



Kirkby Stephen Grammar School

A co-operative Academy

NEWSLETTER

www.ksgs.cumbria.sch.uk

Issue 131 Apr 24



**Eden Valley
Sports Partnership**

On Wednesday 28th February six Year 10 students delivered a thought provoking performance based upon the theme of Reconciliation as part of their Rock School Level 2 Music Performance External Assessment. The students have worked extremely hard to pull off a GCSE equivalent course within a matter of months. In this photograph we see Suzanne Nunn performing The Long and Winding Road on Flute.



The KSGS Music Department have been lucky enough to benefit from a generous grant from the Foundation Governors to facilitate a short series of workshops by professional musicians. The first of these was a really successful song writing workshop by Louise Jordan who demonstrated how songs could weave stories into them based on her touring show which celebrates International Women's Day.





Dear Parents, carers and students,
We have reached the end of the spring term and the theme of this Newsletter is the very wide range of sporting achievements that have taken place over this term. There have been so many sporting fixtures, experiences and successes that we were struggling to fit them all in to this newsletter. These range from the usual success of our girls netball teams and our boys and girls hockey teams to less often publicised successes in equestrian competitions such as the National Schools Equestrian Association.

There have been new sporting experiences for the students such as the Laser Run, which is part of the Modern Pentathlon, and wider opportunities for girls to play football. EVSP has also offered leadership opportunities for lower school students and for the Year 12 Sports Leaders. And, of course, I mustn't forget the Ski Trip, led as usual by Mr Bromfield, which involved a larger than usual number of students to compensate for the previous trip being cancelled due to the pandemic. Our students must be amongst the fittest and most active young people in Cumbria.

As well as the myriad sporting opportunities, there have also been many musical and dramatic events for the students to experience and enjoy. These have ranged from the Rock School performances to musical workshops delivered by professional musicians. And, of course, we must not forget the amazing One Night at the Musicals school show involving 107 students in December 2023. Yes, I know that was last term but it deserves a special mention in this letter as it was right at the end of last term and was not included in the previous newsletter.

In addition to sport, music and drama, Mrs Bell has been very active in organising careers trips and events for all year groups from the Year 8 Cyberfest trip to in-school presentations by BAE Systems and other Apprenticeship providers for Years 10, 11, 12 and 13. There have also been talks and presentations by the University of Cumbria for Years 10-13. As always I must thank all of the staff who have voluntarily given so much of their time to organise and run these trips, visits and guest speakers in order to enrich and develop the experience our young people have in school. I doubt that they realise how lucky they are to have so many opportunities.

Then there was the little matter of our Ofsted Inspection at the end of January, which, as I am sure you already know, was very successful, restoring the school to good in all areas, where it had been prior to October 2022. This is important in restoring the pride that we all have in the school and its place in the community. I hope that you all, as our parents, carers and students feel the same sense of pride that we, the staff, do.

I wish you all a restful and/or exciting Easter holiday with your family and friends whatever you are doing over the next couple of weeks and look forward to seeing students return later in April for the exam season and, hopefully, some better summer weather.

G. J Hartley Headteacher



Rhys Law 9T receiving an achievement certificate and cream egg for receiving over 50 achievement points this term.

Rhys is one of over 100 to be recognised at the end of the Spring term for their fantastic effort and contribution to positive culture of the school.



Year 8 trip to Cyberfirst Empower Event

On 29th February our Year 8 girls visited Energus in Workington to attend a Cyberfirst Empower Event. This was an amazing opportunity for our girls to delve in to the latest technological innovations and participate in immersive workshops.

They also got to take part in other tasks such as using VR headsets, open-source intelligence and cyber escape rooms. A fun day was had by all.

Sarah Bell Careers Lead

Careers Events for this term

09/01/24 BAE Presentation to Years 10, 11, 12 and 13

06/02/24 Apprenticeship Assembly to Years 10 and 11

29/02/24 STEM trip to Cyberblast for Year 8 girls

08/03/24 Talk by Mr & Mrs Grimshaw to Year 11 about their respective careers

12/03/24 Assembly with University of Cumbria for Years 10 and 11

20/03/24 Talk from the University of Cumbria for Year 12 and 13 regarding sports degrees



One Night at the Musicals was a huge success and enjoyed by all the students who took part



Year 10 saying thank to the Upper Eden First Responders, Bryan Palphreyman and Lucy Brass for delivering the Heart Start CPR training to them. It was free training for the whole year group, so we raised £42.51 in donations for them to say thank you. Julie Percival



Ski Trip Italy 2024 The school ski trip went to Claviere in Italy, from 20th to 27th January. The school took 53 students and 6 staff and enjoyed excellent weather. All students skied well and achieved medals from the Italian ski school. All students did 5 hours of lessons per day and were able to ski black runs by the end of the week. The students also skied over into France and did a wide range of skiing in the Montgenevre ski resort. Ski conditions were excellent and the temperature reached 18 degrees. During the evening there was a range of activities including pizza night and Skidoo ride up the mountain to an alpine restaurant for hot chocolate and crepes. Look out for the next ski trip being launched for winter 2026.



KSGS MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTS
A LEAVERS CONCERT

CELEBRATING THE TALENT OF OUR WONDERFUL LEAVERS - SUPPORTED BY STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL

THURSDAY 25TH APRIL
7PM

THE MAIN HALL
KIRKBY STEPHEN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Tickets £5 Children Free

Refreshments will be on sale.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: KAREN.WEST@KSGS.CUMBRIA.SCH.UK

The Music Department will miss its amazing Year 11 and 13 musicians who leave the school this summer. These students have made a huge contribution to the musical culture of the school. Their music will be celebrated in an intimate Leavers Concert on Thursday 25th April. Tickets will be available on the door.



Boys U14 Hockey

In November we hosted the U14 boys North Cumbria hockey tournament at Kirkby Stephen. Here the boys played some excellent direct hockey beating Nelson Tomlinson school from Wigton and QEGS from Penrith, then losing to eventual winners Sedbergh. Having come second overall this secured a place at the North v South Cumbria play offs, which involved four teams this time held at Sedbergh school in December.

In the first game they played fast flowing hockey with great vision and accuracy, comprehensively beating the South tournament winners, Lakes School, Windermere. The second game was a much more competitive affair

with Sedbergh scoring well-rehearsed goals on the counter attack. In the final game against Windermere a win for either team would secure second place. Kirkby Stephen started well creating many good chances and taking a 1-0 lead just before half time. In the second half Windermere upped their game and put pressure on the Kirkby Stephen defence it was not until five minutes from time that Kirkby Stephen were able to score a second goal.

Having come second overall in Cumbria they qualified to attend the England Hockey North West round on the 29th of February at Timperley Hockey Club in Manchester.

Boys U14 Hockey - Timperley Hockey Club

On Thursday 29th of February Kirkby Stephen represented Cumbria in the North West regional round of the England Hockey U14 annual competition held at Timperley - Manchester.

Thirteen students took part all with varying levels of hockey prowess. The first game was against hockey playing school Sandbach who showed good levels of skill giving our defence of Gus Campbell, Sean Thwaites, Logan Cottam, Max Maltby and Max Hutchinson lots to do. Eventually losing 3-0.

The second game was against Wirral. Here we had our chances and good interplay between our midfield maestros of Archie Steels, Leo Richter, Zak Alison and Sam Longden put lots of pressure on the opposition. Finn Mounsey as Goal keeper made some superb saves from their attacking penalty corners, but eventually they converted their opportunities and we lost 2-0.

The last game saw us play against Bolton where we had numerous chances but against the run of play we went behind 1-0. However, the second half saw a really determined squad of Kirkby Stephen boys play their best hockey, moving the ball swiftly up to the attackers Freddie Scarr, Evan Treece, with Hugo Fancott Beynon, carefully placing the ball in the goal to draw 1-1.

The boys had a great time and made and their performances significantly improved as the day progressed.

Thanks to the organisers, supporters who travelled down and Debbie Barr for umpiring. Andrea Dixon



Boys U18 Hockey

In October the U18 boys hockey team attended the Cumbria tournament at Windermere School. Students from Year 10 through to Year 13 worked tirelessly together to create a really positive team performance coming second overall and qualifying for the next round at Timperley Hockey Club on the 28th of February.

To have two boys hockey teams qualify for the North West regional round in a national competition is a fantastic achievement. Well done all concerned. Andrea Dixon

Boys U18 Hockey - Timperley Hockey Club

Tw as a dark and stormy morn when thy brave and mightily gregarious group of under 18 youths set off to Timperley (where all the rich footy-ballers live) armed with only open hearts and honest hopes. The run up couldn't have

gone much worse with a disastrous local derby against Sedbergh Independent School. However, these unlikely lads took this defeat as fuel and did the Eden Valley proud.

The first match against Bolton at the North West Tournament was a rollicking success, one goal hammered home by Oliver Dixon as well as multiple chances by the ever present George Hadfield who is an absolute legend. Harry slack (Goal keeper) put such fear into the opposition that their striker took out a low flying satellite but he also saved some potential worldies.

After this victory that seemed to belittle the Spartans crushing victory at Thermopylae we moved on to face St Anselm's from the Wirral. Although we lost 2-1 we had done well enough in the group stage to progress through to face Sandbach in the semis. The mighty Defence comprised of Olly slack, Tom Chapman, Nick Richter, Tom Davey and Theo Robinson ensured that the score was kept manageable. Also it would be cruel to fail to mention Ben Alison's wonder deflection that well and truly launched into the top corner of the goal.

In the semis V.A.R. was left wanting as a Sandbach players foot to ball was deemed a Kirkby foot and the resulting short corner provided the only goal of a very tight game. Which is more impressive considering Sandbach had in their arsenal a full blooded England player, other standout performances included Liam Barr, Rowan Dey and George Chapel for their vigilant performance in midfield. In addition Jack Longden was a stupendous and brilliant frontman. Also the utilisation of military strategist Andrea Dixon resulted in the use of a half court press which Joe Bell held together with his effervescent movement off the ball and dribbling skills.

After losing against sandbach -however unfairly. We won the battle for third place against Birkenhead 4-1 (another independent school, bit of a trend there) but KSGS continue to punch way above their weight even when drafting multiple younger players when others were bringing humongous geezas (who shared similarly questionable ages as Luke Litler) moments of commendation in this match were frequent but a nice team goal is worthy of note. This being a full pitch movement resulting in a pass onto a foot in the "D" and a short corner goal.

Huge thanks to Andrea Dixon and Debbie Barr for organising the team and transport and for preserving a high esprit de corps. Also thanks to Barney Slack and Martin Richter for driving. Written by the one and only Rowan Dey

What a term of sporting success at KSGS

Lots of great fixtures have been played this term with lots of engagement and success.

Netball report:

The netball season has now come to an end and the outstanding teams at KSGS have done it again, winning all of the Eden District tournaments from Year 7 to Year 11.

Winning over 14 games and drawing only one throughout the tournaments is great testament to all the students who train twice a week at lunch times and after school.

All students who have attended practices have had the chance to represent KSGS due to their hard work and commitment. All A and B teams have won their games all season.

The U14 and U16 team took the Eden titles earlier in the school year and the Year 7, 8 and 10 this term making 5/5 titles.

The U14 netball team also qualified for the Regional finals in Manchester but unfortunately were unable to attend due to the school ski trip. An outstanding achievement, well done everyone.



Hockey Report:

The hockey season has also now come to an end and KSGS have dominated play at the recent tournaments.

The U13 hockey team have just been crowned Cumbria County champions. They played 7 games to gain their trophy winning all matches and drawing just one against Austin Friars.

The U14 and the U15 hockey's team are the County runners up this year, losing out to Sedbergh by fine margins.

The U18 11 a-side team just missed out on the regional finals to Austin Friars school, which made them the county runners up this year.

However, after a kind invitation to a 7 a-side hockey tournament the U18 team took on very strong opposition from schools within the North of England. The tournament was played over two venues and the team won the cup winning all of their games against very strong opposition. A new format for KSGS 7 a-side but what a fun, fast game to play within.

An outstanding hockey season and a huge well done to all teams and players for their hard work.



New sporting experience:

The students have been very lucky recently to get the opportunity to try out a new sport which is part of Modern Pentathlon.

An ex Great Britain pentathlon athlete and coach came into school to allow students the chance to experience laser running. This consisted of shooting 5 green lights and running distances of 300m or 600m three or four times. Students had to learn to control their breathing before shooting and then running in mock competitive conditions. This will be continuing after half term if any students would like to try the sport out. Helen Paul



Eden Valley
Sports Partnership



BARCLAYS

GIRLS' FOOTBALL
SCHOOL
PARTNERSHIPS

BY ENGLAND FOOTBALL

Girls Football Schools Partnership, Biggest Ever Football Session took place on Friday 8th March on International Womens Day. The aim was to get over 285,000 girls playing football on the same day in the UK. KSGS had over 40 girls take part, as referees and players! The Sports Partnership is passionate about inclusion in sport and we want to provide access to every girl and boy to all sports. We feel that sport is a huge tool to increase personal well-being as well as reducing mental health issues. By taking small steps and taking part in national events such as this, it can encourage change, and the movement towards equal access to all sport, for all pupils. We will continue to work with all schools in the Eden Valley to help drive this change and accessibility to sport. Mr Luke

EVSP LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Leadership opportunities at school, from Y7 to Y13! EVSP run over 45 events in Eden throughout the school year working with schools from Tebay to Alston. A number of these events are held at Kirkby Stephen Grammar School where we ask pupils to take up their time to help lead events to encourage the next generation of sports people. From come and try badminton events, quicksticks hockey festivals, swimming galas and many more, it is great for the young people at school to have the opportunity to see a different side to sport and take on these responsibilities to look after others. Without these fantastic pupils, we would not be able to run our events, thank you for all of your help! Mr Luke, Mrs Barr and Mrs Stephenson



These are the current year 12 who are taking their Sports Leaders qualification to gain experience in delivering events as well as gaining confidence in front of large groups of people. The girls are growing in confidence every week and should be proud of what they are doing. They were able to organise, officiate and manage over 80 people at a dodgeball event from 5 different schools, not an easy task but they all took it in their stride. I look forward to helping these students grow into leadership roles in the future and help them continue to enjoy their sport! Mr Luke





UDANCE Festival Cumbria On Tuesday 19th March students from Years 7-9 travelled to Carlisle, Crown and Mitre Hotel to perform in the UDance 2024 Festival. The UDANCE Festival Cumbria supports primary and secondary schools from across the county to create high quality creative dance within the curriculum and to celebrate this through performance in a professional venue. Our dance was a musical theatre piece from the musical Hairspray, choreographed by Miss Hall. Dancers were inspired by the film and the 60's as their inspiration, they performed to "You can't stop the beat!" Students were absolutely amazing and did KSGS proud. Well done! Miss Hall & Mrs Paul.



National Schools Equestrian Association

Whilst competing as part of a team, riders learn to communicate, compromise, be supportive of each other, enjoy the successes that can be created from trust and a belief in each other.

Back in October, a team of Year 7 riders represented KSGS at a National Schools Equestrian Association (NSEA) Show Jumping Competition at Newton Rigg Equestrian Centre.

The riders were Lily Grace Dunning on Gigman Messenger (Mojo), Annabelle Tyson on Gunner and Lydia Wearmouth on Glanymor Lara (Lara).

Competing against other local schools including Barnard Castle, QUEGS, UCC & Sedbergh, the KSGS squad all jumped clear

rounds in the Grass Roots 70cm class and scored 1st place for the KSGS Team. In the same class they were also individually placed on times, with Lily Grace & Mojo 3rd, Lydia & Lara 4th, and Annabelle and Gunner placed 6th. The team then went on to jump in the Regional Points League 75cm class, taking 2nd place. Individually, Lily Grace & Mojo were 5th, Annabelle and Gunner placed 9th, and Lydia & Lara 11th. The KSGS Squad also qualified to compete at the NSEA Grass Roots Championships Festival at Hickstead, August 2024. The qualifying combinations of horse and rider must remain the same for the championships. Sadly, all the riders have now outgrown the ponies they qualified on, but hope to continue to represent the school as a team as they progress on their new horses and ponies.

In the meantime, some of the riders will continue to compete for the school as individuals.

2024 so far...

On 10th February, Harriett Stafford represented KSGS on her pony, Camalsa John George (George), at an NSEA competition at Greenlands Equestrian Centre. They jumped a super clear round and were placed 5th individually in the 70cm class.

On Saturday 9th March, Annabelle Tyson took part in the NSEA Grassroots and Regional Points League Show Jumping Competition at Greenlands Arena, with her new ride Tullibards Her Highness, (Lady T). Their first Show jumping competition together, Annabelle and Lady T jumped a speedy clear round in the Grassroot 70cm Class to win 1st place for KSGS by almost 2 seconds. Another fast round in the RPL 75cm class, but an unfortunate pole down added 4



World Book Day Fundraising Fun KSGS pupils celebrated all things literary on World Book Day this year. Our Year 7 pupils took part in a sponsored reading picnic, raising a massive £350 towards new books and equipment for the library. The Westmorland Trust kindly donated goodies for the pupils' picnic and librarian, Ellie Hall, supervised the day's event.

Elsewhere in the school, Miss Williams and the KS4 book club hosted a popular bake sale, raising over £200 to buy new titles for them to enjoy in their regular reading sessions.

Mrs Bowness and Miss Capstick oversaw a book swap session where scores of titles were exchanged by pupils keen to bag themselves some new reading material.

The whole school enjoyed reading some six-word stories at the start of every lesson and the six-word story writing competition proved very popular with our budding wordsmiths!

Head of English, Ms Newstead, said: "Here at KSGS we love reading and World Book Day is another excuse to celebrate this! We'd like to thank Westmorland and all parents who supported the event by sending in books to swap and supporting their children in gaining sponsorship. This money will make a big difference to all of our pupils, providing engaging new texts to support academic study as well as reading for pleasure."



It has been a busy term for boys sport, from Y7 to Y13 all enjoying their fixtures. Training hard at lunch times and enjoying learning with peers. Great to see so many different pupils at practices and earning their place in the school teams. Sport with your year group is a huge part of school life. Long may the smiles continue, keep it up boys! Mr Luke

