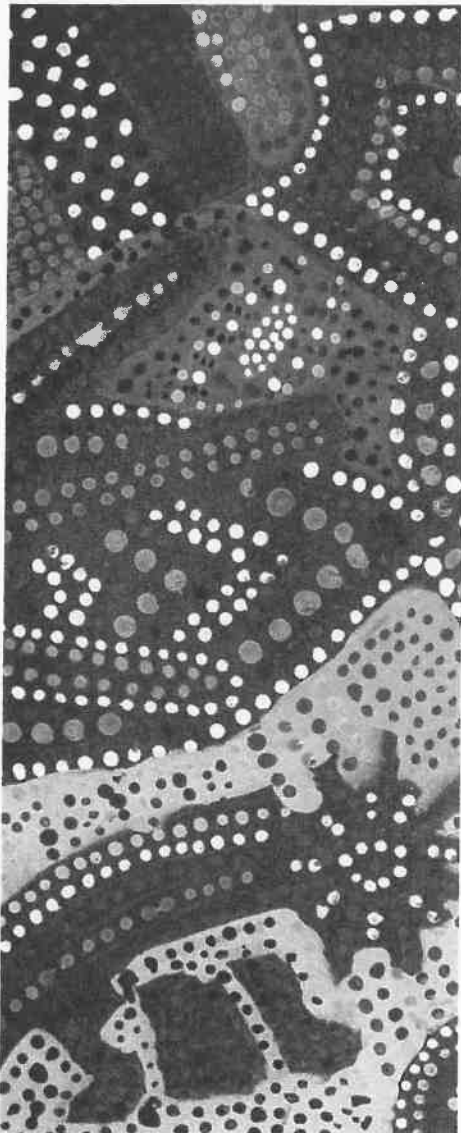
With the advent of coursework for AS and A level Art, the sixth form are always kept busy as they constantly develop and fine tune their ideas on Art. This term they spent a day in Liverpool at the Tate Gallery viewing a number of Art exhibitions. They also spent half a day visiting the Blackpool & Fylde College Foundation and Degree Art courses, as a taster for Higher Education Art.

Third year work by Thomas Wardell (above top left), Caroline Desborough (below) and Charlotte Molyneaux(right)

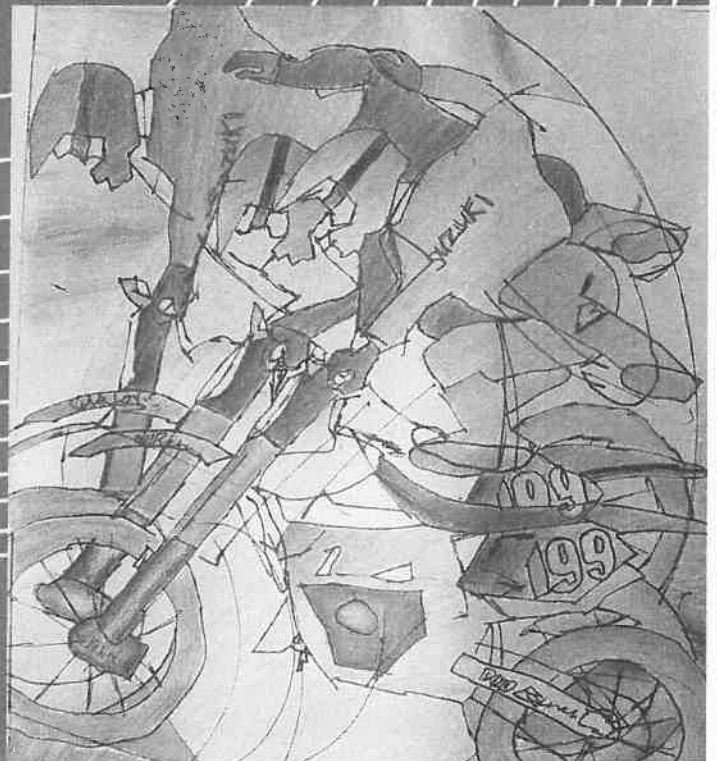
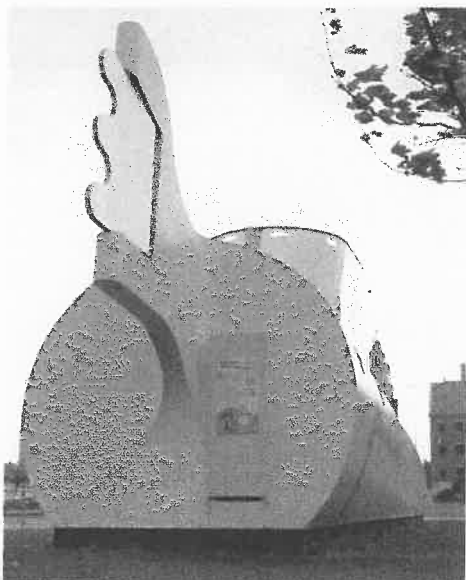


kas.lancs.sch.uk/art/dept.htm





**Aboriginal dot paintings by Dan Naylor (above left) and Joshua Spink (above right). The Beatles Yellow submarine sculpture near the Tate Gallery Liverpool (below) and David Spencer (bottom right)**



## GERMAN EXCHANGE 2001

Several apprehensive students waited nervously for the arrival of their Exchange partners on the first day back after half term. The Exchange was taking place later than in previous years and because of this the programme of visits had to be altered.

The trip to the Lake District was called off and instead there was a 'DUCK' tour in Liverpool. This was in a vivid yellow vehicle which took us round the main sights in the city and then drove into the Mersey to give us a tour of the docks. Later came a visit to the Maritime Museum and there was of course time for shopping.

Our other excursion was to a new venue - Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope, where there were many interesting hands-on displays and views in the Planetarium of the changing night skies of Cheshire. From there it was on to experience the wall and the Roman remains in Chester, and once more time was available for shopping.

There were of course other family outings and by the end of the very successful Exchange, where a good time was had by all, apprehension had changed to friendship as sad goodbyes were said.

Kerstin (one of the German students) wrote as part of a splendid thank you letter:

"I had a great time here in England. I'm very sorry, but I haven't said goodbye to everyone. I'll really miss the 'Yes-Miss-Lesson' in the 'Yes-Miss-Room' [registration]. I'm sorry I think that's a new word you'll have now at school!"

which sums up nicely the experiences of life in an English school.

We return the visit in March next year.

## PUBLIC SPEAKING

On Wednesday 7 November, Matthew Hopton and Norman Ralph represented KGS in the English Speaking Union's Mace Debating Competition at Casterton School. There, they proved themselves to be impassioned and knowledgeable speakers who were worthy runners-up to the Casterton and Kirby Lonsdale teams.

On Monday 12 November, Charlotte McNeela, Joanne Dudgeon and Rachel Horton took part in the BPW Public Speaking Competition against Arnold. The KGS team won and were praised by the judges for their confidence in speaking without notes and for their professional presentation. They go forward to the next round on 19 January.

On Monday 19 November a few new members of the Public Speaking Group used the opportunity of Open Evening to practise their newly written speeches. Thanks must go to Nicholas English, Matt Barnes, Stephen Hatch, Kate Denham and Harriet McNeela. They finished the evening debating the worth of the Harry Potter books.

## A FLYING VISIT

Accompanied by the sound of an airborne invasion and using the front lawn as his heli-pad, old boy Marshall Parker literally dropped in to visit his old school, skilfully piloting his helicopter gently onto the sacred turf. The sound and sight of a helicopter on the front lawn of the school caused many faces to press up against windows and peer round corners in fascination - a moment worth savouring.

After lunch (rather than corporal punishment!) in the Headmaster's study, Marshall viewed the recent developments at his old school with a mixture of wonder and admiration, which soon gave way to nostalgia when he visited his old haunts in the Boarding house. He met Simon Gardiner, formerly his Boarding House Captain, now Head of Art and Design and fond memories were shared. He visited his old room and remembered secret passages in a homecoming to be cherished, before he finally whirled into the skies above KGS, leaving only light indentations on the lawn as evidence of a magical return.

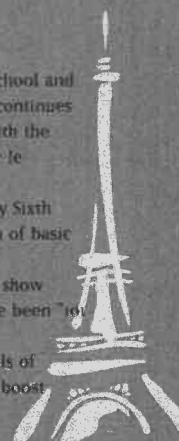
## FRENCH CLUB

"Le Club" has enjoyed good support this term from Lower School and Sixth Formers alike. Our repertoire of French Board games continues to grow, and even First Year pupils have become familiar with the expression 'J'accuse le Colonel Moutarde dans le salon avec le revolver' from the French version of Cluedo.

We have been pleased with the help and support given by Sixth Form French students, who benefit greatly from the revision of basic language that can come from games such as this.

We have also used our new DVD with Surround Sound to show blockbuster movies in French; this term's presentations have been 'Les Dalmatiens' and 'Men in Black'.

We have a wide range of games and activities for all levels of French, many of which can help with GCSE preparation and boost confidence with spoken French.



## FRENCH ACTIVITY HOLIDAY

As we endure the long grey days of November, it is with a warm glow that I recall the School's successful activity holiday to France at the end of August, this year.

The French activity holiday has always been popular, and this year was no exception. Forty one children, girls and boys, from the first, second and third years pitted themselves against the rapids of the mighty Ardeche river, and victorious, then travelled to the Mediterranean coast, and tried all manner of water sports at a location with beautiful sandy beaches and warm clear blue seas.

We were treated to many hours of hot sunshine, superb scenery and the lively company of the PGL staff. We experienced the joys of living under canvas; we spent 3 days canoeing and 4 days topser and kayak sailing and longboating. In between sessions, we built up energy resources relaxing in the sun, eating ice creams and saved ourselves for the most popular of water activities: the ride on the banana boat!

Evenings were as energetic as the days. We took part in a full evening's entertainment programme, and just when I thought it time to rest, there was the evening disco!

My sincere thanks go to Miss Fryer, Mrs Airey and Mr Taylor for the time and effort they gave to KGS students which ensured the holiday was a great success.

Mrs J. Taylor, Senior Mistress



Marshall Parker with his latest toy



# CLIMBING CLUB

In the first half of term the club climbed outside, on real rock, in the quarries and crags which lie within easy reach of the school. Troy Quarry near Haslingden remains the favourite, although Wilton Quarry (near Belmont) and Oenham Quarry were also visited. John Maskell was able to demonstrate that he can climb almost as well outdoors as he can on artificial surfaces indoors, but James Fletcher and Matthew Gaddes are not far behind. William Brutón, Paul Taylor and Amy Duckworth from the Second Form are also becoming accomplished climbers and Faith Speight and Bethan Watkin are two enthusiastic and promising newcomers to the club.

The second half of term saw visits to local indoor walls and a sponsored climb in Ingleton, when a dozen club members attempted to climb twenty routes in three hours, in order to raise funds to further extend the school's climbing wall. On the Speech Day Holiday the annual trip to the giant indoor climbing complex in Warrington took place and was much enjoyed by all.



Claire Watkinson contemplating her route

## CHARITY

Barnardo's are set to benefit from all the chocolate eaten by our 6th Form students. The proceeds from the vending machine located in the 6th Form centre will all be donated to this worthwhile cause.

A special thank you needs to go to Cadbury's, E Bookers and Macro who have all made a contribution in their own way and a very special thank you to all our 6th Formers who have very kindly munched their way through bars of chocolate solely in the name of charity!

Charitable events focus our attention on other people and situations and can help to put our own problems into perspective. This term has seen three events involving the library. To mark Children's Book Week, 1st - 7th October, a donation was made to Book Aid International. This charity provides over 750,000 books each year to support literacy, education, training and publishing in more than 60 countries; these resources go to libraries, schools, colleges, universities and community groups. A cheque for £40 was donated, made up of a donation from the Charity Committee together with all the library fines.

During half-term Mrs Copland raised money for Marie Curie Cancer Care by participating in a 5km Fun Run. The support from the staff was overwhelming and she was able to raise £300 for this very worthwhile cause. November saw the largest national fund raising event, "Children in Need", and KGS made its contribution. Shaun Savage, one of our caretakers, offered to wash staff cars for £5 each - he did such a good job that several staff felt they were driving home in new cars! He was supported by Lee Greenwood, who covered Shaun's duties where necessary and their hard work led to £130 being raised for "Children in Need". Mrs Copland e-mailed Terry Wogan and the school received a mention on Children in Need Day during his morning show on Radio 2, to an estimated audience of 7 million listeners!

# girls' TENNIS

## HSBC U15 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

After successfully being crowned Lancashire County champions during the summer season, the U15 KGS girls tennis team qualified for the U15 HSBC National Tennis Tournament.

This team, consisting of Jenny Dewhurst, Jane Jackson, Jane Greenwood and Lorna Sissons, successfully defeated Withington School, Manchester, in the quarter-finals and Queen's School, Chester, in the semi-finals of the North West knockout tournament. On Monday 12 November they played at Bolton Tennis Arena against St Edward's School, Liverpool in the North West regional final. The girls played six terrific sets, which were nail biting to say the least, to finally emerge as North West Champions. That same afternoon, they played Newport School (The Welsh Schools Champions), to qualify for the quarter-finals of the National Competition.

The quarter-finals were held at Tipton Tennis Arena on Wednesday 28 November. It was a hard match, against highly rated players, but the KGS team played as a determined unit to emerge as clear winners, 5 matches to 1.

As North Champions, the girls are now invited to play in the National Finals on Sunday 9 and Monday 10 December, in front of a star-studded crowd. Tim Henman is to be the guest of honour and prize giver. We wish them every success.



# Swimming

We now run separate swimming teams in all age groups and we travel across the North West to compete.

## GIRLS

All of the schools that we have competed against so far have their own pools, therefore the competition has been tough. All matches have been very close in all age groups and the girls are improving all the time. Special mention must be given to the second year team who have only lost one match.

On 22 November, four girls - A. Bonney, G. Skinner, G. Hobin and K. Kuroski attended the English Schools Swimming Championship at Macclesfield. The girls swam both the Medley and Freestyle Relays, finishing 6th and 7th respectively. The standard was extremely high with over 14 schools taking part in each age group. This was a commendable achievement.

## BOYS

Matches this season to date against Stonyhurst College, Bolton School, Hutton G.S and Arnold School have been competitive, challenging and most enjoyable.

The Senior Squad have won the majority of their matches. Westerman (capt), Leeming, Skinner, Parker, Swarbrick and Hamilton have more than held their own against top opposition. (Both Hutton and Bolton have made the ESSA National Finals), which is quite an achievement. The atmosphere and camaraderie amongst the seniors is quite unique.

The Intermediate squad have struggled this season. There are some very keen, enthusiastic and talented swimmers. However, they lack strength in depth. Nevertheless, Wilson, Cooper, Eves, Fishwick, Dickinson and Steven and Andrew Hatch cannot be faulted for their sheer effort and determination.

At Junior level we have achieved some success and the future is looking bright. Hingley, Knowles, Hall and Spink have all trained and performed well.

R.D. Taylor.

## Young ENTERPRISE



The Young Enterprise Team

This year's Young Enterprise company has made a very promising start to the year. 'Evolution' has boldly revolutionised traditional ways of running a Young Enterprise company. A more ethical and responsible business plan and strategy has replaced the more traditional obsession of making profit for shareholders, as in previous years. Evolution has therefore decided that all profits made this year will be donated to charity.

The company has also decided to adopt a less managerial and top-bottom structure and has chosen to work in project teams. Although meetings have been run in a formal manner, chaired by a teacher in the first few weeks, the company has decided not to choose a Managing Director. The company has worked incredibly well with this new style of management and each project team has worked hard marketing and producing their products effectively and reporting weekly to the whole company.

Evolution held a successful disco for Halloween with the 'achievers' joining in the spirit, dressing up in full Halloween costume. Close to 200 children enjoyed the atmosphere and the company made a very healthy profit. Sales of Christmas cards, Christmas decorations and novelty goods have sold well at a wide range of school functions over the term. Evolution's trade stand has been most professional and well decorated and has helped project a professional image of their company.

Links with the junior school continue to grow and we are thankful for the support of KGJS for their permission to produce a calendar for 2002 containing caricature pictures of the children from each junior school form. Initial sales and orders are most encouraging and this venture should raise hundreds of pounds for charity.

The company has a number of fund-raising ideas for the New Year with plans for a Sixth-form yearbook, an auction of promises, and a music concert, all in the pipeline. All members of the company should be commended for their mature and principled approach and their boldness to transform the traditions of Young Enterprise. We wish them well in the New Year.

## FRIENDS' LIBRARY

KGS was asked to host a training day (photo above) on "Advanced Internet Search Techniques" and 9th October saw 27 school librarians arrive from all over the North West to make use of our facilities. They voted the day a success and were impressed by the contribution made by our 6th Formers who acted as guides for the visitors.

## GYMNASTIC CLUB

This club, which is open to all pupils from years 1 - 3, has been well attended this term. Pupils can choose which activity they practise - ranging from full vaulting to floorwork, even work on the Pommel Horse!

The club members worked hard in preparation for a display presented at the Open Evening on Monday 19th November. The boys and girls demonstrated vaulting techniques over various pieces of apparatus - and floorwork routines involving rolls, balances and flic - flacs for the more adventurous. Without mentioning any names, all the pupils did themselves proud and the display was well received by those touring around the school.

The Gym club continues to run on Thursday lunchtimes and remains open to all pupils from years 1 - 3.

## BASKETBALL CLUB

This new club has operated on Wednesday evenings, after school, and is open to all boys from years 1 - 3. The club has been very well attended - with twenty or more boys coming along to practise and perform their Basketball skills.

The club has benefited from the help of Brian Hau and Michael Hui - two fifth form boarders, who have come along and helped with the sessions.

Many boys are showing real promise in this demanding technical sport. They will develop into very good players given time and hard work. The aim of the club is not only to push the most able though; all boys are welcome to come along and work at their game.

After Christmas it is hoped that some games against other schools will test the skills of the squad. The club remains open to all boys, years 1-3 who might be interested in attending.

## SKISOCIETY

KGS ski society is usually dormant until the winter snows start to fall in the European mountains. This year is no exception; however, planning and preparation has been going on since the 2002 trip was initially booked back in February, straight after our return in 2001 from Les Arcs. Earlier in the term a Ski Evening was held at school where 'Ski Clobber' demonstrated their packages and a video of the last ski trip was shown.

The 2002 February half term holiday has been confirmed and, for a change, Austria is the chosen destination. Axamer Lizum to be more precise, although we will be staying in the pretty, Tyrolean village of Gotzens, only 10 mins away by ski bus, in the valley bottom. The resort is very close to Innsbruck and the ski area most suited for school groups as all the runs finish at the car park. The area was initially developed for the 1964 Olympics and was used again in 1976. The more adventurous and able skiers will have a chance to complete the Ladies Downhill run which is still a major piste. The whole area has a superb snow record and those who have never visited Austria before will be impressed by its beauty.

This year for comfort, and due to demand, the group of 52 + 5 staff, will fly from Manchester on Saturday 9th February and be away over half term to return the following Saturday. They will enjoy six full days skiing and various evening entertainments.

This annual holiday has been proving so popular in recent years that many people were disappointed when all the places were taken very soon after advertising it earlier this year. So for February 2003 to ensure a reservation, deposits to Mr. Scott as soon as we return, because we do limit numbers to about 50 pupils. By the time of the next Newsletter we should be fully booked!



# interHouse events

Welcome to commentary of the KGS Inter-House Derby, live from KGS' Flagship Technology Centre! With only four runners this year it should be a close race with every chance of an exciting finish. School, winners of last year's Derby, start as favourites with Kirkham, Fylde and Preston keen to win this year's prestigious race. Messers, Smith, Rollins, Duncan and Scott, and trainers from KGS' sixth form, have prepared four fine competitors.

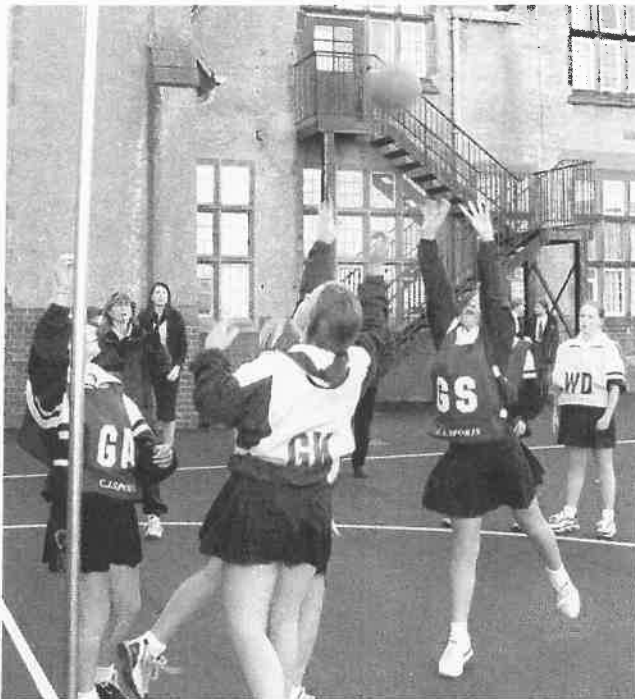
And they're off! Into the first furlong Kirkham take a lead. The Ralph brothers, again in fine form, help Kirkham get a head start, although Fylde made an impressive opening burst and are Mr. Melling's top tips for next year with odds at 2:1. School are now making ground, handling the newly laid tarmac on the quad better than the rest of the field with success in the Senior Netball. A close win in sudden death certainly has the crowd off their seats but Fylde and Kirkham recover with a closely fought contest in the Junior Netball with Fylde victorious. But where are Preston? Have they fallen at the first hurdle?

We are now moving into a newly laid section of the course. How will the four runners cope with the new House quiz competition? With KGS' answer to Anne Robinson and Sue Barker, Ms. Gibson and Mrs. Lang are quizzing the runners through this new ground. Kirkham and School's preparations look as though they are paying dividends with a sprint into the finals for later in the race. And what an unbelievable sight! It looks as though the Head Steward, Mr. Wood is being called for! It looks like Preston are fielding an overweight jockey: Will the race have to be stopped? .... We're ok – Sian Hickson has still got a licence from the authorities although Norman Ralph sees off her challenge for Kirkham. It certainly is too close to call this year!

And we are back to the Astroturf, certainly much firmer ground than last year after all that rain! The junior hockey players are competing well this season and Fylde have a real chance to

storm into a first term lead with an impressive showing. But given their last place last year, have Fylde made a false start? We'll only be able to tell at the end of the race when all the points have been added up.

With the swimming gala around the corner all four competitors have a good chance to get double points for their trainers and owners. But



**School and Kirkham battle it out on the netball court.**

where are Preston? – let's hope they don't sink in this section of the course. It seems they are finding the going heavy this term but let's not forget they were last year's dark horses finishing second overall in the race. I'm sure they will catch up.

Well there's still two furlongs left for later in the year. The top three competitors are neck and neck and it looks like a photo finish may be required. Unfortunately that's all we've got time for and it's time for a Christmas commercial break. We look forward to your company in the New Year.

**Mr S Duncan (House Recorder)**



# KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWS

## boys' RUGBY

### 1st XV

P12 W8 D2 L2 F287 A87 (29/11/01)

During the last two seasons, coaches and players have felt that more demanding fixtures were needed if the players were to develop their potential. This resulted in tougher fixtures at Colstons and Oundle being arranged, the former inflicting the first defeat for three seasons. Colstons have not lost at home to an English side for seven seasons. KGS players should develop to a higher level if they play tougher fixtures even if it means games are lost at times.

The team had six returning who had played five matches or more last season, four of whom were forwards but the threequarters have played well with Jamie Albinson, Stuart Blackburn and Chris Briers outstanding. The forwards took a while to settle as a force to be reckoned with but dominated possession against Sedbergh in a fixture when the players shot themselves in the foot and lost a game which could have been won. Mark Hanson has consistently played well and Adam Newton has developed well.

The development of the team has been greatly affected by the loss of captain Alex Loney and Paul McNamee because of injury. Alex played for England and Paul played for the Four Nations Select Fifteen last season.

The team has found that they are everyone's Cup Final and, as such, have had to prepare themselves for intense games most weekends. It is an enviable position to be in and we would not wish it to be otherwise.

### REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS TO DATE

#### Lancashire 18 Group

Jamie Albinson	Stuart Blackburn
Chris Briers	Danny Greenhalgh
Martin Halsall	Mark Hanson

#### Scottish Exiles

Paul McNamee

#### Lancashire Schools 18 Group 'A' Team

John Bowden	Adam Glover (Selected)
-------------	------------------------

#### Lancashire Schools 16 Group 'A' Team

Matthew Gargett

#### Old Kirkhamians

KGS may have set an English record in 2001 calendar year by providing nine current and ex-players to various England teams. They are:-

Chris Briers	U18 Schools
Andrew Kyriacou	U18 Schools
Alex Loney	U18 Schools
Matthew Parr	U19 and U18 Schools
Jonnie Roddam	Students
Alex Sanderson	Senior
Patrick Sanderson	Senior and 7-a-side Captain
Richard Wigglesworth	U18 Schools

Also this year Andrew Perry played for the North and Midlands U21s.

#### B. GORNALL 1st XV COACH

### 2nd XV

P8 W5 L3 F139 A115

The highlight of the term was probably the trip to play at Colstons Collegiate, where the team acquitted themselves well. They tested the Colstons' defence and defended well themselves, but came away empty handed. They did learn, however, the level of performance that would be needed to compete with the best.

Overall though, the season so far has been frustrating in a number of ways. It started with a large strong squad of players, but long term injuries and players opting away from rugby has meant that the second team has had to

draw on players from the under sixteen squad. This has resulted in the under sixteens being under strength. Also, the team has played inconsistently. At times good aggressive rugby, with the players supporting each other, has been played, but at other times they played like a team expecting to win, without having to exert themselves.

Hopefully, players returning from injury after Christmas will strengthen the squad again and the team will, at last, play some consistently good rugby.

#### R. Browning 2nd XV COACH

### U15 XV

The U15s are a technically good side and are improving every year but are often overpowered by much larger opposition. They started the season slowly but have recently hit a winning streak with victories against Calday Grange High School, St Peter's and Paul High School and Heysham High School.

The U15B team have continued their form of last season and remain undefeated against other B teams including a pleasing victory against Sedbergh School for the second year running.

Congratulations must go to three boys, Stephen Hatch, Tom Howells and Mohammed Ati who have been selected to represent Lancashire Areas this season.

#### A. Rollins U15 XV COACH

### U14 XV

Overall a very pleasing term. The team has had some very tough fixtures to date. However despite their obvious lack in size, their commitment, hard work, sheer effort and enthusiasm for the game has been exemplary.

Our first away fixture to Manchester G.S. resulted in a draw, but sadly we lost inside centre Charlie Hoyle after only twenty minutes with a broken arm and damaged shoulder. It has turned out to be quite a serious injury and the team has missed him greatly.

An excellent away win at St. Anselms College, followed by an equally positive result at K.E.Q.M. School Lytham highlighted that against the odds the boys were capable of playing excellent open rugby. The back row of Moore, Shopland - Reid and Bowden has been quite simply outstanding! Their movement around the park and tackling have been awesome. The Captain Oliver Moore has led by example and deserves recognition for his outstanding leadership on the field of play.

The highlight of the season at the time of writing was the Lancashire cup match away to Stonyhurst College. In appalling conditions, wind and driving rain, the team played superbly against a well organised side. In front of a large partisan crowd, Kirkham took the game to Stonyhurst scoring early in both halves. With only two minutes remaining we were leading 10 - 5, with every player playing out of his skin. The opposition squeezed through a last minute try. Despite losing the match 12 - 10, I firmly believe, along with all the parents present that day, that we were the better side. Our players were a credit to themselves and the school.

#### R.D. Taylor U14 Coach

### U13 XV

P8 W8 D0 L0.

As the statistics show, the U13 A XV remain unbeaten at the time of writing. The team has produced some very good performances throughout the term to beat some strong school sides.

The season started well with a tough fixture against Manchester G.S. After a good start the M.G.S. side came back hard, and it was only in the last fifteen minutes that K.G.S broke away to seal the game. This has been a common theme in most games. Kirkham have the ability to play some really good rugby, but lose concentration at

times and allow sides to "come back" at them. This was certainly the case against Lancaster R.G.S when Kirkham should have sealed the game before half time.

In other games, KGS have proved to be just too strong. Perhaps our best performance to date has been the defeat of Wirral G.S who were unfortunately caught on a day when KGS played some superb rugby.

This is an excellent bunch of lads who are a pleasure to coach. They must continue to work hard, concentrate and learn, but if they do so, they will develop into very talented players.

We look forward to a good run in the Lancashire Cup and the short tour to Cardiff at the end of term where their talents will be tested a bit further afield.

There is no need to mention individuals in a report on a team, but Robert Sissons continues to lead by example on and off the field as Captain of the side.

### U13 B XV

P5 W1 D1 L3

The B XV has performed admirably in all of their fixtures. They are extremely keen, and whilst they may lack the physical strength of some of their A XV colleagues, they are skilful and very competitive. Many of this squad, if they continue to work hard, will develop into very good players and will gain an A XV place very soon. A very encouraging sign is that the B XV is being continually supplemented by players from the rest of the year who have shown ability in games. These newcomers, too, must continue to listen and learn in order to realise their full potential.

#### M. Whalley U13 Coach

### U12 XV

P8 W4 D0 L4 F97 A59

Since the beginning of this term the U12 XV has gone from strength to strength, and is at last showing that as a team they are capable of playing at a high level. In the early part of the term the problems were to develop those players who had previous experience and to integrate those of potential who had never played before.

It has been especially pleasing to see the three - quarters develop into a slick effective unit. It is not often that at U12 level one has a combination of running and handling skills such as these backs have shown. An added bonus is that there is also strength in depth.

The forwards have had rather more problems in developing an effective game. "Laws" these days are more complicated and they have much to learn. Physically they are not a big side although we do have one or two 'solid citizens' who are beginning to push their weight. In the line out we lack height but have managed.

As the season has progressed the forwards have learned to push in scrums and drive in loose play - they will do well, but must concentrate much more in practices and listen more attentively to instructions.

#### D. E. Worth U13 Coach

### U12 XV B/C

A large number of boys have represented the school this term at both B and C levels. There is a great deal of enthusiasm and skill being shown at all levels of ability. The results have been encouraging in that the only time a defeat has been incurred is after wholesale changes at half time. There are several boys who are pushing for A team places and I expect that next term their efforts will be rewarded with A team opportunities.

The differences in physique at this age group are quite dramatic and I have been pleased with the courage shown by our smaller boys. I hope that we can obtain more B/C fixtures next term as the interest and enthusiasm is certainly there. An excellent term's work.

#### Mr H. Porteous U13 B/C Coach



## girls' HOCKEY

Hockey at K.G.S. this term has been exceptional. Out of all the matches played by all age groups we have only lost four, one of the best starts to the season that we have had.

The under 12's, under 15's, under 16's and 1st XI are so far unbeaten, the under 13's and under 14's have lost only one game each and the 2nd XI have lost two games against 1st XI opposition.

The highlight of the season so far is undoubtedly the 1st XI match against Millfield School here at Kirkham on the 29th September. It was a terrific occasion, little Kirkham versus the mighty Millfield, a squad consisting of eight internationals. Our girls were absolutely outstanding! They played probably the best match ever played by a K.G.S. 1st XI. After a nervous start K.G.S. dominated the match and defeated Millfield 5-0. A very proud moment indeed!

In addition to this splendid victory the 1st XI has also started to compete in the under 18 BAE SYSTEMS National Hockey Championships. K.G.S. won the first stage of the competition on the 10th November and represented Lancashire in the Regional finals at Stanley Park on the 17th November; again K.G.S. won. We now eagerly await the North finals of this prestigious competition, to be played at Leeds Metropolitan University on Saturday 15th December.

The under 15 Cup team has also had a very impressive start, unbeaten, progressing comfortably in the National Schools and Clubs competition and also winning the County and Regional finals of the Under 16 BAE SYSTEMS National Hockey Championships. The under 15's also eagerly await the North finals and will play at the same venue and on the same day as the 1st XI. Good luck to both our 1st XI and Under 15 Cup teams!!

Finally, the under 16 team has qualified for the semi-finals of the Lancashire under 16 Presidents Cup Competition to be played early in the new year.



**The Under 16 Hockey Team**



**The Under 18 Hockey Team**

## HOCKEY HONOURS

### COUNTY UNDER 15

Milly Hookey      Abby Hookey  
Jane Greenwood

### COUNTY UNDER 16

Lorna Sissons      Leanne Sharples  
Laura Martin      Lucy Martin

### COUNTY UNDER 18

Katie Threlfall      Jane Meloy  
Rachel Sissons      Ellie Cairns  
Kate Sannegadu      Amy Twambley

### NORTH UNDER 16

Lorna Sissons      Leanne Sharples  
Lucy Martin

### NORTH UNDER 18

Rachel Sissons

Special mention must be given to both Rachel Sissons and Lorna Sissons (picture right) who proudly captained the North Under 18 and Under 16 teams at Milton Keynes in the Territorials during the October half term.



## NETBALL

The girls at K.G.S. have started to play competitively again after a three year break. The two new tarmac courts have once again opened the doors to the Blackpool Schools netball leagues. The build up will obviously be gradual as we try to re-establish friendly and league fixtures.

In the Blackpool Schools Netball League our fifth years have won four out of six matches and the fourth years have won five out of six matches. The third year league starts on the 6th December and the first and second years have shown real potential in their first few friendly games.

# Friends of KGS



Congratulations to all of you who attended our Winter Ball on November 24th. Not only did we raise record amounts for our funds, but at 2 a.m. the dance floor was still packed solid with gyrating bodies. Your stamina and enthusiasm would have put the children to shame - what a pity they weren't there to see for themselves that the wrinklies still know how to shake a leg!

Thank you to all those who returned their raffle tickets for the Winter Fair so promptly. This really helped get the fair off to a great start. The prizes and donations to the stalls surpassed our expectations and, as with the Ball, the amount raised set a new record for the event.

We have recently provided a new rugby scoreboard sited on the eastern side of the 1st XV pitch, and purchased portable dug-outs for use on the astro-turf to offer much needed shelter from the winter winds. All weather cricket nets for use by both Juniors and Seniors are now planned.

As always, the members of the Committee have been unstinting in their support and tireless in their efforts. I'm very grateful to them.

For the first time this year we have offered for sale our very own Christmas Pudding - bearing a label designed by Alex Nuttall from the Junior School. (Well done, Alex!) I hope that all those of you who bought our puds enjoy them so much that we can repeat the enterprise next year with even greater success. They are very good puds!

Plans are already advanced for the Fun Day and Summer Ball 2002. With your support perhaps we can set records for those events too.

Best wishes to you all and Merry Christmas.

Dana Gledhill

## Student Teachers

We welcome three PGCE students from St Martin's College: Miss D McKenny, Mr G Ferguson and Mr G French are spending time in the History, Biology and English Departments. Mr P Reeves, who is a PGCE student at Manchester and a former pupil of KGS, has also spent some time with the Physics Department. We hope that they benefit from their experience here and wish them well in their future careers.

### Young Kirkhamians' Christmas Reunion at Preston Grasshoppers

Sunday, 23 December, 2001, 7.30 pm.

### Examinations for 11+ Entry in September, 2002

Saturday, 12 January, 2002, at 9.00 am.

### Normandy Military Band Concert in the New Hall

Monday, 28 January, 2002, 7.30 pm.

### Sixth Form Open Evening in the New Hall

Wednesday, 20 February, 2002, 7.30 pm.

### Spring Concert in the New Hall

Thursday, 28 February, 2002, 7.30 pm.

### Sixth Form Scholarship Examinations

Thursday, 7 March, Friday, 8 March, 2002.

### Founders' Day Service at St Michael's Church, Kirkham

Tuesday, 19 March, 2002, 2.30 pm.

### Old Kirkhamians' Association Southern Dinner St Edmund Hall, Oxford

Saturday, 13 April, 2002.

## OLD KIRKHAMIANS' ASSOCIATION

On the evening of 8th September, the School Old Hall was the site of much reminiscing and merriment. Old Kirkhamians with ages spanning seven decades, joined Kirkham Grammar School Staff, past and present, for this year's Annual Northern Reunion Dinner. After a delightful meal, the 2001/2002 Old Kirkhamian President, Mrs Kath Bagley received her chain of office and the evening was declared a success.

Future Old Kirkhamian events include:

The 'Young' OKA Reunion at Preston Grasshoppers RUFC. Sunday 23rd December 2001, 7.30pm.

The Southern Reunion Dinner at St. Edmunds Hall, Oxford. Saturday 13th April 2002.

Further information can be obtained from Mrs P. Hayton, Tel. 01772 684264



B. Stacey

B. Stacey Headmaster