



# KGS OKA NEWSLETTER

## OLD KIRKHAMIANS' ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2018



### 'INGREDERE UT PROFICIAS'

#### THE SCHOOL MOTTO - AN INTERPRETATION

'ingredere ut proficias' is usually interpreted as meaning **"enter in order to profit."**

It is, of course, quite fitting that any pupil entering an educational establishment should expect to gain personally from the experience, as this interpretation suggests. However, Kirkham Grammar School, like most schools, hopes to provide the world with citizens who are not merely self-serving individuals, motivated solely by the lure of personal gain, but citizens who use their educational advantages to the benefit of others.

A little further consideration shows that the verb 'ingredi' can have the more figurative meaning of 'apply yourself', and that the verb 'proficere' can be interpreted as meaning 'to contribute or be of use'.

'ingredere ut proficias' can therefore mean **"apply yourself in order to be of use."**

This latter interpretation seems to be more in keeping with the school's Christian foundation and, indeed, with the reality of very many pupils who move on from Kirkham Grammar School to lead lives that are not only personally fulfilling, but also of benefit to others.

#### IN THIS EDITION

David Cowburn .....	2
Lawrence Abram .....	3
London Reunion .....	4
George Blackwell .....	5
Longest Day Golf Challenge.....	5
Staff Leaver - Richard Browning ..	6
Old School Tie .....	7
Staff Leaver - James Walker .....	8
National Careers Week.....	8
OKA Golf & Cycling .....	8
Richard Kwasnicki.....	9
OKA Cricket.....	10
Norman Scott.....	10
Peter Collins.....	10
Throwback Thursday.....	11
Dates for your dairy.....	11
Grasshopper .....	12



# FORMER PUPIL COMPLETES THE LAKELAND 100. DAVID COWBURN (KGS 1985-1992) COMPLETED THE MONTANE LAKELAND 100 IN JULY OF 2017



This “ultra-tour of the Lake District” covers 105 miles within the region of 6,300 metres (20,600 feet) of cumulative ascent over footpaths, fells and quite often treacherous terrain.

Completed non-stop in a clockwise, unmarked loop from Conistone taking in the Dunnerdale Fells, Eskdale, Wasdale and Buttermere before arriving in Keswick, progressing onto Matterdale, over to Haweswater and returning to Conistone via Kentmere, Ambleside and Elterwater. It is necessary to qualify for the event which actually begun at 6.00 pm on the Friday evening with the final cut off being at 10.00 am on Sunday morning. Pre-qualification is essential in terms of having covered long distances in events previously. With around 450 entrants and only around 50% of them finishing, David was delighted to complete the event, finishing just inside the top 100 in a time of 32 hours and 57 minutes.

The race can involve battling with hallucinations brought on by sheer exhaustion, especially after being awake for over 40 hours. David’s blog page describes some of the food consumed to assist in replenishing the just over 19,000 calories burnt.

• 9 cheese and pickle sandwiches
• 2 jam sandwiches
• 16 litres of water/tea/coffee/flat coke
• 4 bags of crisps
• 3 pieces of corned beef hash pie
• 3 bowls of stew/pasta
• 1 hot dog
• 3 soups
• Oranges/melon
• Numerous cakes/biscuits/flapjack
• 9 energy gels

### Other interesting numbers are as follows:

- 5 minutes for the event to sell out
- 3 years of build up to the event
- 44 hours awake from Friday morning to Sunday morning

David’s love of fell running continues but with shorter distances this year including the Old County Tops, a classic fell race taking in Helvellyn, Scafell Pike and Conistone Old Man as well as the Lakeland 50, the “half” of the 100 course. Well done, David.





# LAWRENCE ABRAM:

(KGS 1937 - 1942)

**“Not a celebrity – just a curiosity”**

It is always a great pleasure to welcome former pupils back to their old school. Old Kirkhamians are always calling in, sometimes first year undergraduates popping in to catch up with their former teachers, sometimes young professionals updating us on their lives and careers, sometimes proud parents showing their offspring where mum or dad went to school, and occasionally hesitant visitors from abroad on a pilgrimage back to their home town, always thrilled to see that familiar and much-loved façade still unchanged in decades, or the wood panelling and honours boards in the Old Hall just as they remember it.

But it is a very special moment when we entertain senior Old Kirkhamians whose memories of the school truly take us back into a different era, with first hand memories of names, faces and events that for the rest of us are just old photographs and documents.

One such person is 92 year old Lawrence Abram, one of our oldest Old Kirkhamians, who recently spent part of a day in the school which he attended between 1937 and 1942. Born and raised on a farm which is now the site of Kirkham Open Prison, Lawrence was a pupil here in the heyday of legendary Headmaster Rev'd Creswell Strange and his vivid memories of school life before and during the Second World War are compelling.

Lawrence toured the school with Headmaster Daniel Berry and Adrian Long, who taught his grandchildren, Rosemary and Jack Ward, and he regaled us with tales of people, places and events which truly bring the history of the school to life.

Looking at the photograph of the opening of the 1938 Block, who else can say “I was there”? Lawrence had a story to tell about each and every one of the stern-looking dignitaries on that photo, whilst for him the Old Hall still echoes to the sound of Creswell Strange's intimidating yet caring voice.

Much about the modern school is unrecognisable compared to the 1930s: electronic whiteboards, self-service lunches with a range of choices, 3-D printing in the Technology Centre and a Music Recital Hall in what was the Gymnasium. Lawrence was introduced to current pupils and staff and made light of his status as a senior Old Kirkhamian. “I'm not a celebrity – just a curiosity”, he said.

Yet talking to Lawrence, what is surely most striking about what he says is what has remained the same, and as we often observe, it is the intangible, unchanging and unquantifiable aspects of a school which matter most. Standing in the Green Room next to the Old Hall, Lawrence recalled being in that classroom in his first week at KGS in 1937, and being introduced to the House System by legendary schoolmaster Bernard Stevenson. “The House System helps take the I out of you” was what those boys were told back in 1937. The present Headmaster proudly confirmed that the House System continues to flourish to this day, with the exact same purpose, and Lawrence Abram was delighted to see that a school that has meant so much to him and his family continues to cultivate values as well as results.

Adrian Long



# LONDON . *Reunion*

On Thursday 26 April a group of Old Kirkhamians living in the London area got together for an evening of drinks, chatter and reminiscences, joined by OKA Secretary Sam Walmsley and retired teacher Adrian Long.

A venue - the quirky and unpretentious Café del Marsh on the South Bank - had been sought and booked by Kate Denham (class of 2005) and a diverse group enjoyed renewing and making acquaintances and catching up with news from the school.

It is always a pleasure to see Kirkhamians fulfilling their aims and ambitions from schooldays, not least when it happens in the competitive and fast-moving capital. Among the diverse vocations represented was a fashion buyer for Liberty's Department Store, a doctor, a civil servant, an army officer, a film-maker, an environmental manager of Hampstead Heath, a sports statistician and an oil reserves researcher and a student paramedic, with ages ranging from early 20s to mid 70s.

Army officer and OKA stalwart Mike Ward was delighted to be reunited, 34 years on, with former KGS Head of Languages Roger Gill and his wife, who together with Adrian Long led a trip to Paris and the Loire Valley in which he took part as a shy First Year back in 1984. Such are the journeys, literal and metaphorical, that begin at Kirkham Grammar School and which are so compelling when such get-togethers happen.

Adrian Long



# OKA George Blackwell

(KGS 2013 - 2016)

George has committed to completing IronMan UK 2019 which will take place in Bolton. By completing IronMan, George hopes to raise £10,000 for CALM (Campaign Against Living Miserably), a mental health charity dedicated to preventing male suicide. To prepare for IronMan, George will complete a number of preparatory challenges all of which will correspond with a UK suicide statistic. The first of these challenges was completed in July 2018 and was a swim from Castletown Harbour to Gansey Pottery, some 6639 metres. The figure of 6639 is a reminder of the 6639 men and women confirmed to have been killed by suicide in 2015. This is a remarkable challenge for George to undertake and his progress can be followed on his Instagram page @My1ronJourney. Furthermore, any donations in support of George and towards the cause can be offered through Just Giving by visiting the following link: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/my1ronjourney>. Well done George for taking on this inspirational challenge in support of a worthy cause and all the best with your challenges!



## Longest Day Golf Challenge

**4 rounds of golf,  
20 miles (at least),  
16 hours  
for Macmillan Cancer Support,  
because everybody deserves support**

On Friday 29 June five ex-pupils from KGS, along with three of their colleagues, took part in the Longest Golf Day Challenge to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Matt Bennett, Jake Wilson, Jamie Roper, Tom Anstiss and Ross Martin were on the first tee of Shawhill Golf Course at 4.45am to begin the day, which involved playing 4 rounds of golf in one day. This is something which even most professionals would take 4 days to complete and they would be the first to admit they are far from professionals at the sport!

The challenge was completed, despite it being one of the hottest days of the year, by 10.00 pm.

Four of the team undertook this challenge last year and they will all confess that it was much tougher than they had imagined. This was confirmed by the fact two of them fell asleep in Nando's once they had eventually finished!

So far the boys have raised almost £1250 towards their target of £1500

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hackshawhillsquad](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hackshawhillsquad)





## Richard Browning

(KGS 1973 - 2018)

Stalwart, servant, institution, legend. None of the clichés commonly attributed to long-serving teachers comes remotely near to describing the status of Richard Browning at Kirkham Grammar School as he finally steps down after an unbelievable 45 year career here.

Those 45 years take us through the most fundamental of changes in both the school and in the world of education, yet Richard has been there with the same mix of unflappable good nature and stern authority in almost every role imaginable. Nobody is irreplaceable, as he is the first to acknowledge, but it is very hard indeed to imagine KGS without RJB.

To put things in some sort of perspective, when Richard joined KGS in 1973, the present Headmaster was just one year old. Kirkham Grammar School was a boys' state grammar much like the ones Richard had attended as a boy – Hutton Grammar in Preston and King Edward VI Grammar in Stafford. Boys' grammar schools in those days were rough and ready institutions, where many teachers' authority was maintained by the very real threat of a well-aimed piece of chalk or a board rubber. KGS was then, as now, renowned for its sporting excellence, yet behind the macho façade there was already a school in which tolerance, diversity and individuality were encouraged and nurtured, and Richard has been the perfect fit for KGS not only in the obvious ways, but in many far more subtle ones as well.

He joined us as a teacher of Maths, Chemistry and Technical Drawing, the latter subject truly a throwback to a different age, taught in a hut and using pencils, T-squares and the proverbial drawing board. It is a measure of Richard's adaptability and pragmatism that he ends his teaching career teaching ICT, in many ways the successor subject of Tech Drawing. He brought the first computer to the school, and oversaw the growth and development of computing both as a subject and as a support to all else in school life.

Richard's classroom style has always been characterised by relaxed control, the sort of authority that comes with

presence and a clear sense that he was always one jump ahead of even the most mischievous pupil. He seldom, if ever shouts. His care and concern for individuals has always shone through: as a Form Tutor, he has used his empathy and encyclopaedic memory to great effect, showing tactful empathy where appropriate and uncompromising rigour where necessary. Affection and respect were the invariable response from generations of boys and girls. Attention to detail has always been his hallmark, a quality he deployed for many years as school timetabler, in the days when a clunky BBC computer was his only assistance.

Of course, as with all truly great teachers, the classroom was only the start of it. Richard's contribution to the school have extended into extra-curricular life across a whole range of activities. To many, he has been synonymous with sport, notably rugby and cricket. His knowledge and love of sport is deep and genuine, and he embodies the broader values rightly associated with both those team games. He first became involved with rugby soon after joining the staff, taking over coaching first years from the late Fred Sayer, and subsequently coaching second or third year teams until stepping up to seniors in 1986-87. He has helped lead tours to France (several), Spain, Portugal, Holland (twice), and South Africa (twice) but his highlight was an ambitious and highly successful World Tour in 1987, taking in Singapore, Australia, Fiji and the USA. All such tours involved hours of planning, fundraising events and daunting responsibilities which were always undertaken with minimum fuss and maximum commitment. Richard has first hand knowledge of A&E departments in nearly all these countries and across the UK! He also coached and organised cricket for both pupil and staff teams over more than twenty years, dealing with the logistics of fixtures, travel, teas and kit which are so much part of the summer game.

Yet these sports that he loved so much were but a small part of Richard's extra-curricular involvement. He took part in numerous ski trips led by Ian Scott, adventure holidays led by Jane Taylor, again wearing his responsibilities lightly yet with meticulous care. Never one to hog the limelight, he was often in the background at drama productions, undertaking unglamorous yet essential backstage supervision,

particularly in the Jane Barrie years with those mass-participation Shakespeare productions.

Richard's thoughtful and reflective side was often displayed in leading house assemblies, using materials and ideas which brought variety and originality to those gatherings.

In recent years, having scaled back his classroom teaching, Richard has deployed all his qualities and skills as Assistant Exams Officer. No area of school life has changed more than since 1973, yet he has embraced and tolerated this most complex and important of roles with a perfect mix of attention to detail, unflappable good humour and seriousness of tone.

My personal favourite story of RJB is a poignant one, probably forgotten by many, yet sums him up perfectly: as already mentioned, he pioneered computing in the school, seeing through the changes from the first BBC machine to the fully networked set-up that now covers all areas of school life and work. In those early days of computing, it was a godsend to a pupil who had joined us aged 11 already living with the early stages of a terminal degenerative disease, Friedreich's Ataxia. The late Jason Awbery Taylor, whose shortened life is commemorated in a KGS Speech Day prize donated by his family, had lost the ability to handwrite and to walk by the end of his first year with us. Computers were his salvation, yet at the time, the only ones were upstairs in the Norwood Block, a building long predating accessibility regulations. So for every computer lesson, Richard would pick Jason out of his wheelchair and carry him upstairs. One day, a BBC film crew came to film a feature about Jason and his battle with the illness. For the cameras, the then Headmaster carried Jason up those stairs. Richard waited quietly in his classroom, gracefully letting the limelight shine elsewhere. Jason was both furious and amused, and reminisced about that moment even when his loss of the power of speech left him speaking through a keyboard controlled synthesizer.

What better way to sum up Richard Browning? Caring, committed to a pupils' welfare, pragmatic, modest, good-humoured. A teacher whose values have for forty five remarkable years matched those of the school he has served. Never was retirement so deserved, and we wish him many years of happiness.





## OLD SCHOOL TIE

# Isabel Cross

KGS 1979 - 1985

### Some Basic Facts

**1. Your Name**

Isabel Cross

My friends know me as Izzy and I was a Leeson prior to getting married.

**2. Your Job**

Higher Level Teaching Assistant

**3. The Company Name**

Currently on Supply home teaching a Year 9 pupil

**4. What do they do**

Recruitment Firm

**5. Where do you live**

Freckleton

### 60 Seconds

**1. What car do you drive?**

Fiat 500

**2. Married or single?**

Divorced

**3. Favourite sport?**

Pilates and just started running again

**4. Last Holiday?**

Palma with the girls to celebrate my 50th

### The Old Days

**1. What years were you at KGS?**

1979 - 1985

**2. What is your best memory of those days?**

There are loads! Being one of only 2 girls in my year to finish the Krypton Factor Assault Course; finally, after tons of begging, being allowed to go on CCF camp and nearly shooting Fred Sayer, the blank bullet missed him by inches; but the best was having the lead role in the musical "Oh What a Lovely War!", that was amazing.

**3. Who was the most influential person at school that helped you succeed?**

Nobody really, they were all crazy role models. The truth is I was in the wrong school as even though I loved every minute, it was far too academic for me and I should have gone to theatre school.

**4. What was your first job?**

Washing pots in the kitchen at the Eagle and Child in Weeton.

**5. What is your degree in if you have one?**

I came into my own academically later in life: Cert. HE Business Studies (UCLAN), Foundation Degree Teaching and Learning Support (Primary) (Lancaster University) and BA (Hons) Education and Professional Studies

**6. What do you wish you had been told about that would have helped you the most?**

That failure is one step closer to success

### And now to Business

**1. Tell us about your job, what do you do?**

Teaching

**2. How did you come to have a career in this particular industry?**

After I got divorced and became a single parent I needed a career in which I could be there for my daughter.

**3. What has been the biggest challenge in the last 12 months?**

Deciding to, come what may, achieve my qualified teacher status and complete my PGCE enabling me to finally get my own classroom!

**4. What is your best tip on how to succeed in business?**

Tenacity, determination and trust your instincts

**5. Do you take risks in business?**

Yes I did, but a few too many, which is why I no longer have a business!

**6. How do you differentiate yourself from the competition in a crowded market?**

Be unique and true to yourself

**7. What business tool couldn't you live without?**

Laptop

**8. Do you use Social Media in business and what works best for you?**

Yes but not often. Facebook can be good for networking

**And finally, if someone wanted to get in touch how could they do that?**

Telephone, text or DM.

In terms of a role model one doesn't stand out, however, Rosemary Greaves saw something in my voice and encouraged me to sing. I ended up having singing lessons at her home in St. Annes around her grand piano...this was later when I was a drama student at Blackpool and Fylde College and I seem to remember I paid for them myself from the money I was earning as a waitress behind the Bar at the Blue Anchor which is now a housing estate.

Adrian Long was a huge influence as he was young and an NQT when he joined KGS. We all fancied him and he was then like a breath of fresh air. He is the reason I was nearly fluent in French and back packed around France for six months.

Mick Bat stands out hugely to me although I cannot for the life of me remember his real name...Michael Clarkson? He was so incredibly dedicated to the boarders and he was so kind, empathic, non judgemental and just calm and lovely to be around. Later, I worked in the boarding house as a "house parent" for about 12 months until Paul Smith took over and said I wasn't required anymore. I was about 23 and worked 3 jobs to keep the flat I'd bought in Kirkham: Glasdon during the week as a Sales Administrator; Saturdays at the Chemist as a Pharmacy Assistant and three nights a week in the Boarding House.

Shirley Piggott was pretty cool as she said to me "always trust your instincts and you will never go far wrong". That piece of advice has stayed with me until this day.

I sat my entrance exam in Malcom Summerlee's private study with his corgi at my feet as I was covered in chicken pox! How I passed that I shall never know.

I was the first girl on the list when the school went co-educational and I was also the first girl to get a detention for not completing my homework. I had to sit outside my Mum's office drawing maps of the UK! Oh boy did I get it from when Mum got home and then Dad when he got in. I was the first girl to complete the Kryptom Factor assault course and I represented Lancashire for running cross country in my age group.

I was in every sports team: hockey, netball, cross country, rounders and athletics. The only team I didn't make was swimming.

The departure of Mr James Walker to a well deserved promotion marks the end of a 16 year involvement with the school in multiple roles, leaving a gap which will take some filling.

He joined KGS as a third year pupil in 2002 and immediately became one of the leading figures in a lively, capable and sociable year group that is still recalled with much affection by those who had the pleasure of teaching them. Like any good teacher, his manifest love of school life was the driving force behind his wish to work as a teacher and in KGS he found the perfect outlet for his people-centred skills.

He started coaching KGS junior teams in 2008 after a call from Aled Trenhaile and hasn't left since, even if his precise role has changed many times. He has been a full time staff member since 2011, starting as a boarding assistant and sports coach while completing his university degree, then a PGCE student before joining the teaching staff full time.

For six years he has been a well loved and respected leader in boarding, latterly as Assistant Houseparent Academic. He has been integral to the success of an increasingly diverse boarding community, with students joining for a variety of different reasons, from all over the UK and well beyond. He recently helped organise and run a successful recruitment trip to the Isle of Man.

In the day school his coaching responsibilities have been extensive, covering U12, U13, U14, U15 and U16 teams, as well as creating and coaching the new 'Headmaster's 1st XV'. He has also coached cricket, basketball, athletics, handball, badminton, rugby - even a bit of football!

Alongside his coaching responsibilities, he has taught junior PE, as well as academic PE to GCSE and A-Level. His relaxed yet authoritative manner bears all the hallmarks of a born teacher.

But of course like all great teachers, it is as much outside the classroom as

inside it that he has made his biggest mark: he started the 'Sports Ball' which he has now run for four years, raising funds for boys' and girls' sports; he devised the Junior Rugby Presentation Evening and other social fundraising events which ensure regular support for sports tours and equipment; he has organised three junior Ireland tours, as well as Canada 2015 and now his "farewell tour" to Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand 2018. He has also been on four ski trips.

As a sports administrator, fundraiser and publicist his impact has been enormous: he set up the first Residential 7s camp in the Boarding House; has organised all rugby sponsorship for the past five years, generating record levels and supporting the purchase of the new kit; he helped set up the new Cardio Room; and has worked tirelessly to take both the Rugby Department and the Boarding House into the modern world of social media.

The school certainly has been a major part of his life and he will be missed in many ways. The school will not feel the same without his good-humoured and empathetic presence around the campus and his ability to connect with all will be greatly missed.

James joins Bloxham School as Head of PE from September 2018 and our loss is most certainly their gain. We wish him every success and happiness.



**James Walker**

(KGS 2002 - 2018)

# • N A T I O N A L • C A R E E R S W E E K 2 0 1 8

## Your passion; Your potential; Your opportunity

One thing is for sure – we are all different. Different wants and desires, different interests, different abilities. Even different aspirations. Yet, in the main we are the same. We all want to succeed and be happy with our lives.

At KGS, we embrace these differences throughout our education system and Careers education is no exception to this. Finding that interest that steers students towards a pathway to help them get off to the best possible start is what drives us. By providing all our students with the appropriate tools and information, plus years of experience in careers guidance, KGS helps them make informed decisions about their future and in a subject area where they believe they can thrive.

At the beginning of March, the KGS Careers Department organised and ran a very successful Carers Fair for the

whole of the Senior School. There were over 50 organisations represented and 25 stimulating workshops offered which brought to life the amazing options available to our students at the end of their time at school.

Of course, the Careers Fair would not happen if it were not for all the volunteers from commerce, education and the public sector who turned up on the day to inspire, engage and inform our students about the endless and wide-ranging career opportunities they could pursue.

It was absolutely delightful to welcome back six Old Kirkhamians to the School for the event, five of whom had offered to attend the KGS Careers Fair for the business they now work with. We also had the great honour of being joined by Barry Johnson (KGS 1957 - 1964) who gave a presentation on life as a Vet.

The date for next year's event is Tuesday 5 March 2019 and it would be wonderful to increase the number of Old Kirkhamians involved with the event. For more information please contact Mrs Lorraine Hargreaves via email: [l.hargreaves@kirkhamgrammar.co.uk](mailto:l.hargreaves@kirkhamgrammar.co.uk)

A Sutcliffe



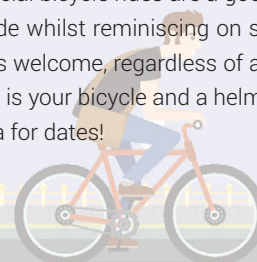
## OKA GOLF

### Friday 7 September 2018

An OKA Golf Day will take place on Friday 7 September 2018 from 1.00 pm at Staining Golf Club. The cost is £25 per head and this will include a bacon barmcake and a cup of coffee! We hope that this new event in the calendar will be of interest to members and a great opportunity to socialise in an alternative setting. For further information or to book your place, please contact the Committee Secretary, Sam Walmsley, either via email ([s.walmsley@kirkhamgrammar.co.uk](mailto:s.walmsley@kirkhamgrammar.co.uk)) or telephone (01772 684264)

## OKA Cycling

Our OKA Cycling events have begun! As a popular activity in the modern day, our social bicycle rides are a good opportunity to tour the local countryside whilst reminiscing on school life with fellow OKAs. Everybody is welcome, regardless of ability and all that you need to bring along is your bicycle and a helmet. Please keep your eye on social media for dates!





# RICHARD KWASNICKI

(KGS 2005 - 2007)

## From rugby boy to Plastic Surgeon!

Attending Kirkham Grammar School for Sixth Form from 2005 until 2007, Richard was successful in being offered a place to study for Specialist Training in Plastic Surgery at Imperial College, London. After ten years, Richard is currently an Academic Foundation Doctor at West Middlesex University Hospital and a Research Associate in the Department of Surgery and Cancer at Imperial College London. As part of his work, Richard is sponsored by the National Institute for Health Research and over the next eight years will undertake the necessary training to become a Consultant. Whilst at KGS, Richard studied Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics and followed this with nine years at Imperial College, firstly studying for a BSc in Surgery and Anaesthesia, then onto a PhD in Surgical Technology and finally an MBBS with distinctions in Medicine, Surgery and Clinical Practice. As part of this training, Richard has been a UK Undergraduate Representative for the Reconstructive Surgery Trials Network; worked as an Anatomy Demonstrator in Charring Cross Human Anatomy Unit; been a Clinical Research Fellow in the Hamlyn Centre for Robotic Surgery and also acted as the Lead for Healthcare Translation on the ESPRIT programme. Richard has undertaken a vast amount of research and this has included a number of published and unpublished presentations. In discussion with Richard he explained that he was rather proud of his twenty five journal publications, two book chapters and three hundred and eighty operations – rightly so! Whilst at KGS, Richard was often seen to represent the school in rugby fixtures. However, since leaving, he has been a little less active on the rugby pitch due to his demanding academic and professional life. Nevertheless, it was pleasing to see him as part of the team for the OKA vs Anti-Assassins match in October 2017. Married in 2014, Richard now has two children, Althaea born in 2015 and Bertie in 2017. Richard still recalls the daunting task of applying to medical school whilst in the Upper Sixth but this success story proves that hard work can deliver the results. In the midst of a busy working life, Richard still remembers the good old days in the 'Big Dorm' of the Boarding House, the impressive Speech Days, CCF Parades, generous lunch portions and walking out from the cricket pavilion to do battle on the sacred ground. If any OKAs are interested in a career in a similar field, Richard would be more than happy to discuss his experiences in more detail with anybody who so wishes. Please contact the Committee Secretary for his contact details. We hope that Richard and his family will find time in their busy schedule to visit school in the not too distant future. In the meantime, we express our congratulations to Richard for all that he has achieved and our best wishes for all of his future endeavours.



# O K A C R I C K E T

For the last two years, our OKA vs HM's XI Cricket fixture has been cancelled due to poor weather. However, this year, Friday 29 June 2018 was set as the date and no matter what happened, the match was to go ahead. On the off chance that the scorching temperatures gave way, a wet weather plan had even been put into place!

The teams arrived at school and enjoyed their players' tea together before beginning the game. There was a wonderful team spirit amongst the players and grateful thanks must be offered to Richard Tomlinson for organising the OKA team and Simon Painter for arranging the Headmaster's team. A number of spectators came along to support the event and watched from the side-lines whilst making the most of the summer's evening. After an exciting game, the OKA team claimed victory and left the field with their heads held high.

Following the match, a BBQ with an abundance of salad and sauces was available for everybody to enjoy and we are grateful to the KGS catering team for organising this. Special thanks must be offered to Yvonne Malings and Jane Snape who kindly spent their evening cooking and serving the food, something which was very much appreciated by all those involved. The evening appeared to be a great success and was certainly enjoyed by all those who came along. Thank you to everybody who offered their support either by playing for a team, cheering from the side-lines or cooking the food. We look forward to a successful event in 2019, the date for which will be published in due course.



## Norman Scott

We were sorry to learn of the death of OKA Norman Scott. Norman was born on 19 December 1930 and after attending Kirkham Grammar School he had a successful and fulfilling career at British Aerospace, Warton which spanned over forty years. In his spare time, Norman explored the fells of the Lake District and offered his knowledge as a school governor. Norman was married with three children and upon his retirement relocated to St Albans where he passed away on 13 November 2016.

*In Loving Memory*



## Councillor Peter Collins

We were delighted to learn of OKA Peter Collins being elected Fylde mayor for the year 2018/2019. As a councillor for Newton and Treales for a number of years, Peter is very much looking forward to his mayoral year and the many engagements he will be required to attend. During his mayoral year, Councillor Collins hopes to raise money for Fylde Coast Women's Aid, Fylde Foodbank and Just Good Friends. Supported by his wife, Caroline, as mayoress, Councillor Collins is aware of the busy schedule he has ahead of him but is looking forward to meeting as many people as possible from across the Fylde area. We hope that Councillor Collins will be able to attend many events in school throughout his mayoral year and we wish him all the best in his endeavours.

# THROWBACK THURSDAY

Over the last few weeks, the OKA has published photographs on social media which have been found in the school archives. The photographs span a number of years and illustrate areas of school life which still continue today. It has been wonderful to read the memories that these photographs have provoked as well as the many stories which are connected with them. We will continue to publish photographs for 'Throwback Thursday'. If you do not follow us on social media, please do so as there is so much information to share in this way!



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Full School Term begins</b>	<i>Wednesday 5 September 2018</i>
<b>Upper School Speech Day</b>	<i>Thursday 13 September 2018</i>
<b>Open Afternoon</b>	<i>Sunday 23 September 2018</i>
<b>FKGS Afternoon Tea Event - Clifton Arms Hotel</b>	<i>Friday 28 September 2018</i>
<b>Sixth Form Coffee Concert</b>	<i>Friday 12 October 2018</i>
<b>OKA AGM &amp; Annual Dinner</b>	<i>Saturday 13 October 2018</i>
<b>First Year Concert</b>	<i>Thursday 18 October 2018</i>
<b>Sixth Form Open Evening</b>	<i>Thursday 15 November 2018</i>
<b>Senior School Drama Production of Wind in the Willows</b>	<i>Wednesday 21 November 2018</i>

<b>Senior School Drama Production of Wind in the Willows</b>	<i>Thursday 22 November 2018</i>
<b>Senior School Drama Production of Wind in the Willows</b>	<i>Friday 23 November 2018</i>
<b>Fourth &amp; Fifth Year Coffee Concert</b>	<i>Friday 23 November 2018</i>
<b>FKGS Gin Tasting - Black Powder Gin, Weeton</b>	<i>Friday 30 November 2018</i>
<b>FKGS Christmas Fair</b>	<i>Friday 7 December 2018</i>
<b>KGJS Infant Nativity</b>	<i>Tuesday 11 December 2018</i>
<b>KGJS Carol Concert</b>	<i>Wednesday 12 December 2018</i>
<b>Christmas Concert</b>	<i>Thursday 13 December 2018</i>
<b>Young OKA Christmas Reunion - The Grapes, Wrea Green</b>	<i>Monday 17 December 2018</i>

I am sitting on a hard chair bolted to what appears to be a child's attempt at building an aeroplane from a giant Meccano set.

It is a sunny Thursday afternoon on the playing fields at Kirkham Grammar School in Lancashire during the Summer Term of 1957.

I am on a T38 Slingsby Grasshopper Glider, as supplied to Cadet Forces by the RAF. Normally this is operated by attaching a V shaped bungee to a hook on the nose and then pulled by two teams of six people.

It is kept in a 'garage' nearby and each week we haul it out, attach the wings and watch as nervous young boys slide a few dozen yards across the grass. It never leaves the ground!

Two years previously I spent one week on a gliding course at RAF Woodvale and to my Mothers horror, I did three solo flights around the airfield at around 1,000 feet. I am therefore considered something of an expert.

Bill says "You have a go, you are the only one who knows how to fly this thing." I have serious reservations about this idea but don't want to show anything but complete confidence.

As I sit strapped to my chair I watch one of the boys cut the red ball off the string (this is the gauge to show when the bungee is stretched correctly). I look to the front and note that the two teams of six have become two of thirty! The bungee is so tightly stretched that it vibrates under the tension. I am feeling very anxious! I will hold the joystick fully forward, then draw back slowly and glide gently down to the cricket square. Perhaps try something more adventurous later. But...

I pull the lever which releases the glider and to my amazement it leaps straight from the ground into a steep climb. Holding my breath I manage to level out at about 40 feet. I am now gliding gently towards the adjacent farmers field of corn and

my confidence is growing, but what now? Land in the cornfield and cause no end of trouble? Or turn gently to the left and land in the school grounds?

The simple rule for turning is to dip the nose to increase flying speed then bank using the foot pedals. Simple if you remember to increase the speed!

On my course it had become an automatic reaction. But this is now and I have forgotten. So as I bank the craft begins to stall on the turn and starts a spiral dive. The nose embeds itself in the turf, the wings fold up like butterflies, the tail snaps and lurches forwards like a scorpion. Now suspended horizontally, I sit still.

Two teachers having a quiet chat in the hedge rush forward "Are you ok Leater?" one shouts, nervously pulling at his ginger moustache. "I am fine", I say. "Bloody fool", he mutters. I do not remember what we did next. We went home and imagined what might happen the next day. Everyone is tense. The grasshopper in nowhere to be seen...and silence, nothing happens.

Lessons continue, then exams and then we say goodbye.

Now, sixty years later, and long retired after forty happy years as a teacher, I have a better understanding of the nature of Health and Safety. Now, perhaps, I understand that silence!

**Norman Leater**

