



Headmaster's Letter to Parents

Winter 2000

RECORD A-LEVEL RESULTS

We congratulate our Upper Sixth formers on achieving the best A-level results in the school's history. The number of high grades was particularly pleasing:

Grade A - 27%

Grades A/B - 42%

Grades A/B/C - 61%

The average UCAS points score per student was also at its highest ever level at 23.8, enabling the great majority to secure places at their first choice universities. Sixteen students achieved at least three grade A's, with Phillip Bennett and Michael Strickland each achieving an astonishing six grade A's.

All six Oxbridge candidates secured their places:

Phillip Bennett
Natural Sciences - St. Johns, Cambridge

Adam Devine
Chemistry - Jesus, Oxford

Joanne Gornall
Natural Sciences - Pembroke, Cambridge

Felicity Guest
Medicine - Exeter, Oxford

Martha Newell
Archaeology & Anthropology - Christ's, Cambridge

Lewis Watson
French - St. Hugh's, Oxford

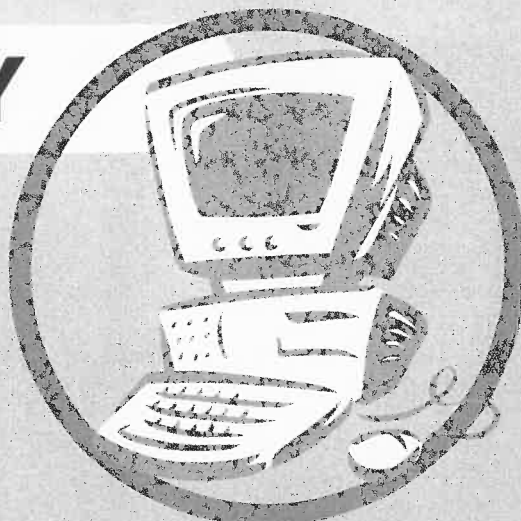
Another record for Kirkham Grammar School and proof once more that academic high flyers flourish in a Sixth Form which accepts students with a genuine breadth of abilities.



Headmaster, Mrs. Stacey, Chairman of Governors, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. and Mrs. David Prince at Speech Day

TECHNOLOGY

This term has seen the latest in a long line of changes to the Technology curriculum with the introduction of the new A-levels. The Lower Sixth form take their first module the week after we return next term and they are at the moment working hard to complete their first minor project. One of the group, Paul Marshall, received his Arkwright Scholarship in a presentation at the Royal Aeronautical Society in London during the half term holiday. We congratulate Paul on the quality of the work and presentation required to earn him this sought after scholarship. This is the third of these prestigious awards gained by our Technology pupils within the past three years. We will soon be beginning the quest for the fourth as the examinations and interviews start at the beginning of next term.



Malaysian Minister of Education Tan Sri Dato' Seri Musa Mohamed goes head to head with Prof. Steve Grigg during a recent visit to the school



Mr. Crowther demonstrates Desktop Pro to Teachers

We are pleased to report that one of our Sixth Form pupils, Graham Dawson, has been offered a place at Huddersfield University studying product design with a grade C in Technology and a pass in another subject. The University was delighted to award this offer on the strength of the Computer Aided Design work Graham has done whilst studying at Kirkham.

Training on Computer Aided Design systems has continued with teachers from schools around the North West attending training sessions. More are planned for next term as the national scheme expands.

The Faculty has again been privileged to host a number of visits as part of our relationship with BAE SYSTEMS. This term we hosted the Malaysian Education Minister and the Head of their Teacher Training Organisation. Both visits were highly successful and our pupils were a credit to themselves and the school. Many thanks must go to all the staff from within the Faculty as well as those from other subject areas who kindly give their time and pupils. We look forward to a further visit from Colonel Razif, Commandant of the Royal Military College, before the end of this term.

This term saw the launch of the F1 in Schools Challenge. Here our pupils have to design and manufacture dragster cars which will be raced within school and then in regional finals to be held next term. Kirkham Grammar School is to be designated as a regional race centre for the national competition. This will involve the school hosting other race teams from across the North of England. The grand final will be held in Olympia in London in January, 2001. The prizes are most attractive and will be donated by the major sponsor, Jaguar Racing. The club operates on Tuesday evenings and Thursday lunch times. There are lots of pupils involved, all trying to beat Mr. Crowther and Mr. Hill to produce the fastest car. The races will take place on a 65 ft. track in the MPH and we will be looking for speeds of approaching 70 mph. We look forward to producing the cars and holding our own races next term. Already the competition is very fierce.

As part of the continued development of the Faculty, we recently took delivery of twelve new computers for the Graphics Department. This will enable our pupils to have access to machines capable of easily handling the most greedy of programs. Twelve of the existing machines will be distributed around the school to both academic and administrative departments. Two of the computers will go into the staffroom areas where they will be used to access the new database system which now holds accurate information on all pupils. Staff will be able to get access to customised information from the beginning of the Spring Term.

COMBINED CADET FORCE



Squadron Leader
Mike McKenna
inspects the Guard of
Honour whilst CSM
Joseph Thompson
looks on

The summer holidays saw two highly successful camps, one at Cultybraggen in Scotland and the RAF Millennium Camp held at Cranwell which involved over 2000 RAF cadets from around the country. All cadets attending seemed to enjoy themselves hugely and to benefit from some steep learning curves - like getting up early in the mornings! As ever, the cadets performed well and gave their all in competition, so much so that one junior cadet, on finishing a gruelling march and shoot, was sick over the Colonel's boots!

Field Days, later in the term, proved fun if very, very wet, especially the overnight expedition held at Waddecarr Scout Camp. The gruelling "survival" exercise held on the night before the CCF field day involved 15 RAF and 15 Army cadets who learned all about survival shelters, catching food, and night navigation on a perfectly wet and cold evening.

Fortunately everybody "survived" to complete all the activities the next day!

Again, the experiences broaden the horizons of our cadets, sometimes in a radical manner. Some few days after finally drying out the wet kit we welcomed our RAF Inspecting Officer for our Annual Inspection and Review. He was most impressed by the working displays he saw and particularly commented on the quality and dedication of our Senior NCO's in both Services. He also enjoyed his lunch!

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Lt. Col. Sayer has been re-elected onto the CCFA Executive Committee in London and will continue to represent cadet interests in the North West of England for the foreseeable future.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Kirkham Grammar School's newly formed Duke of Edinburgh's Award group has attracted a great deal of interest from Fifth and Sixth Form students: we currently have fifteen young people working towards Bronze, and nearly twenty who have entered at Gold Direct level.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award offers the challenge of adventure to all young people between the ages of 14 to 24, and aims to encourage participation in a balanced programme of activities that, perhaps uniquely in this age, is chosen and organised principally by the young people themselves. Current activities followed by our participants illustrate the range available: from First Aid to fishing; from music to marksmanship; from rugby to recycling!

Winter is the "close season" for Duke of Edinburgh's

Award expeditions. However, one intrepid group attempted to snatch a Gold training venture right at the end of the season, under the aegis of Mr. Callister and Mrs. Copland.

The Award works in partnership with CCF, during which time expedition training takes place. Most CCF activities can also count for the Award: indeed, holding CCF stripes can qualify for the Service section of the Award at Gold level.

Currently we are hampered by problems arising from the introduction of new regulations - the most pressing concern being the storage of Award books. However, when the system is fully "on-line", we are confident that the changes will make the Award more flexible, and even more attractive to participants.

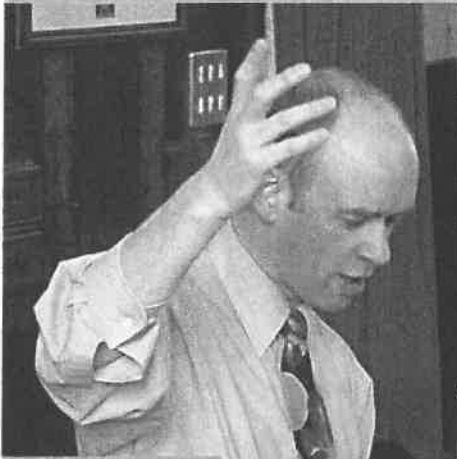


Oliver Brambles, Nick Cross and John Melling underway

Two groups deserve special mention this term - the Concert Band, directed by Mr. Richard Evans, and the Special Choir. The former has grown considerably of late and the group has started to produce some quite exciting sounds. The Special Choir too has had a good term, benefiting enormously from the Choral Workshop conducted by Mr. Gordon Stewart in November.

Examination results have also been good. Included in this term's successes are Grade VII passes with merit by Felicity Clarke (singing) and Jane Meloy (clarinet).

MUSIC



Mr. Gordon Stewart directing the Choral Workshop



Many congratulations too to Leanne Bonney who has gained a place in the National Children's Orchestra. Leanne will be playing in such prestigious venues as St. David's Hall, Cardiff, York Minster and the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, during the 2001 season.

Looking forward to next term, the programme includes a concert by the King's Division Normandy Band - some of our own musicians will have a spot with them during the concert; and what will certainly be a highly entertaining evening by the international recitalist Carlo Curley - the opening concert on our new Malin organ.

girls' CHOIR

The girls have had a busy term of music making. The younger section of the Choir enjoyed rehearsing and recording a CD for their entry to the Blue Peter event in aid of Children in Need. In December, the Choir travelled to London for a veritable feast of music including a trip to the musical "Fame", attending Matins at St. Paul's Cathedral and the Sainsbury Choir of the Year Final at the Royal Albert Hall. The weekend proved to be a real family occasion as we were joined by a grandfather and two elder brothers of the girls, former pupils of the School, and the sun shone for the weekend.

The Choir, joined by sixth form and staff, are carol singing in the Fishergate Centre on behalf of the British Diabetic Association later in December.



Some of the our girls at the Royal Albert Hall

DRAMA

The new term got off to a tremendous start with rehearsals for the production of The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of Macbeth by McGillivray and Zerlin, a comedy which was produced in the week before half term. The purpose of the play was to raise money for stock for the new Friends' Library and to give an opportunity for Staff to display their considerable acting skills. The production was an unparalleled success and created moments that will live long in the annals of KGS' history. Deborah Rogerson took the title role, masterfully dealing with doublet and hose, flying daggers, and custard pies. Mr Rushton and Mr Taylor brought the credibility of the German Department perilously close to the edge by both appearing in starring roles as women. Sarah Howe our new Maths teacher was hardly given time to find her feet in the staff room before joining Pam Hayton, and Anna Fryer as one

of the three witches. No one will ever forget their rendition of "That Ole' Black Magic", accompanied by the excruciating pianist, played by Andrew Reid. Barbara Williams was the unflappable Mrs Reece inseparable from her handbag and Carolyn Copland appeared on wheels as the voiceless Banquo. Chris Hawkes was unforgettable as the highly-strung producer able to recite three scenes in as many minutes.

Alan Hill designed and constructed a very demanding set, which had to be fully reversed half way through the show. Uncomplainingly he then went on to produce and rig props, which included the moon, a severed head and a legless doll. His involvement with the production will perhaps best be remembered by his fondness for the smoke machine and a certain unscheduled fire alarm. enough said!

One of the most rewarding aspects of drama is that it is a great leveller and team building exercise. The Friends' provided invaluable expertise both backstage and Front of House and we are very grateful to them for the fabulous raffle prizes which they donated. For the pupils of KGS who acted as the backstage crew, this production was a real opportunity for them to see the Staff under pressure for a change! Katherine Palmer led a crew of 14 pupils whose responsibilities included

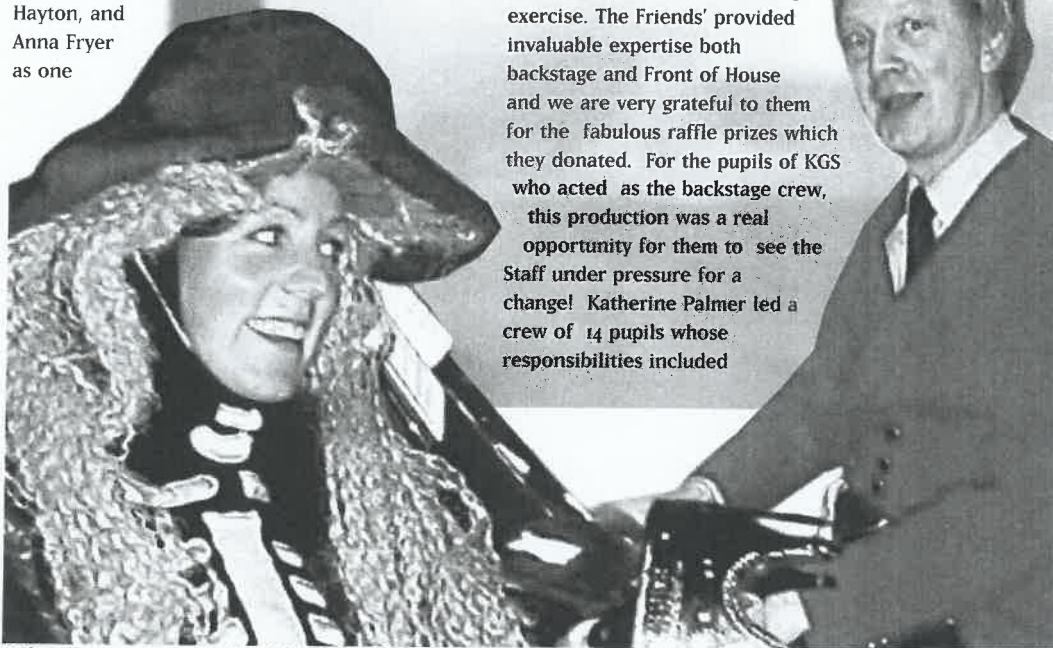
sound, lighting, set painting, choreography and prompt. Simon Duncan held the show together at the sharp end: where would we have been without all those rolls of thunder and timely blackouts!

The production was not without the usual difficulties theatrical tradition associates with "the Scottish play". Pam Hayton lost her voice and then knocked herself out and Director, Lynda Poole spent a confused hour with Matron, having concussed herself backstage.

The production raised £750 for the Friends' Library here in school and provided never to be forgotten moments...except that some Staff think that we should do another one next year!

Rehearsals are well underway for the Senior School play, The Visit, by Friedrich Durrenmatt, to be staged in the Old Hall 13, 14, 15 February.

The play tells of a woman who returns to her hometown for the first time in many years and with a burning desire for revenge upon her former lover. The cast has created its own version of this classic play by moving the action from a Swiss village to a little place called Wesham! The set has been designed using images of the Upper Sixth Theatre Studies group created in the Technology Department and the students are designing and creating their own costumes. To say that the piece will be bizarre is something of an understatement - even the Director realises that she has little control over the creative energies of a very talented group. Come and see it!



Miss Fryer bewitched by Mr. Reid's playing



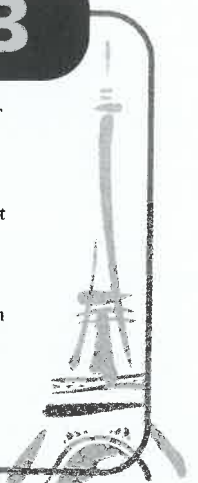
Amy Bleach playing the violin at Speech Day

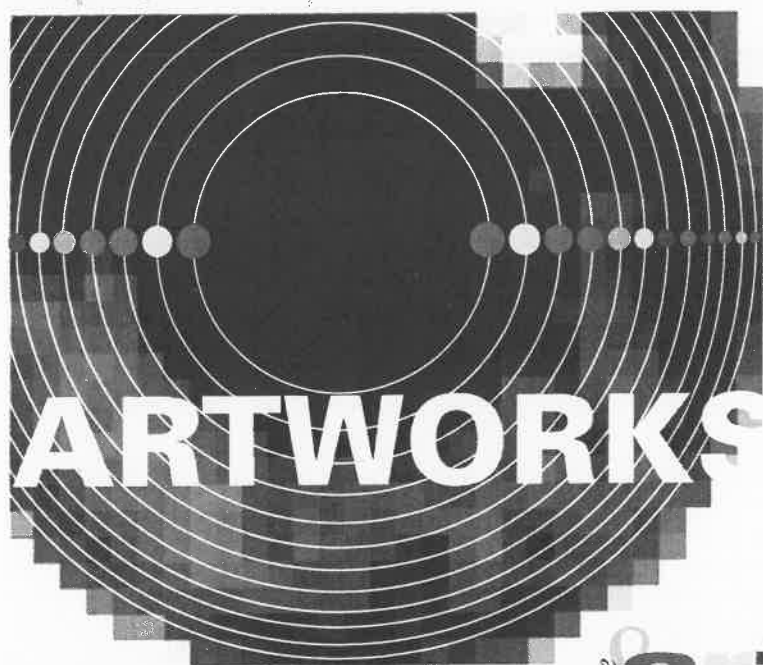
FRENCHCLUB

The French Club has again proved to be a popular lunchtime activity for pupils of all ages, where a variety of traditional board games and modern computer games are played by First Years and Sixth Formers alike.

The club's facilities always prove to be of great interest to visitors at our Open Events; many parents are rightly jealous of how much fun French can be these days, remembering as they do, boring text books featuring « la plume de ma tante »

Next term sees the launch of our latest attraction: films in French on DVD with surround sound. DVD's are available with the option to switch languages and/or subtitles, so pupils can now watch their favourites in French. Early features next term will include « Friends », « Men in Black » and « The Great Escape ».





ARTWORKS 2000

the **art**
DESIGN
department



Art from Down Under

This term we highlight the work done by the second year artists. As the World tuned into the sights and sounds of Sydney 2000 on their TV sets, the second year explored the art and artefacts of the first people of Australia, the Aborigines. Initial research started with searching the Internet to gather examples of work along with the stories that go with the work. All second year pupils produced some stunning colourful work, that was further developed as they painted on prepared logs. Above from left to right are Susie Leyland, Amy Dupres and Amy Bleach working on their log paintings using sticks to apply the paint. Top right is Laura Edwards with stick painting on sandpaper with examples of work by Grace Hobin, Charlie Hoyle and Claire-Louise Wright from top to bottom.

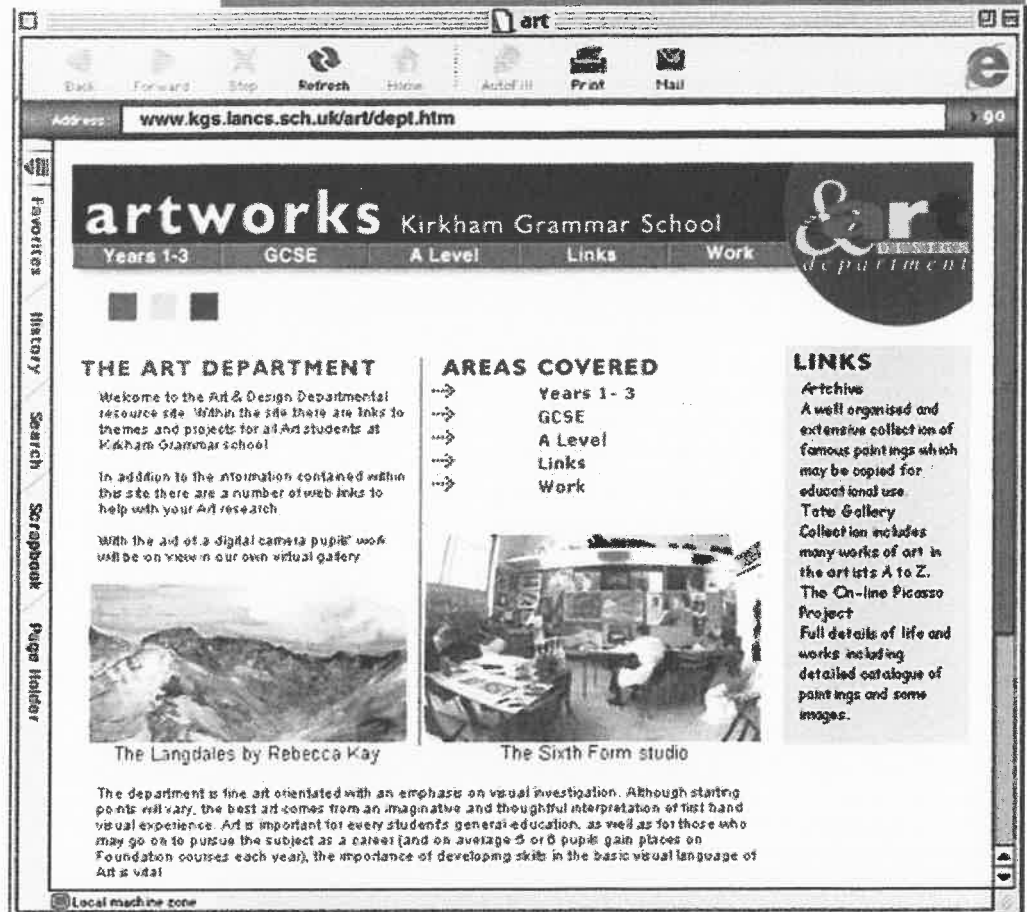


kgs.lancs.sch.uk/art/dept.htm

Website

This September saw the launch of the Art Department's own website. The site gives pupils an excellent starting point for research on anything to do with Art and artist.

In addition there are guides for pupils studying external exams at KGS as to subject specifications, dates, projects and past papers all contained within the site. In addition every pupil who sat an external exam last year has their own virtual exhibition with further links to enlarged pieces of work. There are also examples of last year's first three year groups' art work which can be used as a starting point within art lessons. For example the work covered by the third year on Movement and the Futurists.



'..it's the age

It certainly seemed like an age when the Sixth Form artists travelled down to London via train in November. In total, the day's trip involved eleven slow moving hours on a Virgin train and five express hours dashing round London catching glimpses of Modern Art at the Impressive Tate Modern.



This term we welcome Mr S. Flynn to the department as our student Art Teacher from St. Martins College, Lancaster.

KIRKHAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL NEWS

CHARITY

On Friday, 29 September a break time Coffee Morning was held in the Old Hall in aid of the Macmillan Cancer Fund. Whilst listening to classical renditions from Mr. Reid, staff could enjoy coffee and biscuits courtesy of Angela Hodgkinson, the Catering Manager. After fifteen minutes of much deserved relaxation a grand total of £93 was raised. It is hoped that this will become an annual event. Many thanks to all who contributed.



The club meetings on Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes have been very popular this term. We have welcomed many new first year members who have quickly learnt the skills needed to care for the pet collection.

Recently, Christopher Glover of Kirkham Junior School, kindly gave the club two young gerbils. The gerbils, now named 'Snowy and Slushy', have been the centre of attention at the club meetings and are quickly becoming tame.

The older members of Animal Ark Club visited Aqualife at Auldene Garden Centre for a talk on reptile handling. The visit helped us to decide that a leopard gecko would be the most suitable type of lizard to keep in school and we will return to collect one, after Christmas.



Colette Gallacher and Lucy Hargreaves testing their weight lifting structure in the 3rd Year Design and Technology Competition.



GRAHAM NASH, COUNTDOWN FINALIST

Former pupil Graham Nash, presently a student at Nottingham University, is making quite a name for himself on the popular TV show 'Countdown'. He reached the finals of this challenging game show as second seed, and won his quarter-final and semi-final. The final is scheduled to be shown on Christmas Day, on Channel Four, which happens to be Graham's 21st birthday. So, switch on, tune in and see whether he becomes a Countdown winner. The school is very proud of Graham's achievements and we send him birthday wishes and good luck for his big day on screen.

St. John Ambulance Cadet Leader, Katherine Palmer, was selected to march in the Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph in London on Remembrance Sunday. She had the honour of being the only Cadet to be chosen.



EXCHANGE 2000

The annual German exchange with the Anne-Frank Schule took place in September. As ever it was a great success, although the fuel crisis at the time meant that alternative plans had to be made in case coach transport was not available. However, these plans were not needed and we enjoyed a pleasant day in the Lakes, including a boat trip on Windermere, a gentle stroll along the shore of Grasmere, and a "cultural" visit to the Museum of Science and Industry, followed by the compulsory shopping in Manchester.

The return visit to Germany will take place towards the end of next term.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

On 7 November the Lower Sixth Public Speaking team comprised of Joanne Dudgeon and Clare Chadwick entered their first inter-school debating competition at Casterton School. Although they didn't win it was a most successful evening from which they learned a great deal about the art of public speaking and debating. They put this to good use on 20 November when they won the Sixth Form round of the Business and Professional Women's Club Public Speaking Competition. They were both ably supported by Gemma Whiteside.

However, the overall winner of this competition was our Fifth Year team:

Rachael Horton

Anneka Curdling

Charlotte McNeela

They gave an outstanding performance and go through to the next round of the competition.

Further success for our Public Speakers followed hard on the heels of this. On the very next night a third Public Speaking Team, comprised of Rachael Horton, Matthew Hopton and Norman Ralph, entered the national ESU Public Speaking competition held at Ormskirk Grammar School. KGS speakers won the team competition beating Sedbergh, Ormskirk, QEGS, Blackburn and St. Mary's, Brownlow. As a result of their fine win, our team goes through to the Liverpool Area Final, in Liverpool, on 16 February, 2001.

We congratulate all our public speakers, thank them for their hard work and we also thank Mrs. Jones for all the skilful coaching, time and effort she puts in. The rewards this term have been outstanding.



Gemma Whiteside, Clare Chadwick and Joanne Dudgeon



Norman Ralph, Rachael Horton and Matthew Hopton



Anneka Curdling, Rachael Horton and Charlotte McNeela

SPEECH DAY



The Annual Prize giving and Speech Day, held at the Guild Hall, Preston, on Thursday, 21 September was acclaimed by many who attended as the most successful and enjoyable occasion of its kind the school has ever produced. Our chief guest and prize presenter was former Headmaster and Membership Secretary of HMC, Mr. David Prince, and we are grateful to David and his wife, Jenny, for making the journey north to celebrate this important occasion with us in the year of my election to Headmasters' Conference.

The music, supplied by the school orchestra and the girls' choir, was much appreciated by our largest audience ever, and the prize giving was a glittering affair, paying tribute to an impressive number of first rate academic achievements and some notable sporting successes. This Speech Day really did vindicate the Governors' decision to move the event to the Guild Hall.

Young ENTERPRISE



Amrita Sidhu and Joanne Dudgeon discuss sales tactics

A new KGS Young Enterprise company has started trading under the name of 'Identity'. The first few months have been very busy for them producing and selling products, as well as building links with external suppliers, sponsors and seeking overseas markets.

Early sales event have been most encouraging. The company has even managed to create a KGS craze for "stress tangles". This product, designed and manufactured by Jenova Limited, has proved to be a most popular and needy accessory for many over worked and highly stressed students (and even some teaching staff too!)

Another stress-busting idea is the Christmas Survival kit, which they have designed to provide a helpful and humorous way to get through the Christmas period. Other products include decorated photo/notelet clips, jewellery boxes and original hand-designed stationery such as notelets and cards, and the manufacture of bandanas for the KGS hockey teams to help them achieve a co-ordinated fashion statement and corporate image!

As is usual, the achievers organised a year 1-3 disco, which was another roaring



success. As can be seen from the above photograph, a good time was had by all.

'Identity' members will continue with their sales campaign throughout the forthcoming business year, with sales stands arranged at the Senior and Junior schools, as well as external events at Safeways.

We would like to express special thanks and best wishes for the season to our business supporters, sponsors, shareholders and customers alike.

OLD KIRKHAMIANs' ASSOCIATION



**Miss Anna Fryer
Chairman of the Old Kirkhamians'
Association 2000 - 2001**

The Annual General Meeting and Northern Reunion Dinner on Saturday, 9th September marked the inauguration of the Association's first Lady President, former pupil and present member of staff, Miss Anna Fryer. Anna has always been a strong supporter of the School and is still constantly working hard to make sure that OKA sports events are popular and successful: speaking of which, there will be a Staff -v- OKA football and School 1st XI -v- OKA hockey match at school on Sunday, 17th December prior to the "Young" Old Kirkhamian Reunion at Preston Grasshoppers. So come and support your team!

The Reunion Dinner was sadly preceded by the planting of yet another tree in the Memorial Garden, in honour of Andrew Morson. Andrew was the fifth person to have his all too brief life remembered in this way. Whilst remembering the individuals whose lives were cut short, the Garden also provides a shady place for visitors to sit and reflect, or to watch cricket on Summer afternoons.

Thanks to some help from the Sidney Crane Fund, two of our young people, one a recent leaver and the other a present pupil, were able to take part in an expedition to Malawi during the Summer holidays. Anthony Rawlins, current Sixth Former, was able to learn as much about teamwork, leadership, communication and respect for the natural world as he was about "the biological control of aphids that feed on the Malawi cedar tree".

interHouse events

After the summer holidays spent recharging the batteries, all four Houses were eagerly anticipating the challenges of the new school year. Will Kirkham House retain their inter-house trophy or will School regain the trophy they lost last year?

This autumn all the houses have been tested in a busy term with a total of 5 inter-house events being organised. It's not been the easiest of terms, with the biggest headache being the weather and I've never known so many inter-house events being cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

Fortunately Mr. Melling decided to hold

the Chess competition indoors in perfect conditions! Kirkham House captured the first trophy of the season, winning the competition thanks to fine performances from the Ralph brothers.

Not forgetting Fylde's success in the Senior House Netball, School house have shown the best form on the Astroturf and seem to have mastered the soggy conditions of the all-weather surface! Wins in the Senior Netball and Junior Hockey have given them the edge this term and they look like having a first term lead.

Arguably the best performance of the term came in the Junior Hockey match

where School triumphed with a convincing 2-0 win against the strongly fancied, Fylde with goals by Linzi Nicholas and Aja Hall.

The results of the swimming gala are not available as we go to press but I am pleased to say that Mr. Taylor has assured me that the rumours that it will take place on the Astroturf are not true and will be at the Kirkham Baths as arranged! Relief all-round!

Let's hope that the weather improves in the New Year and we have an uninterrupted term of inter-house events.

S. F. Duncan
House Recorder

Swimming

The boys' swimming teams contested three tough fixtures this term, against stiff opposition. On 27 September they travelled to Stonyhurst College for what always proves to be a highly competitive and thoroughly enjoyable match. The overall result was extremely close, KGS winning by 112-110 points. Notable performances came from Michael Wilson and Harry Leeming in the Juniors, Greg Skinner and Chris Gorman in the Inters, and Richard Kellett, Adam Parker and Jonathan Wilson in the Seniors.

On Tuesday, 10 October we competed against Bolton School, by far our toughest fixture to date. The overall result was much closer than we had expected. The Seniors lost very narrowly, 36-40 points, the Inters pulling off a most commendable result drawing their match, but Bolton Junior squad were just a little too strong for us.

Hutton came to us on 7 November, with a strong and talented team. KGS Juniors pulled off a closely contested victory by one point, whilst our Inters and Seniors succumbed to the opposition, though not without giving their all. The highlight of this term's swimming fixtures was the National Schools' Swimming Championship held on Thursday, 23 November in Macclesfield.

Both teams performed superbly on the night, and achieved very creditable results. The following girls were chosen to represent the school in this prestigious event:

Junior Girls
(Years 1-3) Medley Relay
Alex Bonney
Katie Edgar
Leanne Bonney
Colette Gallacher

Junior Girls
Free Style Relay
Grace Skinner
Alex Bonney
Kayleigh Kuroski
Colette Gallacher

The Medley Relay Team won their heat with a time of 2.36.06 and finished 5th overall. The Free Style Relay Team came 3rd overall with a time of 2.13.32, an excellent time and finishing position, enabling us possibly to go through to the national final. Taking into account the number of schools who competed, and the high standards displayed by all schools, these results and times were most commendable.

CLIMBING CLUB

The club has been very active this term, despite the dismal Autumn weather, which meant that we climbed outside only once - and even then showers moved in, to send us running for the minibus. Cliff's Barn, an indoor climbing wall in Mawdesley, and West View Leisure Centre in Preston, were the two most frequently visited venues, but on the Speech Day holiday the extensive climbing centre in Warrington was also visited. As well as this, there were two Open Day events to mark the Friends' Christmas Fair, where more than sixty attempted the school's climbing wall in less than two hours!

There has been a welcome influx of new members, both at Sixth form level and from the First Form, so that on one occasion all fourteen seats on the minibus were occupied. Mary Wilson and Katy Lew, the club's two officers, have continued to set a fine example, both "on the rock" and by their good humoured and responsible approach. Ricky Cheng has also impressed and he has succeeded in encouraging other boarders into the club. Next term we hope to hold a sponsored climb - the proceeds from which will go into the climbing wall extension fund.

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.

Applicants for Oxbridge and other competitive courses have been practising their interview skills, with their normally friendly and supportive teachers acting the role of aggressive, probing interviewer. A nasty, but valuable shock, we feel!

boys' RUGBY

To put it mildly, the severe weather this autumn has caused major disruptions to the rugby programme. The school has had many fixtures cancelled, and there have been constant disruptions to training by the lack of suitable training surfaces.

However, despite the atrocious conditions, all of the rugby squads have worked tremendously hard during the course of the term. Consequently there have been many encouraging performances and results. Many thanks to all our players who have braved the elements with such fortitude and determination and to our rugby coaches who have persevered with such success. Without the enthusiasm, skill and dedication of our coaches, rugby at KGS would not have made such progress this term.

1st XV

The results at the time of writing are:

- vs Manchester GS won 24-7
- vs Sedbergh won 22-11
- vs King Edward VII, Lytham, won 30-3
- vs St. Anselm's College won 33-8
- vs Adams GS won 68-10
- vs Lancaster RGS won 28-0
- vs Ellesmere College won 57-3
- vs Birkenhead School won 66-0

The team has developed greatly during the term, playing some exhilarating yet controlled rugby in the second half of the term. The players have much natural talent but most importantly have the will to improve both their conditioning and their skills and absorb the information given to them in training by their coaches.

In the first half of the term the performances were inconsistent, with the team only playing with full intensity against Sedbergh, to record a victory in a game which was an example of the best of school sport. No quarter was given or asked yet the sportsmanship from both sides was of the highest order and the atmosphere electric.

The turning point of the season came against Adams GS who were a good side but KGS played with a new focus, intensity and skill which has been repeated in the ensuing matches. Forty-four tries have been scored in eight matches.

KGS produced the following players to represent Lancashire School 18 Group:

Matthew Parr (Captain), Chris Briers, Daniel Howells, Andrew Kyriacou, Alex Loney, Paul McNamee, Warren Spragg and Richard Wigglesworth.

It was felt that the reason Lancashire beat Ulster in the match played over half term was because many of the team members were produced by one school.

Jamie Albinson, Mark Hanson and Paul McNamee also played for a Lancashire Development XV vs the full Durham side.

In addition, Daniel Howells, Matthew Parr, Warren Spragg and Richard Wigglesworth were all selected to the Club England Development squad with Matthew Parr being awarded the distinction of being invited to attend trials for the FIRA Under 19 team to play in the World Championships in Chile next Easter.

Their example is inspirational and one that all younger players should familiarise themselves with. Watch them play if you can. You will enjoy the experience.

2nd XV

P7 W4 Do L3 F235 A138

At the time of writing, the second team has played all but one of its games away from home, being frustrated by the weather when home fixtures had been scheduled. Due to injuries picked up in pre-season training, the season started with a very young and inexperienced team, with ten Fifth Formers in it, facing a talented Manchester GS side. Not surprisingly, a defeat was the result, though the players could not be faulted for their attitude and effort. Although returning players strengthened the back line at Sedbergh, the forwards still lacked experience and could not supply the backs with enough ball. However, they fought well and made Sedbergh work hard for their victory.

The side was further strengthened at King Edward's, Lytham, and the inexperienced were rapidly gaining experience. However, it took until the second half for the team to really start playing decent rugby and, unfortunately, by then the game had been lost. Finally, the team clicked at St. Anselm's and won comfortably. This was followed by victories at Adams GS and Ellesmere College, both new to the fixture list, and a crushing defeat of Birkenhead GS.

3rd/Ur6 XV

Despite obvious fixture disruption due to the weather, and team disruption due to the senior squad's injury list, the team's performances have improved significantly as the term has progressed. A disastrous defeat against a powerful Sedbergh side merely served to galvanise team spirit, and whilst a victory has yet to be achieved, the performances away at Adams GS, at home to LRGS and the narrow defeat to a strong Hutton outfit give great hope for the future.

There have been many strong individual performances, but special mention should go to Griffiths and Greathead in the pack, and Marcus Plowright for captaining the side well, under difficult conditions.

UNDER 15 XV

This has been a mixed season so far for the Fourth Year team. The team has at times been beaten by bigger, very skilful opposition such as Manchester, Sedbergh and Lancaster. Frustratingly, more disappointment was felt after poorer opposition outplayed us in areas of the game when we simply should have done better. The games against Adams GS and Arnold in the Daily Mail Cup are examples of this.

On the other hand, the team has played well in other games and has thoroughly deserved its victories. Good wins against St. Anselm's College, Woodhey High School, Heysham High School and Ellesmere College have allowed the squad to display its obvious talents. Well done to Jack Ward and Andy Stevens who have led the side in difficult circumstances this term.

All squad players deserve credit for their perseverance, but they must continue to train hard and improve their knowledge in certain facets of the game. Our forwards must retain and win more ball, and our backs must execute possession much more effectively. Newcomers to the squad must work hard and seize the opportunity to claim a place in the team and represent the school whenever they can.

UNDER 14 XV

After a slow start to the season, the U14's have settled into a winning run beating convincingly King Edward's, Lytham, St. Anselm's, Adams GS, St. Peter & Paul (the best display of the season so far) and Ellesmere College by their highest ever score, 80-0. In this game they tried to play a modern style, interchanging positions very effectively.

The 'B' team has also won against King Edward's, Lytham, and OEGS, Blackburn, and is a major factor in assisting with the development of the whole squad.

UNDER 13 XV

P8 W5 L3 Do

At the time of writing the U13's are on a five match unbeaten run. The long hard training sessions in almost pitch darkness, combined with the many Wrea Green runs are starting to pay dividends. For those parents and enthusiasts who have braved the wind, driving rain and swampy conditions, there have been some outstanding performances.

A victory over local rivals King Edward VII, Lytham, in the Lancashire Cup by 12-0 set the ball rolling; and in October and November the U13's have gone from strength to strength, defeating Adams GS 26-0 (who were previously unbeaten), St. Peter & Paul School 12-5, and Birkenhead School 26-0.

We congratulate captain, Charlie Hoyle, and his team, whose commitment to school rugby has been exemplary.

UNDER 12 XV

I was delighted to be asked to continue my link with the U12 squad after coaching them in the Junior School last season. There has been the chance of continuity for the players who have benefited. The addition of a number of players who came into the school in September has added strength to the squad. Tom Sanderson, Ryan Drage and Tristan Brooke amongst them have shown great promise.

Sadly the weather has defeated most of our best efforts. Practices, always well attended, have taken place in inches of mud and water or indoors, and a lack of competition has slowed progress. Matches against St. Anselm's (80-0 W), Heysham (38-0 W) and Lancaster (5-10 L) are all we have to show after a long half term's work. Thanks to Robert Sissons, who has captained and led the team by example, and to all the squad for its commitment. I wish them well for next term.



girls' HOCKEY

Despite horrendous weather conditions girls' hockey has continued to flourish during a soggy Autumn Term.

1st XI

The 1st XI played well to win the U18 BAE SYSTEMS Lancashire county tournament on 18 November. For the first time in the school's history, KGS 1st XI was invited to play against Millfield School, Somerset. The girls lined up against an impressive Millfield squad consisting of four English Internationals, one German International and one Hong Kong International. Our girls played superbly and were not phased by the occasion. Although the final result was 0-2, we dominated a great part of the match and the score remained 0-0 until ten minutes from the end. The 1st XI certainly did the school proud! We now know that we can compete with the best hockey schools in the country. In fact, the teams were so evenly matched that Millfield has requested that the fixture becomes an annual event.

2nd XI

The 2nd XI has played with real enthusiasm and commitment and lost only one game against Queens Chester 1st XI. The U16 XI has won the quarter finals of the Lancashire Presidents' Cup Competition, beating Lancaster Girls' Grammar, 2-0. These results highlight the strength of our senior hockey at KGS.

U15 XI

The U15 Cup team has performed extremely well throughout the term and remains unbeaten. On Tuesday, 28 November they defeated Lady Manner School from Derbyshire 8-1 to go through to the fourth round of the National U15 Cup Competition.

The U15 B team has won 5, drawn 1 and lost 2. The girls have played with real determination and have made excellent progress throughout the term.

U13 XI

The U13 team has real potential and the girls have played extremely well throughout the term. They look forward to playing in the National U13 mini-hockey competition early in the New Year.

U12 XI

Finally, the four First Year teams have opened their season with seven wins out of eight, showing real promise. The future certainly looks very bright indeed!

County Honours

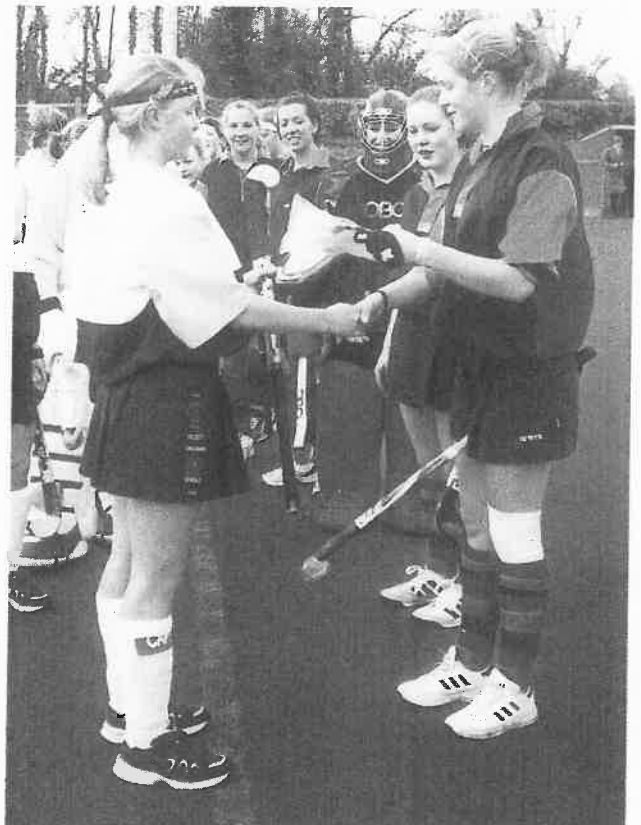
- U18** Rachel Sissons
Lorna Sissons
Jane Meloy
Ellie Cairns
Amy Twambley
- U16** Kate Sannegadu
Katie Gough
Hannah Spacey
- U14** Jane Greenwood
Sally Rotherham
- U15** Leanne Sharples
Abby Hookey
Lucy Martin
Milly Hookey
Rebecca Norman
Lynsey Nicholas
Emily Martin
Louise Lord
Elizabeth Tomlinson
Francesca McNeela
Caroline Desborough

North Representatives

- U18** Rachel Sissons
- U16** Lorna Sissons
Hannah Spacey

North West Hockey Academy
(for potential England players)

Rachel Sissons



Katie Threlfall exchanging school pennants with the Millfield Captain



The Senior Girls Hockey squad pose for a festive team photo (Spot Mrs. Glover & Mrs. Tabb)

Friends of KGS



In the present climate, where some consider league tables to be so important, it is a pity that there is no league table of parent/teacher associations. If there were such a table then the Friends of KGS would not only be top but we would be at least 10 points clear of our nearest rival with a huge goal difference! In the space of just 48 hours a massive £6,500 was raised for our school thanks to the support given to our Winter Fair and Winter Ball! Many thanks to all of you who supported the events by helping on the stalls, attending the event, buying raffle tickets or sending in contributions.

We were delighted to meet so many New Parents at our social evening in October and we have already welcomed new members to our committee and to our team of helpers.

Ros Ince, who has played such a pivotal role in the Friends' success - not only in her five years as Chairman but throughout the decade during the course of which she has worked so hard on the committee - stepped down at our AGM. We were able to present her with a small memento of her achievement when we joined with representatives of the Governors at Burlingtons.

It has been an extremely busy term as we have also been able to help with the staff production of 'Macbeth' and the Senior School Carol Concert.

Our Millennium Draw has been a unique venture and, by the time you read this, someone will consider their £5 ticket to have been a very wise investment!

Thank you to all those who have been so encouraging during my first term as Chairman. Best wishes for the holiday season and we look forward to your continuing support next term.

Mrs. Dana Gledhill,
Chairman.

Diary Dates

Young Kirkhamians' Christmas Reunion at Preston Grasshoppers

Sunday, 17 December, 2000, 7.30 p.m.

Brass Band Concert featuring the Normandy Military Band in the New Hall

Tuesday, 23 January, 2001, 7.30 p.m.

Examinations for 11+ entry in September, 2001

Saturday, 27 January, 2001

Sixth Form Open Evening in the New Hall

Wednesday, 28 February, 2001, 7.30 p.m.

Sixth Form Scholarship Examinations

Thursday, 15 March and Friday, 16 March, 2001

Organ recital in celebration of the School's new organ by Carlo Curley, world famous American concert organist in the New Hall

Tuesday, 20 March, 2001, 7.30 p.m.

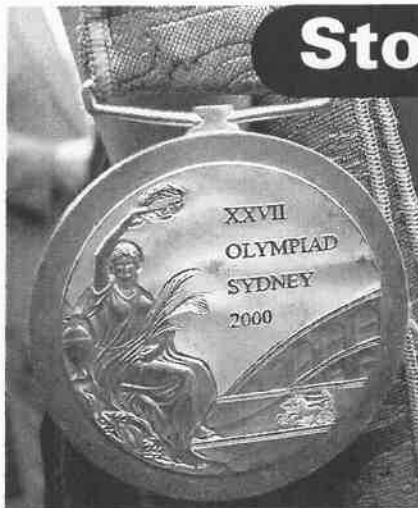
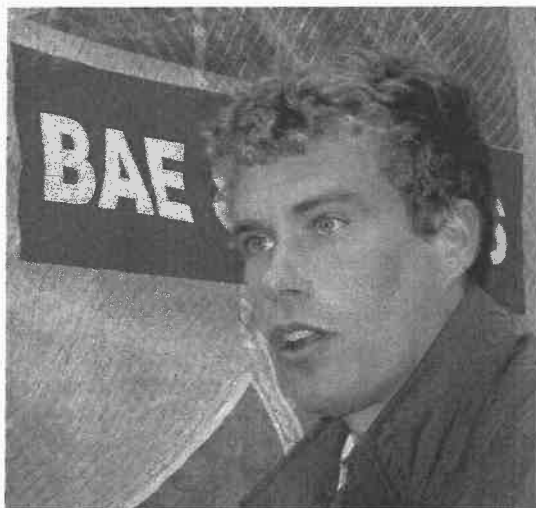
Founders' Day Service at St. Michael's Church, Kirkham

Guest Preacher: Rev. C. B. Dick

Tuesday, 27 March, 2001, 2.30 p.m.

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

Saturday, 31 March, 2001



Stop Press



Iain Percy, Great Britain's first Olympic medallist in the Men's Single Handed Sailing since 1952, visited KGS on Tuesday 4th December.

He spoke to pupils about the pressures of top class competition and the necessity of focussing on short term goals in order to achieve the final one of winning the competition.

Iain showed pupils his Finn Class boat and explained the characteristics of the revolutionary high tech carbon fibre mast which had been built for him by BAE SYSTEMS at Warton, using advanced techniques developed on the Eurofighter project.



Catherine and I extend to you all our best wishes for a
Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year

B. Stacey
B. Stacey Headmaster