

Creative Arts and Technology Exhibition Evening

Wednesday 20th June saw the annual Art, DT and Food open evening taking place at Kirkby Stephen Grammar School, this event grows each year, seeing a further expansion of the evening to include the areas of Drama and Music so that it was a true celebration of the Creative Arts and Technologies at KSGS. Parents, pupils past and present, and the local community viewed the work on show from GCSE students in the areas of Art and Design, Food Technology, Product Design and Engineering as well as A-Level Art and Design and Fine Art exhibitions. There was a rolling rehearsal of the forthcoming production of 'The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe' overseen by Mrs Whitehead and singing performances from Year 10 Music students in the hall accompanied by Mrs West.

Once again the event was very well attended, the relaxed and informal evening proving to be a lovely environment to celebrate the hard work that the students attribute to these subjects.

In the Art displays the students embarked on some very individual and challenging themes, displaying final outcomes in printing, textiles, painting, drawing, photography and 3-D. The commitment and determination of the students once again being clearly on show. The Art department also showcased some lower school work, displaying Year 9 Still Life drawings focussing on glass objects and reflections, and Year 7 work on the colour wheel.

Product Design and Engineering work was displayed from Years 7 to 11 ranging from can crushers to coat hooks, bird boxes and desk tidies. The G-clamps produced by the current Year 11 Engineering students showed the many skill areas and techniques these students needed to master within the subject.

During the evening visitors viewed a rolling presentation of some of the Food produced by GCSE Food Technology students for their final project. In addition to viewing the Food Technology work we were also delighted to receive an

impressive spread of savoury and sweet canapes for visitors to enjoy and thanks must go to the Food Technology department and students for these delicious delights.

Mrs Suzie Wealleans, Mr Kevin Gough, Miss Joanne Barker, Mrs West and Mrs Whitehead would like to express how proud they are of the achievements of all students and to thank them for their contributions to the evening. Thanks is also extended to all parents and visitors who attended the evening.





Dear Parents, Carers and Students As always it has been a very busy and eventful term. This newsletter can only capture a fraction of the highlights so far because we cannot expect you to read an epic book that is emailed to you.

My particular highlights of the term have been: accompanying Year 10 and 11 students to Stratford-upon-Avon to watch a performance of Macbeth in September and watching the amazing cast and crew perform The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe with such skill, creativity and confidence just last week. Both, in different ways, showcased the range of talent and the level of maturity of our students of all ages. Hopefully, for the students involved both events will become lasting fond

memories of their time at KSGS when they look back on their school days in years to come.

You will notice that this newsletter contains some articles and photographs from events that occurred in the summer term. We have included these because they were significant events and the school did not produce a newsletter at the end of last year.

Many of you will also have noticed the addition of a green perimeter fence around parts of the school site and electronic gates at the front of school, as well as a redesigned reception area. No doubt you will have your own varied opinions about whether these additions were necessary. I would just like to make it clear why they have been installed. During their last inspection in September 2017, Ofsted made it clear that they expected the work to be done to fulfil our site security plan if we were successful in being awarded funding. We have carried out the work because the money we were awarded cannot be used for any other purpose. I hope you will agree that the fence, gates and reception are not damaging to the appearance of the school and enhance its security.

Along with the many successful enrichment opportunities such as school trips, sports fixtures, work experience and guest speakers, we have also experienced some real challenges this term. You will no doubt be aware that we have experienced some long term staff absences this term which can unsettle the students and cause problems for staff who are covering for absent colleagues. Whilst this has been a challenge for us, I would like to acknowledge and thank the staff for their sheer dedication and commitment in trying to ensure that our students are not adversely affected. I would particularly like to thank Mrs Wealleans, Mrs Steels and Mr O'Doherty for their tenacity and hard work in maintaining standards of behaviour around the school and for encouraging students to be positive in their approach to work. They have been the engine room of the school, particularly during this half-term. In addition I would like to thank Mr Burns, and Mr Clay (DT) and Mrs Harper (Science) for supporting our students during this term.

I also have a very belated welcome to Mrs Park who joined us in September to teach ICT/Business Studies and also Health & Social Care. We will, at the end of this term, say goodbye to Mr Wareham who is retiring from his role as Maths Teacher having worked at KSGS for 11 years. Mrs Yerbes-Ballesteros will be taking over as his replacement. We also say goodbye to Miss Barker, Food Technology Teacher. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for not only teaching the students but also for the extra-curricular activities she took on – especially designing the menu for the visit by Princess Anne. Mrs Ritson will be replacing Miss Barker in the New Year. Lastly, we will also say goodbye to Mrs Tinsley, PA to SLT in the New Year and would like to welcome her replacement Miss Brunskill.

Finally, and reluctantly, I would like to mention the school's ongoing financial challenges which are the result of the inadequate levels of funding by the Department for Education. It is a frustration that we can be awarded money for security fences whilst not being adequately funded for the education of the students in our care. At the beginning of each year we usually send out a letter requesting voluntary contributions from parents to support the school. This year I did not do this because I do not like to ask parents for financial support when you already pay for so many things such as lunches and trips. However, the PTFA are in the process of launching one or two new initiatives to fund raise for the school, one of which is a school lottery that has a guaranteed cash prize to one of our supporters each week and a top prize of £25,000 in a separate draw each week. If you would like to support the school through the events run by the PTFA, or by one-off voluntary contributions, we would gratefully accept your support. However, it goes without saying that it is not an expectation.

On a more positive note, we have been very lucky to secure some sponsorship from two local companies; firstly, PF&K have kindly agreed to sponsor Year 11 prizes at our new end of term achievement assemblies and secondly the Cumbria Community Foundation acting on behalf of the Westmorland Family have awarded the school a grant for the next three years to support our disadvantaged students to attend enrichment activities and with transport costs. I include this to assure you that we are doing everything that we can to generate extra funding for the school to compensate for the inadequate funding mentioned above.

I would like to end this letter by wishing you a very merry Christmas with your family whatever you are doing and wherever you are going. I look forward to seeing our students re-energised after a good holiday in the second week of 2019. Best wishes, Gary Hartley



SIXTH FORM FUNDRAISING Our Bag2School collection raised a fantastic **£200!** This will be used to help improve Sixth Form facilities at KSGS and we are very grateful to everyone who recycled their unwanted items to help us achieve this. Many thanks. *KSGS Sixth Form*



23rd March proved to be another enjoyable and successful Comic Relief at Kirkby Stephen Grammar School.



Having investigated living conditions in Kibera, Nairobi, Africa's largest shanty settlement, Year 8 Geographers rose to the challenge again, creating their own link to Africa by raising over £700. Each member of the year group completed a sponsored mile in various ways from walking and running to hopping. Well done year 8! Mrs Thompson.

Newsletter – Sports Summer 2018

Football – This year the school has run teams at all ages with great success winning the U14 Eden District tournament, winning the U15 Eden District tournament, getting to the semi-final of the county cup at U15 and U16 Level. The school then won the U13 county cup beating Whitehaven academy 3:1 at Carlisle in the final.

Ross Jackson and Joe Bousfield have both played representative football for Cumbria this season.



Rugby - We have had a lot of players

selected for Cumbria this year. At U18 Level Andrew Leach and Joss Warren, at U16 Level Josh Winder and Rupert Civil, and at U15 Level Isaac Dent. Sam Birkbeck and Oliver Rose have also been selected for Cumbria Performance Centre.

The school has had matches against Ullswater, Dallam, Appleby, Queen Catherine, and QES Kirkby Longsdale. The school also entered the county U15 sevens festival and were unbeaten playing QEGS Penrith, Richard Rose, Whitehaven Academy and Workington Academy.

The U14 team were also unbeaten at the Ten-a-side festival playing Appleby, Kirkby Kendal School and Austin Friars School. Mark Bromfield



Yr 8 Investigate Limestone LANDSCAPES AT Malham.

On Monday 18th June Yr 8 geographers escaped to the wilds of Malhamdale. Students carried out a range of activities to present their observations of the features of limestone landscapes and the processes responsible for them. They investigated the opportunities that the limestone creates for people and the impacts that the resulting tourism has on the environment and local economy. They also observed the role of The Yorkshire Dales National Park in managing tourism and its impacts to ensure that tourism is sustainable. Students were able to take advantage of the fair weather and walked to the base of the cove where they saw the rich variety of birds and wildlife and the people that this attracts, as well as the skilful climbers who were scaling the scar face. Having climbed the hundreds of steps built to aid the many visitors, they reached the impressive limestone pavements and dry valleys made famous by featuring in the penultimate Harry Potter film. Although there was much huffing and puffing on the way up to the top of the cove it was agreed that the views were worth the effort. Students rewarded themselves with an ice cream at the local store back in the village of Malham. I would like to thank the staff who accompanied the trip and commend all the students on their impeccable behaviour. Mrs Thompson



Y7 Kirkby Stephen local fieldwork Year 7 spent some time during their geography lesson completing some fieldwork in Kirkby Stephen. As part of their local places topic they are investigating if Kirkby Stephen is a tourist town or not. We were very fortunate with the weather, it was hot and sunny and the town was full of people to help answer the student's questionnaires, they also completed land use surveys and looked at what the environment was like in different areas of the town. They were a bit nervous at first of asking people questions but soon got the hang of it, they found lots of local people and tourists from as far afield as Canada who were doing the Coast to Coast walk. Conclusion – Kirkby Stephen is not just a tourist town but caters well for local people as well.

Year 9 visit Blackpool Zoo

On the hottest day of the year, Y9 set out for Blackpool Zoo. They had a wonderful time learning about the tropical Rainforest environment, the animals which live there and why it is under threat. We heard about the palm oil industry and how it has devastated parts of Borneo and Malaysia – little did we know it is an ingredient in most supermarket cakes, biscuits and crisps. Students then had time to explore the Zoo looking at Orang-utans, Elephants, Giraffe, Lions, Tigers and many more. 'If only we had had more time' many of them said as we herded them back onto the tropically heated bus and headed for home.



Year 10 and 11 visit Blencathra

As part of their GCSE we visited Blencathra Field Studies Centre in March. The students were fantastic despite it being very cold and were quite happy to get into the river and take the measurements needed to complete their fieldwork. They measured width, depth and speed of flow of the river and have been working hard at school to write up their results. A great day with hardly any wet feet!



Esme Kirkbride

Opera Performer

We are proud to announce that one of our Year 8 students took part in two opera performances at **The Grand Theatre, Blackpool.**

Esme Kirkbride was chosen to be part of the Chorus Line in La Traviata and Madam Butterfly.

Esme said "I was a little nervous but once I was on stage I forgot my nerves and thoroughly enjoyed it. I have always loved performing especially singing and I had an amazing time."

Mrs West, Esme's music tutor said "Esme is really a gifted and versatile young musician. It's great to see her making the most of her talents in a professional performance. It will no doubt have been a highly memorable experience" Miss Short



My trip to the Banzai Cup Berlin

On Friday 28th September, I flew to Berlin to compete in kumite in an international karate competition.

I was competing in the female under 12s I was winning 4-2 and in the last second, she scored a head kick which scores 3 points, so I lost 5 points to 4.

I was very disappointed to lose in the last second of the fight but my karate instructor, Sensei Mark Holding said it was the best I have ever fought, so that cheered me up. It was good to get some experience in an international competition.

Whilst we were in Berlin we visited the Holocaust Memorial and the Brandenburg Gate. We didn't get to go inside the Brandenburg Gate as the President of Turkey was also visiting Berlin, so security was very tight. We also visited Berlin Zoo and Aquarium.

On the Monday 1st October I flew back to Manchester. I am now looking forward to representing the English Karate Federation Northern Regional Squad in Rotterdam in November. Kitty Woods Year 7



Ankoma Dream Jess Dillon, ex-student and Head Girl of KSGS, approached us as a volunteer for a charity called The Ankoma Dream. She explained they had been fundraising for over a year to raise a total of £18,000 to bring five Ghanaian children from the village of Ankoma to the U.K. for three weeks in September 2018 and asked the school council if they would be willing to help with fundraising activities.

The children spent two weeks in Cumbria visiting different schools and came to visit us on Friday 21 September. Five 'dreamers' came to visit us, they were Solomon, Peter, Tiemaa, Agnes and Melody – ages ranging from 13 to 15. Year 7 students were extremely impressed with performances of singing and Solomon's excellent drum skills.



Kirkby Stephen Grammar School Boys - Schools County Champions

For the 2nd year running the Kirkby Stephen Grammar School team of Table Tennis players have been training hard for the Cumbria Schools County Championships (under 13 Yrs), held in Barrow.

They won all their matches and were announced Cumbria Schools (under13 yrs) Table Tennis Champions, last Thursday.

Captain Jake Haygarth, a junior England squad player, helped coach and support the team to victory - Ben Allison, Patrick Wolstenholme, Harry Chapman-Davis and Oliver Dixon. The boys have all been coached by Kirkby Stephen Table Tennis Club and play regularly, after school in the gym on Tuesdays and at club night on Thursday evenings.

The Northern Region finals will be hosted at Kirkby Stephen Grammar School, Sports Hall, on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th of January, where the boys will be challenged by school teams from as far away as Humberside and Newcastle - good luck with the Schools Northern Region Championships.

Any Juniors, adult or family groups that are interested in playing Table Tennis in the Kirkby Stephen area, please contact Mike Sunderland - mikeasunderland@gmail.com



The Year 10 London Trip 2018.

We went to London on the 11th-13th July. We had an early start of 5:30am arriving for school at 5:15am. The bus journey started off well with teachers and students excited for the few days away in the capital. The bus journey seemed to go fast until we got stuck in traffic for 2 hours due to an overturned wagon. It ended up as an 11 hour bus journey until we arrived in London! Not what we had planned but everyone took it well. Unfortunately, this caused us to miss the London Dungeons which we were all looking forward to, but the school did a great job of getting us our money back for this and rescheduling the river cruise to a different day.

When we arrived in London we headed to Planet Hollywood for burgers and fries. After our meal, we went to Covent Garden to watch 'School Of Rock' in the theatre. It was full of amazingly talented actors which everyone loved watching and singing along to. Once the performance finished we went to our hotel which was a Premier Inn in central London, about an hour from the theatre. We all checked into our rooms at around 11:45pm and headed to bed for a good night's sleep.

On the second day we were up early and had a full cooked breakfast, leaving the hotel at 8am and getting on the bus to the Imperial War Museum. The Imperial War Museum was very moving due to seeing real life clothing and shoes from the holocaust and the effects it had on people. This was a very emotional part of the trip. It was very good for the history students as they got to experience the sights of the personal belongings of the Jews. And we learnt a lot about the Holocaust and what occurred. After the Imperial War Museum, we went to the Natural History Museum. We got to go off in groups and made our own way around the museum. We also got VIP access to the storage vaults courtesy of a friend of Mrs Thwaites and Mrs Wealleans that works there, here we got the chance to see animals such as snakes, sharks, fish, foxes, a 8m long giant octopus and many more sea life creatures that had been preserved in alcohol, great for the scientists and art students. We had a photo competition to get the funniest photo with the best caption.

Our last activity before the evening was a 'behind the scenes' tour of the theatre at Drury lane, and its secret rooms. It was led by actors who were involved in shows that were put on throughout days/nights in London. The tour was quite frightening and gave many students the 'jumps' throughout the hour we had. It was finally time to go to Pizza Express which many of our class were excited about. To end the day, we headed to another theatre to watch our second show, to watch Matilda, the energy and skill of the child actors was amazing. Carl said: 'Matilda was my favourite show out of the two, it was full of amazing actors/actresses leading the show and it was great'. It was another late night, arriving back to the hotel around 12pm.

On the third day we were up and ready by 8am again, with cases packed and loaded onto the bus. The first thing we did on our final day was head to Westminster and had a river cruise, which we missed on the first day. The river cruise was very relaxing and we got to see all the sights of London as pointed out by the River Cruise operator.

When we got off the boat we walked to the Tate Modern passing Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, the London Eye and many other famous tourist attractions. We spent around an hour in the Tate looking at different artists masterpieces, this was very useful for all those art students sitting their GCSEs this year to give them inspiration and ideas. After the Tate, we headed to the bus to take a 2 hour bus drive to the Harry Potter Studios. This was amazing and one of my favourite parts of the trip. I have not watched many films or read many of the books but this tour/experience was amazing. It was huge, full of props, costumes, animatronics, set designs, actual set used in the play and places that were visited during the making of the films. There was even the 'Hogwarts Express' and the nine and three quarters platform with the trolley going into the wall to take pictures with. Throughout the whole time we spent there, many pictures in and outside were taken, some people even got to try the famous 'Butter Beer' (non-alcoholic of course!).

As our time in London came to an end we headed back to cold Cumbria, which was a massive difference to the weather in London which was incredibly hot. The journey home only took us around 6 hours which was a lot faster than our journey there! We all had an amazing time and I would definitely recommend the trip to any of the younger students thinking of going when they get into year 10.

Thanks to all the staff who went on the trip and to Mrs Wealleans and Mrs Thwaites for organising it.



In my cope lesson I was asked to make a power point presentation. I chose seasons on our family farm. I am passionate about farming and work on ours in my spare time. Since I was young I have always wanted a Jersey cow and luckily one day I went to an auction with my Dad and saw one for sale that I liked. After bidding on the cow I was lucky enough to buy it. The cow in the picture is the family prize possession and we all love her!

By Jessica Ellwood 10T

School Show Jumping

The latest school show jumping competition took place at Black Dyke Equestrian Centre, Carlisle on Friday, 23 November 2018. After an early start to the day competitors met at Carlisle. Riders were looking very smart exhibiting their new numnahs sponsored by www.comparecover.com, Emily Tyson's parents. Thank you very much for the kind sponsorship and support of the teams.

Teams were entered in both the 75cm and 90cm classes. The first team to jump was Morgan

Bateman riding Maisie, Eleanor Armstrong riding Tic Tac, Emily Tyson riding Gunner and Mira Tallentire riding Rosie. They were against 14 other teams.

Emily was first to jump and was nervous as it was her first time on the team. She and Gunner made a valiant attempt but were eliminated during the course. Morgan had only just started riding Maisie and the pairing had a great round gaining no faults to carry forward to the jump off. Eleanor and Tic Tac had a lovely, controlled clear round of jumps and the team were still in the running for going forward without faults. The pressure was on Mira. Mira and Rosie are an established couple and successfully managed another clear round. That meant KSGS was carrying no faults into the jump off.

The jump off was timed. This time Emily completed the course and had a better round gaining confidence as she went. Morgan, Eleanor and Mira were chasing the clock but also had to be mindful not to gain faults. They jumped again without gaining any faults and therefore we knew they were going to be placed in the competition; we just had to wait to see how fast other teams went to know where we'd end up. After the jump off, only five teams went forward from the original 14 without any faults to carry forward. That meant the times were crucial. KSGS ended up being placed fourth overall, only 5 seconds behind the winning team from Kirkcudbright and only half a second behind the third placed team from Ullswater Community College. What a great achievement.

The second team in the afternoon was Jess Chapman riding Mary, Mira Tallentire riding Princess and Marianna Stephenson riding Picasso. They were competing against 13 other schools.

Marianna went first and had a great clear round. The pressure was on Jess and Mira and unfortunately they both had faults to carry forward which is unusual for both of them. In the jump off, Marianna again went clear followed by Jess but Mira clipped a pole and gained faults. It was hard luck. The team wasn't placed but all competitors rode really well and had an enjoyable day finished off with homemade cream cake by Marianna's mum.



Kirkby Stephen Grammar School Duke of Edinburgh Celebration Evening

KSGS celebrated another fine year of character building with the annual Duke of Edinburgh Celebration Evening. Attended by the Headteacher, Mountain Rescue Volunteers and many parents, KSGS students excelled in presenting tales of their many expeditions this year.

Attendees were treated to presentations from the three Bronze walking groups with tales of bad singing, wrong turns and burnt food as well as from the two silver expeditions. Our Silver Kayak group paddled from Preston all the way to Tewitfield unaided and regaled us with tales from the river bank. Our Silver Cycling group took a three day trip to see Eric Morecambe and recounted their visits to many local historic sites with accompanying history lesson.

All groups had shown great tenacity to overcome the challenges faced including illness and poor weather. In addition to their expeditions pupils have also gained new skills, increased their physical prowess in a number of sports and supported the local community with varying volunteering projects. They have also raised a record £600 from a charity bag pack to help keep the school DofE funded.

I look forward to welcoming our new new Yr 9s in the new year as well as returning groups coming back for silver. The highlight is sure to be our first Gold Group for several years who are currently planning an expedition from Oban to Inverness along the Caledonian Canal.

Finally many thanks to Mike Sunderland, Adrian Cotterell and the Kirkby Stephen Mountain Rescue team for giving up their time free of charge to give our pupils the opportunity to have these amazing experiences. Ben Heys KSGS DofE Co-ordinator.

Geography—Autumn Term

Year 9 Constructing earthquake proof buildings

Year 9 were set the task of constructing buildings which would withstand an earthquake. They had learnt the theory in class but would they be able to put it into practice? We definitely have some engineers in the making, some buildings withstood a 3, 6 and 9 on the Richter Scale whilst others collapsed spectacularly. The winners with a unique design were Vincent, Fergus, Luke and Rueben. Well done boys!



Y7 Kirkby Stephen local fieldwork

Year 7 spent some time during their geography lesson completing some fieldwork in Kirkby Stephen. As part of their local places topic they are investigating if Kirkby Stephen is a tourist town. As per usual the town was full of people to help answer the student's questionnaires, they also completed land use surveys and looked at what the environment was like in different areas of the town. They were a bit nervous at first of asking people questions but soon got the hang of it. When we got back to school they all did a fantastic job of writing up their investigations. Conclusion - Kirkby Stephen is not just a tourist town but caters well for local people as well.

Year 13 Urban fieldwork in Carlisle

Way back in September we took Y13 to Carlisle to look at how they could collect data for their individual investigations which form 20% of their A-Level mark. They had a busy day looking for evidence of how Carlisle has changed over time, how land use changes as you move further away from The Lanes Shopping Centre and how Carlisle is portrayed in the media. They all worked really hard and got some really useful data for future use in their coursework.

Year 11 Prom July 2018

Year 11 enjoyed an Evening at Roundthorn Country House for their Year 11 Prom

