



Kirkby Stephen Grammar School

A co-operative Academy

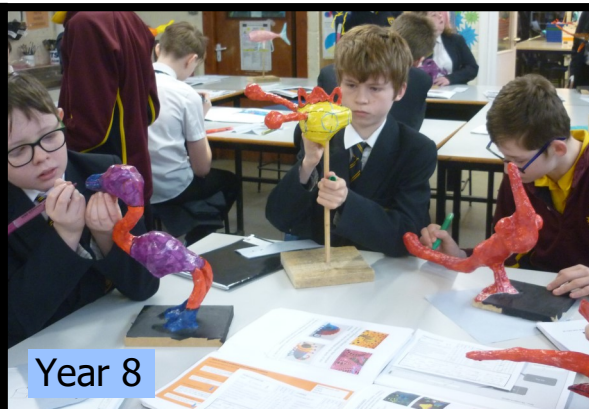
NEWSLETTER

www.ksgs.cumbria.sch.uk

Issue 125, April 2022



Eden Valley
Sports Partnership



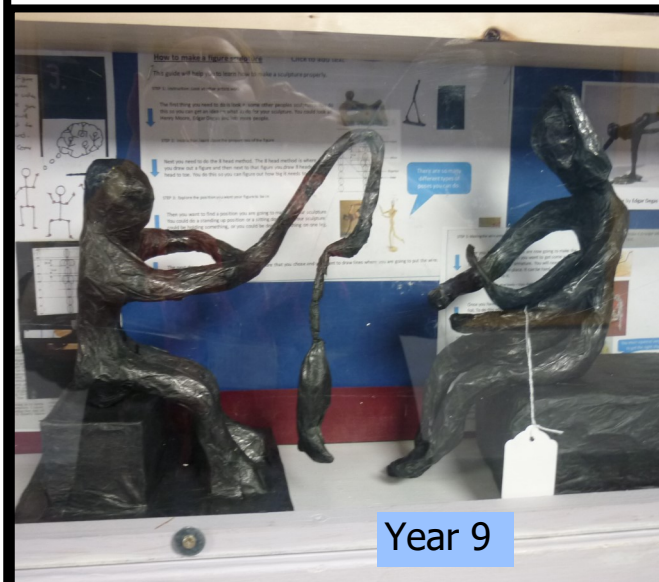
Year 8

Year 8 and 9 Art Exploring Sculpture

Now that Covid restrictions are lifted and we are all back in our own classrooms it has been lovely to get to grips with some sculpture again. Year 8 and Year 9 have produced some fabulous outcomes, refining their 3D skills as well as developing their literacy skills with artist research and step by step instruction guides to explain the process of making.

Year 9 explored the human form looking at the work of Henry Moore, Giacometti, Anthony Gormley and various other artists. Students began developing ideas for the pose they wanted their sculpture to adopt, they used photography to capture the poses from different angles, students learnt about the proportions of the figure and how to problem solve to develop the shape required and produce a balanced figure. Final sculptures were covered with black tissue paper and graphite to give the effect of metal. All sculptures are displayed throughout the school and look fabulous, we have had many positive comments from visitors to the school.

Year 8 students based their sculptures on 'fantastic and strange creatures', the students were asked to design an imaginary creature based on parts of different animals, insects, fish or birds. Students had to work both individually and with other students to problem solve, looking at shape and form. Final sculptures were varnished and Posca pens used to develop intricate patterning designs based on the artists we explored. The work is on display in some newly built display areas in the coffee bar and main corridor, well done to all Year 8 students your imagination and creativity has really impressed us. Suzie Wealleans



Year 9



Dear Parents, carers and students,

We have reached the end of the spring term and are now two thirds of the way through another unprecedented academic year. I don't want to talk at any length about the pandemic or exams or the DfE and government's failure to support schools and young people again. I could but it is too depressing. Instead we wanted to celebrate all of the extra-curricular activities and events that have taken place this term and particularly over the last half-term in this newsletter. Briefly, I will say that this term has not been as badly disrupted by Covid as I feared it would be at the beginning of January when we had seven staff absent in the first week. Some students have been absent with Covid, but not in huge numbers. There have been more staff who have succumbed to the virus but Mrs Woof and the cover team have managed their absences brilliantly, with the help of SLT and many other members of staff, so that we have not had to partially close the school by sending students home to work remotely. Just when we thought the worst had passed, we have had a spike of cases in the last week, coinciding with the increase nationally. Hopefully, the Easter holidays will allow this to settle down in time for the run up to GCSE and A level exams in May.

Due to the removal of restrictions and the gradual reduction in cases, we have been able to re-introduce trips and visitors to the school to enliven and enrich our students' experience. I hope that you get some sense of just how much has been going on from this newsletter. In no order of preference we have had:

A Macbeth workshop by initiate Theatre Group for GCSE English students (*see photo and comment on page 4*); GCSE Science Live for Year 10 (*see article on page 3*); the sixth form English and drama trip to Stratford to see 'Much Ado About Nothing' (*see article on page 4*); the year 13 geography visit to Salford Quays (*see article on page 5*); the Planetarium visit for KS2 and KS3 students and their parents (*see article on page 3*); a study day delivered by Lancaster University for KS3 English students; a trip to the Westmorland Family Farm for Year 11 students; an Inspector Calls study day for Year 11 English students; the DT Rotary Club competition (*see article on page 3*); Year 10 Art Printing day (*see article on page 5*); the BEBRAS Computing Challenge for KS3 (*see article on page 3*); a Year 13 PE study day at Lancaster University; a Year 7 geography fieldtrip into Kirkby Stephen (*see article on page 4*); and a Year 11 geography fieldtrip to Easedale (*see article on page 8*). Finally, just last week, we had a visit from Cumbria Police Constabulary to talk to students about a range of issues including illegal drugs and careers in the police force (*see article on page 8*).

We have also hosted a first visit from our local MP, Dr Neil Hudson, for a Q&A session with the sixth form on politics and a live link to the House of Commons.

Finally, we have had lots of PE fixtures for the boys and girls and a large number of students have been turning up to lunchtime practices (although Mrs Paul would still like to see more!). We have had a number of successful teams in a variety of sports but the girls' netball teams have been particularly successful as have the boys' senior hockey team.

From this I hope you can see that we are doing everything we can to engage students' interest and widen their experiences. Of course, none of these activities could happen without the commitment and enthusiasm of the staff involved. As ever, I offer them my thanks and appreciation for the huge effort they put into making students school experience more varied and enjoyable.

I hope you all have an enjoyable Easter and that the weather returns to the semi-tropical temperatures of last week.

Yours sincerely,

G.J. Hartley
Headteacher



Andrew Wallington School Governor

I am a Barrister specialising in criminal prosecutions and I started my career initially working in the South West based in Bristol. I moved to Yorkshire with my family in 2004 and then to Kirkby Stephen in 2011. We have three children who have all been educated at Kirkby Stephen Grammar School.

I enjoy gardening in my spare time, and we have an ongoing project developing our 3-acre plot into a woodland garden where we grow fruit and veg.

I value the work I do in the community which includes being vice-chair of the Governing body and Chair of the Health & Safety committee. I am also a leader with the Kirkby Stephen Scout Troop and Loki Explorer Scout Unit; and I also volunteer with the Eden Food Bank.

Celebrating Dark Skies with Polestar Planetarium

The science department would like to thank Westmorland Dales who organised this event which was hosted at KSGS.

The Yorkshire Dales is home to some of the darkest skies in the country. We have large areas of unpolluted night sky where it's possible to see the Milky Way, planets, meteors and even the Northern Lights. To celebrate our exceptional dark skies and our recent designation as an international Dark Sky Reserve, the 'Polestar Planetarium' delivered a superb multimedia experience bringing the cosmos to life finishing with our constellations in the northern hemisphere.

The dome is the largest in Northern England and the presenter Richard Lake created a unique and awe inspiring experience that captivated us all.

Kirkby Stephen Grammar School helped host to make this show available to over 460 children, which included 9 schools, 50 teachers plus 2 evening events. We hope this helps encourage us all to look up into the night skies and enjoy the wonder and maybe help us to address light pollution.



GCSE Science Live!

We were very pleased to receive some funding from the PTFA to help towards the cost of the Year 10 trip to the Science Live event. We were delighted that we had all the Year 10 triple science students attend the trip just before February half term and we think the high uptake was partly due to the reduced cost thanks to their generous funding.

We all had a great day; the students were an absolute pleasure to take and a credit to the school. The Science Live event was hosted by many famous and inspiring scientists that are working at the cutting edge of their field. During the day the students got to hear about the latest developments in satellites and telescopes, the reality of time travel, the strange properties of ice with entertaining demonstrations, they heard how genetics and anthropology is helping to answer questions about our past and finally they learnt about the development of IVF and advances in trans genetic technology.

Fiona Conway – Head of Science Department



BEBRAS Challenge

Most Year 7, 8 and 9s took part in the national BEBRAS challenge event. The Bebras Computing Challenge introduces computational thinking to students. It is organised in over 50 countries and designed to get students all over the world excited about computing. Each participant answer questions that focus on computational and logical thinking. It is completed online in school but is marked externally.

Well done to all students who completed the challenge. A huge congratulations to Hannah Eife (Best in School – Junior Division and Gold Award), Charlotte Eife (Best in School – Inter Division and Gold Award), Bicci Clark (Gold Award) and Toby Bowness (Gold Award) who were invited to take part in the Oxford University Computing Challenge. J Park



D&T Rotary Club Bridge Building Competition.

Where's the masking tape? No, don't cut the wood there. If we attach the cardboard here it will make it ridged and support the truck.

These were just some of the comments that could be heard during a competition that KSGS entered in March. We had six groups of D&T pupils with wide specialisms to design, develop and manufacture a bridge which would take a 1kg lorry load when driven over their model bridge, no mean feat when pupils had to span a 600mm river. Some pupils even took the harder challenge of building a lifting bridge that actually worked.

Although we didn't win any prizes I was proud that we had a number of bridges that worked very well, even if two rolls of masking tape were used in one bridges construction. It was a great day out with a very positive cooperative atmosphere.

As is usual with KSGS pupils, behaviour was excellent. K Gough



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. E Sayers



"Some of our Year 11 English students on the Macbeth study day involving streamed online lectures, a different way of studying and the content was challenging but the students approached it with real maturity and explored quite complex ideas with enthusiasm"
S Newstead (Head of English) & M Bowness (English Teacher).

Martha Bainbridge, has been selected to play hockey for England Under-16s, and is the only Cumbrian representative in the squad.



Much Ado About Nothing

Year 12 and 13 A-Level English Literature and Theatre Studies students travelled to Stratford-upon-Avon to see Shakespeare's comedy, *Much Ado About Nothing* at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. The production was far from traditional, with a distant-future space-age setting; out-of-this world costumes and unforgettably colourful set designs, giving students plenty to discuss when they return to the classroom.

It was fantastic to be visiting the theatre again after a long period where such excursions have been made impossible by Covid-19. Students are pictured here at the Gower memorial to Shakespeare which is just outside the theatre. We are grateful to the Westmorland Family Community Fund for supporting this visit financially by covering the cost of transport. Mrs Fitton.



Year 13 Salford Quays Trip

Finally! After months of restrictions and numerous cancellations Y13 finally got to go to Salford Quays and complete their case study on a far place as part of their changing places topic which they completed in Y12. Only a year late, but better late than never! When we arrived there, the first thing we all noticed was how many new buildings had gone up since our last visit 2 years ago. It was almost unrecognisable!

We did a walking tour of the Quays and discussed how the area had changed. None of us could believe there actually used to be a racecourse on the site we were standing in the 1890's and by 1950 it had changed into one of the busiest ports in the world despite being miles inland. Today it has changed once again, it now houses BBC television studios, Salford University, Imperial War Museum North and stunning accommodation.

The students got to visit the Lowry Gallery to look at the artist's work and how it represented the area it once was. On the whole a successful day. Erica Sayers



Year 10 Art Printing Day

The GCSE Art group students experienced an art curriculum day focussing on printmaking.

Working within the theme of 'our surroundings' students explored a number of print processes such as mono-printing, dry point etching and creating a collograph board from which to print. Each technique developed a range of outcomes, students enjoying exploring the printing press and at times getting quite messy!

Well done to Year 10 artists, you worked really hard and developed some stunning outcomes. S Wealleans



Christmas Music Show

An amazing showcase of enthusiastic and talented students took part in our Christmas Music Show in December 2021. It was an excellent evening, enjoyed by families, staff and friends it was so great to have live performances in school after such a big break. The whole evening was organised by some of Year 10 students. Mrs West, Music Department.



Christmas Movie for lower school

As a treat for our lower school for one afternoon before breaking up for Christmas, they got the chance to watch Paddington (who doesn't love Paddington?), this was greatly accepted by all lower school students.



RED NOSE DAY Two amounts of money were raised this day; £236.50 was raised from non-uniform day, this money is to be donated to a charity called Sound Seekers - a charity which funds hearing projects in commonwealth nations. An amazing £734.82 was raised from the Year 8's doing a sponsored walk as part of their Geography lesson with Mrs Thompson and Mrs Sayers for donation to Comic Relief.



Year 7F Personal Development students helped sort and pack the donations given for the collection of the Ukrainian refugee appeal that was kindly transported to its collection point in Darlington by Mrs Milburn. Thank you to everyone who donated.



Ben Perris with our Head Boy & Head Girl

YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Ben Perris from Penrith was elected in 2020 as a Member of the Youth Parliament for Carlisle and Eden. Ben kindly came into KSGS to talk with some of our students about Mental Health and the effects of Covid-19 on our young children. Ben will be back soon to meet with our school council members. Ben quoted "It was a pleasure to meet with you and your students. You honestly have some amazing young people at KSGS, I have interacted with many young people in my role and I have never met so many as dedicated and passionate as the students at KSGS."

Benjamin Perris Member of Youth Parliament for Carlisle and Eden

SPORTS NEWS FROM KSGS



**Year 7
Football Team**

It has been my first year taking fixtures, and excellent to see so many boys at practices during lunch times and earning the privilege to represent their school. We have had teams from Y7 to Y13 taking part in various rugby and football fixtures, as well as table-tennis and badminton for a few individuals. Three boys have also run for their county, and one made it to the national finals. It has been extremely exciting for me taking fixtures here at Kirkby Stephen as I am passionate about taking part in sport as well, but watching the boys do the school proud wearing the kit with pride, be it winning or losing has made all the practice worthwhile. Long may the busy fixture list continue, and all year groups continue to represent the school. We have had two girls football teams represent the school in the county cups, U13 and U15, another first for KSGS. With the U15 team being knocked out in a nail biting Quarter final. Mr Luke."



**Year 8
Rugby Team**



**Year 10
Football Team**



**Year 10 & 11
Rugby Team**



**Cumbria County
U18 Champions**

Northern Schools Cross Country Finals Middlesbrough

My name is Rowan Dey and I'm in Y11 – you may have seen me around school being a general nuisance to anyone and everyone! Unlike the 1800's, when children were seen and not heard, I am typically heard above everyone else!

Right, that's enough "rambling on" (Led Zeppelin). This scrawl is about my attempt at running a cross country course on Saturday 5 February. Thanks for continuing to read this far....bit more so thanks especially to the great PE staff Mr Luke, Mr Bromfield and Mrs Paul. I was able to represent Cumbria at the Northern Schools Inter County Finals at Middlesbrough's Stewart Park -the birthplace of Captain Cook -who was untimely taken out of this world. – he was eaten without baked beans by tribes people who he had 'discovered' on an Island.

However, as Columbus would earlier claim with America, I'm pretty sure these people knew they existed before their 'discovery'!

I competed in the Intermediate age category and against 60+ other competitors, out of this I ended up (I think) in the top 20. I have never been so nervous in my life 'running' up to the race. I feel that I did well despite not practicing, but certainly found areas I need to work on as I found the race very tough. The term 'heart in mouth' became literal at points as the pace was very high.





Dr Neil Hudson MP for Penrith & the Borders met with KSGS sixth form students – he said he really enjoyed the thoughtful Q&A session with the students. They discussed Ukraine, mental health, student funding, farming, honesty and integrity in politics.

Visit from Cumbria Constabulary

On Thursday 24th March, local community officers from Cumbria Constabulary came into KSGS to work with all KS3 students. PC Gemma Threlkeld and PCSO Janet Allinson delivered an assembly about illegal drugs to all Year 7 and 8 students. They later came into Year 8 and 9 Personal Development lessons to talk to students directly, about many different aspects of Police work including:

- Illegal drugs- what they are, effects on the body, the legal penalties for possession or supply and an explanation of what 'county lines' is
- Police recruitment and the difference in job role between Police Constables (PC's) and Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's)
- Equipment used and carried, by Police Officers in Cumbria
- Local crime trends and the policing of major events- such as Kendal Calling and Appleby Horse Fair

Year 8 students came up with some excellent questions to ask; everything from 'What's the most gruesome thing you've ever had to deal with?' through to 'Is a farmer breaking the law if they shoot a dog which is suspected of worrying sheep?'

I was really impressed with the maturity shown by Year 8 and 9 students during the police visit, and would like to thank Gemma and Janet for giving their time to come into the classroom to talk with our young people.
Joanne Sutterby- Head of PSHE and Citizenship



Year 11 investigate glaciation and it's human impacts in Easedale

After a 'trip-free' couple of years, a group of Year 11 geographers took part in a fieldtrip opportunity on Thursday 24th March to Easedale. They took part in investigative activities to assess the impacts of tourism, an impact of glacial processes, on Grasmere village. After this, they hiked up to Easedale Tarn, consolidating their understanding of the glacial processes which formed the landforms in this spectacular glacial landscape. The group were a pleasure to accompany and a credit to the school! C Thompson