

Kirkham Grammar School

Headmaster's Letter to Parents

Winter 2002

THE SHOW GOES ON

How the term has flown by! It hardly seems yesterday that I first sat in the office before taking my first assembly. While it has been something of a whirlwind it has been a fascinating period, getting to know the staff, pupils and parents. I could not yet boast that I know all in the school community but I must pass on my thanks to all I have met for the warmth of their welcome.

Inevitably the term has been a very busy one for all of us and once again the school is fortunate to benefit from our new developments. The Girls' Changing Rooms have proved an excellent facility and represent Phase 1 of our Appeal Development. Thanks must go to all those who have so generously donated to this project and I can assure all that the girls greatly appreciate the improvements.

The refurbished Staff Common Room has provided a wonderful venue for our teachers, both to enjoy their breaks and to use for their preparation and marking. It has been a rather different experience for me in not being involved teaching a full timetable but I have enjoyed my contact with the first years and re-investigating Roman times. Hopefully this will prevent me ever losing sight of the practicalities involved in teaching.

There have been many exciting moments to report. I was taken aback to receive a visitation from an old pupil, not unusual in itself but something of a shock when his visit was by helicopter on the front lawn! Our Annual Speech Day proved a thoroughly enjoyable experience and it was a delight to see all the school gathered together and to listen to the choirs perform so well.

Watching so many pupils represent the school on a Saturday has also been very rewarding as has talking to so many parents on the touchline.

My thanks must go to all the parents who have kindly responded to my enquiries about the school. I have learnt a great deal about their perceptions

and it has clearly emphasised how strong is the "family ethos". I have experienced the warmth of the atmosphere as a newcomer myself and this is



something that all of us at school must protect, for it is such an important component in providing a happy learning environment.

With the emphasis on "learning" I am pleased to report that the examination results of 2002 once again broke previous records. Our A-level students

achieved a near-100% pass rate with A/B grades awarded to 43% of entries. At GCSE some 97% of pupils achieved five or more 'passes' at grades A-C with 39% of these grades at A/A*. In particular, the core subject areas of English and Mathematics produced pass rates of 99%, a most impressive record.

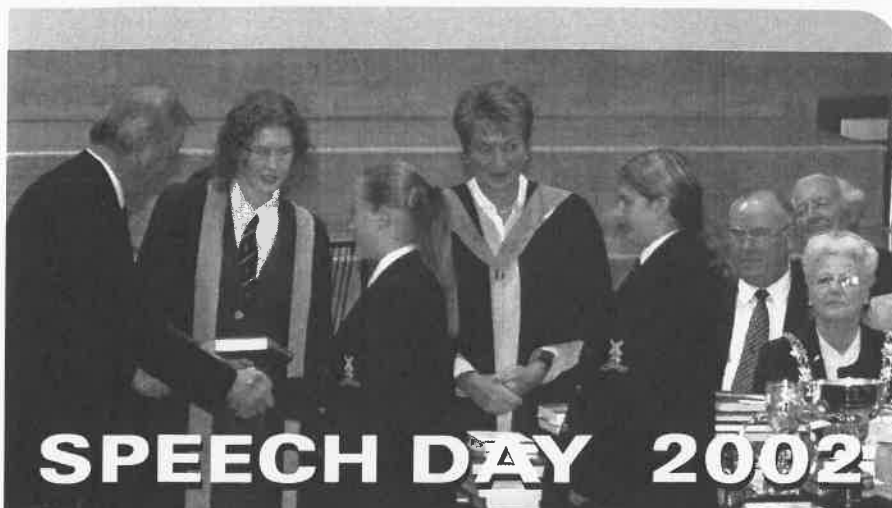
Four of our pupils have gone on to Oxbridge with Sian Hickson reading English at Pembroke College, Oxford; Phillip Pearce reading Medicine at Selwyn College, Oxford, Amrita Sidhu reading Mathematics and Computer Science at St Anne's College, Oxford and Rachel Sissons reading Medicine at Downing College, Cambridge.

It is important that we do not sit on our laurels, however, so members of the Fifth Year and Upper Sixth beware! Your task now is to better that!

We were all distressed and frustrated by the examination furore that surrounded this year's results but we are assured that lessons have been learnt both at QCA and within the exam boards. Thus we ought to look forward with greater confidence to the whole examination procedure.

I am pleased to introduce my first Newsletter and would like to particularly thank Simon Gardiner for all his hard work in producing it and also to congratulate him on his creation of our magnificent new website. Additionally, Mrs Fran James has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the publication possible.





My first Speech Day represented something of a nerve-wracking occasion – or so I thought on appointment. It turned out, however, to be a thoroughly enjoyable evening. To see the whole school community gathered together: with so many parents in attendance and the school looking very smart was a proud moment for me. Mr Hosker (above left) entertained us with his speech and Rachael Horton (above second from left) produced an accomplished and amusing address.

To listen to the choirs and the orchestra was a delight and to watch so many talented youngsters receive their prizes made it so enjoyable. I owe particular thanks to my Personal Assistant, Mrs Christine Seed for all her hard work in preparation for the evening and to all those who helped to make it such an enjoyable event for Sylvia and myself.

A Level Results

KGS students survived the much-publicised national A-Level results crisis virtually unscathed, indeed the overwhelming majority found themselves places at their chosen university, thanks to some excellent results at all levels. The many individual successes have already been highlighted at Speech Day, but in general terms, a year group who had endured all the experimental examinations from Key Stage One SATs onwards deserve credit for coming through their schooling so well.

In so many cases, results which may not win prizes, make headlines or push a school up the League Tables, represent a personal triumph for a particular student, and it is a great shame that the efforts of so many at KGS, and elsewhere were overshadowed by media-driven "scandals" about results.

ROYAL HONOUR

Upper Sixth student Felicity Long was honoured to meet the Queen on the occasion of Her Majesty's visit to Preston on August 5th. Felicity, one of our Senior Prefects, was asked to represent the School at the Reception in the Guildhall, which marked the end of the Royal visit to the new city. As her guest, Felicity took her father, Mr Adrian Long, who is, of course, Head of Sixth Form at KGS.

During the Queen's progress through the thousand invited guests, Felicity was selected by one of the Royal officials to step forward and meet Her Majesty, and she and her father found themselves in deep conversation with the Queen about Kirkham, and its relationship with its twin towns in France and Germany: Felicity is Secretary of Kirkham's Twinning Association, the youngest ever holder of this post.

Both Felicity and Mr Long were struck by the Queen's intensely sincere interest in their brief conversation, and very proud to have brought their school and their town to Royal attention in this way.

STAFF

I was not the only "new boy" to join the Kirkham Grammar School Staff this year. We are delighted to welcome six further members of the Senior Common Room and we wish them happiness in their new posts.

Miss Sarah Heathcote joins the Chemistry Department having taught previously at South Craven School, Nr. Skipton.

Miss Claire Houghton has joined us to teach Mathematics, having previously taught locally at King Edward and Queen Mary School, Lytham.

Mr John Lyon joins the PE staff on a part-time basis having taught previously at Arnold School where he was a former pupil. In fact, he had the misfortune to be taught by the current Head!

We are delighted that Mrs Patricia Blackburn has been recruited to assist in the Learning Support Unit on a part-time basis. Her help in the Junior School has been particularly important and she has enhanced already our Special Educational Needs provision. As a parent herself Mrs Blackburn is very familiar with the school.

The demand for Business Studies grows at such a rate that Mrs Helen Parkinson has filled a great gap. Her role in the Business Studies Department to assist Mrs Lang has been vital and it is useful that she has taught at the school previously.

Mr Phil Reeves has also rejoined the school – twice! Here as a pupil, then as a PGCE student he returns as a member of staff to teach Physics and Biology. He also coaches the Under 13 Rugby Team and assists in the CCF – a real all rounder.

We were dealt a blow at half-term when Mr Ray Noble was taken ill but I am pleased to report that he appears to be recovering well and is itching to get back in the classroom. In the meantime, Mr David Gough has joined us to ensure Mr Noble's classes are not inconvenienced.

Within the Boarding community we were shocked to hear the news of Simon Heyes' illness and hence the absence of Mrs Diane Heyes, our Matron. It is heartening to hear of the progress Simon is making and we look forward to both he and his mum rejoining us soon.

On a brighter note Mrs Jane Glover has temporarily left us on maternity leave and we are delighted that Mrs Sally Alcock and Mrs Isabelle Gault have stepped in to look after her classes. Additionally, Mrs Lil Dykes has taken on the coaching of the 1st XI in Jane's absence. It is testimony to the breadth of contribution made by Mrs Glover that it takes three staff to replace her.

The end of this term marks the end of an era at Kirkham Grammar School with the departure of Mr John Catterall, our Director of Music. His contribution will be well documented elsewhere and I have known him only one term but one cannot but be impressed by his dedication to the school. The care and concern for his first year form and his immense contribution to the Boarding House are additional to his central role within the school. The music at Kirkham Grammar School owes so much to "JC" and despite having spent only one term in his company I can only admire the work he has done and wish him well for a long and happy retirement.

Student Teachers

We welcome two students from St Martin's College who are spending time with us as part of their PGCE course. Mrs Fisher is helping in the English Department, and Mr Atkinson is with the History Department. The opportunity to keep in touch with the latest professional practice provided by our visitors is a precious one and there is no doubt they will be very busy while at school! We hope that their experience at KGS prepares them well for a career in the teaching profession.



QUEEN SCOUT AWARD



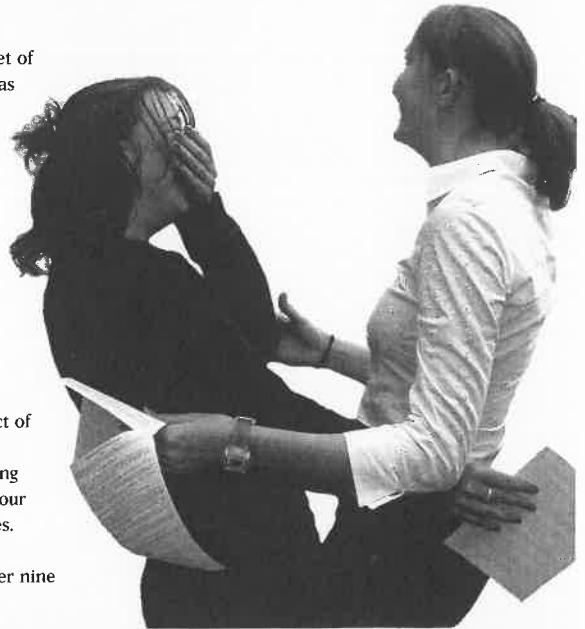
Sophie Cairns of our present Lower Sixth has just been awarded her Queen Scout Award, which is equivalent to the Gold Duke of Edinburgh. For this she had to complete five main clauses: Community Training, Community Involvement, Leadership, Interest and Pursuit and Exploration which is made up of training, an expedition and then a presentation of the expedition. She has done very well finishing the award at only sixteen years of age as most people who gain the award are over eighteen. Sophie will be attending the St. George's Day Parade at Windsor in April, 2003.

2002 GCSE Results

Last year's Fifth Formers are to be congratulated on gaining an excellent set of GCSE Results. The pass rate this year was 93% and all but three of our candidates obtained five or more passes at grades A* to C. Particularly impressive was the fact that out of nearly 900 subject entries 74% of the grades awarded were either A*, A or B; a record for the school.

In the core subjects of English and Mathematics 99% of candidates passed and the pass rate was 100% in no less than six subjects. It was particularly pleasing to see a very successful set of results in the newly reintroduced subject of Latin.

As usual, there were some outstanding individual performances and sixteen of our pupils obtained at least eight A*/A grades. Special mention must be made of Lorna Sissons who gained A* grades in all of her nine subjects.



Kelda Rogerson (centre) was awarded a 16+ Scholarship after gaining some excellent GCSE results. Results day delight was shared with Katherine Llewellyn and Sarah Harrison.

Six months after the launch of the Development Appeal 2002 to our parents and alumni, the first phase of the planned development has been built and is already in use. The pupils have witnessed the on-going construction, during the summer term, which has filled in the gap between the old gym and the art room and overlooks the rugby pitch, a first floor edifice built entirely in keeping with the adjacent building. The girls' changing rooms, the first of three important projects covered by the Appeal, have been built and, much to the delight of our pupils, have been in full swing since the beginning of the term.

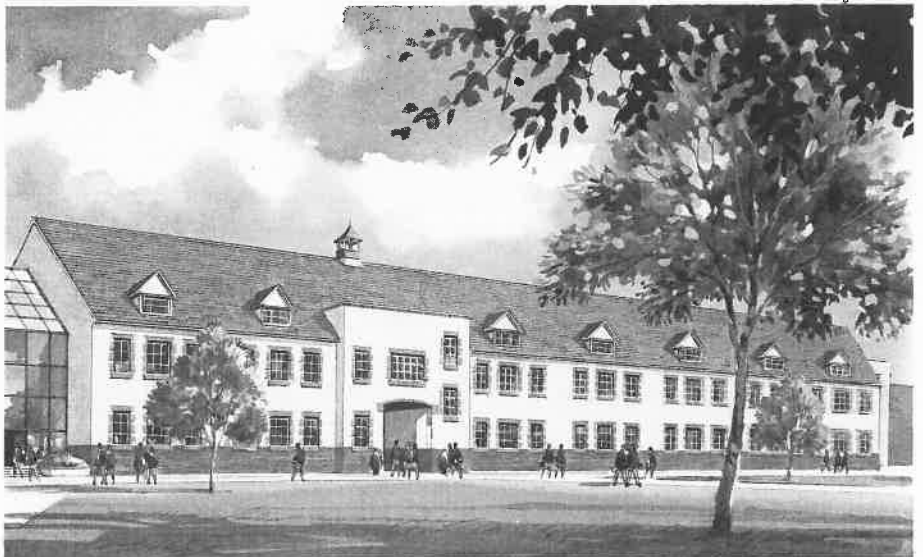
The Development Office continues its quest of raising funds for the next vital development which will be the new classroom accommodation. The concept can be seen in the Appeal brochure, showing an artist's impression of the final building. The Governors plan to phase the building programme and, providing that the necessary funds have been raised, intend to commence the building work in 12 to 18 months' time.

This is an exciting time in the history of the School with ever-continuing development and improvement, that perpetuate the tradition of providing state of the art facilities for today's technologically and scientifically based curriculum.

For further information, please contact the Development Office on 01772 688124.

Frances Piercy, Development Manager

DEVELOPMENT



School WEBSITE

The KGS website has undergone a complete overhaul over the summer and has just been relaunched with many exciting new features. The redesigned site incorporates the latest internet technologies to ensure ease of use for both surfers of the net and those within school who will be responsible for keeping it up to date.

The design work has been done by our Head of Art, Mr Simon Gardiner, who has done a superb job in developing a clear, but eye-catching design. Mr Gardiner has also inputted all of the initial data. The software we have used was developed by 'emojo' who are market leaders when it comes to content management on the net. 'emojo' have clients all over the world, including The Royal Opera House, and their website currently includes a front-page article on KGS (web address: www.emojo.com).

In addition to an online prospectus, with the facility to register via the web, the site includes news items and an interactive calendar containing school events. Each department now has its own section, which is easily accessible and it is intended that these will be developed considerably over the coming months. Other sections, still in their early stages, include those for the Junior School, the Friends of Kirkham Grammar School and the Old Kirkhamians' Association.

When you take a look at the website I am sure that you will be impressed with what has been achieved already and what the future possibilities are for the site. It is our intention to remain at the forefront of technological advancement and the website is a clear indication of this intent. The site can be visited at the usual web address: www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk.

If you have any suggestions for future additions to the site please contact us at:

info@kirkhamgrammar.co.uk
www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk

KGS Site V1 - Home

Address: <http://www.kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/...>

KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The School Academic Pupils Parents Old Kirkhamians News and Events Contacts Help Search Go

Home

Welcome Guest

- Home
- My Messages
- Registration
- News
- The School
- Departments
- Calendar
- Sport
- The Creative Arts
- Technology
- Contacts
- Pupils
- Friends
- Old Kirkhamians
- Development
- Location
- Login

Today: 01 December 2002

KIRKHAM GRAMMAR NEWS

The full school photo goes ahead [more](#)

The new website goes online with new features that keep the site up to date with regular content [more](#)

KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SPORT

We are pleased to announce the 1st XV sponsors for the 2002 - 2003 season [more](#)

The School's rugby teams had resounding wins against local rivals King Edward and Queen Mary School [more](#)

KIRKHAM GRAMMAR MAP

Dates and Events

Entrance Exam

The Entrance Exam for 11+ Entry, September 2003 on Saturday 18th January 2003, 9:30am to 12:00 noon. [more](#)

Sixth Form Open Evening

For prospective Sixth form entry to KGS on Wednesday 5th March 2003, 7.30 - 9.00 pm [more](#)

Development

Development

Development Appeal

A Blueprint for future learning at KGS [more](#)

Plans

Blueprints of the latest Development Appeal [more](#)

Patrons of Development Appeal

Patrons of the Development Appeal [more](#)

Achievements so far

Developments that has taken place at KGS since 1990 [more](#)

1 44 (0) 1772 684254 1 44 (0) 1772 672747 e info@kirkhamgrammar.co.uk Back Up

Empowerment by AFFIND

SARAH SHORROCK'S NATIONAL DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

On September 13th Sarah Shorrock of the Upper Sixth competed in the National Dressage Championships held at Stonleigh National Park, Coventry. Sarah was one of 100 competitors in her class, all of whom represent the best riders from across the country.

During the competition Sarah had one chance to impress the judges, as she and her horse 'Cesana' were put through their paces. Sarah obviously made an impression as she was placed 15th overall. This is a major achievement and Sarah is already working towards qualification for next year's finals.



TECHNOLOGY



The Technology Department has once again been a hive of creative activity. New project topics are developed during this time, whilst the senior pupils are beginning to get to grips with the manufacture of the projects they have lived with for the last couple of terms.

The CO₂ car project nears its completion for the 2002 season. At the time of writing, the regional finals have yet to take place, but we are all confident that the four members of 'Oblivion' will perform well and do their school and themselves proud. They have worked very hard over the last few months to get to this stage.

Mr. Hill is once again turning bald as he pulls his hair out at the roots trying to construct what seems like a full size railway tunnel! The stage has been converted into a building site whilst the tunnel is built. This project is stretching his creativity to the limit, but he is managing to keep his head above water... just.

All members of the Design and Technology Department have recently undergone training in basic electronics. This will keep the staff at the cutting edge of technological development and the benefits of the training will be passed onto the pupils. Further training is planned for the New Year when the topics covered will be PIC programmable Interface Controllers.

We have been host to one visit this term so far. Two members of the Malaysian Ministry of Defence visited Kirkham Grammar School as part of a three-week look into the various activities and initiatives promoted by BAE SYSTEMS. This included industrial, educational and community projects.

Mr S. Crowther's visit to Brunei Darussalam

On 20th October, Steve Crowther and three other trainers from within the BAE SYSTEMS International School's Network, departed for Brunei Darussalam, to run training courses for teachers and curriculum developers, in the field of technology. Four training courses were offered: Primary Design and Technology, Secondary Design and Technology, Interactive Whiteboard and the course operated by Steve, Computer Aided Design and Manufacture.

The training courses were the first stages in developing partnerships between BAE SYSTEMS and the Brunei Darussalam Education Department, as well as partnerships between the International Schools on a global scale.

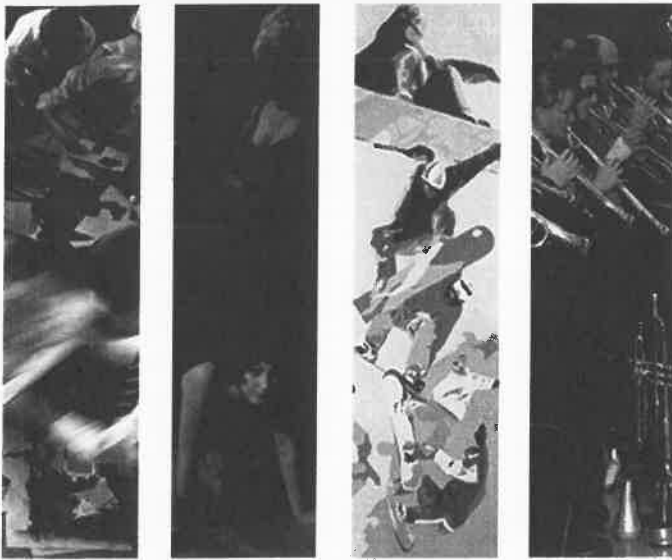
Steve's training involved 20 delegates from four schools as well as curriculum development ministers from the Brunei Darussalam government offices. Over the five-day training period, the delegates were introduced to, and became proficient in both 2D and 3D computer aided modelling and manufacture. Delegates had the opportunity to both design and manufacture a range of products using the purpose-built technology suite.

The culmination of the course was the launching of the Fi in Schools competition. During the final two days of training, the delegates designed, manufactured and raced CO₂ car designs. The hope is to have global races between schools, and Prof. Steve Grigg announced that a team from Brunei Darussalam were to be invited to compete in the finals of the British event in Olympia, London during January 2003.

The finale of the training was a visit from the Education Minister for Brunei Darussalam, 'Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Sena Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Begawan Pehin Udana Khaib Dato Seri Paduka Awang Umar'. He toured the exhibition of delegates work and presented certificates to each successful delegate.

The event was widely promoted in the Borneo press and this included television coverage of the Fi in Schools launch by the Minister.

Steve Crowther.



The Creative Arts



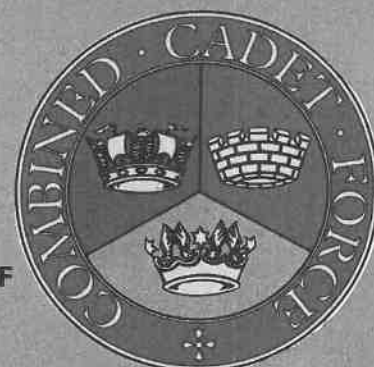
Extra - Curricular

The images above are two samples of areas covered in the school's new website



The excitement at the start of the CO₂ race

COMBINED CADET FORCE



OCTOBER CCF FIELD DAY at WADDECAR.

Some thirty-odd cadets, (who strangely volunteered to sleep out under the stars for fun!), set out one Wednesday afternoon to experience the delights of a survival exercise devised by the devious Flt Lt Callister.

On arrival it was not raining, which is a change for Waddecar. The cadets were briefed but kept a little in the dark as to what, where and how they would eat and sleep that night. Survival is just that – you do not know where your next meal comes from. In true SAS style, the volunteers were stripped of their chocolate bars, sweeties and packets of crisps and given their instructions on 'finding' their own food! The survival starts now.....

By early evening it was realised that dock leaves, grass and edible fungi do not satisfy hungry teenagers. So the plan was to navigate, tactically, by night, to the stash of food and bivvy shelters only 1000 metres away. Only one section managed to overcome the mountainous terrain, fear of wild beasts and cavernous gorges to find the food. It was actually in a minibus down a footpath. Maj Scott did provide one group with an unfortunate rabbit that had given itself up in front of the minibus and several carnivorous cadets thought about skinning it!

The directing staff took pity on the starving cadets and issued them with the 24-hour ration packs and gave them a portion of hot soup and bread at about midnight. It was amazing how good food tastes when you have been deprived of it! It was then off to build a "basher" and hope that it did not rain. All the cadets did learn a lot in that exercise - even if it was just how to cook compo.

The next day saw the arrival of the rest of the contingent for a combined Field Day and Inspection Day for both RAF and Army in the 4th and 5th years. All had a very busy and enjoyable day and activities varied from initiative exercises, where cadets inevitably got very wet, to camouflage and concealment training. For the 4th year it was their first taste of a CCF Field Day and the response was very positive. They all had a great time but returned exhausted.

This was a very successful day and the last inspection for Lt Col Sayer, as he will resign as Commanding Officer next year. As usual he put on a super lunchtime spread for his officers and guests.

We would all like to thank him for the time and effort he has put into KGS CCF and made the contingent what it is today. He has been Commanding Officer for the last 19 years and been actively involved with the cadet movement for 33 years. He will continue to serve as the North West's representative on the CCF Association Executive Committee. It was rumoured that he did get wounded on D-Day, but I don't think he's that old!

Many, many thanks, Colonel, for all you have done for the cadets and officers of our contingent and made it into one of the best in the north west.

IMS





Over the summer a number of cadets attended an RAF Camp held at RAF Halton near London (above photo: drill squad). Flight Sergeant Norman Ralph and Sergeant Matthew Hopton excelled in the supervisory role and all the other cadets made an important contribution to the success of the week. One of the most enjoyable activities during the camp was the raft building/rescue exercise (right), which confirmed the fact that none of our cadets knew much about how to stay afloat! Flight Sergeant Steven Watkin also completed the arduous Air Cadet Leadership Course at RAF Scaford with distinction. Only 60 Air Training Corps or CCF cadets out of nearly 30,000 in the UK are selected each year and Steven's award is a major achievement. Well done!



With the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme now in place for just over a year it is pleasing to note that over 70 pupils or about 10% of the senior school population are now involved in the scheme at Bronze, Silver, or Gold level. In fact I am pleased to report that we now have a number of pupils who have completed

all the requirements of their award for Silver and Bronze, and we anticipate the arrival of their certificates and badges before Christmas.

Over the autumn half term a Duke of Edinburgh training expedition took place in the Lake District during the worst weather seen since the hurricane of 1987. It is no surprise to say we all got very, very, very, wet! However, most students completed the expedition in good spirits and learnt a lot about dealing with adversity!

Lyndsey Tuck has become the first student to complete the whole of her award via the school and received her Silver Award at a recent school assembly.



MUSIC



The Girls Choir on Speech Night

Those in the school community who enjoy listening to good music have had plenty of opportunity to do so this term at the popular Lunchtime Coffee Concerts held in the delightful setting of the Old Hall.

There have been some super performances by the Concert Band and from the Sixth Form musicians, but special mention must be made of the November Concert which featured the first and second formers. Their presentation was quite outstanding and the large audience was enthralled. What promise for the future here!

But the work of our young musicians is not just confined to school. We are delighted that so many regularly make music in the locality and further afield, and we offer particular congratulations this term to:

Thomas Bennett who has gained a place in the National Children's Wind Band

Jak Berry who is now a member of the National Youth Wind Orchestra

Two of our young singers have also been very successful. The Royal School of Church Music has offered Richard de Carpentier and Joseph Brockbank

places in the Northern Cathedral Singers for the 2003 season, in addition to places on the prestigious fortnight's course at York Minster next August.

As well as preparing for the forthcoming Christmas Concert and Carol Service – Instrumentalists and singers are performing at two other venues:

A small mixed choir formed from Vth, Lower and Upper Vith pupils will be singing carols at Wesham Rehabilitation Unit at the end of term.



At home with the Staceys

Retired Headmaster, Mr Barrie Stacey, and his wife, Catherine, are delighted with the gifts they were able to buy with money kindly donated by parents. They came across a Georgian mahogany bird cage table, in excellent condition, during an antiques hunt in Scotland. The table, which both turns and tips, perfectly complements their Georgian home and is presently the centrepiece of a delightful morning room.

Mr and Mrs Stacey have always wanted a good claret jug and they came across the ideal piece in a jeweller's in Perth, Scotland. The jug itself is made of cranberry glass, decorated with solid silver; an irresistible combination for collectors of silver and cranberry glass, who enjoy a fine bottle of claret!

They would like parents to know that they will always cherish these splendid mementos of a most enjoyable and fulfilling eleven years at Kirkham Grammar School, and send their sincerest thanks and best wishes to all.

Young ENTERPRISE

'Realize', this year's Young Enterprise company, have had a successful and busy first term. After careful market research the 'achievers' soon realised what the customer wanted and were able to produce a clear and detailed business plan. With over £200 raised in share sales and sponsorship from local businesses, the company had the necessary capital to fund their activities for their company year.

Young Enterprise is all about learning by doing and this year members of the team had a chance to chair a meeting in the first half-term. With four candidates to choose from the company voted Stuart Harrison as Managing Director. Stuart and the other candidates all submitted impressive letters of application, gave excellent five-minute presentations to the company, and answered questions from both link teachers and advisers.

So with thorough market research completed and a Board of Directors elected, the business was off the ground. As the saying goes "everyone loves a party" and the market research suggested that a disco would be a successful and profit-making start to the year. The company 'realized' the demand and potential success of a Junior Hallowe'en disco and on my 30th birthday I was lucky enough (!) to spend the evening supervising 150 pupils dancing the night away! All had a successful night with £300 profit for the achievers and tired legs for all the pupils!

After the disco profits had been banked the company decided to hit the Christmas market. The production team busied themselves over half term and back at school to produce enough products to sell at the many school events in the vital months of November and December. I am delighted to say that 'Realize' produced a wide range of presents for everyone's Christmas needs and sales were good. Their range of novelty gifts have been very successful and their range of 'flashing' necklaces, Christmas wreaths, fluffy fridge magnets and fluffy files all made a healthy profit.

With half the company year gone 'Realize' have done well and I'm sure they will have a deserved break over Christmas and remember that the New Year always brings in new challenges. However I am confident that the company will continue to progress and raise money for its shareholders next term. Many thanks to our advisers, Mr Paul Desborough and Mr. Robert Dunn for their help and encouragement over the term and to Miss Howe for all her help in her first year as a link teacher.

Mr S Duncan (Young Enterprise Co-ordinator)

SCHOOL Photograph

The Full School Photograph went ahead this year as the rain held off as the photographers 'Tempest' set about erecting the stand for over seven hundred pupils and staff. Some pupils were standing in place for over forty minutes before finally being dispersed.

As can be seen from these photographs, spirits were high, especially with the older boys Shaun Savage and Paul Sykes (above) our school Caretaker and Groundsman, who dressed-up for the occasion.



DRAMA

This is traditionally a busy term for the Drama Department and this term is no exception. Within two weeks of the start of term, the Fifth Form GCSE Drama group presented an evening of Drama with a 'promenade' performance in two venues, the Old Hall and the Multi Purpose Hall! The Old Hall was the setting for a performance of 'I was a Good Lil' Girl 'til...' a powerful piece about the Suffragette movement which was very effectively conveyed with Jenni Gill as Mrs Pankhurst and Ian Duncan as Mr Asquith in a cast of 15. Meanwhile in the MPH, another group were setting up 'Titanic' using the fixed seating to convey the idea of the Titanic's ruptured sides. Rostra blocks became lifeboats as Vicky Biggs and Isobel Morley took us through a music hall interpretation of this tragedy, their humorous contributions pointing up the harsh facts of this piece.

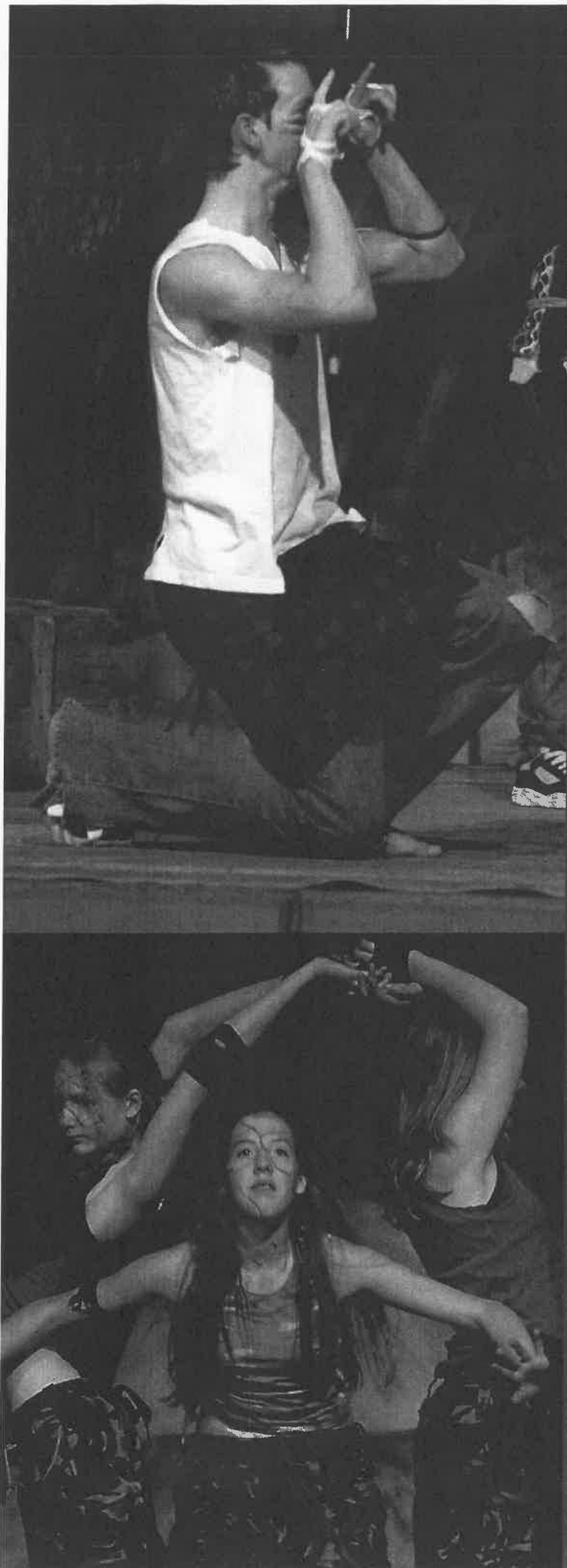
We were delighted to welcome a theatrical make up artist into school to pass on her expertise and skills to members of the fourth and fifth form GCSE groups. In total some 60 students were able to spend time with Louise Grant from 'Grimas' and to gain 'hands on experience'. Louise has worked a great deal in television and was able to let us into the secrets of how that perfect black eye is achieved in 'Hollyoaks' or Coronation Street and Alex Dean was given 'a right shiner' which had members of staff on duty at lunchtime stopping him and wondering what had been going on.....Lauren Emery volunteered to be aged by about 50 years and astounded all by the transformation that she underwent. There were one or two nasty injuries too, including gunshots to the head, severed wrists and burns. Incidentally, we were delighted to be able to use these skills in a wider context, on CCF Field Day in a casualty simulation, which was frighteningly real by all accounts! On a lighter note, Louise was able to help us with the designs for the make up for 'Grimm Tales' and we had great fun trying on beards, feathers and a range of prosthetic noses while trying to create the right mood and atmosphere for both the piece and the characters. John Gladwell did tell us that his face was sore for days after the removal of an awesome beard. We learned a great deal from Louise and hope that she will be able to join us later on in the school year to share more of her expertise with the Junior classes.

This term's dramatic production was 'Grimm Tales', an adaptation of some of the best known and best loved fairy tales from Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm. Although the tales have been adapted for performance, there were no given stage directions and the great fun of this piece was the process of rehearsal through which all the movement and interpretation of the pieces were created.

There were lots of 'firsts' in this production: Juniors worked alongside the Upper Sixth for the first time; the new lighting system installed in the MPH and so generously sponsored by 'The Friends' was put through its maiden voyage by Mrs Alison Walker and the enormous stage of the MPH was given a totally new look by Mr Hill's huge steel and corrugated card structure, which became the 'world of the play'.

The interpretation of the piece was to be as far removed from the saccharine sweet idea of fairy tales as possible, with the cast dressed as 'urban warriors' inhabiting a tunnel, damp and graffitiied, stuffed with junk, old washing machines and rusting bicycles. The cast created their costumes themselves and a very able group of GCSE Drama students added the finishing touches with make up which ranged from tribal markings through to full face paint for a dog and a lion! The accompanying sounds for the world of chaos and disorder which the cast created, sometimes through humour, sometimes through fear, were splendidly provided by the improvisations of Hannah Smith on organ and Martin Cropper on drums. Evan Beswick created six original electronic pieces for the interval music all of which did a great deal to convey the quirkiness of this 'grim' world. Megan Davies added to this too with her hauntingly breathy rendition of a song which captured a longing for the innocence of childhood.

Seven tales, adapted as plays were performed by a cast of almost 50 students, taken from every year group in the school. The evening began with the Sixth Form's presentation of 'Hansel and Gretel', a powerful piece with Janyll Rawlins as a very compelling witch with red eyes who could sniff out children to eat. Rebecca Ridley and Travis Peters were the unfortunate children, lost in the forest who eventually meet up again with their father, played very memorably by Andrew Gregson as the mesmerised husband. Mrs Alison Walker provided some



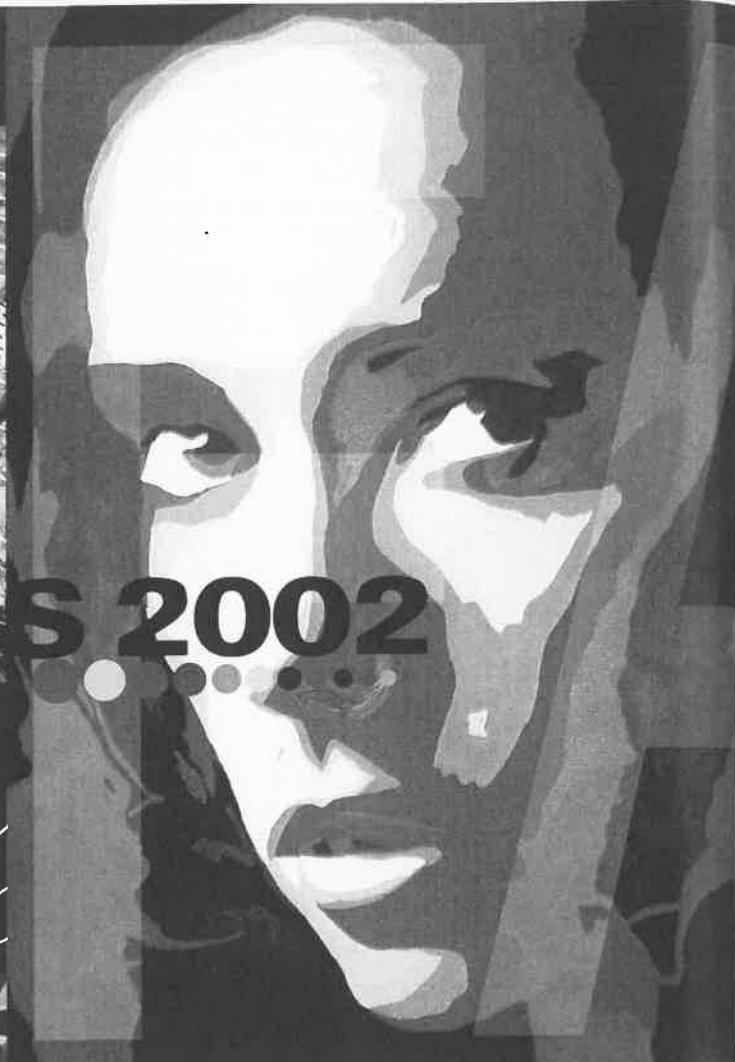
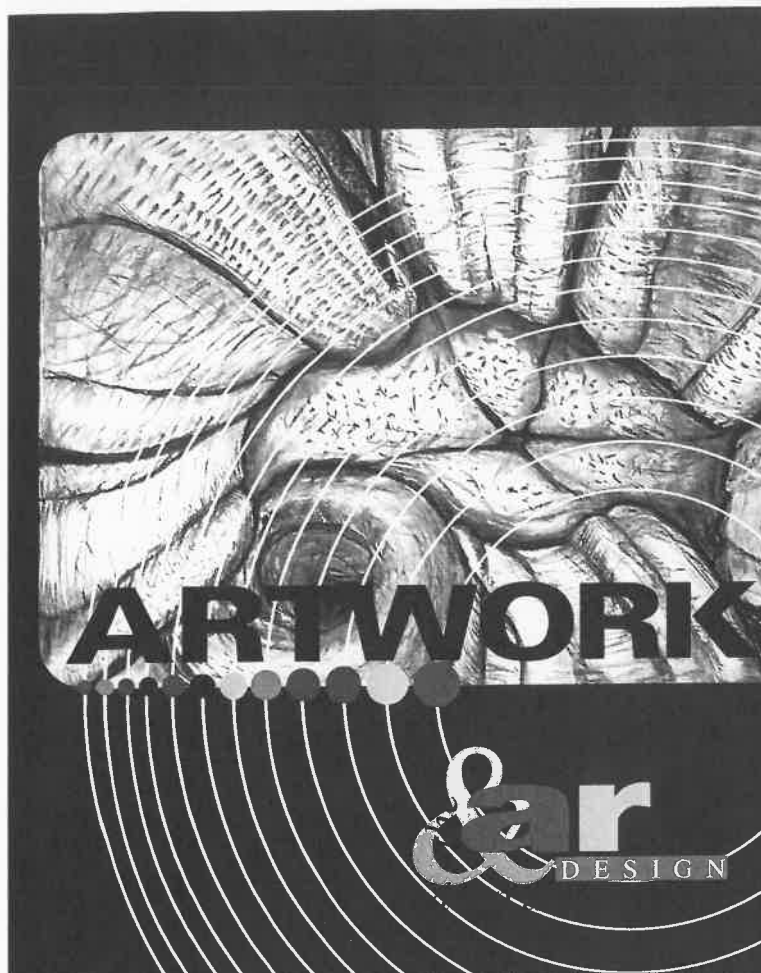
wonderful lighting effects for this piece with a glitter ball conveying the sparkling pebbles and torches used in blackout for the nightmarish scenes in the forest.

In 'Iron Hans', Freddie Buxton and Oliver Fisher headed up a very strong cast in a tale which allowed these two talented young actors to play good comic roles. We shall never forget Freddie appearing as the Viking-inspired king on horseback, complete with coconut shells, nor Oliver trying to avoid his wrath whilst wearing a long blonde wig and bonnet. 'The Lady and the Lion' gave Maddie Eaves and Nick Rhodes an opportunity to show off the strength of their acting partnership as a couple who lose sight of each other, largely because the boy keeps turning into different animals! With very few props, Nick was able to convey a prince, a lion and a white dove and this is a great testament to his talent. Maddie and Verity Taylor, as the Dragon Princess, shared possession of a splendid red dress which proved difficult to put on, but by this time the audience were distracted by the chocolates which were being thrown from the stage. The audience was lead into the interval by a beautifully choreographed piece, A Riddling Tale, which showed the dance skills of Amy Bleach, Amy Dupres and Susie Leyland.

Act Two opened with 'Aschputtel' or Cinderella as we more commonly call it, with Hannah Spacey as a very compelling Aschputtel. This was a radically different interpretation of the tale which featured Hannah arriving at the ball in a Ferrari and departing with Prince Charming on a 'Harley Davidson' (yes she passed her test) with fabulous sound effects provided on stage by Andrew Gregson. Nicole Lee was a gentle and elegant Mother Spirit, which provided a calm contrast to Hannah's gymnastics. The Juniors returned to the stage for 'The Magic Table and The Donkey' and this is perhaps the place to mention the wonderful and creative work which the First Years girls did in making the landscape of the various plays. They provided the hills, dales, relatives, soldiers, forests, animals...you name it, all through mime and their own creativity. Not only that, but they had more rehearsals than anyone else, and they were never late (others take note please) KGS can look forward to a bright future with the commitment and energy which these girls have shown in their earliest weeks at school. Although it is difficult to single out actors from this particular play, mention must be made of Grace Garlington as a splendidly funny goat and donkey, Michael Bennett as the three (!) workmen and Melissa Swain as the very nasty Landlady.

The evening was rounded off by the Seniors again in 'The Golden Goose', with Andrew Gregson also playing three sons, one of whom was most definitely inspired by Alan Partridge (Aha!). The audience responded well to the slapstick qualities in this piece and Travis Peters was much admired in a cameo role as the 'little old man', as was Rebecca Ridley as the narrator, with her beautiful speaking voice.





'artlab'

This term the senior art room saw a mini refurbishment in the form of an 'artlab'. The room is equipped with a number of eMacs with printers, a scanner and hooked up to the T2 broadband connection we now have at KGS.

The equipment is complemented by a small library of art books and a TV/VCR.

The room has been very popular with the GCSE and A Level art students, with work coming out that has been generated or manipulated on the computers. Lucy Martin's 'FACE' (above) was worked on in Photoshop 7 before it was printed out then painted. The painting was then photographed and brought back into Photoshop where the text was added, then saved as a digital image for this news letter. Sharon Tsang's painting (bottom right) was also created in Photoshop before being painted up. We are working on editing DV movies at the moment, so watch this space.





As well as all the digital work that has been going on in the 'artlab' there continues to be a great outpouring of original artwork from all age groups using all types of media.

The Fifth year continue to develop their work based on pattern that was complemented by a trip to the V&A London last term. An example can be seen from Lucy Rhode's pattern work (bottom left and centre left). The Lower sixth are discovering the 'Natural Forms' that this planet has on offer and are explore all areas of texture, form colour etc as can be seen in Ali Ibrahim's charcoal drawing (top left).

As the work is produced we will endeavour to put the work on display, like this term's exhibit outside the headmaster office of fourth year drawings. So do come and have a look as what can be seen at KGS as these pages only show the 'tip of the iceberg' in terms of what work is being produced at Kirkham Grammar.



OLD KIRKHAMIAN'S ASSOCIATION

Old Kirkhamians - v - Anti-Assassins Rugby Fixture

Sunday, 17th November, saw the third rugby fixture against the Anti-Assassins. An impressive team of Old Kirkhamians, brought together by Mark Preston and Brian Gornall, made sure that the A-As again saw defeat. Rumour has it that the Anti-Assassins are so determined on beating an OKA side that they want a return match next year rather than sticking to the biennial fixture!

The occasion is a highlight for the old boys, even for those who have played for England. Players returned to their old school for a day from as far afield as Cardiff and London and returned the same evening, such is the pride at being selected for the OKA.

The match was played in a fully competitive spirit and was an exciting spectacle despite the absence of some OKA professional players who were either injured or not released by their clubs.

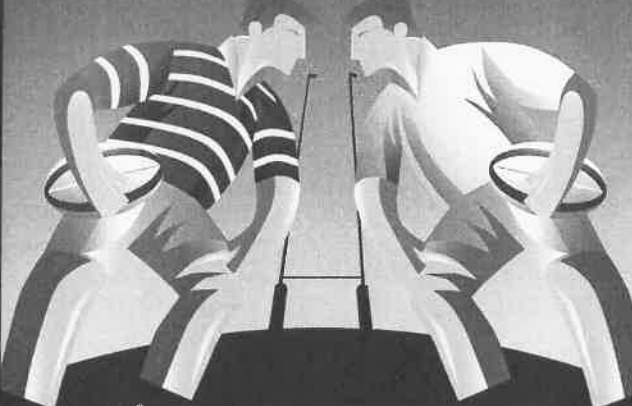

The OKA came out comfortable winners, the scorers being Alex Loney (Leicester Tigers and England Schools) one try; Richard Robinson (Leicester Tigers and Barbarians) 2 tries; Warren Spragg (Sale and England Schools) 2 tries and 2 conversions and Matt Leyden (Manchester) 1 conversion. The three try scorers played particularly well as did Prop Robert Wilson (Harrogate), Hooker Craig McIntyre (Fylde and OKA Captain) and Centre David Whittingham.

A good crowd of Old Kirkhamians, parents and interested spectators enjoyed an excellent afternoon's sport and look forward to the match.

Final score: Old Kirkhamians 31 : 14 Anti-Assassins

Staff member, Anna Sutcliffe, had divided loyalties, not knowing whether to support her schoolgirl heroes and contemporaries on the OKA side or show allegiance to husband, Mark, who played for the Anti-Assassins.

Old Kirkhamians
v
Anti-Assassins
R.U.F.C.

A-A

Sunday, 17th November, 2002
k.o. 2:00 p.m.
Kirkham Grammar School

Old Kirkhamians' Rugby News

Alex Sanderson was in the England training squad and was expected to feature in the International against New Zealand, Australia and South Africa but for injury. Andrew Kyriacou, Matthew Parr, Warren Spragg and Richard Wigglesworth were selected to play for England North Under 21s v East France. Warren made his 1st XV debut at Sale v Bath with a considerable input. Jamie Albinson is training with the England Under 19 squad. Pat Sanderson appeared on 'Ready Steady Cook' and showed that his culinary skills do not match his rugby skills! Deri Hughes is in the Oxford University squad where he is trying hard to gain his Blue after gaining a 1st class degree. He played for Oxford recently against Major Stanley's XV. Rob Porteous starts work at Twickenham and so will help keep us up to date on rugby matters.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday, 22nd December, 2002

"Young" OKA Reunion

Preston Grasshoppers RUFC : 7.30 p.m.

To be preceded by Staff -v- OKA football match in the afternoon.

Saturday, 5th April, 2003

Southern Reunion Dinner, St. Edmund Hall, Oxford.

Northern Reunion Dinner

As reported in an earlier edition of the Headmaster's Newsletter, the Association is keen to preserve the heritage of the school, one of the most recent projects being the refurbishment of the "Mouseman" furniture in the Old Hall. Hand crafted in oak by Thompson's of Kilburn, each piece bears the trade mark carved mouse. The original furniture was bought in the 1950s/1960s, the chairs having been carved with the names of those pupils/masters who bore the cost. The recent addition of the name of Barrie Stacey to one of the chairs was made as a tribute to him in recognition of his support of the Association over the past eleven years.

This year's President, Ben Stuttard, carried out the unveiling of the furniture at the Northern Reunion Dinner on Saturday, 14th September, which accompanied the presentation of gifts of a silver cigarette box in art nouveau style for Barrie and silver earrings with a Celtic theme for Catherine.





ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP

Over the October half-term six eager students, two teachers and a team of people from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) were cajoled into cleaning out the school pond under the auspices of the school's Environmental Action Group. It soon became clear that it was not pond cleaning that we were doing – it was more like an archaeological dig retrieving centuries of leaf litter! As well as clearing the pond itself we also had to build a new platform, remove some old fencing and tidy up the trees and undergrowth around the pond.

At the start, our ambitions were limited. Firstly, we wanted to bring back the ducks, which happened within a few hours of starting work! However, we seemed to have attracted more than we anticipated because, three weeks later, there are hundreds of ducks eating their way across the 1st XV rugby pitch and swimming around the pond. Secondly, we had to clear the area in and around the pond of weeds, leaves and trees. While clearing the undergrowth we thought we had found the remains of a dinosaur

hidden under the leaves. However, after retrieving all the pieces and putting them back together we found it was nothing more interesting than a few tree roots. The only identifiable items we did discover were a rusty old bicycle and a popped rugby ball!

Thanks must go to all that helped, especially Mrs Scott, who was brave enough to go deep sea, or should we say, pond diving in her wetsuit and life jacket, and Chris and Terry, the budding lumberjacks, who felled a few trees! We are also grateful to Mr. McNeela for supplying all the materials for the pond-dipping platform and to Mr Bamber for providing and erecting the fencing around the pond.

The final result is a pond that is not only clean enough for the duck population of the Fylde, but also for synchronised swimming competitions and diving events off the new pond-dipping platform – a place for the whole school to appreciate and enjoy.

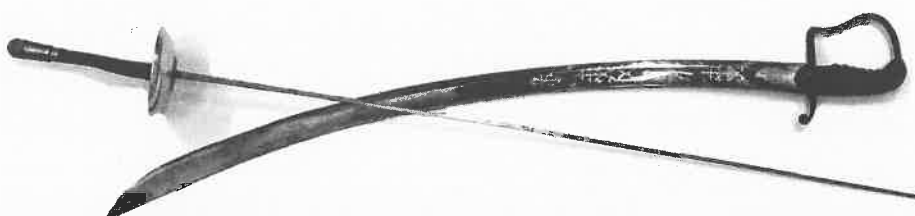
THE MYSTERY OF THE STOLEN SWORDS

When faced with the news within my first week in office that we had lost not only some ICT equipment but also the Waterloo sword, I was devastated. This artefact presented by RC Dickson in 1938 to commemorate former pupil and Cambridge scholar Lieutenant Henry Rishton Buck of the 33rd Regiment, who fell at Waterloo on 18 June, 1815, represented one of the key memorabilia in the school's possession. Its loss was seen as both tragic and likely to be permanent.

The police were alerted and investigated carefully while our Old Kirkhamians' Association searched high and low in antiques brochures but all to no avail.

Then lo and behold in mid-November the police miraculously unearthed our sword in Blackpool and returned it to school. This represents real testimony to the perserverance of our police force and is a relief and joy to all at school.

Soon to be encased and alarmed we look forward to the sword once again gracing the magnificent Old Hall.



Our pet animals all returned in good health after being fostered by several staff and pupils during the summer holiday. This support is much appreciated and the animals certainly benefit from the regular handling which they receive.

The beginning of term is always extremely busy with many first years joining the club. A waiting list had to be used in order to maintain safe standards in the laboratory. Now the membership has become more stable there will be spaces for new members to attend after Christmas.

A group of Animal Ark Club members visited Aqualife at Audene Garden Centre to handle various reptiles and hamsters. We purchased several tropical fish and two small aquatic tropical frogs which have adjusted well to the school aquarium. The frogs do not eat dried fish flakes. A small frozen block of blood worms (rather like an oxo cube) is dropped into the tank three times a week and the frogs soon find this and grab the bloodworms as the block melts. Some of the fish also eat bloodworms so we try to drop the block in a corner, under vegetation where the frogs seem to hide. A patient observer will always be able to spot the frogs as they swim to the surface every few minutes to gulp in some air. Unlike tadpoles, adult frogs do not have gills but breathe through lungs. Most species live on land eating slugs and insects. These tropical frogs are unusual in remaining aquatic in adulthood.

We have also recently purchased a young Syrian hamster called 'Moley'. He is a satin haired, chocolate type very similar in appearance to our 'founding member' hamster when the Club began, five years ago. Moley is only ten weeks old but already seems to have a very easy-going nature and can be disturbed at any time of day without fear of him being grumpy. Two six week old Roborovski hamsters are also new additions. They run extremely fast but are gradually losing their kamikaze tendencies as they become used to being handled. They have a large cage and we have set up a play-tray for them so they are getting enough exercise.

LONDON TRIP

One of KGS's most popular traditions of recent times is Mr Long's end-of-term day trip to London for Second Year pupils, staff and other members of the School Community, to visit our friends in the City of London, the Worshipful Company of Drapers. Every year since the School's ancient link with the Drapers was revived in the late 1980's, a group of KGS pupils has been privileged to tour one of London's best kept secrets, Drapers' Hall, in the Shadow of the Stock Exchange, and to take a very special lunch in unforgettable surroundings. This year, accompanied by Mr Catterall, Mr Taylor and his wife, Lab Technician Mrs Glover and Governor Mrs Cartwright, the party dined with the Master Draper, Lord Luke, following the tour of the Hall, led by Drapers' Archivist Miss Penelope Fussell.

In the afternoon, they were taken on Mr Long's legendary whistle stop tour of the sights, including a ride on the London Eye. Sadly, Downing Street, usually a highlight, is now barred even to school parties in the current security climate, but Covent Garden shops were ample compensation. Even the train home ran on time!

We are immensely grateful to the Drapers' Company for their hospitality, and for their continued support for and interest in our School.

SKI SOCIETY

Junior Ski Trip to Chatel, France.

As a result of the growing popularity of skiing at KGS, Mr Scott has had to organise both a junior and senior ski trip this year. After the success of the Feb 2002 trip to Axamer Lizum in Austria, he received so many deposits in two days that he was overbooked. The result is that the seniors (5th and 6th formers) are going to Spain in Feb 2003 and the 2nd - 4th years are skiing in France on the 14th December as soon as we break up.

A ski preparation evening was organised in September and over a hundred parents and children turned up. Unfortunately Ski Clobber did not! After a glass of wine and an informative talk by Mr Scott, Dr Hall had to improvise through the kit list and Ski Clobber brochure in his own inimitable style to inform first timers about the needs for specialist ski clothing. All the orders have been sent off, so hopefully, Father Christmas may have some early skiing surprises for several participants.

At the time of going to press, the juniors are excitedly looking forward to a ridiculously early morning departure from KGS of about 04.00h, which is four o'clock in the morning! We will be returning the following Saturday some time in the early afternoon.

It is pleasing that trips of this sort are still well supported by pupils and parents and I know that the children do get a great deal of enjoyment from them. They are educational and the learning is not just restricted to the sport of skiing but the pupils gain from a much wider experience, working together and staying in a different country. Even sometimes developing their language skills.

KGS has been running school ski trips consecutively since 1982! It is quite noticeable that many of the participants on the senior trip in February 2003 have been with us several times before. At the recent OKA dinner Mr. Scott was accosted by a group of Old Kirkhamians to organise a trip for former pupils of KGS because they remembered them so well! He did decline the offer!

FRENCH CLUB

"Le Club Français" has again proved to be a popular lunchtime activity for our pupils. We have enjoyed various board games, and struggled with using prices in Euros, not francs, for our shopping games. As end of term approaches, we shall be watching a feature film in French on DVD.



Chess

It is pleasing to see a resurgence of interest in Chess at KGS after one or two rather lean years. The weekly meetings of the Chess Club have been very popular throughout the term, particularly among the 1st Years. The trio of A Bayliss, T Fielding and M Gyi are potential stars of the future. We hope that the Club's popularity will continue and that the skill levels continue to develop.



Latin Trip to Hadrian's Wall - June 2002

The first excursion of the 'new' Latin Department took place towards the end of June, too late to be included in the Summer Term's newsletter.

32 pupils, including those who had just finished their GCSEs and those who were about to start their Latin studies, as well as those half-way through the course, along with four members of staff, enjoyed a wonderful day out at Hadrian's Wall. We visited the Roman Army Museum at Carvoran and learned about the lives of soldiers at the northern frontier of the Roman Empire. Then we travelled a little further along the wall to Vindolanda to see the remains of a fort and also the superbly reconstructed civilian settlement, complete with temple and shops. We were also able to see some excavation work in progress and talk to one of the archaeologists on site. The day before they had made a very unusual find: the discovery of human remains within the fort itself. There was clear evidence of foul play indicating some ancient skulduggery. Thanks to excellent weather we were also able to have a walk on the wall and enjoy our picnics out of doors.

An enjoyable and informative day was had by all, and there is much speculation about further trips amongst pupils and staff.

The fifth formers crowned their Latin studies with the laurel wreath of victory by achieving an excellent first set of results for the Department. Two thirds of them gained grades A or A* and deserve many congratulations for their commitment.

girls'TENNIS



Following a very successful Summer Season of tennis, the U15 Girls' Tennis Team were crowned Lancashire County Champions. This honour led to their qualification for the National Schools Tennis Tournament, formally the H.S.B.C Championships in which Kirkham Grammar School were runners up last year.

In the regional stage of the competition, the team played their quarter final match versus Windermere St. Annes School, which they won convincingly six matches to nil, losing only three

games from a possible thirty-six. The semi finals were played at the South Ribble Tennis Centre on Tuesday 12th November against Queen's School, Chester. The competition was strong and the girls played extremely well to win six matches to love.

The girls played in the North West Finals which were held at The Grange Tennis Centre in Sheffield on 25th November. They were crowned Champions of the North West, beating the Champions of North East. They now will be attending the National Schools Finals on 7th and 8th of December.

LANCASHIRE UNDER 14 TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP

Jennifer Dewhurst has progressed to the last 16 girls in the country, appearing in the U14 National Tournament at Wimbledon. This wonderful honour was achieved by winning the Lancashire title at U14 level in September.

When combined with the success of the school tennis team this all bodes well for the future of the sport at Kirkham Grammar School and marks a tremendous individual achievement for Jennifer.

Swimming

GIRLS

We have had two 'girls only' swimming fixtures so far this term, and a number of girls have swum in a mixed team. We have had over 40 girls swimming in years 1 - 6 and we are making very good progress. Last season we did not win any match overall, however, this season we have already beaten Hulme Grammar School and improved on the last season's result with Canon Slade School. The third year team is unbeaten so far this season and continues to shine.

National Swimming Championships — Macclesfield

Congratulations to Alex Bonney, Kayleigh Kuroski, Rachel Bird and Rachel Armistead who represented the school in the ESSA Regional Championships. The girls swam superbly in the

Junior Girls' freestyle relay achieving a time of 2:09:59. This placed us in the top three positions and was a personal best for the school team.

BOYS

The Squad has worked well this year, and has performed admirably. It's been a busy term with tough matches against Stonyhurst, Hutton and Arnold.

The Senior Squad, many of whom have represented the school for the past seven years are finishing on a high note. Richard Westerman (Captain), Shaun Swarbrick, Mark Gregg and Bradley Hamilton have been loyal ambassadors to the swimming fraternity at Kirkham Grammar School and have competed at a high level throughout the term. A highly charged fixture against Arnold School finished with the seniors

drawing 38 all. I am grateful for their efforts, loyalty, commitment and humour throughout the past seven years. They will be sadly missed.

At Intermediate level, Wilson, Hingley, and Hatch are the foundations of the squad but Knowles and Hall are worthy of a mention in dispatches and all swam superbly against both Hutton and Arnold.

The Junior Squad (1st and 2nd years) have been regular members of the early Friday morning training sessions, and their tenacity and enthusiasm augurs well for the future. Joe Leeming has won every one of his individual races both freestyle and butterfly and is a tremendous asset to the swimming team. Stephen Clarkson, Chris Gale, Sam Fleuriot and Tom Fielding have all performed with distinction.

VOLLEYBALL CLUB

In September, the newly formed Senior Volleyball Squad entered the Preston and District Volleyball League. This League operates every fortnight, contains nine teams and during the season (which runs until Easter) each team will play each other twice.

This will be a tough challenge, as all of the Kirkham players are new to the game. Most of the teams in the League have operated for many years.

With very limited time to practise, the team has started to take shape. Their basic skills are improving and they are beginning to appreciate technical awareness. Most importantly of all, the team enjoys playing and practising.

The team has only won one of its eight matches so far, but as stated it is early days and we expect further progress in the Xmas Tournament and then in the league games in the next year.

GYMNASTIC CLUB

This Club operates every Thursday lunchtime and is open to all boys and girls in years 1-3. The Club has been well attended this term, and all members have enjoyed the opportunity to practise all aspects of Gymnastics including Vaulting and Floor-Work.

Hard work in Gym Club led to a successful presentation of skills at Open Evening, held on 18th November. Displays of Vaulting and Floor-Work, leading to a group Vault sequence was well received by prospective parents looking around the school.

BASKETBALL CLUB

U12 Basketball Club commenced in September and operates every Wednesday after school. The Club is open to all 1st Year boys and aims to develop the skills and match-play of these young pupils. Hard work on Basketball footwork and handling skills pays huge dividends in the transfer across a wide range of other sports.

The boys have practised hard at the skills, and are beginning to transfer them into the complex game of Basketball. Slowly, the boys are beginning to appreciate the rules, and when we play are beginning to show structure to their teamwork. Most importantly of all, the boys seem to thoroughly enjoy themselves whilst they play!

BADMINTON CLUB

A new badminton club has been formed at the start of this term which is open to both boys and girls from years one to three. The pupils can opt to play socially or to take part in a mixed mini tournament. Coaching is provided during the sessions and the club has been strongly supported. It is not too late to join!



NETBALL

The girls have worked very hard this season and have shown commitment and determination in both their practices and matches. We are keen to develop the standard of netball at K.G.S and are now fielding teams from years 1-4.

The 1st year and 2nd year teams have entered the Blackpool and Fylde Schools friendly leagues and have enjoyed a number of matches. The 1st years have played 6 matches and have won 2 and lost 4, and the 2nd year team has played 4 matches and has won 2 and lost 2.

The 3rd year and 4th year teams have entered the Blackpool and Fylde Schools leagues. The 3rd year matches are due to start after Christmas, however, they have played 4 friendly matches winning 2 and losing 2. The 4th year team have played 2 league matches so far, which they have lost, however, the team has made obvious progress over recent weeks.

CLIMBING CLUB

The excellent weather in the first half of term enabled the Club to climb outdoors on real rock more often than is usual in the Autumn Term. Troy Quarry near Haslingden was the favourite venue, but Wilton Quarry and Withnell Quarry were also visited. Amy Shirliff, Amy Duckworth and Cathryn Critchley all significantly improved the grade at which they climbed whilst Carl Godwin impressed with the determined way in which he tackled hard routes, despite having only joined the Club recently.

After half-term the Club mounted a sponsored climb at Ingleton Climbing Wall when twelve climbers attempted to complete twenty routes and so collect the money which they had been promised. Over £250 was raised towards the cost of extending the school's climbing wall and for many this was their first experience of climbing on a large and intimidating indoor wall. The term's other activities included a trip to the Warrington Climbing Complex on Speech Day Holiday, manning the wall on Open Events and the Friends' Christmas Fair as well as visits to other local climbing walls.



interHouse events



The Secret diary of a House recorder - aged 29 1/4

Dear Diary,

WEEK 1: My first week as 'Champion' housemaster and it's time to enjoy and savour the moment!

WEEK 2: Decide to ask Mr. Walker to join Kirkham House's assembly to present the Whitby Cup. Congratulations aplenty. Remind the pupils about the responsibility that goes with winning and how much School and Mr. Smith want to beat us!

WEEK 3: All quiet - no events scheduled - time to get the House list published and plan the year's strategy.

WEEK 4: All quiet... more planning!

WEEK 5: All quiet...even more planning!

WEEK 6: At last it's time for the battle to begin and time for the new basketball competition. Who will have the best basketball players? How do I pick the right team for the competition? How do I outwit Mr. Smith? So many questions... Well diary, we are well beaten - Fylde dominate the competition thanks to the inspirational Robert Sissons and win the tournament thanks to a close 9-8 victory against School. Decide to check the rules to see if I can put Sissons in detention for all future events - apparently this is not in the spirit of the competition - consider appealing to the Head!

WEEK 7: Not again diary.... surely history can't repeat itself! Tell me I'm dreaming - another Kirkham last place? It's a nightmare - the senior boys play well but are soundly beaten by Mr. Smith's 'globetrotters' and the other 2 houses. Victory to School and second place to Preston. Time to reflect and congratulate my fellow Housemasters - have a word with Dr. Rollins who is having a much better Autumn term than in previous years.

HALF TERM: Decide to recharge the batteries and have a deserved break.

WEEK 8: At last I am 30 and time to celebrate at the junior disco! (The things I do for KGS!) I share my celebrations with the House who win the Chess tournament in my honour! Yes, we win again, thanks to a fine team performance from both the seniors and juniors. Mr. Melling said it was a great competition with much tension and drama although Martin Halsall (Preston) was given a yellow card for getting a bit carried away! Well what do you expect when you hold competitions in the Drama Studio! Anyway, I

was delighted to see Thomas Fielding (Kirkham) winning the match of the day against the young Bayliss (Fylde) that clinched the tournament. Victory for Kirkham! (Fylde 2nd, Preston 3rd, School 4th). Decide to remind Mr. Smith of the Kirkham/School score, 6-0! Decide our season starts here!

WEEK 9: The weeks are getting busier and time for the girls to take over. Mr. Walker decides to watch as the girls battle hard in front of a large audience. (Decide to make some money next year and charge for admittance!) Unfortunately School get the better of the Champions in the semi-final with a commanding and assured performance. Decide to keep a record of Mr. Smith's catchphrases for the Junior competition. ("motor motor", "keep it tight", and "get the rebound") Everyone is set for Thursday where the girls play well again. For the record diary, it's a win for School, and a win for Kirkham to clinch third.

WEEK 10: Time for the Junior Netball. Forgive my excitement diary but wow, what a match! In my four years as Housemaster I've never seen such a comeback! Kirkham are losing 5-1 at half time and seem doomed. Decide it's time to "keep it tight" and handover to House captain Kate Sannegadu

to give an inspirational team talk. The second half begins - 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5 - extra-time! 6-5 Kirkham, 7-5 Kirkham! Final whistle! Take a few hours to calm down and chuckle when Zoe Kirkham tells me she's given Mr. Smith a hard time in Chemistry that afternoon! Fylde also play well today to beat Preston so it's going to be a tough game in the final.

Just got in from a tense final where the Kirkham girls played well enough to win a close match. School also play well and win their match to finish third overall in a thoroughly enjoyable tournament.

WEEK 11: Disaster! Mr. Walker 'confiscates' my diary - apparently he's going to publish it in his Newsletter to parents... AAHHH! Oh well, better read it through and check carefully for any errors - want to make a good impression with the new boss! I'll let you know how the term ends if and when I get it back! Can Fylde maintain their excellent start to the year - will Kirkham bounce back after a difficult term? All will be revealed in my 2003 diary.

Mr S Duncan - House Recorder.



School are victorious and isn't Mr Smith happy?

HOCKEY

Once again we are able to report an extremely strong start to the hockey season. The teams have gone from strength to strength, constantly refining their skills, and developing their knowledge and understanding of the game. The girls have been a delight to coach and continue to show a dedicated and committed approach to both their practices and matches.

After losing seven upper sixth team members from last year's first XI side, the youthful first XI team have played with real determination throughout the early part of the season. The team has played six matches and have won 4, lost 1, and drawn 1. The girls travelled away to play an extremely strong Millfield side, which was brimming with international players. The team played well, but were not strong enough to take on Millfield on this occasion. Kirkham Grammar School lost 5-1. We look forward to the rematch next year. The senior girls were runners up in both the U16 and U18 county rounds of the National Schools Hockey Tournaments.

The second XI have played well and have benefited from the large number of fixtures that they have played during their Wednesday games sessions. The team has played 8 matches, many of them against 1st XI sides, and has won 3, drawn 3 and lost 2.

The U15 team experienced a somewhat shaky start to the season, however they have vastly improved over recent weeks partially due to the amount of hockey which they played whilst on tour. They have played 9 matches so far, winning 4 and losing 5.

The U14 team have continued to shine, and are now regarded as one of our strongest year groups. On the pitch they play with sheer determination and their skill level continues to develop. The team has played 8 matches, and have won 5, drawn 2 and lost 1. On Saturday 9th November the girls are due to compete in the county round of the U14 National Schools Hockey Tournament. We wish them every success.

The U13 team has quickly adapted from 8 a-side to 11 a-side hockey and have developed into a talented and cohesive unit. They have played 7 matches and have scored 26 goals so far, which is a tremendous achievement. They have won 5 matches and lost 2.

The U12's A and B teams have shown commitment and determination during their training sessions and are looking forward to their first matches of the season which are due to take place at the end of this week.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY HOCKEY HONOURS

The following girls from Kirkham Grammar School have successfully gained county honours this season.

U18 County Honours

Kate Sannegadu — Captain
Lorna Sissons — Vice Captain
Lucy Martin
Laura Martin

U16 County Honours

Caroline Desborough
Louise Lord
Emily Martin
Fran McNeela
Nicola Rogerson
Liz Tomlinson
Kirsty Hamilton

U14 Lancashire Development Squad

Abby Wilkinson	Kate Gledhill
Olivia Hawtin	Jess Morris
Zoe Kirkham	Maddie Eaves
Becky Sharples	Georgina Fulford Brown
Jane Duncan	Jess Ashworth
Fran Britton	Becky Preskey



Abby Hookey brings the ball out of the KGS defence closely pursued by a Millfield forward (above)

John Travolta and Olivia Newton John, alias Mr & Mrs Tabb show the Junior Hockey Tour girls "a touch of grease lightening". (bottom left)

All smiles as the Junior Hockey Tour visit Disneyland Paris. (bottom right)



JUNIOR HOCKEY TOUR

The highlight for the junior teams so far this season is no doubt their eight day tour to Valkenburg in Holland, and Paris.

The party of 39 girls left K.G.S on the morning of Saturday 19th October, immaculately kitted out with thanks to McNeela Maintenance and Constructions who kindly sponsored the girls' tracksuits.

After a tiring night of dancing on the ferry, and a long journey through Belgium to Valkenburg, the girls and the staff had little time to perfect their Karaoke performances. Mr and Mrs Tabb led the competition with their spectacular performance of 'You're the One That I Want' from the musical Grease which set the standard for the performances to follow.

The world cup hockey competition, which took place each morning while we were in Holland, was a very competitive and high-spirited affair. Australia was eventually proclaimed as winners after narrowly beating England.

Whilst in Valkenburg, the U13, U14 and U15 teams played three matches. The girls experienced some very demanding games, playing against club teams rather than school teams, owing to the differing set up in Holland. On Monday 21st October the girls played Heerlen Hockey Club. The U13 team won 4-0, the U14 team won 9-0, and the U15 team won 2-0. On Tuesday 22nd October the U13 team played Maastricht Hockey Club and lost 0-2. The U14 and U15 teams played Cadier en Keer, the U14's drawing 2-2, and the U15's losing 0-1. On Wednesday 23rd October the teams played Tegelen Hockey Club. The U13's won 11-0, the U14's lost 2-3 and the U15's won 7-0.

Whilst in Valkenburg the girls also enjoyed a trip to the bowling alley, 4 exciting runs down the bobsleigh, a trip up to the highest point in Valkenburg on a chairlift, an exciting quiz night and a shopping trip including a visit to the local chocolate shop.

Following our four hectic days in Holland, the girls were rewarded with two nights in Paris. We visited the Eiffel Tower whilst in transit, celebrated Hallowe'en in true spooky fashion in the hotel, and spent Friday in Disney Studios, and Saturday in Disneyland itself, experiencing the thrills of Space Mountain.

The entire tour was a thoroughly marvellous experience and a wonderful opportunity to nurture close relationships between both the girls and staff on tour.

Many thanks must go to Mrs Tabb for organising the tour and to Mr Whalley, Mr Sampey, Mr Tabb and Mrs Whalley for all of their hard work and endless energy on tour.

We look forward to similar antics in 2004!!



The U13 Team



The U14 Team



The Hallowe'en Team

RUGBY



1st XV 2002 - 2003 Season

1st XV

At the time of submitting this brief account of the 1st XV rugby season, four matches have still to be played but the record is

P 8 W6 D1 L1

For - 214: Against - 55.

After a pre-season tour to Carmarthenshire, where the players received a wake-up call by being pitted against elite Welsh players who had trained with Welsh Development squads and their clubs all summer, the team was pitched into two very hard games.

In the first game, KGS dominated possession but could only draw with Manchester GS. The second match against Colston's was the highlight of the term so far. Colston's have won the Tyndale tournament, the St Joseph's Ipswich tournament and all their matches most of them easily but were given the sternest of tests by KGS. They said KGS made them

look poor in the second half. KGS won ample possession all game but gave away two soft tries in the first half to be 0 - 19 unnecessarily down at half time. In the second half, KGS turned possession into points gaining increasing authority and almost gained a draw but eventually lost 10 - 19.

Since the Colston's game all matches have been won but the team has played in fits and starts with bouts of outstanding play being usually prefaced by a period of lethargy. If the team plays to its full potential for the whole match then it will be truly formidable.

Danny Greenhalgh, Martin Halsall, Matthew Gargett and Mark Darlington have all played for Lancashire 18 Group whilst Tom Albinson, James Cooper, Adam Kwasnicki, Mike Marshall and Richard Westerman have all played for Lancashire 'A'. Marcus Jackson has been selected to play for Lancashire 16 Group. Martin Halsall is training with England Under 19s and Stuart Blackburn is training with Lancashire Under 19s.

2nd XV

P7 W3 L4 F102 A133

The second fifteen have played some very good rugby this term and as a result there have been good wins against King Edward & Queen Mary School, Wirral GS and RGS Newcastle. As a result of these performances, the likes of Adam Kyriacou, Adam Kwasnicki, Terry Ogden and Luke Talbot have pushed themselves into the frame for first fifteen places. However, at times, the team has played inconsistently within games and the close defeats, by less than one score, at Manchester and Woodhouse Grove, could quite easily have been turned into victories, had there not been lapses in concentration. The defeat against Lancaster, in dreadful conditions, was by two scores, but again the result should have been a lot closer. Lancaster took the lead with 'five minutes' to go and they scored again in the seventh minute of injury time!

Playing Colston's Collegiate in the second match of the season was a real eye opener. Everything they did was at the highest skill level and at great speed. The second team spent the afternoon chasing shadows. A number of people were heard to comment that Colston's would be a match for many first teams, let alone second teams. It showed what could be done and should have given the players a level to aim for, but, as has already been said, the second team lack the consistency to play at that high level.

With dedicated training, there are still enough matches left for the team to show their true worth and end the season producing a consistently high standard of rugby.

U16 XV

P	W	L	F	A
7	3	4	89	145

The season began with an encouraging game against Manchester Grammar School using the whole 'A' squad available in the process. Kirkham had the best of the initial exchanges but could not quite match



Action from the King Edward & Queen Mary School v 1st XV victory

Manchester Grammar School in the backs. A win followed at Heysham 24-0 but then two losses first unluckily at Woodhouse Grove and then comprehensively to an excellent Newcastle Grammar School team comprising of seven County players. The season seemed to take an even worse turn with a home loss to Ripley St Thomas 36-0 but was salvaged by a huge win over Lancaster Royal Grammar School 12-5. The team's confidence seemed to return, the tackling and overall commitment was superb and the genuine belief and determination to win showed no bounds.

Two of the squad, Marcus Jackson and Tom Armer had deservedly been selected for Lancashire Under 16's Squad who so far have won both their matches against Ulster and Cumbria. Marcus has also been a regular in the 1st XV.

U15 XV

Since the final game of last season at home to Warwick School, there has been considerable improvement throughout the squad both in attitude and performance on the field. Technically there has also been a significant development both from the forwards and backs. We are now able to hold our own, against top quality opposition, and defensively we are much more comfortable with ourselves and better organised.

The front row squad of Oliver Cawdell, Jason Koo, Alex Dean, Matthew Rossall and David Shaw, have arguably made the most improvement, both in scrummaging and in defence around the rucks and mauls. The lock forwards after a slow start, are now learning their roles and getting to grips with the fundamentals. Both Adam Taylor and James Best have worked extremely hard this term particularly in training and their efforts and commitment are beginning to come to fruition. The back row under the leadership of Philip Shopland-Reed gets better each game. Sam Dunn and Mathew Barnes are the stalwarts of the side, and all three work tirelessly throughout every game and are a credit to the squad.

The backs under the Captaincy of Oliver Moore are beginning to look a formidable unit, both in defence and attack. Oliver and Mark Hodgkinson continue to combine well and can exploit any defence at a moment's notice. Matthew Eves, William Hawtin, Alan Wright and Andrew Hatch are working well together, and despite coming up against much bigger opposition, never let the side down and always work as a unit – and give everything.

At the time of writing, the team have their biggest test against Sedburgh. It is without doubt our Cup Final! I only hope all the help, guidance and technical support they have received from the 1st XV Coach – Mr Trenhaile pays dividends and they produce a result that they are capable of.

To conclude, the U15 have made massive strides and it is without doubt a squad game, and all 32 members of the rugby squad have played their part, but we are only part way through the season and there is still a considerable way to go. We must maintain our efforts and strive for excellence.

U14 XV

P10 W8 L2 Do

The U14 'A' XV have had a challenging but rewarding start to their season. The team has played well generally, but lapses in concentration and naïve play has resulted in two defeats (Manchester Grammar School and Newcastle Royal Grammar School) against strong opposition.

However, the team is now working hard to get fitter and tactical acumen is now starting to become apparent. The two victories against Ripley School and Lancaster Royal Grammar School are two examples of games in which the team overcame strong opposition through application of a game plan.

Recent cancellations have thwarted progress, but it is hoped we can have a good run in the Lancashire Cup, and a successful Sevens campaign next Spring.



Action from the U14 Isle of Man Tour



The Isle of Man U14 squad

B XV
P5 Wo L5

Despite disappointing results, the 'B' XV is making good progress. They are working hard to improve their skills and organisation in game situations. Their lack of physical presence is the main contributory reason for the defeats. If they continue to develop their skills when they grow they will be able to compete more evenly with their opponents. I am particularly pleased with the hard work of some of the new pupils to the school and look forward to the time when many of the 'B' XV will be competing for places with the 'A' XV.

U13 XV

'A' Team
P9 W7 Do L2
Isle of Man
P2 W1 Do L1
'B' Team
P5 Wo Do L5

The U13 Squad have made an impressive start to the season with coveted victories away at Newcastle Royal Grammar School and at home to local rivals Lancaster Royal Grammar School. In both of these matches, the team showed the high standards of which they are capable; ferocious rucking and mauling from the pack and straight, hard running from the back line.

However, lapses in concentration and ill-discipline have allowed the opposition to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat at both Wirral Grammar School and

King Edward and Queen Mary School, Lytham.

The relatively small pack has improved greatly this year. The back row of James Edgar, Jon Crankshaw and Patrick Bell has been the envy of many coaches when they are seen flying into tackles and to breakdowns. Harry Eakins has impressed at hooker, and props Matthew Bamber and Alistair Carter have been formidable in attack and defence.

The majority of points this year have been scored by the backs. Matthew Davies has developed a more rounded game and the new centre pairing of David Kos and Joe Brown can be devastating at pace. Good handling and running has allowed winger Sam Geny room to manoeuvre with great effect. The squad is particularly strong with players such as Andrew Brown, James Walker and Christian Martin-Roffey who are all both interchangeable and reliable.

It is hoped that the squad can continue to improve on their self-control as the season carries on. It is on this factor that important fixtures are won or lost.

U12 XV

It has been a tough few weeks for the U12's, as many of them had never played competitive rugby at school before. With A and B Squads training on Monday and Friday evenings the boys are beginning to pick up the basics of rugby and had wins against QEGS Blackburn (20-0) and the B team beat Calday Grange away (10-5).

Friends of KGS



The Fearless Brothers at the Winter Ball

After two very successful years, Dana Gledhill and Sarah Fulford-Brown stepped down from office at the Friends' AGM in September. Vivienne Ashworth and I were elected to replace them and it's a hard act to follow. We welcome our new Headmaster and Mrs Walker, who have joined our Committee and thank them for their support and encouragement. The Committee now has twenty-seven members and five ex-officio members.

The FKGS 100 Club this year has increased by 12% with 185 numbers allocated. If we maintain this growth, we will soon have to change the name to the 200 Club and of course increase the prizes yet again! The list of winners and number allocations are just two of the many pages the Friends plan to put up on the school's new website. The link to the Friends being on the school's homepage.

The Autumn Term is always very busy for the Friends in supporting both the Junior and Senior schools at Prospective and New Parents' events as well as planning and preparing for the Friends' Winter Ball and Christmas Fair. This year the Winter Ball was held at the De Vere Hotel in Blackpool and was as successful as ever. Revellers danced the night away to a disco and the 'Fearless Brothers' live band until the early hours. My thanks to Julie Thackray and Simon and Sarah Fulford-Brown for organising the event and to the other members for helping and giving a marvellous time to us all. The Christmas Fair proved another success. The hustle and bustle of a busy bazaar interspersed with a variety of games made for an exciting event and culminated in the school choir singing carols. My thanks to Vivienne Ashworth for her frugal purchasing of hundreds of prizes, presents and toys for stalls which enabled more profit to be made and to all the many helpers, both on the Committee and on the day, for which this type of event relies heavily.

The Friends this year gave £9,000 towards the recently installed theatrical lighting in the MPH and also £3,000 towards the new School Website.

My thanks to all the parents who supported these events.

Wishing you all a Merry Xmas,

Robert Dunn
Chairman of the Friends.

Diary Dates

Young Kirkhamians' Christmas Reunion at Preston Grasshoppers

Sunday, 22 December, 2002, at 7.30 pm.

Examinations for 11+ Entry in September, 2002

Saturday, 18 January, 2003, at 9.00 am.

Normandy Military Band Concert in the New Hall

Wednesday, 29 January, 2003, at 7.30 pm.

Sixth Form Open Evening in the New Hall

Wednesday, 5 March, 2003, at 7.30 pm.

Spring Concert in the New Hall

To be arranged.

Sixth Form Scholarship Examinations

Thursday, 13 March, Friday, 14 March, 2003.

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

Tuesday, 1 April, 2003, at 2.30 pm.

Old Kirkhamians' Association Southern Dinner St Edmund Hall, Oxford

Saturday, 5 April, 2003.



Stop Press



The Uniform Shop is now open five afternoons a week from
12.00 noon to 5.00 p.m. (Term time only)



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