



# Headmaster's Letter to Parents

Spring 2002

## THE CHALLENGE AHEAD



A computer generated image of the proposed new building

Over the past decade, Kirkham Grammar School has emerged as one of the nation's most rapidly developing schools. The number of pupils on roll has risen from 550 to 950. In order to accommodate this growth a successful ten year development plan led to the building of a new Junior School and a floodlit sport-turf pitch, capable of housing twelve full size tennis courts, in 1991; further classroom accommodation, eleven acres of new playing fields, a sixth form centre and a lodge were added in the mid nineteen nineties; an international centre of excellence for technology in 1998, a languages centre in 1999, extended library provision in 2000 and a magnificent new dining complex in 2001.

The Governors and Headmaster, now intend to build on this success by launching a second ten year development plan. There is no intention to increase the number of pupils on roll. Kirkham Grammar School

is well known for its one family ethos and Governors are keen to preserve this by keeping the school relatively small in size. Therefore, plans for the next decade are designed to provide pupils with the best purpose-built accommodation.

Plans have already been approved for the building of new girls' changing accommodation, two further small classrooms and extended staff-room facilities. However, the centre piece of the new development plan will be an expansive, three storey classroom block, built in sympathy with the original architectural structure of the school, which will house the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science. The Junior School will also be provided with a science laboratory and boarding accommodation will be upgraded.

In order to kick start these essential developments Governors are appealing to parents, former pupils,

friends of the school, major donors, business and industry and charitable trusts for £1 million.

The benefits to pupils will be substantial. They will be taught specialist subjects in purpose built accommodation, with the facilities they require to advance their learning of key subjects, which are at the heart of the curriculum: Science, Mathematics and English. In the context of developing school facilities, the proposed new classroom block is, to a large extent, the final part of the jigsaw. It will provide the school with its essential needs for generations to come and it will enhance the overall image of the school immeasurably. Its early construction is absolutely vital. Without it the teaching and learning of core subjects cannot continue other than in temporary makeshift accommodation.



# A Blueprint for Future

Development over the coming years centres upon the construction of a three-storey classroom block, which will extend across the north side of the Senior School quadrangle and house Science laboratories, Mathematics and English classrooms. Presently much of the teaching of these core subjects is accommodated in temporary buildings, which have a limited life span. The "Wareing" buildings on the north west edge of the campus will need to be replaced within the next few years, therefore it is absolutely vital for the future of the School that we accomplish this key development.

The design of the new Science, Mathematics and English block, which is to be built in sympathy with the original school building, enables it to be erected in phases. The cost of completing the full build is likely to be in the region of £2 million, a daunting sum. However, the urgent need for more Science laboratories and teaching spaces makes it essential that we get the project underway during the summer of 2003. The Governors cannot possibly finance such a large-scale development out of income and further borrowing is not an option.

The School has maintained a successful development programme over the last 10 years, which can be seen from the school plan below.

The three-storey classroom block, across the north side of the School quadrangle, which will house Science laboratories, Mathematics and English classrooms, is clearly visible, along with other future developments.

*A development entirely sympathetic and sensitive to the existing architectural character of the school*

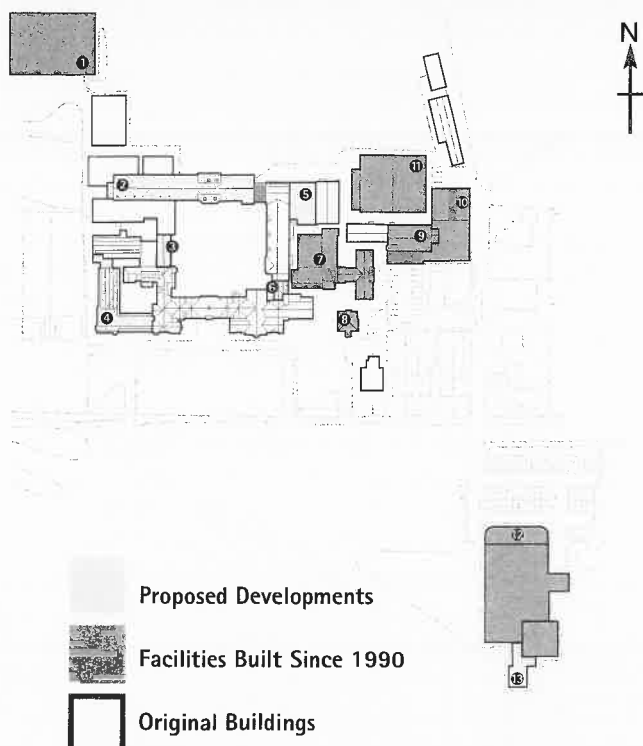
## AN ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

Of the proposed North Elevation



## Site Plan

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Astro Turf (1991)                        | 8. The Lodge (1995)                   |
| 2. New Classroom Accommodation              | 9. Sixth Form Centre (1995)           |
| 3. Boarding Accommodation                   | 10. Dining Hall (2001)                |
| 4. 6th Form Boarding Accommodation          | 11. Multi-Purpose Hall (1990)         |
| 5. Girls' Changing Rooms                    | 12. Extension to Junior School (2001) |
| 6. Staff Accommodation                      | 13. Junior School Science Laboratory  |
| 7. Technology and Language Centre (1998/99) |                                       |



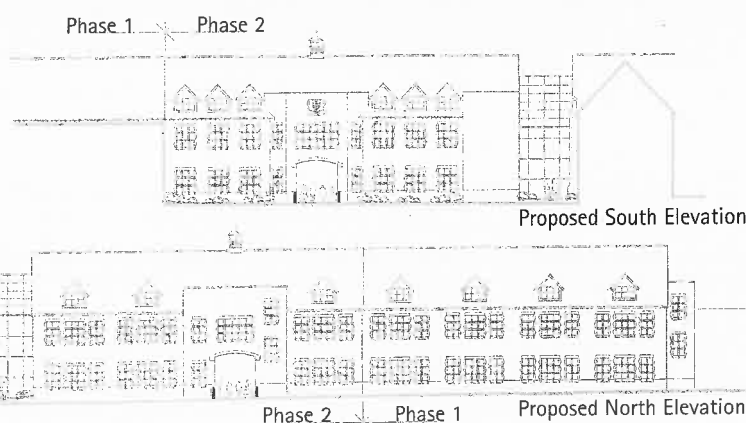
# Learning at K.G.S.



*The School has no intention of using these developments in order to increase the number of pupils on roll. Governors are firmly of the view that the School has already reached its optimum size. What is absolutely essential for the future of all our pupils, Junior and Senior, is that we equip them with the best possible facilities, especially in those core subject areas of Science, Mathematics and English.*

Governors hope to use some of the money raised to equip the Junior School with the Science Laboratory it presently lacks, and provide essential Girls' Changing Rooms in the Senior School.

Accordingly, we appeal to you to help us secure a better future for our pupils over the next decade and beyond.



Two more presentations to parents, regarding this development, are planned for 24 and 25 April 2002 at 7pm in the Old Hall.

**Development Manager:** Frances Piercy  
**Telephone** 01772 688124  
**Email:** piercyf@kirkhamgrammar.co.uk

The plans show the building viewed from the North and South, with suggested phases of build.



## OXBRIDGE OFFERS



Five A-level students from Kirkham Grammar School are celebrating success in their applications to Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Phillip Pearce (Selwyn College) and Rachel Sissons (Downing College) have both been offered places to read Medicine at Cambridge. School Captain Jane Meloy has a place to read Social and Political Science at St Catharine's, Cambridge. Amrita Sidhu has been offered a place at Oxford (New College) to read Mathematics and Computer Science and Sian Hickson has secured a place at Oxford (Pembroke College) to study English.

## Entrance and Scholarship Examinations

The competition to win a place at Kirkham Grammar School this year was the fiercest we have ever seen, with over 200 candidates sitting the Entrance Examinations for 100 places. Those who made it through deserve all our congratulations and we commiserate with those who did not quite get there.

The Headmaster's Scholarship, awarded to the pupil who scores the highest overall mark, goes very deservedly to one of our own Junior School pupils, Caitlin McMillan, whose performance broke all records. Caitlin scored full marks on all three examination papers, the first time this has ever been achieved, and she also carried off the top Music Scholarship. We are all in awe of such a remarkable performance and we send her our heartiest congratulations.

Other 11+ Scholarships/Exhibitions have been awarded to:

Michael Bennett  
Elena Gaddes  
Miranda Hopkins-Coman  
Charles Newton  
Tom Sanders  
Tomas Woodgate

Highfield Priory  
Freckleton  
KGJS  
KGJS  
Strike Lane  
Skippers Hill

11+ Music Scholarships/Exhibitions have been awarded to:

Rachel Armistead  
Anthony Eland  
James Ford

Broughton  
KGJS  
KGJS

## SCHOLARSHIP



Ashleigh Gregory has won a highly coveted Army Scholarship. This is the second army scholarship awarded to a Kirkham Grammar School pupil in three years. The scholarship will cover Ashleigh's studies in the Sixth Form and the university of her choice. On completion of her university course, she will study for a year at Sandhurst. When she has finished her course at Sandhurst she will be commissioned as a lieutenant.

## STAFF

Mr. Douglas Walker, presently Deputy Head of Lancaster Royal Grammar School, has been appointed as Headmaster of Kirkham Grammar School with effect from 1 September 2002. He took a good honours degree in history at Cambridge University where he also won 'blues' in the sport of rugby, twice representing Cambridge against Oxford. He began his teaching career at Arnold School, moving thence to Rossall where he was Head of History and a Boarding House Master. He took the job of Boarding House Master at Lancaster Royal Grammar School and was promoted internally to Deputy Head there some six years ago. We look forward to welcoming Mr. Walker and his family to KGS in the new school year and wish them every success and happiness with us.

We welcome back a former pupil of KGS, Mr. Philip Reeves, who will join our Science Faculty in September, teaching mainly Physics. A member of the 1st XV who played in the Daily Mail Cup Final at Twickenham, Mr. Reeves read an upper second class honours degree in Physics at the University of Manchester and he is presently completing his PGCE at St. Martin's, Lancaster.

We have appointed Mrs. Diane Heyes as our new Matron/House Mistress with effect from April 2002. She is a fully qualified SRN and a former RAF Officer at Cranwell. Mrs. Heyes is married, with two children: Simon, who will join the First Year of the Senior School and Katherine, who will join J3 in the Junior School.

Mrs. Fran James has moved from the Bursarial Department to take over the School's Marketing and Publicity.

Mrs. Chris Nicholson has taken the post of Secretary and General Assistant to the Bursar, having previously worked at Rossall School.

Mr. Tony Bass has been appointed as our new Groundsman and Mr. Wayne Stewart has been with us as our Nigh Caretaker since November, 2001.

## ENGLAND CALL-UP



On 10 March 2002 the England Schools 18 Group (September) Rugby Team had a practice match v Leicester Academy. As a result Martin Halsall (Prop), Mark Hanson (Prop) have both been selected to the England Squad to play Ireland at Cambridge University on Saturday 30 March. The other matches are against Wales at Macclesfield R.U.F.C. on Thursday 4 April and France in Grauhlet (S.W. France) on Saturday 13 April.

The England Schools 18 Group (January), had a practice match v England 18 Group Clubs. As a result Jamie Albinson (scrum half) and Danny Greenhalgh (prop) have been selected to the England Squad to compete in the Festival in Edinburgh. They play Italy on Friday 29 March, Wales Under 17 on Monday 1 April, and Scotland on Thursday 4 April.

## Student Teachers

In the first half of the term, our three PGCE students from St Martin's College, Lancaster completed their initial block of School Experience with us. Mr Fergusson, Mr French and Miss McKenny assisted in the Biology, English and History Departments respectively. They now move to another school to complete their PGCE year. We wish them well and thank them for the contributions they made to the life of the school.

MUSIC  
MAESTRO  
HONoured

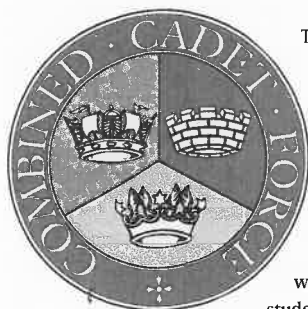
Mr John Catterall, Director of Music at Kirkham Grammar School since 1981, received an MBE for his services to choral music in Lancashire in the New Year Honours Awards. Mr Catterall, who has also been choirmaster of Broughton Parish Church since 1966, has encouraged thousands of youngsters to improve their musicianship, often to national level. Many of his pupils have received the Royal School of Music St. Nicholas Award - the highest award open to choristers.

The Headmaster said, "As one of Mr. Catterall's sponsors, I was thrilled to see him receive the recognition he deserves after a remarkable career in teaching music. Year on year at Kirkham Grammar School, Mr. Catterall's skills as a Choirmaster have attracted outstanding School Choirs of up to 100 pupils and the annual Inter House Music Festival regularly attracts more than 300 entries. The thousands of people who have attended school concerts over the years, not to mention equal numbers of his pupils, will be delighted that he has been honoured in this way".

Mr. Catterall's Broughton Church Choir is also one of six in the UK to achieve St. Nicholas Guild Choir status, which is awarded by the Royal School of Church Music for obtaining consistently excellent standards in choral music. Mr Catterall said: "I am very pleased and surprised. It is a wonderful start to the New Year".



# COMBINED CADET FORCE



The CCF training continues with a lot less restrictions this year as we have apparently got rid of the foot and mouth disease.

We are delighted about Ashleigh Gregory's army scholarship and we are also delighted that Mark Gregg, a Lower Sixth pupil, is a possible scholarship candidate.

Both of them are going to attend a U.K.L.F. Leadership course in the next three weeks and we wish them every success. We are delighted that our students performed with the Normandy Band and are equally delighted that a small group of musicians from the school have been asked to provide musical accompaniment for a Reception held by the Lord Lieutenant, The Lord Shuttleworth, in aid of the Lancashire Appeal for The Army Benevolent Fund.

Easter camp is planned and we hope for good weather during the Camp.



A simulated accident during the fourth year Field Day

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, I am pleased to report, is now firmly established at Kirkham Grammar School. A change of Operating Authority has allowed us to open the Award to more young people, and our participant list has now topped the fifty mark. Thanks must also go to Colonel Sayer, who is subsidising the cost of joining - for this year only!

The Award is a balanced programme of activities, and this is illustrated by looking at the pursuits chosen by our participants on the way to their goal. Shooting, First Aid, Latin, Charity Collection and Librarianship are a small selection of the choices made by some of our participants. The Award encourages existing achievement as well as offering a challenge to take up a new activity: a busy School such as ours sees a large number of students who are already engaged in pursuits which would qualify them for some sections of the Award. It is also pleasing to see a number of participants determined to take up a completely new sport or hobby - or to resurrect one that had been forgotten for a time.

Although this term is outside the expedition season, Mr Callister's expedition groups are busy planning their Easter venture in the Lake District: with the long-range forecast indicating snow, this should be an exciting adventure. Watch this space for further information. Top map-readers Norman Ralph, Matthew Hopton and Steven Watkin have also been involved in the training, and will be on hand to proffer advice and comfort! Another expedition at Bronze level is scheduled for Whit half-term - to Darwen Moor, an area with which Jonathan Giddings is well familiar after last term's training escapade!

I am also encouraged to see that already students are including "Working towards my Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award" in applications to universities and for positions elsewhere.

Finally, I should like to thank the volunteers without whom the Award could not run. On the same topic, a named leader is available to offer advice and information about each section of the Award: if you need help, these are the people to see.

Mr Callister: Expeditions  
Miss Fryer: Physical Recreation  
Mrs Airey: Service  
Mrs Copland: Skills

And if the above has whetted your appetite to join D of E, as teachers often write,  
Please See Me!

C.J. Hawkes (Unit Leader)



On the 7th of February the whole CCF, along with many other staff and pupils, were treated to a visit by the band of the RAF Regiment who are normally based at RAF College Cranwell. We were all greatly entertained by a mix of film, TV, and pop hits including an outstanding solo performance of a Robbie Williams song. We even had a guest conductor who resembled Ms. Gibson!

Corporals Watkin and Giddings are presently attending an intensive gliding scholarship course at nearby Salmsbury in an attempt to gain their "wings" and the whole of the RAF section will undertake map-reading and initiative exercises at Darwen Moor on 14th March 2002. We have also started the detailed planning for the forthcoming RAF summer camp, which will be held at RAF Halton near London.





Edward Bedford adjusts the hovercraft he designed and built in Design Technology (top)  
A Wing Ground effect vehicle designed and built by Ali Ibrahim (above)

## TECHNOLOGY

The start of the term saw the 4th year systems group taking part in the final of the F1 in schools Co2 car competition at Olympia in London. After a very early start the team arrived and set up their display of work and were immediately into their first race. Once again the team won every race they took part in. Even though the team did not win the overall competition they had one of the fastest cars on the day which placed them in the top 5 fastest cars in the country. We look forward now to the next competition, and teams are standing in the wings ready to enter new cars for next year.



Early into the term we had a BAE SYSTEMS sponsored visit from a delegation from Tasmania. They were educationalists looking at developing training materials and curriculum materials using CD-ROM based technology and broadband Internet. They were very interested at the CAD/CAM work being undertaken at KGS.

The rest of the term has seen all technology groups concentrating on the completion of project work. Once again we have an interesting range of projects in all disciplines. The A-level groups are producing projects as diverse as golf ball collection devices to 'tiddly tanks', a combat type game based on the theme of 'tiddly winks'. The range of ideas and design problems thought of by our pupils never ceases to amaze the staff, and keeping their feet on the ground with regard to what is possible is a constant battle.

Many pupils have been attending University Interviews this term. Portfolios have been coming together in preparation for interviews. All our candidates have been given offers of places conditional on examination results and the frenzy of activity to complete is well under way.

## Young ENTERPRISE

Evolution, this year's Young Enterprise Company, continues to do well. A most successful Christmas sales campaign has raised the company over £1000, with proceeds going to 2 local charities, Derian House and Brian House.

Since the New Year the company has been busy with projects for the summer term. The achievers have been busy with the most challenging of projects, a sixth-form yearbook. The company hope to give this year's leavers a momento of their happy years at KGS, and plans are well in place for a comprehensive and professionally produced product for sale in the summer.

A music concert is also planned for the summer term with the company busy booking a wide range of musical numbers for an evening of musical merriment! Further information will be available soon and will be sent via all pupils in the school.

The Young Enterprise regional finals take place at the start of the summer term, and as we go to print, the company are busy preparing for this demanding and prestigious competition. The school has an excellent reputation in the area and this year's company have every chance of doing well. As in previous years, the company will be judged on a written report, an 8-minute PowerPoint presentation, and a trade stand displaying the company's products.

We wish them well in their remaining enterprises and the local competition.

## OLD KIRKHAMIAN'S' ASSOCIATION

There is very little to report this Term, save the success of the Young OKA Reunion at Preston Grasshoppers RUFC. This event takes place annually on the Sunday closest to Christmas, and is more often than not preceded by a football match between 'young' OKAs and 'middle-aged' staff. It is not, however, the young ones who always win! (Brain over brawn??)

Although there is a drought with regard to events, the Association is pleased to reaffirm its intentions as far as enhancement of the School is concerned. Acknowledging that the Friends do a sterling job raising money for the advancement of the School, providing much needed resources, the OKA Committee felt it more appropriate to concentrate its efforts on celebrating the past and preserving what is now present. To this end it has been decided that the "Mouseman" Thompson table and chairs, currently located in the Old Hall, be transformed from their current dilapidated state to their former glory.

It is not just material things from the past that are to be treasured. Past pupils are too. They are more than welcome to take advantage of the Association's services. For example, if you, as present parents, are also past pupils and would like to organise a reunion of your peers, the OKAs are more than happy to assist in any way they can. This is exactly what David Hold, past pupil and father of current pupils, Christopher and Katie, did. He is currently organising a reunion in May 2003 for those who left KGS in 1978. If this applies to you then please get in touch with the School.

And finally, notice of the Association's two main Reunions:

Saturday, 13th April, 2002 - Southern Reunion Dinner, St. Edmund Hall, Oxford.

Saturday, 14th September, 2002 - Northern Reunion Dinner, Old Hall, Kirkham Grammar School.

# THE KING'S DIVISION Normandy Band



One of the highlights of the Spring Term for members of the School's Concert Band was the visit of the King's Division Normandy Band. The opportunity to play alongside professionals both in rehearsal and in the Concert is one that our young musicians value greatly.

There is little doubt that the large audience thoroughly enjoyed the evening Concert and thanks are due to Colonel Stam, who made the event possible and to the band and its Director of Music, Captain Gary Clegg, for giving us another evening to remember.

The proceeds from the concert in January will be donated to the Army Benevolent Fund and a contribution will also be made to School funds.



Leanne Bonney

The King's Division Normandy Band was formed on the 1st August 1994 from the former Regimental Bands of the King's Division and is based at Weeton Barracks, Preston. Along with the King's Division Waterloo Band, based at Catterick, the new Divisional Bands primarily provide musical support to all Regiments of the King's Division: The King's Own Royal Border Regiment The King's Regiment The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment) The Queen's Lancashire Regiment The Duke of Wellington's Regiment The Band was formed as part of the reorganisation of Army music and comprises of 35 Corps of Army Music instrumentalists who have all undergone musical training at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall. In addition to their musical duties, the musicians are qualified Medical Assistants, the role they would assume in time of war or emergency.

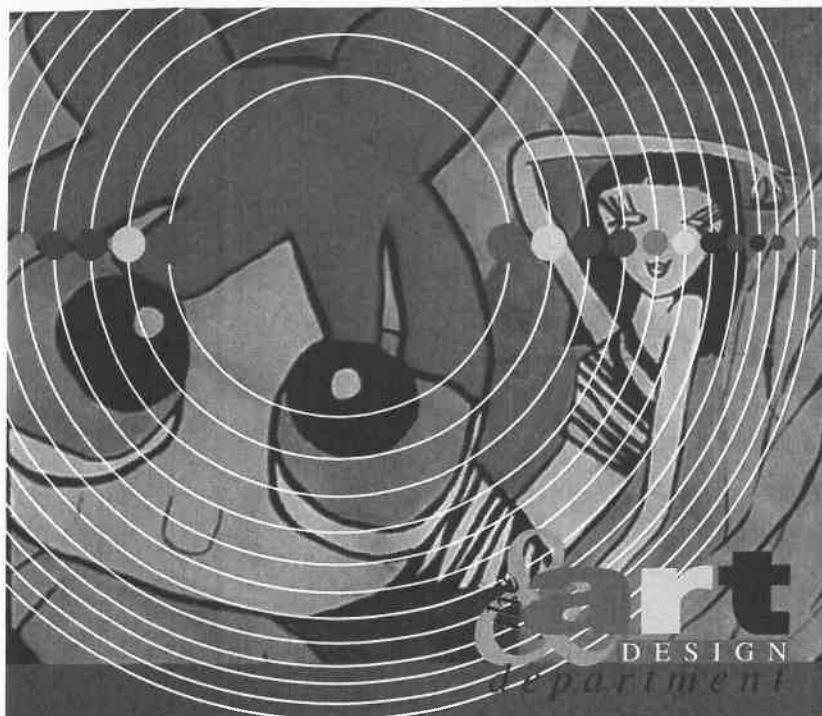




Photographs by Mr. Alan Thrower at [photoszu.net](http://photoszu.net)



Kayleigh Kuroski



art  
DESIGN  
department

# ARTWORKS 2002

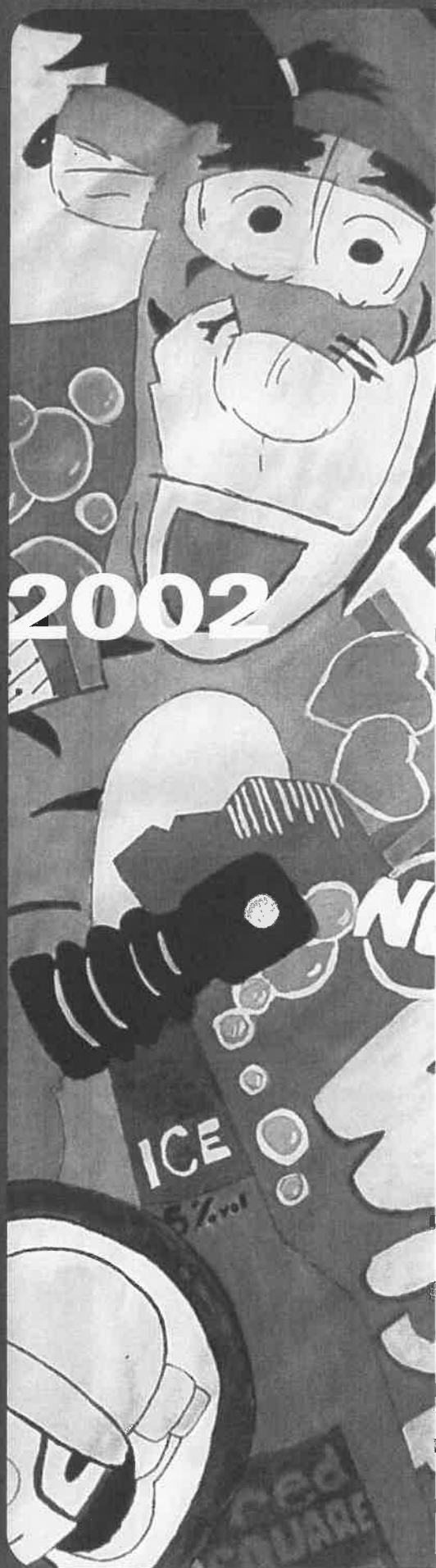
## BOARD WORK

Designs for skate and snow boards was the brief for the third year this term. Working from contemporary media images and being inspired by the Pop Artists of the 1960's, the pupils set about creating their individual images. By the end of term a large number of paintings were completed, some of which can be seen here. When the project is completed the work will eventually go on display in the school, possibly in the New Dining Hall.

As the third year decide on what GCSE subjects they will be taking next year, the present fifth year art students sat their ten hour exam. The exam was spread over two days, where they set about creating images from their preparation work. Hopefully some of their work and that of the sixth form will feature in next term's newsletter.

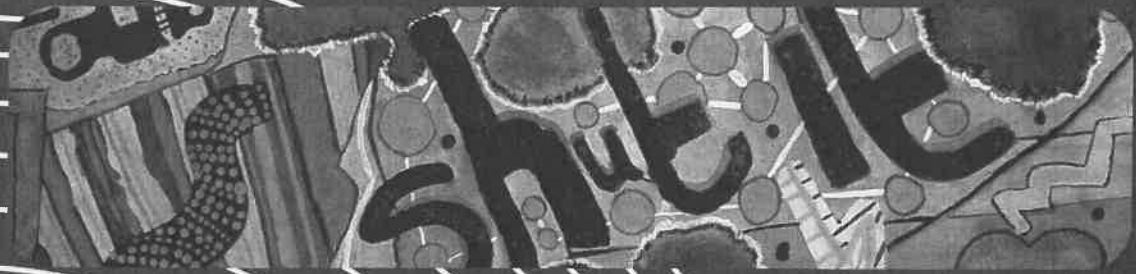


3Y hard at work on their paintings



Work by Rachel Brown (above) & Susie Leyland (top left)

kirkhamgrammar.co.uk/art/dept.htm



Charlotte Monaghan



Caroline Desborough



Priya Kanda



Louise Lord



Amy Willocks



Aysha Ibrahim



## CHARITY



Amrita Sidhu in the Sixth Form has completed a sponsored silence in school in order to raise money for a cancer charity. She has raised approximately £80.

Mrs Copland, our Librarian, has donated £40 from overdue fines, to a charity called Book Aid for World Book Day.

Next term we intend to support the local cancer care charity - The Rosemere Cancer Foundation. We will be taking part in their annual 5km sponsored family fun run. Last year's event was a huge success and enjoyed by all who took part - pupils, staff and parents. The Fun Run this year takes place on Bank Holiday Monday - 6th May 2002 at Moor Park, Preston. More details and entry forms are available from Miss Fryer.

Over the Summer, Sixth Former, Kym Rawlins, went on the Romanian Challenge Camp which is a charity set up in order to give deprived, sick and orphaned children in Romania a holiday of their lifetime. She found it to be an amazing experience and is going again this summer. She undertook activities with the children such as canoeing, craft and face painting and the children were re-clothed and given medical attention. She would like to thank everyone deeply for all the clothes, food and toiletries which were kindly donated to take to Romania with her.

Various other donations have been sent to numerous charities from our weekly charity collections in assembly.

We are holding a non-uniform day at the end of term for orange-a-peel which supports World Vision and with various other fundraising activities; it should be a fun day.

An aerobics session was held on Thursday 7 March in aid of Lepra and was well supported by 1st/2nd year pupils. Many thanks to all who took part.

A staff coffee morning was held on Friday 1st March in aid of the Macmillan Cancer Appeal. Staff were invited to bring cakes and biscuits to accompany freshly brewed coffee, kindly supplied by the Catering Manager - Mrs Angela Hodgkinson. Musical recitals were provided by the accomplished classical pianist Mr Andrew Reid. A grand total of £65 was raised, in ten minutes, and a highly enjoyable civilised time was had by all who participated. It is hoped that this will become a termly event.

**1st and 2nd year pupils during the aerobics session in aid of Lepra (top)**

**Staff raise money in aid of the Macmillan Cancer Appeal (below)**



## DRAMA



The Upper Sixth wowed audiences with their performance of 'Love Knot' an original piece which they wrote and devised themselves as part of their practical work for Theatre Studies. The Examiner was suitably impressed!!

Meanwhile, the Junior Drama group are working on a 10 minute version of 'Hamlet' to rival 'The Reduced Shakespeare Company's!..... and ex-Kirkhamian James Cartwright starred in his first full role in BBC's 'Clocking Off'. Those looking for his trademark ginger hair will have been disappointed - James is now a brunette.

## Dancing DIVA

### HELEN THROWER

Helen is a very keen dancer, and is currently taking lessons in tap, modern jazz and ballet at Parklands Dance Studios in Bury.

She is currently the I.D.T.A. Senior N.W. Modern Jazz Champion (Age 14-18 years) and the I.D.T.A. Lancs and Cumbria Senior Tap Champion. In her last tap exam, she was nominated for the I.D.T.A. Tap Scholarships and was awarded a special commendation.

This year she has competed in three festivals winning 15 trophies including a National Championship, aggregate trophies over all seven solos, the most entertaining trophy, and last week the trophy for the highest mark given during the whole of Nelson Dance Festival for both Song and Dance and Modern Jazz.

Eventually, Helen would like to pursue a career in the musical theatre.



# MUSIC

The House Music Competition was a massive venture again for the four Houses and the Music Department with almost 400 entries. In the three days of preliminary rounds, the overall standard of music was high and the pupils are to be congratulated on their efforts. The final round, adjudicated by Dr. F. Sater, produced an excellent afternoon of high standard performances - ranging from the first year - Lucinda McDade's superb Recorder playing and vocal performance, to the winning performance (of the Rosemary Greaves Music Prize) by Jak Berry playing a movement of Poulenc's Flute Sonata - in our Lower Sixth. The results were very close but Preston House were delighted to come first, followed by School, Kirkham and Lyide. The competition underlined the wealth and breadth of musical talent within the school.

The school then hosted the Annual Spring Concert in which many of the finalists played along with the Orchestra, School Choir, Concert Band and Girls' Choir. JC (Mr Catterall) was much missed by one and all but despite his absence, due to an operation, pupils and staff were determined to rally round and put on a good show and the evening was a great success. Lt. Col. F.W. Sayer was a witty host for the evening and in fine form introducing the many and varied items. Matthew Hopton showed great prowess in conducting the Orchestra with a work by Verdi and a Processional March. Jennifer Patel, a music scholar in her first year, very much helped hold things together with her timpani playing throughout.

Mr. Richard Evans also added to the enjoyment of the evening with his timely conducting of the Concert Band who delighted the audience with performances of Goldfinger and the Magnificent Seven - surely that should have read the Magnificent Sayer and Evans! The School Choir sang very well and were joined in a "Last Night of the Proms" by 10 musicians from Leyland Band and the audience in a flag waving, programme waving, foot stamping rendition of Fantasia of British Sea Songs. They also displayed their vocal ability and range of singing styles - performing "When I'm Sixty-Four", "Speed Your Journey" and musical classics such as "One Hand, One Heart".

The Girls' Choir performed a new set of pieces - 'Can you hear me' by B. Chilcote with some sign language (signed by P. Maughan) - 'Adiemus' with a flute solo by J. Berry and a backing track written by E. Beswick, M. Hopton and Mr. J. Baron - an exciting venture which was much appreciated by the audience.

It was a very happy evening with many fine individual and group performances - and the music department and all the school were delighted to receive two very generous donations towards the Department and the Girls' Choir.

The Girls' Choir are taking part in the Northern Audition rounds of the competition "Sainsbury's Choir of the Year" at the end of March at Newcastle's Opera House and they are at present working hard on their programme of our songs.

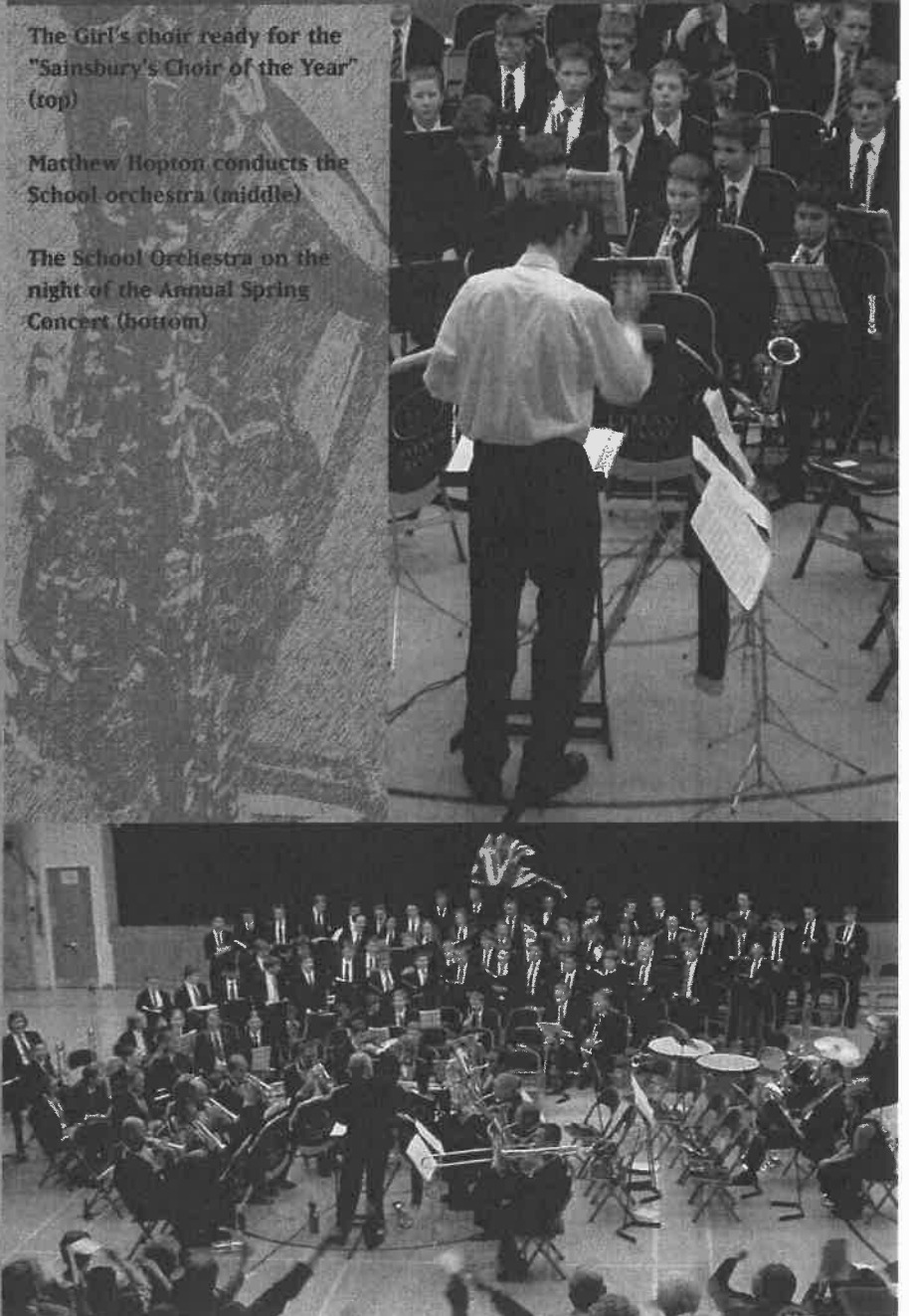
Thanks must go to all the School's musicians who have made this such an exciting and successful term for their hard work, enthusiasm, talent and teamwork.



The Girl's choir ready for the "Sainsbury's Choir of the Year" (top)

Matthew Hopton conducts the School orchestra (middle)

The School Orchestra on the night of the Annual Spring Concert (bottom)



## PUBLIC SPEAKING



On Saturday 19 January KGS Sixth Form Public Speaking Team participated in the North West Regional Final of the Business and Professional Women's Public Speaking Competition for Girls at the University of Central Lancashire having won the local competition last term. The competition was intense with some excellent talks from schools across the region. Our team of Rachel Horton (Expresser of Thanks), Joanne Dudgeon (Speaker) and Charlotte McNeela (Chair) did very well indeed with their presentation on "The Elgin Marbles" and were runners-up, bringing home the Copock Trophy (see above photo). The winners were Morton Hall, Oswestry, but we beat off stiff competition from Westholme, Blackburn; St. Mary's Catholic Sixth Form, Bolton; Brownedge St. Mary's High School, Bamber Bridge; Casterton School, Kirkby Lonsdale; Howells School, Llandudno; Ormskirk School and Cardinal Langley High School, Rochdale. The timing of the speech was excellent, as the subject of the Parthenon Marbles had been raised again in the press and in parliament a few days beforehand. Joanne added some humour to the speech by starting with a tale about Al Spitznoodle! If you want to hear it you will have to talk to Joanne!

On Thursday 27 February, two teams entered the Rotary 'Youth Speaks' competition at the Fernlea Hotel in St. Annes. The 4th Year team of Stephen Hatch (speaker) Harriet McNeela (chair) and Kate Denham (vote of thanks) tackled the difficult but very topical subject of Fox Hunting. Stephen launched into his speech with eloquence and expressed his view forcefully, finishing with a plea to the audience to "Support the Ban". Harriet chaired the session well and Kate expressed the thanks of the audience with aplomb. Unfortunately, they didn't win but the experience holds them in good stead for the future.

The Sixth Form Team of Norman Ralph (speaker), Matthew Hopton (chair) and Anneka Curdling (vote of thanks) tackled another thorny subject - Genetically Modified Food. Norman started his speech holding up a tomato which focussed the attention of the audience, and he went on to explain why he agreed with the genetic modification of food. Matthew performed the introductions well and the humorous links provided cohesion to the overall presentation. Anneka expressed the thanks of the audience very well, and the team were very unfortunate not to win this time.

Now that the public speaking season is at an end, thanks are due not only to those who entered competitions and went through the nerve-wracking, but rewarding afternoons and evenings, but also to all the members of the club for their hard work writing and rehearsing speeches. Finally, thanks must also go to those parents and supporters who came along to give the teams guidance and moral support during the competitions and most of all to Mrs Jones, who prepares our pupils so well and gives so much of her time to the promotion of one of the most valuable activities in the school's extra-curricular calendar.

## CAREERS

Careers interviews are continuing this term so that all our Fifth Years will eventually be interviewed. Once again we are grateful for the help we receive from the local careers service, CareerLink, and particularly to Mr Ian Fazackerley, our CareerLink Representative. Third Years are currently in the process of choosing their GCSE options and are making use of the KUDOS programme on the School's network

## SCHOOL LINK

One of our first Year French classes has again been enjoying a liaison link with their French counterparts in Kirkham's sister town, Autun.

Every year it is full correspondence with members of a class at the Lycée St Joseph, using the basic French and English of daily life that comes to us with information about families, interests, hobbies, school life etc. The link is carried on by ELO by Mr and Mrs Lane and by ANKERS by Madame Nicole-Clare Piffault who teaches English at St Joseph.

Our pupils have been delighted with the care and attention given to the letters by the French children, many of whom have sent photos, small gifts and suggestions to their letters. We, in return, have kept the youngsters of Autun well supplied with information and gifts.

We have at last managed to lend the Paris Trip over the Easter break a party consisting from First Years to Sixth Forms are waiting forward to seeing all the Paris highlights, and in getting the best experience of the city.

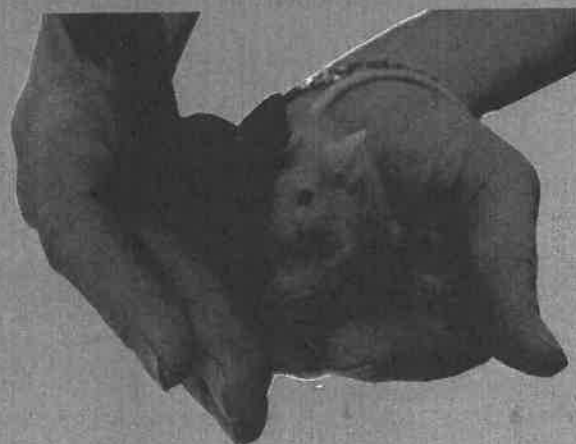


This term we have purchased two mice, together with a specialised cage, as a replacement to the rats. Domesticated rats tend to live for 2 to 3 years so ours had a fairly typical life-span.

We are finding the mice easier to deal with than the rats because their cage is better to clean and to carry to pupils' homes in the holidays. They are two females, a sandy coloured one and a chocolate one, both having a ginger undercoat: thus not resembling wild mice! They have already entertained us greatly by their agility.

Many Animal Ark Club members will be spending the first day of their Easter holiday at Blue Planet, with Mrs Airey and Mrs Scott. This is Britain's largest aquarium and has many interactive displays and 'feely tanks' as well as shark tanks with walkways through them.

Next term we are planning to purchase a small incubator in order to observe the development of a few chicken eggs. The chicks have already been guaranteed good homes once they become too large to keep in school!

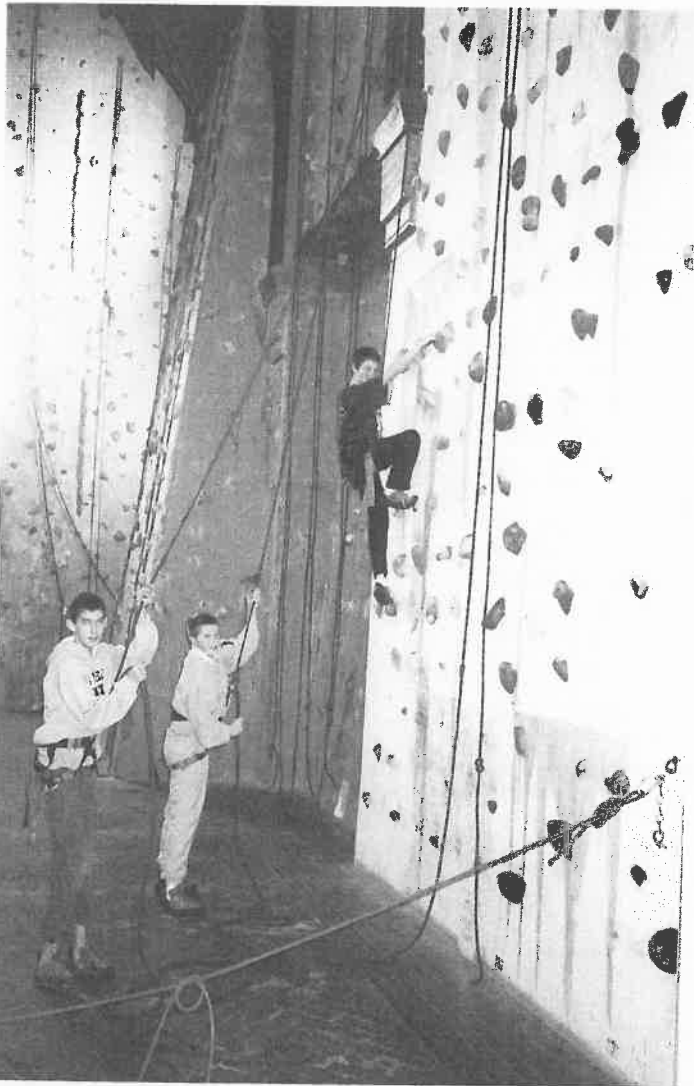




## CLIMBING CLUB

The club has been very active again this term with weekly visits to local climbing walls on Thursdays after school and a Friday lunchtime session on the school's own climbing wall in the MPH. Cliff's Barn, near Mawdesley, was the favourite out of school venue and the club opted to travel further afield, to Clitheroe and to Ingleton rather than visit the impressive, but usually uncomfortably crowded, climbing wall at West View Leisure Centre in Preston.

John Maskell has climbed at a high standard throughout the term. He can lead indoor routes and solve boulder problems which are as difficult as any climbed by a Kirkham pupil, past or present. James Fletcher and Matthew Gaddes are the other two accomplished climbers but Terry Ogden has improved spectacularly over the term and so he is now climbing regularly at 5a and 5b. There has been a welcome influx of first and second form pupils, but although the Friday session remains oversubscribed, there is room for a few new climbers to join the club for the after school Thursday climbing trips.



## ROVER THE MOON



KGS Staff and pupils celebrate Blackburn Rovers winning the Worthington Cup at the Millennium Stadium Cardiff

## girls' TENNIS

Last term we reported that the U15 KGS girls' tennis team qualified for the U15 HSBC National Tennis Tournament, but at the time of going to press we are unable to print the result.

The girls played superbly, beating Millfield School convincingly in the semi-finals. The competition was very strong indeed, and the pressure immense to say the least. We were delighted to be crowned U15 Runners-up. The whole experience was thoroughly enjoyable and very exciting. Congratulations to all of the girls involved, this was a 'first' for Kirkham Grammar School and a wonderful achievement.

The team consisted of Jenny Dewhurst, Jane Jackson, Jane Greenwood and Lorna Sissons (reserve Jo Jackson).

## girls' SWIMMING

This is the first year we have run a separate girls' swimming team. We have swum at Senior, Under 15, Under 14, Under 13 and Under 12 age groups. We have had 8 fixtures against some of the top swimming schools in the North.

All the girls have competed well against tough opposition and have made good progress during the season. The Under 13 team in particular, shows promise for the future, having lost only one match.

The girls have participated with enthusiasm and commitment and have been a pleasure to take to matches.

## girls' CROSS COUNTRY

Our girls competed in the Fylde Coast Cross Country Championships for the very first time this term. We did remarkably well in the competition at Stanley Park. Our 1st Year and 2nd Year teams were runners-up and our 4th Year girls were Champions. Special mention must be given to Olivia Hawtin, Jane Jackson and Jane Greenwood for their outstanding performances.

## girls' NETBALL

This year has seen the return of Netball to KGS. We have fielded teams from years 1-5 and have played very well against local Schools in the Blackpool Schools' Netball Leagues. The development of netball excellence will be gradual as expected, but our girls have shown real promise in every age group. Special mention must be given to our 4th Year girls who have lost only two matches.

We look forward to building on this foundation next season and within the very near future we hope to be serious contenders in the Blackpool leagues and tournaments once again!



## SKISOCIETY



Fifty-one pupils and five staff enjoyed another highly successful and relatively accident-free ski holiday over the half term break. Another change of venue was decided upon this year. The Austrian ski station of Axamer Lizum, near to Innsbruck, home of two Winter Olympics in 1964 and 1976 was eventually chosen for its true 'door-step skiing'

After an excellent flight with Lufthansa, smoked salmon and wine, (for the staff!) the party landed in Munich ready for the three-hour transfer into the Tyrol. The hotel Olympia, although very handy for the slopes, attempted the Olympic record for fitting students into a bedroom. Mr. Scott was not very pleased but eventually some additional accommodation was provided. The location was ideal, only metres from the slopes and lifts and all pupils, even the novices, completed the Ladies Olympic Downhill run by the end of the week, some of them with great speed.

The snow was good, although the weather very changeable as one would expect in the Alps in February. The hotel bar / disco provided excellent après ski and evening entertainment especially for the more senior of the party. You may have thought that break dancing was old-hat but Mini and Morley proved more than a match for the great Danes of another school party. KGS came out clear winners in the international European disco championships and we expect to see a return performance at the Leavers' Ball!

Seriously, a great time was had by all on the trip and this was obvious by the fact that a separate Junior Trip was been proposed for December, which was fully booked after only 48 hours of announcing it! Sorry to all those pupils who were disappointed, but there is a waiting list of several already.

The seniors will be offered a February 2003 half term holiday, after the January AS/A2 modules, which may

be in Spain, but at the time of writing negotiations are still underway. The hotel seems ideal for seniors, on the slopes bar / disco and even a swimming pool and sauna on site!

All in all skiing at KGS is going from strength to strength and by the end of the week a competitive slalom was held and the winners of each group awarded gold, silver and bronze medals in true Olympic style. One obvious winner in this event was Doc. Hall, who had managed to acquire a full racing suit from the ski instructor. Clad only in this skin-tight outfit, with helmet and Swissair logos, he completed the slalom course in great style in front of the whistles and cowbells of the appreciative crowd. The photographs can be viewed on the school's intranet.

Everybody enjoyed an excellent week's skiing and socialising. It is true that holidays like this are educational in some way; the pupils not only learn to ski but also develop other valuable life skills and the happy memories linger for a long time afterwards.



# interHouseevents

Welcome back to the KGS Inter-House Derby. I hope you didn't miss the first stage of the Derby, but if you did, Kirkham holds a narrow lead as we enter the second stretch of the course. Preston is some way behind, but not out of contention, and should be more competitive in this vital stage of the race. For all you gamblers out there, the top-tip from the bookies seems to be on School to overtake Kirkham in this section of the race, so place your bets! Back to our commentator, Mr. S Duncan, our own House Recorder for live, uninterrupted commentary.

Welcome back to KGS' race ground. I'm pleased to say that all four runners look fresh after their break, and I think we are in for another great run. And they're off! And straight away Preston seems to be struggling in the notorious 'Kirkham bath' section of the course and looks like it is sinking into fourth place. And what an unbelievable sight! It looks like Mr. Taylor is going to have to rescue Preston jockey, Martin Halsall, who seems to be struggling in the butterfly.... but no! Martin is determined to finish and indeed he does! A marvellous effort there, so typical of the fighting spirit in the Preston team! The other runners, or should I say swimmers, are neck and neck in a close competition, and it looks as though Kirkham has won the swimming gala for the umpteenth time in the row. Well done to Kirkham's swimmers for a marvellous performance by the whole house.

I am pleased to say we now move into much drier terrain where the musical talents of the runners will be tested. School's dominance of this section of the course will surely be tested by Preston and Kirkham's marvellous entry at the audition stage. Kirkham has the most entries but will it have enough firepower for the finals? Well, Fylde jockey, Jak Berry, is dominating the grand final here, but seems to be playing alone - a one-man team you might say - and yes - it looks like Fylde has won the final but finished last in the competition - what an incredible result! Its poor showing in the auditions has really let it down so spectacularly and allowed the other runners to overtake them. Congratulations to Preston for finishing this section of the course first, ending School's winning run over the years in this most demanding stage of the race. "Good to see Dr Slater encouraging all the runners".

Back onto the track for the vital cross-country section of the course. School is fighting back hard and seem to be sprinting ahead here,

winning four of the five races. This really is running of the highest order, and let's not forget they are also the bookies' favourites to win the final cross-country stage due later in the course. Trainer, Mr. Paul Smith, really knows how to get the best out of his runners here, although my colleagues from the BBC are reporting that the jockey association might investigate the excessive use of the whip that might result in a one-race ban! Nevertheless, School has picked up an incredible 19 points that will take some catching up by the other horses.

School is now comfortably in the lead, and looks as though it will stretch its advantage on the rugby section of the course. Ephraim Mwenda, School's Zambian jockey, who has had problems obtaining a Visa from the authorities in recent months, is back for this vital section of the race. And what a performance by Ephraim and School! A great win here for School House, although we might be in for some drama, as two of our runners might have fallen! Yes, Kirkham and Preston seem to be stuck in the mud, and Mr. Trenhaile, the track steward, is helping them onto their feet! Well thank goodness they are not hurt, and let's hope they are able to compete in the next section of this demanding course.

Well not long to go for today's broadcast as the runners move to the most dangerous part of the track - the shooting range. Fylde, who has been quiet today, has 'shot' into contention with a cool winning display on the range. But what's happening here? School's Sam Bensky seems to have missed the target with a few of his shots. What a good job the stewards are on hand to protect the other horses and the large crowd! And it's also a good job that Dr. Rollins, the race's Health and Safety Officer, is here to launch an investigation. You simply can't go around shooting willy-nilly! Well folks, it's all happening here at KGS, and it's all we have time for today. Back to the studio.

Well with only one furlong to go in the race, School has a healthy lead with Kirkham and Fylde closely behind. All isn't lost for Preston who is catching up and has a good chance of finishing the race strongly. Thanks for your company and we hope to see you for the final stage of the KGS' Inter-House Derby in July.



**Jak Berry receives congratulations from Rosemary Greaves (above) Jak Berry and Hannah Smith (middle) The School House Band (top)**



# Friends of KGS

This term The Friends' Committee has enjoyed spending our funds rather than raising them.

We have donated over £4,000 to an all weather cricket practice area and nets to be situated on the Junior School playing fields. More than £8,000 has been given for a state-of-the-art lighting system for the new hall. What is particularly pleasing is that both gifts will be used equally by children in the Junior and Senior Schools for many years to come.

Next term, however, we must turn our attention to replenishing our coffers! The two important dates for your diary are:

## 19 MAY - THE FUN DAY

As you know, your support is essential and can be given in many different ways from helping out on a stall, sending in raffle/tombola prizes to buying raffle tickets. This year's Fun Day boasts numerous new attractions and games - and the sun is certain to shine!

## 22 JUNE - THE SUMMER BALL

Our Summer Ball has gained the reputation of being one of the Fylde's most prestigious social events. Early booking is essential to avoid disappointment. Application forms will be sent out very soon.

I hope that you will be able to join us at one or both of our Summer Term events. As ever, should you wish to know more about our activities, please telephone me on Blackpool 890863 or contact any of our committee members.

Best Wishes

DANA GLEDHILL

## U14's HOCKEY - LANCASHIRE 7's TROPHY COMPETITION

On Saturday, 16 March 2002 Kirkham Grammar School's U14's Hockey Team won the Lancashire 7's Trophy Competition. In the first round they beat Arnold 'B' 4-0, Mansfield 1-0, Lytham 'A' drawn 1-1 and Lancaster 4-0.

In the semi-finals they played Ripley St. Thomas, at full-time it was 0-0 and Kirkham won on penalty flicks.

In the final against Arnold 'A' they won 2-1.

This was an outstanding performance by the U14's squad, who always produced their best when it was needed culminating in a totally committed team effort in the final against a strong Arnold team.

## U13's LANCASHIRE CUP WINNERS

Kirkham Grammar School's U13 rugby team have capped off a tremendous season by winning two prestigious Northern competitions. On Sunday, 17 March the team won the Brian Cauwood Trophy (the U13's Lancashire Cup) in a hard fought win over a strong Manchester Grammar School side 15-7. This followed an excellent Sevens victory in the Dennis Shuttlewood - Woodhouse Grove School. In the Invitation Sevens on Saturday 9 March, they defeated Yarm School 12-5 in a closely contested final, having defeated Bradford Grammar School's A and B teams, Prince Harry's Grammar School and Moorlands School in earlier games. The side is unbeaten in their 15 a side campaign this season and this week are testing their skills at the National Rosslyn Park 7's in London.

Mike Whalley, Director of Sport and Coach of the U13's, commented "The players deserve all their success because they have worked tremendously hard throughout the season. They are a skilful team but perhaps most importantly they are prepared to listen and learn as they progress. This is vital because, although successful, they are still very much learning the game".

**Old Kirkhamians Annual Southern Dinner,**  
**St. Edmund Hall, Oxford University**  
7.00 p.m. Saturday, 12 April.

**Senior School 103rd Annual Sports Day**  
1.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m., Wednesday, 8 May.

**Friends of K.G.S. Family Fun Day**  
12.30 p.m. - 4.00 p.m., Sunday, 19 May.

**1st XI V MCC at Kirkham Grammar School**  
11.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m., Friday, 21st June

**Friends of K.G.S. Summer Ball**  
7.00 p.m., Saturday, 22 June  
This will again be held in a marquee on the school front lawn and provides an opportunity for parents to say 'goodbye' to the Headmaster and Mrs. Stacey.

**New Parents' and Pupils' Welcome Evening**  
7.30 p.m., Monday, 1 July in the New Hall.

**Senior School Annual Prizegiving and Speech Day**  
7.00 p.m., Thursday, 18 September at the Guild Hall, Preston

David Shaw will be holding Tennis Camps at Kirkham Grammar School again in 2002.

Dates are as follows: July 8th-12th,  
July 22nd-26th,

Each camp day will be from 10.00 a.m. - 3.30 p.m. Video analysis will be used and test rackets made available.

If you are interested, please contact David on (mobile: 07770 618148).

