

Kirkham Grammar School

Headmaster's Letter to Parents

..... Summer 2002

A FOND FAREWELL

**Mr Barrie Stacey, Headmaster
1991 - 2002**

During Mr Stacey's eleven years as Headmaster of Kirkham Grammar School there has been remarkable progress and development in so many areas. The number of pupils in the School has almost doubled necessitating a continual development programme. This has seen, amongst other things, the building of a Sixth Form Centre, the addition of the floodlit all-weather pitch and eleven acres of new playing fields and the building of a new Junior School, which has since been extended a number of times. In the last four years alone there has been the opening of the Technology Centre and Languages Centre, the extension of the Library and the building of the new Dining Hall with French Pavement Café.

Academic results too have improved consistently with record GCSE and A Level results and a good record of Oxbridge entry. KGS has developed into one of the country's leading sporting schools, a tremendous achievement for what is still a relatively small school. Two years ago we were all delighted when the Headmaster was elected to membership of HMC; an indication of the high regard in which he is held beyond the school.

In all that he has achieved in his time at Kirkham Mr Stacey has always shown a genuine care for the welfare of all the pupils in the School. He has managed to steer KGS through great changes without altering the traditional one-family ethos of the School, which has been preserved and strengthened. Mrs Stacey has been constantly at his side and has, herself, given countless hours of dedicated service to KGS and pupils and staff.

We wish Mr and Mrs Stacey much happiness in their well-deserved retirement. They leave Kirkham Grammar School a happy, thriving community with a growing reputation nationally and in excellent shape to face the challenges of the twenty-first century.

J. Wood
Deputy Headmaster



HEADMASTER RETIRES

It has been the greatest privilege of my career, one shared by my wife, Catherine, to have had the opportunity to lead Kirkham Grammar School through a vibrant eleven years of growth and development. We are deeply sorry to be leaving, though we are looking forward to the freedom and joys of retirement.

Catherine and I would like to thank you all, pupils and parents in particular, for your remarkable and heart warming support over the years. We would also like to express our gratitude to pupils, parents, Governors, staff and Old Kirkhamians for the many generous gifts and good wishes we have received in recent weeks. As ever, your generosity has taken us completely by surprise.

I am sure that you are all aware that we have taken Kirkham Grammar School to our hearts; we believe that it is a truly unique school, with a proud tradition and an exciting future. Therefore, we send you all our sincere thanks for the privilege of your trust and the strength of your support.

Headmaster with the unbeaten 2nd XV 1998/99 (middle) and with the Friends Committee for the 450th Anniversary year (bottom)



STAFF

Mrs Isabelle Gault retires this summer after twenty years as a mathematics teacher at KGS. The whole school community will be saddened to see her go, for she has been such a selfless asset to the school in so many different ways. Mrs. Gault's teaching of mathematics has given successive intakes of pupils a very sound understanding of a subject many find difficult to grasp. On countless occasions she has given of her time outside lessons to explain the subject on a one-to-one basis.

Furthermore, she has always set and demanded the highest standards, never wavering in her determination to get the best out of her pupils. Thus, she has contributed in no small way to the remarkably good results of the mathematics department over many years.

Mrs. Gault has always been prepared to take on the less glamorous, largely unseen tasks, which are essential to the proper functioning of the school. For many years she has been in charge of school stationery, providing staff and pupils with the tools of their trade. She has been rigorous in the performance of her duties round school, in the invigilation of examinations and the organisation of the entrance examinations. She has been instrumental in the induction of many new members of staff, lending a sympathetic ear and willingly offering advice, guidance and counselling.

Mrs. Gault will be remembered by many as a skilled and experienced first year form tutor, investing hours of her time in the essential and annually recurring process of settling in our new pupils. In this respect also she has done a marvellous job. Overall, her professionalism and dedication over two crucially important decades of the school's history, beginning shortly after KGS reverted to independence and first admitted girls, merit our profound gratitude.

We wish her a long and happy retirement, secure in the knowledge that we can and will, I'm sure, call on her services, when needed, in future years.



Mr Baron returned to teach Chemistry at his old school in February, 2000, and leaves us after just over two years for the best of reasons; hence we congratulate him on his promotion to the post of Head of Chemistry at Baines School.

In the short time he has been with us, Mr Baron has made a valuable contribution to the continuing success of the Chemistry Department. In his distinctive lab coat, he has been a formidable presence in the laboratory and contributed broadly to the extra-curricular life of the school through his involvement in school cricket and rugby and his support of house events.

We shall also greatly miss Mr Baron's musical talents, particularly his mastery of the school organ, when called upon to play in assembly. His interest in the technology of music led to the equipping of a small sound studio in one of the practice rooms and the emergence of music technology as an AS level subject.

It is always difficult to replace a teacher of such diverse talents and enthusiasms, but we are delighted that he has earned such rapid promotion and wish him well in his future career.

We send our best wishes to Miss Anna Fryer on her forthcoming marriage to Mr Mark Sutcliffe this summer and to Ms Susan Harley on her marriage to Mr Simon John. We hope that the sun will shine on the happy couples on their wedding days and throughout their married lives thereafter.



Student Teachers

We are grateful to our three PECE students from St. Martin's College who have completed their School Experience with us. Miss Harvey, Miss Mills and Mr Myers have been working with the Biology, History and English Departments. They have also helped the Sixth Formers in exam preparation. We hope that their experience at KGS serves them well and that they are successful in their future careers.

DEVELOPMENT

After the successful launch of the School Development Appeal, it is good to see early progress in the shape of yet more building. The new changing accommodation for our girls is progressing ahead of schedule and looking spacious in its dimensions. Shower and toilet facilities, womens' and mens' staff changing and lots of storage space make for an impressive development. In addition there are extra sixth form teaching spaces and the old girls' changing room is being converted into a temporary science laboratory, which we desperately need.

At the current rate of progress all these new facilities should be ready for occupancy in good time for the start of the new school year.

It is very important indeed that we maintain the pace of development for which the school has become renowned and I urge all parents to do their utmost to support the school appeal and ensure the building of our spectacular new classroom block in the near future.



PREFECTS 2002-2003



School Captains and Senior Prefects, 2002-2003 are:

Captain of School:
Rachael Horton

Vice Captain:
Terence Ogdin

Boarding House Captains:
Jane Kitchen
Adam Newton

Senior Prefects:
Jak Berry
Evan Beswick
Yvette Brindle
Tara Fisher
Ashleigh Gregory
Matthew Hopton
Felicity Long
Marcus Plowright
Shaun Swarbrick
Richard Westerman

Fylde House Captains:
Anneka Curdling
Gordon Kipling

Kirkham House Captains:
Stuart Blackburn
Kate Sannegadu

Preston House Captains:
Martin Halsall
Charlotte McNeela

Senior Librarian:
Rebecca Ridley



Captain of School, Rachael Horton with Terence Ogdin, Vice Captain

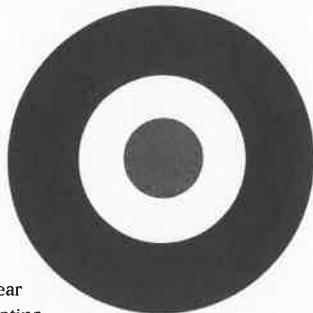
ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Eleven Plus:	Thomas Fielding	The Willows R.C. Primary School
Sixteen Plus:	Adam Kwasnicki	Parklands School
	James Anderson	KGS
	Katherine Llewellyn	KGS

COMBINED CADET FORCE

Date for your Diary!!

The Officers of the school Combined Cadet Force intend to hold a formal regimental dinner, at the school on Saturday 28 June 2003, to mark the retirement of Lt Col F W Sayer from the CCF after over 30 years service. The dinner will be open to present and previous members of the CCF and further details will be circulated in due course. You can contact Flt Lt J W Callister anytime if you would like to attend or require any further information about the event.



The RAF section had a most enjoyable spring field day at Darwen Moor when all cadets completed a number of practical initiative exercises including river crossings, search and rescue, and a ravine rope slide. Our final field day of the year will be held on 27 June at Halton Camp Lancaster where the year 4 cadets will be live firing on the range, attempting the army obstacle course, and crawling about in the mud! Over the summer a number of RAF cadets and staff will be attending a summer camp at RAF Halton near London and Flight Sergeant Steven Watkin will be attending the gruelling but immensely rewarding Air Cadet Leadership Course at RAF Stafford. We wish him well on this prestigious course.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Over the Easter some 20 students and 4 staff carried out a silver level expedition deep in the Borrowdale Valley of the Lake District. The weather was superb throughout and despite freezing temperatures overnight everybody had a very rewarding experience. We were particularly pleased to see how Graham Hacking's group dealt with a real mountain first aid incident in such a calm text book manner. Jonathan Arnold's group also did very well in completing the high level route from Borrowdale to Langdale with very heavy packs, sore feet, and high temperatures. Everybody slept well that night!

Further expeditions are planned for this summer in Snowdonia, and the October half-term in the West Pennines. Should you like to find out more about the DOE scheme at KGS then contact Mr Hawkes or Mr Callister.



OLD KIRKHAMIAN'S ASSOCIATION

Saturday, 13th April saw the Headmaster attend his last Southern Reunion Dinner in his present role. He is, of course, more than welcome to attend any number of reunions in the future but, as an 'innocent bystander'! Mr. & Mrs. Stacey were presented with a print of Oxford, with St. Edmund Hall, HM's old college and the venue for the Southern Dinner, prominent in the foreground.

Although trying to settle into retirement in September, HM and Mrs. Stacey will be invited as guests of honour at the Northern Reunion Dinner which will be held in School on Saturday, 14th September, 2002.

Date for your diary:

Sunday, 17th November 2002

OKA -V- Anti-Assassins Rugby Match

"Young" Old Kirkhamians' Reunion

Sunday, 22nd December, 2002

The Dooley Suite, Preston Grasshoppers RUFC.

No admission charge!

Saturday, 5th April 2003

Southern Reunion Dinner, St. Edmund Hall, Oxford

On behalf of the Old Kirkhamians - "thank you" to Barrie Stacey for encouraging the development of the Association. It is now thriving! Thank you too to Mrs. Catherine Stacey for the tireless effort she has put into many of the OKA events. They will be sadly missed.

Sixth Form Leavers



Back Row: Adam Newton, Dmitry Kazarzda, Sam Bensky, Daniel Greenhalgh, Stuart Blackburn, John Townsend, Mark Darlington, Adam Glover.
Front Row: Jamie Albinson, Chris Briers, Danielle Grundy, Paul McNamee, Alex Loney.



This year's KGS Sixth form ball was a fantastic event, with well over 300 plus in attendance, that included the present Upper and Lower Sixth Forms and their guests. The Headmaster and Mrs. Stacey along with many staff were also present.

The evening's event started with a champagne reception in the Old Hall. Following this it then moved on to the huge marquee on the school's front lawn. There was a buffet supper and they were entertained by a four piece jazz band and Disco.

The Ball is an excellent way to wish all our Sixth Form every success with their AS and A2 examinations and for everyone to get dressed up and party.

Diane and Sophie Harrison

Ball 2002



Sarah Kellett, Katie Gough and Fiona Morgan



Stuart Blackburn and Toni Pheonix



Carmen Leung, Nuzhat Din and Lebetina Mwenda

CHOC FOR CHARITY

It is extremely pleasing to report a healthy profit from the sale of snacks from the Sixth Form Common Room Cadbury's vending machine.

The proceeds of £450 have been sent to support the worthy work undertaken by the Charity Barnardo's.

We are delighted in being able to contribute in a small way, and intend to continue supporting this worthwhile venture next year. We hope that the Sixth Form chocoholics will feel justified in all future purchases knowing they do so not for personal pleasure, but purely in the name of charity. Altruism rules!

Many thanks to all who helped in the starting-up of "Choc for Charity" and helping to keep stock levels.

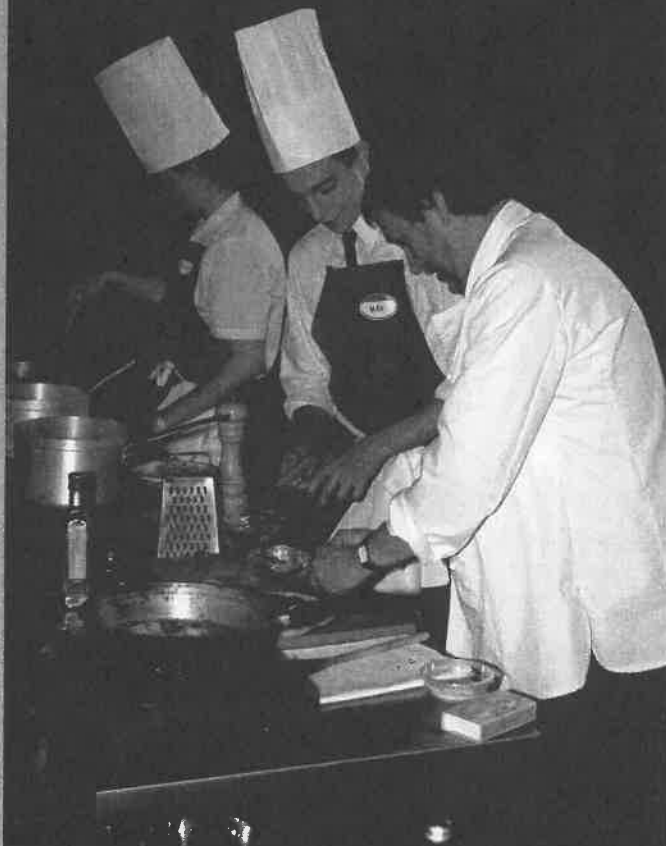
Many thanks to all who were involved in making "Choc for Charity" a success, namely Miss Howe, Rebecca Ridley, Timothy Guest, Norman Ralph and Gordon Kipling. We look forward to building on your efforts in the coming year.



England U18 School Boy honours for Danny Greenhalgh, Jamie Albinson, Alex Loney, Martin Hanson & Martin Halsall



MASTERCHEF OPENS NEW DINING HALL



We were privileged to have one of our former pupils, masterchef Alastair Little, to open our superb new dining complex on 3 May. Mr Little left KGS in 1968 to study archaeology at Cambridge University, later became a self-taught chef and is credited with prompting the renaissance of English cookery in the 1980's. He has two renowned London restaurants, Alastair Little and Alastair Little 2, which regularly attract celebrity clients such as Kylie Minogue.

Mr Little confessed to being more nervous about appearing at his old school than when cooking on television, but he gave us all a most entertaining day which began with a demonstration of cookery in the Old Hall, ably assisted by pupils Jemma Thackray and Max Fulford-Brown (photo right). After conducting the official opening and dining with invited guests and governors, Mr Little spared time to serve our pupils, as they took their lunch from the hands of our celebrity chef.

He described the dining facilities as "magnificent" and the food as "fabulous", a marked contrast to the food he had to endure as a pupil in the 60's. He was also quick to praise the hard work and culinary expertise of our Catering Manageress, Mrs Angela Hodgkinson and her staff (photo below).



MUSIC

The Summer Term is a difficult one for our musicians as they desperately try to find practice facilities out of ear shot of their fellows in examination rooms. Nevertheless there have been regular Coffee Concerts, one of which was presented by the first formers who treated a large and appreciative audience to some superb music, carefully prepared, and played with great maturity. What talent there is in this year, and what promise for the future!

The Music for a Summer's Evening saw Choirs, Orchestra, Concert Band and soloists from the sixth form take to the stage in a programme which catered for every taste - a good reflection of the range of music-making in the school at the present time.

The recently formed school wind quintet, (after their successful performance at the Lord Lieutenant's Reception at Fulwood Barracks) have been asked to provide music for the reception at the Friends of K.G.S. Summer Ball and a Reception for the Headmaster and staff upon his Retirement. Their programme ranges from Joplin Rags to Handel and Malcolm Arnold.

A number of pupils have enjoyed success in the local Music Festivals in recent months.

At Lytham, Suzanne Carter was second in the under 15 solo singing class and Claire-Louise Wright came third in the under 16 class.

First form recorder player Lucinda McDade really hit the heights in the Blackburn Festival coming first in the under 14, under 16 and under 19 recorder classes, and then went on to win the Festival Trophy for gaining the highest marks.

As always a number of our young musicians will be making music during the Summer break. Jak Berry, Leanne Bonney, Stuart Harrison, Nicholas Long and Amy Duckworth will be playing with the Lancashire Students Concert Band in Geneva; Thomas Bennett travels to Germany to play with the Lancashire Senior Youth Band; Joseph Brockbank will be singing with the Royal School of Church Music in Durham Cathedral for twelve days in August; and Richard de Carpentier and Kingsley Shaw will be singing five concerts in venues along the Normandy Coast in July. We wish all our musicians well on their tours.



PUPPET

KGS second year pupils were involved in four full day workshops here at school, with an artist in residence, Helene Kellett, as part of the 'PUPPET UP! 2002' festival held in Blackpool. As a joint venture between the Art & Design and Drama departments, Helene the professional puppeteer was on hand helping our pupils explore cross curricular activities that included designing, making and choreographing giant puppets in readiness for the spectacular final parade in Blackpool, on Saturday 18 May. The festival included many individual theatre performances, street shows and exhibitions.

Our pupils produced a very fine puppet that really looked the business. We hope to expand and develop this workshop next year for the puppet festival in 2003.



ENGLAND

A Tough nut to crack

ENGLAND crashed out of the World Cup after a second-half mistake by David Seaman in the quarter final match against Brazil.

The England keeper let a 25-yard Ronaldinho free-kick from wide on the right sail over his head and straight into the top corner.

The 50th-minute goal capped a stunning fightback by Brazil who had trailed to Michael Owen's goal going into first-half injury time.

Even the sending off of Ronaldinho for a foul on Danny Mills just before the hour failed to lift Sven-Goran Eriksson's men against ten Brazilians.

It had all started so well for the Three Lions.

Infected by FOOTBALLITIS

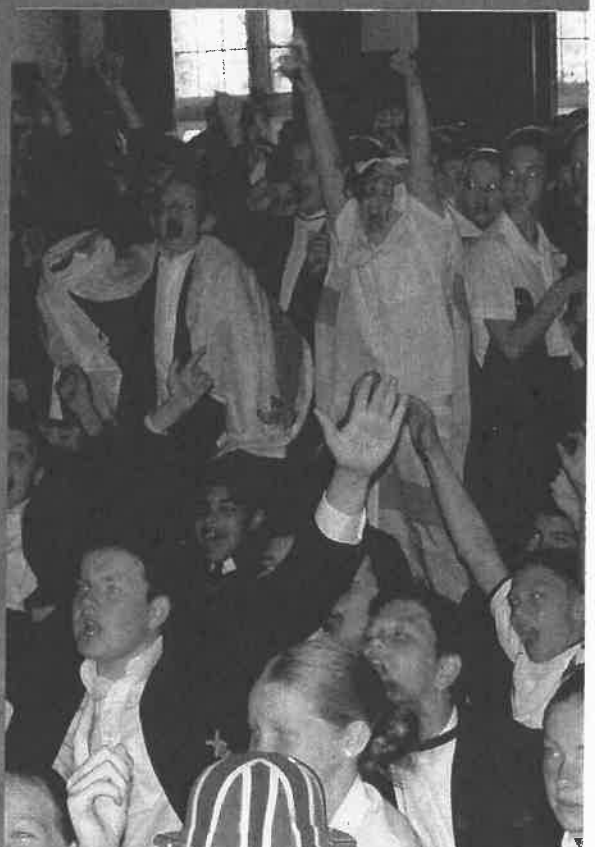
ENGLAND



In the end this World Cup adventure that had seen England beat arch rivals Argentina and qualify from the "Group of Death" ended with a whimper.

Here at Kirkham as in many schools, pubs and work places throughout the country, we witnessed the drama as it unfolded. With the aid of large screen projection, we had well over 400 pupils and staff willing the English Lions on, to crack the Brazilian's defence. It wasn't to be.

Watch this space in 2004 as England attempt to wrestle the European crown from the French!



GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK

Geographers do fieldwork in summer, because, hopefully, the weather is better at that time of the year. Mostly that was true this year. The first week of the summer term saw the annual trek into Yorkshire for the Lower Sixth Geographical field course. Fifteen eager AS students and three staff set forth for a hard but enjoyable week of interest, participation and academic work in a different environment in Scarborough - 'The Queen of the Watering Places'.

The new AS & A2 level has caused some changes, such as a different route via Titus Salt's factory village at Saltaire, near Bradford, but the weather was unusually warm in the east. So much for Mr. Scott's advanced warning of how much colder it was over there!

Much work and data collection was undertaken in preparation for all three of the lower sixth AS modules and also the practical exam, which now occurs in the A2 level and will be examined next January in the Upper Sixth.

Days were spent in the town, in local villages, studying York's heritage and along the Yorkshire coast. Much time was spent collecting data and then collating the results in the evening work session. As well as the practical work on the methods and handling data, teaching in the field was undertaken to cover much of the option papers on the historical development of settlement and the coastal unit.

With the recent acquisition of a digital camera for the department many of the photographs are accessible to the students on the school's Intranet. One further addition this year has been the burning of a CD-ROM as a permanent record for each participant. This should help them with their studies and can be used in the report writing.

GCSE FIELDWORK

The fourth year GCSE set spent one day in Kirkham and another in the Trough of Bowland just before half term. This is an essential part of their data collection for the geographical investigation the pupils have to produce for next year. Both groups were fortunate to be able to study the River Wyre because last year foot and mouth restricted us. However, the weather was not typically summer and both groups got a little wet - some not from the rain! Great fun was had by all and now the hard work begins with the data presentation and interpretation for the final report. This internally assessed coursework will contribute 25% to the candidate's final grade and so is very important.

Again digital photos are available on the school's computer network which can be included in the students' geographical investigation to be completed by next term.



THE ROMAN ARMY INVADES KIRKHAM AGAIN!

Local residents may have thought that it was the start of another occupation by the Roman Army when the fourth year Latin students marched down Ribby Road in full military dress towards the town centre recently.

In reality, we were on our way to visit Kirkham Museum to learn about our own local Roman history in preparation for the forthcoming visit to Hadrian's Wall. It happened to be on a Thursday, so everyone was in C.C.F. kit - except for those who took a break from Geography field work to join us at the museum.

The visit to Hadrian's Wall - the first school trip for the 'new' Latin Department - is due to take place shortly before the end of this term, too late for this newsletter but it will be reported on next term.

Young ENTERPRISE



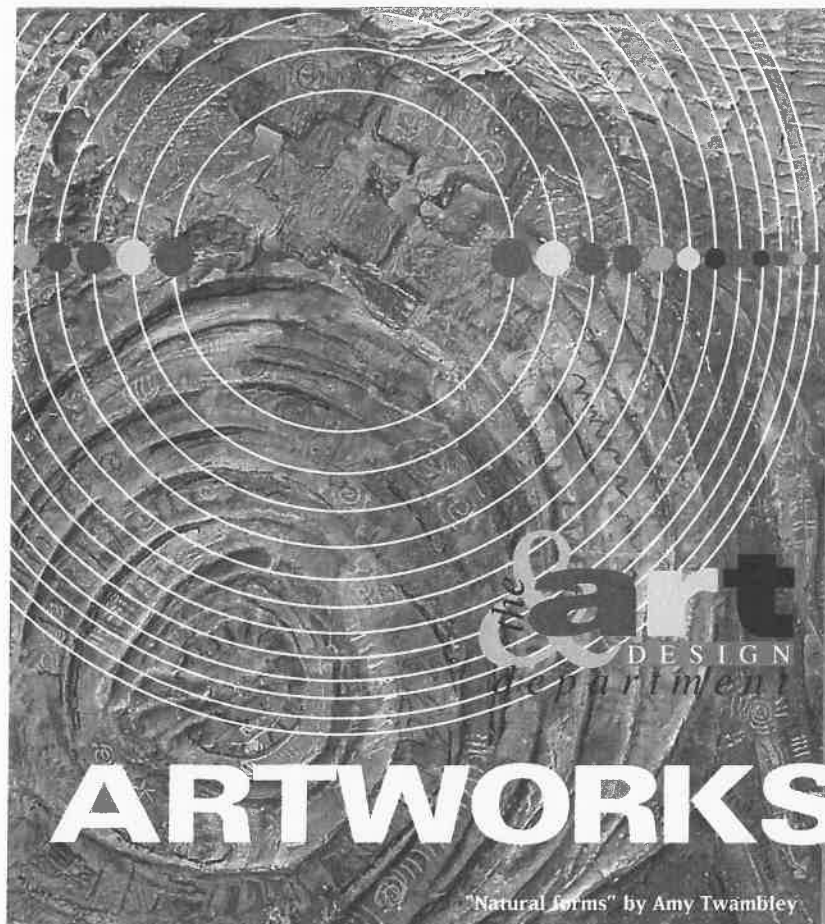
Our Lower-Sixth Company has had another busy term. Unfortunately, due to the pressures of the busy AS exam period, the company had to postpone its final projects in order to concentrate on the Fylde Young Enterprise finals.

This year 'Evolution' elected to work for others less fortunate than themselves. All profits from their successful endeavours in providing Christmas gifts, stationery, and a highly popular KGJS calendar will go directly to Brian House and Derian House, who provide care for children and their families during times of exceptional need. The proceeds of over £1000 have been presented to both charities prior to the winding-up of the company.

The company competed well in the end of year competition and a highly innovative presentation was made to the Fylde Area Board in May with the team winning the award for Best Presentation - the third year in a row for KGS.

In an increasingly demanding Lower-Sixth year, with less and less time available for extra-curricular activities, the company has done exceptionally well working with a great deal of determination and professionalism. Both Mrs. Lang and I would like to thank them for all their efforts.

Mr S Duncan (Young Enterprise co-ordinator)



"Natural forms" by Amy Twambley

...under observation

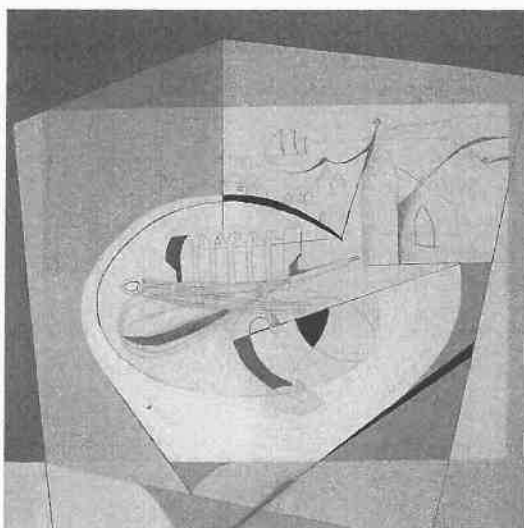
This term is the culmination of a lot of hard work by more pupils than ever before, as the 5th year GCSE, the Lower Sixth AS and Upper Sixth A2's work came under close scrutiny from the visiting Examination Moderators. The work on show demonstrated the diversity of approaches that our students display, ranging from the traditional watercolour approach of James Anderson, to the installation piece of Sam Walker.

Former student, Rachel Chester, who takes up a PGCE place at Manchester University this coming September spent a week in the department helping and learning the ins and outs of teaching Art & Design. We wish her well for the future.

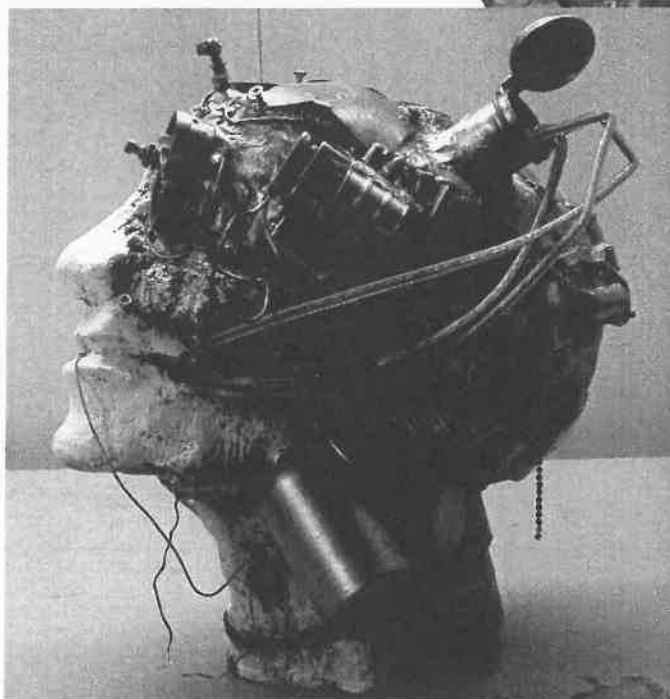
We had a trip to London with pupils from the fourth year GCSE visiting the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Lower Sixth AS students visiting the Matisse and Picasso exhibition at the Tate Modern and the Lucien Freud exhibition at Tate Britain. They will use this valuable experience to further enhance their own art work, so watch this space!



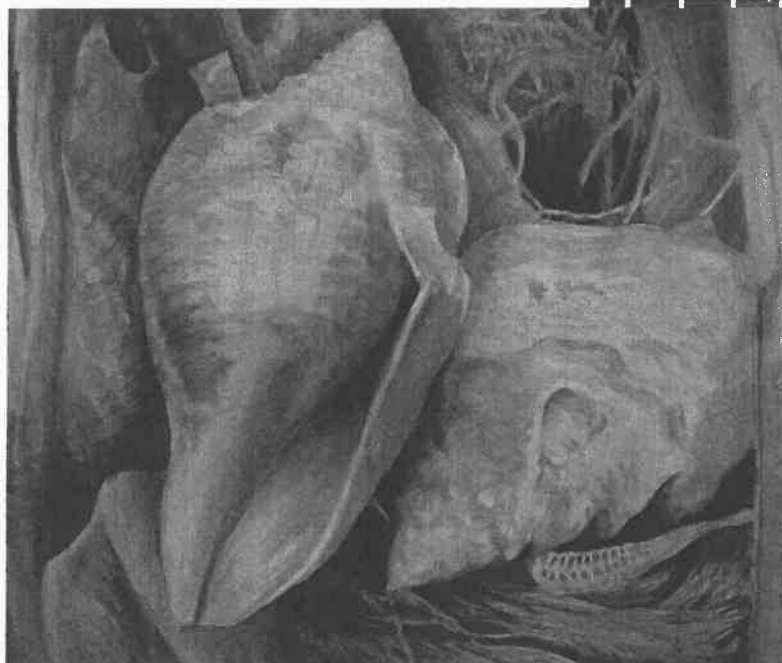
Former pupil Rachel Chester lends a hand to Anna Marsden



Work by Leanne Sharples (top),
Gregg Skinner (middle) and Sarah Harrison (bottom)



John Morley produced a series of sculptures throughout his Sixth Form career that included this metamorphosis head (above). John will be studying Fine Art at Blackpool and the Fylde College next year along with Sam Walker who will be studying Computer Illustration.



James Anderson has developed a very fine approach to the art of watercolour painting. As he is still in the 5th Year we expect great things of this talented artist.

JAMES IS A REAL BELTER



James Leckey has been selected for the Great Britain Baseball Cadets (U-16) team to play at the European Baseball Championships (Cadets) in Holland in July. Fourteen countries will participate in the tournament and two further countries are on a waiting list, hoping to join!

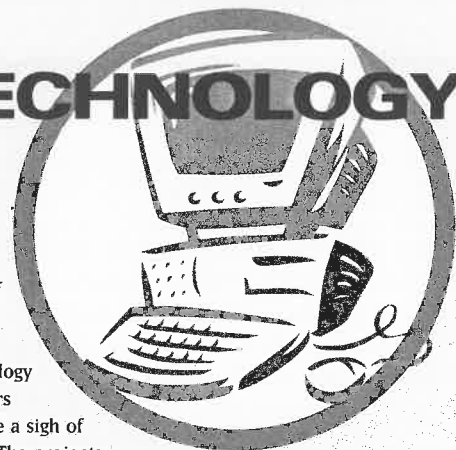
James' selection follows eight months of regular training and selection sessions at the GB Baseball Academy based at the Upper Heyford airbase in Oxfordshire.

James also plays for Preston Mariners, who have won all their games so far this season and look set to run away with the Northern league title. They will soon compete in the National Play-offs against teams from all over Britain.

James was born in Toronto and has attended schools in both Canada and England before coming to KGS at the age of 12. Like most North American boys he has worn a baseball glove from an early age. In Canada James played ice hockey and soccer, and had no time for competitive baseball. Oddly, he only started playing competitively when he joined Preston Mariners last year! However several years of playing "ball" on the streets of Toronto soon told, and James was invited to join the GB Academy at the end of his first season with Mariners.

James would like to thank the school for allowing him to use the cricket nets to practise his batting skills!

TECHNOLOGY



It is the time of year when technology teachers

breathe a sigh of relief! The projects

which you have lived and breathed for the last two years are finally in (some still with wet paint) and ready for the moderator to cast a critical eye. We have had many and varied pieces of coursework this year, ranging from full size trailers to small computerised models of new concepts for everyday items. Once again the use of Computer Aided Design and Manufacture (CAD/CAM) has played a very important role in the product development our pupils have undertaken. The levels of ability across all age ranges in this particular discipline have risen greatly over the years as new CAD/CAM champions emerge from the ranks of the lower school pupils.

Once again we have played host to many visits from industry. Our major visit this term was from members of the Malaysian Ministry of Defence and their Training Colleges, who were here to look at technology across all the age ranges.

It seemed for weeks that the department was strewn with bits of clear plastic strips, as Mr. Hill did his usual bit for the drama department. These hundreds of carefully heated and twisted strips of plastic made up a very impressive grass effect on one of the 6th form drama examination pieces. The other major item he made was a modified wardrobe which had to hold members of the cast, including some in a bottom drawer!

Unfortunately, we were hit by a major virus attack towards the end of term. An e-mail message had a file attached which took over the computers and led to a complete system failure. The virus checking software was not able to cope with the brand new virus. Unfortunately the system needed to be completely rebuilt over a period of four days. Our ICT technician Janet Knight fought valiantly to get the system back online, and worked eighteen-hour days to ensure pupils could still get to their work. Thankfully we are back to normal. However it does make one think about the importance of ensuring that all home computers are fully protected against virus attacks, and we would urge anyone who is using computers, particularly the Internet, to ensure they are fully protected against infection.

The next round of the CO2 car competition gets underway next term and we are hopeful that the team we entered last year can repeat their success by having the fastest car in the region once again. With a little more work on the presentation and display, we could even qualify for the finals in London next year in the KS3 category.

We look forward to the new term when we can welcome new members of the school to the department as well as some of the old stalwarts who will be joining our A-level group. Fasten your safety belts because you are in for a fast and sometimes bumpy ride!



U15 RUGBY TOUR TO ITALY



Day 1: The start of British Summer Time heralded the beginning of the U15's trip to Venice and everyone was pleased to be leaving behind the wet and heavy pitches of Lancashire for the more drier and harder pitches of Northern Italy. After a long check-in at Manchester Airport, with careful scrutiny of Mohammed's and Ephraim's visas, we were off on our short flight. After a morning transfer the team settled into 'Hotel Frank' in Lido Di Jesolo for their week's stay. The beach, only a hundred yards from the hotel, was far too tempting and the squad relaxed after a light training session to get used to the conditions. After what would be the first of many plates of pasta, the team retired early to bed after their long journey.

Day 2: After morning training the afternoon was spent at the Go-Karts. Mr. Harrison or should we say, 'Michael Schumacher - World Champion', led the way with his own unique dare-devil driving. A highly enjoyable day which put the squad in relaxed mood for their first match the next day.

Day 3 - Match Day 1 - KGS v Entilia - Romagna. - Lost 18-27. Time to get down to business! This was an exciting match where Kirkham fought hard to contain a side with five Italian internationals. Andrew Crook was outstanding in all aspects of the game. Although losing, this was a very promising start to the tour.

Day 4 - Match Day 2 - KGS v San Dona RUFC - Lost 16-25. After a tough match the previous day the team faced another gruelling game against much older boys. Kirkham were playing against a Division One Italian Club, who unfortunately reverted to undesirable tactics to defeat us. Marcus Jackson, Anthony Waring and Tom Armer kept working hard throughout the game, while Daniel Fryer became famous for his now legendary Knockout!

Day 5 - Venice. On a bright and breezy day the team had a deserved day off after two hard matches. The historic and romantic city awaited and a private boat whisked the party from Jesolo to Venice, surely one of the most spectacular entrances to any city in Europe. The morning was spent visiting the Basilica di San Marco, one of the most exotic of Europe's cathedrals, and climbing the Campanile, the city's Belltower, ideal for spectacular views of the city. The highlight for the staff was a Gondola ride along the Canal Grande where everyone marvelled at the water-lapped palaces. The Piazza San Marco, which looked as perfect as a film set, was an ideal setting for lunch before the party perused the local shops for the rest of the afternoon. A memorable day for all.

Day 6 - Match 3 - KGS v Tarvisium Treviso - Won 17-10. Time for the final match of the tour. This should have been a match won by half-time, but unfortunately we missed many chances. However excellent tries by Oliver Moore and Andrew Crook, sealed a well-deserved victory. Mr. Harrison, El Presidente for the day, gave a rousing speech in Tarvisium's clubhouse. Everyone raised their glasses to our President who richly deserved his standing ovation. Mr. Trenhaile then took the floor, and as well as presenting awards to members of the squad, he thanked everyone involved for all their contributions to both the tour and a pleasing season.

Day 7 - Gardaland, the Alton Towers of Italy, was an ideal way to spend the last day of the holiday. After a long coach drive everyone was eager to tackle the 'white-knuckle' rides and the day passed quickly. The staff clearly enjoyed the water rides and looked like drenched rats by the end of the day. Another great day out.

Day 8 - After a late night and Mr. Harrison's 5.30 AM wake-up call, everyone was reluctant to get up for the final breakfast of the day. After the (thankfully last) consumption of more hard bread rolls we were off to the airport for the flight back to England. As the lively banter and chat continued on the plane, it was clear to see that the trip had been a great success. We and the Italians all learnt a lot from the trip and all our boys were great ambassadors for British Rugby and Kirkham Grammar School. Thanks to Dr. Rollins, Mr. Trenhaile, Mr. Duncan, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Whalley, and Ringo Wu for their organisation and repartee throughout the tour.

Mr S Duncan

MICROBIOLOGY AWARD

Following in the footsteps of Chloe Spencer, Joanne Box (picture below) has given Kirkham Grammar School first prize in the MISAC National Competition, for the second year running.

The competition is sponsored by the Society for General Microbiology who choose which topic would be studied. This year, the competition was based on fungal disease and Joanne's winning entry included research on the symptoms and prevention of Athlete's foot. Her poster can be seen on the MISAC website

www.microbiologyonline.org.uk

Congratulations also go to Michael Ayre whose poster was highly commended by the judges.



In the Easter holiday, club members enjoyed a day trip to the Blue Planet Aquarium, near Chester. The extensive

underwater tunnels through the shark area were most memorable and we were fortunate to witness scuba divers hand feeding the sharks. The open 'feely' tanks were another popular

attraction and we spent a long time tickling the rays.

This term, many of our stick-insect eggs have hatched. The adults only live for one year so we are nurturing the young stick-insects to replace our stock. We also tried to hatch four chicken eggs in an egg incubator. Two chicks successfully hatched but, unfortunately, they died after two days because their cage became too cold and damp. More research and preparation will be needed if we are to try to do this again next year. A highlight of the term was a visit by John Vale who runs the Creepy Crawly Road Show. He brought his ten-foot python, 'Bubbles', to an Animal Club meeting and taught us a great deal about the anatomy and physiology of snakes.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP

The pond improvement work will be starting this summer. Advice from Lancashire Environmental Department has led to plans to clear debris and leaf litter from the pond using NLMG (North Lancashire Midweek Group) as experienced environmental labourers. This will be much more economical and environmentally desirable than completely draining and excavating the pond.

The initial clearing process will take place on Thursday 29th August starting at 9.00am. The NLMG will be clearing the pond using specialised rakes and old fencing, rubbish and dead tree branches will be loaded into a skip. Volunteers are welcome to help and should contact Mrs Scott or Mrs Jones for details.

In October, a second work day will be arranged to cut down small bushes and trees at the south edge of the pond, allowing more light to reach it and encouraging growth of oxygenating pond weeds. A pond-dipping platform and new fencing can then be erected.

ROSEMERE CANCER RUN

The first two past the post in a run to raise cash for a cancer charity, held at Preston's Moor Park, had their own special reasons for taking part.

Winner of the 5km Rosemere Cancer Foundation Run was Terry Ogden. Terry said, "I am absolutely shattered but I am thrilled to have come first. I am particularly keen to support cancer charities as my grandma died of cancer two years ago. Ever since, I have tried to support cancer charities in any way I can".

Max Fulford-Brown, who came second, also had a personal reason for supporting the Foundation. Max said, "My mum recently had leukaemia and underwent a lot of treatment. She is better now and I like helping cancer charities whenever I can".

Marshall Hargreaves, pictured on his Novice Event horse, 'Helen of Troy' (Ellie), recently qualified for the National Final of the British Eventing Grasshoppers Show Jumping Series 2002 on his other horse 'I Am Shore', (Vinnie), to be held at the Windsor International Three Day Event on 24 May.

Marshall's an active member of the Fylde and District Pony Club, began riding at the age of nine. Always a keen showjumper, he qualified for the Dengie Winter League National Finals on two occasions, the second time aged 14, qualifying both his pony and a horse for the finals.

With the purchase of his new horse 'Helen of Troy' the following year, Marshall began competing in Affiliated Horse Trials (BHTA), all over the country. Although narrowly missing qualification for the Pony Club National Championships at the Area Horse Trials, he came third in the Individual Section, winning the trophy for the youngest, highest placed competitor.

Although competing has to fit in around his schoolwork and rugby commitments, Marshall has already gained his NVQ Level II in Horse Care, Riding and Management, and is at present studying for the British Horse Society Stage II qualification.

In the future, his ambition is to jump the Mitsubishi 4 x 4's in the cross-country at Badminton Horse Trials.

SHOWJUMPING

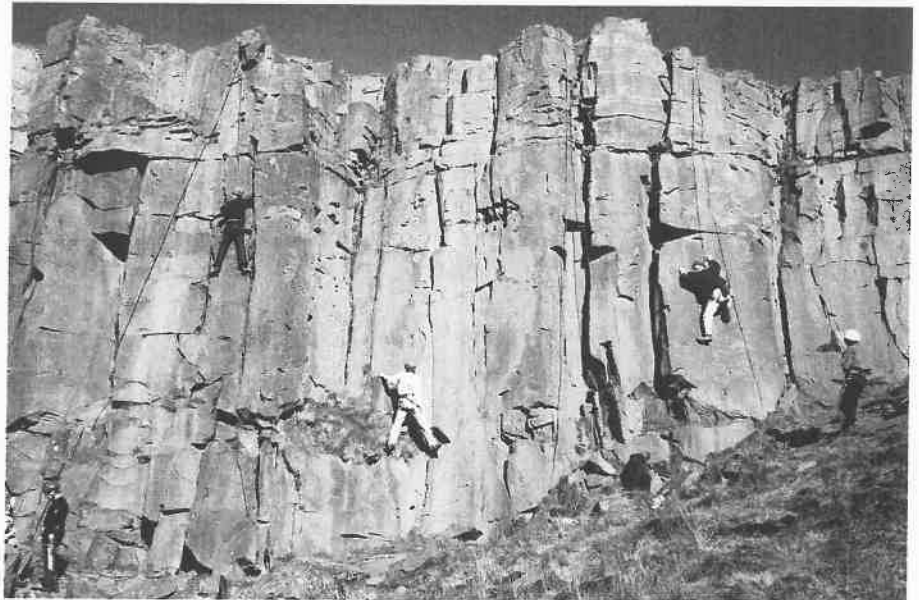


CLIMBING CLUB

The summer term brings longer evenings and better weather, which allows the club to venture out to climb on real rock rather than on the artificial surfaces of indoor climbing walls. Troy Quarry, near Haslingden remains the favourite venue but trips were also made to Witton and to Anglezarbe Quarry (near Rivington).

John Maskell and James Fletcher were as impressive outdoors as they have been when climbing indoors. Routes of British Grade 5c and 6a were regularly conquered, as were some difficult boulder problems. Ben Blackburn is proving to be the best of the newcomers to the club, but Cathryn Critchley also shows considerable promise. There is also an enthusiastic group which climbs each Friday lunchtime on the school wall in preparation for the longer after-school trips on Thursday evenings.

The club also opened the wall during the very successful Friends' Fun Day and more than seventy boys and girls enjoyed the challenge of trying to "top-out" on the school wall.



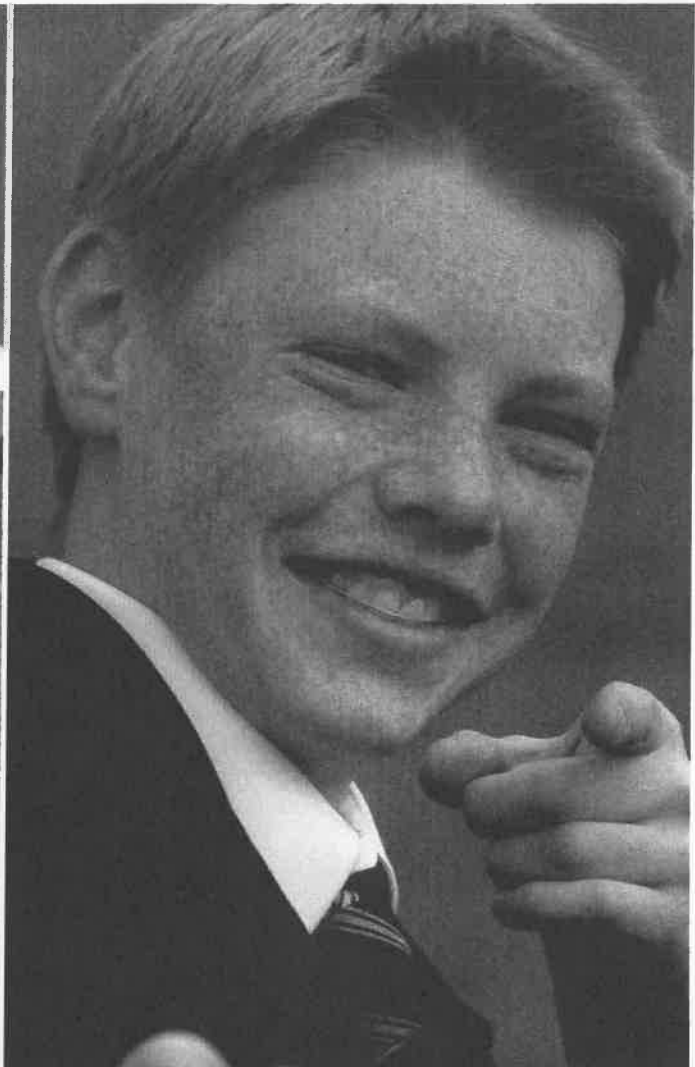
Can Crusher

Not the most glamorous of subjects, but the focus of a recent Lancashire County Council initiative to bring the huge problem of waste, and its disposal, to the fore. KGS responded positively, earlier this term four pupils from the second year attended the "Re-Think Waste" Conference in Penwortham. William Norris, Timothy Sands, Kerry Bargelli and Iain Croull spent the day learning about landfill sites, the merits of recycling, visited the local waste disposal centre, launched rockets made from plastic bottles, fixed bicycles and kept body and mind together enjoying an "Eco-Friendly Lunch".

The day was enjoyed by the group. Full of ideas and enthusiasm, they came back to school and shared their experiences, delivering a Junior School assembly to great effect.

The repercussions of this one-day conference are still being felt. Mrs Taylor and the pupils applied to Lancashire Environmental Action Fund for a grant to buy a "Can Crusher" as part of a scheme to recycle the mountain of drinks cans we generate each term. The school's application has been successful so pupils can expect the machine (finger friendly) to be in place ready for the new academic year.



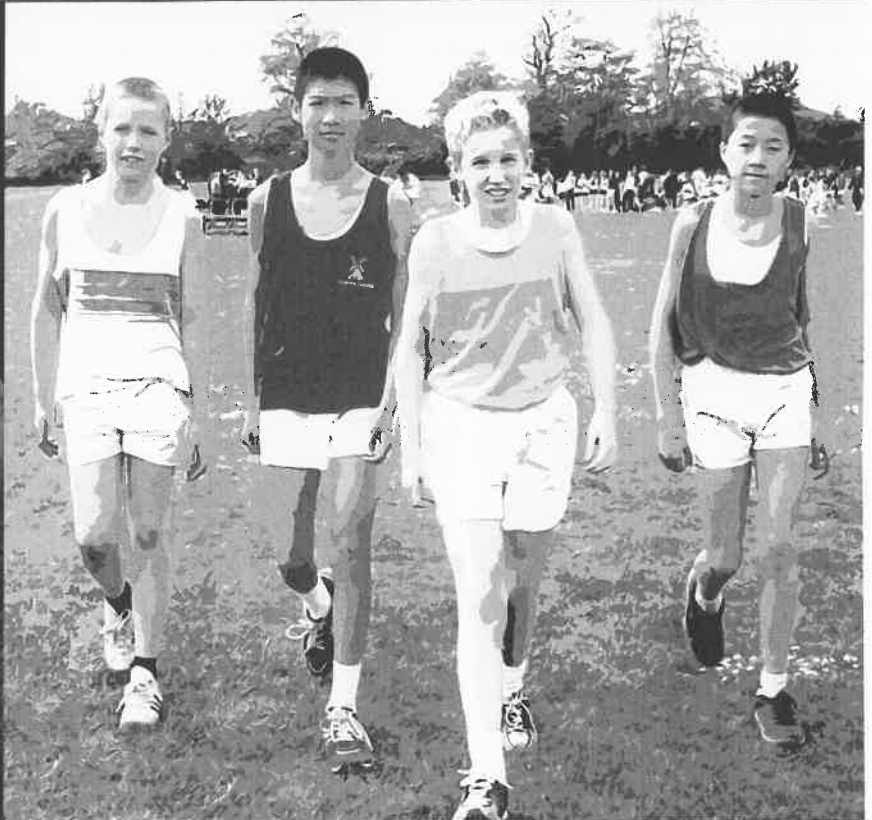


FACES OF 2002



SPORTS DAY 2002

School 749 pts Kirkham 605 pts Preston 591 pts Fylde 580.5 pts



Commonwealth hopeful Susan Jones leapt into school to present the school's sports day trophy. The British high jumper, who equalled the British record earlier this year, presented the winning house captain the trophy after a tough day of events.

She was impressed with many of the pupils, including long jumper Stuart Blackburn pictured in mid flight.

Susan is aiming to challenge for a medal at the Manchester games when they get underway in July but she broke off from training to check out the sporting talent at Kirkham. The school would like to wish her every success at the Commonwealth Games.



TENNIS

girls'

boys'

Although, as ever, the tennis season has been hampered by appalling weather conditions which have led to many cancellations, the season has started extremely well.

The U15 league team have not lost any of their 18 rubbers played, and have only dropped 12 games out of a possible 18. With only one match to play we can safely presume, I think, that their place in the semi-finals next week is secure.

The U13 league team have also played very well indeed, losing only one match this season so far.

The U19 Lancashire Girls' Singles Tournament was again held at KGS this year; however, attendance from other schools was very poor. Sarah Briggs played exceptionally well to defend her title as Lancashire champion, which she gained last year.

The U14 Derrick Hill team have also played with determination in their challenge to retain its title as U14 Lancashire Champions. So far, our girls have defeated Greenbank School and St. Joseph's

Sports College, and are due to play Cannon Slade in the semi-finals next week.

The U12 team has made very pleasing progress so far this season. Although a handful of our girls have enjoyed regular tennis coaching prior to this season, the majority started the season having never held a racket before. I have been delighted with their commitment to practices and their determination in their early matches.

We must again thank David Shaw for his expertise in his early morning and Wednesday tennis sessions. Although on many occasions weather conditions have been far from ideal, the girls have benefited greatly and improvements are clearly evident.

I look forward to the remainder of the season and wish the girls well in the forthcoming U13 and U15 tournaments. Is it possible that KGS can sweep the board again this year?

Jenny Tabb

U13 BOYS TENNIS

In our section of the Lancashire Tennis leagues there are only three teams. To date our team has only played one of the opponents - Broughton High School. Our team of Michael Walker, James Hall, Chris Ward and Matthew Woods lost 8-0, but this scoreline does not actually reflect the run of the games in which we lost three of the matches on tie-breaks. Had we won these three matches, the contest would have appeared more equal. It is true to say that, whilst Kirkham players were perhaps more skilful, the Broughton players 'ground out' the results with sheer hard work.

At time of writing we are still waiting to play Hutton Grammar School, our other group member. We hope that we can convert 'skilled' performances into 'winning' ones in this match!

Mjke Whalley

boys' athletics

In a term decimated by fixture cancellations the boys have still returned their usual high level of performance.

In the English Schools Track and Field Competition (TSB) both the U14 team and U16 came first in their respective age groups in the Regional Competition.

In the Fylde Coast Schools' Trophy Meeting recently the teams performed magnificently winning the overall aggregate trophy against ten other schools. The First Year team came second, denied top place by a harsh disqualification of one of our hurdle runners who had comfortably won the race; the Second and Third Year teams both won their age groups, and the Fourth Year team came third. This was Kirkham Grammar School dominance at its most impressive.

Individual successes:

Lancashire Schools' Combined Events: April 27

Stephen Hatch 4th selected for Lancashire team

Lancashire Championships: May 11

Max Eaves 1st Junior Pole Vault (E.S.)

Richard Newton 2nd 1500m (Inter) (E.S.)

2nd 800m (Inter) (E.S.)

Stephen Hatch 4th High Jump (Inter) (P.B.)

North of England Championships: May 25

Max Eaves 1st Junior Pole Vault (E.S.)

Richard Newton 2nd 1500m (E.S.)

Lancashire Schools Championships: June 15

Max Eaves 1st Junior Pole Vault

Richard Newton 1st 1500m (Inter)

Oliver Moore 2nd Jun. Javelin (P.B.)

Richard Waterman 2nd Sen. B. 100m.

Oliver Boardman 4th Inter B. 1500m (P.B.)



Max Eaves (Junior Pole Vault) and Richard Newton (800m & 1500m)

Stephen Hatch will be competing in the Regional Combined Events Championships at Preston on 29 June, and is hoping to qualify again for English Schools'. Max Eaves and Richard Newton have been selected to represent Lancashire at the English Schools Championships at Nottingham on the 12/13 July.

We congratulate these three boys and wish them every success.

N.B.

(E.S.) = English Schools' Standard Achieved
(P.B.) = Personal Best Performance

interHouse events

Welcome back to the KGS Inter-House Derby. School has a clear lead going into the final section of the course with Kirkham chasing hard in second place. Back to our commentator, Mr. S Duncan, our own House Recorder, for live, uninterrupted commentary.

Welcome back to what promises to be a very exciting end to the race. And they're off! Time to move across the by-pass where our four competitors face a gruelling senior rugby challenge. And it looks like School lead thanks to their experienced international squad and three wins gives them a deserved victory. Kirkham finish second, thanks to a disciplined and determined performance by the whole team.

Time for the girls to carry on the race with running that typifies the marvellous spirit of this Derby. The senior girls' cross-country section of the course is never easy and with School jockey Amy Twambley injured, the race is wide open. And yes, it looks like Kirkham's squad is too strong for the opposition and Kirkham secure a deserved win.

Onto the summer section of the course where the four jockeys should enjoy the firmer ground. But wait, we have sensational news! The chief track judge, Mr. M Whalley, is worried about the safety of the runners in this section of the course. Well, it certainly has been raining 'buckets full' in recent weeks, but surely the race can't be halted. Well, this is quite remarkable! The runners have been pulled up for the first time in the Derby's history – quite sensational! It looks like Mr. Whalley is awaiting a forecast from the weather bureau before the race can recommence. Well, all the spectators wait anxiously and thankfully its good news, and we're off. Let's hope all the time lost will be made up by all four runners, and it looks like School has enjoyed the break as they are racing ahead thanks to a tremendous performance at the Annual Sports Day. With School well up ahead in the distance, the competition for second is on – and yes, it's Kirkham again leading the chasing pack securing second place. Well done to School and their Victor Ludorum and three Victrix Ludorum winners who all helped them with this difficult and demanding section of the course.

Time for the cricket square section of the course. Well after last year's débâcle, I hope all four runners remember the Derby regulations and wear their 'white' blinkers for this section of the course! Thankfully the chief marshall is happy and after numerous pitch inspections we're off! Well folks, it appears as though the senior cricket looks too close to call with School and Kirkham competing well enough to reach the final. What a contest we have here as the final goes to the 'final' over! For all you School fans I'm pleased to report that their batting attack puts them into a strong position and yes, they win with a well executed boundary right off the meat of Bradley Hamilton's bat with only four balls remaining! A marvellous effort there, and another win for School over their arch-rivals Kirkham.

Time to move to the astro-turf for the first time in this section of the race. The runners have to compete in the senior tennis competition again



Sports Day winners: Amanda Schofield, Chris Briers, Jonathan Sissons, Stephen Hatch, Amy Twambley, Jane Greenwood, Melanie Smith



England High jumper Susan Jones presents Amanda Schofield the Sports Day overall winners Cup

wearing white blinkers. All eyes are on the School/Kirkham semi-final where the money is on School and leading jockey Sarah Briggs. But yet again another tremendous performance from Kirkham with Adam Tuck in the saddle and 'Team Kirkham' secure a victory and a place in the final. And what's this? I'm just hearing that Fylde have not turned up for this section of the race, giving Preston a bye into the final! Quite sensational and well worth a steward's enquiry! Back to the race and Preston's tennis jockeys start well but are not a match for Kirkham who win comfortably 6/4,

6/4. Well that's all we have time for today, so it's back to the studio.

Will School manage to hold off the challenge of Kirkham who seem to be peaking at the right time of the season? Who will finish with the wooden spoon? Thanks for your company and we hope to be able to report on the final stages of the race live on the Internet, thanks to the kind sponsorship of KGS' Flagship Technology Centre! We hope to have your company then.

Mr S Duncan (House Recorder)

Friends of KGS

As always, the Summer Term is exceptionally busy. The Fun Day organisation starts as soon as the Christmas Fair closes! Although we weren't blessed with warm sunshine, we were blessed with the hard work and enthusiasm of many willing helpers. We extend our gratitude to all of those who gave readily of their time and energy to ensure that the Fun Day was once again a great success. In spite of the rain, we still raised in excess of £3,500.

I have to admit that we were surprised by the applications for the Summer Ball. As soon as the letters and forms were sent out, we were deluged with requests and we had exceeded capacity with two weeks still to go before the closing date. We certainly seem to have hit on a winning formula, a fact to which all who attended this year's Ball will testify.

Both the Fund Day and the Ball require painstaking preparation and their success depends on the commitment of the sub-committee. Many thanks to all those committees who have expended so much time on our behalf, with special thanks to Robert Dunn, Vivienne Ashworth, Julie Thackray and Simon Fulford-Brown. Fran James has been a great help to us throughout the year - thank you, Fran!

It has been gratifying to see the pleasure that the cricket training area has given to all members of the school. It seems to be in use on a daily basis.

The sad note with which I conclude this report, is the loss of two of the most enthusiastic and loyal members of our committee, the Headmaster and Mrs Stacey. Mr & Mrs Stacey have rarely missed a meeting or Friends event in the last eleven years and have always contributed so positively with advice and ideas. We all wish them health and happiness in retirement and hope to see them from time to time at our future events.

Please note that our AGM will be on 24th September. All are welcome!

The Winter Ball will be on 16th November at the De Vere Hotel. Early applications for tickets are advisable and letters will be sent out next term.

Mrs Dana Gledhill
Chairman
Friends of K.G.S.

Stop Press



Once again it is good to see so many pupils (46 in all) who took the examination with the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts. All succeeded in passing with high grades.

The highest award of Honours was achieved by Grace Hobin "The Reading of Verse and Prose: Grade Six".

Special Congratulations to:

Kathryn Llewellyn
Lyndsey Tuck
Lebetina Mwenda
Amanda Schofield

Bronze Medal
Bronze Medal
Gold Medal
Gold Medal - Distinction

Also:

Joanne Crook and Caroline Brown : Certificate of Merit, Reading for Performance.

Congratulations to all!

Diary Dates

'A' Level results

10.00 a.m. Thursday, 15 August

GCSE results

10.00 a.m. Thursday, 22 August

1st Year Induction Day

8.45 a.m. Tuesday, 3 September

New School Year begins

8.45 a.m. Wednesday, 4 September

Old Kirkhamians' Association AGM

6.30 p.m. Saturday, 14 September in the Friends' Library followed by

OKA Northern Reunion Dinner

7.30 p.m. in the Old Hall

Senior School Annual Prizegiving and Speech Day

7.15 for 7.30 p.m., Thursday, 19 September, at the Guild Hall, Preston

Friends of KGS Annual General Meeting

7.30 p.m. Tuesday, 24 September

Friends of KGS New Parents' Welcome Evening

8.0 p.m. Friday, 4 October in the Old Hall

Open Afternoon for 11+ entry, September 2003

2.00-4.00 p.m. on Sunday, 13 October

Open Evening

7.15 p.m. Monday, 18 November in the New Hall

Friends of KGS Winter Ball

7.30 p.m. on Saturday, 16 November at the De Vere Hotel, Blackpool

Speech Day Holiday

Monday, 25 November

Friends of KGS Christmas Fair

2.00 p.m. on Saturday, 29 November in the MPH

